

Position Paper for the General Assembly Second Committee

The issues before the General Assembly Second Committee are: The Impact of Climate Change on Sustainable Development; Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development; and A Fair Globalization for All: The Effect of Job Creation on Sustained, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth. The Kingdom of Norway suggests strengthening commitments to the Kyoto protocols by ten percentage points; encourages increased contributions and cooperation from member states in the ICT sector through open partnerships, stable communication, and open-minded discussion; and iterates the importance of gender equality and strong social welfare policies in the long-term success of equitable economic growth.

I. The Impact of Climate Change on Sustainable Development

The Kingdom of Norway, a nation state home to over 45,000 islands, recognizes the inherent link between climate change and sustainable development. This issue of climate change impacts Norway in several ways: increasing temperatures, increases in the amount and timing of precipitation, and most devastatingly, the melting of continental ice which leads to rising sea levels and shrinking the size of Norwegian islands. Norway commends the emphasis Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has placed on climate change and sustainable development within the 2013 UN agenda. In support of his continuing initiative, Sustainable Energy for All, Norway launched an international energy and climate partnership at the “Energy for All: Financing Access for the Poor” conference held in Oslo in October 2011. This Partnership aims to ensure access to sustainable energy for all and avoid greenhouse gas emissions through the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Citing A/CONF216.16 (Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [Rio+20]), Norway “acknowledges that climate change is a cross-cutting and persistent crises and expresses...concern that the scale and gravity of the negative impacts of climate change affect all countries and undermine the ability of all countries, in particular, developing countries, to achieve sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).” Norway thus agrees with the underlying premise that combating climate change requires urgent and ambitious action, in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Norway echoes the commitment to the eleven chapters expressed in the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPI), especially Chapter 5, “Sustainable development in a globalizing world. Characteristics; opportunities and challenges of globalization;” and Chapter 11, “Institutional framework for sustainable development.” Agreeing with A/C.2/64/L.25, Norway believes that “eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.” During 2012 alone, Norway allocated over \$4.7 billion USD for development in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) specified for efforts in climate change, renewable energy and agriculture to be intensified. Domestically, Norway has begun to pursue a three-pronged strategy to achieve these targets. Firstly, Norway is working toward a more ambitious international climate agreement. Secondly, Norway contributes to the push for emission reductions in developing countries and in rapidly growing economies such as China and India. Finally, Norway intensified efforts to reduce emissions domestically bringing Norway onto a path toward a low carbon society. In an effort to multilaterally control the impact climate change has on sustainable development, the Kingdom of Norway **suggests** strengthening commitments to the Kyoto protocols by ten percentage points, corresponding to nine percent below the 1990 level. Norway **recommends** the creation of economic instruments which will set a price on carbon and thus encourage the implementation of additional policy instruments. Norway **advocates** that other countries follow domestic intentions to cut global emissions equivalent to 100 percent of their own emissions prior to 2030, thus becoming carbon neutral nations.

II. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development

Recognizing that the implementation of information and communication technologies (ICT) in member states drastically increases the means and opportunities for the development of infrastructure, education, information sharing, and connections within both domestic and multilateral communities, Norway feels strongly that ICTs are a necessary and positive step toward the eradication of poverty in agreement with MDG 8. Norway also sees technology as the driving force for development and sustainability, especially with regard to gender equality. Having one of the most advanced telecommunications networks in Europe coupled with the use of a domestic satellite system, Norway encourages the wide use of mobile-cellular systems, especially in rural areas. Due to great strides made by Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg to create a sense of interconnectedness within the highly nationalistic community of Norway, nearly 75% of all Norwegian households now have access to multi-channel cable or satellite television while nearly 4.5 million citizens regularly access the Internet. The Norwegian Post and

Telecommunications Authority (NPT), which has become increasingly important with the development of globalization and aims to increase global population development, has been sanctioned under the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization as well as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). Norway reinforces sentiments within A/CONF.216/16 which “recognize the importance of staying international, regional, and national capacities in research and technology assessment, especially in view of the rapid development and possible deployment of new technologies that may also have unintended negative impacts.” Furthermore, the Kingdom of Norway would like to highlight Chapter 10 of the JPI, “Means of implementation (trade; finance; technology transfer; role of the scientific community; education; capacity building; and information for decision making).” Noting that there is a growing push internationally for women to be more involved in the ICT sector, Norway stresses the importance of steps already taken domestically to include ICTs and other educational technologies in talks of gender equality policies. Norway feels strongly that “full access to ICTs would allow developing countries to participate actively in the global economy and harness the benefits of globalization,” as suggested within the 67th meeting of the General Assembly Second Committee during November of 2012. As a longstanding member of the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), Norway seeks to ensure public satellite safety and secure communication services as laid out by provisions under the IMSO Convention. Bearing in mind Norway’s intrinsic, although non-traditional, ties with the European Union (EU), Norway is obliged to conform to EU directives and standards regarding the implementation of information technology within protocols both domestically and abroad. In order to strengthen these facets of ICTs in the promotion of development, Norway **emphasizes** the importance of keeping up to date with international relations and **promotes** the expansion of Norwegian domestic policy regarding this topic for the betterment of multilateral communications. The Kingdom of Norway **encourages** increased contributions and cooperation from member states in the ICT sector through open partnerships, stable communication, and open-minded discussion. Norway **acknowledges** that it must be a responsibility of the international community to ensure that interconnection charges follow the principle of cost efficiency and transparent agreement.

III. A Fair Globalization for All: The Effect of Job Creation on Sustained, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth

Reiterating the important role the adherence to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) plays in the process of globalization, Norway strongly values its inclusion in the European Economic Area (EEA) along with Iceland, Liechtenstein, and the EU member states, which thus allows the Kingdom to participate in the EU’s Internal Market without being members of the EU. Norway emphasizes that this multilateral cooperation is exemplary of the agreements essential to globalization and equitable economic growth and praises the connections between states. Norway is the EU’s fifth largest trading partner—larger than both India and Japan—and seeks to maintain and improve these ties. Norway’s Labor and Welfare Service (NAV) reported that more than 70,000 new jobs were created during 2011-12, and more than 20,000 of these were in the fields of trade and tourism. Norway shares sentiments echoed by Anne Miroux, Director of Technology and Logistics Division at the UN Conference on Trade and Development: “The global economic crisis provide(s) a unique opportunity...to gain momentum and build consensus in order to mobilize resources and break down barriers to innovation. However, that (will) only be possible if the international community move(s) forward in a sustainable and equitable way.” Norway boasts an unemployment rate of merely 3.1%, a significant and steady decline since 2007. This is attributable to Norway’s steadfast commitment to education, funded by 6.8% of Norway’s annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and resulting in a 100% literacy rate. In full support of Article 23 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which makes clear that everyone has the right to work, Norway is proud to share that nearly 80% of female citizens are active in the work force. Norway’s pledge to obtaining a market economy with a strong social welfare policy, the tripartite cooperation in working life, its social and geographical distribution policy, good public welfare schemes, gender equality and broad popular participation in civil society, i.e. what is known as the Nordic model, is of interest to China, and Norway is hopeful that this example will be useful to other member states as well. Norway’s Minister for International Development, Heikki Holmås, highlighted this precedent during the High-Level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council during July of 2012: “We must insist on upholding standards and rights and on improving them whenever possible. They must guide us as we develop policies to boost output, create good jobs and share the profits in a fair way.” Norway **stresses** the impact made by the methods of communication and social inclusion in the growth of the Norwegian job market and **urges** member states to echo this achievement. The Kingdom of Norway **iterates** the importance of gender equality and strong social welfare policies in the long-term success of equitable economic growth. Furthermore, Norway **calls upon** the international community to deepen multilateral cooperation and agreements in order to attain a truly fair, globalized, and sustainably developed job market.