

The Norwegian input to the SG study on "the available assistance to and measures that may be taken by developing states, as well as coastal African States, to realize the benefits of sustainable effective development of marine resources and uses of the oceans within the limits of national jurisdiction".

General

Marine resources are important sources of food and income, and thus, marine resources are important to development. Therefore the marine sector is a priority for Norwegian development cooperation. The marine resources are also important to the development of the coastal zone.

Petroleum plays an important role in an increasing number of developing countries. It has, however, in many cases proved difficult to translate petroleum resources into improved welfare for the inhabitants. As a result, many developing countries score conspicuously low on international development performance indices.

The Norwegian Oil for Development initiative aims at assisting countries in their efforts to overcome these challenges. Several decades of oil and gas experience have given Norway wide expertise in the field of petroleum sector management. Drawing on this experience, Norway has provided assistance to the oil sector in developing countries since the early 1980s. Norway cooperates with a large number of countries covering capacity building in areas such as legal frameworks, administration and supervision mechanisms, licensing and tendering processes, organisation of public-private interfaces, local content and industrial development, environmental challenges and revenue management issues, including taxation and petroleum funds.

Requests for Oil for Development assistance are normally channelled through the Norwegian embassies, and embassy staff generally appraise proposals for cooperation. Support is provided to governments and government agencies in countries of cooperation. Implementing agencies include the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, Petrad (International programme for petroleum management and administration), the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT) and other governmental agencies, as well as research institutions and consultancies.

Oil for Development builds on three main thematic pillars: resource management, revenue management and environmental protection. Good governance, transparency and accountability are important crosscutting dimensions. The Oil for Development initiative does not seek to export a single solution for sound petroleum governance. Different countries face different challenges, and accordingly their design and execution of policies will differ. The content and approaches of programmes provided to partner countries differ and are tailor-made to domestic circumstances and demands. However, some elements are recurrent. This is the case for capacity building to strengthen relevant government agencies and educational/training programmes to strengthen the local work force. The challenges of good governance will be integrated in all major programmes. Norway supports the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and has also been a main driver behind global efforts to manage gas flaring. These will continue to be significant priority areas.