

Norway's Statement to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

***Thursday 12.07.18 11am, NYC, Plenary Session on Major Groups and Other Stakeholders.
Delivered by: Borghild Tønnessen-Krokan, Forum for Development and Environment***

Chair, Norway welcomes contributions from civil society. To reach the SDGs, we must cooperate. Both between and within countries.

Therefore, the Norwegian delegation includes representatives from ministries, business, trade unions, academics, statisticians, youth organizations and civil society. I represent an NGO that both collaborates with our government and seek to hold it to account.

A vibrant democracy needs impulses from its citizens, arenas outside government, market and family, to build trust and open, inclusive and resilient societies.

Civil society is often closer to the vulnerable, but it is also under pressure. Attacks against freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression increase, varying from legal restrictions and violence to subtler forms of intimidation.

Standing up to governments, companies and extremists sometimes takes courage. It can be dangerous. Last year, 197 environmental defenders were killed.

Without brave citizens that come together for a better world, to ensure human rights and planetary boundaries are respected, we will not reach the Sustainable Development Goals. So let's join forces. None of us can succeed alone. Thank you.

Norway's Statement to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Friday 13.07.18 11am HLPF, NYC, Plenary Session on SDG 15 Life on land.

Delivered by: Borghild Tønnessen-Krokan, Forum for Development and Environment

Chair, reducing, halting and reversing tropical deforestation by 2030 is a priority for Norway. It is not only possible, but also *necessary* to achieve this, and to produce enough food, energy and welfare for a growing global population.

To succeed, we need leadership and innovative solutions from member states, the private sector, indigenous peoples and civil society. Important initiatives include the Food and Land Use Coalition and the New York Declaration on Forests.

To stop deforestation, companies need increased transparency and accountability in their supply chains.

We also need strong public policies: Regulations, enforcement and incentives. A large part of the solution lies in providing protected status or tenure rights to forests without formal land use category. We must continue to work with tropical forest governments to support indigenous peoples: Evidence shows that indigenous lands suffer less deforestation.

Stopping deforestation is key to limiting further climate change and biodiversity loss, also a huge global challenge in and of itself, and so to achieving the SDGs more generally. Forests are critical to life on earth, so we must take care of them. Thank you.