CSO Collaborative Statement for the VNR of Norway

This statement was prepared by representatives of Norwegian civil society organisations with input by more than 60 Norwegian CSOs

We are very happy that the Norwegian Government included civil society in the official VNR report. The involvement shows a commitment to engaging civil society and other stakeholders in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

We commend the inclusion of several of the challenges Norway faces in meeting the SDGs in the official report. These challenges include negative spillover effects and policy coherence for sustainable development. While important initiatives have been introduced in several areas, implementation remains insufficient, fragmented and too slow to meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.

Persistent inequalities, continued biodiversity loss, high resource consumption, insufficient climate action and weak policy coherence continue to undermine progress. A recurring conclusion from the civils society assessment is that Norway's challenges are not primarily a question of capacity or resources. They are questions of political priorities, implementation and coherence.

As an example in relation to SDG 6 Norway faces water pollution from inadequate sewage treatment, aquaculture waste, aging infrastructure, and agricultural runoff. Many systems violate regulations or remain outdated, despite known solutions. The main barriers are funding priorities, governance issues, and fragmented responsibility rather than lack of technology or financial capacity.

Norway has both the means and the responsibility to demonstrate that sustainable development is achievable. This requires policies that address the interconnections between the goals, recognise Norway's global footprint and ensure that short-terminterests do not come at the expense of long-term sustainability.

- How will the Norwegian government follow up the negative spillover effects highlighted in the VNR report going forward? What are the means of implementation for achieving policy coherence for sustainable development and tackle the negative spillover effects?