



To: Minister of Climate and Environment Tine Sundtoft  
Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment  
Postboks 8013 Dep 0030 Oslo

Copy: Guri Sandborg, Deputy Director

Oslo, 27th October 2015

## **Nordic Meeting: CSOs call for action to reach Sustainable Development Goals**

Dear Minister of Climate and Environment Tine Sundtoft,

On Wednesday 28th October 2015, the Nordic Environmental Ministers gather in Reykjavik to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among other issues.

Together with civil society platforms in other Nordic countries, the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment, a network of 50 Norwegian NGOs, congratulates you with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals last month, to be reached by 2030.

The SDGs will serve as the launch pad for action to promote shared prosperity for all over the next 15 years, while protecting the environment and combating climate change.

Achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental - is the overarching goal. While Nordic countries have a high score on human development (economic and social), our activities have a high environmental cost. This includes, but is not limited to, goal 12 ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, and goal 13 taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, which is closely linked to a successful outcome at COP 21 in Paris this year. This is essential for avoiding climate change to disrupt national economies and affecting lives and livelihoods.

Also, Norway must help achieve the other SDGs including goal 7 ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; goal 14 conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources; and goal 15 sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss.

Forum for Development and Environment call on the Norwegian and other Nordic Ministers of Environment to consider the following recommendations for implementation:

- **Prioritise People and Planet:** We urge Norway and other Nordic countries to **lead the way** in taking urgent action to put itself on a low carbon development trajectory, and **in the ongoing climate negotiations**, both in the run-up to COP21, in Paris, and in the coming years.

- Nordic countries have a unique possibility to be **leading in the issue of climate finance**, both through increasing contributions to the Green Climate Fund and other climate finance channels in the pre-2020 period, and through providing assurances for increasing climate finance in the post-2020 period.
- Nordic countries in the EU climate regime should coordinate efforts to lead the **phasing out of fossil fuels**, reduction of fossil fuel subsidies, and construction of low carbon transport systems.
- The integrated Nordic energy market should be used as a tool for rapid expansion of **renewable energy** production and distribution within and among Nordic countries
- Nordic countries should maintain a strong collaboration for a sustainable management of their **shared marine resources**.
- Nordic countries should formulate **national action plans** for the SDGs involving all sectors, and consider synergies of **joint Nordic plans** for implementation of SDGs
- **Transparency and accountability**: Nordic countries should provide **national and Nordic annual reports** on implementation of all 17 goals. The reports, with disaggregated data, should be accessible to the public
- **Civil society and other stakeholders** should be included in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Governments must ensure national **policies are coherent** and cross-sectoral. The goals can only be reached if policies within and between the different ministries and governments **pull in the same direction**, without undermining each other.
- Enable **financing** to reach the national goals and contribute to developing countries reaching the goals through sustainable investments, trade, aid, tax policies, climate finance and by stopping illicit financial flows.

The Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment is ready to contribute to implementation of the goals. We wish you a successful meeting.

Yours sincerely,

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Director

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