

## Indlæg 1. session 'Population dynamics and sustainable development'

*Taletid 3 minutter*

- Dear delegates,
- Gender equality is central to sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.
- Equally, sexual and reproductive health and rights and the right to decide over one's own body have a major impact on political, social and economic development and on the development of potential and opportunities of women and girls.
- Across our region, many countries face challenges in how to tackle low fertility rates and ageing populations.
- In fact, according to this years' SWOP report, many women in low fertility countries actually end up having fewer children than they originally preferred.
- There are many reasons for the falling fertility rate.
- Across the region, women continue to spend substantively more time than men on domestic work and unpaid care work.
- We need to counter this imbalance.

- In Denmark, we have a long tradition of providing accessible, affordable and quality day care services for children.
- Amongst other things, this is why Danish women have one of the highest labour market participation rates as well as a fertility rate above average for the region.
- We have also introduced gender equal earmarked parental leave to promote fathers as care givers.
- And although we continue to face challenges with gender segregation in education and in the labour market, we have taken several initiatives to engage more women and men in fields dominated by the opposite gender, such as more men in care work and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Lastly, as 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of safe and legal abortions in Denmark, we want to underscore that sustainable solutions to demographic challenges must always be human rights based and centered on women's free right to bodily autonomy and integrity.
- Thank you.