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Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

One year closer

Norway's progress towards the implementation of
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development



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The enlightenment trail – consisting of 17 light installations, one for each SDG. More than 5000 people climbed the Norwegian mountain Gaustatoppen at night – to enlighten others and be enlightened about the 2030 Agenda themselves. See the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi0Q_dE2yfQ
Foto: Aleksander Myklebust / Norad



Preface

We are pleased to present this report on Norway's work to follow up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the national and international level.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a universal call to action to end poverty in all its forms. The main ambitions behind the 2030 Agenda are to protect the planet and bring stability and a better life for all people.

This report offers a bird's eye view of how the SDGs are being addressed in Norway, as well as in our international cooperation. It underlines that if we are to reach the goals, this will require cooperation between various stakeholders, both within and between countries.

We therefore call for concerted action by civil society, faith groups, academia, statistical bureaus, the private sector, unions, governments and parliaments to eradicate poverty.

Let us be clear: we are aware of the demands the SDGs place on us. Reaching the goals will be a momentous task, which will require a high level of efficiency in both the public and the private sector. Relevant statistical information is important for gauging progress towards the SDGs. Conflicts and forced migration, pandemics, illiteracy and gender inequality mean that multi-stakeholder engagement is needed in order to reach the goals. And not least, political commitment to change is vital for achieving the transformation called for by the 2030 Agenda.

Despite numerous challenges, there are grounds for optimism. The international work towards fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals showed us that in many areas, the world is on the right track.

We welcome the global engagement to work towards fulfilling the 2030 Agenda. It is our responsibility to build economically, socially and environmentally sound societies for both current and future generations.



Børge Brende
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PHOTO: SJØWALL/UTENRIKS-DEPARTEMENTET



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Executive summary

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sets out what it will take to eradicate poverty in all its forms, everywhere. By adopting the 2030 Agenda, the 193 member states of the UN made a remarkable commitment to promote socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development that is also equitable and inclusive.

Norway remains committed to the 2030 Agenda. We see it as a transformative global roadmap for our national and international efforts aimed at eradicating extreme poverty while protecting planetary boundaries and promoting prosperity, peace and justice for all. The SDGs, along with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, are the main drivers of national policy action, international cooperation, and collaborative partnerships. Together, these milestone agreements and frameworks have the potential to bring about a historic and unprecedented leap in sustainable development at the global level.

This report, **One year closer**, presents Norwegian implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the year 2016, nationally as well as at international level. It is based on input from a wide variety of national stakeholders, including ministries, governmental and non-governmental agencies, civil society, Norway's diplomatic and consular missions, and Statistics Norway.

At the national level, the SDGs enjoy considerable support from a range of actors and stakeholders at all levels. Prime Minister Erna Solberg is firmly involved in the SDG process. She has been appointed Co-chair of the group of Sustainable Development Goals Advocates by the UN Secretary-General. The SDGs are also incorporated into numerous new white papers and policy documents submitted by the Government to the Storting (the Norwegian parliament).

Domestic partnerships between stakeholders and the state are one of the keys to successful

implementation of the SDGs, both at the domestic and international level. Several leading Norwegian companies and businesses see the SDGs as an opportunity to re-evaluate their business models, update their corporate responsibility programmes, and make the adjustments needed to secure revenues over time. The national institutions of higher learning are gradually assuming an important role for Norway's national and international implementation of the SDGs. Norwegian labour organisations and unions are contributing to the successful national and international implementation of the SDGs in general and of SDG 8 in particular.

Furthermore, several national agencies are engaged in efforts to promote the SDGs nationally and internationally. These include the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Norway's Development Finance Institution (Norfund), Statistics Norway, and FK Norway. We see this broad cooperation across disciplines and sectors as necessary for successful implementation of the SDGs.

Norway's diplomatic and consular missions are important front-line actors. Missions that are already engaged in development cooperation view the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs as consolidating already well-established cooperation policies. Missions that have been mandated to carry out tasks other than traditional development cooperation have thematic priorities that in many cases are clearly compatible with the SDGs. In general, however, it is too early to determine the impact of the SDGs on Norway's international cooperation. Their impact will become visible in due course, and will depend on the time and resources invested in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Norway has a high ranking in terms of national implementation of the SDGs. Norway is a country of high incomes and low inequality. It has a welfare state that protects its citizens if they suffer injury or misfortune. Democratic rule is firmly established and embedded in the structures of the state. It enjoys widespread support in the population as a whole.



There are, however, numerous domestic challenges that will have to be overcome in order to ensure continuous improvements and make sure that no one is left behind.

Norway's international contribution is determined on the basis of the needs of partner countries and Norway's capacity to make a difference in the areas concerned. Norway recognises that aid will remain an important factor in combating poverty in many contexts. However, there are limits to what aid alone can achieve. Norway therefore seeks to use aid more intelligently to increase its impact. The main priority sectors for Norwegian aid are education;

health; private sector development and job-creation; climate, renewable energy and the environment; and humanitarian aid. In addition the following cross-cutting sectors guide our development collaboration: gender equality, human rights, climate change and anti-corruption.

This report consists of four major parts. It describes the role of the Prime Minister, Ms Erna Solberg. Then follows a section about important domestic international partnerships to the 2030 Agenda. It reflects on the central message of the 2030 Agenda: Leaving no one behind, and gives an overview of the follow up of the SDGs.



Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, meeting with President Xi Jinping in China in April 2017. The Prime Minister brought a soccer ball with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a gift to the President. This summer, thousands of children and youth will use identical soccer balls at Norway Cup. Photo: Heiki Junge / NTB Scanpix

Leadership at the highest level

The UN Secretary-General appointed the Sustainable Development Goals Advocates in January 2016. Prime Minister Erna Solberg was appointed Co-Chair of the group, together with Ghana's president at the time, John Mahama. The current President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, now co-chairs the group together with Prime Minister Solberg.

Ms Solberg also co-chaired the MDG Advocacy Group, and she draws on the knowledge and experience she gained then in her current role. Ms Solberg's main message is that the 17 SDGs are universal, and must therefore be followed up by all countries. The goals are designed in such a way that they ensure that all countries invest in efforts at home as well as in global public goods such as climate change mitigation and combating epidemics. Ms Solberg underlines that the SDGs provide a road-map for solving the challenges of our time, such as armed conflict, violent extremism, forced migration, poverty, inequality, and climate change.

Prime Minister Solberg has played an active advocacy role at international summits and conferences, and in bilateral meetings with heads of state and with the leaders of international organisations. Both at home and abroad, she emphasises that stakeholders at all levels are responsible for the successful realisation of the SDGs. This also includes the business community and the contributions it makes in the form of innovation, investments and job creation, as well as through its social and environmental footprints.

Raising awareness among children and young people is particularly important for bringing about an equitable and sustainable future. Prime Minister Solberg therefore visits schools, newsrooms, and universities, and has promoted the SDGs from a televised concert-stage in Central Park, New York. The Prime Minister's strategy for advocacy and promotion of the goals also includes efforts aimed at regional organisations. She has taken a particular



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responsibility for ensuring greater awareness of the SDGs in European organisations, including the EU and the Council of Europe, as well as in the G20, where Norway has been invited to participate as a guest country in 2017.

Ms Solberg made the opening statement at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2016. She also presented Norway's Voluntary National Review (VNR), containing a summary of progress made towards achieving the SDGs at a national level. She highlighted the importance of implementing the SDGs when she addressed the General Assembly in 2016.

While Norway enjoys a high level of socio-economic development, Ms Solberg stresses that there is considerable room for improvement. This is the case both at home and in our cooperation with partner countries.

The 2030 Agenda is our best action plan for achieving a just, equitable, and sustainable world for all. The 17 SDGs outline the momentous task ahead, which will require the full participation of political leaders, international organisations, the private sector, institutions of learning, and civil society. Norway and Prime Minister Solberg remain committed to being at the forefront of these efforts now and in the years to come.

Domestic partnerships

The scope of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is so comprehensive that no actor can successfully implement the Agenda and its goals alone. Norway therefore seeks partnerships with local authorities and national stakeholders at all levels. When writing this report, we involved a number of national stakeholders, including NGOs, private sector entities, academia, and labour organisations. Collectively, these stakeholders represent a large part of Norway's civil society.

Dialogue and partnerships with local authorities and national stakeholders is an enduring feature of the Norwegian political system. Norway has a two-tier system of local government, made up of the municipal and county authorities. The municipal and county authorities have the same administrative status, while central government has the overriding authority and supervises the municipal and county administrations. Local democracy is strong, and the local government sector is a well-established institution in Norway. Municipalities and counties offer a wide range of services to citizens and are the primary providers of welfare services in Norway. Local authorities and national stakeholders are therefore important actors and partners in Norway's national and international efforts to follow up the 2030 Agenda.

Civil Society Organizations

There is broad political consensus in Norway for supporting civil society organisations (CSOs). Most of these organisations receive some funding from the

state, while at the same time acting as watchdogs over the Government and other authorities. This is an important feature of the Norwegian democratic system. These organisations promote good governance and respect for human rights while providing channels of influence and participation through a community-based, bottom-up approach.

Norwegian CSOs have cooperated with the Norwegian Government and with other CSOs to promote sustainable development since the publication of the UN World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) report *Our common future*, also known as the Brundtland Report, in 1987. Partnerships with Norwegian CSOs are crucial to our efforts to promote the SDGs nationally and internationally. At the national level, they represent numerous interest groups and have a wealth of experience. Their input is therefore invaluable for Norway's planning and implementation processes. Several of these organisations are also important development actors at the international level. About 20 % of Norwegian development aid is channelled through civil society. Norwegian CSOs were also included in the official HLPF delegation in 2016.

Several of the Norwegian CSOs have been involved in the process to develop the post-2015 development agenda since its inception. Their continuous engagement has had a significant impact, at both national and international levels. In particular, their use of social media has been exemplary. The annual report from the Norwegian Forum for Development

Norway Cup

Norway Cup is the world's largest football tournament for children and young people. In 2016, more than 2000 teams from more than 50 nations took part in the tournament. Norway Cup invites teams from countries affected by violence and poverty and covers their expenses so that they are also able to participate.

Norway Cup seeks to promote core values such as inclusion, equality, anti-racism and non-violence. The organisers of Norway Cup see the inclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals as a natural part of their vision and societal responsibility. Norway Cup 2017 will have the SDGs as the annual theme of the

tournament, and will seek to increase awareness of the goals among the 30 000 participants and more than 100 000 visitors, through numerous activities and information campaigns.

In particular, Norway Cup will promote SDGs relating to health, education, equality, the environment and peace. The aim is that all participants and visitors to Norway Cup 2017, in addition to having forged new friendships and enjoyed the game of football, will return home as ambassadors and promoters of the SDGs.



and Environment, a CSO umbrella organisation that represents 50 CSOs, shows the role CSOs have played in efforts to achieve all the 17 SDGs. Several CSOs have been involved in SDG-related issues, such as the inclusion of vulnerable minors and support for people with disabilities or with mental health conditions, for decades. Many of the organisations are internationally oriented, and promote the SDGs through partnerships with local civil society organisations in host countries, or with national and international private sector actors.

This broad level of cooperation across disciplines and sectors is vital if we are to achieve the SDGs. The inclusion of CSOs throughout the follow-up process is therefore of paramount importance. Processes aimed at increasing the level of cross-sectoral cooperation and dialogue are ongoing.

Private sector

A well-functioning private sector is a prerequisite for creating decent jobs and economic growth. It is also a prerequisite for attaining the SDGs. The Norwegian private sector does not receive development funds directly. Nevertheless, partnerships with the private sector are of strategic importance for the realisation of the SDGs. Norway continues to support the international private sector as well, by promoting transfers of technology and knowledge, open trade and market access, and capacity-building.

Experience tells us that, as long as guidelines for responsible business are adhered to, private sector investments result in increased economic activity, the creation of new jobs, increased taxes for the government and greater sustainability throughout the value chain. The Norwegian Government expects all Norwegian companies to respect local laws and regulations, and to act in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. It has established an OECD National Contact Point (NCP) for promoting the Guidelines, including the sector-based guidance they contain, and for providing training and direction on due diligence.

A significant number of leading Norwegian companies and businesses see the SDGs as an opportunity to re-evaluate their business models, further develop their products and services, update their corporate social responsibility programmes,

Long-term strategy on green competitiveness

In 2015, the Government established a commission to consider what a Norwegian long-term strategy on green competitiveness might look like. The commission has engaged in extensive dialogue with important industries, businesses, organisations, and academia – and has challenged them to envisage their sectors in a truly low-emissions society by 2050. Major sectors of the national business community – including transport, industry, petroleum, agriculture, construction, shipping, and renewable energy – accepted the challenge. Their contributions have resulted in a set of ‘roadmaps to 2050’ from eleven different sectors. For most sectors, the vision is one of maintaining global competitiveness while achieving zero emissions by 2050. The commission’s report was published in October 2016.

and make adjustments to ensure profits in the longer term. Norwegian companies report that increased attention is being given to a number of SDGs. There are, however, limits to the private sector’s ability to contribute to the promotion of the SDGs. This is particularly the case in high-risk, low-return settings.

Norwegian companies support the Government’s decision to use aid strategically in order to establish stable framework conditions, develop infrastructure and secure the necessary guarantees for private investments. Increased use of aid in this manner may result in stronger private-sector involvement in locations that would otherwise have been found to be too risky.

Academia

Science, research and/or knowledge are referred to directly in the targets for SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 14, 15 and 17. Academia and other institutions of learning are gradually assuming a larger and more significant role. They are, for instance, contributing to ending hunger, promoting good health, ensuring inclusive and equitable education, building resilient infrastructure and promoting sustainable industrialisation, conserving the oceans, and serving as tools in the implementation of the SDGs. The potential contributions of academia and other institutions of learning could have an impact on all of the remaining SDGs. Academia therefore plays an important role in Norway’s national and international implementation of the SDGs.

Since the 1800s, our national institutions of higher learning have played a vital role in the social, economic and political development of Norwegian society as a whole, by providing valuable knowledge and expertise, carrying out research and promoting innovation. These institutions continue to play an innovative role in key sectors for Norway, such as fisheries, agriculture, energy, offshore petroleum, and forestry.

There are several ongoing programmes for global academic cooperation. The Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED) seeks to strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions in partner countries, with a view to increasing the quality and quantity of research conducted by the partner countries' own researchers in a number of key areas. The Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation (NORPART) supports academic partnerships and promotes student mobility between higher education institutions in Norway and 39 prioritised partner countries.

Tackling major social challenges is one of the main objectives of the Norwegian Government's long-term plan for research and higher education 2015-2024. One of the main objectives of the Research Council of Norway's strategy, *Research for Innovation and Sustainability*, is to enhance research and innovation with a view to promoting sustainable solutions in society and the business sector.

Labour organisations and unions

Norwegian labour organisations and unions have expressed a significant interest in the successful national and international implementation of the SDGs in general and SDG 8 in particular. These unions and organisations cover large segments of the Norwegian workforce, in nearly all fields. These organisations' potential ability to gain support for the SDGs in Norway is therefore significant. Furthermore, labour organisations and unions are part of influential international networks. Cooperation with these networks, and with the ILO in particular, will support the realisation of the SDGs both at home and abroad.

Norwegian labour organisations and unions have not been sufficiently involved in the SDG process.

Additional efforts must be made to strengthen their meaningful participation in – and ownership of – the process. As actors with substantial national and international reach, they have both the capacity to assume a fuller role, and an interest in doing so.

Norad

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) is a key partner in implementing Norway's international commitments under the 2030 Agenda. With its extensive development experience, Norad has been advising the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the missions abroad and other Norwegian ministries throughout the process. Norad's main aim is to ensure that Norway's official development aid is spent in the best possible way. Maintaining a large aid budget is imperative if some of the most complex challenges of the new development agenda are to be addressed.

In 2016, Norad presented a discussion paper on whether the principle of 'leave no one behind', originally intended to draw attention to marginalised people or groups of people, might not just as legitimately be applied to the poorest countries. Norad also considered how Norway could respond to the call that donor countries should play a more enabling role by providing increased technical and policy advisory support. Norway has valuable experience to share, such as natural resource management, domestic resource mobilisation, and promotion of gender equality.

Statistics Norway

The UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) has been given responsibility for developing a set of global indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets. These global indicators can be complemented by regional and national indicators, developed by the UN member states themselves. The UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators has developed an indicator framework with 230 unique indicators to measure and evaluate progress on the 17 goals and 169 targets.

As of now, a third of the global indicators lack a global methodology and procedure for collection and registration of data. The relevant agencies are currently working on this issue in collaboration with national statistical experts. There is already adequate

data available to apply some of these indicators in Norway and in many countries in our region.

Statistics Norway produces statistics relating to about a third of the global indicators. Public agencies or research institutions and universities collect the national data for the remaining indicators.

SDG 17 commits signatory states to enhance their capacity-building support to developing countries by 2020, in order to enable all states to provide high-quality and reliable data. Norway is contributing in this context through a number of projects where Statistics Norway is engaged in long-term cooperation with the national statistical offices in partner countries.

FK Norway

FK Norway is a public grant management agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, mandated to support and oversee the reciprocal exchange of personnel between Norway and developing countries. During the course of 2016, work has begun on mainstreaming the principles contained in the 2030 Agenda into FK Norway's project planning, monitoring, reporting and review processes.

FK Norway works in a wide variety of sectors and represents a wide range of interests in its programmes. 'Leaving no one behind' is the guiding principle for its engagement. Reciprocal exchange has proved to be a flexible tool for promoting professional interests as well as the needs of marginalised groups. One example is the partnership between the Sogn school of organic agriculture and horticulture (*Sogn Jord- og Hagebruksskule*) in Norway, and Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute on Zanzibar. The focus of the partnership is on value-adding activities for small-scale farmers with an emphasis on dairy-goat farming, small-holder climate-smart agriculture, and undergraduate student training programmes.

The Norwegian diplomatic and consular missions

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a firm framework for Norway's international development cooperation. Norway's international development cooperation focuses on the following main priority sectors: education; health; private sector development and job creation; climate and energy; and humanitarian aid. In addition to these

priority sectors, there are a number of cross-cutting themes such as human rights, gender, climate and anti-corruption.

These priorities formed the basis for Norwegian positions in the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. They led Norway to be among the first countries to submit a National Voluntary Review (NVR) at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in 2016. In Norway, there is firm support for international development cooperation across party lines. The white paper on Norwegian development policy and the Sustainable Development Goals, *Common responsibility for our common future* (Meld. St. 24, 2016-2017), which was published in April 2017, considers Norwegian development priorities in the light of the 2030 Agenda.

A large number of actors on all levels are involved in Norway's efforts to promote the SDGs. Among these actors are the Norwegian diplomatic and consular missions, which include embassies, permanent delegations, and consulates. They are important front-line actors in the promotion of Norway's interests abroad. They play a central role in Norway's efforts to promote the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs on all levels internationally.

The various diplomatic and consular missions have different approaches to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Those that are already engaged in development cooperation see the SDGs as consolidating already well-established policies for development cooperation. Many of these missions have been in their host countries for decades. There is an ongoing process to integrate the priorities of the SDGs into their cooperation. The breadth and scale of SDG initiatives depend on local priorities and needs, Norwegian priority themes and ability to make a difference in the area concerned. In sum, for these missions the 2030 Agenda represents a framework for structuring their existing cooperation.

Missions that are mandated to carry out tasks other than traditional development cooperation may view the 2030 Agenda as more relevant to development aid than to their areas of work. However, the thematic priorities of a number of these missions, such as security issues, south-south cooperation, trade, gender equality, and strengthening institutions of

higher learning and civil society, are clearly compatible with the SDGs. Moreover, several missions consider working with host governments in the regional or global promotion of SDGs to be one of their strengths. In sum, while the degree to which the 2030 Agenda has been embraced by the missions varies, their portfolios show that most missions are already engaged in promoting at least one of the SDGs.

However, context is everything. Ownership and leadership at individual, political and institutional levels are of key importance for ensuring successful follow-up of the SDGs. We see that the degree to which the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are incorporated into national development policies in our partner countries varies a great deal. Some developing countries are in the process of fully harmonising their national priorities with the SDGs, while others are using the SDGs as a point of reference for their national policies. Some are only loosely connecting their domestic policies to the SDGs. Increased awareness of the political implications at national and regional levels of this new global consensus to fight poverty and deprivation is therefore vital. Most importantly, in order for the 2030 Agenda to be truly transformative, the policy dialogue must continue to be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the opportunities it offers.

Furthermore, countries in situations of fragility face challenges and obstacles on their path to transformational change. In these, often conflict-ridden situations, peace and stability (SDG 16) is a priority for Norwegian cooperation. It is in this context sobering to note that according to OECD projections, about 80 % of those living in extreme poverty will be living in situations of fragility by 2035. If we are to ensure that no one is left behind, it is of utmost importance that we include countries in situations of fragility in the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. The benefits to be gained are potentially huge, and the risks involved should not discourage us from intensifying our engagement in these countries.

This report takes the view that it is still too early to determine the impact of the SDGs on Norwegian international cooperation. The challenges are massive and complex, and will require consistent and systematic follow-up over a long period of time.

Nevertheless, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in itself gives grounds for hope. The impact of the 2030 Agenda will become clear in due course. Much will depend on the time and resources invested in its implementation. The role of the diplomatic and consular missions in this context cannot be overstated.

Ensuring that no one is left behind

Ensuring that no one is left behind is a key pillar of the 2030 Agenda. It underlines the people-centred nature of the Agenda, with its emphasis on including marginalised groups of people and nations in the development process. This means that all people – women and men, girls and boys – are to be given equal opportunities to make choices that can improve their lives. No one should have to live in extreme poverty or be discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual identity or disabilities.

Leaving no one behind is a matter of promoting human rights and equality, but it is also a matter of fighting poverty. Ever since the principle of leaving no one behind was introduced, there has been a global discussion about how it can be put into practice, domestically and internationally. As this report shows, the principle is deeply embedded in Norwegian policies. Norway is well placed to achieve the SDGs at the national level. The Norwegian welfare system and the availability of resources to counteract slowdowns in the job market are two important factors in this context.

Ensuring that no one is left behind highlights the fact that focusing on marginalised groups is a prerequisite for transforming livelihoods. The objective must be to enable a sustainable transition away from poverty. The purpose is to enable transition from living in poverty to living sustainable lives. This is a prominent theme in Norwegian international development cooperation, which is to be people-centred, climate smart and gender-sensitive, with an emphasis on respect for human rights and giving priority to the most vulnerable. Further, it underlines the need for improved capacity to collect and use disaggregated data that can provide a basis for making informed decisions to promote inclusive development.

If we look at Norwegian international development

cooperation through the lens of the SDGs, it is fair to say that it actively supports efforts to reach the poorest and most marginalised groups through strategic partnerships in areas such as education and health. These programmes continue to give priority to the least developed countries and to countries in fragile situations.

However, the ambition and need to avoid leaving

anyone behind call for renewed readiness to invest in informed risk management strategies. This will allow for implementation with a certain level of risk in situations where strategic results are within reach. In other words, our ambitions must extend beyond aid efficiency in its traditional sense. The conditions in many of the poorest and most vulnerable countries are so dire that development projects may struggle to succeed.

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For Sustainable Development



The sustainable development goals

This status report for 2016 confirms that Norway's follow-up of the SDGs is well under way. In order to assess Norway's level of engagement on each goal, it is at this stage useful to relate performance to the targets

under each of the goals. In the overview given below, wherever activities implemented are relevant to one or more of the targets, this has been indicated in brackets.



Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

National level

The majority of the Norwegian population enjoys a high standard of living. The general income level is high, and has increased in recent decades. As poverty in Norway is measured as relative income compared to the overall income level, a minority will tend to fall behind, regardless of the progress made. The reason for this is that growth in the economy as a whole triggers a corresponding increase in the low-income threshold. The goal to reduce poverty by half by 2030 will therefore be difficult to achieve (target 1.2).

Nevertheless, the share of households in Norway with a low income is comparatively low (target 1.1). According to national figures, 9.3 % of the population had an average income lower than 60 % of the median income (EU equivalence scale) in the three-year period 2013–2015. All sections of the population, including low-income groups, have however benefited from a rise in incomes and standards of living over the last two decades.

The risk of poverty in Norway is closely linked to a lack of paid work or a weak affiliation to the labour market. The financial crisis in 2008/2009 and the fall in oil prices since 2014 have dampened economic growth and led to higher national unemployment rates. The Government has initiated labour market policy measures, tax relief schemes and an expansive fiscal policy in order to stimulate the economy and keep employment rates high.

The number of children growing up in low-income families has risen over the last 10-15 years. Approximately 98 000 children lived in low-income families in the period 2013-2015, which corresponds to 10 % of all children in Norway. Half of these are children with immigrant backgrounds. In response to this, the Norwegian Government launched the cross-sectoral strategy *Children Living in Poverty* (2015-2017) in 2015. The strategy sets out 64 concrete measures with the overall aim of preventing the intergenerational transmission of poverty and to ensure equal opportunities for children in economically disadvantaged families, to participate in education and leisure activities (target 1.4).

As in many other countries, there are large labour market disparities in Norway between native Norwegians and immigrants from low-income countries. In order to prevent long-term poverty in the immigration population, labour market integration measures have been intensified and renewed.

While these challenges are considerable, the general trend in Norway is positive. High employment rates, a compressed wage structure and the design of the welfare system contribute to limiting the proportion of households with a very low income. Universal and free – or low-cost – access to health, education and welfare services also makes the situation for low-income groups in Norway better than it is for corresponding groups in many other countries (target 1.3).

International level

The overarching goal of Norwegian international cooperation is to combat poverty in all its forms. This is a core message in the 2017 white paper on Norwegian development policy and the SDGs, *Common responsibility for our common future* (target 1.1), and is fully in line with SDG 1. There is support for the moral authority of this goal across party lines and in the population at large.

Norway maintains a high allocation of gross national income to official development assistance. For 2016, this allocation is NOK 36.6 billion (1.11% of GNI), putting Norway among the global leaders, both in terms of the percentage of GNI and the amount contributed per capita. Nevertheless, the Norwegian Government recognises that there are limits to what aid in general, and Norwegian aid in particular, can achieve alone. While aid will continue to be an important factor in poverty eradication, the white paper heeds the call made by the 2030 Agenda for more strategic and inclusive use of aid, in order to trigger economic mobilisation and social and environmental transformation (target 1.a).

No one can do everything, but everyone can do his or her part. As set out in the white paper on Norwegian development policy and the SDGs, Norway contributes to eradicating poverty by providing

support in the priority areas of education; health; private sector development and job-creation; climate and renewable energy; and humanitarian aid (the humanitarian aid budget has increased by 50 % over the past few years). Engagement within these themes are guided by the following cross-cutting issues. Human rights, anti-corruption, gender equality and environment. Together these engagements contribute significantly to sustained local, national and regional resilience (target 1.5).

The Government is in the process of concentrating a larger share of the aid budget on selected low-income and least developed countries. This process has reduced the number of recipient countries from 112 in 2014 to 92 in 2017. The main aim is to concentrate efforts on areas where Norwegian

support can have the greatest impact in terms of poverty alleviation.



Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

National level

The fact that Norway has national political goals for food and agriculture as well as a welfare state helps it to achieve SDG 2 at the national level. The main pillars of Norwegian food security policies are continuous food production on land and at sea, sustainable management of resources for food production, and a well-functioning trade system. These policies ensure that Norway has a sustainable food supply at national level.

The Government has ambitious political goals for food and agriculture. These were presented in a white paper to the Storting at the end of 2016. Food production from agriculture will increase and be made more efficient. Norway will strive to ensure that food is safe and that high animal welfare standards are maintained. The ultimate goal is to meet the demands of markets and consumers in terms of price, quality and variety.

The nutritional status of people living in Norway is generally good. Having said this, nutritional disorders – primarily related to an unhealthy diet

and a lack of physical activity – remain a challenge. The Government recently launched a cross-sectorial national action plan for healthier and better diets (2017-2021) (target 2.2). The action plan includes measures and initiatives for schools, kindergartens and the health service. Cooperation with the food industry is key. It is crucial to recognise the links between healthy diets, food production and sustainable development.

Environmental degradation and climate change are a challenge to food production. Norway acknowledges that the agricultural sector's ability to adjust to changes in the decades to come will be of key importance in order to maintain sustainable food production systems (target 2.4). The Government has decided that Norway is to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 40 % by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Emissions from the agricultural sector are included in this ambition, and agriculture must therefore carry out its share of reductions as far as possible. Food production is not possible without greenhouse gas emissions. However, It is important to reduce the total greenhouse gas emissions from

agriculture, and the Government is seeking to achieve this in connection with the annual Agricultural Agreements. The Government will continue to work on plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in dialogue with the food production industry.

International level

Norway's contributions to food security at the international level are rights-based. In addition, a long-term approach that ensures predictability is a key factor for success. Norway's support for food security is directed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) guidelines, and is primarily channelled to smallholders, in particular female smallholders. The aims of this support include increasing smallholders' participation in the decisions that affect them, building resilience, and enhancing productivity.

In September 2016, Norway and Indonesia co-organised a global consultation on farmers' rights. The recommendations from the consultation include strengthening the role of farmers and local and indigenous communities in managing plant genetic resources. The recommendations were presented to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and will be considered at its next session.

As a leading seafood nation, Norway attaches importance to promoting sustainable food production from the oceans. The role of the oceans as key providers of nutritious food and better livelihoods will be a key theme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Reducing food loss and waste is by far the cheapest and most environmentally friendly way of increasing the global food supply. It increases the amount of food that is available, without putting additional pressure on the environment, including the oceans (target 12.3). Norway is engaged in national and international efforts to reduce food waste throughout the value chain.

Norway continues to provide an annual contribution to the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the International Treaty). This contribution is 0.1 % of the value of the agricultural seeds and plant material trade in Norway. The ten-year Crop Wild Relatives project of the Crop Trust is funded by Norway. The main purpose of the project is to identify and collect crop wild relatives. Norway hosts the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in cooperation with partners. At the last session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Norway supported the resolution on the Commission's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs.

Norway is committed to strengthening agriculture and food security in developing countries. It provides support through both bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, as well as to NGOs.





Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

National level

The health of the Norwegian population is good, and a system of universal health care is well-established at the national level. Life expectancy is high by international standards, both for men (80) and women (84). Norway is optimistic about reaching the WHO goal of a 25 % reduction in premature death from non-communicable diseases by 2025. Norway has identified a number of priority target areas for our national efforts to promote SDG 3. These include communicable and non-communicable diseases; substance abuse; and air, water and soil pollution and contamination (targets 3.3; 3.4; 3.5; 3.9).

Good public health is dependent on sound policies in other sectors. The Norwegian health sector is complex with a large number of stakeholders. Attaining SDG 3 will require cross-sectoral strategies and combined efforts. The Norwegian Government has therefore developed a strategy for cross-sectoral action and has given the Norwegian Directorate of Health the task of coordinating the work to follow up SDG 3. The Directorate is also responsible for looking into how Norway can meet the challenges both nationally and globally.

Considerable efforts have been made to ensure national follow-up of SDG 3. Government entities, NGOs, academic institutions, and the national medical and nurses' associations are key partners. By summer 2017, a draft for follow-up of the prioritised areas of SDG 3 will be presented to the Ministry of Health and Care Services. The UN has developed indicators for measuring the progress towards SDG 3. Norway has good data on a range of areas relating to health. However, we still need to gather information for some of the proposed indicators.

In recent years, there has been a gradual improvement in air quality in Norway. New measures, such as low-emission zones, have been introduced for the municipalities. The national limit values for PM10 and PM2.5 (emissions of particulate matter) have been lowered, and new national goals are set. However, some towns and cities have

difficulty complying with the limit values and national goals. If Norway is to reach this target (target 3.9), the implementation of sufficient measures for air quality improvement will be important. With regard to hazardous chemicals and other pollutants, there is a need to continue to allocate resources and launch initiatives to further national and international policies, with an emphasis on compliance with EU/ EEA regulations and global agreements. Research, assessments and other forms of knowledge-building will be of particular importance, as will the ongoing national inspections, further work on contaminated sites, and efforts at municipal level.

Drawing on the normative mandate of WHO, Norway has supported the development of new tools to ensure that no-one is left behind which as currently being rolled out at country level. One such new tool is the eight-step "Innov8" approach to health planning. This approach helps countries to identify who is left out of health programmes, and uses methods drawn from human rights based programming, such as participation, transparency and accountability, to find ways to include those who have previously been left behind.



PHOTO: INGE HERMAN RYDLAND

International level

Norway has pursued this goal with a focus on strengthening national ownership and capacity. To an increasing extent, Norway also recognises the shift in the global burden of disease due to the increasing significance of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and the importance of public health approaches for reducing exposure to risk factors (tobacco, air pollution, car accidents etc.). Norway is tailoring its approaches to the setting concerned, to allow for the inclusion of this broader agenda and encourage promotion of health and well-being.

Norway played a pioneering role (together with the World Bank, Canada, DFID and the Gates Foundation) in the development of the Global Financing Facility in support of women's, children's and adolescents' health, the GFF. The GFF promotes good health, nutrition, access to modern contraception, and registration of births and deaths to enhance civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems at the national level. Preliminary results indicate that the GFF has mobilised four times the value of grants provided in low-interest IDA loans. This is due to the greater responsibility that has been shown by individual countries and the resources contributed by the private sector at global and country level.

Norway was one of the original founding partners in Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and remains highly committed to its work. Gavi supports poor countries in improving immunisation coverage and equity and in expanding the range of vaccines available. Gavi's new policy for fragile settings and conflicts, as well

as its increased engagement in 20 priority countries, will help to ensure that those hardest to reach are enrolled in vaccination programmes (target 3.3).

Norway is also a major contributor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Progress in this area has been dramatic – but further progress towards reaching zero transmission of these significant diseases of poverty has been tempered by population growth in regions with a high burden of disease, as well as growing resistance to effective treatment and other interventions. As a result, there is a need to scale up effective prevention and treatment. More than half of the 18 million people currently receiving life-saving treatment for HIV are doing so through the Global Fund.

Norway invests in partnerships such as Unitaid that develop and extend access to new health-related products. Results include the increased availability of diagnostics and treatment for paediatric HIV and tuberculosis. Efforts are also under way to make available effective insecticides for malaria vector control. Norway also supports product development partnerships for new vaccines and drugs.

Norway supports initiatives that promote the recruitment, training, and effective use of health workers (target 3.c). It supports this agenda through global health partnerships, exchange programmes and capacity-building programmes at country level. Results include the *Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health*, the final report of the expert group to the High-Level Commission for Health

Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI)

Vaccines are among the most effective tools available in the efforts to prevent deadly infections and epidemics. Development of vaccines needs to start before a serious outbreak, so that final clinical trials and emergency deployment can be initiated as soon as possible. This is challenging, as the development of effective and safe vaccines can take more than a decade. The 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa is just the latest example of the tremendous costs incurred when the international community is not prepared.

CEPI was officially launched in January 2017. It is a broad coalition of governments, industry, intergovernmental organisations, civil society,

academia, and philanthropy, which seeks to finance and coordinate the development of new vaccines to prevent and contain infectious disease epidemics. CEPI will furthermore work to ensure that the vaccines developed are affordable and available to the populations with the greatest need.

CEPI is currently in a start-up phase. During this period, which will last until the end of 2017, an Interim Secretariat, provided by the Norwegian Government, will coordinate activities in close cooperation with the Indian Government, the Wellcome Trust, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the World Economic Forum.

Employment and Economic Growth, and the *Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth*, which call for a multi-sector approach and stronger collaboration at global and national level.

Norway also invested in the UN Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health – and is continuing its active engagement in the Health Data Collaborative. Furthermore, the Government has supported the University of Oslo's work to develop the District Health Information System (DHIS2), which is now the

standard tool in over 60 countries and is planned to be introduced in another 20 countries over the next three years.

Norway supports WHO reform, with particular focus on reform of the emergency capacity of WHO, as well as global health security and preparedness (Ebola, Zika, influenza). Norway is actively engaged in developing an effective international response to the massive challenge of anti-microbial resistance – and in promoting the development, distribution and regulated use of new antibiotics.



Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

National level

Education is a priority area for the Norwegian Government. There is almost full primary school coverage, as well as literacy and numeracy (targets 4.1; 4.6). More than 70 % of Norwegians in the 25-64 age group have upper secondary education as their minimum education level, and close to 45 % have some form of higher education. However, a number of persistent challenges remain. These include post-primary education completion rates, improved learning outcomes at all levels and the integration of immigrants in the educational system.

A special programme for promoting completion of upper secondary education has been initiated in response to high dropout rates. The programme includes measures that combine work experience and education for young people who are at risk of not completing and upper secondary education. Systematic work is ongoing to develop a knowledge base to support further efforts to improve completion rates in upper secondary education. In addition, measures have been developed to make vocational education more relevant for future work and occupations. The main objectives are to increase motivation and provide better apprenticeship opportunities (targets 4.3; 4.4).

In higher education, the dropout rate remains a challenge. The issue was addressed in the white paper *Quality Culture in Higher Education* (Meld. St. 16 2016-2017). Improving completion rates has been an education policy goal for a long time. There are currently a number of policy proposals under consideration to address this issue.

There are several positive trends in the measurable levels of learning outcomes in Norwegian schools. In recent OECD and IEA surveys, Norwegian students have improved their results. Norwegian 15-year-olds perform above average in the PISA survey. Improving teachers' qualifications has been an important step for increasing education quality. A new teacher training programme at the Masters level will help to consolidate this trend.

Several measures are being implemented to integrate immigrants into relevant levels of the educational system. The proportion of children with a minority background in kindergartens has increased from 58 % to 79 % over the past ten years. In 2016, the Storting decided that two- and three-year-olds from families that have been granted permanent residence, but still live at asylum centres should be given access to free core time in kindergarten (20 hours per week) (target 4.2). The

Education Act has been amended to give a statutory right to upper secondary education for immigrants who have completed secondary education in their country of origin, but who have been unable to get their qualifications recognised in Norway (target 4.4).

The 0-24 Partnership provides coordinated, interdisciplinary assistance for vulnerable children and young people under the age of 24. The objective is to ensure that more children and young people grow up healthy, that they complete basic education and that they are prepared for the world of. In order to achieve this, vulnerable children and young people are identified and help is given as early as possible (target 4.5).



International level

Substantial progress is made in reducing the number of out-of-school children worldwide since 2000. However, 263 million children and young people still do not attend school. Of these, 61

million are at primary level, 60 million are at lower secondary level, and 142 million are at upper secondary level. Many children in school do not learn basic skills, as quality of learning is a major challenge. Children have access to schools and classrooms, but lack qualified teachers. Norway has been spearheading a Teachers Task Force, hosted by UNESCO, to address the need for increased quality of teaching and learning. Education is a top priority in Norwegian foreign and development policy. By 2017, Norway will have doubled its funding to education compared to 2014. Currently, NOK 3.4 billion is earmarked for education.

The international community must ensure that all children have equal opportunities to enrol in school, complete basic education and learn skills that equip them for work and life. Priority areas include education in conflict and humanitarian crises, education for girls and women, and education for vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as children with disabilities (targets 4.1; 4.4).

Norway has played a key role in setting up the Education Cannot Wait Fund, launched during the Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in June 2016. This is the first global fund for education in humanitarian action. It seeks to generate greater shared political, operational and financial commitment to fill the educational needs of the 75 million children and young people worst affected by crisis and conflict. By bringing together public and private partners, Education Cannot Wait will leverage additional finance and act as a catalyst for developing new approaches to funding and innovation, with a view to

United Nations Association of Norway

The United Nations Association of Norway (UNA Norway) is an organisation that aims to increase knowledge, awareness, and engagement on topics relating to the UN. The education sector is the main target group for UNA's activities and initiatives. In 2016, UNA staff members had face-to-face contact with more than 80 000 students and the website exceeded 2 million visitors.

The Norwegian Government is currently in the process of revising and renewing the national curriculum, a process that will be finished by 2019. Sustainable development will be an interdisciplinary theme in the new curriculum for primary schools as

well as in teacher training programmes. UNA Norway is a consulting body for the current revision of the national curriculum. It is actively engaged in the process, where it advocates a global perspective and participates in shaping the content and direction of the national curriculum.

One of UNA's main goals is to ensure that sustainable development, as an interdisciplinary principle, is broadly integrated in many more subjects than before, and that the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are all included.

delivering education in emergencies and protracted crises (targets 4.1; 4.4).

Norway was the third largest donor to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in 2016. By securing coordinated support to strengthen national education systems, GPE stands out as the most important partner mechanism for lower income countries. Norway also initiated the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, led by UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown. The Commission's report, *The Learning Generation*, published in

September 2016, states that it is possible to get all young people into school and learning within a generation. Four major transformations are called for to achieve this ambitious goal, in the areas of Performance, Innovation, Inclusion and Finance. A Financing Compact will be in place for the Learning Generation, from which governments ready to invest and carry out reforms can receive concomitant financial assistance. The International Finance Facility for Education (IFF) will, in partnership with the multilateral development banks (MDBs), generate more resources and ensure that these are spent in a more efficient, coherent and coordinated way.



Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

National level

Norway strives to be a non-discriminatory society. Investment in universal welfare schemes makes it possible for parents to combine family life and work. For example, there is a generous parental benefit scheme and full access to good-quality day-care for children at an acceptable price. Women's increased participation in the workforce over the past decades has been significant for wealth creation.

Nevertheless, Norway still faces gender equality challenges in the form of a gender-segregated labour market, domestic violence, and inadequate integration of female immigrants (target 5.5). The level of representation of women in the Government, the Storting (Norwegian parliament) and in municipal decision-making bodies is high. The private sector, however, is lagging behind. CORE – the Centre for Research on Gender Equality at the Institute for Social Research – is funded by the Ministry of Children and Equality. CORE has developed a Gender Balance Scoreboard in order to monitor the gender balance over time in the largest Norwegian companies. It revealed that 80 % of top managers and 93 % of CEOs are men. This means that a lot of work remains to be done to attain gender equality at medium- and top management levels. The Government has invested considerable resources in ensuring that the labour market is as equal as

possible. Steps have been taken to promote non-traditional educational choices and careers through a variety of measures. Recruiting more girls to study natural sciences through the project 'Girls and technology', is one such measure.

Work is ongoing to strengthen protection against discrimination (target 5.c). In April 2017, the Government presented a draft comprehensive equality and anti-discrimination act to the Storting. The Government has also proposed changes to the enforcement code of the equality and anti-discrimination legislation, which would make it possible for the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Tribunal to award compensation in discrimination cases.

The Government gives high priority to preventing and combating violence and sexual abuse (target 5.2). A plan was presented in October 2016 on reducing the incidence of violence in close relationships and strengthening measures to address the needs of children who have been subjected to violence and abuse. Recent research shows that Sami women are more often subjected to violence than women in the population as a whole. The Sámediggi (Sami parliament) and the Government have initiated research on this topic, and a first report was released in March 2017.



Although women's reproductive health and rights are being challenged, efforts to undo legislation on these rights have met successful resistance (target 5.6). Norway recognises that women's organisations play a key role in maintaining and strengthening women's rights, including reproductive rights. In this context, Norway will remain a strong supporter – both politically and financially – of civil society and the UN, in particular UNFPA. The Government of Norway supports the 'She Decides initiative' and recently announced an increased contribution (of NOK 80 million) to promoting sexual and reproductive health and safe abortion.

International level

Norway continues to be a strong global voice for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (target 5.1). Women and girls are particularly vulnerable in times of conflict and when they have been forced to flee their homes and are internally displaced or refugees. Women's rights are coming under increasing pressure in certain regions. Our thematic priorities are girls' access to quality education, women's political and economic rights, the elimination of violence and harmful practices against women and girls, and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In 2016, Norway launched a new bilateral partnership programme on gender equality for development, called LIKE, as our contribution to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Beijing Platform for Action. The programme will provide capacity development on gender equality at governmental level, through institutional collaboration between Norwegian institutions and their counterparts in participating countries (targets 5.a; 5.c). The programme will draw on Norway's extensive experience in the field of gender equality and women's rights. Initial talks on partnerships are taking place with several interested countries.



Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

National level

Norwegians enjoy universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate and equitable sanitation and sewerage for all. Nevertheless, it is expected that further efforts will be necessary to deal with the increasing impacts of climate change, such as changes in temperature, higher precipitation, more frequent extreme weather events and the spread of new pathogens (targets 6.1; 6.2).

Water and sewage pipes are aging and the renewal rate has not been adequate. An increased renewal rate is the main Norwegian target under the WHO/ UNECE Protocol on Water and Health. Norway has strict regulations concerning emissions of hazardous

substances and water pollution, particularly for sources of drinking water. Dumping of waste has been virtually eliminated in Norway, and there are national waste management systems and legislation for the protection of water from contamination. Most wastewater and sewage is treated, and since 2008 the remaining untreated wastewater and sewage has been reduced by around 20 % (target 6.3).

The EU Water Framework Directive has been implemented through national legislation, and the first river basin management plans, including all water bodies covered by the Directive, were adopted in 2016. In line with these plans, measures to secure the achievement of 'good ecological and chemical

status' for most water bodies by 2033 or earlier will be initiated in due course. Water-related ecosystems will also be further protected and restored in accordance with the 2016 Norwegian Action Plan for Biodiversity (targets 6.5; 6.A).

International level

Norway supports water and sanitation activities in a number of countries by providing support to key sectors, such as health, education, rural development, and humanitarian assistance, rather than through independent activities and programmes.

Women's and children's issues are of particular concern. A lack of safe, separate and private sanitation and washing facilities in schools is one of the main reasons for high dropout rates among girls. It places them at a disadvantage compared to boys and limits their opportunities later in life. This underscores the importance of including relevant water and sanitation components in education and health programmes (targets 6.1; 6.2).

Likewise, access to water and sanitation is key in humanitarian interventions. A Norwegian NGO, Norwegian Church Aid, provides water and sanitation to about one million people per year, mostly in refugee camps.

Norway seeks to foster cooperation on transboundary water resources and on improving water resources management, primarily with a view to developing hydropower resources. Furthermore, Norway assists in conflict resolution and in establishing cooperation on the joint management of transboundary water resources, especially in the Nile basin and the Himalaya regions (targets 6.5; 6.A). Norway also supports activities for better wastewater treatment and management in developing countries through UNEP (target 6.3). In addition, Norway plays an active role in the European cooperation under the WHO/UNEP Protocol on Water and Health.



Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

National level

Securing an efficient and climate-friendly energy supply requires that security of supply, climate change and economic development all are considered together. Norway has secured universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all. This means that virtually all of the SDG 7 targets on energy have been achieved at the national level, or are in line with (pre)-existing national policies and goals (target 7.1). Norway has a very high proportion of renewable energy in its energy mix compared to other countries, due to a combination of policies and natural conditions. Almost all of our electricity production (99 %) is from renewable energy sources; mainly from hydroelectric power generation.

The share of renewable energy in Norway's total energy consumption (including transport) is around 69 %. Policies targeting supply and consumption must be continued, to ensure a gradual and definitive

transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy across the board (target 7.2).

Norway also seeks to improve national energy efficiency through a number of policies and other instruments. These include new energy requirements for house construction, infrastructure, and industry (target 7.3).

International level

The objectives of Norwegian support for sustainable energy are to contribute to the achievement of SDG 7 and to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in developing countries. This can be achieved through increased use of renewable energy. Norway committed approximately NOK 500 million in 2016 to renewable energy projects in developing countries (targets 7.A; 7.B). Norway supports sustainable energy activities in a number of countries, including Liberia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Angola, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Haiti.

Support aimed at promoting SDG 7 is also provided through multilateral partnerships and programmes. In 2016, contributions were made to the Asian Development Bank, the energy access partnership Energising Development, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, the Scaling up Renewable Energy in Low-Income Countries Programme (SREP), the Energy Sector Management and Assistance Program (ESMAP), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll) and to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

The role of the private sector and the mobilisation of new commercial partners are key to success. Creating a predictable investment framework for energy investments is essential for development cooperation. Norad's support for feasibility studies for renewable energy investments has contributed to a pipeline of projects exceeding 500 MW of combined generation capacity, and expected to be built over the next few years.

In addition, Norway supports access to reliable electricity in developing countries. This is done through Norfund's investments in renewable energy projects. Clean energy is Norfund's largest business area and constitutes about half of its portfolio. While

hydropower has dominated the energy portfolio until recently, solar and wind energy have become more competitive and account for an increasing portion of activities. 92 % of Norfund's new clean energy investments in 2015 were made in Africa. Of the total clean energy portfolio, 37 % is in Africa. The companies in Norfund's energy portfolio have installed a total power capacity of 4 800 MW. Another 600 MW is currently under construction. The amount of electricity generated by these projects in 2015 equalled the annual consumption of 25 million people in these markets (targets 7.1; 7.2).



Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

National level

Over the last 25 years, Norway has had higher economic growth and lower unemployment than most other industrial countries (target 8.5). Good macroeconomic management and a flexible labour market have supported this trend. Until the last couple of years, the Norwegian economy received significant stimulus from Norway's petroleum activities. However, in the future, mainland industries will have to look to other markets for the basis for sustainable and environmentally responsible growth. Products from fish farming and several categories of services have shown significant export growth over past few years (target 8.2).

Experience indicates that high economic growth and full employment are best achieved through a high degree of openness to international markets, strong competition, and good and stable conditions for business. A simple tax system with broad tax bases also supports innovation and value creation. Transfer schemes could be designed to provide incentives to participate in education and work (target 8.3).

The Norwegian labour market is relatively flexible, as reflected by its comparatively high employment and low unemployment rates, also in periods with substantial relocations between sectors. The labour market model protects rights and promotes a safe working environment

for all, and is supported by regulations and a long-term commitment to cooperation between labour unions, employer's organisations and the Government (target 8.8).

The Government strives to reduce the time and costs that companies incur when reporting to public authorities. It has recently implemented measures to make it easier to establish and run new businesses.

Both Norwegian and international experience shows that long spells of unemployment or other kinds of absence from the labour market can weaken people's future employment prospects. This is especially the case for young people. The Government attaches importance to an active employment policy, for example using labour market measures to increase employment and reduce the risk of vulnerable groups falling outside the labour force. Young people, among others, are given priority in labour market programmes to ensure their rapid inclusion in the workforce (targets 8.5; 8.6).

Over the past decade, there has been a downward trend in work participation rates, both in Norway and in other industrial countries, partly driven by the ageing of the population. In Norway, this downward trend was accentuated by the sharp fall in the price of oil in 2014, which weakened both economic growth and the labour market. From 2010 to 2016, the employment rate for people aged 15-74 years declined by two percentage points. Recently, the labour market has recovered somewhat. In the first quarter of 2017, the unemployment rate was down 0.4 percentage points to 4.3 % of the labour force, which is low in an OECD context.

International level

Norway supports inclusive growth and job creation through various channels, and with a focus on the least developed countries. Access to good, steady jobs and a living wage is essential for poverty eradication. With nine out of ten jobs in developing countries in the private sector, there is significant potential for increased tax revenues, which could be used for investments in infrastructure and services, health and education. Norway promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth by engaging in and supporting international institutions such as the IMF, the multilateral development banks (MDBs) and the UN. The MDBs promote private sector development in low-income countries by providing technical assistance and supporting programmes to stimulate investment. The MDBs are increasingly providing guarantees in order to promote private sector investment and attract additional financial resources (targets 8.1; 8.2). Norway sponsors decent work initiatives in partnership with the ILO, including the universal ratification of the ILO's eight core conventions.

It is particularly important to reduce the proportion of young people who are not in employment, education or training, not least in Africa (target 8.6). Norway will provide financial support to the African Development Bank's initiative Jobs for Youth in Africa in 2017. This support will come in addition to the substantial core funding we provide to the African Development Fund. Support through earmarked contributions and innovative job creation initiatives in the World Bank Group will continue.

Norway is working towards sustainable economic growth and full employment by promoting free international trade. Under the Aid for Trade initiative,

Integration of the SDGs in the private sector – the case of TOMRA systems

TOMRA systems is in a process of revising its existing company sustainability strategies. It has identified the policy areas most significant to the company and the stakeholders. This identification process was initiated in the context of 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

First, an assessment was made of which goals TOMRA could contribute to the most. The goals identified were SDG 8 (decent work and

economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production). Specific measures and instruments intended to strengthen TOMRA's ability to promote these goals have also been defined and developed.

TOMRA will continue the process of integrating the SDGs into the strategic and operational management of its activities.

Norway gives priority to the least developed countries. Norway has provided NOK 150 million to Phase One of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to LDCs, and has committed the same amount for Phase Two of the programme (target 8.a).

Norway's global education initiative is contributing to the elimination of child labour, as well as increasing the opportunities for young people to gain access to vocational training. In addition, Norway is implementing several bilateral programmes for job creation, private sector development and technical and vocational education and training.

Good governance is often considered to be the most important factor for achieving economic progress. Good labour governance and social dialogue

contribute to inclusive and sustained economic growth. Norway works to promote good governance through various channels and partnerships. Further, Norway is contributing to the elimination of child labour through its global education initiative, and has launched a national action plan to follow up the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (target 8.7).

Norway focuses on inclusive growth and job creation in the least developed countries. Private sector-driven economic growth is essential for helping people work their way out of poverty. Several Norwegian companies see the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in a similar perspective: the goals offer both incentives and a structure for their current and future business activities.



Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

National level

Norway has already achieved many of the targets under SDG 9. Our national infrastructure is well developed, which is crucial for a well-functioning society and competitive industrial sector (target 9.1). The Government will continue to develop Norway's transport systems to limit the environmental effects of transport and help to make Norway a low-emissions society.

The Norwegian economy will continue to benefit from the petroleum sector, but Norwegian businesses need to change and adapt due to lower oil prices (target 9.4). The process of restructuring has already started, and the Government will facilitate business involvement, ensure robust institutions, rules and regulations, and build a broad knowledge base.

Norway promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialisation. Technology and knowledge will play a key role in facilitating the transition to a low-emissions society. The Government will promote

expanded use of clean and environmentally sound technology and industrial processes by strengthening its focus on R&D and the development of environmentally sound technology. The Government also attaches importance to ensuring that the public sector contributes, by using and promoting new environmentally sound and climate friendly solutions in public procurement.

The Government will continue to give priority to research and education and will facilitate

innovation. Expertise and the development of new and better technology will help Norway to fulfil the SDGs (target 9.5). In the Government's view, upgrading infrastructure and retrofitting industries to make them sustainable remain the most significant challenges for the national realisation of SDG 9 (target 9.4). Several processes are under way, including a new white paper on the industrial sector, and the fifth Norwegian National Transport Plan. These processes will pave the way for actions that will enable Norway to meet SGG9.

There is a well-developed system of technology transfer in Norway. The Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) at Norway's eight universities are facilitating the process, in cooperation with research institutes. The strategy for green competitiveness and similar strategies targeting sustainable industrialisation are reflected in calls for applications for various forms of funding made available for research and innovation. The Norwegian Research Council and Innovation Norway are the main public funding institutions for innovation, and both have incorporated the SDGs into their various funding programmes to stimulate sustainable innovation.

International level

Infrastructure, industrialisation, and innovation are key factors in the sustainable and equitable development of any state. The realisation of these factors is, however, often a costly and time-consuming process. The Norwegian Government is therefore committed to using its foreign and development policies in new and innovative ways. We seek to use aid strategically to trigger private and commercial capital for key infrastructure investments such as energy generation (target 9.A).

Norfund is Norway's main instrument for contributing to energy investments in developing countries. Norad manages Norway's grant schemes for feasibility support and strategic partnerships to

promote investments and sound technology transfer in the energy sector and other sectors.

There is also a focus on research and education in developing countries, including twinning Norwegian universities and universities in developing countries with a view to promoting cooperation (target 9.B). This is being done through the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development within the fields of Energy and Petroleum (EnPe). The cooperation through the EnPe programme includes a scholarships programme for training academic staff, developing new and relevant Masters and PhD programmes, upgrading scientific and research infrastructure, and research cooperation.



Yara Birkeland

Yara believes innovation will be key in combating climate change, and has partnered with Kongsberg to build the world's first autonomous and zero emissions container ship. With this vessel, Yara will reduce NOx and CO2 emissions and improve road safety by removing 40,000 truck journeys in populated urban areas every year.

The project has applied for support through ENOVA and there is close dialogue between Yara and ENOVA in the process. Enova SF is owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and contributes to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, development of energy and climate technology and a strengthened security of supply.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVVRUAvoBK4>



Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

National level

Income inequality is low in Norway compared with almost all other countries. A high employment rate means that a large percentage of the population participates in income-generating work. The welfare state provides compensation for loss of income due to illness, disability, old age, and unemployment. In addition, the state and local government provide free access for all to education and health services, and affordable access to nursing and care when needed. The effects of this service provision are not visible when common measures of income inequality are used.

Public funding for education, health and care, and income protection through the national insurance scheme do more to level income and consumption opportunities than direct redistribution through the tax system. However, the tax system also reduces income differences. Sound macroeconomic management, an active labour market policy and coordinated wage formation have all played a key role. Increased participation in the workforce is the most important way of reducing persistent low income and increasing earnings in the low-income groups.

Because most of the obvious instruments for reducing inequality are already in use, it may be difficult for Norway to further reduce inequality (target 10.1). In order to do so in the longer term, our educational system must give children and young people appropriate skills. We must also make sure that the labour market works effectively. Both the tax system and benefit schemes need to be designed so that they support value creation and a high labour force participation rate.

Since 2015, new rules have made it easier for people with disabilities to work. The rapid integration of immigrants in the labour market is particularly important. Integration programmes, training and education are key factors. Despite efforts to integrate refugees and other migrants, the level of employment and the wage level among these groups are significantly below those of the rest of

the population (targets 10.2; 10.3). Increased efforts must be invested in this issue to achieve SDG 10 nationally.

International level

Increasing inequality is hampering development globally. Reduction of inequality within and among countries is therefore a priority for Norway. A large share of Norway's aid goes to the world's poorest countries. In addition, Norway gives preference to the least developed countries in its foreign trade. Through its membership in the ILO, Norway works to promote employment, decent working conditions and social security for all (targets 10.2; 10.3; 10.4). A consistent emphasis on free international trade is one way of promoting international growth and a more equal distribution of income and wealth.

The multilateral development banks are among Norway's most important partners. Norway's active engagement and substantial financial support contribute to the World Bank Group's twin goals: ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity by increasing the income of the poorest 40 % of people in all countries. The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) is the largest source of concessional finance for the world's 77 poorest countries, committing an average of USD 19 billion a year. Norway's contribution to IDA was NOK 3.1 billion for the 2014-2016 period, and this level of support is being sustained for the 2017-2019 period (target 10.b).

In cooperation with the World Bank, Norway supports a number of trust funds that address inequality. Through predictable and long-term core funding, Norway also supports the African Development Fund's work to promote more inclusive and green growth in the low-income countries in Africa. Norway will continue to be among the ten biggest donors to the Fund in 2017-2019.

Fragile and conflict-affected countries are being given increased priority in the resource allocation of both IDA and the ADF, as agreed during the replenishment processes concluded in 2016. These funds contribute

Telenor Group – promoting the SDGs through communications technology

The Telenor Group is a Norwegian telecommunication company. It is one of the world's major mobile operators with networks in 13 markets across Scandinavia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Asia. Telenor's primary vision is to empower societies through communication technology and responsible business conduct.

Telenor believes that mobile services and modern communication technology are important in the delivery of all 17 SDG and has chosen to focus on SDG #10 Reduced Inequalities, where our contribution delivers the most impact. Telenor can reduce inequalities through our connectivity and our services.

Telenor is engaged in a number of projects related to the SDGs. Telenor, UNICEF and local Pakistani authorities are partnering to increase birth registration rates through the use of mobile communication technology. The pilot phase of this project saw an

increase of birth registration rates from 30 to 90 percent. Telenor's ambition is that an upscaling of this project will provide birth registration for 7 million people by 2020.

In 2015 Telenor launched Telenor Health, an initiative using digital technology to advance "health for all." The company's "Tonic" subscription service currently provides an integrated bundle of health content, telemedicine, and basic hospital cash insurance to over 3.5 million people in Bangladesh. Telenor aspires to work with public sector and civil society partners to bring the Tonic platform to scale, helping to advance universal health coverage, primary care access, and prevention of non-communicable diseases for 50 million people by 2020.



to strengthening domestic financial markets, and to advancing financial inclusion. Norway is also a major donor to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which promotes income-generating activities for poor men and women in rural areas.

Norway supports the human rights-based approaches of the UN and works actively on the boards of UN organisations and multilateral finance institutions to develop instruments that better target minorities, marginalised populations and the situation of women when dealing with issues relating to equality and equal opportunities (target 10.2).



Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

National level

SDG 11 is incorporated in the Norwegian national budget for the period 2016-2017. Making cities and human settlements sustainable is one of the main targets for planning and urban development. The focus is on developing effective land use, high quality surroundings, environmentally friendly transport, and liveable cities and urban centres. In the white paper *Urban sustainability and rural strength* (Meld. St. 18 (2016–2017)), the Government presents new objectives for its regional and rural development policy. National Guidelines for Housing, Land use and Transport Planning form the basis for policy development in this white paper (targets 11.1; 11.2).

The Government emphasises that sustainable land use and transport systems encourage economic activity, are climate- and environmentally friendly, promote social integration, and constitute key elements of the 'green transition' in urban areas. Norway has developed a set of schemes to implement the national goal that the increased transport needs in larger urban areas are to be met by public transport and efforts to encourage cycling and walking. The aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and land use for transport purposes. This plan is the result of an agreement between the state, municipalities and county councils.

The efforts to simplify planning and building processes and make them digital and more efficient

continued in 2016. Last year, the number of houses under construction was the highest for 35 years. The intention is to achieve a reduction in housing prices and a more balanced housing market.

The Government continued its cooperation with selected cities to ensure the development of healthy, inclusive communities in vulnerable urban areas, with an emphasis on social sustainability through area-based initiatives.

The Government is in the process of strengthening local democracy by shifting power and responsibility to local government and revitalising the role, structure and responsibilities of the regional governmental level. The reforms aim to strengthen local and regional capacity and expertise in providing basic social and health services, and carrying out planning activities (target 11.3).

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage has developed a strategy for management of urban cultural heritage. In 2016, Norway signed a six-year agreement with UNESCO's advisory bodies International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), on funding the programme World Heritage Leadership. Norway has also ratified the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention (target 11.4).



New Asker County

Norway is undergoing a nationwide reform of its counties (*kommuner*). The objective is to build larger and stronger units. In this context, the three counties of Røyken, Hurum and Asker have decided to merge. The local authorities and political leaders have decided to use the SDGs as a strategic tool to guide the process. A Letter of Intent has been signed by all three counties to this effect. It states that the UN SDGs are to be used as a framework for developing the new county of Asker.

International level

The majority of the world's population lives in cities, and the global urban population continues to grow. Cities are becoming separate social, economic and political players that both have an impact on, and depend on, their regional, national and global surroundings. This constitutes a challenge for policy-makers, in particular in developing countries that are experiencing rapid urban growth.

The New Urban Agenda for the next 20 years was adopted at Habitat III in October 2016. Norway has endorsed this new agenda (target 11.b), and has entered into a programme agreement with UN-Habitat, the focal point for sustainable urbanisation and human settlement matters in the UN system.

Norway holds the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2017 and one of the main themes of Norway's presidency programme is 'The Nordic Region in Transition'. One project under this theme is 'Attractive towns, green redevelopment and competitiveness in Nordic urban regions'.

Norway is addressing the issue of air quality through cooperation with the World Health Organization, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the World Bank's Pollution Management and Environmental Health programme, UN-Habitat, the Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, and the Energising Development Programme (target 11.6).



Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

National level

Norway provided financial support and expertise for the UN 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP) (target 12.1). The sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources is promoted nationally through a combination of regulations and incentives. It is in this context sobering to note that we would need more than two planet Earths if everyone were to have the same consumption patterns as the average Norwegian.

Food and food waste is of particular concern in the national implementation of SDG 12 (as well as in the national implementation of SDGs 2 and 14). Edible food is wasted every year in Norway, most of it by consumers, but also by the food industry and retailers. A voluntary bilateral agreement between the food industry and the Government commits all parties to reduce waste (target 12.3). The agreement covers the entire value chain. Furthermore, by supporting an industry initiative ('*Matvett*'), the Government is helping to raise awareness and share knowledge about food waste with both consumers and the food industry.

The impact of chemicals and waste on health and the environment is in decline. While the amount of waste continues to grow at the same pace as GDP, hazardous waste is collected and treated separately, and material recovery has increased dramatically over the last decades, thus reducing the environmental footprint of waste. A national waste prevention programme is now being developed (targets 12.4; 12.5).

All Norwegian companies are expected to show corporate social responsibility and the Government is maintaining its engagement to promote the development of international reporting requirements that are transposed into national law (target 12.6).

All public entities are by law obliged to pursue green public procurement strategies (target 12.7). Public procurement procedures allow for more flexibility for green procurers, including award

criteria for contracts that take environmental aspects of the procurement, such as operational lifetime environmental impacts and related costs, into account.

Environmental education has been part of the school curriculum for many years. Norway provides financial and in-kind support to developing countries to improve their technical capacity and strengthen their institutions, through multilateral environmental agreements. The Government promotes a national sustainable tourism certification for sustainable destinations (travel and tourism). Norway is also actively involved in international efforts to promote the phasing-out of fossil fuel subsidies.



International level

Sustainable consumption and production patterns are to a significant extent dependent on a country's level of technical expertise and the capacity of its national institutions. Norway provides financial and in-kind support to partner countries through a number of channels, including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Global Green Growth Institute and the UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy. Sustainable consumption and production patterns are also closely connected to efforts to combat climate change. The Norwegian Government is committed to the international efforts to phase out fossil fuel subsidies in order to ensure a transition to sustainable consumption.

UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 14

The 2017 version of the Innocenti Report Card, Innocenti Report Card 14, presents an assessment of the well-being of children across 41 countries in the EU and the OECD in the context of sustainable development. The Report Card highlights the challenges present in all countries for each SDG in turn.

We are very pleased to see that Norway received the highest score in Innocenti Report Card 14. Norway scored particularly well on measures of poverty, hunger, health, decent work and economic growth, inequality, and sustainable cities and communities (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, and 11).

However, there are also issues that require follow up. Norway scores comparatively low on sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12), measured in terms of youth awareness of environmental issues. The same is the case for the promotion of peace and justice (SDG 16), measured in terms of child and youth homicide rates, and bullying rates. The report calls for considerable effort to ensure that all children and young people can enjoy the fruit of the vision presented by the SDGs.

The Norwegian sovereign wealth fund (Government Pension Fund Global) is among the largest pension funds in the world. It does not invest in companies that do not operate in a responsible and sustainable way, and has specific procedures in place to exclude companies that contribute to environmental

damage, unacceptable greenhouse gas emissions, or human rights violations. In addition, Norwegian business and financial institutions are undertaking voluntary commitments on sustainable production, consumption and trade (targets 12.6; 12.7).



Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

National level

Norway was among the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement. Since last year, Norway has substantially raised the level of ambition of its national climate policy. This is necessary to stay on track for meeting our goal of cutting emissions by at least 40 % by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. This goal is embedded in the first ever Climate Act. The Act aims to promote Norway's transition to a low-emission society by 2050. This will entail an 80-95 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (target 13.2).

Nationwide hydroelectric power coverage requires innovation in our approach to sources and methods of domestic climate cuts. New incentives have been put in place, for instance, the climate and technology fund has been strengthened and the use of fossil oil for heating has been banned. The Norwegian Government is promoting a green tax shift. Increased levies on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions are being combined with a reduction in taxes applicable to other sectors.



In April this year, the Government presented a National Transport Plan to the Storting. The plan sets out the mobility needs of the whole country and all sectors. It is unprecedented in its scope and level of ambition (target 13.2). One of the many measures proposed is that new cars are to be zero emission by 2025. Norway is stepping up biofuel use, and maintaining the favourable tax regime for electric and hybrid vehicles. The plan is that urban transport

needs are to be covered by cycling, walking and zero-emission public transport. The railways will be further developed. The goals of shifting heavy road transport onto rail or ship, and replacing older ships with new, more environmentally friendly ones, are challenging. Norway is on track to reach its emission target for vehicles (85 grams of CO₂ per km) three years ahead of schedule.

Norway and Sweden have a common certificate market for renewable electricity production, with an overall target of 28.4 TWh by the year 2020. Another important measure is developing cost-effective technology for carbon capture and storage (CCS). Norway is aiming to have at least one full-scale carbon capture demonstration plant in operation by 2020. Norway also has support schemes for the restoration of wetlands to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from drained soils, and schemes to increase CO₂ uptake in forests, for example through fertilisation.

In terms of climate change adaptation, the Government has increased national investments in flooding and avalanche prevention substantially. The Government will present a strategy for green competitiveness in the second half of the year. This is a very important step in the transition to a sustainable economy that is able to maintain high welfare levels (target 13.1).

International level

Norway offers support for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries through bilateral and multilateral partnerships (target 13.1). The largest single programme is Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, which has been given an allocation of NOK 2.9 billion for 2017. The largest single channel for multilateral support is the Green Climate Fund, to which Norway has committed NOK 1.6 billion for the years 2015-2018.

Norway buys emission reductions under the Clean Development Mechanism, supporting development investments, and is a dedicated partner in several partnerships that help build capacity for green and inclusive economic development (target 13.3).

Norway continues to support multilateral climate achievements such as the Kigali amendment on reducing hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol, and the International Civil Aviation Organization resolution to reduce emissions in other sectors. Norway remains committed to supporting efforts under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Arctic Council to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants.

Risk reduction and disaster prevention linked to climate change are key to developing climate-resilient societies. Norway is continuing to support actions for early warning, risk reduction and recovery through regional and global programmes in developing countries. However, due to inadequate adaptation efforts, whole regions are suffering from the negative effects of climate change. Cutting emissions globally is therefore an absolute prerequisite in order to succeed with adaptation.

The largest single challenge in fulfilling SDG 13 is realising the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by cutting greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the consequences of climate change, as set out in the Paris Agreement. This in turn, overlaps substantially with the SDGs that guide climate-sensitive action in the individual sectors. There is a 15 gigatonnes emissions gap between what has been proposed in the NDCs and what is required to limit global temperature rise to two degrees Celsius above preindustrial temperatures by 2030. That is why the SDGs are indivisible, and why it is vital to further enhance the dialogue between the various sectors and countries in order to grasp opportunities and address risks.

Norway promotes mechanisms that help put a price on carbon emissions, including as a major participant in the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF), a facility for piloting programmes under the Paris Agreement).

Norway will continue to be a long-term, significant contributor of climate finance, with a view to helping developing countries achieve low-emission, climate-resilient development (target 13.B).



Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



The new Norwegian R/V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen is the world's most modern research vessel. It part of the Nansen-programme, established in cooperation with FAO more than 40 years ago with the purpose of assisting developing countries to manage their marine resources in a sustainable manner. PHOTO: KJARTAN MÆSTAD.

National level

Norway relies heavily on its ocean-based industries: oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, shipping and tourism. In order to provide the basis for the greatest possible sustainable value creation and employment in the ocean industries and at the same time protect the environment, the Norwegian Government has presented four important strategies and policy documents on marine issues in 2016/2017. Together, these policy documents provide a comprehensive set of measures that enable the authorities and industries to handle future challenges and make the most of Norway's ocean opportunities (targets 14.2; 14.4).

Research and innovation in the 'blue sectors' are priorities, as increased knowledge and new technologies can contribute to more sustainable and environmentally friendly forms of harvesting, production and transport (target 14.4). A healthy marine environment is key for sustainable blue growth, and sustained efforts to build knowledge about the marine environment and resources are crucial for responsible ocean management. Norway is investing heavily in research, mapping and monitoring, and has ocean issues as one of its six long-term research priorities. The Intergovernmental

Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) is the competent organisation for marine science within the UN system. Norway is currently chairing the Commission and supports the IOC proposal to have an international decade of ocean research.

Norway has increased its funding for seabed mapping and research on marine ecosystems, including on ocean acidification, marine plastic pollution and declining seabird populations (targets 14.3; 14.a). The Mareano Programme explores and maps the seabed. It has mapped 7 % of the ocean floor within our economic zone, and Norway has presented the programme in relevant global institutions and to UN bodies as a model for gaining knowledge that will benefit all societal, environmental and economic activities in the ocean.

Ensuring safe transport at sea and reducing the risk of accidents are crucial to achieving SDG 14. Over the past two years, the Norwegian Government has increased its efforts to maintain and modernise maritime infrastructure and services as well as to improve preparedness and response to acute pollution.

The Government intends to stimulate green growth in the Norwegian maritime industry by promoting

the use of environmental technology solutions and more environmentally friendly fuel for vessels. The Government has increased its support for expanding the knowledge base for maritime development and innovation, in order to strengthen the maritime industry's value creation and competitiveness.

Norway is also supporting the work in FAO to reduce the problem of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) (target 14.1). Norwegian fishing vessels have an obligation to retrieve or report any lost fishing gear, and the Directorate of Fisheries conducts an annual retrieval survey. In a pilot project called 'Fishing for litter', fishing boats can dispose litter free of charge.

International level

Norway played an active role at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017. Together with Indonesia, Norway hosted a partner dialogue with the aim of strengthening global cooperation to reduce marine litter and microplastics in the ocean.

In May, Norway hosted the first meeting of the parties to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and the first meeting of the ad hoc working group established under Article 21 of the Agreement. At the meeting of the parties, Norway announced its commitment to further assist in the implementation of the Agreement by providing a contribution of NOK 10 million.

In March 2017, the Government launched a development programme (NOK 100 million) to combat marine litter and microplastics in the ocean (target 14.1). The programme will be implemented in cooperation with other countries and relevant international institutions. Norway has taken a leading role in the international efforts to combat marine litter, including in the UN Environment Assembly (UNEP). The Government provides NOK 90 million a year in support to UNEP. Of this sum, 15 million has been earmarked for efforts to combat marine litter in 2017. Norway has recently joined the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) with the aim of entering into strategic partnerships with other countries, civil society and the private sector with a view to combating the problem. Together with Iceland, Sweden, and the Aleut International

Association, Norway is co-leading an Arctic Council project on marine litter and microplastics.

In November 2016, Norway entered into a NOK 39.7 million agreement (2017-2020) with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with the aim of combating transnational organised fisheries crime (target 14.4). Furthermore, Norway is working with other countries and organisations, including FAO, ILO, IMO, UNODC and Interpol, to ensure effective international cooperation.

Norway and the other member states of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources created the world's biggest marine protected area, the Ross Sea MPA, in 2016 (target 14.5). In the second half of 2017, in cooperation with Canada, Norway will take active part in a workshop with the aim of providing more specific content to the term 'other area-based management', cf. Aichi Target 11, and thus contributing to a common understanding of a key term in the global efforts to achieve SDG 14.5.

The programme Fish for Development seeks to reduce poverty through promoting food security, sustainable management of resources, and profitable business activities. In 2017, Norway will increase the funding available under the Fish for Development programme, and include additional partner countries. Norway will during 2017 commission the new research vessel, Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, in partnership with FAO. The purpose of this partnership is to continue the extensive marine research programme on ecosystem-based fisheries (target 14.A).

In 2017, Norway intends to step up its support to FAO's work on food security by supporting small-scale fisheries projects (target 14.B). Reducing food loss and waste is by far the cheapest and most environmentally friendly way to increase food supply. SDG 12.3 on reducing food losses and waste is important for the achievement of SDGs 2 and 14. Last year, the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) supported a Norwegian proposal to develop an FAO Technical Guideline addressing the causes of, and remedies for, food losses and waste in the fish value chain. Norway is contributing financially to the development of this Guideline.



Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

National level

It is important for Norway to strengthen the knowledge base for national management of biodiversity. The Government will define what is meant by 'good ecological status' for all the main ecosystems in Norway. On the basis of this work, it will identify management objectives across sectors, with tailor-made solutions for the management of different ecosystems.

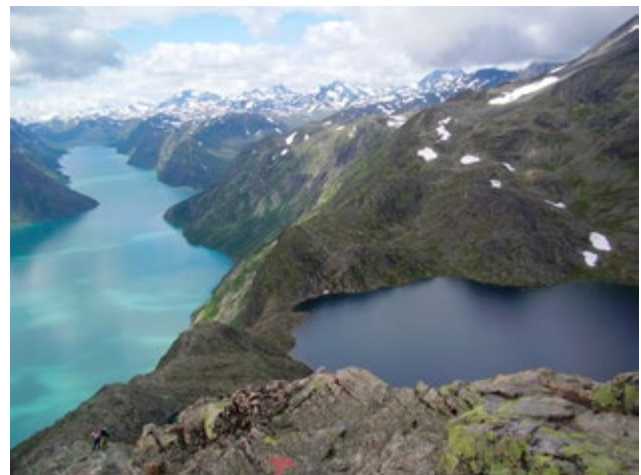
Norway is implementing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). This plan is our principal instrument for achieving the Aichi targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Aichi targets are harmonised with SDG 15. Therefore, the implementation of the policies in the NBSAP will be important for the achievement of SDG 15.

In 2016, the Government presented a white paper on national forest policy, outlining the policy and tools for sustainable forest management in Norway (targets 15.1; 15.2; 15.5). The forestry industry in Norway can make significant contributions to the emerging bioeconomy. Forests also provide other local ecosystem services and contribute to solving global challenges. The Government will increase its focus on the forests' role in climate change mitigation and intensify its efforts to safeguard biodiversity and other environmental or cultural values in forest. The voluntary protection of forests will be expanded. The Environmental Agency is now planning a county-level process to review and if necessary expand or adjust existing protected areas.

The issue of invasive alien species is a global one that requires international cooperation and actions (target 15.8). We are working actively to find solutions under relevant international conventions. The NBSAP describes several measures to reduce the negative

impact of alien species. In line with the white paper, an action plan is being drawn up that will, for example, identify pathways of introduction and vulnerable areas and habitats in cultural landscapes, so that action can be taken specifically to prevent the spread of these species. This action will be in addition to existing measures to deal with invasive alien organisms.

A representative selection of mountainous ecosystems is already protected (target 15.4). Norway is working to ensure that the conservation value of existing protected areas in the mountains is maintained, or if necessary, restored. The preparation of management plans is an important tool in this context.



International level

In its international cooperation on biodiversity, Norway aims to play a leading role in three areas: increasing the level of ambition of environmental commitments; enhancing the knowledge base by strengthening the links between science and policy-making; and helping partner countries to build capacity. OECD/DAC confirms that Norway's

international efforts to support conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity have increased in recent years. In addition to maintaining its International Climate and Forest Initiative, Norway continues to support projects and initiatives that aim to ensure that the sustainable management of natural resources is mainstreamed into development planning and national economic accounts.

Norway has since 2008 supported efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+) through the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative. Reducing these emissions could deliver a quarter of the climate change mitigation the world needs to stay on a two-degree warming pathway towards 2030. The International Climate and Forest Initiative remains central to Norway's ability to deliver on SDG 15, in addition to SDGs 13 and 17. It also helps to ensure that no one is left behind. Special efforts to secure the rights of indigenous peoples who live in tropical forests are a part of the initiative.

In concrete terms, Norway has decided to continue its active support for the development of a voluntary peer-review process for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as it enters a more formal pilot phase in 2017-2018. SDG 14 and SDG 15 correlate directly with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Strategic Plan will therefore play an important role in the implementation of the SDGs. The review process aims to assess national progress towards implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan, draw up specific recommendations and provide opportunities for peer learning.

Norway was actively involved in the negotiations

of the Nagoya Protocol under the Convention of Biodiversity, which aims to ensure equitable access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (ABS), and it has supported national implementation of the Protocol in African countries through the ABS Capacity Development Initiative since 2009.

The ten-year Crop Wild Relatives project of the Crop Trust identifies and collects crop wild relatives for research and for the possible future use of the genetic material in agriculture. Norway hosts the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and runs it in cooperation with partners. After nine years of operation, more than 900 000 samples of seeds of crops of importance for food and agriculture have been secured for long-term storage.

Norway gives priority to close and committed international cooperation to address transboundary forest policy challenges and to ensure the sustainable management of forests worldwide. Norway aligns itself with the goals and targets of the recently adopted UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

The 8th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, held in 2016, explored the role of food systems in building a sustainable future, and in particular the links between agriculture and biodiversity. The outcome of the Conference informed the discussions at the CBD COP 13 by highlighting that agriculture and food production, as well as biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, are cornerstones for implementing the 2030 Agenda, in addition to the Paris Agreement. Delegates representing the agricultural and biodiversity sectors from more than 100 countries participated at the Conference. International partners for the Trondheim Conferences are FAO, CBD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, GEF and the World Bank.



Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

National level

The Norwegian Constitution protects fundamental rights and plays a key role in ensuring the rule of law. The principle of legality, non-discrimination and equality before the law, as well as the right to access to an independent court are now explicitly protected by the Constitution. The Public Administration Act promotes the rule of law by regulating the activities of public administrative agencies, and the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Act ensure the right to access to information from public administrative agencies and, to some extent, from private businesses. As an indigenous people, the Sami are entitled to be consulted on matters that may directly affect them (targets 16.3; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10).

Norway is a comparatively peaceful society. Democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law mean that the rights and privileges of all citizens are protected. However, a number of challenges must be overcome if SDG 16 is to be successfully implemented at the national level.

While the homicide rate is low (0.6 per year per 100 000 inhabitants), intimate partner homicides account for 20-30 % of the total number of homicides nationally. The Norwegian Government takes part in both national and global efforts to combat abuse and violence against women and children (targets 16.1; 16.2).

Violence against women and children has devastating and long-lasting effects on individuals, communities and whole societies. In October 2016, the Norwegian Government launched a new action plan for intensifying efforts to reduce the incidence of violence in close relationships and strengthen measures to address the needs of children who have been subjected to violence and abuse.

In an international perspective, the suicide rate and the number of violent incidents and threats are

low in Norwegian prisons, and we are continuously seeking to prevent suicides. Dynamic security and restorative justice are principles and working techniques that are being used to this end. Prison over-crowding, which often leads to violence, is not an issue in Norway.



It is the view of the Norwegian Government that the imprisonment of children should only be a measure of last resort. Other types of sanctions, such as sanctions based on restorative justice, should be used instead to the extent possible. Nonetheless, occasionally imprisonment is the only alternative. For these minors, there are separate prison units with multi-disciplinary teams to assist them. In addition, there are special regulations concerning minors in prison. These are of key importance for protecting children against violence and preventing torture.

Norway is a destination country for victims of human trafficking, and women are exploited in prostitution. Norway supports a number of projects in countries of origin aimed at eradicating poverty and empowering women and girls. A new plan of action to prevent and combat human trafficking was launched in 2016 (targets 16.2; 16.4).

International level

Norway is actively engaged in the fight against all forms of violence against women and children, and especially in the fight against psychological violence and harassment (target 16.2). Norway participated in the development of the first report of the UN Secretary-General on this topic, presented in autumn 2016.

The rule of law and access to justice constitute one of three thematic pillars in the Norwegian Government's white paper on human rights. According to an internal survey, Norway supported rule of law efforts in 76 countries in the period 2011-2015 (target 16.3). UNDP is a key partner in this area. Norway is one of the main contributors to International IDEA, which has as its main objective to contribute to the development of democratic institutions, based on inclusive, responsive and accountable processes. Furthermore, Norway supports national human rights institutions in other countries through our support for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as through bilateral support at country level.

All of Norway's peace and security efforts promote women's participation (target 16.7). Ensuring inclusive peace processes is a priority for Norway in processes where we have a specific role, such as in Colombia and the Philippines. This is also a priority when we provide other forms of support, such as our support for the Geneva-based Syria talks.

The establishment of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership was initiated by Norway. Last year, Prime Minister Solberg launched a formal dialogue platform between civil society and governments on countering violent extremism. The aim is to let those who have had encounters with the Taliban, Al Shabab, ISIL and Boko Haram inform our thinking and policy-making.

Inspired by South Africa, Norway initiated the Nordic network of women mediators, liaising with the AU and other regional groups to promote a global network. We cooperate with the DPA, Finland, the Peace Research Institute Oslo and the Crisis Management Initiative, training senior UN mediators in inclusive processes and the gender perspective. We support bilateral and civil society initiatives to ensure inclusive processes.

Nordic network of women mediators

Formal peace and mediation processes have lagged behind in meaningfully including women on all levels, despite the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. A UN study found that only 2 % of chief mediators, 9 % of negotiators, and 4 % of signatories in peace negotiations are women.

The Nordic Women Mediators (NWM) network was launched in May 2016 in an attempt to increase the number of Nordic women involved in international peace-making efforts and strengthen the role of women mediators in conflict-affected contexts.

The NWM consists of national women mediator networks from the Nordic countries operating under a single umbrella. It aims to reach out to actors engaged in peace processes, transitional processes and post-political-settlement processes and institutions. Interacting with other, similar women's networks will be an important activity for the NWM.

Norway works actively to enhance public access to information and promote the safety of journalists through partnerships with UNESCO, multilateral forums and civil society organisations (target 16.10). Access to information and the protection of journalists and media workers, as well as human rights defenders more broadly, are key priorities in Norway's foreign policy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' current strategy on freedom of expression and independent media.

At the bilateral and multilateral level, Norway works to support indigenous peoples' rights, promotes the rights of persons with disabilities, and participates in initiatives that promote the inclusion LGBTI persons. Inclusion of these individuals and their organisations is vital in order to identify the challenges and adopt appropriate measures to address them (targets 16.7; 16.b).



Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

In 2016, Norway reconfirmed its commitment to provide 1 % of GNI as official development assistance (ODA), and to meet the UN target of providing a minimum of 0.20 % of its GNI as ODA to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (target 17.2).

The primary responsibility for implementation of the SDGs rests with national governments. Successful implementation of the SDGs will nevertheless hinge on new and innovative partnerships as well as mobilising resources from both the public and private sectors. Securing greater access to untapped domestic resources and debt relief will reduce dependency on aid and on volatile international markets. Fiduciary policies, sound management of natural resources and increased tax revenues are key issues (targets 17.1; 17.3).

Norway is a member of the Paris Club, and supports the Addis Tax Initiative and the OECD's Task Force on Tax and Development. We also support innovative financing mechanisms in the multilateral development banks (MDBs), such as leveraging IDA's equity and increased mobilisation of resources from the private sector through the World Bank Group. In addition, Norway provides funding to private-public partnerships such as Gavi, the Global Financing Facility and the Global Partnership for Education.

Support for multilateral institutions such as the MDBs and IMF helps to combat illicit financial flows. Norway is a member of EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) and provides core funding to its International Secretariat, including for the promotion of country-by-country reporting for multilateral companies.

Further, Norway works through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to strengthen the monitoring of financial markets and implementing regulations that make financial markets more robust and efficient. Norway backs the position that emerging economies should over time be given a greater role in international institutions, as reflected in the IMF quota and voting reform that came into force in 2016.



Through the Clean Energy for Development Initiative, Norwegian funds contribute to poverty reduction by supporting rural electrification sourced from, for example, solar power, or by supporting efficient wood fuel- or charcoal-burning cook stoves. Norway also provides funds for developing energy infrastructure, such as transmission and distribution lines. Furthermore, resources are allocated for investments in feasibility studies and the development of hydropower stations, wind parks and solar plants. Another example is the support given to the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) in Copenhagen. This centre promotes the accelerated transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low carbon and climate-resilient development, at the request of developing countries (target 17.7).

Norway has established a Vision 2030 financing mechanism to stimulate innovation in the areas of education and health (target 17.8). A number of projects have been launched. Examples include EduApp4Syria games for mobile telephones. The games were the result of an international innovation competition to develop an open source smartphone application that can help Syrian children learn how to read in Arabic, and that can improve their psychosocial wellbeing.

Capacity building and institutional development build knowledge at strategic levels. Several programmes are particularly relevant in this

context – for example, the Oil for Development, Data for Development, Gender Equality for Development, Tax for Development and Fish for Development programmes. Through these programmes, Norwegian expertise is shared, providing core competence for partner countries' own resource management systems (target 17.9). Strengthening the focus on technical collaboration through innovative partnerships is at the core of our international cooperation model – and an integral part of the 2030 Agenda.

In order to sustain and further develop a high level of competence in Norway's development cooperation, it has been suggested that a knowledge bank should be established in Norad, covering sectors where Norway has relevant and well-documented expertise and involving public institutions, research and educational institutions, and other relevant actors.

Being able to trade on a level playing field makes a difference. Norway is therefore committed to cooperating with developing countries in their efforts to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction through increased participation in international trade. Maintaining the WTO as the relevant forum for a rules-based multilateral trade regime is Norway's top trade policy priority (target 17.10).

Norway has a comprehensive generalised system of preferences for imports from developing countries (target 17.11). Through this system, we offer duty-free and quota-free market access to least developed and other low-income countries.

Sustainable and equitable development for all can only be achieved through a complex mix of national policy measures. This complexity poses a considerable challenge, but it also provides opportunities. Given the large number of policy areas involved, coordination is paramount to ensure that national policies aimed at promoting progress in one

domestic policy area, such as food security, do not undermine the positive effects in a related domestic policy area, such as gender equality. This becomes infinitely more complicated at the international level, as policies implemented in one country can have significant negative impacts in another country. Norwegian policy speaks to the need for greater policy coherence within and between countries (target 17.13).

Norway has a long history of collaboration based on strategic partnerships. The white paper *Common responsibility for our common future* underlines those strategic partnerships will constitute an important part of Norway's future development cooperation. Norway already supports funding modalities that foster strong collaboration among UN agencies, especially in fragile situations. There is a need, however, to enlarge the scope to regional institutions, multilateral bodies, civil society and the private sector, in order to develop more efficient and effective development cooperation (targets 17.16; 17.17). As this report shows, many actors and institutions take inspired initiatives on their own to bridge stakeholder gaps. This is essential for achieving the SDGs.

Access to reliable and timely data is vital for identifying needs, setting priorities and monitoring successes and setbacks in the implementation of the SDGs. Improvements in the collection, analysis and use of data, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, ability level, and other relevant variables, are crucial for being able to make effective and sustained investments in areas of need.

Statistics Norway plays an active role at the national level, and participates in the process of developing indicators for the SDG targets (target 17.18). The availability of verifiable data varies, and Norway, like many other countries, will need assistance to strengthen its capacity in this area.

Abbreviations

ALDFG – Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear	MDGs – Millennium Development Goals
AMR – Anti-Microbial Resistance	MPA – Marine Protected Area
AU – African Union	NBSAP – National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity	NDCs – Nationally Determined Contributions (to cutting climate emissions)
CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations	NGOs – Non-Governmental Organisations
CFS – Committee on World Food Security	NIFCI – Norway's International Forest and Climate Initiative
CORE – Centre for Research on Gender Equality	NOK – Norwegian Kroner
CSOs – Civil Society Organisations	Norad – Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
CTCN – Climate Technology Centre and Network	Norfund – Norway's Development Finance Institution
DPA – Department of Political Affairs (United Nations)	NORHED – Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development
EEA – European Economic Area (may also refer to European Environment Agency)	NORPART – Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation
EITI – Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative	ODA – Official Development Assistance
ESMAP – Energy Sector Management and Assistance Program	OECD – The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
EU – European Union	OECD NCP – OECD National Contact Point
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the United Nations)	PISA – Programme for International Student Assessment (study by the OECD)
GAVI – GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance (previously Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization)	PM – Particulate Matter (also known as Atmospheric Particulate Matter or simply particulates)
GDP – Gross Domestic Product	PRIO – Peace Research Institute Oslo
GEF – Global Environment Facility	R&D – Research and Development
GFF – Global Financing Facility	RCN – Research Council of Norway
GNI – Gross National Income	SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
GPML – Global Partnership on Marine Litter	SeforAll – Sustainable Energy for All
HFCs – Hydrofluorocarbons	SREP – Scaling up Renewable Energy in Low-Income Countries Programme
HLPF – High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	SSB – Statistics Norway (Statistisk Sentralbyrå)
ICCROM – International Centre for the Study and the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property	TCAF – Transformative Carbon Asset Facility
IDA – (The World Bank's) International Development Association	TTOs – Technology Transfer Offices
IDEA (International) – Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance	UN – United Nations
IEA – International Energy Agency	UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ILO – International Labour Organisation	UNEP – United Nations Environment Assembly
IMF – International Monetary Fund	UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IMO – International Maritime Organisation	UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
Interpol – the International Police Organisation	UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
IOC-UNESCO – The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UNSC – UN Statistical Commission
IRENA – International Renewable Energy Agency	VET – Vocational Education
IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature	VNR – Voluntary National Review
LDCs – Least Developed Countries	WBG – World Bank Group
LMICs – Low and Middle-Income Countries	WHO – World Health Organisation
MDBs – Multilateral Development Banks	







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