

Klimakonferansen i Doha, Norges innlegg på ministersekvensen

Onsdag 5. desember 2012

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Urgency is the word.

We share a feeling of urgency,

because scientific reports give evidence that climate change is happening – even faster than we thought possible,

because the cost of impact from climate change adds to the burden of the poor,

because natural habitats and natural species will disappear forever.

Climate change is not a future scenario, it can be seen in the Arctic every day. This year the summer sea-ice set a new minimum record. Its extent was 50 % lower than the long term normal for 1979-2000. Changing weather patterns in the northern hemisphere, are increasingly connected to the warming Arctic, and the melting sea-ice.

There is no escape from the effects of global warming. Norwegians must get used to wet summers and stronger winter storms. These days, the Norwegian government is preparing a white paper to the Parliament about our national adaptation strategy.

The decision we took in Durban last year was based on the recognition that the world urgently needs to strengthen the multilateral, rules-based regime under the Convention. To Norway, this issue is of the highest priority. We need to agree on a strong, legally binding global agreement applicable to all in 2015.

But we also urgently need action.

According to the UNEP Emissions gap report, timely launched before the Doha conference, a gap is expected in 2020. A gap between emission levels consistent with a two degrees limit, and those resulting from the Copenhagen Accord pledges. The decision to launch a workplan on enhancing mitigation action, that can close the ambition gap before 2020, was part of the balanced package in Durban. To achieve this, we need to have what in Norway is called a dugnad. A dugnad is when a community makes a joint effort to do a job which needs to be done, which is in everyone`s interest, and which can only be done when a large group cooperates. And what every individual does, counts. Dugnads are done all the time in Norway.

Now we need an international climate dugnad. We should individually strive to increase our ambitions. In addition, we should collectively seek to promote international action and cooperation in areas where substantial mitigation potential exist. Norway would like to see progress on REDD+, HFC, Black carbon and fossil fuel subsidies.

The energy sector is key.

Norway is a major oil and gas exporting country. In the World Energy Outlook for 2012 the International Energy Agency stated that no more than one third of proven reserves of fossil fuels can be consumed prior to 2050, if the world is to achieve the 2 degrees Celsius goal, Unless the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology is widely deployed. Environmental organizations argue that we should leave parts of our resources in the continental shelf.

This is a global dilemma: The world is heavily dependent on fossil fuels, but the business as usual scenario is not a sustainable one.

A dugnad is also about collectively mobilizing resources. Norway`s financing of climate related projects and programs in developing countries, have increased significantly over the past years. The largest share of our climate finance has gone to REDD +. But we have also increased financing in other areas, such as energy, and adaptation to climate change.

We will continue providing such support after 2012. Indeed, Norway`s financial support for REDD+ will for the first time reach USD 500 million annually in 2013. Marking a 15 per cent increase compared to 2012 funding levels. Over the last eight years, Norway has more than tripled the contribution to sustainable energy in our development cooperation. Next year around USD 355 million will be spent to increase access to modern energy services in developing countries - primarily through renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Reporting on fast-start finance so far, indicates that developed countries have provided climate financing at a level that has surpassed the fast-start commitment. That is good news indeed. Still, there is no doubt that climate finance will have to be scaled up, in order to reach the 2020 target of 100 billion US dollars yearly. This will require us to step up our joint efforts. Public finance remains important. But we need progress in the mobilization of resources from a wide variety of sources of finance.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Durban deal gave reason to hope that the UN process can deliver, and that we can move forward together. The combat against climate change has a vast amount of resources, talent, creativity and initiatives at its disposal. National policies are being developed and implemented. More than 90 countries have put forward pledges under the Convention to take measures against climate change. This is good news.

But we all need to do more, much more. Here in Doha, Norway is ready to take on a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. But the second commitment period will only cover around 14 per cent of global emissions. In order to deliver a truly global response to the challenge we face, we need a broad and strong legal instrument, applicable to all. Norway believes that such an agreement will be an important tool, to enhance ambition, mobilize resources, and support long-term low-carbon development.

We know time is not on our side.

Urgency must be the word for COP 18 in Doha.

Thank you