

**Address by Pia Christmas-Moeller, Denmark
Vice-president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
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There is no need for hysteria or for being paralyzed. What we need is realism and action - in time!

Survival – the question of survival for millions and millions of animals and human beings – the challenge cannot be more ultimate. And that is what's on the agenda in Copenhagen in December. Nothing less.

Therefore we cannot afford to fail. That's simply not an option. We and the World's leaders know it, we know the problem, and we know how to deal with it.

What we need is to act – and simply do what's needed!

Take the Maldives. They must seriously consider how to deal with the fact that their land might be completely covered by water within a few decades. Take Bangladesh which already has huge problems with their coast line. Take ...Yes, I could continue for hours. The ice on the North Pole – the ice on the South Pole is melting much faster than even the most pessimistic forecasts predicted a few years ago. We see signs of dramatic changes everywhere.

There have always been changes in climate on Earth, some will argue. And that's true; it's a fact. It's true and a fact that the sun itself causes changes, when it has its eruptions.

The new thing is that we human beings with our technologies now add so much to the fine balances of nature and that we do it in a way and at a pace that can be dangerous for our own lives. We know it, and more importantly, we know how to change course.

We, who are gathered here today, play an influential role whatever we do passively or actively. Our choice is just how we want to contribute: We can choose to improve the climate conditions for our children and coming generations. Or we can choose the laissez faire course where we hand down all risks to those who come after us?

I know that we deep down in our hearts know what's expected from us. You and I we can - from whatever our positions are - influence the process along the road to Copenhagen. It's not only ministers and governments who can take active part. It can and must be done by all of us and from many different angles: Through influencing the public opinion, through influencing our political networks, through asking questions, presenting expectations and so forth.