

Intervention by Norway, IPM 280207

Air Pollution

Mr. Chairman,

- The same measures that will give us more efficient use of energy will also be the measures we must take to avoid air pollution.
- The consequence of the comprehensive policy recommendations presented by the G77 and the EU is that we should learn from successful measures taken all over the world. In this regard, strong, enforced standards for transport and buildings, together with better use of traditional fuels, must be at the top of the list. Also, better land use planning, and – as mentioned by the G77 – traffic management are key long-term measures. We also believe that the polluter pays principle should lead to taxes on emissions. In our view, this should be part of our policy package coming out of CSD15.
- A global effort is needed to reduce air pollution, and more attention should be given to long-range transboundary air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution caused by international shipping and aviation. We believe that it is important to contribute to the reduction of NO_x-emissions from shipping and aviation through fuel standards, technological (end-of-pipe) measures and fuel switching. We support increased efforts to pursue limitation or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).
- Norway would also consider regional abatement measures, including measures concerning long-range transport, to effectively reduce particulate matter pollution.
- The World Health Organization has estimated that 2.5 million people die prematurely due to air pollution every year. In developing countries more than 1.5 million people – mainly children and women – die prematurely every year due to indoor air pollution from low-quality fuel and poor combustion technology. Developing countries, particularly the small island developing states and least developed countries, are especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of health problems and crop damage from air pollution. The negative health impact of ambient air pollution is also substantial in transition and advanced economies.
- It is important to promote the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies in order to reduce indoor air pollution, and to enhance knowledge of the health effects of such pollution. It is also important to promote access to clean and sustainable sources of energy, particularly for the poorest part of the population.
- Norway echoes the statement made by Pakistan and the G77 on the need for supporting regional agreements for improved air quality. We would therefore suggest to explore the possibilities that the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) could include non-ECE regions and countries. This would facilitate sharing of experiences and contribute to the wider cooperation on air pollution issues.

- Norway would also contribute to the global efforts on air pollution abatement through a strong commitment to include the EECCA-countries in cooperation on science, monitoring and policy development.

Thank you.