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Presented in Spanish at the Mexican celebration of World Environment Day, June 4th, in Maya de Calakmul, Estado de Campeche. For Spanish version:

http://www.noruega.org.mx/News_and_events/Medio-Ambiente/Dia-Mundial-del-Medio-Ambiente/

“ I would like to begin by thanking President Calderón for inviting Norway to be present here today.

One of Norway’s main priorities in our international climate efforts is to contribute to reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, which internationally is known as REDD.

The destruction and non-sustainable use of tropical forests cause almost one fifth of all emissions of greenhouse gases. Of course, the destruction of the forests also threatens the livelihoods and cultures of people living in, and of, the forests, as well as the future of the extremely rich diversity of plants and animals that is found in tropical forests.

Reducing the emissions from forest destruction in tropical countries is one of the most cost-effective and readily available measures to combat global warming. Done rightly, reduced forest destruction will also improve livelihoods and conserve biodiversity.

Norway has pledged up to 500 million USD a year to these efforts. Last year, the UN awarded our Minister of the Environment, Erik Solheim, “Champion of the Earth”, for his political leadership in combating deforestation in developing countries.

Our aim is that the global community agrees to include reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries into the international climate regime, so that tropical forest countries can be financially compensated when they reduce their emissions from the forest sector. In other words, reducing forest destruction will generate income. Today, the forests are “worth more dead than alive”. If we succeed, this destructive logic will be changed, and the future prospects for the world’s forests and our common climate will look much more promising than today. In order to succeed, we need to act fast and we need to provide the world with knowledge and examples of best-practices.

Norway therefore engages in the international efforts to reduce tropical deforestation in many ways. We finance efforts to strengthen the international support system, so that as many tropical countries as possible may initiate actions to reduce emissions from their forests in a coherent way. We do this through multilateral initiatives such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Forest Investment Programme and the UN-REDD Programme. In addition to this, we have cooperated more closely with a few countries, such as Guyana, Brazil, Indonesia and Tanzania.

Norway and Mexico have previously worked successfully together in climate change and will continue our collaboration. Mexico is an important forest country.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg visited Mexico in March this year and he was impressed by your forests, which are the fifth most biodiversity rich in the world. I also know that the forests of Mexico are important for the many poor people living in or near the forests.

The Mexican government has worked hard to implement sound forest policies and have succeeded in reducing your deforestation. The latest figures on deforestation in Mexico that FAO announced today are truly impressive

You have important experiences from rewarding people living in and close to the forest for conserving forest ecosystem services. And above all, you have excellent expertise on how the change in forest cover and carbon emissions can be measured, both by satellites and on the ground. Mexico has been rated among the top countries in the world in this field of expertise.

I am here today to announce the first concrete activities under the Norwegian – Mexican partnership on climate and forests that was formally established between our ministers of environment in Oslo last week.

Over the next three years, Norway will finance the Mexican efforts to further develop your systems for monitoring changes in forest cover and the resulting carbon emissions. Norway would also like to see your experiences on locally adapted incentive systems for sustainable forest management being collected, systematized and shared with the world. Finally, we would like to support you in order to create an efficient and positive process leading up to the important climate conference Cancún in November.

Norway is very pleased that we have recently established a partnership between our countries to work together on these issues. Under this partnership, Norway will contribute with up to 15 million USD over three years.

Only if forest countries believe that REDD is possible and if developed countries believe that results may be measured, may we succeed to establish an international agreement on this, beginning in Cancún. This is why Norway is pleased to confirm our will to finance the development of these experiences so that other countries can learn from the Mexican examples.

Working together we may create examples which demonstrate to the world that results-based compensation for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries is possible.”