

---

Helsinki, 19.9.2014

## **Joint Statement to Development Ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden**

The Nordic Ministers for Development published a joint statement in March 2014. The statement seeks to strengthen Nordic cooperation in eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development for all. The Nordic countries agreed on joint efforts to influence the UN Development Goals.

According to the statement "the starting point must be inclusive development partnerships, and the accountability of countries for their own development". The statement "underscores the importance of human rights, democracy, and rule of law" on the new universal development agenda.

The Nordic political party assistance organisations welcome this statement and commitment by the Nordic Ministers. We are glad to see that the Ministers acknowledge the realization of full political, economic and social rights as a key to sustainable development.

Furthermore, we urge the Ministers to deliver on their promise "to promote the inclusion of democratic governance and the rule of law as a sustainable development goal in the post 2015 framework".

We believe that supporting democracy - through political parties and other democratic actors – is a precondition for creating development partnerships that value the will of the partner countries' citizens and support them in taking full ownership of the development efforts.

Based on our experience in supporting democracy in more than 40 countries during the last decades, we see democracy as a truly universal goal, based on universal principles that bring about sustainable development, equality, peace and security in a way that no other system of governance can compete with.

Respectfully,

Political Parties of Finland for Democracy – Demo Finland  
Centre Party International Foundation, Sweden  
Christian Democratic International Center, Sweden  
Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy – DIPD  
Green Forum, Sweden  
Kalevi Sorsa Foundation, Finland  
Olof Palme International Center, Sweden  
Swedish International Liberal Centre