Declaration of Intent

Ministry of Climate and Environment Norway and California Environmental Protection Agency

Taking action on climate change is crucial to ensure sustainable development and safeguard the welfare of future generations. Failure to limit greenhouse gas emissions will increase the risk of serious adverse consequences for livelihoods, security and a stable and productive environment. At the same time, a transition to low emission societies provides benefits and opportunities.

Norway and California share the long-term goal of becoming low emission societies, both aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% or more as compared to their 1990 levels by 2050. Broader and stronger international partnerships can promote climate action at larger scales with lower costs, provide a catalyst for necessary technology development, and create markets for new climate solutions.

Through this Declaration of Intent, Norway, through its Ministry of Climate and Environment, and California, through its Environmental Protection Agency, seek to foster a closer working relationship to promote climate action at all levels.

Leading the charge on building a modern, low-emission economy, we will undertake the following efforts to address climate change:

- Confirm our commitment to holding the increase in global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- Cooperate in combating the causes and consequences of climate change, through undertaking ambitious emission reductions based on the recognition that climate action is beneficial to the economy at large, while also building climate resilience.
- Pursue the perspective that we need to implement climate action at all levels of government and involve all sectors and stakeholders, and that broad, global cooperation is needed through initiatives like the Under2 Coalition.
- Strengthen the basis for implementation of the Paris Agreement through ambitious partnership and practical collaboration. Showcase practical and results-oriented cooperation at the national and subnational levels.
- Support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals[1] as the basis for sustainable, low emission and climate resilient societies, with special focus on Sustainable Development Goal 13, Climate Action.
- Promote the economic and social benefits created by the transition to low-emission, climate-resilient societies. Support and foster green competitiveness and the creation of green jobs, and seek active engagement by business and industry to promote a positive interaction between policy and low-emission technologies.

[1] http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

- Demonstrate results and solutions that can contribute to stronger international efforts in key areas, with emphasis on clean technology, carbon pricing, zero emission transportation, and reduced deforestation as essential areas of climate action.

We will engage in developing solutions and achieving results of international significance in the following areas:

1. Climate change policy

Enhance the knowledge and understanding of the opportunities and benefits of ambitious climate policies. In the longer term, the benefits of climate action far outweigh the costs of consequences of climate change. In the short term, climate policies can also have significant additional benefits in terms of economic growth and jobs, improved environment, health benefits, efficiency, and cost savings. Norway and California will, through the exchange of information, documentation, and analysis, share and disseminate results from an integrated approach to climate policy that includes both short-term and long-term benefits.

Action points:

- Exchange information on existing climate targets and policies, and share ideas on how to raise climate ambition globally.
- Promote a dialogue and exchange of experiences to increase efforts to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants.
- Exchange ideas on policies to promote a just transition for fossil fuel industry workers.
- Promote cooperation and facilitate dialogue on clean technology innovation, technology development, and deployment of low emission solutions. Provide data and information on the results achieved for dissemination to a broader audience and encourage scientific analyses and studies.
- Collaborate to integrate lessons learned from California's market-based climate programs into the design of guidelines for implementation of market mechanisms under the Paris Agreement, based on the highest environmental integrity and respecting social and environmental safeguards.
- Support the implementation of the Under2 Coalition by sharing experiences of climate policy implementation, transparency of emissions reporting, and the development of long-term low-emissions pathways.
- Encourage strong and lasting partnerships between states, non-state actors, and the private sector for climate action at all levels.

2. Reduced deforestation

Conserving, restoring and sustainably managing the world's natural forests is critical to achieving a safe, secure and sustainable world. Sustainable forest management combined with biodiversity protection can enhance ecosystem resilience and provide long-term climate benefits. Economic growth and food security should benefit from, and support, efforts to conserve and restore natural forests and reduce land-based emissions. Norway and California will collaborate on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation, in particular in tropical forests, and to strengthen forest management. Shared experiences on designing and implementing incentives to reduce GHG-emissions from forests and land-use change will help us explore ways to drive large-scale performance based financing for tropical forest protection.

Action points:

- Work with partners in tropical countries to enhance relationships between jurisdictional forest/climate programs and the private sector, in order to promote deforestation-free supply chains at significant scales.
- Work with partners to facilitate and pilot long-term financing of reduced deforestation, including through the use of markets, provided that social and environmental safeguards are addressed and respected.
- Collaborate with Mexico to facilitate the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between California and Mexico to address climate change and reduce emissions from forests and land-use change.
- Share technology and scientific data regarding measurement, reporting and verification of forest carbon sequestration and emissions, including GHG inventory and forest monitoring design.
- Build technical, scientific and policy capacity to reduce GHG emissions from forests and land-use change, and to advance sustainable forest management.

3. Zero emission transportation

A low-emission world calls for zero emission transportation, including zero emission vehicles and zero emission transport solutions. Norway's goal is that all new passenger cars and light vans sold in 2025 shall be zero emission vehicles. California's goal is to have 1.5 million zero emission or near-zero emission vehicles in service by 2025. Through this leadership, Norway and California can serve as piloting experiences in advancing zero emission transport solutions. As piloting markets, we can facilitate the exchange and learning of business models, policy development, and technological solutions to catalyze the transition to zero emission, efficient transportation that meet society's needs.

Action Points:

- Share experiences on policy solutions and technologies to deliver the infrastructure and technologies for zero emission transportation systems.
- Strive to jointly work toward a global fleet of all zero emission vehicle car sales by 2050.
- Collaborate to develop a vision to similarly move heavy-duty freight vehicles toward zero emissions by 2050.
- Investigate, share experiences, and implement global best practices for electric vehicle charging and hydrogen vehicle infrastructure, including on timing of incentives and policies to strategically support the roll-out of next-generation zero emission vehicles.
- Support the International Zero Emission Vehicle Alliance.
- Share lessons learned with other aspiring governments around the world to develop similar zero emission vehicle policies to increase the global scale of zero emission vehicle deployment.

Share experiences and facilitate cooperation on green maritime transportation, engage the maritime industry in continued work on zero emission solutions. Promote public procurement policies related to the maritime sector.

4. A climate friendly energy system

Limiting global warming to well below 2°C will, dependent on national circumstances, require a transition in the production and use of energy. An increased share of renewable energy and increased efficiency in the use of energy are prerequisites for the transition to low-emission societies. Hydrogen and electrification based on renewable energy are essential parts of the transition to a zero emission transportation system. As frontrunners for sustainable climate friendly energy use and renewable energy production, Norway and California will promote technology development, ambitious policies, and a long-term perspective to become low emission societies.

Action points:

- Share policies and lessons learned for more effective energy use and sustainable climate-friendly energy solutions.
- Engage relevant ministries and agencies for the exchange of ideas and experiences in policies related to sustainable climate friendly energy technologies and infrastructure development.
- Share experiences on the role of carbon pricing in the transition to climate friendly energy solutions.
- Promote private sector engagement for sustainable climate friendly energy solutions.
- Promote development and deployment of sustainable climate friendly energy solutions.

Based on this Declaration of Intent, an operational work plan will be developed within 3 months from the date of signature, and updated annually.

An annual working level meeting will assess status of implementation of the work plan. Norway and California commit to reviewing this Declaration of Intent every 2 years, at which time each party can either confirm a continued intent to cooperate or terminate the Declaration.

Nothing in this Declaration of Intent shall be read as to create any legally binding rights or obligations for either Party, and each party to this Declaration may terminate this Declaration by written notice thirty days in advance of termination.

Sacramento, August 2, 2017

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