

**INPUT FROM NORWAY**

**TO THE**

**THEMATIC REPORT FOCUSING ON HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO  
GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

**FROM THE**

**SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Answers to questions in the Questionnaire:

1. *Please provide examples of ways in which climate change is already having adverse impacts on the human rights of people within your State. Adversely affected rights could include, among others, the rights to life, health, water, adequate sanitation, food, culture, housing, property, self-determination, non-discrimination, a healthy and sustainable environment, and Indigenous rights.*

Projections indicate a warming in all parts of Norway and during all seasons. The annual mean temperature for Norway is estimated to increase by 3.4 (2.3-4.6) °C up to the year 2100. The growing season is projected to increase over large parts of the country. Annual and seasonal precipitation is also projected to increase. The annual runoff from the Norwegian mainland is estimated to increase, but regional differences can be expected. The snow season is projected to become shorter, and rainfall floods can be expected to increase. Higher temperatures and somewhat lower precipitation during the summer season may lead to reduced streamflow and increased soil moisture deficit. This will result in more serious summer droughts, particularly in Southern Norway. Medium climate projections for the period 2071–2100 indicates that 90 per cent of all the glaciers in Norway may melt completely, and 30–40 per cent of the total glaciated area may be gone by the year 2100. Climate change will also affect the oceans along the Norwegian coast. Over the course of the 21st century, the surface temperature and the sea level is expected to rise, and ocean acidification is expected to accelerate.

Climate change has impact on terrestrial, marine and fresh water ecosystems and increases the overall strain on the environment. Effects on the ecosystems are already observed, such as earlier arrival of migrating birds, earlier budding and pollen production, and plant species expanding northwards. The environment is affected in various ways by human activities through land and resource utilisation, transport and pollution. These activities and climate change affect ecosystems separately and in combination, and in some cases they are mutually reinforcing.

Further information can be found in Chapters 4-6 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

2. Given that "urgent, effective and ambitious action" to ensure a safe climate is essential to protecting a wide range of human rights, what are the specific obligations of States and businesses in terms of addressing the main drivers of climate change (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, industrial agriculture)?

It is the state's duty to protect human rights, both by avoiding human rights abuses themselves and ensuring that human rights are respected by private parties under their jurisdiction. Protection of human rights is laid down in international agreements and customary international law, which is binding on states. Any violation of these rights by a state is considered to be a violation of international law. This requires taking appropriate steps to prevent, investigate, punish and redress such abuse through effective policies, legislation, regulations and adjudication.

Norway has policies, legislation and other measures in place that address climate change and the drivers behind it. An overview of these measures can be found in Chapter 1.3 of the Executive Summary of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

Norway also has set out clear expectations and in some cases requirements for the business sector in connection with all forms of state support or ownership. An overview of these expectations and how business enterprises should comply in practice with the expectations on respecting human rights, are set out in [Norway's National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles](#).

3. Please provide examples of good practices in preventing, reducing, or eliminating the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights. Specific examples could include legislation, regulations, standards, policies, investments, and programmes in relation to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation. These examples may occur at the international, national, sub-national, or local level. Examples could involve:

- research and monitoring;
- guaranteeing procedural rights (e.g. access to climate change information, public participation in decision-making about climate change, access to justice and remedies);
- eliminating subsidies for fossil fuel production and use;
- climate change legislation, regulations, standards, and policies;
- initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from specific sectors (e.g. electricity generation, industry, government, transportation, agriculture, waste management);
- laws, policies and programs to protect vulnerable populations from climate change;
- laws, policies, or programs to concurrently address climate change and air pollution (e.g. programs promoting clean fuels and stoves for cooking and heating); and
- effective enforcement of rules governing greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and industrial agriculture.

### *Climate change legislation, regulations, standards, and policies;*

Climate change and emissions of greenhouse gases have featured on the Norwegian policy agenda since the late 1980s. Today, Norway has a comprehensive set of measures covering almost all emissions of greenhouse gases as well as removals by sinks. An overview of these measures can be found in Chapter 1.3 of the Executive Summary of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#). More detailed descriptions of these measures can be found in Chapter 4 of the Communication. Some measures are highlighted and briefly described below.

In 2017 a new [Climate Change Act](#) was adopted. It establishes by law Norway's emission-reduction targets for 2030 and 2050. Norway's climate target for 2030 is to reduce emissions by at least 40 per cent from 1990 levels. The intention is to cooperate with the European Union to fulfil the target. In its political platform, the Norwegian Government has stated that it will reduce Norwegian emissions not covered by the EU Emission Trading System by at least 45 per cent compared to 2005 levels. The Government's ambition is for this reduction to take place through domestic reductions, and it will plan for this.

The Climate Change Act establishes target for Norway to become a low-emission society by 2050. The target is to achieve reductions of greenhouse gas emissions of the order of 80 to 95 per cent compared to 1990. In its political platform, the Government has stated that it wants to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 90 to 95 per cent compared to 1990.

New incentives have been put in place, including a strengthening of the Climate and Technology Fund and a ban on the use of mineral oil for heating of buildings from 2020. The Norwegian Government is promoting a green tax shift, an example of which is an exemption from import tax and VAT for buyers of plug-in electric cars. Increased levies on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions have been employed in combination with a reduction in taxes applicable to other sectors.

Another important measure is developing cost-effective technology for carbon capture and storage (CCS). Support is also provided to wetlands restoration schemes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from drained soils and to schemes that increase forest uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> by means such as fertilisation.

Under Norway's Climate Change Act, the Government shall submit to the Storting (Norway's parliament) updated information on progress towards climate targets and on Norwegian preparations and adaptations for climate change. In 2018 the knowledge base on climate change impacts in Norway was updated. According to the report, knowledge has been strengthened, but our understanding of climate change and effective adaptation practices needs improvement, as highlighted in the Government's Long-Term Plan for Research and Higher Education (2015–2024).

Norway also has domestic adaptation policies and strategies and legislation relevant to climate change adaptation. These are described in chapter 6.4 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

*Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from specific sectors (e.g. electricity generation, industry, government, transportation, agriculture, waste management);*

Policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from specific sectors and their effects are described in Chapter 4.3 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

In order to secure the resource base for the future and to preserve important environmental features and functions, sustainable resource management in agriculture is a basic prerequisite for policy development. Norway has implemented a range of measures aimed at reducing the emissions from agriculture, as well as managing the important public goods maintained by the sector, such as safe food, viable rural communities, cultural landscapes, outdoor recreation, nature and culture experiences and habitats needed to maintain biodiversity. Existing measures are both statutory and financial, in addition to those relating to information. An overview of measures is provided in Chapter 4.3.9 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

Norway has an active forest policy, which aims to increase the forest carbon stocks. The forest also represents an important source of renewable energy, and contributes to production of wooden materials that can replace materials with a stronger carbon footprint. The forest as a renewable resource is strengthened through research, value creation, and long term sustainable management of the forest. Regulations on sustainable forestry under the Forestry Act are Norway's key legislation for managing forest areas that do not have statutory protection. The Government considers that any intensification of forestry involving an increase in timber harvesting should be combined with stronger environmental measures. Norway's policy and measures concerning land use, land use change and forestry is described in Chapter 4.3.10 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

Norway aims for a rapid transition to electric mobility, and provides user incentives including substantial tax breaks, free parking, access to bus lanes in urban areas, and exemptions from road tolls and car ferry charges. For further details see description under Question 4 below and Chapter 4.3.7 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

Measures to reduce emissions from waste are described in 4.3.11 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

The measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are to a large extent concurrent with measures to increase recycling and recovery. The most important measures are

- Regulations under the Pollution Control Act, including prohibition against depositing biodegradable waste and requirements regarding extraction of landfill gas (see below);
- Extended producer responsibility for specific waste fractions.

The largest emissions in the waste sector derive from landfill gas. Landfill gas emissions have been reduced by about 34 per cent from 2000 to 2015. The reduction is mainly due to the decrease of organic waste in landfills as depositing biological waste has been prohibited.

The Norwegian Landfill Regulations of 21 March 2002 state that all landfills with biodegradable waste must have a system for extracting landfill gas. The gas emissions are monitored by measuring boxes placed on the landfill surface. Also, visual inspection of the landfill surface for obvious leaks should be conducted regularly. In Norway, in 2015, 8 per cent of the landfill gas production was utilized to generate electricity. 60 per cent is flared, and 32 per cent is used in heat production.

### *Research and monitoring*

Research and systematic observation are important parts of Norway's policy to address climate change. Research and innovation on climate and Norwegian systematic observation are described in Chapter 8 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

As for monitoring local air pollution, a modeling tool has recently been developed, which will improve conditions for air quality forecasts for all of Norway. The service presents maps showing the modelled air quality at the current time as well as a two-day forecast. The model estimates concentrations of air pollution based on weather forecasts and emissions data. The new service will inform the inhabitants and the municipality of the pollution level and provide health advice if moderate or higher air pollution levels are reported. The service also provides guidance that will support the municipality's work to address local air pollution.

### *Procedural rights*

Norway aims to achieve a high degree of transparency in environmental policymaking and implementation of regulations Norway have long and consistent traditions for broad consultation processes to ensure that all relevant considerations are taken, including considerations related to gender children, persons with disabilities, indigenous and marginalized communities.

Pursuant to Section 112 of the [Norwegian Constitution](#), citizens in Norway are entitled to information on the state of the natural environment and on the effects of any encroachment on nature that is planned or carried out, in order to safeguard their right to an environment that is conducive to health and to a natural environment whose productivity and diversity are maintained. Environment in this case is to be understood to also include climate. The notion of citizens is to be understood in the broad sense and is not limited to those holding Norwegian citizenship. It does not distinguish on the basis of age, degree of ability to function or indigenous and marginalized communities. Section 112 obliges the authorities of the state to take measures to implement the principles set out in the provision. Several legislative and other measures have been undertaken for this purpose. [Act of 9 May 2003 No.31 relating to the right to environmental information and public participation in decision-making processes relating to the environment](#) entitles every person the right to environmental information from a public authority on request, subject to specified exceptions that are to be interpreted restrictively. The definition of environmental information is broad and includes information on the status of the climate, factors that affect or may affect climate and human

health, safety and living conditions to the extent that they are or may be affected. It also entitles any person receive information from public and private undertakings concerning factors related to the undertaking, including factor inputs and products, which may have an appreciable effect on the environment (including climate). The Act furthermore obliges administrative agencies to make provision for participation by the public in the preparation of legislation, plans and programmes relating to the environment. This shall be done at stages and within time frames that provide real opportunities to influence the decisions that are made, and shall provide the public with the necessary information. More specific provisions on information and participation are set out in the Act of 27 June 2008 No. 71 relating to Planning and the Processing of Building Applications (the Planning and Building Act) and related regulations, including requirements for environmental impact assessments.

Today the representative democracy in itself is not sufficient to ensure local communities as vibrant local democracies in environmental issues. *Public planning pursuant to [Planning and Building Act \(PBA\)](#)* represents subsequently an important democratic tool between the local elections to promote sustainable policies implementing UN and EU policies of sustainable development.) The preamble of the Planning and Building Act (PBA) is to promote sustainable development in the best interest of the citizen, the society and future generations. The planning solutions, whether they are at a national, regional or municipality level, shall ensure transparency, predictability and participation for all authorities and interests concerned. The principle of universal design, and the group interest represented by the children and adolescents and their living conditions are underscored as democratic premises for ensuring a sustainable development path. All planning is subject to inclusiveness and accessibility and shall include public participation. The PBA understands the public participation in the planning as an individual's or a group's right to take part in and contribute to the assessment and decision-making processes. A [national guide on public participation in planning pursuant to PBA](#) was elaborated in 2014 enfolded methods to ensure representative arrangements, with special attention to the specific human rights protecting and promoting the interests of the vulnerable groups, cf. article 5-1 in PBA. Guidelines for climate- and energy planning and climate adaptation have also been established. A national geodata strategy and action plan is also in place.

The [Norwegian Public Health Act](#) has provisions concerning municipalities', county authorities' and central government health authorities' obligations to have knowledge and consider and assess environment and health conditions and positive and negative factors that may influence health status and conditions, in accordance with the purpose of the Act. The purpose of the Act follows from Section 1, which reads as follows; *"The purpose of this Act is to contribute to societal development that promotes public health and reduces social inequalities in health, and to . Public health work shall promote the population's health, well-being and good social and environmental conditions, and contribute to the prevention of mental and somatic illnesses, disorders or injuries."*

Legislation regulating activities of specific types or with specific effects also contain requirements on information and participation.

These Acts and provisions serve to implement Norway's obligations as a Party to the UNECE Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

In addition to the generally applicable legislation concerning access to information and participation, specific provisions, mechanisms and arrangements are implemented to safeguard these rights for persons, groups, indigenous peoples and communities in particular situations or with specific needs.

In Norway, the *right of indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making processes was formalized in 2005 by an agreement on Procedures for Consultations between State Authorities and the Sami Parliament (Sámediggi)*. The Consultation Procedures are developed according to the obligation to consult, stated in ILO Convention No. 169 article 6. The Consultation Procedures apply to the Government and its ministries, directorates and other subordinate state agencies or activities. Central Government authorities may also be obliged to consult with other Sami interest groups besides Sámediggi. This applies in particular to matters that directly affect Sami land use such as reindeer husbandry.

The agreement is a tool to ensure that work on matters that may affect the Sami is carried out in a satisfactory manner. The consultations shall be undertaken in good faith, with the objective of achieving agreement to the proposed measures.

In accordance with these procedures, a number of formalised consultations take place every year. In our experience, the numerous consultations have strengthened Sámediggi as a representative voice for the Sami people, and enhanced the awareness and knowledge of Sami issues in Government ministries and agencies.

The consultations contribute to an increased knowledge of Sami issues also in cases where the Government and Sámediggi do not reach an agreement.

In June 2018 the Norwegian Parliament adopted a new *Local Government Act*. The Act obligates all local and regional authorities to establish *three organs to ensure involvement of youth, older persons and persons with disabilities*. Proposals for regulations concerning these three different councils has been subject to a public hearing which ended on the 12th of April 2019. More than 400 answers were received. Regulations will be adopted before the summer 2019. The new Act and Regulations will enter into force this autumn. The proposal for new Regulations largely includes provisions similar to those who are in force today in two specific acts on Council for older persons and Council for people with disabilities. The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation will establish new guidelines for each type of Council by 9 September 2019, the date of the elections for local and regional authorities.

Norwegian environmental authorities have a long tradition of including civil society in environmental policymaking. Children and youth organizations are represented on the climate and environmental minister's advisory climate council. The council advises the Climate minister on how to strengthen the climate policy and keep Norway on track to become



a low-emission society in 2050. The Norwegian Children and Youth Council and the Sami parliament is also included in the delegation to the UN Climate Conferences.

In addition Norway provides annual financial support to a number of NGOs. The Ministry of Climate and Environment also provides financial support for Norwegian NGOs to participate in different international meetings.

Norway has established a system of *administrative complaints* pursuant to the Public Administration Act. Complaints concerning individual decisions by authorities may be submitted to the authority immediately above the authority who adopted the decision. Complaints concerning decisions taken by a Ministry will be decided upon by the King in Council. Legislation in specific fields may contain adjustments to the general system of administrative complaints, and in some fields there are also special complaints organs. There are however no special complaints organs for the environmental field in general. Complaints may also be made to the [Ombudsman](#) who is appointed by the Norwegian Parliament to safeguard the rights of individual citizens in their dealings with the public administration.

*An action against a decision by public authorities may also be brought before the courts, both by physical and legal persons. An organization or foundation working in the field of climate and environment, may bring an action in its own name in relation to matters that fall within its purpose and normal scope. This means that the lawsuit must deal with a matter that comes within the scope of the organization's objectives or of its operations in practice.*

Further information about the administrative complaints and court procedures and requirements can be found in [Norway's 2017 National Implementation Report under the Aarhus Convention.](#)"

*Awareness of issues related to sustainable development and climate change has also long been embedded in the Norwegian system of education. Norway takes part in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNESCO's Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development.*

Several activities have been initiated to promote awareness on issues related to climate change and disaster risk reduction. These are described in Chapter 9 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change and therefore only some of them are briefly mentioned here.](#) The Ministry of Climate and Environment works through many channels to enhance public awareness of issues related to climate change. News, publications, press releases and other relevant information are published on the [Ministry's website](#). Statistics Norway also publishes [statistics](#) on important natural resources, different types of environmental pressure, pollution such as releases to air and water, and waste management.

Furthermore, *information on the state and development of the environment*, are found on the website State of Environment Norway ([www.environment.no](http://www.environment.no)). The website provides a status and overview of environmental targets and progress towards them, this includes the targets on biodiversity, climate change, pollution, outdoor recreation, the cultural heritage and the polar regions. The website present the information in a simple and easy-to-follow way and provides



access to more detailed scientific presentations. The Norwegian Environment Agency has the overall editorial responsibility. The content is produced and quality checked by the respective environmental agencies. The [Directorate for Cultural Heritage](#) is responsible for the topic "The Cultural Heritage". The [Norwegian Polar Institute](#) is responsible for "Polar regions", and [The Norwegian Radiation and nuclear Safety Authority](#) is responsible for "Radiation". The [Norwegian Environment Agency](#) is responsible for "Fresh water", "Hazardous chemicals", "Climate", "Noise", "Air pollution", "Waste", "Biological diversity" and "Outdoor recreation". A number of different agencies and research institutes are responsible for "Marine areas". [Statistics Norway](#), the [Norwegian Institute for Water Research](#), the [Norwegian Institute for Air Research](#), the [Norwegian Institute for Nature Research](#) and the [Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research](#) supply the website with data.

### *Investments in, requirements and expectations for the business sector*

#### *Expectations state owned enterprises*

The expectations towards the state owned companies are expressed in the White Paper Meld. St. 27 (2013-2014) Diverse and value-creating ownership. You will find all the expectations regarding CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) in the following link:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/899ac257df2648d788942b78c6d59787/en-gb/pdfs/stm201320140027000engpdfs.pdf>

The most relevant expectations are:

#### *General expectations:*

The government expects that:

- A commitment to CSR is embedded in company board work, that boards play an active and prominent role, and that they account for significant aspects of CSR in their annual report.
- The companies should be frontrunners in the commitment to CSR in their sectors. The companies actively abide by, and assist in elaborating, best corporate practices in areas of relevance for their business.
- The companies prepare guidelines for their work on CSR and the guidelines are publicly available. The companies incorporate their commitment to climate and environment, human rights, employee and worker rights, and anti-corruption in their guidelines.
- Companies with international operations sign up to the UN Global Compact. All companies are expected to be familiar with and commit to observance of the Global Compact's ten principles and to consider signing up to the UN Global Compact.
- Companies with extraterritorial activities or international supplier chains familiarise themselves with and follow the recommendations of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- Companies adopt the ILO's eight core conventions as the foundation for their activities.
- Companies report on their CSR performance, placing emphasis on key challenges, and target and performance indicators.

#### *Climate and environment:*

The government expects that:

- Companies have a sound understanding of the risk posed to their activities by climate change and climate policy measures.

- Companies are at the forefront in climate and environmental performance in their sector, including initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Companies are well-informed of the benefits to be reaped from early adaptation to new climate and environmental requirements.

#### *Human Rights:*

The government expects that:

- Companies in which the state has a holding respect universal human rights as they are defined in international conventions, in all their undertakings, and in their dealings with suppliers and business partners.
- All companies in which the state has a holding incorporate relevant human rights aspects in their activities.
- Companies carry out human rights due diligence in line with the UNGP recommendations to prevent their involvement in adverse human rights impacts and to account for how they address the company's human rights impacts.

#### *Government Pension Fund Global (GPGF)*

Companies' activities may impact on the society and the sustainability of the world in the long-run this could affect their profitability and ultimately investors financial return from being invested in these companies. As a long-term financial investor in more than 9,000 companies in 70 countries, the Fund has an interest in the sustainability of companies. The Fund manager therefore express clear expectations within certain areas to the companies it is invested in. More details about the responsible management efforts of the GPGF, including expectations on climate risk and human rights, is available in the annual report on the topic.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the Norwegian Ministry of Finance reports annually to the Parliament on the work on responsible management.<sup>2</sup>

The Ministry of Finance has established ethically motivated guidelines for observation and exclusion of companies from the fund.<sup>3</sup> The Executive Board takes the final decision on the observation and exclusion of companies, based on recommendations from the Council on Ethics.<sup>4</sup>

#### GPGF - climate

Climate risk has for a number of years been a focus area in the management of the Fund. The mandate from the Ministry of Finance to Norges Bank refers to internationally recognised standards for responsible management, in which environment and climate have been accorded key roles. Climate change is furthermore an area where Norges Bank has been involved in work on international standards, research, the exercise of ownership rights and the handling of climate risk at the company level.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbim.no/contentassets/e1632963319146bbb040024114ca65af/responsible-investment-2018.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/meld.-st.-20-20182019/id2639311/> (especially chapter 6).

<sup>3</sup> [http://etikkradet.no/files/2017/04/Etikkradet\\_Guidelines-eng\\_2017\\_web.pdf](http://etikkradet.no/files/2017/04/Etikkradet_Guidelines-eng_2017_web.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://etikkradet.no/en/>

One tool encompassing the entire portfolio of the Fund is participation in the development of internationally recognised principles and standards for handling systemic climate risk. Norges Bank's support for CDP (formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project) is an example of this. Norges Bank has also over time supported research into risk factors that may impact future returns on the GPFG, including climate risk.

In 2009, Norges Bank published an expectation document<sup>5</sup> on climate to strengthen the role of climate risk in the exercise of ownership rights. The expectation document forms part of the basis for the fund manager's dialogue with companies. The document has subsequently been updated. Norges Bank expects, inter alia, companies to assess the risk associated with their long-term business strategies, as well as their profitability under various future regulatory and physical climate scenarios. In order to support strategic decision-making, companies should identify future scenarios for climate policy, carbon pricing and environmental conditions.

In order to assess the overall climate risk in the GPFG, Norges Bank analyses greenhouse gas emissions from the companies in the equity portfolio. The GPFG also has specific allocation for environment-related investment mandates. These can be categorised as investments in renewable energy and alternative fuels, energy efficiency and natural resource management.

In 2016, the ethically motivated Guidelines for Observation and Exclusion from the GPFG were expanded by two additional criteria. A new conduct-based climate criterion was introduced from 1 January 2016, under which observation or exclusion can be decided for companies where there is an unacceptable risk that they contribute to or are responsible for acts or omissions that on an aggregate company level lead to unacceptable greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, a new product-based criterion was introduced with effect from 1 February 2016, under which observation or exclusion may be decided for mining companies and power producers which themselves or through entities they control derive 30 percent or more of their revenue from thermal coal or base 30 percent or more of their operations on thermal coal.

#### GPFG – Human rights

Norges Bank, as a financial investor, expects companies to respect human rights, and address human rights issues in their business practices. The human right risk is integrated in the Funds work on developing standards, exercising of ownership and handling of risks and opportunities.

The Fund has developed a set of expectations towards companies with regards to human rights<sup>6</sup> and children's rights.<sup>7</sup> The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights establishes a normative starting point for companies' strategies with respect to human rights.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nbim.no/en/search/?q=expectations&submit=Search> (there are also expectations documents on water management and ocean).

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nbim.no/contentassets/0ff34e35ba1a44c3b6c2039466ccbec7/human-rights-expectations-document2.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nbim.no/contentassets/f5f7addcb20945dfa3560183f6f89d01/childrens-rights-expectations.pdf>

The guiding principles moreover provides a reference point for businesses in understanding what human rights are; how their own activities and business relationships may affect them; and how to ensure that businesses prevent or mitigate the risk of adverse impacts on human rights.

Companies may also be excluded from the Fund based on the Fund's ethical guidelines if they contribute to or are themselves responsible for serious or systematic human rights violations.

*4. If your State has set a deadline for eliminating coal-fired electricity generation and/or ending the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines, please provide details. If your State imposes a price on carbon emissions, please provide details.*

Electricity generation in Norway is almost exclusively renewable. In a normal year, hydropower constitutes 96 per cent of the electricity generation. In addition, wind power contributes with approximately 2 per cent of the energy generation (normal year average). Norway's thermal power plants account for about 2 per cent of total production capacity. The legal framework encompasses statutes and regulations concerning public ownership of hydropower resources, licenses for the construction and operation of installations and regulations of the power market. The legislation is intended to ensure effective management of resources, and to ensure that various user and environmental interests are heard and considered. A tax on electricity consumption was introduced in 1951. At present an excise duty is levied on electricity supplied in Norway. The excise duty on electricity is mainly a fiscal tax. Since the majority of the stationary energy consumption in Norway is based on electricity generated from hydropower, emissions from energy consumption are very low in Norway compared to most other countries. Energy efficiency measures and new renewable capacity will therefore have limited effect on emissions in Norway.

In Norway CO<sub>2</sub> taxes were introduced in 1991 as a cost-effective policy to limit emissions of greenhouse gases. About 80 percent of Norwegian emissions today are priced either as part of the EU ETS or by a carbon tax or both. Half of emissions part of the EU ETS, of the other half almost 70 pst of emissions have a carbon tax.

In the White paper on the National Transport Plan for 2018–2029, the government established several new targets for zero emission vehicles:

- All new passenger cars and light vans sold in 2025 shall be zero-emission vehicles.
- All new urban buses sold in 2025 shall be zero emitters or use biogas.
- By 2030, all new heavy duty vehicles, 75 per cent of new long distance coaches and 50 per cent of new trucks shall be zero emission vehicles.
- The distribution of freight in the largest urban centers shall have close to zero emissions by 2030.

A precondition for these goals is that technological development will make zero emission technology in transport competitive with fossil technology.

5. *Please provide evidence related to the implementation, enforcement, and effectiveness of the measures identified in your responses to Questions #3 and 4. This could include information related to budgets (e.g. investments in renewable energy or revenues generated by carbon taxes), human resources (size of agencies responsible for environmental monitoring and enforcement), and measureable outcomes such as reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, declining rates of deforestation, or increases in the area reforested/numbers of trees planted.*

Norway has introduced a broad set of policies and measures to reduce emissions. Estimates in [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) shows that greenhouse gas emissions would be around 40 per cent higher than projected emissions in 2020 without climate policies and measures.

With regard to measures for rapid transition to electric mobility, Norway is a relatively small car market with about 2.7 million passenger cars. Since 2011, Norway has nevertheless been the third largest market in the world for battery electric vehicles (according to Bloomberg). At the beginning of 2019, about 7 per cent of the Norwegian passenger car fleet was zero emission vehicles. So far this year, almost 50 per cent of new passenger cars have been zero emission vehicles. In comparison, less than 30 per cent of new passenger cars have been regular internal combustion cars. More than 60 per cent of new passenger cars have been either electric or plug in electric vehicles. 70 per cent have been electric, plug in hybrids or regular hybrids. In 2012, the Norwegian parliament set a goal that new passenger cars' CO<sub>2</sub> emissions should not exceed 85 grams CO<sub>2</sub>/km in 2020. Last year, the average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for new passenger cars was 82 gram CO<sub>2</sub>/km. The goal was reached in 2017 - three years ahead of time.

6. *What are ways in which high-income States should assist low-income States in responding to climate change, while simultaneously contributing to sustainable development in those low-income States?*

In line with the 2030 Agenda, Norway takes a holistic perspective on our development efforts. However, in order to be effective, we concentrate our bilateral aid on key thematic and geographical priorities. Climate and environment is one of our key priorities.

Norway expects to maintain continuity of its climate finance at high levels in the years to come to achieve the targets set out in the Paris Agreement. The largest single programme is Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), which supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+). Since its inception in April 2008, NICFI has established a series of ground-breaking partnerships with key forest countries, multilateral institutions, civil society and the private sector. The budget for NICFI is approximately 3 billion NOK per year.

We are constantly striving to take a more coherent approach so that measures relating to climate and environment are integrated as far as possible into measures in the fields of health, sound natural resource management and business development. We also promote effective

models for public-private cooperation so that aid can be used to trigger private sector investments in renewable energy and climate and environment measures. Climate-smart agriculture is an important field for us in the years ahead – both from a business perspective and from a climate perspective.

7. *What are the main challenges or barriers that your government, business, or organization has faced in attempting to address the impacts of climate change on human rights?*

Based on Norway's experience from the development of measures to combat, mitigate and adapt to climate change, the main challenges in addressing climate change and its impacts as such are the complexities of the driving forces behind climate change, the interlinkages between climate change and other environmental challenges and policies and measures to address them, the interdependencies of measures and effects in different countries and the difficulties in striking the right balance between competing interests. Addressing climate change and its impacts require extensive knowledge, broad cooperation between national authorities with responsibilities for policies in all relevant fields, coordinated and consistent positions of states in all relevant international fora and processes and involvement of all relevant stakeholders nationally and internationally.

Norway has less experience in addressing the impacts of climate change on human rights in particular.

8. *What are ways in which additional protection is provided (or should be provided) for populations who may find themselves in circumstances in which they are particularly vulnerable to climate change (e.g. women, children, persons living in poverty, Indigenous peoples and members of traditional communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic, racial or other minorities and displaced persons)? What are ways in which these populations can be empowered to act as agents of change in addressing climate change?*

As described in Chapter 6 of [Norway's Seventh National Communication under the Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), vulnerability to climate change and expected impacts on society and nature in Norway is assessed and measures developed to address it. This helps to identify areas, activities and populations who may be particularly vulnerable to climate change and address changes through general or particular measures.

As described under Question 2 above and 9 below, both generally applicable procedural rights and other measures and procedural rights specifically developed for and applicable to vulnerable groups are in place in Norway.

During her last visit to Norway, the United Nations Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity found that "within the framework of its programs on the Climate and Forest Initiative, Norway has established a series of partnerships with key forest countries and contributed to significant advances in the development of a REDD+ mechanism under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is noted with appreciation that within this framework Norway has engaged in building the capacity of indigenous peoples and local



forest communities by encouraging its project partners to consult with and involve them in their processes."

This engagement also takes the form of support to civil society organizations in tropical forest countries, including direct support to indigenous peoples organizations. Norway has also helped set up a Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in close cooperation with the Sami Parliament and the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change.

*9. How do you ensure that the rights of individuals working on climate change (environmental human rights defenders) are protected? What efforts has your Government or business made to create a safe and enabling environment for them to freely exercise their rights without fear of violence, intimidation, harassment or reprisal?*

Norway aims to have a high degree of transparency and broad involvement in environmental policymaking and implementation of regulations. As described under Question 2 above, Norway's Constitution and legislation establishes procedural rights in environmental matters, including matters concerning climate change.

Accordingly, Norwegian environmental authorities have a long tradition of including the civil society in environmental policymaking. For example, Norway provides annual financial support to a number of NGOs listed in the Government's annual budget.

Legal proposals (laws and regulations) are generally subject to open hearings where civil society can voice their opinion. Civil society can also interact with the government and the Parliament in relation to other policy tools, such as budget proposals and white papers. In 2014 the Ministry of Climate and Environment established a climate council ("Klimarådet") to provide advice related to climate policies, including advice on how Norway can become a low emission society by 2050. The council has participation from business, labour organisations, environmental NGOs, local government and the research community.

The Ministry of Climate and Environment also provides financial support for NGOs to participate in different international meetings. Norway also aims to involve the NGOs in the preparations for such meetings, and to give them the possibilities to contribute actively during the meetings. NGOs are represented in the official Norwegian delegation under UN Climate Negotiations, and under UNEP's board meetings.

The protection of environmental human rights defenders is therefore a key priority in Norwegian climate and environment policy. Under Norwegian leadership, the UN has adopted far-reaching resolutions on environmental human rights defenders. The most recent, adopted unanimously by the UN Human Rights Council, recognizes their key contributions to safeguarding climate and biodiversity, and the responsibility of governments and companies to protect their security and human rights.

As part of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, we support measures for environmental human rights defenders on the ground in Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Congo. By the end of our current funding

cycle in 2021, we will have supported land rights for indigenous peoples and the fight against forest crime crime (which impacts indigenous peoples and other vulnerable communities disproportionately) with close to 1 billion Norwegian kroner.

We also support longer-term efforts toward improving forest governance and addressing the drivers of forest loss. Not least, we support the tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples. In sum, we support Indigenous Peoples and environmental activists to defend themselves against the growing attack on their forests, lands, and very existence.