

Ethiopia, UK, Norway joint Communiqué

The Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, the Minister of the Environment and Development Cooperation of Norway, Erik Solheim, and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change of the United Kingdom, Chris Huhne, met in Durban today on the occasion of the launch of Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy. In support of that strategy, the three leaders launched a strategic partnership between their three countries, focusing on joint collaboration on international climate change policy and support for Ethiopia's CRGE.

The three leaders agreed on the need to keep climate change firmly at the top of the international agenda, and emphasised that it is essential to work towards an ambitious, global climate change agreement under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). They agreed that if the world is to prevent irreversible biospheric damage from climate change, immediate and determined action by all countries - according to the principles of the convention - is crucial.

They underlined that mitigation action should have a long term perspective and thus be undertaken in the context of low carbon development strategies, as called for in the Cancun agreements. They emphasised that low carbon economic development should over time be incentivised through a future global agreement under the UNFCCC regime. They reiterated the importance of the goal of developed countries of mobilising 100 billion USD of climate finance annually by 2020 from public and private – including new and innovative – sources in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation. They underlined the importance of following up on the report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing.

They agreed that, building on country ownership and national low carbon development strategies, partnerships between developing and developed countries can enhance early action. Relevant efforts could include result-based, adequate, predictable and sustainable financial support from developed countries to developing countries for their verifiable progress in reducing or avoiding emissions or enhancing removals of greenhouse gases through forestry, agriculture, and energy use. These resources will provide funding for a transformational shift away from high emission pathways to employment and income generation, towards support for the creation of climate resilient green economies. This support should be provided in a way which is compatible with efforts to reduce poverty and promote growth.

With this starting point, they agreed that Ethiopia, Norway and the United Kingdom will establish a strong partnership on climate change and development, as follows:

- The three countries will enhance ongoing political collaboration to advance international climate policy, including through the UNFCCC negotiations.
- Ethiopia is committed to the development and implementation of its CRGE strategy, and Norway and the United Kingdom intend to provide multi-year support to Ethiopia for this purpose.
- The Partnership based on Ethiopia's CRGE will focus in particular on:
 - Strengthening efforts to avoid deforestation and forest degradation, increase reforestation and afforestation, and promote sustainable management practices in forestry and agriculture.
 - Strengthening climate adaptation in agricultural and pastoral production systems making them more productive and climate resilient.
 - Strengthening food security and disaster risk management systems to protect the poorest and most vulnerable from climate shocks.
 - Supporting increased access to sustainable energy through the use of renewable energy resources and increased energy efficiency.
 - Strengthening open and transparent governance of natural resources to ensure maximum benefits for the Ethiopian people and for the global good.
 - Ensuring that gender equality is achieved.
 - Establishing appropriate and transparent measuring, reporting, and verification systems that harmonise with the provisions under the UNFCCC - including independent international verification - for greenhouse gas emissions, focusing initially on the forest, agriculture and energy sectors.
 - Reducing biodiversity loss.
 - Supporting efforts to build Ethiopia's institutional capacity to respond to climate change, in particular the continued development of the CRGE initiative.
- The partnership would be based on the following principles:
 - Support for Ethiopia's CRGE strategy will be results-based, incentivising and rewarding progress in implementing that strategy. The support will be aligned with Norway's and the United Kingdom's principles for providing ODA, i.e., adhering to the principles of aid efficiency, maximising country ownership, value for money and the delivery of development results.
 - As soon as feasible, Norwegian payments for results will be based mainly on verified reductions, avoided emissions, and increased removals of greenhouse gases from forests, agriculture, and energy while also

considering poverty reduction results. Payments from the United Kingdom will also focus on results, looking to support results related to both poverty and emissions reductions.

- The contributions will be used within the framework of the development and implementation of Ethiopia's CRGE Strategy - through mutually agreed channels adhering to internationally recognized environmental, social, and fiduciary safeguards.
- Efforts will be rooted in transparent, inclusive, multi-stakeholder processes, involving local communities and community-based organizations.
- As regards REDD+, the safeguards established through the UNFCCC REDD+ mechanism in the Cancun Agreements, as elaborated by subsequent decisions of the Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC, will be applied.
- Efforts to promote commercial investments will be encouraged and rewarded through the implementation of results based funding approaches, including public-private cooperation.
- Country-level tracking and reporting should enable Ethiopia to manage, monitor and report against financial transfers, reduced or avoided emissions and the agreed-upon results framework.

The three leaders agreed that the Ethiopian-Norwegian-United Kingdom cooperation will, as appropriate, complement, integrate with and support on going multilateral and regional African initiatives, in particular the Energy+ Partnership, the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP), the REDD+ Partnership, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the UN-REDD Program, and the African Union and the New Economic Partnership on African Development (NEPAD) Agricultural Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Framework under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), as well as the Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI) and other efforts to support climate resilient green economies worldwide.

Prime Minister Meles, Minister Solheim, and Secretary of State Huhne emphasized that the partnership will be further operationalised over the months ahead. Ethiopia, Norway and the United Kingdom will continue to work energetically together on climate change issues in general and on climate resilient green economic growth in particular, and invite other countries and multilateral institutions to join their efforts.

**Durban
8 December 2011**