

**REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER**

**Fraternité – Travail – Progrès**

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**Conseil Suprême pour la Restauration de la Démocratie**

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**MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES DE LA COOPERATION  
DE L'INTEGRATION AFRICAINE ET DES NIGERIENS A  
L'EXTERIEUR**

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**PLAIDOYER**  
**POUR LA SELECTION DU NIGER COMME PAYS PARTENAIRE DE  
LA COOPERATION DANOISE**

**Transaltion**

Translation

**JANVIER 2011**

A delegation from Niger led by Mr. Amadou Marou, President of the Conseil Consultatif National (National Parliament during the transition period) is visiting the Kingdom of Denmark from January 17 until January 21, 2011. The aim of this visit is to advocate Niger as a partner country in the Danish cooperation.

Niger notes with satisfaction that the reform of the Danish International development Cooperation initiated by the Danish government is based on principles and objectives that are fully consistent with theirs.

Since February 18, 2010, Niger has entered in a transition period for the restoration of democracy and legitimate constitutional conditions under the aegis of the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy (CSRD). Since its establishment, the CSRD has given all necessary guarantees of its commitment to restore democracy in Niger within an agreed time framework.

Today, the transition has respected all commitments and timeframes which were submitted to all actors of the Nation.

In the context of the return to democracy, we can note that a referendum on the Constitution was held October 31, 2010, and that local elections were held on January 11 and 12, 2011. The legislative elections and the first round of presidential election are called for January 31, 2011. The second round of the presidential election is scheduled for March 12, 2011 and the inauguration of the democratically elected President is scheduled for April 6, 2011.

Niger is thus in a crucial phase of its political history and therefore the support of all democratic nations is useful to give maximum chances to establish strong and durable institutions, able to live up to the aspirations of the people for democratic progress, economic and social development.

The Danish Cooperation in Niger supports key areas in relation to the fight against poverty such as water, sanitation, and protection of natural resources. The Danish Cooperation has also supported good governance, promoting human rights and the rule of law.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) working in Niger since 1997 has undertaken activities of law which impacts are considerable both at the state institutions and at the civil society levels.

Niger, fragile state, remains committed to address the following key challenges:

- The growing terrorism, insecurity and religious extremism;
- The growing trade of drugs, people and weapons; and
- The promotion of good governance of public affairs.

To improve the security, the freedom and the economic growth at a national level, Niger is acting on the following points:

- A / Security and the fight against religious extremism;
- B / Promotion of Freedom, Human Rights and Democracy;
- C / Equal Opportunities;
- D / Transparency and the fight against corruption;
- E / Environment and Climate;
- F / Improved tax systems;
- G / A liberal and predictable framework of investment

### Conclusions

Niger has high expectations regarding the impact of the Danish cooperation, in particular at the political and moral levels. Denmark remains one of the most present countries in Niger both in the state institutions and the civil society where its approach and its support are unanimously recognized. Denmark has always been alongside the Niger, including in the most sensitive periods.

Denmark is part of the European Union, but it itself plays a specific role in the promotion of democratic values and human rights in Niger.

Today, Niger is in a crucial phase in its political history. The democratic transition, in peace and harmony with all national actors, is a very good signal and can be an example to other countries threatened by political conflicts, particularly in Africa. Niger has always been capable of finding its way back in the spectrum of democratic nations even after serious political crises.

**Given the various challenges to promote stability and security, containment of growing religious extremism and to defend democratic freedoms, Niger expects that Denmark, beyond maintaining the Danish Cooperation, will strengthen its positive partnership with Niger to undertake the implacable struggle against the multitude of challenges.**