

## I. Enhancing Carbon Trade Transparency

“We must seize this historic opportunity here in Nairobi--so close to the Rift Valley, the cradle of mankind--to unite the world in its effort to achieve a course correction and shape a new, more sustainable future for humanity, one in which we live in harmony with the natural world and create a life of dignity for all,”<sup>1</sup> stated UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. The UN Environment Assembly, UNEA, is a relatively new creation; in June of 2012, world leaders realized the need for a stronger body to govern international environmental laws, as well as, set regulations and sustainability goals throughout all participating Member States. Denmark believes taking personalized steps towards a cleaner environment is crucial for Member States. Since each state is unique in its production and development, clean energy tactics need to be tailored to their needs. Starting with carbon trade statistics from each Member State, the UNEA may then organize another meeting to develop sustainable practices.

As a member of the United Nations Environmental Programme, Denmark has seen considerable growth in enhancing their transition towards renewable energy. In 2010, Denmark enacted a tax on nitrogen emissions. In further efforts to rid urban areas of air pollution, \$22 million was used to modernize busses and \$4.2 million was used on railway systems. According to the nation’s Climate Plan, there will be a 40% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, compared to those in 1990. With a state that is comprised of 60% agriculture, clean energy and healthy environmental practices are a top priority for the nation. In 2020, the nation will have half of its energy generated through wind turbines, and by 2050 Denmark is projected to be fully powered by renewable energy. Since agriculture is exceedingly influential for Denmark’s economy, pesticides and air pollution have proven most difficult barriers affecting the environment. In response to this, the National Pesticide Action Plan was brought forth in 2013, and aimed to cut pesticides by 40%.<sup>2</sup> Being one of the largest consumers of resources, the UNEA’s objective to set carbon trading limitations needs to be specialized and conformed to each individual member state. Denmark’s plan to sign the Paris agreement is yet another step they are taking to influence and promote a cleaner environment. Another area of focus comes in ecological engineering, Denmark has made drastic advances in smart technology. This is technology that enhances the efficiency of creating renewable energy.

**Denmark proposes** its fellow Member States to produce statistics for carbon emissions at the next session. We also push for a unified effort in creating/maintaining smart technology amongst fellow states. While Denmark has personally struggled with pollution related to agriculture, pesticides and nitrogen emissions, we have sought and enacted several solutions. From nitrogen taxes to advancing technology in the farming industry to better suit the environment. After receiving carbon trade statistics from each member state, a conference will be held to discuss each member state’s individual growth and development, with this information the UNEA may support engineering programs whose focus is to create smart technology. This will provide opportunities for each member state to begin a personalized plan to begin improving their ecological state. With Denmark’s vast experience in supporting engineering endeavors for the benefit of the environment, we are more than ready to support and initiate this plan for the uplift of our fellow member states.

## II. The Impact of Waste on Environmental Sustainability

The Kingdom of Denmark is a Member State that wishes to lead a green and sustainable lifestyle as we strive to create a better environment by developing new ways of living and working. We have set ourselves as an example, especially in our capital of Copenhagen, the first carbon neutral capital in the world, as a sustainable Member State which has created a culture of a green society that cares about proper waste management and land sustainability. Denmark believes in the use of advanced technology and

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<sup>1</sup> Unep. "Press Releases:June 2014 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)." Press Releases:June 2014 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Oct. 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Smith, Brett. "Denmark: Environmental Issues, Policies and Clean Technology." AZoCleantech.com. N.p., 3 July 2015. Web. 03 Oct. 2016.

innovation to create and promote more sustainable ways for a cleaner environment that does not accumulate, create, or use wasteful resources.

Denmark is home of the biggest wind turbine projects in the world and leader in wind power technology and its development and distribution. More than forty percent of our energy comes from wind power and in 2014 the Danish wind industry amounted to over \$80 billion which contributed to thousands of jobs and income from green technologies.<sup>3</sup> We strive to promote developing technologies and invest in extensive research and development programs to project development, financing, analysis, and consultancy of sustainable green technologies. In 2016, the Danish government is proud to open the Green Headquarters of the United Nations (UN) in Copenhagen which forms the central location for eight UN organizations that promote environmental sustainability through green building projects.<sup>4</sup> We have more than twenty percent of our energy come from renewable sources with the desire to reach a completely sustainable green energy Member State by 2050.

**Denmark proposes** solutions that bring cultural changes that encourage green and sustainable societies, create more availability of developing technologies to deal with waste management, and promote the use of recyclable resources as more available means for infrastructure and basic needs. The Danish government would promote in the United Nations Environment Assembly solutions that maximize the value of waste water, especially those that come from industries. We wish to extend this even more by creating a culture of sustainability and reprogramming certain Civil Society Organizations into centers that promote green initiatives and waste collection at a community level in other Member States. We also see the need to create bilateral partnerships with other Member States that allow for more use of architectural recycled material for construction and increase these exports to Member States in dire infrastructural need. Furthermore, Denmark would be promoting networks for sustainable business development which facilitate competitive advantages for local companies through sustainability. The idea is to increase sustainability amongst industrial regional manufacturers that creates a more efficient use of materials and recycling at a regional level using policies that have already worked in Denmark. For long term sustainability goals and waste management to be efficient, we believe changes should occur at every level of society. Denmark sees the technology and resources to be existing already in the present day and realizes the need to promote a culture of sustainability at a local, national, regional, and global scale.

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<sup>3</sup> “A World-Leader In Wind Energy,” *Denmark*, <http://denmark.dk/en/green-living/wind-energy> (accessed October 13, 2016)

<sup>4</sup> “UN opens Green Headquarters in Copenhagen,” *Denmark*, <http://denmark.dk/en/green-living/sustainable-projects/un-opens-green-headquarters-in-copenhagen> (accessed October 10, 2016)