

**Statement by the Norwegian Delegation on
Industrial Development
1. May 2007**

Mr Chairman,

Yesterday the Norwegian delegation reported on the outcome of the conference “*Partnerships for Sustainable Development: the Oslo conference on good governance, and social and environmental responsibility*” and presented some of the key elements in *the Oslo Agenda for Change*.

Chair; let me expand on some of the messages included in the Oslo Agenda for Change:

In Norway’s view, CSD-15 should recommend that countries **adopt international corporate social responsibility norms** as expressed in multilateral initiatives, such as the principles of the UN Global Compact, and encourage regional adaptation of other types of intergovernmental initiatives, such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

The industrialised countries should provide technical, administrative and financial assistance for the establishment of such initiatives. Guidelines and principles for CSR should be integrated into national development plans, economic growth and industrial development. All countries should encourage the business sector to take greater responsibility for its economic, social and environmental impacts and to accept monitoring of their efforts and performance. The Global Reporting Initiative will become an important tool for more sustainable operation, purchasing and investment as it is further developed.

We need to advance corporate responsibility by respecting human rights and decent work standards. The reference in the Chairman’ text on the International Labour Organization’s core labour standards should be strengthened. Governments should ratify the ILO core conventions and implement them. When government implementation fails, companies are encouraged to establish and implement corporate standards in line with the ILO core conventions.

CSR should be advanced through improving transparency and accountability. Hence good governance is crucial. Companies should ensure that international recognized standards on human rights, labour rights, corruption, and environment are implemented in the company and that implementation of such standards is demanded for suppliers.

And finally Chair, corporate responsibility needs to be advanced by environmentally and climate-change friendly practices. There is a need for a shift towards low carbon technologies, focusing on energy efficiency and renewable energy. This should not deprive developing countries of their prospects of economic growth. Business needs predictability to make the necessary investments to mitigate climate change. Technological leapfrogging and innovation should be stimulated and environmentally harmful and distorting subsidies should be eliminated globally.

Thank you.