

**National Focal Points Meeting
On Improving Future Reporting to the CSD
New York, 13-14 September 2001**

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First Secretary
Mission of Norway**

1. We strongly support the need for international monitoring both of the state of the environment and of the policies that countries pursue. We also acknowledge the need that many conventions have for more specialized information.

The reporting processes to various conventions and international bodies in the environment field is, however, becoming quite time consuming due to the increasing number of agreements, protocols and processes.

We run the risk that the result of this will not be that more information becomes available, but that the reporting will be taken less seriously while at the same time diverting resources away from solving the problems.

It is already apparent that reporting to some conventions does not arrive on time and we feel that the time has come to reform the information gathering process.

2. UNEP is already in charge of collecting all necessary information on the environment. We feel that there is potential for improving the coordination of the data gathering of different convention secretariats.

UNs statistical offices collect information relevant to other aspects of sustainable development. Information from them, combined with possible additional facts from the OECD secretariat and the European Environment Agency might go a long way towards fulfilling the needs of CSD without national governments needing to supply the same data to several offices.

3. As far as Norway is concerned, the State Pollution Control Authority we make all our environmental data available to the EEA and publishes it on the internet at www.miljo.no. Other statistics is available on line immediately after publication at statistics norway www.ssb.no. Natural resource statistics and analysis is published annually by statistics norway.

Government policy is published in papers to parliament. Internationally relevant documents have a translation in english and all versions are available immediately after publication at www.dep.no.

4. The ministries and agencies involved are coordinated through the normal process of government and all documents are approved by the relevant bodies. Scientific information on the state of the environment comes directly from the agencies and institutes concerned and are not subject to any decisions by government.

Policies with regard to CSD and WSSD are set by an interministerial

committee led by the Ministry of foreign affairs while the contact with the federations of local authorities, industry, labour, the research council and NGOs go through the National committee for international environmental issues, "NIM" which is led by the minister of Environment. The reports requested by the CSD are not discussed by these bodies, but regarded as a purely administrative and scientific matter.