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Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development
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Luxembourg, 3-4 April 2006
Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

**STATISTICS NORWAY'S WORK REGARDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
INDICATORS (SDI)
Submitted by the Statistics Norway¹**

This meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD

¹ This paper was prepared by Julie L. Hass.

Julie L. Hass, 28. March 2006

Statistics Norway's work regarding Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI)

Government initiatives - national level

A national strategy for sustainable development was prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2002 and was presented at the Johannesburg conference. In 2004 the Ministry of Finance published the national action plan for sustainable development. As part of the action plan, a preliminary set of SDIs was developed by a group of state secretaries under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance and published in the national budget for 2004 (Report No.1 (2003-2004) to the Storting).

In addition to publishing this preliminary set of indicators an Official Commission was set up to evaluate this preliminary set and to propose changes. The mandate to the commission included developing indicators for six areas: (1) climate, ozone and transboundary air pollution; (2) biodiversity and cultural heritage; (3) natural resources; (4) hazardous substances; (5) sustainable economic development; and (6) social dimensions of direct relevance to sustainable development. National wealth was used as a starting point for evaluating the need for other indicators.

The five-member expert national commission began its work in late 2003 and finished in early 2005 with the publication of an Official Norwegian Report (NOU 2005:5). The Commission was composed of one biologist, one geographer, one physicist and two economists. This group, representing both physical and social sciences, agreed on a set of 16 indicators as an aid for assessment of policies to enhance sustainable development in Norway. Statistics Norway led the commission and served as the secretariat.

The official report was submitted for a public hearing. With a few refinements, the proposed set of 16 indicators is expected to be established as the national level SDI set for Norway. The Ministry of Finance has the responsibility for the use and further development of the SDI set. The Ministry has plans to use the set in main political documents such as the annual national budget.

Sustainable Development Indicators for Norway:

1. Emissions of greenhouse gases compared with the Kyoto Protocol target
 2. Percentage of land area where the critical load for acidification has been exceeded
 3. Population trends of nesting wild birds
 4. Percentage of rivers and lakes with clearly good ecological status
 5. Percentage of localities (coastal waters) with clearly good ecological status
 6. Energy use per unit GDP
 7. Recommended quota, TAC actually set and catches of Northeast Arctic cod
 8. Household consumption of hazardous substances
 9. Net national income per capita, by sources of income
 10. Petroleum adjusted savings
 11. Population by highest level of education completed
 12. Generational accounts: Need for tightening of public finances as share of GDP
 13. Life expectancy at birth
 14. Long-term unemployed persons and disability pensioners as percentage of population
 15. Trade with Africa, by LDC-countries and other African countries
 16. Norwegian ODA as percentage of gross national income (GNI)
- (<http://www.ssb.no/english/magazine/> and scroll down to article "Is Norway Sustainable?")

International initiatives

Statistics Norway has been an active member of the ESS Task Force on Methodological Issues for Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) working with the first set of SDIs for the European Union and EFTA. Statistics Norway has also presented papers at the OECD workshop on "Accounting Frameworks for Sustainable Development" and at the UNECE/Eurostat work session on methodological issues of environmental statistics which focused on environment indicators and development of indicators of sustainable development. In addition, Statistics Norway made a survey of different national and international SDI sets for the OECD. See Hass, J.L., F. Brunvoll and H. Høie (2002): "Overview of Sustainable Development Indicators used by national and international agencies." OECD Statistics Working paper. STD/DOC(2002)2.