Esteemed colleagues,

Thank you, Secretary General, for bringing us together.

***

The world’s eyes are on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the tragic humanitarian consequences of the war.

But we must not forget Afghanistan where the humanitarian situation remains extremely alarming.

That is why I am announcing today a planned Danish contribution of additional 52 million US dollars.

The funding goes to critical humanitarian needs in and around Afghanistan. It will also support basic human needs such as health, and human rights, particularly for women and girls.

We must stand firm on the rights agenda. Nothing highlights this as clearly as the Taliban’s recent decision to exclude girls from secondary education.
This is unacceptable!

At the same time, we must continue our push for women and girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights, and for the elimination of gender-based violence.

***

Our stance towards the Taliban remains highly sceptical.

We will not provide support through government structures, nor will we legitimise the Taliban in any way.

Our aid must go – dollar for dollar – to the people in need.

The recent Taliban push for increased control of NGO activity is therefore also extremely alarming.

Humanitarian aid must remain impartial, neutral and needs-based.

I am pleased to see that the scale-up of assistance is moving forward. Our thanks go to the many actors involved.

More than ever, the people of Afghanistan need our combined efforts.

Thank you.