

Comments to the Norwegian report on 2030 agenda for sustainable development

We thank Norad and UD for the opportunity to submit comments to the upcoming report from Norway.

Because the goals are to be implemented by all countries and all stakeholders, one of the fundamentals is to empower countries without sufficient current capacity to achieve these goals. This is done through capacity building and education. Norway has a good track record for supporting capacity building courses and supporting education in ODA countries. In specific, GenØk believes that this in particular relates to the following goals, in which we have been active as contributors for many years.

Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The most prominent agricultural innovations are tied to biotechnology and the utilizations of modern biotechnology techniques in crop development. Rapid development also raises hope that biotechnology crops have a role to play in climate-adapted or drought tolerant agriculture. There are many aspects to this approach, one of which is ensuring sustainability. Many countries choose to grow biotechnology crops, but in particular in developing countries, the capacity to ensure environmental safety and freedom of choice for consumers are severely lacking. GenØk has for many years run capacity building courses in ODA countries with great support from Norad and The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Capacity building courses are effective ways of reaching out to relevant persons and can be controlled with regards to gender balance or reaching specific groups. We strongly recommend that Norway and other donor countries will continue supporting courses with a proven track record.

One of the main obstacles to overcome is cultural understanding. Promoting institutional cooperation is important to get cultural understanding in both ends of the process. We would in particular like to mention the FK Norway (Fredskorpset) exchanges as an effective way of combating cultural misunderstandings.

Building on experiences from Norway's unique approach with the FK exchange programs is essential. Combining cultural exchange with academic and capacity transfer goals, in our experiences, is very effective in reaching goals in capacity transfer.

Sincerely,

Odd-Gunnar Wikmark,

Submitted for

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