

CSD 18 – NORWAY – Cross-cutting issues:

Although the CSD 18 deals with quite different sectors, none of them operate in a vacuum. We would like to highlight two key cross-cutting dimensions within the overall framework for sustainable development.

Governance

- First, sustainability in the mining and transport sector as well as in chemical and waste management is dependent on well enforced laws, well functioning local and national government structures and a public financial management system that generates revenues and taxes. In short, good governance.
- Transparency in the management of national and external financial resources is crucial. Transparency is for example the only way to end the culture of secrecy that surrounds the mining industry.
- Fighting corruption, tax havens and illegal capital flows are important prerequisites for sustainable development. If the world's poorest countries were allowed to keep all the funds that today disappear in corruption and embezzlement, they would be in a much better position to manage their own future.

Gender

Second, the gender dimension runs through all the themes of CSD 18.

- Changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption will not be possible without the empowerment and active participation of women.
- Unsustainable management of chemicals, waste and mining all have negative impacts on the health and welfare of women and children. Women's rights and opportunities must be safeguarded, and they should be empowered to play a more significant role in management and decision-making processes governing these sectors.
- The Norwegian experience shows that active government intervention - through laws and regulations as well as financial incentives - is required to make this happen.

Thank you