

NORWAY

Session 1: The Convention after 10 years: accomplishments and future challenges

(2 minutters innlegg hvis Norge får ordet. Kan eventuelt brukes også i sesjon 2.)

- Last week the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. Wangari Maathai of Kenya. This was the first time that the Nobel Peace Prize Committee recognised environment and sustainable development as factors of peace. For me the Peace Prize is yet another reason why we must be successful on the environmental challenges. Dr. Maathai was celebrated for her local-level initiative involving poor women. Let us show Dr. Maathai and her grass root followers that "men -and women- in suits" are equally committed to taking ~~MADAM~~ action for a better future.

THANK YOU ^{MADAM CHAIR} ~~CHAIR~~, DEAR FRIENDS

LET ME START
WITH SAYING -

- There is no excuse for non-action. We know that the earth's climate is changing. The global temperature is rising at an alarming rate. People look to us for a forceful political response to the climate challenge.

~~OVER A DOZ MONTHS A GO~~ ^{THE} ~~WE WERE GIVEN A PRESENTATION~~

- The effects of climate changes are particularly dramatic in the Arctic. The Arctic average temperature has already risen at almost twice the rate of the rest of the world in the past few decades. The ~~alarm~~ ^{THE REPORT} ~~scientific results~~ of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) show that winter temperatures in some Arctic areas have increased by 3 to 4 degrees Celsius over the last 50 years.

- WAS PUBLISHED

Widespread melting of glaciers, sea ice and permafrost present additional evidence of strong Arctic warming. In summer, the permanent ice sheet may be gone by the end of the century. ~~An acceleration of these climatic trends will occur during this century.~~

- Many scientists now warn that a changing ice cover in the Arctic will affect the global climate. The clear message is that changes in the Arctic will have consequences for the whole world.
- The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol is the best way to celebrate the first ten years of the Climate Convention. But the Kyoto Protocol is just a start. The present commitments are very far from bringing the situation under control. We must agree to more ambitious commitments. Industrialised countries have caused most of the problem until now. We - the developed countries -

therefore have more than a moral duty to lead the way in curbing emissions. Most of us will do that through the Kyoto Protocol.

• VAN GEL:

- Norway has noted with interest the proposal by the EU to establish long-term goals to limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees. We consider the EU proposal to be a constructive input to our development of a future climate regime. Norway is therefore interested in working together with the EU and others on this important issue.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ~~HOW~~ IS THAT

- We need further action beyond 2012, and we need to discuss this under the Climate Convention. The IPCC has told us that we need to cut emissions by more than half to stabilise the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at present level. The Kyoto Protocol is only a first step towards achieving the ultimate objective of the Climate Convention. Our response must cover more of the global emissions. We need the broadest possible participation from all countries. ~~We also need to strengthen our cooperation on adaptation to climate change.~~
- Poor people who depend on nature for their survival are typically the first victims of higher temperatures and its effects on land and water. Drought, desertification, floods and sea level rise threatens millions of people. ~~This brings me back to the links between environment, development and peace.~~ It reminds me of a quote from former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix, where he states that he sees global warming as a larger threat than military conflict.

MADAME CHAIR,

- We live in a climate experiment of our own making. We have not seen the most dramatic results yet. But our children and our grandchildren will. Our actions will be judged by history: We may not be able to dramatically change our course overnight. But we can set our feet on the right path for tomorrow.

Session 3: Technology and climate change (*Norway introductory speaker 5 minutes*)

Dear friends,

Last week the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. Wangari Maathai of Kenya. This was the first time that the Nobel Peace Prize Committee recognised the role of environment and sustainable development in the struggle for peace. For me the Peace Prize is yet another reason why we must successfully combat climate change.

It is important that we use the knowledge and resources at our disposal to develop and apply technological solutions at reasonable costs.

Technology must be a part of any long-term solution to manmade climate change. It does not have to be a matter of reinventing the wheel. If today's most efficient technologies were put to full use, this would already represent a giant leap forward in terms of reducing emissions.

It is a matter of taking both small and large steps in the right directions.

Everything that we consume requires energy. From our houses and all the things that we fill our houses with, to the cars that we drive, the clothes that we wear and the food that we eat. Energy makes everyday life (too) simple for some of us. For too many others, the lack of access to energy makes life very complicated. Our global and local energy choices have a strong impact on both nature and human health.

We must increase the global share of renewable energy. There is more than enough energy from the sun, wind, waterfalls, waves and biomass to meet the needs of the world.

Small-scale improvements can make a big difference. Even if we do well on renewables- which we must do- a large share of future energy supply will still come from fossil fuels. It is therefore vital that we continue to look for ways of decreasing emissions from fossil fuels.

Norwegian industry has several years of experience with technologies to capture and store carbon. Since 1996, 1 million tonnes of CO₂ have been stored annually from the offshore gas field Sleipner West. This single project equals two per cent of our national emissions.

Other countries have similar storage projects in the pipeline. We need to learn more about this. It is actually fully possible to store all the CO2 emitted from Europe in oil wells and aquifers in the North Sea.

Dear friends,

Technology initiatives are essential, but can never replace agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol. We must create an international climate regime post 2012 that stimulates new and better solutions- also in terms of best technologies in both rich and poor countries.

As rich countries, we must take a lead to ensure a transfer of technologies so that all countries can benefit from their use.

The good news is that we already have a lot of the technological solutions for the next decades. The challenge is to make them more competitive and to make sure that they are put to good use.

At the same time, we must remember that technology is only a means and not an aim in itself. Investments in technology are therefore not enough. We also have to be willing to take a hard look at our lifestyles and to make our consumption patterns more sustainable in the long run.

For Wangari Maathai, tree planting to protect nature became her means fighting poverty and promoting peace. As government representatives and stakeholders on climate change, we must do our bit to make technology an important means of combatting climate change. I thank you for your attention.