



Commission on Sustainable Development  
Nineteenth session

02 May 2011

Opening statement

H.E. Ms. Tine Mørch Smith  
Ambassador  
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Mr. Chairman,

Norway sees the draft negotiation document as a good basis for our deliberations in the coming days. I would like to focus my intervention on two main points that Norway considers particularly important.

First: Nearly 20 years after Rio we still face the challenge of integrating the three pillars of sustainable development. As we see it, there are no alternatives to a greener growth and development. We must find practical and concrete approaches to achieve this.

Sustainable Consumption and Production is about the decoupling of growth and environmental degradation, and in our view constitutes one of the building blocks of a greener development. With an agreement on a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, CSD19 will have identified a truly useful path to Rio 2012 and beyond. We envision the 10 Year Framework of Programmes as a flexible body of knowledge available for governments and non-government actors to draw from in their specific national setting.

Second: I want to point to the need to see ongoing international processes in connection with each other. Many of the topics we are going to discuss these two weeks are also subject to discussions in other fora.

If we are to achieve sustainable development, we need to strengthen the synergies between different instruments and use existing structures. In Rio we will discuss the institutional framework for sustainable development. In our discussions here, I urge us to focus on how to exploit these existing structures and funding mechanisms, rather than creating new ones. Using

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existing structures in a cost-efficient manner will free resources for implementation.

For a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production we believe UNEP would be the best to take the lead in the follow-up. By drawing on the knowledge and experience from a range of relevant fora, I believe that the international community can move forward faster and more effectively towards real sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.