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The Copenhagen Accord – Norway's emissions targets

Norway officially announced its willingness to be associated with the Copenhagen Accord in my letter to the UNFCCC Secretariat dated 25. January 2010.

I hereby submit information on Norway's quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020 for inclusion in Annex I pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Copenhagen Accord.

The targets are put forward under the understanding that the Copenhagen Accord is not a legally binding document, but constitutes a political platform giving direction for further negotiations. Norway will do its utmost to achieve a legally binding agreement for emission reduction commitments beyond 2012 including all major emitters. As part of a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012 where major emitting Parties agree on emission reductions in line with the 2 degrees Celsius target, Norway will move to a level of 40 per cent reduction for 2020 based on 1990 levels.

The Norwegian pledge on emissions targets was presented in October 2009 at the meetings of the ad hoc working groups in Bangkok, when Norway officially announced its preparedness to increase the initial pledge of 30 per cent to 40 per cent, provided that major emitting Parties agree on adequate emission reductions in line with the 2 degrees Celsius target. Further information related to Norway's limitation and reduction objectives has been made available to Parties through the AWG-KP document "Compilation of information relating to possible quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives as submitted by Parties", informal note by the secretariat 8. December 2009.

An important feature of Norwegian climate change policy is the flexible and cost effective Kyoto Protocol approach. The continuation of the Kyoto Protocol or its basic elements, in particular the availability of flexible mechanisms for compliance with emission reduction commitments, as part of a future framework, is therefore an underlying premise for Norway's emissions targets. Norway underlines the importance of pursuing various approaches, including opportunities to use markets, as stated in paragraph 7 of the Copenhagen Accord.

On this background, and pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Copenhagen Accord, Norway submits the following information in the format given in Appendix I of the Copenhagen Accord for compilation in an INF document:

Annex I Parties	<i>Quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020</i>	
	Emissions reduction in 2020	Base year
Norway	-30 to - 40 % *	1990

* As part of a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012 where major emitting Parties agree on emission reductions in line with the 2 degrees Celsius target, Norway will move to a level of 40 % reduction for 2020.

I reconfirm Norway's commitment to a negotiating process that should lead to an agreement that aims to reduce global emissions in order to keep the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels, as recognized by the Copenhagen Accord and based on the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Yours sincerely,

Erik Solheim