

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Co-Chairs Summary

The Norwegian Ministry of Finance organised in cooperation with the OECD a conference on sustainable development in Oslo 20. and 21. June. There were two topics:

- Measurement and indicators of sustainable development.
- Policies to enhance sustainable development.

Three papers on measurement and indicators were presented by representatives of the OECD and Statistics Norway and discussed the first day.

Norwegian Minister of International Development Johnson, DAC Chair Manning and State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Finance Olsen presented papers on sustainable development policies on the second day, followed by presentations of policies in Canada, the UK and the Nordic Strategy.

There was broad agreement that sustainable development is a fundamental, long term issue, and that economic, social and environmental developments will depend on the resource base widely defined, i.e. real, financial, human, natural and environmental capital. At last two OECD countries, Canada and Norway, have explicitly used the overall resource base, with national wealth as a point of departure, as a framework to construct indicators for national sustainable development policies. Other countries have used different approaches, and there was agreement that there is a need for a more coherent international framework for measuring sustainable development in OECD countries, based on sound economic and statistical principles.

In order to carry forward the international agenda on the measurement of policies to enhance sustainable development, both the development of common frameworks and the construction of indicators and their link to policies, we recommend that this theme is discussed at the Annual Meeting of Sustainable Development Experts (AMSDE) at the OECD in October 2005. This discussion could be based on the papers presented to the Oslo Conference or

summaries thereof. The AMSDE could then decide on how to proceed with measuring sustainable development in the OECD context, and in co-operation with other bodies such as the UN and the EC. To carry the work forward, we recommend that there will be held a follow up Conference in 2006.

In addition to national indicators for measuring progress towards sustainable development in OECD countries, there is in our view a clear need for a set of global indicators for sustainable development where poverty and the global environmental commons would be key elements.

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