

**Dear friends and partners in development,**

- **Once again, we are being deprived of the opportunity to share each others' views and assessments in real life.**
- **But if we make the most of the opportunities we can grasp – we will soon be able to meet again, too.**
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- **And we must fight it together.**
- **Because it is right – and because it is the only way the fire will ever stop – be it in Guinea or Germany.**
- **We must fight the virus – and we must fight all the problems we were fighting before the pandemic struck.**
- **We must fight hunger, drought, illiteracy and ignorance – we must stand up against war and modern slavery and – we must combat climate change – we must combat the**

- **Right now –**



spending at 1 percent of GDP – with health and education as long-term priorities.

- The consequences of climate change are hitting the Least Developed Countries the hardest.
- That is why Norway has made climate adaptation, prevention and fighting hunger a priority in our international cooperation.
- We are actively engaged in the preparations for the UN Food Systems Summit in September.
- Norway is ready to collaborate with you on food systems for the Summit and beyond.
- Access to sustainable and reliable energy services is crucial for eradicating poverty – and it is also good for our health and our climate.
- Norway is also co-leader of the Alliance for digital public goods.
- If we can transform the digital divide into a digital bridge – there will be no limit to what those can do who are now deprived of opportunities to study, work, shop and create jobs.

- **I would like to highlight digital ID as a vehicle for accessing social services.**
- **The Norwegian global digital library is in use in countries like Ethiopia, Guinea, Gambia, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Mozambique and Uganda.**
- **We work closely with the World Bank Group, including IFC and the regional development banks, to promote private sector development and job creation in low-income countries.**
- **Securing decent jobs for women and youth is more important than ever.**
- **Robust donor contributions to IDA and the African Development Fund are particularly important.**
- **We continue to support the African Development Bank's "Jobs for Youth in Africa".**
- **I look forward to cooperating with African leaders on how we can – even further – support local efforts for creating sustainable jobs.**

- **The Norwegian development finance institution – Norfund – has invested 60% of its capital in Sub-Saharan Africa –**

**include a more targeted approach – focusing on countries in deep and unsustainable debt distress.**

- **In this regard, Norway will stress the need for new principles and guidelines on responsible borrowing and lending.**
- **We need strengthened global solidarity and cooperation in order to promote financial integrity, transparency and accountability for sustainable development.**
- **All we do in our development policy is aimed towards one goal:**
- **Increasing our partners' ability to create their own growth – to mobilize resources for sustainable development.**
- **In this regard – upholding human rights and stopping illicit flows from corruption and tax evasion can also be seen as poverty-reducing tools – and equally important as education and renewable energy.**
- **Let's grasp the opportunities – let's fight the pandemic – and let's eradicate extreme poverty once and for all.**
- **Thank you and good luck!**