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ENERGIMINISTERIET

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National Statement

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear delegates from all over the world.

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80 years ago the Danish physician, **Niels Bohr,** rebutted **Albert Einstein** in what was called the 'Copenhagen interpretation'.

80 years later we have new theorems, that guide our understanding of advanced physics, but Bohr's interpretation was a necessary breakthrough.

Yes, time shapes our understanding, just as our changing understanding brings us forward.

Let me give you an example:

When the oil crisis struck Denmark in the early 70'ties, we chose to prioritise energy savings and renewable energy.
And, we didn't stop, when oil started to flow again in the 80-ties.

The Kingdom of Denmark, including the **Faroe Islands** and **Greenland**, cover a vast geographical area and several climate zones ranging from continental to arctic climate.

And we experience a wide range of climate changes; from warmer weather, more precipitation to rising sea levels.

So, now is certainly not the time to stop acting. Now that spring starts 2 weeks earlier in **Greenland** and fishstocks are disrupted at the **Faroe Islands.**

Let's not forget that indigenous peoples are on the frontline of climate change and experience environmental changes first-hand.

So, what *do* we do?

Well, as **Niels Bohr** once said:
"Every great and deep difficulty bears in itself it's own solution.
It forces us to change our thinking in order to find it".

The point is; we need new thinking to combat climate change and energy poverty.

And exactly because *status quo* is not an option,
A *quick fix* is not a possibility either.
The challenges in front of us are simply too extensive.

What we need is a new energy policy based on efficiency, renewables and green tech.

And that's why we in Denmark, to my knowledge, as one of the first countries in the world, have decided to become independent of fossil fuels.

Last year the Copenhagen Accord was agreed upon. It might not have been the legally binding agreement, that we had hoped for, but I'm sure time will show, that just as the Copenhagen Interpretation was a **step forward** in quantum mechanics, so was the Copenhagen Accord in combating climate change.

Let's show, that Cancun is not just a holiday destination, but an important venue for effective multilateralism. And hopefully we will show the world that multilateralism still functions by delivering solid results.

As the famous Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard once wrote:
"To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily.
Not to dare is to lose oneself".

So, dear delegates,
Let's facilitate compromise,
let's take that daring step together.
Let's show that Cancun can.
Thank You!