

**STATEMENT
of
The Ministerial Forum on Offshore Safety
Trondheim, Norway**

Ministers and senior government officials of countries that are significant energy producers and leaders in offshore energy development convened a Ministerial Forum in Norway, on June 27, 2012. Participants included representatives from the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union participated as well.

Recognizing their shared interests to develop energy resources in a safe and sustainable manner, the Forum participants affirmed the importance of their ministerial level dialogue, which was first convened on April 14, 2011, by the United States and today by the Kingdom of Norway. The Forum participants agreed to meet again in 2013.

Offshore oil and gas production will continue to be a significant component of the world's energy portfolio for the foreseeable future. The safety of operations will continue to be a key priority for ministers with oversight responsibility for offshore oil and gas activities. The Ministerial Forum provided a setting to discuss all issues related to safe and environmentally responsible offshore oil and gas exploration and production, including oversight and enforcement, containment and response practices, and research and development.

As part of a shared commitment to reduce the risks associated with offshore drilling around the world, the Forum participants emphasized the need to establish means of sharing data on incidents, including near-misses, as expeditiously as possible. This will maximize the opportunity to benefit from lessons learned, and to identify and react effectively to industry-wide risks. They welcomed and supported the significant step that the International Organization for Oil and Gas Producers had made to establish a global database of well control incidents. They intend to monitor the uptake and effectiveness of this new mechanism at its next meeting. Forum participants agreed presentations from industry, international organizations, and other relevant entities on the following topics at next year's Ministerial Forum would be welcomed:

- Containment strategies;
- Emerging themes from health and safety performance data;
- Improvements of national regulatory processes;
- Examples of best practices for offshore safety;
- Progress with the development of international standards and guidelines for offshore safety;
- Reports on recent serious incidents;
- Mechanisms to share incident data.

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Kingdom of Norway
June 27, 2012

Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
United States of America
June 27, 2012