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**Statement
by
Denmark**

**Special Session on
Indian Ocean Disaster**

Delivered by:

**Undersecretary of State
Ole E. Moesby**

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Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was with great sorrow that Denmark followed the devastating consequences of the tsunamis in Asia. On behalf of the Danish Government allow me to offer my sincere condolences and express my deepest sympathy for the victims of the disaster, their families and the affected populations.

The Danish Government has so far pledged 77 million USD to the affected countries. Of these app. 37 million USD will be provided for emergency relief (has already been disbursed), 18 million USD will be used for reconstruction efforts and the remaining 22 million USD will be spent on environmental rehabilitation, most notably water and sanitation.

In addition the Danish public and companies have donated more than 37 mil. USD to date. Looking at assistance per capita Denmark is among the largest contributors.

The Danish assistance to the urgent emergency relief efforts in Indonesia and Sri Lanka entails the provision of mobile water purification plants, tents,

food, medicine, a mobile hospital, doctors, rehabilitation of sanitation facilities and the establishment of an aid coordination centre in Aceh.

Our support to the long-term rehabilitation efforts will focus on provision of clean water and sanitation based on the needs assessments to be conducted by the Governments of the affected countries with the assistance of World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Through our environmental assistance we will support programmes focusing on environmental rehabilitation, water resources management and water and sanitation. These will be initiated in the affected areas in Indonesia and Thailand in 2005 in co-operation with the Governments.

In light of the dimensions of the emergency relief currently pouring into the countries, I would like to stress the importance of the UN coordinating the activities in close collaboration with the national governments. It is vital that the international aid is efficiently distributed to meet the huge needs of the suffering. At the same time, Denmark will work closely with its partners to ensure that pledges given are also met.

Let me also stress the importance of providing assistance not only to emergency relief, but also to contribute to the reconstruction of the affected areas. This will require a long-term effort with national governments taking the lead but where the support of the international community will be just as important.

In honour of those, who lost their lives, we need to work hard with those who survived to rebuild and reconstruct the affected areas and giving new hope to all those that have lost their parents, sons or daughters, brothers or sisters, husbands and wives. Together with the communities involved we are ready to take effective, decisive and forward-looking actions.

In the latter context I would, in conclusion, reiterate our initiative announced yesterday to hold an international workshop in 2005 on strengthening the resilience of local communities to cope with disasters.

Denmark and Danish know-how through the last decades have made significant contributions to early warning systems and contingency planning in South and Southeast Asia with focus on flooding and storm surges.

Thank you Mr. President.