

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

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Africa

In spite of recent economic growth in many countries in Africa, poverty continues to be Africa's overwhelming sustainable development challenge.

Most of the poor people in Africa depend on the agricultural sector. Yet, the majority of the rural population lives in the informal sector. We have heard numerous times this week that secure tenure is necessary for people to empower themselves and we would underline that this is vital to ensure people's right to food. Norway would like to highlight the three main pillars in the guidelines for tenure adapted by the Economic Commission for Africa in September 2008:

- Equitable access to land
- Improved governance in the land sector and
- Reduction of land related conflicts

These guidelines, if applied by African governments, will promote sustainable development and may help lift their rural population out of poverty. Empowerment of women will be crucial for this to succeed.

Climate change is another threat to sustainable development in marginalised areas of Africa. Financing for adaptation must go beyond regular ODA. The huge costs require new funding mechanisms. Norway has proposed international auctioning of emission allowances to substantially increase financing for i.a. adaptation in developing countries. Auctioning 2 % of international allowances may generate an annual income of USD15-25 billion, providing a substantial share of the amount needed for adaptation in developing countries.

The potential of economic growth in Africa is closely linked to natural resources, including agriculture. To ensure pro-poor growth, transparency of revenues must be strengthened to ensure that population at large benefits. In this respect, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and other related sources could be crucial entry points of technical advice for African Governments.