

The Norwegian input to the SG study on "the available assistance to and measures that may be taken by developing states, as well as coastal African States, to realize the benefits of sustainable effective development of marine resources and uses of the oceans within the limits of national jurisdiction".

General

Marine resources are important sources of food and income, and thus, marine resources are important to development. Therefore the marine sector is a priority for Norwegian development cooperation. It is important for Norway to try to help developing countries to sustainably utilize their marine resources in conformity with their rights and obligations under the Law of the Sea.

Assistance related to marine fisheries management for sustainable development.

Through support to developing countries in environment and natural resources management, and support to follow up of international conventions and agreements of relevance to the management of marine fisheries resources, Norway tries to assist partner countries in developing their capacity and competence in managing their marine resources.

Norwegian *bilateral* development cooperation in the area of marine fisheries resources management benefits countries in Africa, Asia, and Central America. Institutional cooperation between sister institutions in Norway and the cooperating country is an often used method for technical assistance and capacity building, in addition to university education. The cooperation is based on specific requests from the partner countries and a dialogue between Norway and the country in question. Funding is provided by Norwegian Embassies and the Norwegian Directorate for Development Cooperation - NORAD. Such cooperation may also include support to participation in important international meetings, including UN meetings, where maritime issues are discussed and normative measures are decided.

Norwegian *multilateral support* is mainly directed through the FAO, i.a. for the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in FAO member countries in the developing world. Norway supports African countries through the new FAO programme on ecosystem based marine fisheries management, making use of the Norwegian owned fisheries research vessel "Dr. Fridtjof Nansen", technical assistance and capacity building. Norway also supports the UN trust fund set up for capacity building and technical assistance in relation to the implementation of the UN Fish Stock Agreement.

Through international NGOs, specifically IUCN, WWF and ICSF (International Collective in Support of Fish workers), Norway supports the civil society and communities in participating in, and influencing, both national and the international fisheries management regime.

The Norwegian Oil for Development Initiative

Petroleum plays an important role in an increasing number of developing countries. It has, however, in many cases proved difficult to translate petroleum resources into improved welfare for the inhabitants. As a result, many developing countries score conspicuously low on international development performance indices.

The Norwegian Oil for Development initiative aims at assisting countries in their efforts to overcome these challenges. Several decades of oil and gas experience have given Norway wide expertise in the field of petroleum sector management. Drawing on this experience, Norway has provided assistance to the oil sector in developing countries since the early 1980s. Norway cooperates with a large number of countries covering capacity building in areas such as legal frameworks, administration and supervision mechanisms, licensing and tendering processes, organisation of public-private interfaces, local content and industrial development, environmental challenges and revenue management issues, including taxation and petroleum funds.

Requests for Oil for Development assistance are normally channelled through the Norwegian embassies, and embassy staff generally appraise proposals for cooperation. Support is provided to governments and government agencies in countries of cooperation. Implementing agencies include the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, Petrad (International programme for petroleum management and administration), the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT) and other governmental agencies, as well as research institutions and consultancies.

Oil for Development builds on three main thematic pillars: resource management, revenue management and environmental protection. Good governance, transparency and accountability are important crosscutting dimensions. The Oil for Development initiative does not seek to export a single solution for sound petroleum governance. Different countries face different challenges, and accordingly their design and execution of policies will differ. The content and approaches of programmes provided to partner countries differ and are tailor-made to domestic circumstances and demands. However, some elements are recurrent. This is the case for capacity building to strengthen relevant government agencies and educational/training programmes to strengthen the local work force. The challenges of good governance will be integrated in all major programmes. Norway supports the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and has also been a main driver behind global efforts to manage gas flaring. These will continue to be significant priority areas.