

**CSD 14**  
**Statement by the Norwegian Delegation**  
**State Secretary Anita Utseth, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy**

**Addressing energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change in an integrated manner, focusing on inter-linkages and cross-cutting issues.**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Mr. Chair,

During this week we have discussed constraints and barriers for advancing implementation across the interlinked issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development and air pollution and climate change.

We have exchanged experiences and shared examples of measures that work and reflected on those that don't work. We know the facts, we know what the barriers are, we have the technology, and business is ready to contribute. We need to break through the public neglect of the importance of energy services to human development.

It is clear that energy services have an impact on all of the Millennium Development Goals. I would like to focus on two issues: the interlinkage between energy and health and between energy and gender.

**On health**

According to WHO the impact of indoor air pollution on morbidity and premature deaths of women and children is the number one public health issue in many developing countries. Every year, indoor air pollution from cooking with solid fuels is responsible for 1, 5 million deaths.

Practical solutions to the indoor smoke problem exist. Liquefied petroleum gas, biogas and other cleaner fuels represent healthy alternatives. Switching from a traditional stove to an improved stove substantially reduces indoor smoke. We welcome initiatives such as the PCIA by the US and others, including Germany's GTZ and the WHO.

**On gender**

Women and girls spend several hours' pr. day gathering firewood, fetching water and cooking. Many girls are withdrawn from school to attend to domestic chores. This has lifelong effects on their literacy and economic opportunities.

Improved household energy practices promote education, empower women and save the lives of children and their mothers. Household fuel policy is often fragmented and not seen as an integral part of energy. Gender and health aspects should be taken into account at an early stage in energy planning to meet the needs of women and children and other disadvantaged groups.

Mr. Chair,

Providing access to the poor to modern energy services for normal household use will have little impact on the global environment. Even if all 2 billion people that are without access to modern energy services today shift to LPG for household fuel, it would add less than 2 per cent to global green house gas emissions from fossil fuels.

As expressed by Professor Jeff Sachs, we can't solve the carbon crisis on the back of the poor. This problem rests with the developed world. Carbon capture and storage is important. A number of countries, producers and consumers, are working together to develop viable CCS technologies. Norway will continue her efforts in this field.

Energy is a priority area for Norwegian development cooperation and we are now scaling up our efforts. Last year Norway launched the Oil for Development Initiative. A similar initiative is now under way for the power sector focusing on renewable energy. This also includes support to multilateral programs and initiatives promoting energy for development.

Finally Mr. Chair, I would like to add that we are developing an action plan on how gender can be more effectively integrated into our development cooperation.

Thank you!