

## Norway

Mr. chairman, Norway wants to emphasize the positive role of corporate social and environmental responsibility.

Industry is an essential part of society, and an essential part of the efforts to make development sustainable. In the view of Norway, guidelines such as those agreed in OECD as well as reports following GRI recommendations are good for society and good for business.

Customers, owners, employees and the broader public expect companies to create value, ethical, social and environmental performance is part of the expectations. Like EU, Mexico and others, we underline the need to enforce the ILO core labour standards. Industry can help make this and other basic obligations effective.

This is in the interest of companies themselves. It is easy for a company to lose goodwill and markets, difficult to regain trust. However, CSR is *not* just about avoiding negatives. In the field of environment, Norway's cooperation on cleaner production with Poland, Russia, UNEP and UNIDO has shown that efforts on resource management and quality control makes for better economic management and results.

In a month's time, March 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, the Norwegian government will arrange a conference on CSR in Oslo. You are all welcome to participate, but we will also be bringing its conclusions to the CSDs session in May.

Norway hopes that CSD-15 at least will recommend

- that more countries and firms adopt international corporate social responsibility and accountability norms in keeping with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises,
- that corporate social responsibility and accountability be an integrated part of national strategies for private-sector development
- using the reporting framework drawn up by the Global Reporting Initiative

With regard to more sustainable production and consumption, we are pleased that the Marrakech process on sustainable production and consumption is making good progress.

In line with the views of the US we agree that it provides a forum for countries to learn, replicate and scale up successful projects. We would add that it also provides a forum for improving policies. One example is the G77 proposal that one should build on local cultural values to change consumer behaviour towards more sustainable lifestyles. Indeed, we look forward to the "Marrakech" review meeting in Sweden later this year..

Thank you, Mr. Chairman