



**Seminar invitation from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Friday 12 October, 13.00 - 15.00; Litteraturhuset, Wergelandsveien 29**

**Paul Collier:
“Falling behind and falling apart” - is there hope for
the bottom billion?
Implications for Norwegian development - and
foreign policy”**

Panel:

Erik Solheim, Minister of Development Cooperation

Morten Høglund, Member of Parliament, Fremskrittspartiet

Benedicte Bull, Senior Researcher Fellow, Centre for Development and the
Environment, University of Oslo

Ane Schjolden, Adviser, ForUM (a network of more than 50 NGOs involved in
environment and development issues)

Norwegian Minister of Development Cooperation **Erik Solheim** has invited **Paul Collier**, British economist and Director for Center for the Study of African Economics at Oxford University, to Norway to expose the Norwegian government and the broader public to Collier’s message and his challenges to governments and international organisations. Paul Collier has written a widely acclaimed book on “The Bottom Billion – Why the poor countries are failing and what can be done about it”.

Collier claims that the real crises lies in a group of 58 failing states, which poses the central challenge of the developing world in the 21st century. Collier analyzes the causes of failure, pointing to a set of traps, including civil war, a dependence on the extraction and export of natural resources, and bad governance. Collier argues that standard solutions do not work against these traps; aid is often ineffective and globalisation can actually make things worse. If failed states are to be helped, developed countries have to adopt preferential trade policies, new laws against corruption, new international charters, and even conduct carefully calibrated military interventions.