
Political platform as basis for the Government's work

formed by
the Labour Party,
Socialists Left Party
and Centre Party

2009 - 2013



Arbeiderpartiet



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INTRODUCTION

The new Norwegian government was formed on October 17 2005, consisting of the Labour Party, the Socialist Left Party and the Centre Party. These parties formed a coalition majority in the Storting (the Norwegian Parliament) following the 2005 elections. The Government's inaugural address was based on a political platform for the period 2005 - 2009 that was negotiated at the Soria Moria Hotel in Oslo.

Voters in the parliamentary election on 14 September this year granted these parties a renewed term of office, through continued majority in the Storting. During the nine days from September 28 until October 7, representatives from these parties negotiated this political platform as the basis for the Government's ongoing work for the coming period of 2009- 2013.

Soria Moria, 7 October 2009

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CHAPTER 1: A POLICY FOR FELLOWSHIP, GROWTH AND JUSTICE

The Government formed by the Labour Party, Socialist Left and Centre Party shall convey a policy based on fellowship, growth and justice.

We will promote a policy that leads to employment for everyone, enhancement of knowledge and more well-being on a local level. We shall work hard to prevent dangerous manmade climate changes.

The Government shall promote a policy anchored in an active representative government, sustainable development, commitment to society and social issues, our national cultural heritage, and humanistic values and ideas.

Our goal is to give all citizens around the country the opportunity to develop their skills, talents and abilities, and to live happy and meaningful lives. Our intention is to provide coming generations with something more valuable than we inherited ourselves.

We will respond to the current economic crisis, the world food crisis and international climate crisis actively and with determination. These crises have clearly proven that the market must be kept in check and regulated. We will continue work to build a strong public sector with resolute political guidance.

Employment for everyone is one of our primary goals. We shall be active and innovative when working with our business and industry policies. We shall invest efforts to create more green jobs in areas where Norway is particularly capable and qualified to do so. We shall contribute actively in reorganising industry, trade and commerce to prepare new and progressive businesses and jobs. We shall work with a progressive rural and regional policy to promote comparable living conditions across the entire country, and uphold the main features of existing Norwegian settlement patterns.

We shall invest in Norway as a society of knowledge, through education for all and research of the highest quality.

We shall defend and foster the Norwegian economic and social model through an active representative government, a high level of government participation in the labour force, a good public social welfare scheme for everyone, and close cooperation between the state and parties involved in economic life. This economic and social model shall also be our most important international advantage in the future.

We shall improve, fortify and renew public social welfare schemes so that these become sustainable, at a time when demographic challenges in particular are becoming increasingly greater. Only the most robust public schemes will prove in the end to be able to compete with privatisation of social welfare.

The Government bases its work on the idea that all human beings are born as free, unique and inviolable individuals. Our policies shall uphold individual freedom. A strong sense of community is the best foundation on which individual human beings can build their lives and dreams.

Our policies shall reflect and respect diversity and include basic Christian and Humanistic values, cultural heritage and traditions.

Everyone shall have equal opportunities, regardless of family heritage, country of origin, gender, physical and mental abilities, religion or sexual orientation. The fact that Norway is a multicultural society is essentially positive. We shall fight racism.

We shall conduct a policy with the objective of giving women and men genuine equal opportunity. Women and men shall receive equal pay for work of equal value, and equal opportunity in all types of work.

The Government shall promote a cultural policy that allows everyone access to cultural experiences, regardless of geographic and social skills.

The Government shall promote a policy that respects and upholds the Sami people's position and rights as an indigenous people in Norway.

We shall prioritise fellowship before initiating tax cuts. We have a goal of reducing economic inequality. We shall conduct a responsible economic policy, where the budgetary rule (a rule for instructing how capital gains from the Government Pension Fund – Global shall be used) is the basis for fiscal decisions. How far we can actually come in accomplishing our goals depends on the overall economic situation.

Our cooperation is based on our affiliation with and support for the United Nations and international law, our membership in NATO, the EEA Agreement and the fact that Norway is not a member of the European Union.

The Government shall continue its work with extensive plans presented and established in the previous Storting period, and the broad political compromises that were reached in the Storting. During the next four years, we shall attempt to reach new compromises with greater majority

acceptance in the Storting. The Government has the will to reach these goals through political guidance and partnerships with all positive and supportive forces. We shall invite everyone to participate in this work.

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Safeguarding Norwegian interests and making a difference in the world

Norwegian foreign policy must safeguard Norwegian interests and values in a rapidly changing world. Our foreign policy shall prioritise Norwegian interests and areas where Norway is especially qualified to make a difference. Our foreign policy must also enhance the common good and build a better-organised world.

Upholding Norwegian interests requires focusing attention on our national territory and surrounding areas, and in global challenges related to climate, poverty, hunger, human rights, terrorism, the spread of contagious diseases and disarmament. The main lines of Norway's foreign policy are stated in Report to the Storting #15 (2008-2009) "Interests, Responsibilities and Opportunities", which received broad support in the Storting.

Norway shall also take responsibility beyond its own needs as a nation. We are one of the world's best countries to live in. This is in our best interest as Norwegians and obligates us to assist in working toward a more just world, and to ensure that fewer people live in bondage and distress.

The main lines of Norwegian foreign policy are firmly fixed. These include strong support for UN and international law, Norway's membership in NATO, the EEA Agreement and the fact that Norway is not a member of EU. The Government shall work to strengthen the Nordic Cooperation.

Respect for international law and universal human rights, and building up an international legal system are the basis for our international policy. A world order led by UN is in Norway's best interest. The Government shall therefore work to strengthen the United Nations and international law.

The Government shall work for a just and fair world order, where conflicts are solved by peaceful means; we will strengthen Norwegian efforts to prevent and solve conflicts. The spread of nuclear weapons is a

serious threat to international peace and safety around the world. Norway shall play an active international role as initiator in work to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

UN's system to prevent conflicts and promote peace processes should be strengthened. UN has a particular advantage where governance and institution building are concerned. This work shall be given special prioritisation.

Development in the Northern Regions and the Arctic Zone creates challenges and opportunities. The Northern Regions shall therefore be the Government's most important strategic priority area for foreign policy, and shall contribute to positive developments in areas farthest north.

Svalbard is an important part of the Northern Regions. Continuing effective and purposeful management of Svalbard will help strengthen and deepen our presence in the Northern Regions.

On the whole Norway is best served if we develop common rules and standards for activities in the European market. In cases where such rules are in direct conflict with Norwegian interests, Norway shall use all the possibilities the system of agreements gives us to safeguard Norwegian interests. If other means fail, the Government shall consider exercising its right to make reservations as laid down in the EEA Agreement if Norwegian interests of special importance are threatened by legislative acts planned for insertion in the EEA Agreement.

The Government shall:

- base our policy on the Northern Regions on the Northern Areas Strategy and New Building Blocks in the North. Norwegian sovereignty shall be defended, and we shall contribute to correct resource and environmental management, the use of low-voltage power and ensure full compliance with the International Law of the Sea. The Government has also decided that commitments in the Northern Regions shall also emphasise business development on land
- follow up on the Report to the Storting concerning Svalbard
- work toward NATO focusing on the Alliance's primary tasks and international joint responsibility for peace and security. We shall be active participants in the Alliance's work to establish a new strategy concept: We shall take initiative to NATO discussions as to how the Alliance can help realise its objective for a world without nuclear weapons, through binding agreements that include all countries

around the world. The question of the role of nuclear weapons within the Alliance will be an important part of this work

- strengthen the Nordic Cooperation where foreign policy and security policy are concerned
- search for new international alliances through broader cooperation with new arising countries that are gaining greater significance
- conduct an active Europe policy and work purposefully to safeguard Norwegian interests where EU is concerned
- appoint a public research-based committee with a broad range of experts that shall carry out a thorough and extensive review of the EEA Agreement and the consequences of this agreement for all areas of Norwegian society
- build further on the Schengen cooperation
- not apply for Norwegian EU membership
- support a UN-led world order, work for reforms in UN and UN's Security Council
- maintain strong civil participation in Afghanistan. We shall contribute to re-build Afghanistan's ability to establish domestic security and development, as well as strengthening UN's role as coordinator. We shall continue our military engagement in Afghanistan. In close dialogue with our allies and in consideration of Afghan development, a gradual de-escalation of our military engagement may be an issue
- work for a world without nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction, through binding agreements that include all countries around the world. We shall mobilise efforts to reduce the role of nuclear weapons through efforts to bring about a successful Review Conference in 2010. If this is not successful, we shall consider presenting our own Convention on Nuclear Weapons
- strengthen Norway's political contribution to peace-building and development in vulnerable states, and to protect civilians and establish respect for humanitarian principles in armed conflicts
- follow up on the Anti-Personnel Mines Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and strengthen efforts against armed violence, in ways like bringing about an international regulation on the uncontrolled spread of weapons and ammunition. We shall work for stronger regulation of trade with and possession of small arms and light weapons
- renew efforts to improve the rights of employees around the world
- actively use our membership in UN's Human Rights Council, amplify our support for human rights defenders, work against capital punishment and torture, promote freedom of expression and fight all forms of discrimination

- actively improve gender equality and women's rights, with a point of departure in Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1882 and 1888
- contribute so that developing countries can bring about rules and control agencies for fishery management as a link in global work against overfishing
- uphold and further develop strict regulations for Norwegian weapons export. The Government has a goal to introduce end-user certificates for all purchasing countries, and work for this to become a norm within NATO. We shall work to improve marking and tracing mechanisms for Norwegian weapons and ammunition, and increase efforts to introduce similar systems on an international scale
- strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organisations, research environments and others who work with peace and conflict resolution

Development policy and human rights

The objective of our development policy is to fight poverty and assist more humans to live in freedom without oppression, desperation or inhuman living conditions. The battle against climate changes, hunger, poverty and for the right to economic development, democracy, human rights, food and sustainable development is one of the Government's primary tasks.

Poverty is no accident. It is founded on an imbalance in food structures, unfair distribution and discrimination. The Government shall work for basic changes in global power structures, allied with civil society in this work. It must also be said that poor countries need to take responsibility for their own situation and development; this is essential.

The Government shall assist poor countries in their ability and opportunity to produce and trade in foods, ensure that enough food is available for own populations, support the formation of democratic institutions and development of public social welfare services. The Government shall help convince multilateral development offices and financial institutions to focus on the value of creating better public welfare schemes, and more focus on environment, health and education in their development and commercial strategies.

It is in Norway's best interest to promote a more just world. We achieved a historic goal during the previous Storting period of using 1 per cent of Norway's Gross National Income on development and aid. We shall continue to target our aid into areas where we can make the greatest difference, where we have a special advantage. By using Norwegian aid

efforts and funding, we can release and inspire other sources of funding that may contribute to positive development. For us, aid is a means not an end in itself. We shall look at Norway's development policy in the context of other policy areas that could assist in such development. The main lines of Norway's development policy are laid down in Report to the Storting #13 (2008-2009) Climate, Conflict and Capital/Norwegian development policy adapting to change, as well as Storting's dealings with this.

The Government takes the world's food crises very seriously. We shall renew our efforts to fight for all people's right to food, through our trade policy and Norwegian agricultural aid.

Norway's Humanitarian Assistance and Development Cooperation is directed at alleviating poverty and strengthening women's rights. This assistance is based on structures developed under the recipients' own terms. Health and education are decisive preconditions for development, and shall be highly prioritised.

The Government shall:

- ensure that grants for development cooperation be kept above 1 per cent of the GNI. Ensure a high quality of aid
- work so that developing countries receive greater political policy space to formulate their own national development strategies, and strengthen the ability and opportunity of poor countries' to promote their interests in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group and the World Trade Organisation. Continue efforts to see that the World Bank and IMF become more democratic. Work for greater influence by developing countries, for example that the right to vote is not based exclusively on paid-in capital
- work to uphold Norway and the Scandinavia's position in the World Bank and IMF, and ensure that the interests of the Nordic countries are attended to in the new global cooperative bodies that are under development
- ensure that the volume of Norwegian aid to the World Bank shall depend on the bank's results from reforms and democratisation processes. Ensure that development programmes and emergency relief measures under the auspices of UN decision-making bodies shall be prioritised. Ensure that Norwegian multilateral aid shall not go to programmes that require recipients to liberalise or privatise public activities
- ensure openness about Norway's role in the World Bank Group and IMF

- prioritise women's rights to health, education and political participation, and fight abuses against women. The Government shall work on an international level to safeguard women's reproductive health, decriminalise abortion and strengthen international work against trafficking
- play a special role in responsibilities to reach Millennium Goals 4 and 5 concerning infant mortality and the health of mothers
- assist involved parties in conflicts to find ways to peace, reconciliation and development. We shall further develop Norway's engagement and contribution to peace in the Middle East
- work for mechanisms to abolish international debts and deal with illegitimate debts, a binding international set of regulations for responsible lending and by applying a Norwegian debt revision scheme. The cost of bilateral debt abolition shall not be a strain on the aid budget itself, and no conditions must be set for any form of privatisation
- work for a strong and just climate accord, enhance reforestation efforts and invest in new technologies. Help mobilise efforts to improve climate measures in poor countries
- strengthen the ability of poor countries to mobilise own resources for the betterment of the population as a whole, through the Oil for Development Programme, taxation and fee reforms, capital controls and openness about income from natural resources. Our development policy shall emphasise work to strengthen fairer distribution of wealth in poor countries, to the greatest extent possible. We shall also assist poor countries in establishing the outer borders of their continental shelves, in line with the provision of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
- contribute to building well-functioning states by supporting democratic forces and a strong civil society, in among other ways by supporting women's organisations, labour unions and social movements
- strengthen cooperation with Norwegian business and industry to contribute to increased investments in poor countries, and set clear demands so that the International Labour Organization's core conventions are respected and that investments contribute to positive development. Norway shall be a leading country in working toward global standards for business and industry's social responsibility
- work to introduce global taxation to limit negative effects of globalisation, and establish redistribution mechanisms on a global level. The Government shall work toward new global financing sources that can help redistribute and strengthen global collective goods - for example through airport taxes, carbon taxes, taxation of the arms trade and fees on currency transactions

- work for better control of financial flows, and fight the existence of tax havens and illegal international money transactions
- take the lead in international work to fight for the right to education for all children around the world, and increase work for children's rights in general
- establish a zero-tolerance policy for corruption, and help strengthen the ability of poor countries to implement international regulations against corruption in their national legislation
- be an initiator for executing ILO's Decent Work Agenda

Defence and security

Challenges to the current circumstances of national security are only related to traditional military threats to a limited extent. The Government shall work to establish a comprehensive security policy, to protect the security of society better and for a good balance between military and civil preparedness.

The Government shall emphasise work to prevent conflicts. This work aims to strengthen international legal systems with better policy instruments than those that currently exist in our global society to create peace.

The defence policy shall help establish the basic and invariable responsibility to create security for the country, the public in general and society as a whole. The Government shall further develop modern defence forces that are suited to our alliances and based on compulsory military service.

Norwegian Defence's Long-term Initiative for the period 2009-2012 is the basis for government defence policy. Our goal is for Norwegian Defence's structures, activities and resource framework to be homogenised by 2012. We shall also assess other units and functions that can be located at operative national units to strengthen expertise at Norwegian Defence further.

Defence's presence in the Northern Regions shall increase and shall include all three branches of defence as a part of the Northern Areas Strategy. This is Defence's first priority, and shall be the basis for designing the structure. In addition to the Norwegian Coastguard patrolling more in the north, the Royal Norwegian Navy's presence in the north shall also increase as a preventive measure and demarcate Norway's areas of interest. Preparedness along the coast and Defence's

role in environmental monitoring and maritime rescue work shall also be highly prioritised.

Norway shall continue to fulfil its joint responsibility and play an active role in international operations through the frameworks established with UN, NATO and EU. Norwegian participation in international operations shall be anchored in the United Nations Charter, and have a clearly defined UN mandate. Where contributing to international operations is concerned, the Government shall prioritise participation in UN-led peace operations. UN is the only international authority that may legitimate the use of force.

The Government shall only contribute with military forces to EU's Rapid Reaction Force when a clear and unequivocal UN mandate exists. The Storting shall be consulted before Norwegian military forces are deployed. The Storting shall be informed immediately when a request is submitted to commit military forces to such missions. The Storting shall be given access to all relevant information necessary to make an independent decision. Rules of engagement must first exist, and Norway must be assured a place in the command structure.

The Government shall:

- ensure that Norway has a modern defence, with army, navy, air force and home guard that is able to respond adequately to all potential crises. One pre-condition for this is regular training of soldiers and officers. Defence's Long-term Initiative shall be followed up on
- follow up on Proposition to the Storting #36 (2008-2009) New Fighter Planes for Defence, and Position Paper no #299 (2008-2009)
- follow up on Report to the Storting #38 (2006-2007) Defence and Industry – Strategic Partners. Strategy for business and industrial aspects of Defence procurements
- strengthen the Nordic Defence Collaboration, also where international operations are concerned
- work to increase the percentage of women in Defence. The session for women shall begin implementation starting in 2010
- strengthen follow-up of our foreign service veterans in accordance with Report to the Storting #34 (2008-2009)
- strengthen our policy toward personnel and families at Defence
- continue our cooperation with EU in the area of defence and security policy
- continue work to strengthen the Norwegian Army, as well as establishing an Army Reserve

- strengthen the Coastguard, in accordance with the Long-term Initiative, in order to get more Coastguard vessels and more time at sea, as well as being able to help during environmental crises
- to the greatest extent possible, unify ICT resources at Defence in accordance with the Long-term Initiative and Position paper # 318 (2007-2008), and assess whether further ICT-related operational activities can be located at Jørstadmoen

Trade

International trade contributes to growth and value-creation. Norway's trade policy expresses strong interests and a desire to encourage a just international trade policy. Norway has currently one of the world's most open economies. The Government shall work to promote an international trade regime where greater emphasis is placed on the environment, labour and social rights, food security and development in poor countries. The international trade regime must take into consideration the climate crisis, finance crisis and food crisis from last year.

The Government shall work to promote Norwegian interests in the ongoing WTO negotiations, and contribute so that poor countries are ensured opportunities for development and participation in global trade. Norway must contribute in a practical way, so that the poorest countries may have the ability and capacity to participate in the negotiations, and that these negotiations shall be conducted with openness and insight for the public, to the greatest extent possible. The Government shall ensure good dissemination of information to the Norwegian public about the progress of the negotiations and about Norway's positions.

The Government wishes to organise for more economic activity and value-creation, both domestic and abroad. Trade agreements are a central and suitable tool for further developing a good system for trade. In addition to the WTO Agreement, the government shall sign new trade agreements based on the EFTA framework. The Government shall put increased focus on collaborations and cooperations in areas of environment and employee rights where EFTA trade agreements are concerned, including openness about the EFTA processes and not enter into any agreements that conflict with the WTO regulations.

We must be certain that WTO's system of agreements will not take management perogatives away from poor countries, or deny them the tools that have so far been of importance in changing our own country into a welfare society. Norway shall not make demands on poor countries that might imply a weakening of the possibility or opportunity to

develop strong public services in areas of health and education, and not enter agreements that would bring about privatisation of public services in Norway.

The Government's position is that these trade agreements must not restrict the parties to these agreements from issuing compulsory licenses for pharmaceuticals under the TRIPS Agreement. The Government also ascertains that the poorest countries must not be forced into accepting provisions or decisions that would restrict their policy space where the TRIPS Agreement is concerned, including patent protections, protection of confidential test data and plant variety protection. The Government is working for changes in the TRIPS Agreement that support the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Government shall:

- work to finalise negotiations for a new WTO Agreement that will safeguard Norwegian interests and give poor countries better access to global trade. We shall contribute to a new and balanced WTO Agreement that gives developing countries better market access and policy space to conduct national policies adapted to their level of development and circumstances
- prioritise work to negotiate trade agreements that sustain economic growth in Norway, and which safeguard welfare, environment and employee rights. In bilateral trade agreement negotiations with Russia, China, India and Ukraine, we shall elucidate our need and our design for provisions to protect investments, with each and every one of these countries
- work in WTO to remove export support for agricultural products
- prioritise ongoing work in EFTA concerning the development of provisions that strengthen environment and employee rights in future trade agreements
- that those involved in the WTO negotiations acknowledge the right to produce food for the consumption of own national populations
- maintain Norwegian interests in areas of fish and agriculture in the ongoing WTO negotiations
- stress openness about which requests Norway sends to other countries in the GATS negotiations, and as far as possible within the framework of WTO regulations permit public insight into the requests Norway receives
- defend the principle that the WTO regulations and international environmental agreements are of equal importance and are dealt with equally, and receive reciprocal support

- not to set demands on LDC countries to liberalise their service sectors in GATS negotiations, and that public services must not be liberalised. No other demands shall be made to the other developing countries that affect important public services in areas of education, electric power and water supply
- strengthen work for employee rights internationally, and work so that WTO adopts clear goals for decent work, employment and climate issues
- work internationally for a breakthrough of the previous WTO rounds before negotiations are extended into new areas

CHAPTER 3: THE ECONOMIC POLICY

The objectives of our economic policy are: work for everyone, sustainable development, more growth and value-creation, more just distribution of wealth and strengthening our welfare schemes. All the different areas of the policy shall work to achieve these goals.

The Nordic Model, which is built upon well constructed and universal welfare schemes, close cooperation with and between the parties in working life, and a competitive private sector, are well received and respected compared with many other schemes internationally. A high level of general welfare, good productivity, good economic growth and relatively low unemployment are the results of an active public sector that has developed a good society in collaboration with business and industry, many different organisations, and our citizens. We shall improve upon these experiences.

Value-creation and employment must be strengthened all around the country. For example, by greater investments in research and development and through fortifying society's ability to ensure everyone access to basic welfare schemes such as daycare, education, nursing and care and health. The Government shall work actively toward further centralisation.

A society without great differences between groups and generations creates better living conditions and will develop a more just and solidary society. Collective goods must be shared more fairly. Those who have the most and earn the most must contribute more to the community than

those with low incomes and little or no wealth. Social equality strengthens the trust and solidarity on which a good society is built.

The Government shall continue its work to reduce economic disequity in Norway. The Government's aspiration is to achieve a society without poverty. We shall fight poverty by bringing more people back into working life so that more people can live from their own income. We shall ensure economic benefits for people who actually live in poverty. We shall ensure free schooling, reasonably priced daycare, cultural activities and welfare services, so that everyone will be able to afford these and participate.

In connection with discussions and dealing with the Norwegian Distribution Committee's recommendations, the Government shall present a list of measures to the Storting that describe a better distribution of wealth and how to better fight poverty.

We shall promote an economic policy that contributes to continued economic growth. This growth must occur within a framework of sustainable development so the needs of coming generations will not be undermined. Sustainable development supposes that Norway and other countries manage the environment and natural resources from a long-term perspective. Clean air, access to recreational areas and experiencing nature, including untouched nature, are important for health and the quality of life of all people.

To be able to maintain and fortify our welfare society, sectors that are exposed to competition need to be strong. Reducing exposure to competition by business and industry is harmful to employment, weakens the districts and drains the country of its expertise. Competition helps develop technologies and knowledge. Our economic policy shall support business and industry characteristic of Norway, and stimulate this environment so new businesses can arise. The Government shall assist business and industry in reorganising in more environment-friendly directions.

Productivity in Norwegian business and industry is high. A good welfare state ensures competence, high participation in the labour force and a social safety net that makes such reorganisation possible. The economic policy shall arrange for increased productivity so that we can produce goods and services in a more effective manner, which will also contribute to strengthening competition.

We shall fortify our national welfare schemes and the services offered by the public sector. Organisation of government budgets shall help

strengthen the nation's general competitiveness in ways that are not detrimental to employees or to the natural environment. We shall therefore invest in education, research, transport and communications, and lead a vigorous economic policy.

Conditions set for running a business shall be stability and predictability. To face competition, Norwegian companies must not have higher costs of inflation over time than our trade partners. We shall continue our income policy collaboration with all parties in working life.

Norway is better equipped than most countries to maintain and develop a good welfare society. But even here, we will need to prioritise fellowship. In the future, the number of retired people will increase, which implies that the economically active portion of the population will shrink. In order to finance the future welfare society we must increase the creation of wealth, establish responsible economic policies with long-term plans to manage petroleum wealth, and we will need a sustainable pension system and a strong and efficient public sector. It will be important to ensure greater participation in the labour force from groups that currently are not active in working life. This is especially true of efforts to bring more senior citizens and the handicapped into the labour force.

We shall work constantly to improve, renew and reorganise public enterprises together with employees so that services are adapted to the needs of our citizens.

Preventive work must be strengthened. A great portion of a welfare state's expenditures is related to delayed efforts to prevent social, physical and mental problems and environmental complications. This leads to many people being alienated from working life, school and society.

Financial markets and institutions constitute an important infrastructure for the economy and are important to effectively channel savings into investments. The international finance crisis has proven that the market is unable to regulate itself. Political controls are necessary, using regulatory governance to prevent crises, instill confidence, allow democratic insight and support consumer interests. The Government shall emphasise a comprehensive form of regulation of financial markets and allow for a strong financial supervisory agency with the authority and expertise to monitor the entire finance sector. We shall protect investors and contribute to stability for Norwegian banks through capital requirements and different security arrangements. By regulating customers rights, requirements about information and about the various financial products available, arrangements shall be made for fair

competition that attend to the interest of borrowers and for people who wish to safely place their savings. Through the State's partial ownership in DnBNOR, we shall ensure national stability of our largest financial group.

The Government has appointed an independent committee to analyze the causes of the finance crisis and point out Norway's strengths and weaknesses in relation to the crisis. Recommendations from the Norwegian Finance Crisis Committee, Finanskriseutvalget, will form the basis for further work in this area. The Government will need to carry out an ongoing assessment of the need to reinforce regulations and empower the supervisory authority over financial institutions and financial markets. The Government shall defend the Deposit Guarantee Scheme for bank deposits in Norwegian banks.

Guidelines for our economic policy

Jobs for everyone, more economic growth around the entire country and sustainable development are essential considerations for the Government's economic policy.

We shall conduct a finance policy that contributes to short and long-term stable economic development. Our budgetary policy is based on the budgetary rule. Over time, the use of revenues from petroleum shall be the same as the real return on the State Pension Fund – Global, so that coming generations may also benefit from petroleum wealth.

Our monetary policy shall continue to function alongside our finance policy, contributing to a high level of employment, steady production and stable inflation, and shall continue as laid down in the Norwegian Regulation on Monetary Policy.

The Government has conducted a very expansive finance policy to counteract the effects of the finance crisis and the international economic setback. Use of oil revenues has therefore risen to a very high level, and the leeway provided by the budgetary rule has already been utilised. When growth in our economy returns, the use of oil revenues must once again equal the real return on the State Pension Fund - Global. This will limit the flexibility of our budgetary policy.

Flexibility in the budgetary policy shall be used to increase economic growth, strengthen employment, further develop welfare schemes and develop Norway as a vanguard nation in the relationship between environmental and politics.

This platform presents the common objectives of our economic policy the next four years. The extent of our success in reaching these goals will depend on economic policy space. How large this space becomes depends on many factors and the changes that are difficult to predict. This is true of international economic development, growth in bound expenditures in the National Insurance Scheme, varying taxable income and future oil prices, among others. Low unemployment levels and a high rate of employment, stable economic growth and sustainable development are the essential motive behind the Government's economic policy.

Managing the State Pension Fund – Global

The State Pension Fund - Global shall be managed so that its assets give a good return, also in the distant future. This depends on achieving sustainable development in economic, ecological and social terms, as well as well-functioning, legitimate and effective markets. Work shall also continue with existing ethical guidelines to reinforce the Fund as a responsible investor. Best international practice is the aim of all parts of the Fund's management. The Government's arrangements to strengthen controls and supervisory bodies shall be followed up, and the Fund shall be a world leader in best practices of responsible investment.

The Fund shall be managed responsibly, taking into consideration good corporate management, social conditions - especially where children's rights, climate and the environment are concerned - in accordance with the principles laid down in Report to the Storting #20 (2008-2009). We will continue to use ILO's core conventions as a reference when deciding to react to companies that violate employees' rights.

Climate changes are among the greatest threats to the Fund's long-term returns. The Government shall continue its work to adapt the Fund's investment strategy to the problem of the climate. A thorough analysis of the Fund's vulnerability shall be done regarding climate risk, and changes to the portfolio will be considered that can reduce this risk. The Government has great ambitions for the climate and environmental profile of State Pension Fund - Global. We shall develop environment and climate strategies for the Fund at a later stage. An environmental investment programme shall also be established. Further expansions to the frameworks of the environmental investment programme are being considered as we gain experience.

The Fund's investments in poor countries may contribute to faster economic growth in these countries. The Government is considering

establishing an investment programme for sustainable growth in developing countries.

The goal for managing State Pension Fund – Global is to reach the highest possible financial return, with moderate risks. A wide-ranging assessment shall be made of whether or to what extent active management of the Fund shall continue. One hopes to make a decision on this in 2010.

Tax and duties policy

We shall work to achieve a tax structure that provides our society with stable revenues, contributes to just distribution of wealth, helps the environment, and promotes employment and growth across the entire country, and which improves the functioning of the economy. It is important that the tax and duties structure has broad popular support, and is considered reasonable and fair.

The tax policy is an important tool of the economic policy, for among other reasons to establish a just distribution of wealth and economic policy space to solve important social tasks. Persons with higher incomes and more assets must contribute a greater share of their income in the form of taxes than those with low incomes and little assets. This calls for continued structuring of a broad tax base, and avoiding loopholes and exceptions that undermine a fair tax structure. The Government shall stress the need to maintain stable and competitive framework conditions for taxation of business and industry. We shall continue to use special duties as a tool to promote purposeful funding for health services and the environment, among other areas.

During the coming Storting period, we shall continue to apply the same general levels of taxation and duties as are currently in use. There is still space at this level to improve distribution.

The Government shall continue its policy to promote environment-friendly actions and to finance measures for a better environment. We shall speed up work setting a price on contamination, through environmental taxes and using climate quotas.

The Government shall simplify the tax structure by plugging holes that permit bending the rules.

The Government shall also continue its work to fight tax evasion, in ways like signing agreements that guarantee access and insight into documents in tax havens, and by continuing to focus on multinational companies' use of transfer pricing to minimise their tax burden. The

Government shall follow up on recommendations from the Norwegian Tax Evasion Committee, Skatteunndragelsesutvalget.

The Government shall:

- strengthen work to hinder black economies and tax evasion on a national and international level, including following up recommendations from Skatteunndragelsesutvalget
- follow up on the Government's recommendations for VAT compensation for the voluntary sector
- work on an international level against harmful tax competition
- increase the tax deduction for labour union fees
- present a new action plan against white-collar crime
- continue changes to taxes and duties on automobiles to stimulate consumer selection of more eco-friendly automobiles
- speed up work to put a price on polluting
- carry out a thorough evaluation of Tax Reform 2006, with a special eye on distributional impact and economic growth
- ensure continuation of the diversified employers' contribution, also beyond the year 2014
- maintain our Wealth Tax, but work on modifications that can contribute to more just distribution and better framework conditions for Norwegian business and industry
- keep general taxes and fees at the same level as they are today
- assess taxation conditions for sole proprietorships (ENK) compared with private limited companies (AS), in connection with evaluating the tax reform

CHAPTER 4: BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY POLICY

The Government shall implement a business and industry policy that paves the way for innovative, knowledge-based and eco-friendly businesses. Strategic national investments shall help make Norway a vanguard nation where environmental policies are concerned, creating jobs around the entire country. We shall further invest in areas where Norway is especially able to succeed such as energy and environment, travel, the marine and maritime sectors, in ways like investing in research and development.

Export-oriented industry and service suppliers amount to a large portion of employment and economic growth in Norway. Many companies are world-leaders in their fields. Through responsible economic income policies, we shall contribute to further developments in such industries and other export-based industries and businesses. Competitive framework conditions and an active trade policy are also important to protect sectors that are exposed to competition.

We shall stress good financing and support schemes. It is important to produce goods and services that set high demands on competence that are difficult for other companies to copy. Investment in education, research directed at business and industry and skills development are therefore essential to the Government's business and industry policy. We shall strengthen commercialisation of research results. We shall promote, develop and use Norwegian environmental technology.

The ability to restructure organisations is a competitive advantage of Norwegian business and industry and is decisive for success in international markets. The Norwegian model contributes to restructuring, and we shall maintain and develop this further. Existing companies must continue to develop. We shall support entrepreneurship and new arising small and medium-sized businesses. We shall continue our work to simplify and reduce reporting fees for businesses.

We shall contribute actively to reorganise industry, trade and commerce to prepare new and progressive businesses and jobs. We shall turn challenges into opportunities for business and industry, through investing in renewable energy and new environmental technology.

The Government shall work further to develop Norway as a travel and tourism destination, based on Norway's nature and cultural resources. Conserving these resources is a pre-condition for future positive development of the travel industry. Travel and tourism must therefore be seen in context with other important policy areas like culture, agriculture, transport and communications, and regional policy. Northern Norway is a unique travel destination and must be given the opportunity to realise and release its potential.

The Government shall carry out a general assessment of the arrangements and schemes that provide capital at an early stage of the development of small and medium-sized businesses. The aim is to finance companies with good and profitable ideas.

The State has substantial ownership in many large Norwegian businesses and industries. The State shall be an active, long-term,

professional and predictable owner in Norwegian business and industry. The Government shall maintain State ownership to ensure the survival and growth of significant companies and skills in Norway, in among ways like processing centres for Norway's natural resources. We shall safeguard public ownership in our common energy resources and petroleum deposits. The Government shall assist ownerships based on cooperatives and companies owned by employees.

In the coming Ownership Report, Eierskapsmeldingen, the Government shall follow-up on how companies work toward social responsibility: ethics, environment and management conditions. Our ownership policy shall still be based on the distribution of responsibility already established between owner and company, and on the principles of good ownership management. The objective of this is for state-owned companies to be world-leaders in their line of business where low emissions and development of climate-reducing technology are concerned.

The Government shall:

- contribute to good and competitive framework conditions for Norwegian companies
- simplify for business and industry, especially directed to small and medium-sized businesses, including changes to the Accounting Act and the Companies Act, among others
- arrange for long-term contracts for access to power supply for industry under competitive conditions, such as by a guarantee scheme for long-term power supply contracts, establishing purchasing consortiums, more access to sources of renewable power and government aid to energy recovery in industries
- continue Norway's Shipping Tax Scheme that was adopted in 2007
- work actively within the International Maritime Organization for stricter regulations for security and environmental issues in the shipping sector
- continue using the Net Wage Arrangement for seamen
- follow up on Norway's maritime strategy
- Enhance the national travel and tourism strategy further, based on our proximity to nature and Norwegian culture that focuses on green travel and on the travel industry directed at rural and district businesses
- strengthen knowledge about Norway as a travel destination, fortify marketing work to establish Norway as a brand-name and destination for domestic and foreign travel

- increase efforts to stimulate research directed at business and industry and continue using the Treasure Trove Scheme to retrieve national treasures
- stimulate development and use of environmental technology through grants and measures to reduce emissions, by using environmental taxes and agreements with industry
- direct efforts toward new sustainable jobs in service industries
- maintain state ownership interest in important state companies, including Telenor, Norsk Hydro, DnBNOR and Statoil. Statkraft SF, Statnett and Statskog shall continue to be wholly-owned state companies
- work to promote Norwegian export of fish and fishery products, as well as other export interests, through the ongoing WTO negotiations
- that emissions from power intensive industry shall be regulated within EU's quota system
- the entire structure for measures and schemes directed at Norwegian business and industry shall be reviewed to assess how we can one day contribute more to the development of environmental technology, renewable energy and more eco-friendly production

Agriculture and food production across the country

Agriculture plays an important role for where people settle and for employment of a large portion of the population. Norwegian agriculture's most important role is to produce safe and clean food for consumption by our own population. The world food crises in recent years confirm the significance of this. An agriculture and food policy sets the foundation for dealing with businesses and experiences in areas of wilderness, travel and tourism, the food industry, accessible cultural landscapes and biological diversity. Topsoil is a limited resource that the nation must care for in a responsible manner, conserving it for the coming generations. The objective of this policy is to sustain a living and diverse agricultural sector and sustainable forestry sector all around the entire country, which attracts places of work and ensures further recruitment to the sectors.

With a goal of laying the foundation for a forward-looking agriculture and food policy, the Government shall review this policy in a report to the Storting that takes a special look at these areas.

The Government shall:

- promote developments from the previous period in the income and welfare policy within the agricultural sector
- review the agriculture and food policy in a special report to the Storting
- continue agricultural negotiations and market schemes. The cooperative's role as a market regulator and purchaser of Norwegian commodities from around the entire country shall be safeguarded
- ensure agriculture with diverse usage structures around the entire country through a clearly defined rural and district profile, and continue to strengthen grass-based livestock husbandry
- ensure strong import protection as an important pre-condition for maintaining agricultural production, along with an innovative and vigorous food industry around the entire country. Norway shall work internationally to establish an international framework (EEA/WTO) that can ensure this. In case of any new WTO Agreement, the Government shall utilise all the tools that the Agreement provides to ensure Norwegian agricultural production and safeguard the Norwegian food industry. In case of signing such an agreement, compensations must be established for loss of income. Any further development of our agreements with EU must be designed in a mutually advantage manner within the parties' respective agricultural policies
- make agriculture a part of the solution to climate problems by following up on Report to the Storting # 39 (2008-2009). Assess means to develop biogas plants and industrial value chains for bioenergy based on agricultural resources as central elements
- follow up on the Consultative Paper about the soil conservation policy, including an assessment of the legality behind lasting conservation of cultivated soil
- remain unchanged on the exception we received in the EEA Agreement stating that the Norwegian authorities shall decide which genetically-modified products may be delayed, marketed and sold in Norway. We shall continue to have a restrictive attitude to this
- increase agricultural aid to strengthen global food security
- safeguard a vigorous reindeer husbandry sector, in balance with grazing resources, which contributes to sustaining the individuality of the Sami people. We shall evaluate the administration of Norwegian reindeer husbandry
- have a goal of 15 per cent of food production and consumption being ecological in 2020

- stimulate greater efforts within the production of goods and services, specialised foods, green travel, wilderness businesses and support the green care programme "Inn på TUNET"
- ensure the existence of basic and continued education programmes in agriculture, and increase competition and innovation throughout the entire value chain for foodstuffs and other agricultural businesses through greater investment in knowledge and research

Fishing and aquaculture policy

Norway has distinctive opportunities considering our location in the north and along our extensive coastline. Our wild marine resources and appurtenant genetic material are owned by all Norwegians together. These shall be safeguarded for future generations through sustainable resource management. The Government shall enhance knowledge on how climate change and especially sea acidification will influence marine businesses and life along our coast. We shall manifest our national right to use and manage marine resources and maritime zones, based on a long-term perspective. In order to ensure a profitable fishing industry, resource management must become more sustainable.

The Government shall keep a diversified fishing fleet and just distribution of fishing resources that safeguard employment and settlement of coastal communities.

The Government shall continue work with the current structural policy and ensure fishing fleets that are smaller than 11 meters a sufficient quota to be able to run a profitable business.

Value-creation of our common fish and fishing resources shall benefit the coastal communities that depend on fishing, as far as this is possible.

The Government shall work to help fishing fleets to the extent these contribute to activity and employment along the entire Norwegian coastline that ensures stable, year-round fish industry activity. It is important to support local companies in the fishing and aquaculture sector.

Fishery authorities shall carry out ongoing assessments of the need for granting new fishing rights in order to ensure recruitment of young fishermen or to protect special commercial or regional political goals. National authorities must be permitted to allocate as much as 10 per cent of the national quota each year to landing and processing in particularly vulnerable districts, in order to safeguard employment in the industry.

Norway shall be the world's leading seafood nation. Because of this, we must be at the forefront of knowledge in areas of sustainable resource use, marine environments, climate, product development and the market in general. This is why the Government shall support more marine research and stimulate reorganisation and innovation.

The fishery and aquaculture industry shall continue to develop to build further on our advantage of access to fresh stock of the highest quality. The Government shall arrange for more processing to be done in Norway, such as by promising stable year-round industries access to fresh stock.

Growth in the aquaculture sector shall be a goal, within sustainable frameworks. A strategy for sustainable aquaculture and ocean farming shall be the basis for this work. Work to reduce salmon louse and stop fish escaping from fisheries will be highly prioritised.

Most of the seafood produced in Norway today is exported. For this reason, work to ensure market access shall be highly prioritised.

The Government shall:

- ensure sustainable management of marine resources
- ensure good resource controls for fisheries and fight illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, in among other ways through the presence of the Norwegian Coastguard and air surveillance of our waters
- work toward international prohibitions against discarding of fish
- ensure a decentralised reception structure, through allocations to transfer schemes and reception stations where no other alternatives exist for cargos
- uphold the Participation Act and the Raw Fish Act
- focus on the fact that value-creation within the seafood industry can increase through better interaction throughout the entire value chain
- strengthen marine research
- strengthen knowledge about the effects climate change will have on the ecosystems of the sea's and on coastal businesses and industries
- prevent conflicts of interest about the use of sea and land, and work toward coexistence between the many operators that use the coastal zone
- strengthen national efforts to support catch-based aquaculture and breeding of new species
- follow up on the Government's strategy for marine bioprospecting
- not permit cod breeding in spawning areas for wild salmon

Consumer policy

Confident, well-informed and active consumers are important for well-functioning markets and economic development. The consumer can at times feel powerless toward a company's superiority in understanding information, and their inability to feel that they can influence the market. The Government shall therefore safeguard consumer's rights.

The relationship between consumption, environment and climate shall be made more visible. Children and adolescents shall be protected from marketing pressure, while public forums such as schools shall not be permitted to post advertisements.

The Government shall:

- review home buyers' rights for the purchase of new and used dwellings, cf. among other documents NOU 2009:6
- work to ensure consumer rights when purchasing trade services
- contribute to further development of neutral information channels for price and quality, for example through more price portals
- further develop finansportalen.no as the central consumer guidance site for financial services and products
- carry out an all-encompassing review of consumer protection in areas of finance, and in particular strengthen insight, inspection and control of product development and marketing of financial products toward consumers
- carry out a report detailing the relative strength of the value chain for food that shall contribute to more openness and insight, as well as ensuring consumer interests and satisfactory controls
- maintain the current prohibition against political advertisement on TV

CHAPTER 5: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government shall ensure good communications across the entire country and increase focus on transport and communications so that measures laid down in the National Transport Plan are executed, and its objective reached. For these reasons, we will be changing the pace of our transport policy. We shall fix old infrastructures to make life easier for our citizens, to help the environment, make society more inclusive and

accessible for everyone, and to toughen the general competitiveness of business and industry.

The Government shall reduce transport costs for business and industry, to improve competition and safeguard long-term growth and value-creation. Good opportunities for transportation are important to bring Norway together and to have active and living districts and rural areas. The Government shall continue to improve cellular telephone coverage and widen the reach of broadband with sufficient capacity to meet future needs.

Greater investments in transport and communications will mean a great deal of improvement to the physical development and maintenance of roadways in the districts, better vacation offers and repairs to harbours and ferry lanes, landings and connections. In cities and suburban areas, this will mean a strengthening of roadways and railways, and improvements to the county municipalities' opportunities to expand public transport, including urban railways. Efforts to improve public transit and railways will be particularly efficacious in and around the largest cities, while more appropriations for roads will be used most in the countryside.

Our vision of zero-tolerance for traffic deaths will be guiding for all parts of the transport sector.

The Government shall reduce greenhouse emissions and make resource use in the transport sector more efficient. The Government's transport policy shall help achieve the goals of the climate policy. Work to develop new tools to plan budgets for large projects on greenhouse emissions will continue, based on the National Transport Plan. The land-use policy along with social and community planning shall help reduce the need for transport, and establish quality public transport facilities. Norway shall be a vanguard nation in the use of environmental technology and renewable energy in the transport sector.

Roads, railways and ferry transport

The Government shall:

- make general improvements to the transport and communications network by following up on the National Transport Plan (2010-2019) in annual budgets, including a follow-up of enormous efforts to finish maintenance and new investments to the roadway network

- strengthen the county municipalities' revenues by increasing their possibilities to develop measures on their own, in areas of transport and communications, as one example
- increase our commitment to carry out landslide measures in accordance with the National Transport Plan
- strengthen roadway controls and safety work
- introduce a scheme for equalisation of fuel prices
- increase the frequency and capacity of state ferries, and make similar arrangements for county ferries
- increase the number of gas-driven ferries
- strengthen commitments to improve railways through greater investments for maintenance and new investments in accordance with the National Transport Plan, and through more governmental purchasing of train services
- move more goods by train, and less on roads
- present a decision basis regarding high-velocity trains with construction as a final goal. This report will determine whether it is possible to reach the goal

Public transit

The Government shall:

- contribute to greater use in the largest cities of collective means of transport and bicycles used to get to work
- double funds for the incentive scheme for better public transit and less use of automobiles during the four-year period. These funds are reserved for urban areas with multi-year agreements with the state concerning the use of measures to reduce automobile traffic
- follow up on goals for more universal design in the public transit system
- arrange for new express bus routes and feeder bus routes
- commit to the development of continuous bicycle networks in urban areas and densely populated areas. One must also prioritise investments in the construction of pedestrian and bicycle paths along dangerous traffic routes that also include schools
- arrange for better pupil and student discounts

Climate and environment

The Government shall:

- strengthen Transnova and establish this as a permanent agency to reduce emissions from the transport sector
- adopt a plan of action with measures to quicker introduce vehicles with low or no emissions
- continue to support the development of charging stations for electric cars
- be a world-initiator in introducing a certification system for biological fuel
- set sustainability requirements for second generation biofuel, and continue to contribute to this kind of fuel being produced in Norway
- incorporate Norwegian civil aviation in EU's quota trade system and work so international civil aviation can be included in the next international climate accord
- in accordance with the National Transport Plan, lead a very restrictive line where the redistribution of cultivated soil is concerned

General digital rights

The Government shall:

- continue to improve cellular telephone coverage
- continue work to expand the broadband network with sufficient capacity to meet future needs at schools, health services, business and industry and family houses across the entire country
- The Norwegian Labour Party would like to implement the Data Detention Directive, assuming that the Directive does not interfere with or have negative consequence for the right to privacy or personal information protection. The Socialist Left Party and Centre Party oppose the implementation of EU's Data Detention Directive. They will use Norwegian law and courts to fight it for reason of principle. SV and SP's ministers and members of the Storting are left at their own discretion in this case

Good air travel opportunities

The short take-off and landing network and trunk route network for airplane travel is an important part of Norway's air travel infrastructure. We would like to see a national airport network that offers modern flights

and rates for the entire country. The scheme where airports with excess traffic pay for the unprofitable airports shall continue.

- keep the regional airport network, unless there is agreement at a regional level to make changes based on organisation of the total transport package offered in the area
- continue the scheme to purchase unprofitable air routes in order to ensure good offers on air routes around the entire country. The Government shall work toward greater competition for routes, through longer contract periods, as one example. In areas with special challenges to distance, especially in Northern Norway, we shall work to improve available offers
- ensure that construction of airports outside the Avinor system do not diminish the possibility to maintain a decentralised airport offer across the entire country. The Government shall consider measures to ensure financing of Avinor's airports

Postal services around the country

Postal services are important to maintain population settlements, business and industry around the entire country. The Government shall use licensing to ensure the existence of mandatory social tasks provided by Posten Norge.

- present a recommendation for a new Postal Act to protect the balanced offer and equal prices of postal services across the entire country
- that unit postage price shall not disappear
- postpone implementation of EU's third Postal Directive. We shall gather more knowledge and review the consequences of the possible implementation of the Directive

Sea routes

Carriage by sea represents an environmentally friendly and cost-effective means of transport, yet also is an environmental threat if accidents occur. The National Transport Plan 2010-2019 represents a historic promise to sea transport and maritime infrastructures.

The government wishes to stimulate growth in the carriage-by-sea sector, at the same time as security, safety and preventive measures against undesirable incidents are prioritised. National oil pollution preparedness shall be strengthened further.

The Government shall:

- follow up the plan's framework and prioritisations in the National Transport Plan 2010-2019, and with this increase grants to fishery harbours and maritime infrastructures
- strengthen monitoring and alerting systems for maritime zones and preparedness against contamination at sea
- work to establish shipping lanes along the entire coast, and strengthen state emergency tow boat preparedness
- continue work to strengthen oil spill preparedness so that this develops in accordance with environmental risk analyses, equipment assessments and traffic developments along the coast
- work to construct more efficient harbours as junctions for the traffic of goods
- reduce fees from sea transport to stimulate more conveyance of goods by sea
- keep Hurtigruten alive

CHAPTER 6: DEMOCRACY, LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND REGIONAL POLICY

Representative government

Representative government implies a form of government that is influenced by the populace - and the dissemination of power, capital and ownership. A living and decentralised democracy with broad participation is a basic premise for meeting the challenges of any society. A living local democracy is the cornerstone of representative government.

It is through popular involvement and popularly elected governance that we can best solve environmental problems, get the most people into the labour force, ensure equality among groups, regions and countries, ensure national and local rights over the use of natural resources and Norwegian ownership in business and industry.

If important political objectives are to be maintained, markets must be corrected through governance by democratically elected decision-making bodies. If important social interests such as considerations to the environment and social and geographic distribution are to be safeguarded, development cannot be entrusted to market forces alone.

The municipalities have the major part of responsibility for most of the welfare services offered to their inhabitants, and they shall work to safeguard resources and freedom of action to solve important tasks in the promotion of welfare. The municipalities and county municipalities' role as developers of society shall be strengthened.

A strong municipal sector is important to ensure that qualified jobs are spread across the entire country, so that this sector shall be able to work toward active business development. By means of a general municipal sector policy, the Government shall ensure that important tasks are fulfilled and resolved at the lowest possible level of management.

The Government shall:

- ensure that changes in municipal structures shall be based on voluntary will. Where local governments agree to adopt changes and to merge and reorganise municipal, district and regional functions, the actual costs of this will be covered by the state
- assist in strengthening interaction between the municipal sector and the voluntary sector
- carry out elections based on the eligibility to vote in local elections for adolescents who have reached the age of 16 or 17 in the election year 2011
- help organise greater participation in political activities, and ensure broad representation in public committees, boards and councils
- be positive to municipalities that arrange for greater participation in local political issues by their inhabitants, including participative budgeting

Living local communities

The government considers a strong and healthy municipal economy to be a pre-condition for a good welfare offer across the entire country. The municipal sector's disposable revenues shall be significantly increased during this Storting period so that programmes available for child welfare, schools, and nursing and care can better. In general, the municipal sector shall be financed by annual framework financing. As a rule, earmarked grants shall be reserved for important national areas of prioritisation in their start-up phase, or financing tasks that few municipalities are responsible for.

The Government shall:

- in consultation with the municipal sector, ensure a robust and sustainable municipal economy. The entire range of resources shall be used so available services and quality can be improved and maintenance done. All new government orders or reforms will be fully financed by the state
- that the Intermunicipal Cooperation Model shall be studied and possibly established as law
- put the Cooperation Reform (health) into effect, in order to bolster, improve and quicken health services where people live
- ensure municipalities' capability and competence to handle the new planning and environmental tasks
- that third-party cooperation established in the Municipal Quality Programme shall be further developed

Openness, freedom of information and expression, and privacy protection

Free and open public debate is democracy's life nerve. Therefore, the Government shall defend the freedom of expression. The right to be informed is decisive for the opportunity to participate in public debates.

Freedom of expression shall be real, both at work and in one's private life. Protection of privacy can conflict with other objectives. The Government shall work to uphold privacy protection. Systems must be established that see to society's needs for insight and control, yet that also protect the individual from invasion of privacy. Based on Consultation papers and hearings, the Government shall consider the report presented by the Personal Privacy Commission.

The Government shall:

- protect the individual's right to privacy and political organisation, without undue access by the authorities
- protect the right of employees and elected representatives to speak out in public
- ensure personal privacy through continued support for the Norwegian Data Inspectorate's work

Local growth

The Government wishes for everyone to have real freedom to live where they want. We shall ensure equal living conditions and use resources for this across the entire country. The Government shall hold to the main features of settlement patterns to continue and further develop diversity of history, culture and resources inherent in these, and work actively to counteract centralisation of populations. The Government shall continue its political promise to the districts to strengthen local and regional growth in places with low economic growth, long distances to the large markets, one-sided industry structures and stagnation or declining populations.

The Government shall also assist in using growth potential and in meeting the challenging living conditions in all regions of the country, also in areas with economic growth and increasing populations. Well-functioning urban areas and cities are essential for vigorous regions, attracting new inhabitants and value-creation.

It is important to ensure that qualified employment and places work are spread across the entire country. Locating government jobs in the districts is an essential means to contribute to this. The appearance of new government enterprises shall occur outside of Oslo, but no extensive migrations will occur for existing government jobs.

The Government shall:

- lead an aggressive policy to develop resources, quality and opportunities in the districts
- implement a residential programme for areas that suffer from depopulation, to make these areas more attractive places to live
- boost competence in the municipalities to do development work
- strengthen and further develop the county municipality as a regional development operator. We shall also develop means to ensure that counties with many or all municipalities outside the scope and range of action of the district policy shall be able to run regional development work across the entire county
- strengthen the county municipality's role in municipal reorganisation processes
- when establishing new government enterprises, a basic rule is that these shall not be located in Oslo. Exceptions to this rule must be decided individually. There is also a goal for new functions established as independent units that are associated with existing government enterprises shall be located outside of Oslo

- that external reviews be done to promote specific recommendations to measures to ensure that qualified jobs and places of work and new government positions are spread around the entire country. Measures to ensure recruitment to such qualified positions and jobs in the districts shall also be considered
- lead an aggressive policy to develop the city's qualities and opportunities
- follow up on areas of commitment in Groruddalen and in southern Oslo, and in other urban areas in Norway with similar challenges

CHAPTER 7: WORKING LIFE, WITH A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Work for everyone is a major goal of our policy. For the individual, work is a source of income, economic security, self-respect and personal realisation. Participation in working life can also help safeguard the welfare state in the present and into the future, reduce social differences and hinder poverty. Working life is the most important arena for integration for immigrants coming to Norway.

Our economic policy, business and industry policy, regional policy and employment and welfare policy must also promote these values. Everyone should be able to live from work and receive a decent salary. It should pay to work, while those who need government support should receive a reasonable standard of living.

Working life, with place for everyone, requires good working environments with no social dumping. A working environment must contribute to good health and the ability to work throughout an entire working life, which also permits people to work farther into the future.

The labour market

The finance crisis in Norway has shown the need for an active labour market policy. It is especially important not to let high unemployment lead to long-term unemployment and exclusion. Groups like young people, immigrants and persons with reduced functional abilities require special attention. The Government shall ensure entry into the workforce through a vigorous policy that includes work, education, pension, welfare and integration.

It will be important to guarantee greater participation in the labour force by groups that are currently not active in working life. This also applies to senior citizens and the handicapped. The Government shall continue work to stimulate employment among these groups.

The Government shall:

- have more space available in labour market programmes, adapted to the existing labour market situation
- have many measures available for unemployed persons with complex needs
- increase focus on organised job support in ordinary employment forums and sheltered sectors
- use wage subsidy programmes instead of the national insurance scheme for vulnerable groups
- try to limit the number of new incapacitated persons and get more of them back to work
- carry out an employment strategy for persons with reduced functional abilities
- continue the Youth Guarantee Programme for those under the age of 25
- continue using the Norwegian practice in ILO-94 for all public sector contracts

The rights of employees and a good working environment

Good cooperation between the employees, employers and public authorities forms the basis for a well-functioning employment sector. The Government shall ensure and strengthen employee rights and conduct an ambitious policy for good working environments in the private and public sectors. This is also important so senior citizens can recover a desire and ability to work in order to remain working longer and help solve the great need for labour in the future.

It is important to fight exclusion and lower the threshold for entering working life. The Government wishes further development on the Inclusive Working Life Agreement.

The Government shall:

- protect employees' rights in the sickness benefits system and further develop the Inclusive Working Life Agreement to prevent exclusion and promote inclusion in working life

- work to increase the level of organisation and more co-determination in working life
- strengthen efforts to fight involuntary part-time work, and promote the right to full-time work, and assess changes to legislation to support this
- work further to ensure that permanent employment is the main rule, and limit temporary employment contracts
- intensify efforts for a good working environment, in ways like increasing the powers of the Labour Inspection Authority
- work further to map out the causes of sick leave notifications and disability
- review the rules for occupational injury compensation
- work for structural changes in business and industry, and follow these up in the most effective ways possible, with necessary changes to legislation, in order to defend employee rights and other important considerations

Social dumping

A serious work environment without social dumping is essential for individuals, and so that serious businesses shall not suffer when competing with unserious businesses. This is also a precondition for steering the Norwegian economy. The Government's action plan against social dumping lists measures to be followed up and evaluated.

The Government shall:

- implement the action plan against social dumping and consider any other necessary measures
- strengthen the Labour Inspection Authority's possibilities for control, and assess further sanctions
- ensure that collective wage agreements are generally applied as needed, and follow up and assess the extent to which insight into documents is properly formulated
- follow up on statutory provisions regarding joint responsibility in the General Application Act, cf. Proposition to the Odelsting #88 (2008-2009)
- give additional validity to general control mechanisms from different public authorities to hinder social dumping, tax evasion and other punishable acts
- make a serious effort to have an effect on trades that are particularly exposed to unserious behaviour, social dumping, exclusion and working environment problems, through third-party trade programmes

- expand on and implement the decent work strategy in other countries

CHAPTER 8: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Just distribution of wealth and equality are basic values for this Government. A strong public sector was and is a precondition for equal conditions for everyone. To reduce inequality of living conditions, the Government shall attempt to balance economic and social differences and fight poverty. A welfare society is founded on universal opportunity for everyone. This is important so marginalisation and exclusion are not inherited.

The aim of finding work for everyone, along with free or reasonably priced welfare services shall, together with our social safety net, be key to success. A price ceiling on daycare and free schoolbooks at upper secondary level are examples of how the Government shall continue to improve important welfare services.

The Government shall provide all children and adolescents with the opportunity to participate and develop in society, regardless of the economic or social situation of their parents.

The Government shall put special emphasis on the needs of children where measures to combat poverty are concerned. A good municipal economy, a social housing policy, an active labour market policy, free or reasonably priced collective goods and income assurances that make it possible to live a dignified life are important aspects of this. This is done so that economic poverty does not affect children, excluding them from social fellowship.

Fighting poverty must take its point of departure in the real problems of living conditions and an individual's opportunity to participate and develop in society.

The Government shall continue to emphasise a broad preventive perspective by helping change conditions that create and sustain poverty in childhood environments, the education system, within the labour market and at work, and within welfare schemes. We shall put special effort into helping people who are addicted to drugs, including their families.

Measures must be implemented at an early stage to hinder exclusion and ensure inclusion in working life. Work and other activities should have rewards. We see good results for thousands of people who have received social help in recent years through skill training measures and in this way had their circumstances in life clarified. This shall form the basis for more commitment to measures of this kind.

The Government shall:

- increase the effort to combat poverty
- make a determined effort to help as many people as possible to live from employment income
- when dealing with recommendations from Fordelingsutvalget, which distributes money to volunteer organisations, the Government shall present a list of measures to the Storting that describe better distribution of wealth and how to better fight poverty, in particular by presenting measures that can reduce poverty among children
- ensure that the municipalities have good programmes available for offering economic advice
- use the national qualification programme to get more people away from passive social assistance and participate in working life
- that all users of social services must be ensured an individual plan
- that children of families that live from the family assistance programme shall have the right to activity support
- ensure that more people have access to a housing benefit allowance by following up of Proposition to the Storting #11 (2008-2009) "Ei styrkt bustøtte"
- further develop cooperations with and increased support for user organisations and other NGOs that make a great effort to help our welfare society

The national insurance scheme and pensions

The Government shall carry out its Pension Reform such as proposed by the Storting's broad pension compromise in 2005 and 2007. The Pension Reform shall safeguard future pensions and ensure the sustainability of the Norwegian welfare state. The option of combining work and pension is being improved. Arrangements are being made so that a gradual departure from active working life can be a reality for people who desire it.

Increasing the national insurance scheme's minimum benefits is now taking place, and the pension guarantee shall be adjusted according to

previous decisions. When adjustments are made to the rules for disability benefits in the Pension Reform, the Government shall make certain that Norway's disability scheme is still acceptable.

Work shall continue on the occupational pension schemes, in ways like following up on the public service workers' occupational pension based on the Wage Settlement Plan 2009, and adjustments to private occupational pension schemes (including self-employed person) for the pension reform and follow-up of NOU 2009:13 Comprehensive Pension Schemes. We shall prepare for an extensive evaluation of the pension reform in cooperation with representative parties from workers businesses.

The Labour and Welfare Administration

The objective of the Work and Welfare Reform is to create a comprehensive, effective and user-oriented administration for employment and welfare services. The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) shall work together with the municipalities so users receive the benefits, services and measures they need, as quickly as possible. NAV must have the resources, competence, organisation and tools necessary to realise their objective to get more people into work, correct and fast administration of benefits and professional social follow-ups. The goal of this is faster application processing, correct decisions and closer follow-ups for each user. The Government shall strengthen user involvement.

The Government shall:

- develop NAV's offices based on evaluations of user surveys, implementation of the principles of universal design and reducing queues
- consider an office of Welfare Ombudsman to oversee NAV, the Social Services Office and the national health services

The social housing policy

The Government shall conduct a social housing policy so that everyone has access to a good dwelling in a good residential environment. The housing policy shall be an important part of the Government's extensive welfare policy. The social housing policy shall prevent people from falling into social and economic predicaments. The housing policy shall be strengthened through a higher level of new constructions in ways like

active use of the Norwegian State Housing Bank, investing in less expensive rental flats for young people and disadvantaged groups, along with a good housing benefit scheme. We shall also ensure that grants exist for non-commercial dwellings, and that these shall be used as planned.

The Government shall focus on the Norwegian State Housing Bank as the primary tool of its housing policy. With its loan and support schemes, this has been the most important housing policy tool in Norway since the end of WW2. The Government shall ensure borrowing conditions and housing grants are comparable to the needs to be fulfilled. The Norwegian State Housing Bank's ordinary loan schemes shall ensure a lasting supply of down-to-earth yet reasonably priced dwellings. The government must help society reach a stable rate of construction for housing at adequate levels.

The Government shall:

- work to eliminate homelessness by obtaining more municipal rental flats, dwellings that include follow-up services and non-commercial rental flats
- that persons leaving drug addiction centres and psychiatric institutions or jail are offered a suitable and lasting housing opportunity
- give more tenants in municipal dwellings the possibility to buy their dwelling
- consider using a rental price index that makes it possible for tenants and lessors to agree on a common rental price
- expand the Rental Dispute Committee's schemes into more cities
- further develop Startlån as a loan start scheme so more young people have the possibility to borrow money to purchase their own dwelling
- make necessary adjustments to prevent problems with low-deposit dwellings in housing cooperatives
- use housing grants so that more disabled and elderly persons can remain living in their homes longer

CHAPTER 9: HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

Good health services for everyone

The Government shall provide health services at the forefront of medicine and technology. The Government set a goal to reduce the differences among social health clients among the population. Everyone shall be provided with the same level and quality of services, regardless of diagnosis, place of residence, personal economy, gender, ethnic background or the individual's circumstances in life. When affected by illness, people should experience the same offer for treatment and care with little waiting and close proximity to the user's home.

The clinical picture of a population changes because of altered habits, lifestyles and longer life expectancy. We shall implement the Cooperation Reform of the national health services where economic, legal and organisational schemes are changed so patients feel they receive comprehensive health care and resources are used optimally, cf. Report to the Storting #47 (2008-2009). Municipal health and care services should be able to carry out quality prevention work and provide treatment together with the specialised health services.

Preventive health work must be given a much higher priority than today, to try to reduce the differences between different groups in society where health is concerned. Child Health Clinics, schools and daycare facilities are important arenas for promoting good public health. The Government shall put more effort in interdisciplinary cooperation and make health services available where people live.

To make the Cooperation Reform a success, the municipal health care services must be attractive places to work. The patients shall receive quality services. Enough money must be made available for habilitation and rehabilitation.

The Government shall continue to strengthen its commitment to mental health. We shall finish reorganising the mental health care system, strengthen work to reduce the use of force and assure its quality as well as continue to develop safe monitoring processes and treatment models. We shall prioritise the services available to children and adolescents. User involvement shall be a basic principle in organising mental health care. This implies that individual care plans must be used more often.

To ensure that good health care is available for everyone, we need strong public health services where hospitals are mostly owned and run

by the state, with private enterprises and private-contract health specialists as valuable collaborators. The Government also wishes that hospitals owned and run by voluntary organisations be ensured good conditions through government agreements.

The Cooperation Reform gives municipal governments greater responsibility for health services for their communities. Specialised health services shall develop even more, by expanding specialisation in clear directions. This raises problems related to division of labour between primary health care and the specialised health services, but also within the job breakdown between hospitals. The Government shall continue work to improve the distribution of work among hospitals. This might mean that some hospitals will fulfil different functions than today when seen in connection with the Cooperation Reform, among other changes. This work is based on continuing ongoing decentralisation of hospital services. Among other things, this will ensure proximity of emergency services and maternity wards close to where people live, even if such services are not offered at all hospitals. No local hospitals will be closed.

The Government shall oppose EU if it introduces a Health Directive that involves weakening public health services or our decentralisation policy.

The Government shall:

- strengthen the economies of hospitals so more patients can be treated and waiting time is kept low
- complete the Cooperation Reform in line with Report to the Storting #47 (2008-2009)
- that physician services in the municipalities shall receive more support
- that local medical centres shall be further developed to ensure coordinated health services in the cooperation between municipal primary health care and the specialised health services
- strengthen maternity care and expand available diversified maternity services
- that regional Hospital Trusts implement measures to reduce waiting time for treatment and diagnosis. Available space and capacity in public hospitals shall be utilised. Agreements between the Hospital Trusts and private commercial hospitals shall not undermine the patient base of small hospitals
- establish stronger national coordination of E-health, create deadlines for development goals and establish a "core" medical journal for all inhabitants. Information security shall be prioritised highly so that personal protection is not threatened

- ensure good data organisation and access to such data in the national health system and quality registers, biobanks and large population surveys, and carry out studies to strengthen research and knowledge development in health service while defending privacy rights
- that the National Health Plan shall continue to develop and become a more operative tool for prioritisation in all health and care services. It shall ensure good political governance by becoming a strategic steering document for the health services. To ensure a real debate about priorities, county municipalities shall be involved in the consultative rounds
- that the business model for specialised health services remains in use
- review financing of specialised health service in connection with further work on the Cooperation Reform and in light of international and national experience
- extend low threshold programmes at the school health services and Child Health Clinics to treat children and young people at an early phase
- ensure that adults receive low threshold services to prevent serious mental illness
- increase treatment possibilities for patients with eating disorders, with special focus on children and adolescents
- ensure better access to dental health services, and follow up on Report to the Storting concerning Future Dental Health Services, Report to the Storting # 35 (2006-2007). We have set a goal of gradually giving the public health system more responsibility for dental health. We are reviewing different models to set a ceiling for how much an individual should pay for essential dental care. We shall introduce free dental care checkups for the elderly over the age of 75

Security and freedom of choice in nursing and care

Persons who need nursing care or old age care must receive the help they need from the government, adapted to these people's particular challenges. Care must be offered in a form that provides the individual with security, that cares for the needs of affected family members and that is adapted to local conditions. Home-based care shall be strengthened so that more elderly and disabled persons are given the opportunity to stay at home.

Everyone should enjoy good and active senior years. Persons who need help shall receive it, when they need it. The elderly will amount to a growing portion of the population in years to come. Our goal is to have an elder care programme that ensures a dignified life, choices, respect

and a private life to the elderly. We shall strengthen quality and knowledge, and ensure that our elder care system is able to care for everyone.

The Government shall:

- follow up on the Storting's compromise for the elderly regarding Care Plan 2015, in among other ways by:
 - strengthening the rights of elderly through changes to primary health care and establishing a new regulation for dignified elder care
 - have a goal to add 12,000 full-time jobs to the nursing and care services for the period 2008-2015
 - ensure full nursing home coverage by 2015 giving everyone who needs a place at a nursing home or residential care home a space. We shall contribute with funds for 12,000 nursing home spaces and live-in care spaces by the end of 2015, to ensure adequate capacity, while extending this framework further if applications to the municipalities for these spaces require it
 - implement Competence Promotion 2015 so manager training and continued and higher education is extended, and that unskilled labour will be offered vocational training and education
 - introduce a legal obligation on the part of the municipalities to offer daily care and activities for demented persons
 - strengthen cultural programmes for the elderly, through the government's Cultural Walking Stick Programme
- strengthen efforts in research and development for nursing and care services
- introduce the right to 10 days leave of absence per year to care for family members
- review the Care Allowance Scheme

Efforts against drug dependence

Substance abuse is a serious social problem. The harms of drug use and addiction affect many people in society. Too many people with drug problems experience not being permitted to treatment when they are motivated. They feel they have to wait very long for treatment space after detox, and that aftercare is poor. The Government shall use the coming years to increase capacity and competence in a systematic manner for prevention, changing attitudes, treatment, rehab and aftercare. These services shall be of high quality and show good cooperation between the different levels and between public and private institutions.

The Government shall:

- evaluate and review experiences from the Escalation Plan for Mental Health in the dependency and addiction field that expires in 2010. We shall follow up on the Storting's consensus to strengthen the efforts further in years to come
- that the rights of addicts as patients shall be respected, and that they are ensured the right to treatment at the adequate level and at the right time, based on individual assessment
- evaluate the creation of special emergency wards for addicts in the large cities
- monitor the overdose and drug-related death situation, and learn more about the causes of such deaths to understand survival prognoses for drug addicts
- that persons with both drug addiction and psychological problems receive a better and more coordinated offer
- give better follow-up to affected family members of drug addicts, including support to care centres for affected persons
- have more centres available at jails to help addicts deal with drug problems, as well as increasing addiction treatment upon release from jail, and that more people can serve prison sentences at institutions other than jails or prisons (§12)

CHAPTER 10: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Children and the family

A good leave of absence scheme for parents is important to ensure children and their parents good contact during the child's first years. Good leave of absence schemes for parents will also provide the opportunity to combine child rearing and employment. Any increases to Norway's Parental Leave of Absence Scheme should be reserved for fathers, to ensure equality of parenting and care.

The Government shall:

- set specific goals and strengthen a scheme for cash grants to families with small children, only for one-year olds. Significant changes to this scheme will be announced as quickly as possible before

implementation. We shall also consider increasing the One-time Maternity Allowance

- have a goal to expand the father quota from 10 to 14 weeks, and the total leave of absence period to 48 weeks, cf. Report to the Storting #8 (2008-2009)
- review how the two-week leave of absence period for child care for fathers after the child's birth or upon transfer of custody can be made better
- ensure that more fathers can earn independent rights for father's quota, irrespective of the mothers
- work to make it easier to adopt a child

Fortify efforts to help vulnerable children and adolescents

Most children grow up safe, healthy and happy in Norway. That is why it is especially important to help children and families with serious challenges. It is essential that children and families receive the help they need, as early as possible to prevent problems later in life. It is especially important to protect children from social exclusion due to the economic situation of their parents.

Children shall have a say in cases that concern them. Measures taken by the state and municipal Child Welfare Service shall be based on research and knowledge. Employees must have a high level of competence and good working conditions so they can give children and families good professional help. The many different agencies that assist vulnerable children and adolescents should cooperate well together.

The Government shall:

- work together with Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) to establish a plan to strengthen child welfare in the municipalities. Competence and expertise should improve. We have set a goal to increase the number of employees in this sector
- work so that vulnerable children, adolescents and their families shall receive better coordinated assistance from the different sections of support services
- provide funds for vacations and recreational activities' schemes for children of parents with limited economic resources
- assist children with reduced functional abilities so they can participate in leisure activities
- establish more child advocacy centres (Barnehus)

Quality and diversity in the comprehensive schools

As one of its most important priorities, the Government shall have great commitment to education and knowledge. Through social learning, education, formation and participation, children and adolescents shall acquire knowledge and skills, learn responsibility, show care, and develop critical thought and self-confidence.

Human beings need and are able to learn throughout their entire life. Small children acquire knowledge and skills at a faster pace when they are young compared with later in life. As adults, we need skills to deal with changes in working life, to finish an education or personal development. The Government shall help the education system to support pupils at an early stage, and to assist in lifelong learning.

Knowledge is decisive to meet future challenges to the environment and climate, health and welfare and value-creation. Further development of our welfare society based on government programmes like the Cooperation Reform, the Daycare Reform, the Knowledge Promotion campaign and our ability to provide an aging population with dignified living conditions - all depend on a competent up-to-date labour force. Research and education are pre-conditions for value-creation and economic growth in a knowledge-based economy where knowledge and technology are our greatest competitive advantage.

A good daycare programme for all children

The Government has set a goal of ensuring all children space in a daycare programme of high quality and at a low price. Daycare facilities shall be places for play, learning and care. The Government shall stress the quality of daycare programmes and continue the tradition that daycare facilities be the basis for a holistic view of children and learning. Daycare facilities are an educational offer but shall not approximate schools. The Government shall make certain that the municipalities fulfil their obligation to provide all children with a place in a daycare facility. A goal for the future will be to introduce a plan for two admission periods a year to the care facility to reduce waiting time.

The Government shall:

- continue to ensure 100% daycare for all children
- have a goal of complying with the current Educator Standard, and work so that more employees have professional training as educators
- strengthen efforts to raise quality and competence development for daycare facilities

- prepare an educational offer for all children of pre-school age, and increase our commitment to free core-time at daycare facilities in neighbourhoods with many language-minority children
- continue work with state funding to build more daycare facilities
- ensure economic equality and increase allocations to non-municipal daycare facilities for a period of up to five years
- arrange for equal pay and working conditions at municipal and private daycare facilities

Learn more, enjoy life and experience mastery

The Government shall work so all pupils shall experience learning, mastery and challenges at school. Through close follow-ups and a high quality of learning, everyone shall be properly educated and prepared for further education when they leave secondary school so that they can complete an upper secondary education. Emphasis shall focus on giving pupils the best at an early stage in their education, by committing extra efforts at the lowest grades, and that problems are tackled quickly when they arise during school years. A varied working method and a holistic approach to pupils and learning shall provide enjoyment, motivation and a sense of mastery for all. The Government shall strengthen pupil social and cultural skills.

The Government's main priority for the quality of schooling is to increase the number of qualified teachers into schools. The Government shall commit to recruiting teachers and continue to raise teacher competence through a restructuring of teacher education and continued efforts with continuing and further education.

Pupils need time to work with their subjects, to be physically active and eat healthy meals. The Government's aim is a comprehensive school day with time for learning, physical activity every day, and time for homework. Everyone must have the opportunity to participate in an After-school Recreational Programme (SFO), but SFO shall be voluntary. Free help with lessons and schoolwork should be available at SFO.

The Government shall continue efforts to raise the quality of language, science and mathematics. Good use of Information and Communication Technology at school must be ensured through competence development and systematic investments in ICT.

Security is a pre-condition for child and adolescent learning. The Government shall renew efforts to combat bullying. Cooperation between home and school shall be strengthened.

Work to eliminate student dropout

The Government shall work so that all pupils can complete an upper secondary education that is useful in working life or for further studies. Pupils shall be better prepared after lower secondary school, receive better support to make the right choice of an upper secondary education, and changes shall be made in the upper secondary level that contribute to motivate pupils to complete their education. Integration of theory and professional practice must be improved.

We must create enough apprenticeship placements so that the quality of vocational training is safeguarded. By consulting with organisations from business and industry, the Government shall take the initiative to create programmes that stimulate company recruitment of apprentices and safeguard their rights and job predictability.

The Government shall:

- arrange for hiring more teachers at schools through more funding to municipal economies, and by changing the Education Act to ensure a maximum limit for the pupil-teacher ratio at each school
- continue our commitment to continuing and further education in school
- work so that more of a teacher's time is available for teaching
- continue work with the Storting's private schools compromise
- raise teaching hours at primary level
- raise the quality of support services for special education
- ensure that all schools work systematically against bullying
- intensify work to reduce dropouts in upper secondary school according to Report to the Storting #44 (2008-2009) Education Strategy
- evaluate how one can establish by law the right to an apprentice placement, supplemented with alternative choices at school. We shall intensify our cooperation with business and industry to find enough apprentice placements, and demand that public enterprises also take in apprentices
- continue work to test new types of evaluations and examination
- keep using marks at lower secondary level, but simultaneously improve the examination system and teacher competence to evaluate
- work to introduce practical electives in lower secondary school, if experiments with such subject are successful
- further develop the practice oriented way to obtain a trade certificate, and make this available to more pupils
- strengthen guidance services for pupils

- give pupils access to teaching materials and media in both the Norwegian languages forms, at the same time and at the same price
- improve sex education and prevention guidance, and strengthen work against gender and sexual harassment
- introduce one free hour for help with homework and lessons at SFO each day, along with physical activity and possibly cooperation with the Culture Schools. The Government shall work with and evaluate a national standard for quality and evaluate measures to limit costs for parents
- carry out an interest compensation programme within an investment framework of 15 billion kroner for rehabilitation and construction of schools and swimming pools from 2009-2016

Lifelong learning

Continuing and further education is one of the most important tools we have to qualify people for a professional life both in areas of structure and working methods, where jobs and businesses are in constant change. Many adults also suffer from a lack of basic skills so they have problems mastering their daily life and participating in society. The Government shall increase its commitment to establish measures to improve competence development.

The Government shall:

- strengthen information work so that more people understand their opportunities for continuing and further education
- increase public support for adult education
- strengthen the role of post-secondary technical schools that offer vocational education for skilled workers. Post-secondary technical schools shall be assured financing that gives them predictable frameworks
- develop experimental programmes within upper secondary education for unemployed adults, within the rules of labour market training
- strengthen schemes for continuing education in working life

Equal rights to higher education

Schools are graduating larger groups of adolescents, and more students make it possible to satisfy society's need for competent workers in the years to come. Universities and colleges are central to developing our nation as a society of knowledge. These institutions must set their sights far into the future, act professionally and be independent administrators of knowledge. The Government shall safeguard the existence of free and

independent universities and colleges across the entire country that can give students research-based teaching of the highest quality relevant and adapted to a modern society of knowledge. The Government shall arrange for cooperation and sharing work at universities and colleges to strengthen educational opportunities across the nation, as far as this is possible. Everyone shall have equal right to an education, and it shall be possible to study full-time.

The Government shall:

- increase basic allocations to universities and colleges to augment educational opportunities, including continuing and further education and a decentralised education, and increase the number of student places
- strengthen educational support for students with reduced functional abilities and students with children
- have a goal to build 1,000 new student housing units a year

Research

The Government shall realise the goals established in Report to the Storting #30 (2008-2009) Research Climate. Research shall contribute to meet our global challenges, improve health and health services and for green value-creation across the entire country. The aim is for research funding as a whole to reach 3 per cent of our GDP, and this figure will be maintained.

The Government shall:

- continue to increase research grants in the years to come, according to Storting's Research Plan
- carry out an escalation plan for climate research, cf. Storting's climate compromise
- strengthen basic research
- improve recruitment of research workers
- ensure plans to invest in scientific equipment through a national roadmap for research infrastructures
- carry out measures to increase the number of women in scientific positions in higher education
- create a plan to reduce the number of temporary appointments in the academic sector

CHAPTER 11: RENEWING AND DEVELOPING THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The Norwegian economic and social model distinguishes us from most other countries by having an extensive public sector that ensures welfare, care, health and education, well-organised employment, business and industry, considerable public ownership and high participation in the labour force. The Government shall strengthen, improve and revitalise this social model. We shall commit to solutions to improve our fellowship and a strong public sector also into the future.

The public sector shall give all citizens good services, freedom of choice and co-determination. It shall both contribute to effective use of resources in society and see to the fair distribution of wealth between different groups and at different phases of life of each individual. Our goal for renewal of the public sector is to achieve more welfare and less administration, more local freedom and less detailed control.

Revitalisation of the public sector shall be done through better use of technology, utilising best practice as a guiding principle, purposeful organisation and development of employee competence and better use of their talents, ideas and abilities to find good solutions. The needs of users of the public services shall be central in developing the public sector. User influence and co-determination by public employees and their organisations is a decisive tool in this work.

The Government shall not privatise or commercialise basic welfare services. We shall further develop interaction between the public sector and voluntary operators and non-profit organisations that are significant contributors to the production of welfare. These organisations have a high level of competence and great interest, and can present new solutions for our welfare schemes. Idealistic and non-governmental organisations that contribute to the production of welfare as suppliers to the public good shall receive predictable contract terms and working conditions, at the same time as the Government shall set clear demands to quality, cost and working conditions.

The Government shall conduct an active policy towards employers where managers and employees work together. We shall continue to apply laws and systems of contracts based on co-determination and cooperation. This shall contribute to effective development, resolving tasks and getting results.

The Government shall utilise and manage coordination mechanisms that exist in public administration and stimulate the use of methods for

interaction internally in these enterprises, and between the different areas of administrative bodies. It will be necessary to increase the level of professionalism in public procurements. The Government shall invest in electronic solutions for purchasing tools and networks for purchasers. Effective electronic solutions, like electronic invoicing, can release great resources.

The Government shall:

- revitalise and improve the public sector in close cooperation with users and employees and their organisations
- continue work to improve clarity of language used in the public sector
- that the public sector behaves as a responsible user and purchases of eco-friendly goods and services
- arrange for the municipalities and public agencies to coordinate their purchasing, as far as this is possible
- undertake a review of the experience from this renewal and look for processes to improve efficiency in the public sector, and how cooperation with users and participation by employees can aid these processes
- arrange for testing such programmes in the state and municipal sectors, where we shall assess the reduction of working hours and different rota systems that can contribute to reducing sick leave and so people can continue to work longer before retirement

A future-oriented ICT policy and digital renewal:

ICT is an important tool in work to renew and make the public sector more efficient. We shall commit to finding common standards for data exchange, common infrastructures that give comprehensive contact spaces for users, and arranging the reuse of public information resources.

The Government shall:

- see to it that information of public interest as a rule should be free, accessible and available for everyone in digital form
- continue to strengthen work with Electronic ID and electronic signatures
- defend the principle of network neutrality of Internet
- offer more digital self-service for our inhabitants, business and industry
- see to it that public IT solutions be based on open standards, as far as this is possible

CHAPTER 12: NORWAY AS AN ECO-FRIENDLY NATION

Norway shall be at the forefront of international environmental policies. Consideration for the environment must be an important part of everything we do, in order for future generations to have access to a good environment, a stable climate and rich natural diversity. Norway shall build its environmental policy on the principle of sustainable development and the reasonable administration and use of natural resources - applying the principle of precaution, total environmental load, and that polluters shall pay for their contamination, along with using the best technology available. Nature shall be cared for because we as humans depend on her, but also because nature is a value unto herself.

Climate

Global emissions must be reduced by 50 to 85 per cent by the year 2050 to stop the earth's temperature from rising by more than 2 degrees celsius compared to the levels before the Industrial Revolution. Industrialised nations must reduce their emissions by 25 - 40 per cent by 2020, while the rise in emissions from developing countries must be slowed. Global emissions must begin to fall no later than 2015. The Government has a long-term goal that each human on earth be given an equal right to emit greenhouse gases.

Solving the climate problems we face requires international cooperation. For this reason, Norway shall work toward a more extensive and ambitious international climate accord that will supplant the Kyoto Agreement. The Government believes that this agreement must ensure the reduction of global emissions so much that the rise in the earth's temperature does not exceed 2 degrees celsius.

The Government shall work toward a climate accord that obligates the richest countries to pay for their own emission reduction and contribute to financing emission reductions in poor countries. This underlines the importance of a future climate accord based on flexible mechanisms that allow rich countries to finance emission reductions in poor countries. It is essential that our reductions occur quickly, simultaneously as we must develop new technologies that can bring about emission reductions far into the future. Norway's work to combat deforestation in developing countries can contribute to enormous emission reductions. At the same time, the Government shall continue to fortify work with CO₂ capture and storage technology so that this may be commercialised and capable of

survival, and as a next step take this technology into use at coal and gas power plants, and other large emissions points around the world.

The Government shall:

- more than satisfy its promise to the Kyoto Agreement by 10 per cent
- intensify Norway's climate goals so that they are equivalent with cuts in emissions of 40 per cent by 2020 compared with 1990 levels, if this can contribute to unity for an ambitious climate accord where the largest emitting countries accept an explicit promise to cut emissions
- As a part of a global and ambitious climate accord where other industrial nations also accept their great obligations, Norway promises to reduce emissions 100 per cent by 2030 so that as a nation we become carbon neutral
- continue our climate and forestation initiatives, and increase funding for these to about 3 billion kroner annually
- present Storting with an assessment of our climate policy and the need for changes to means and policy instruments, including sector-based action plans for climate issues. A new international climate accord will require a revision of national goals and instruments, and a new assessment of how Norway's total efforts should be organised to best contribute to possible reductions in global emissions of greenhouse gases
- rename the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority to the Klima- og forurensningsdirektorat (the Climate and Pollution Control Authority)
- use the Planning and Building Act actively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport and construction sectors
- that the Pollution Control Act shall continue to play an important role in climate and environmental work
- see to it that in connection with follow-ups of our sustainability strategy, and within the ordinary budget submission, we present a report along with a greenhouse gas budget, which assess the consequences of greenhouse gas emissions, and inform about changes in our national emissions and the implementation of our climate policy
- create a specific action plan for all sectors as to how the Nordic Cooperation must prepare itself for a life with climate change, in connection with the handling and implementation of recommendations from Tilpasningsutvalget (the Adaptations Committee)

Natural diversity and outdoor life

Norway has rich and distinct natural diversity, which implies an international obligation to care for this. The Government shall ensure that endangered species and natural environments are given the necessary protection so that future generations can enjoy the same natural diversity as we do.

Norway's natural watercourses are unique. In consideration of coming generations' right to experience nature, a restrictive attitude to further construction in natural water systems is required. The era of great hydropower development is passed. In light of the climate challenges we face, retrofitting and expansion of existing hydropower plants and careful development of watercourses will be a valuable contribution.

The National Parks Plan and county preservation plans shall be brought to a conclusion in accordance with these plans, while efforts to manage and care for protected areas will be strengthened.

Norwegian water management shall be more comprehensive and based on an understanding of ecosystems. Norway has a special international obligation to care for Atlantic wild salmon, which is currently endangered because of harmful environmental effects. Development of the fish farming industry must take the wild salmon issue seriously.

Outdoor life is a source of quality of life, recreation and better public health, also providing us with the opportunity for commercial development. The general right to this resource is an important foundation on which everyone is free to enjoy outdoor life. The Government shall work actively to protect our cultural landscape.

The Government shall:

- use natural diversity actively to reduce the number of endangered species on the current red list, and ensure that the most endangered types of nature receive the status of selective nature environments according to the Natural Diversity Act
- increase forest protection so that natural diversity is maintained. Protection shall be based on voluntary preservation, as far as this is possible
- implement the Marine Protection Plan
- strengthen care and management of protected areas, as well as work with growth and value-creation related to these. The National Parks and Nature Information Centre must be fortified and established new ones

- introduce a Nature Index for Norway able to present the facts about natural conditions in and around Norwegian municipalities
- carry out measures to reach the environment goal of good ecological conditions in selected watercourses and coastal areas by 2015
- that regional water management plans shall have an ecosystem-based approach, and include environmental effects and measures directed at watercourses and coastal areas
- strengthen measures to protect wild salmon and fight biological contamination, in ways like lime treatment of watercourses and fighting gyro
- that more money shall be allocated to purchase attractive open space and beach areas for general public use, and that consideration be made for outdoor and recreational use, and that cultural monuments are cared for when Statskog, Defence, the Norwegian National Rail Administration and Norwegian National Coastal Administration shall dispose of properties with attractive beach sites, and that the most important areas remain in public ownership
- complete the review of the Act relating to Motor Traffic on Uncultivated Land and in Watercourses
- plan to present a comprehensive management plan on the North Sea

Predatory animal management

The Government shall ensure that the main lines of the Storting's compromise on the predatory animal policy of 2004 are obeyed. This two-part goal shall ensure predatory animal stock survival, and support businesses in areas with such animals that are based on wilderness grazing. The Government believes that it should still be possible to establish viable business activities within the agricultural sector in regions populated by predatory animals. Free grazing animals have many positive qualities; in the same way, predatory animals in Norwegian nature also have positive qualities. The challenges lie in caring for the needs of both without conflicts arising between them and becoming greater than necessary.

The Government shall:

- cooperate with Sweden to register existing stock and spread of wolves along our common border. Wolf ranges along the border shall be counted in Norwegian figures. The Government's point of departure for negotiations with Swedish authorities is that wolves along our common border shall be counted with a factor of 0.5. Achieving our goal (total number of young animals) shall be monitored

over a number of years. Based on these observations, the Government shall undertake a new assessment of the number of wolves in the total stock

- Complete the new stock registration plan, and study the model for calculating the total number of young bears. Based on these observations, the Government shall undertake a new assessment of the number of bears in the total stock
- invite the Storting to a broad compromise to agree on the number of wolves and bears. This shall be done by the end of 2010
- give reorganisational funding to prioritised areas with predatory animals, when and where appropriate
- that a low threshold policy is used to remove male bears that created damage or that represent a risk of damage
- that a low threshold policy is used to kill wolves that have created damage or that represent a risk of damage
- that predatory animal management is done in such a way that the number of young animals is kept as close to stock figures as possible. Where stock figures are not reached, the rate of growth of the stock shall consider the time needed to adapt for users of grazing area and the needs of local communities in general
- strengthen monitoring and stock registration of predatory animals considerably. Annual DNA registration of bears and Norwegian wolverines shall be done across the entire country, and local participation in stock registration shall increase. A new methodology for stock registration will give us a better estimate of the total annual number of young bears
- see to it that all predatory animal management shall be based on scientific and experiential knowledge. The national monitoring programme for large predators shall have superior responsibility for stock registration
- carry out an evaluation of current appurtenant area differentiation in regions with predatory animal stocks, for example with a view to better geographic coordination of areas that are prioritised for predatory animals and grazing, along borders between management regions. No predatory animals that represent potential damage to prioritised grazing areas for husbandry and calving areas for reindeer shall exist
- make gunning down of predatory animals more efficient. The government's practice and economic responsibility for gunning down animals shall be strengthened and clarified, with a view to the increasing the percentage of successful gunning attempts
- ensure that when carrying out gunning attempts, municipal gunning teams are given the necessary assistance and guidance from the

Directorate for Nature Management (SNO). Participants in municipal gunning teams shall receive economic compensation from day one

- change the compensation scheme for husbandry, with a view to replacing actual predatory animals losses
- undertake a review and implement necessary measures in predatory animal management and within reindeer husbandry, with a view to ensuring the life circumstances for southern Sami domesticated reindeer husbandry
- work further on the question of a general incorporation of dogs in the self-defence provision. We will be looking at Sweden's experience in this area, among other sources
- increase resources for preventive measures

Consumption and pollution

The Government shall make it easier for people to be eco-friendly in their everyday lives. It should also be worthwhile for people to choose eco-friendly solutions. The government must lead the way as a responsible consumer and demand eco-friendly goods, and goods that are manufactured with high ethic and social standards.

Environmental poisons are a serious threat to natural diversity, food supplies and the health of coming generations. Emission of environmental poisons must therefore be stopped, and chemicals must not harm one's health or the environment. Environmental poisons constitute a threat to sea life and are absorbed by fish and shellfish that are eaten by people. For this reason, contaminated sea floors along coastal zones in many cities cannot be used for outdoor recreation or tourism, and fish cannot be eaten.

Environmental poisons also find their way into waste and garbage. We must find a way to handle hazardous waste in a justifiable manner, at the same time as we reduce the quantities of hazardous waste that arises. Air pollution has effects on health in local areas, especially in the cities. It is also transported over great distances and harms ecosystems and health.

The Government shall:

- see to better product labelling so consumers can make eco-friendly choices
- prepare measures to reach the goal of eliminating the use and emission of environmental poisons by 2020

- liberate important coastal areas by implementing and developing an action plan for clearing up contaminated sea floors
- strengthen inspections and control mechanisms at hazardous waste treatment plants, and strengthen inspectory mechanisms to discover illegal import and export of hazardous waste
- stimulate material recycling by ensuring that framework conditions exist that make it worthwhile to sort out suitable fractions for material recycling
- map out and secure landfills for industrial low-level radioactive waste
- contribute actively to a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol and EU's Directive on national emission ceilings for pollution into air, to reach emissions levels that are not harmful to health or environment
- increase efforts to fight environmental offenses
- strengthen knowledge about environment and climate-friendly consumption

Cultural monuments

Cultural monuments give us a unique documentation of our country's history, and are not renewable resources. The Government shall implement a policy where cultural monuments are used to develop society through knowledge and experience and as a basis for value-creation. Cultural monuments of national significance shall be repaired and be assured lasting protected. Cultural monuments are an important part of a comprehensive environment and resource management

The Government shall:

- improve cultural monument management in line with the Office of the Auditor General's performance audit
- strengthen our commitment to set up or repair the technical and industrial cultural monuments as important documentation of the labour movement's history and knowledge of working processes, technology and social history
- increase knowledge about archaeological cultural monuments that are currently being found below melting icebergs and snowdrifts in the high mountains, as a consequence of climate change
- increase efforts in the area of world heritage to ensure our management processes are in line with our obligations to the World Heritage Convention and international evaluations to help advance local growth and value-creation
- prioritise work planning nominations to the world heritage list
- assess measures to hinder that protected buildings or building that are worthy of preserving from deteriorating

CHAPTER 13: ENERGY POLICY

The Government's vision is for Norway to become a world-leading energy nation. We have an extensive system of hydropower generation. We have rich deposits of oil and gas. We have many companies and places of work related to production and processing of Norwegian energy resources. Green jobs in energy production and environmental technology shall be a new source of economic growth in Norway.

The Norwegian energy policy is both a welfare policy and a climate policy. Production must be done efficiently to ensure revenues. Furthermore, the policy must be organised so that revenues benefit the entire country, and that the values that are generated benefit society. The current reversion scheme for hydroelectric power resources shall be maintained. The Government shall also use its energy policy actively to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases in Norway and in other countries. The Government's energy policy is based on reaching environment and climate goals that decide the extent of production that are necessary to conduct an active policy to limit the growth of energy consumption. The Government shall present a case to the Storting concerning renewable energy.

We shall combine our role as a petroleum producer with our ambition to be a world-leader in environmental and climate policies. We shall lead the way in contributing to the development and use of carbon capture and storage on an international level. Our oil and gas policy shall be based on knowledge and long-term management of petroleum resources.

More renewable energy

The Government shall increase renewable energy production substantially. The Government shall substantiate that its energy directive is relevant to the EEA, and will negotiate with EU about introducing this directive into the EEA Agreement.

The Government shall ensure sustainable use of our water resources. Security and the environment shall be central elements in measures concerning watercourses.

The Government shall:

- introduce the Common Certificate Market together with Sweden, beginning 1.1.2012 based on the principles of our agreement of 7.9.2009. The Government shall present a recommendation for a

transitional agreement until such a system is actually up and running. The transitional agreement shall ensure continued development of power after 7.9.2009. The transitional agreement shall be based on final conditions for the Swedish/Norwegian certificate market from the moment the certificate market is taken into use

- keep Enova as our most important tool for supporting renewable energy and improving the efficiency of the energy sector. By establishing a common certificate market, Enova's efforts shall be particularly focused on improving energy efficiency, heating and testing undeveloped new technologies. In connection with this, the Government shall prepare new goals for results it wishes to see from Enova
- strengthen and improve managing of concession applications without reducing environmental demands
- review the rules and regulations associated with revision of watercourse concessions
- follow up on our Ocean Energy Strategy
- increase R&D in renewable energy sources and Carbon Capture & Storage to a total of 600 million kroner by 2010, in line with the climate compromise
- arrange things so that Statkraft can be further developed as an initiator of renewable energy
- contribute to developing and commercialising hydrogen as an energy carrier
- continue to strengthen our commitment to renewable energy and present an escalation plan for this. Our primary tool to support development of renewable energy is Enova, a common market for green certificates with Sweden and EU's quota market. The Government shall work to make EU's quota market stricter, and in this way make the development of renewable energy more profitable. The Government shall also establish a new fund for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements, worth 30 billion kroner by 2012

Investing in the power grid, securing energy supply, and landslide prevention

More development of renewable energy as a source of power requires a larger grid of power cables. Climate changes may bring more floods and landslides and lead to the power grid being exposed to heavier loads and strain. We have a goal of avoiding regional imbalances in power supply.

The Government shall:

- arrange for more development of grid capacity between national regions and to the foreign sector
- that developing two-way communication between grid companies and consumers shall create incentives to save energy
- Support ongoing cooperations in the Nordic and European power markets
- strengthen Statnett's role as organiser between large consumers of power, grid construction and production
- put more effort into further landslide and flood prevention through greater knowledge, safety measures, better monitoring and alerting systems
- follow up on the strategy for how greater consideration shall be made for the environment, aesthetics and local communities when expansion of the power grid is planned
- that people across the entire country pay the same grid tariff for electricity. This can either be done by a scheme for a general grid tariff, or by increasing the already existing government grant for this. The Government shall complete its review of a common grid tariff along with assessing the relationship between fixed and variable fees
- that an assessment shall be made as to whether Statnett in special cases may be ordered to pay a system contribution

Climate-friendly energy use

Energy use by society must become more efficient. We must start to use more eco-friendly energy resources for heating. The Government has a goal for Norwegians to become less dependent on electricity for heating.

The Government shall:

- commit further to the development of district-heating and local energy centrals
- create a plan of action for better energy efficiency in buildings, with a goal of reducing total national energy use significantly in the construction sector by 2020
- stimulate the use of wood materials in construction, according to Report to the Storting #38 (2008-2009) Climate Challenges - Agriculture as a Part of the Solution
- have a good support scheme for industry to gain more energy efficient and eco-friendly production

- carry out a national household campaign, with information about eco-friendly energy solutions in Norwegian households
- arrange for Norwegian residual waste to be incinerated mostly in Norway
- follow up on our bioenergy strategy and ensure purposeful and coordinated use of means and tools to increase the development of bioenergy. Within current applicable frameworks, Enova shall set a goal to show results on the use of bioenergy in Norway

Petroleum management and CO2 handling

The petroleum sector is responsible for half of Norway's export earnings. This sector is now facing great challenges. We shall keep economic growth and value-creation, employment and competence in the petroleum industry at a high level. Petroleum activities must take their point of departure in oil and gas not being renewable resources, which must be managed with a long-term perspective.

We shall keep up the search for oil and gas, and the oil industry must be given access to interesting search areas. We have a goal to increase the amount of extraction from existing fields. Petroleum activities on the Norwegian continental shelf shall lead the world in oil spill preparedness and environmental monitoring.

The Government has a goal for Norway to be the world's foremost developer of technology to capture and store carbon (CCS) so that CO2 handling can be realised nationally and internationally.

The Government shall:

- continue using the system of management plans. The comprehensive frameworks for petroleum activity are laid down in the management plans for each separate maritime zone
- with a view to safeguarding the state's basis of income, employment and sustainable development, and to contribute to Europe's energy security, the Government shall review its petroleum policy in a special report to Storting
- arrange for an innovative supplier industry. We have a goal for new projects to have regional ripple effects, by contributing to business development and jobs on a local and regional level, for example through locating operational organisations in these areas. Especially important are efforts to established qualified and skilled jobs in regional locations

- continue a predictable allocation policy related to numbered rounds and TFO in order to contribute to a regular level of activity. The Government shall complete its work evaluating how TFO functions
- contribute to petroleum research to achieve better use of resources and cleaner production, contribute to more effective searches on the Norwegian continental shelf and more effective oil spill preparedness, among other things
- contribute to a good co-existence between petroleum activities and fishing interests
- continue work to increase the use of gas in Norway. Together with Gassco, operators on the Norwegian continental shelf and industrial operators, assess landing process solutions and industrial use of gas when this is an alternative. The Government shall hinder that the use of gas for energy purposes ousts more eco-friendly alternatives
- contribute to continued internationalisation of oil activities and the supplier industry
- intensify work to become a vanguard nation for international acceptance of CCS as a necessary part of climate policy
- put off building the capture plant at Kårstø until one has a clearer picture of the operational situation there. Until February 2010, Gassco and Gassnova shall carry out an evaluation of the integration between the gas processing plant and gasworks with a CO₂ capture plant at Kårstø. The report from this evaluation shall form the basis for further assessment of an integrated solution at Kårstø
- that all new gaswork concessions shall be based on cleaning and depositing of CO₂, from the beginning of operations
- continue work to carry out full-scale cleaning of the Combined Heat and Power station (CHP) at Mongstad
- ensure a continued strong state ownership of petroleum resources through the State Direct Financial Interest Programme (SDFI). SDFI must also in the future be able to own shares on the Norwegian continental shelf, and SDFI's total ownership shall be kept at current levels
- intensify work with emission-free power. Based on technical, economic and supply conditions, power from land and emission-free power sources shall be considered when new developments and larger development projects are initiated
- not open for petroleum activity outside Lofoten and Vesterålen during this Storting period (Nordland VI and VII, and Troms II). The Government shall consider whether environmental impact assessments shall be done for petroleum activities relating to the revision of Management Plan 2010

CHAPTER 14: CULTURAL POLICY

A national commitment to culture

Good cultural experiences bring quality to life, inspiration, reflection and create a sense of belonging. A wide selection of cultural activities makes local communities more attractive and has a preventive social effect. This is why the Government set a goal to give people of all ages access to art and cultural experiences, at the same time as everyone shall have the opportunity to express themselves through art and culture, regardless of geographical location or social dividing lines. Art and cultural shall reflect the diversity of Norwegian society.

The Government shall fulfil its promises in the Kulturløft programme, which implies 1 per cent of the state budget be used for culture by 2014. This increase shall benefit all art forms and genres, and we shall strive for equal distribution of funds among the counties.

The three governing parties have prepared Kulturløft II together, which contains 17 items with goals for our cultural policy up to the year 2014. These goals reach beyond this government period and form the basis for the Government's cultural policy in the future.

Our commitment to the Culture School Programme will be fortified so that all children who wish it receive an offer to participate in the Culture Schools' events and activities, of high quality at a reasonable price, cf. Kulturløft II.

Developing a more extensive range of activities offered by the culture schools connected to SFO and schools shall be considered.

We shall improve the living conditions of artists, with particular emphasis on conditions related to income and welfare services and schemes. The Government shall ensure that artists have rights to own creative work.

Business development in the area of culture shall be fortified, and arrangements shall be made so that more Norwegian culture can be exported abroad. Cultural work in the Northern Regions shall be fortified.

The Government shall support local initiatives in areas of culture. Greater funding to Kulturbygg to construct buildings related to culture shall ensure good cultural arenas across the entire country.

The Government shall strengthen volunteer cultural life.

Numerous languages and two Norwegian written language cultures create many opportunities for cultural growth.

The Government shall ensure development of the Norwegian languages Norwegian Bokmål and Norwegian Nynorsk.

The Government shall:

- see to it that 1 per cent of the state budget be used for culture by 2014
- follow up on Kulturløft II
- review how copyright, artists incomes and artists rights can be safeguarded in light of the digital spread of art and culture
- maintain the licensing fee for NRK, and in this way help NRK develop further as a broad reaching public service broadcasting agency with a good presence all around the country
- promote measures that make it easier to use Norwegian Nynorsk
- review press grant schemes to ensure diversity of media, small local newspapers and quality of the media

Volunteer work and sports

Volunteer organisations and sports bind many local communities together. Volunteer work gives people the opportunity to participate in society, at the same time as being an important element in solving many important social tasks and contributing to better public health and integration, among many other things.

The Government shall raise the annual VAT compensation, and ensure predictable framework conditions through Norsk Tipping and its Grassroots Share Programme. The Government shall have a good dialogue with the sports community about the question of VAT by sports centres. It will be easier for volunteer organisations to earn more money. The Government shall cooperate with the sporting movement and other volunteer organisations about public health work and the inclusion of minorities and children of parents who find it difficult to pay for sports programmes. The total number of Volunteer Centres shall increase.

The Government shall:

- raise the annual VAT compensation by 1 billion kroner by 2014
- ensure good support schemes for volunteer children and youth organisations

- support the construction of more multi-use halls, ball-playgrounds and neighbourhood sports areas
- simplify and de-bureaucratise the interaction between the public and voluntary sectors, and turn support away from project-based to freely disposable funds
- extend the arrangement with the Volunteer Centres

CHAPTER 15: AN INCLUSIVE NORWAY

The Government shall fight all forms of discrimination. Everyone shall have the opportunity to utilise talents and abilities, and live a good life regardless of gender, social background, religion, sexual orientation, functional ability or ethnic background. The Government shall consider a proposal for a uniform law against discrimination, cf. NOU 2009:14. We shall strengthen our commitment against hate crimes.

Equality between men and women

The Government shall conduct a policy where women and men have the same real opportunities. Gender equality efforts must occur at work and at home. The Government shall help women to participate more in business life, work and politics, if this is what they wish. We shall also be working so that men are able to use more time at home with their children, such as most men want.

The Government emphasises that the Norwegian wage-setting model is an important pillar of our welfare society. Coordinated wage-setting, where tariff areas in competition-based sectors negotiate first, shall help keep salary developments within frames that ensure sufficient wages in competition-based businesses over time. Political work and cooperation in the area of income has over time contributed to a greater ability to reorganise economy, limit wage differences, increasing income among low-paid groups and less unemployment than in most other OECD countries. Also in the future this shall be a central goal of our income policy, and cooperations between workers, businesses and the government.

In addition to this, equal pay and balanced wage differences are important goals of our income policy. To achieve results in this area, the parties in working life must reach an agreement about which working groups will be prioritised. There must also be an agreement about new relative wage conditions not bringing about calls from other groups for similar compensations.

Based on these ideas, the Government is ready to enter a dialogue with these parties about equal pay. The Government shall ask the parties to clarify whether a real basis exists for a special equal pay scheme in the public sector, as well as preparing a recommendation for which groups shall be included in this scheme. Furthermore, the parties must formulate necessary and adequate mechanisms to reach long-lasting equal distribution, so that such equalisation can be done within responsible frameworks in the separate salary settlements so the Norwegian system for wage and salary formation is not weakened. The Government also requests that the parties give the question of equal pay enough focus during the coming tariff negotiations, also for the private sector.

Depending on how far the parties have come in this work, the Government is ready to go into further dialogue about the question of equal pay as early as the Tariff Settlement of 2010.

The Government shall:

- carry out a review that will take a look at the Norway's equality policy, with a point of departure in life cycles, ethnicity and social class.
- continue and fortify efforts against forced marriages and genital mutilation
- prepare assistance measures that give women the opportunity to leave prostitution and assess better support measures for prostitutes and ex-prostitutes

Accessibility and participation

The Government shall work to promote participation and gender equality for persons with reduced functional abilities. The lack of accessibility, also to goods and services, is discrimination. Measures that contribute to higher participation in the work force and education for people with reduced functional abilities shall be prioritised.

The Government has a vision of Norway being a universal design nation by 2025. By making universal design the basis for developments in society, this will create better and fairer environments for persons with reduced functional abilities. Furthermore, this will lead to positive social

qualities for all inhabitants and for Norway as a society. We shall first prioritise measures in Transport and Communications and educational buildings.

The Government shall:

- follow up on the Government's action plan - Universal Design and Increased Accessibility 2009-2013
- present measures to improve access to education and working life for people with reduced functional abilities
- expand the possibility to choose own personal assistants
- review the adopted action plan for families with children with disabilities, and arrange for assistance and aid to families with children with serious disabilities

The lives of homosexuals

The Government shall actively oppose discrimination of homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders. We shall put special effort into improving the circumstances of homosexuals and lesbians in different phases of their lives, who live in environments where there is still a challenge to expressing and showing gender choice. Children and adolescents must be allowed to grow up in prejudice-free environments where they do not feel threatened, ridiculed or unseen because of their sexual orientation.

The Government shall:

- continue work in the action plan "Better Quality of Life for Lesbians, Homosexuals, Bisexuals and Transgenders 2009-2012"

Indigenous peoples and national minorities

The Sami are an indigenous people with the right to protect their cultural values and development based on international law. The Government wishes to vitalise Sami language, culture, business and society and will support Sami opportunities to live as a society across national borders.

The Government wishes to contribute to good framework conditions for traditional business and modern places of work related to culture and technology in Sami settlement areas. The Government shall strengthen work to support Sami languages in Norway, especially through fortifying the Sami Parliament and the responsibilities of the municipalities. The Government shall have an education and training system that supports

the Sami peoples' special needs. The Sami Parliament must have influence in cases that are of importance to the Sami people.

The Government shall arrange conditions so that national minorities like the Jews, the Kven people, the Gypsy people, the Romanis/Tater Travellers and the Forest Finns can care for and further develop their own cultures, languages and identities.

The Government shall:

- follow up on the action plan for Sami language and Report to the Storting concerning the Sami policy
- assess whether school pupils in Sami areas shall be able to choose the Sami language as secondary language subject, and work so that more Sami teachers are educated, along with pre-school teachers and health and social workers
- ensure that nationwide Sami newspapers exist, and strengthen Sami cultural life by increasing grants to the Sami Parliament
- invest in Sami research and research about Sami living conditions
- work further with the Sami Rights Council south of Finnmark and Kystfiskeutvalget (the Norwegian Coastal Fishing Committee)
- support measures that focus on the languages of national minorities, their culture and cultural history
- follow up on the action plan to improve living conditions for the Romani people in Oslo

CHAPTER 16: MORE SECURITY - LESS CRIME

Crime creates insecurity. Ensuring safety and promoting a sense of security is a question of welfare, and a great public responsibility. Crimes shall be cleared up quickly and offenders punished and rehabilitated. Victims of serious crimes and their families must be cared for. The Government shall conduct a comprehensive crime policy for better prevention, to clear up more crimes, punish and rehabilitate more effectively. We shall follow up on our prevention strategy: Fellowship – Security – Equality, further develop the police advisory councils and establish measurable criteria for prevention work.

The Government shall continue to strengthen police budgets and staff. A continued commitment to admit more people to police education and training, more civilian employees in the police force, and an active elder policy shall ensure more police activity.

We shall make it possible for more educated police personnel to work for security and safety of the public, on local levels. We shall ensure faster response time across the entire country by strengthening duty cooperation, increasing patrols and more accessible and operational policing efforts and agencies. We shall maintain a decentralised police structure.

During the coming four-year period, we shall implement work to get a larger police force near the year 2020, based on available resources. This work shall be based on an operational analysis of the police force and sheriff's agency, a criminality study as a fact-based report, a knowledge-based crime policy and continued support for greater competence, controls, equipment, ICT and methods.

The Government shall direct its focus on better content in serving sentences so we can increase public safety and give more convicts new opportunities in life. Measures for housing, work, education, control of drug dependence and networking can reduce relapse and fall back. An evaluation shall be done to find effective measures to reduce relapse.

The Government shall do a competence and staffing review of the Criminal Care Department to improve the content of punishment. The Government shall strengthen efforts to solve conflicts as early as possible, have greater use of legal mediation and give more authority to the Mediation and Reconciliation Services.

We shall continue to fortify and improve efforts against violence that affect women and children. Violence among close relations is a very serious crime and an extensive criminal problem. The Government shall follow up on the Norwegian Rape Council's report *From Words to Action*, and continue efforts to combat human trafficking. In continuing work, the Government shall focus on competence, protection, civil testimonies, health and treatment for all agencies and organisations in work to combat violence among close relations.

The Government shall ensure better coordination among assistance agencies so victims of serious crimes get the help they need. Knowledge about violence and abuse must be a part of study curricula for relevant professional groups. Work to protect children shall be given highest

priority; this is true also when children are witnesses to violence and abuse.

The Government shall:

- work to get more police work from available resources and increase police staffing
- ensure a continued high admission to the police academy, and continue work to recruit more women and applicants with minority backgrounds
- start work to establish a new site in Oslo for the Norwegian Police University College, and establish new police training outside of Oslo
- clarify rules and regulations to ensure the obligation to use reports from neighbours, teachers, doctors, families etc. related to violence and abuse against children
- evaluate the effects of prohibition against the purchase of sexual services with a thought to formulating good and purposeful measures to help prostitutes get out of prostitution
- maintain a decentralised police structure, strengthen the sheriff's offices, and have more neighbourhood police posts and less administration with a new organisation in the police districts for more police visible and available to the general public
- strengthen participation in international police cooperations and establish a reaction force against international organised crime to strengthen the cooperation and coordination across police districts and special policing agencies
- continue work with the DNA Reform
- give better follow-ups to victims of violence and serious crimes
- see to it that the police shall use registration tools to evaluate exposure to violence so that necessary protection measures can be implemented
- improve the content of prison sentences, and strengthen rehabilitation work so that convicts have a more comprehensive follow-up
- carry out a legal assistance reform according to Report to the Storting #26 (2008-2009) that gives quicker and better legal help to more people
- extend the scheme for faster administration so that foreign nationals that commit crimes are apprehended, sentenced and sent out of the country as quickly as possible. With the adoption of EU's Transfer of Sentenced Person Agreement and other bilateral agreements, more foreign criminals will serve their sentences in their country of origin
- increase the number of expulsions of foreign nationals and strengthen border controls to combat crime

- maintain a decentralised court structure
- continue work for more effective, accessible and modern courts, and ensure faster application processing with more use of video and remote technology and continued renewal work
- maintain the improvement process of the Land Consolidation Court and execute measures to increase recruiting

Civil protection and preparedness

A modern society is a vulnerable society. Climate changes will become increasingly more challenging for society in the context of civil protection and preparedness, especially in the Northern Regions. In order to improve society's total preparedness against intended and unintended incidents, it will be of major significance to strengthen contingency plans and preparedness and the ability to act, according to Report to the Storting #22 (2007-2008) Cooperation and Coordination. The principle of cooperation that the Norwegian National Rescue Service is founded on gives a good basis for creating more security along the coast and in mountain regions. We shall continue clarifying responsibilities, grey zones and continue efforts to improve training exercises at all levels in public administration, and further strengthen volunteer help in the National Rescue Service.

The Government shall:

- continue the resolute work on a new emergency response network for the emergency planning agencies
- commit to preventive fire work, as well as improving readiness and the ability to act quickly and decisively
- continue our commitment to the National Rescue Service and the Rescue Helicopter Service

CHAPTER 17: IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

The Government shall conduct a comprehensive immigration and refugee policy anchored in Norway's international obligations. The Government wishes to have balanced and controlled immigration and a consistent asylum policy.

Labour immigration

The Government shall conduct a labour immigration policy that is user-friendly, easy to use and predictable, with better and more comprehensive information and faster application processing. The labour immigration policy shall arrange for companies and enterprises to be able to recruit the necessary qualified labour they need from foreign countries, in a simple and efficient manner. This shall contribute to ensuring good access to labour and manpower. Norwegian companies and enterprises should be able to attract persons with relevant competence from abroad.

The Government is positive to new labour immigration arriving from the expansion of the European Union. Labour immigrants coming to Norway shall receive the same wages and working conditions as Norwegian employees, and shall receive information about their rights and obligations. The Government shall ensure that the Au-pair Scheme contributes to cultural exchange, and not lead to social dumping of the labour force.

Refugee and asylum policy

The Government shall conduct a consistent, just and legally-based refugee and asylum policy. We build our refugee and asylum policy on international conventions.

International cooperation, distribution of responsibilities and aid to countries in conflict are therefore very important. The Government shall also accept its international obligations to combat the reasons for why people seek asylum, and contribute to protecting refugees from further degradation and suffering. International efforts to help people at home must be strengthened. It would be an advantage if fewer people feel the need to leave their homes because of conflict, war and poverty.

UNHCR's recommendations shall be taken seriously by Norwegian authorities in our assessments, but Norwegian authorities shall also make an independent assessment of the situation. Establishing practices that conflict with UNHCR's recommendations about protection shall as a primary rule be assessed by the an open tribunal, unless these practices are done according to instruction from the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, sent to the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration.

The Government shall strengthen work to clarify the identity of foreign nationals that come to or are staying in Norway. Persons that do not satisfy conditions for residency shall be sent quickly out of Norway, and

the Government shall strengthen expulsion and return work. Asylum seekers that have resided in other countries that are members of the Dublin Cooperation shall in principle be returned to the place designated by the Dublin Regulations. As with all such cases, it would be a pre-condition that this return is not in conflict with protection against persecution or inhuman treatment.

The Government shall reduce the number of persons without need for protection who seek asylum in Norway, and will continue to assess the needs for new measures to reach this goal. The Government shall work so that Norway actively supports and participates in international work in support of a better distribution of responsibilities, and ensures equal treatment and common minimum standards in the different countries.

Norway will accept its share of responsibilities for refugees who truly need protection. This said, the Government is also interested in Norway not accepting a disproportionately large share of asylum seekers who come to Europe.

Norwegian practice in this context shall mainly correspond to the practices of other similar nations. The Government shall also be active in implementing measures to limit the number of persons who reside illegally in Norway.

The Government shall look closer at the possibility of improving the efficiency of its handling of foreign nationals. Based on recommendations from public committees, the Government shall assess how the appeal handling process should be better organised to best maintain the possibilities of political control, security under the law, efficient and effective application processing, as well as legitimacy. The Government shall ask the Committee to hasten work with a partial report about exercising instructing authority.

The Government shall:

- increase the number of quota refugees when the number of asylum seekers is significantly reduced. The Government's goal is to increase the number of quota refugees to at least 1,500
- based on recommendations from a government appointed committee, it shall assess the reception system and offers for lodging and services to asylum seekers
- to a greater extent, use the right to deprive foreign nationals of liberties who are in an expulsion process where a clear risk of evasion or an unclear identity exists, and open for the use of deprivation of liberties after a court judgment during the expulsion process for

persons that commit criminal acts, and persons that are a threat to basic national interests

- assess the current right to apply for reversal
- extend the use of obligation to report, and order a chosen residence for, among others, asylum seekers who do not help clarify their case information or who commit crimes
- establish a National Identity and Documentation Centre (NID)
- implement the use of biometric recognition in visa cases
- arrange for greater participation and work-related activities and the obligation to participate in activities for asylum seekers at asylum reception centres
- continue work to protect and give aid to victims of human trafficking, and work toward greater international commitment to help internally-displaced refugees
- strengthen the capacity for casework, and reduce case handling time at UDI
- improve cooperation with municipalities to establish asylum reception centres
- ensure faster settlement of refugees who have been issued residence permits in the municipalities
- see to it that more people who have received a refusal of their residence permit shall only be given an offer of living in a reception centre until their expulsion can be carried out. The Government shall also assess measures to ease returns for families with children
- reduce the number of persons without need for protection who seek asylum in Norway, and continue to assess the need for new measures to reach this goal
- intensify work to establish good return agreements, conduct a comprehensive and unified return policy and use our aid and development policy to support work with returns and reintegration of persons without legal residence in Norway
- raise the threshold for residence permits for humanitarian reasons
- introduce general requirements for four-year work and/or education as a condition for obtaining residence and work based on establishing a family
- support UN's High Commissioner for Refugee Work to ensure and promote the rights of refugees

Single underaged asylum seekers

Single underaged asylum seekers who come alone to our country are an especially vulnerable group. The Government wishes for children in

asylum reception centres and care centres to receive good professional follow-up, as well as activity and learning opportunities. Children who come alone shall receive quick handling of their application in order to return quickly to their country of origin or be settled in one of the municipalities.

The Government has a goal of carrying out transfer of care and responsibility for single underaged asylum seekers between the ages of 15 and 18 to the Child Welfare Services, but we see because of limited resources at Child Welfare that this may not be possible in the coming four-year period.

The Government shall:

- establish care and education opportunities for single underaged asylum seekers in their country of origin
- work so that children in reception or care centres receive good professional follow-up directed specifically at children
- contribute to finding enough guardians for these young asylum seekers
- work for fast settlement in the municipalities for young asylum seekers

Inclusion

Because of immigration, Norway's population has become more complex. This is basically positive. The Government wishes to contribute to Norway being an inclusive society.

The Norwegian welfare society is built on solidarity, and on the will and effort to participate and share. Trust in society's institutions and among the inhabitants themselves is a necessary pre-condition for such a society. Everyone promises to abide by society's laws and respect democratic values. A strong welfare state contributes to good integration. Daycare space for everyone, a good public school system, good health and care services, a social housing policy and diverse cultural opportunities are therefore important to the success of integration work.

Greater international mobility presents Norwegian society with new challenges. The Government shall hinder the development of a class-divided society where persons with immigrant backgrounds have poorer living conditions and participate less in society than the rest of the population. Work gives the individual economic independence and is the most important tool to counteract poverty, to equalise social differences and to achieve equality between women and men. It is especially

important that more women with immigrant backgrounds are given the possibility to participate in working life.

The Government shall assess different measures to hinder many young boys with minority backgrounds from falling out of the education system.

Immigrants come to Norway with very different backgrounds and skills, different prevailing conditions and needs. Faster settlement for refugees into the municipalities is important, and good integration into local communities is decisive. The Government shall stimulate sports organisations and other volunteer organisations to work actively to include persons with immigrant backgrounds.

Children and young people with immigrant backgrounds must receive a good basis for being able to participate in society and make independent choices.

The Government shall:

- work to increase employment and lower unemployment among people of immigrant background. We shall put special focus on certain groups of women with low employment statistics
- ensure good implementation and quality of the Introduction Programme and ensure a good transition to training or work
- increase rights and obligations to Norwegian language training from 300 to 600 hours, as well as introducing obligatory final tests in Norwegian
- introduce requirements for everyone who is obligated to learn Norwegian through these training courses to have passed the Norwegian language test or the citizenship test to be able to receive Norwegian nationality
- assess measures that can lead to faster settlement of persons who have received residence permits in Norway
- work against discrimination and toward an inclusive recruitment policy, in ways like cooperating with parties in working life and business so that the skills and expertise of immigrants are used in Norwegian society at all levels in working life
- assess changes to our integration policy based on a state committee that will look into the relationship between immigration and emigration, and developments in our welfare schemes
- assess changes to language training courses for minorities based on recommendations from a public committee appointed for this
- give more people the opportunity to be trained in their own native language. In a globalised world, bilingualism is a resource

- better coordination of work to follow up on Norwegian children in foreign countries
- assess expanding a state scheme to find and introduce qualified applicants with minority backgrounds into the labour force, having the right to be called into an interview, to also include positions in municipal and county jobs
- make it easier to have foreign educations and relevant work experience from foreign countries approved
- appoint a public committee to look at the opportunities and challenges to a multi-cultural Norway, and based on this recommend principles and measures for inclusion and integration work

CHAPTER 18: POLICY FOR CHURCH, RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

Freedom of faith and freedom of religion are basic values that society and legislation must strengthen and protect. Everyone has the right to practice their religion and philosophy of life based on own wishes, and all religions and philosophies of life shall have the right to equal state financing.

The Government shall arrange for and contribute economically to a diversity of practice of faith, religion and philosophies of life in Norway. Religious diversity enriches society and presents us with new challenges. Open discussions, cooperation and interaction between societies of faith and philosophies of life at a local and national level will promote mutual understanding and contribute to respect for differences and for common values that society is built upon. One must arrange for good practical solutions that care for the different needs of our citizens in a diversified society of many faiths and beliefs - in schools, at work, during celebrations and family events, phases of life and holidays. Religious and philosophic communities should be able to meet human beings at life's milestones, and be a gathering factor when joy and sorrow shall be expressed on a national and local level.

We shall arrange for the Church of Norway to continue to be an open and inclusive national church, with space for different religious needs and different theological directions, and with broad endorsement among

its members. The Government shall follow up on the Storting's church compromise of 10 April 2008, including its democracy reform.

The Government shall:

- follow up on the church compromise
- together with the Church's organisations, review and improve election procedures for Church of Norway elections and the member register
- continue work with the Church's Faith Education Reform
- increase the number of priests and deacon positions
- arrange for more female parish priests, deans and bishops
- present a case for a faith and philosophies of life policy in close dialogue with the different communities of faith, with a view to creating a unified policy in this area
- contribute to having more faith-neutral ceremonial halls
- ensure that foreign preachers who have work of a lasting character in religious communities in Norway shall take Norwegian language training and courses about Norwegian society