

# The Kingdom of Denmark

## Positions for General Assembly Fourth Committee

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### **I. Expanding Access to Relief Programs for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

As a country that holds human rights, human security, and stability of utmost importance, the Kingdom of Denmark has high concerns for the displacement and struggle of Palestinian refugees. Current living conditions of the Palestinians are not in line with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human rights, as in Article 25, declares it a right to security in times of crisis, proper living, and well-being. According to the UNRWA, 5.7 million refugees live-in poverty, experience food insecurity, and have poor access to health care, education, job opportunities, and proper housing. COVID has caused a surge in these conditions due to their extremely vulnerable status. The UNRWA health department reports in early March 2021, that there are 49,760 confirmed cases of COVID in all fields they operate on. Increased instability in the area has also created concerns for regional security of the near east and its implications for international security. The situation in Palestine also does not follow Resolution 70/1, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which calls for no poverty, zero hunger, quality education and more. Denmark recognizes this and believes as nations who desire rights and opportunities for all to remember their commitment to the Palestinian people.

Denmark is a founding member of the UN and has supported and taken part in acts to aid millions of refugees. Denmark fulfills the UN target of giving .7 percent of one's gross national income to development assistance. The UNRWA works intimately with Palestinian refugees, and as a part of the agency's advisory commission, Denmark advises and backs the Commissioner-General with what is best in mind. In 2020, Denmark has also donated 105 million DKK directly to the UNRWA. Denmark has ratified resolutions A/RES/74/85, A/RES/72/82 and has drafted A/75/L.43, which surround the topic of Palestinian refugee assistance with intent in reaffirm their commitment to the cause. Under the Danish Foreign Ministry, is Danida, Denmark's development cooperation which aids Palestinian refugees through the UNRWA as well. As a member of the European Union, Denmark fully supports their efforts to prevent the UNRWA from being underfunded, by donating to the organization and cooperating with the UN on multiple projects. Currently, in these trying times Denmark is still partaking in these activities with aim to better expand and support Palestinian refugees in the near east.

Moving into 2021, Denmark most importantly urges member states and organizations to donate to the UNRWA by a minimum of 1.5 percent. To offset unexpected shortcomings within their budget, this increase will ensure that aiding Palestinian refugees remains the focus. The UNRWA currently uses family health team services, making the provision of health care more intimate and intentional for families. To increase that intimacy and to combat COVID, Denmark proposes these family health teams be mobile. This will allow more access to healthcare for those who are unable to leave their homes for health care. Along with this Denmark proposes, the intentional placement of the family health teams to be within or near schools, making care health access easier for families with many children. Partnering with programs that focus on helping those finished with vocational training will help refugees find opportunities to use their skills. Opportunities like these will cause a decrease in poverty, therefore decreasing other conditions for future generations. Denmark offers these policies so Palestinians will not fall in the cracks under these pressing times.

## II. Retraining Peacekeepers to Better Adapt to Their Expected Mandates

The Kingdom of Denmark considers United Nations Peacekeeping to be an important asset toward global security and the UN and all its member states should take action to strengthen and maintain it. Peacekeeping has been proven to be an essential tool for international peace and security and is needed in areas where there is no other alternative. According to a study done by Virginia Page Fortna, in an article titled “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace,” she concludes that “Peacekeepers reduce the risk of sliding back into civil war by 80%”<sup>1</sup>. This success indicates that there is a need for UN Peacekeeping to preserve international peace interests and the goal to provide more effective results from it should remain an important one to the UN and SPECPOL. Peacekeeping has the potential to set the foundation for increased environmental reform, poverty relief, and gender equality in problem areas which Denmark considers a fundamental priority. With these priorities in mind, as well as general peace and stability, Denmark decided in 2018 to “contribute DKK 100 million over a three-year period to the UN Peacebuilding fund”<sup>2</sup>. Denmark has also contributed 12 total active troops currently deployed under UNTSO and MINUSMA, according to the UN troop contributions report of 2021.

One way to collectively strengthen UN Peacekeeping is by upgrading training policies to better prepare Peacekeepers to handle the rising complexities of missions and complete them effectively. To continue the support of UN Peacekeeping, improved training is necessary, especially considering the many failures in the early and mid-1990s resulting from Peacekeepers being unprepared to resolve extremely precarious situations. Peacekeeping’s sole purpose, in its early stages, was to help stabilize and maintain peace in volatile areas. However, missions in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), Rwanda (UNAMIR), and Somalia (UNOSOM II) were ineffectively handled because Peacekeepers failed to adhere to peace agreements and casualties continued to rise because they lacked adequate support, both financial and political, and the ability to confidently evaluate various situations. Furthermore, the numerous sexual exploitation cases, although decreasing in recent years, has continued to be a major problem stemming from inadequate instruction and awareness. To prevent future failures such as these, Denmark reasserts the need for an upgrade in training policy and requirements.

Mandated by the UNGA Resolution A/RES/49/37 (1995), with the materials and assistance provided by the ITS, member states are responsible for training their peacekeeping troops before deploying them to the target mission area. This includes the Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials (CPTMs) that offer a generalized package of “essential knowledge required by all peacekeeping personnel”<sup>3</sup>. However, Denmark recognizes that specific courses held outside CPTMs by different member states are not generalized and are unique to their specific training program (and still meet UN standards). To strengthen the individual programs of each member state collectively, Denmark suggests open course policy exchanges to provide new perspectives into the innovation of the Peacekeeping training curriculum. The wide array of training techniques and the incentive to invest in more research on mission-specific situations would provide consistent adaptation to compliment the current CPTMs. This could be accomplished by a subgroup within the ITS that operates in each member state to facilitate action in developing training policy specific to their countries area of expertise based on their unique access to the information present in their country. This organization would report findings to ITS which could be incorporated into the UN standards that mandate the current CPTMs, strengthening the variety and overall effectiveness of its curriculum.

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<sup>1</sup> Fortna, Virginia Page. “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil War.” *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 48, no. 2, 2004, pp. 269–292. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/3693574](http://www.jstor.org/stable/3693574). Accessed 1 Mar. 2021.

<sup>2</sup> The Whole-of-Government Steering Committee. “Denmark’s Integrated Peace and Stabilisation Engagements 2018.” *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark*, 2018, p.20. Accessed 1 Mar. 2021.

<sup>3</sup> “Pre-Deployment - United Nations Peacekeeping Resource Hub (EN).” *United Nations*, United Nations, [research.un.org/en/peacekeeping-community/pre-deployment](https://research.un.org/en/peacekeeping-community/pre-deployment). Accessed 1 Mar. 2021.