

## **Votre Majesté**

## **Votre Altesse Royale le Prince Héritier**

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Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les ambassadeurs accrédités auprès du Royaume de Danemark, Mesdames et Messieurs les Chargés d'affaires, l'honneur m'échoit cette année de prendre la parole, à votre nom, pour présenter nos vœux de nouvel an à Sa Majesté Margrethe II ainsi qu'à la famille Royale. C'est avec une grande joie et un réel plaisir que je vais m'acquitter de cette honorable mission.

## **Votre Majesté,**

De prime abord, je voudrais saisir l'occasion de la présente cérémonie traditionnelle de présentation des vœux de nouvel an, pour vous exprimer la gratitude des membres du corps diplomatique, pour l'hospitalité dont ils jouissent dans votre Royaume, et pour la qualité des relations diplomatiques que le Danemark entretient avec les pays respectifs que nous représentons.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to address before your Majesty some questions of international interest as well as some aspects of the socio-political life of Denmark.

On the international level, the year 2019 left us with great challenges to face during this year 2020 and those that will follow.

In May 2019, the general elections organized in Europe allowed the renewal of the leaders of its institutions. However, Europe still struggles with the delicate issue of Brexit, which must find a solution without delay.

The situation in the Arctic also remains a matter of concern; this region is facing not only increased security threats but also significant consequences of global warming.

Even if we have recorded a positive development in the Middle East, especially in Syria and Iraq with the defeat of the Islamic State, security remains a matter of concern for the countries of this region as well as for the international community because many centers of tension still remain active.

Concerning Africa, the security deteriorated in a disastrous manner in the Sahel region during the year 2019. Indeed, after its debacle in the Middle East, the Islamic State moved to this area and is spreading terror in the name of religion.

The insecurity in the Sahel is partly linked to the lack of a State in Libya, whose early settlement will help considerably to restore peace in the region.

## **Your Majesty,**

The issues of illegal migration, drug, arms and human trafficking, terrorism, trade conflicts, climate change are challenges that our countries together must pay careful attention to in 2020, so that we can build a better world.

## **Your Majesty**

At a national level, the general elections held by Denmark in 2019 have resulted in the change of majority.

With Your Majesty's permission, I am going to evoke some of the new Government's international commitments and salute them on behalf of the diplomatic corps; they are:

-1. the will of the Government to take as a key parameter the achievement of the sustainable development goals in the design and execution of the Danish foreign policy.

-2. the strengthening of the Danish cooperation with Africa in order to develop this continent's potential; for this purpose, the Government intends to support Africa's peace program, the G5 Sahel joint Force and the fight against piracy and maritime crime in the Gulf of Guinea.

-3. the will of Denmark to fight against climate change: at a national level the Government wants to reduce Denmark's gas effect emissions by 70% by 2030; at the international level the Government will substantially strengthen its green diplomacy by exporting the Danish green solutions around the world;

-4. the will of the Government to:

- \* Strengthen its actions regarding the protection of human rights;
- \* Focus on developing fair and equitable world trade;
- \* Strengthen the European Union and the Europe defense;
- \* Continue to support development, stabilization and de-escalation in the Middle East.

## **Your Majesty,**

We remain convinced that Denmark will continue to draw on its rich values and the strength of its convictions to reach all these goals. With this end in view, all my colleagues are invited, as far as they are concerned, to work tirelessly to contribute to the success of this ambitious and noble program.

To conclude, I would like to present, on behalf of all the members of the Diplomatic corps and in my own name, our wishes of health, peace, prosperity and happiness to Your Majesty, to the Royal family, as well as to the Danish people.

May 2020 strengthen the radiance and glory of Your Majesty.

I thank you.

**Fait à Copenhague le 02 janvier 2020**

**H E Amadou TCHEKO**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Niger**

**Dean of the Diplomatic Corps**