

## **Grundlag for økonomi- og erhvervsminister Brian Mikkelsens tale ministermøde i regi af topmøde i FN's Global Compact den 23. juni 2010**

**[Kun det talte ord gælder]**

### **Indledning**

Good afternoon, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I am honoured to be co-hosting this Global Compact Ministerial Session together with India. I would also like to express my gratitude to UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro for taking part in this discussion.

### **Politiske problemer i en globaliseret verden**

We are gathered here today as representatives of states. But in this global world we are faced with challenges that go beyond the reach of single states and governments.

Only in partnerships, including partnerships with the private sector, can we overcome these challenges, and at the same time grasp the opportunities which will emerge in the years to come.

Corporate Social Responsibility is such a partnership. States can set up policies and frameworks. States can that encourage business opportunities and market transparency.

The private sector can contribute with innovation, skills and technologies that have the potential of greatly impacting peoples' lives.

### **CSR i udviklingslandene**

Corporate Social Responsibility is an important dynamo for economic and social progress – not least in our efforts to reach the millennium goals.

Especially for companies operating in less developed regions of the World, CSR makes it possible to engage in educational programs, health issues or environment protection, to the benefit of both business and society. Wherever possible, this should be done in partnerships with local governments and non-governmental organizations.

### **Forretningsdrevet samfundsansvar**

Indeed, CSR can go hand in hand with good commercial results. Integrating CSR in the overall business strategy creates a competitive advantages and opportunities for growth and innovation.

### **Anbefalinger til staters CSR-politik**

Still it is necessary that politicians commit businesses to CSR. I believe there are three important ways for governments to do that:

First we need to create clear policy goals in an active dialogue with stakeholders. Many countries have already done so.

Second we must create an environment for businesses to embark on CSR. We must inform, train and provide businesses with practical tools for that purpose.

Finally we need to have increased transparency. These are difficult topics for many, but I sense an increasing willingness in the international society to deal with this important issue.

Within the two last months states and other stakeholders have gathered in the context of the Global Reporting Initiative and the ISO 26 000 conference to discuss this exact issue. All stakeholders agreed that promotion of transparency is crucial.

## **Afrunding**

Before our discussion today, let's ask our self two questions: Can businesses succeed if society fails? Can our economies continue to grow if people are starving or nature is dying? The answer to these questions is no!

In my view governments and business share responsibility for ensuring healthy societies. Just as governments and businesses both have to contribute to a positive business climate.

Your Excellencies, thank you all for coming today and for taking part in this important discussion.