

**Speech by MP Fatma Øktem (Denmark)**

**The General Debate at the IPU-session, 20-24 May 2022, Nusa Dua, Indonesia**

***Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change***

Chairpersons, fellow parliamentarians, ladies and gentlemen.

I am pleased to address this Assembly.

We - parliamentarians - have a unique opportunity to discuss the **challenges and the solutions** of our societies.

The topic for this debate is truly a global challenge and international solutions are required.

The latest IPCC-report makes it clear that we are facing frightening perspectives and severe consequences, if we do not act **immediately**.

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I am representing the Liberal Party. The largest party of the opposition in Denmark.

Yet, our IPU-delegation is representing none less than four different political parties.

It is healthy for the democratic conversation, when all perspectives are considered.

We can make things happen when we are listening to each other and agree on common solutions.

When we dare to fight for what we believe in. Here the Ukrainian people is a source of inspiration.

Around the world, the climate crisis has united people with a common cause. Not least thanks to the young generation.

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In my home country Minority governments is the typical form of government. It means that the government cannot enact legislation without cooperation with other parties.

Cooperation across the political specter is necessary to find common, long lasting solutions.

The important agreements on green transition and on our ambitious climate goals will remain in place even if or when the governmental power shifts.

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Nevertheless, the national goals and agreements are not enough, if we do not act on them.

And we need to stand united. Because climate change and pollutant emissions does not respect borders.

Therefore, moving the polluters out of our respective countries is not the answer to getting to zero and ensuring the climate action the planet so desperately needs.

We have the possibility to create a green transition without renouncing our quality of life. We need to create green, sustainable solutions.

We need targets for reducing emissions and setting clear demands to our companies.

Taking the next steps in innovation will not be easy.

But I am confident. We can do it if we want.

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The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us, that we are more able to adapt to a changing world, than we ever believed, was possible.

Suddenly our working lives was changed and our social lives were so restricted. The pandemic was tough and the sacrifice was tremendous for too many people. But did we learn anything?

Yes. And we must not forget that.

We invested resources and developed vaccines faster than ever before. We demonstrated that political will and leadership can make things happen.

To evolve to a greener future, we must bear that willingness for innovation, progress and cooperation in mind. We did it during the pandemic – why not now, to the benefit of the climate?

We **must** invest in new technologies and solutions.

And implement and further develop the ones that we already have.

In Denmark, we are ready for the next adventure of green growth. We have green technologies from Danish companies: wind turbines from Vestas, thermostats from Danfoss and pumps from Grundfos.

And we need to develop more. For instance are we now establishing new so called energy islands.

And we believe, this is the way to go.

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Some believe that a green transition cannot exist in a society with economic growth. I do not agree.

In fact, we *need* economic growth in order to finance the green transition. We all have a legitimate need to consume in order to have

the quality of life we seek – and to create good quality of life for everyone.

Let's stand united to create our sustainable, green future.

We must fight barriers for climate change by providing the action and change demanded by especially the young generation.

We need a future without a rising number of heatwaves, rising sea levels, wild fires and extreme weather.

We need to ensure a future with clean energy, clean air, clean oceans and green growth.

We have a common responsibility for the planet and for future generations.

Now is time for action.

Thank you.