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ADDRESS TO THE "EARTH SUMMIT", RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 JUNE 1992.

We owe the world to be frank about what we have achieved here in Rio: Progress in many fields, too little progress in other fields, and no progress at all in some fields.

We have opened two important conventions for signature. It is imperative that we make them more effective. They will not work unless all major countries sign, ratify them and implement them.

We have dealt with a wide range of issues important for sustainable development, but we have not dealt seriously enough with extremely important issues such as the need for more open trade and its environmental and developmental impacts which are so vital for developing countries. These are issues that will remain with us.

We will be watched closely by our constituencies as we move into the field of implementation and further negotiations. We will be held accountable.

There is no turning back from realizing that we are heading towards a crisis of uncontrollable dimensions unless we change course. The North as well as the rich in the South will have to change consumption and production patterns.

The poor must be brought home from their exile of bondage and humiliation. Fair distribution of wealth and opportunity must be provided. We must curb population growth by more effective means than we were able to agree upon here and which recognize and reinforce the links to poverty and the rights of women.

It is we ourselves who are to decide by our actions how effective Agenda 21 will be. Implementation requires financing and new priorities to be set in all countries.

We are disappointed by the lack of adequate financial commitments made. The 20 years old target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as official development assistance must be reached before the year 2000.

I say this with confidence since we provide 1,1 per cent of our GNP. This is 3 times higher than the average for OECD countries.

We reached the 0.7 per cent target some 15 years ago. We exceeded 1 per cent more than 10 years ago.

Norway, with its four million people, contribute almost 500 million US dollars more than what is required to fulfill the 0.7 target.

We are the eighth largest contributor to the UN system in absolute terms and by far the largest in per capita terms.

We are already providing new and additional resources to counter global environmental threats. These contributions are not counted as ODA. We finance them by having the highest CO2 taxes in the world.

Our development assistance has always had an Agenda 21, It has always been poverty-oriented. It has focused on health, on basic needs, women, children, education, family planning, and increasingly - on the environment.

If more countries increase their efforts and improve the quality of their contributions, Agenda 21 can become Accomplished 21.

The road from Rio will take us many extra miles together. Burdensharing will remain essential. There are several bills that need to be covered in an unruly, troubled world. Bills of peace-keeping, refugee relief, famines and natural disasters. The environmental threats and poverty, however, are cross-cutting, long-term, predictable and unavoidable unless we establish a world order of burdensharing, common perceptions and common responsibility.

Critical decisions remain to be taken. I welcome the high-level Commission on Sustainable Development and expect it to become effective under a revitalization of the economic and social responsibilities of the United Nations.

Those difficult decisions which could not be taken here in Rio will have to be taken in the very near future. For this to happen accountable governments must work together with increasing millions of responsible citizens, in particular when the necessary measures seem costly in a short-term perspective.

It is a challenge that the forces of technology and finance have increasingly taken over the powers which should be vested in people to shape their own future.

The idea of government for the people by the people is gaining ground, but choices about our own future can only be made if governments have budgets and if they can cooperate internationally where strong forces of power operate today.

The nation state alone is too small a scene for addressing

regional and global challenges. And if national governments are basically unilateral in their attitudes towards global problems, anarchy will prevail over international governance and world order. What should be our global village may turn into a global jungle.

The challenge of the 1990s is to deepen and widen the forces of democracy and to lift democratic decision-making also to the international level.

Traditional international conferences run by consensus can only advance at the pace of the most reluctant mover in each field. The future requires stronger decision-making procedures. Nothing less will serve us.

When we arrive at our final consensus here in Rio, we will have taken neither a small step, nor a giant leap. But the direction of where we are heading will have been set.

This is what we face: Hard work, more hard work - and never ending efforts, based on human conscience and commitment. The rewards will be high: A safer, clearer and more equitable future.