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Speech by  
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***Excellences, ladies and gentlemen***

The 2030 Agenda brings the world together in an unprecedented manner. It represents a global consensus on how to address the plea of the poor and marginalized. It calls for new and strategic partnerships.

Norway regards the 2030 Agenda with its Sustainable Development Goals as a transformative roadmap for elimination of global poverty. The commitment to “leave no one behind” goes to the core of our humanity – our willingness and ability to fight for equality in rights and dignity for all. Success will hinge on a consistent and accountable follow up by all of us. The 2030 Agenda commits Governments to act immediately and without discrimination.

To strengthen our resolve for action, Her Excellency Prime Minister Solberg is co-chairing the UN Secretary General’ Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group with His Excellency President Mahama of Ghana. In this capacity, the Prime Minister underlines the universality and inclusive nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The situation speaks loudly about a planet in need of healing, in all its aspects.

The Millennium Development Goals taught us that through coordinated action, negative development trends can be curbed. And still, the world is experiencing great vulnerability. Protectionism, international

terrorism, the refugee situation and an accelerating climate change are more aggravated than for decades.

Indeed, the world is less predictable, economic growth has slowed down and instability and conflicts are rampant in parts of the world. The situation worsens the predicament of the poor and marginalized. Hence, we have reason to haste in our joint realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

*Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,*

Allow me to use this occasion to underline the significance of SDG 9 - addressing infrastructure, and our commitment to see the SDGs as an integral set of complimentary goals.

Achieving the SDGs will hinge on our support to policies promoting good governance. That calls for strong national, regional and global leadership. SDG 9 offers no exception: Infrastructure investments are like oil in any society. Whether it goes to roads, renewable energy and transmission lines, institutions of learning and research, or to the benefit of the private sector.

*Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,*

Poverty is avoidable. It is unacceptable that around 800 million people still live beyond the poverty line – and many more millions just above it! In our globalized world, such predicament should be unbearable to all of us.

Hence, the 2030 Agenda is not about charity, it is about necessary and sustainable change.

From our point of view this is the beauty of the 2030 Agenda: The SDGs is a set of goals that mutually reinforce each other.

From our side, promoting the comprehensive nature of the 2030 Agenda, holds the key to the sustainable development future we all want.

On a final note: I look forward to attending the visit tomorrow to the new railway to Afghanistan - a clear and tangible result of Turkmenistan's ambitions to contribute to regional connectivity.