

**Statement by**

**Mr. Erik Solheim  
Minister of International Development**

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**”The Way Forward”**

- Energy is a prerequisite for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Energy is directly linked to climate change. Energy is pivotal to economic growth. Energy is therefore a priority in Norwegian development cooperation.
  
- We approach it from the perspective of our comparative advantages and where we can make a difference. We have responded to increased demand from our partner countries for the competence and experience we have in the energy sector.
  
- Norway is the third largest exporter of oil in the world. Our national welfare is largely based on energy – first on hydro power, and from the 1960s on petroleum. At the same time we are truly committed to the environmental cause, and need to take a double approach:
  - We are investing in environmentally friendly technology and provide economic incentives to promote solutions to environmental challenges related to energy services.
  
  - We must acknowledge that fossil fuels will be a main energy source in the foreseeable future. We therefore actively promote transparency in

extractive industries, good governance, sound revenue management and further development of clean technologies, as well as focusing on environment and safety in the petroleum industry. We must ensure that revenue from the petroleum sector is transformed into welfare for the people and the whole society.

- Last year we launched the initiative “Oil for Development” through which we provide support on good governance in resource management, taxation and financial management, transparency and anti-corruption activities and environmental protection and safety.
- Similarly we are developing an initiative for hydro power. We are scaling up our financial assistance in this field and investment projects are now being made in consultation with our partner countries.
- The energy sector is dominated by men. This is a paradox as lack of energy services affect women more. Improving access to energy services can make an important contribution to the goal of gender equality and empowerment of women.
- Lastly, we hope that the shared analysis and many good examples that have come out from the CSD 14 will enable us to make wise and efficient recommendations at the CSD 15. Norway is committed to seeing this through and work together with all parties to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.