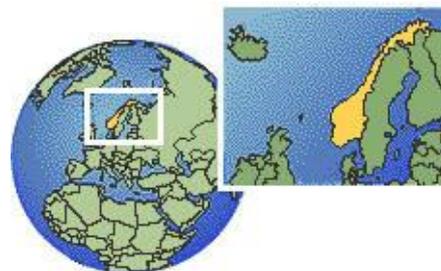


II-I. Profile of Norway

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1. Norway's Approach to Environmental Security

Norway has committed itself to developing the concept of environmental security as a framework for national and international cooperation. Norway's concept of security is broadening. In a recent address to the London School of Economics on *Norwegian foreign policy priorities*, Foreign Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Støre, indicated that the strategic position of security is gradually shifting from a military security perspective to a perspective that is based on political, economic, social and environmental considerations, which are linked and mutually reinforcing. Norway maintains that the regional approach is comprehensive security in practice.¹

According to the Norwegian Minister of the Environment, Guro Fjellanger, in her opening address to the *Seventh OSCE Economic Forum*, Norway recognizes that "environmental degradation will often have negative economic effects that in turn can lead to social disruptions" and eventually conflict. Environmental problems, including resource scarcity, are first felt locally; but in the medium to long-run the most serious environmental threats are those that are shared by many states or even globally. The Norwegian Minister of the Environment further asserts in that "sustainable development and more equitable distribution of resources would mean a safer world for all." Sustainable development is therefore an important element of the expanded security concept.²

Vital elements of Norway's environmental security approach are the responsible long-term resource management and commitment to local, national, regional, and global action. Environmental management and public participation are a very important part of this cooperation and constitute a significant contribution to environmental security in this region.

2. Norway's Environmental Security Priorities

According to Jan Petersen, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his speech *Norwegian Policy in the High North*, "global warming is now the most pressing item on the Arctic environmental agenda" and a major concern for Norway. At the global level, Norway faces security implications from worsening climate change, biodiversity loss and degradation of forests. The protection of the Barents Sea will become increasingly important for Norway in light of its energy source to Europe and North America. As much as a fourth of the world's undiscovered petroleum resources may be located in the Arctic.³

Norway will engage Russian, European, and American partners to secure the High North as a region of stability, prosperity, and environmental awareness. The challenge will be to

¹ Store, Jonas Gahr. "Norwegian foreign policy priorities". 26 Oct 2005: London". Arkiv. 10 Jan 2006. <http://odin.dep.no/ud/norsk/aktuelt/taler/minister_a/032171-090437/dok-bn.html>.

² Fjellanger, Guro. "Opening Address to Seventh OSCE Economic Forum". 25-28 May 1999: Prague. Arkiv. 10 Jan 2006. <<http://odin.dep.no/odinarkiv/norsk/md/1999/taler/022005-090153/dok-bn.html>>.

³ Peterson, Jan. "Norwegian Policy in the High North". 12-14 May 2005. Arkiv. 10 Jan 2006. <<http://odin.dep.no/odinarkiv/norsk/ud/2005/taler/032171-090387/dok-bn.html>>.

place the Barents Sea at the forefront of the oil and gas exploration, but to do it in a way that takes into account the needs of the vulnerable Arctic environment.

Norway has been cooperating with Russia since the early 1990's on nuclear safety, according to the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The emphasis on Russia, especially in the area of nuclear safety (which includes both environmental and non-proliferation concerns) will also be a continuing priority. The Kola Peninsula, located adjacent to Norway, has the world's largest concentration of nuclear installations. This not only represents a threat to the environment but a legitimate concern in terms of the potential likelihood that nuclear material could be stolen by terrorist forces. For these reasons, Norway has been involved in bilateral cooperation for the past ten years on the subject of nuclear safety and will continue to play a leading role in the work to intensify nuclear safety efforts in North-western Russia.

3. Geo-political and Other Factors that have Influenced Norway's Approach to Environmental Security

In Foreign Affairs' Minister Jan Petersen's May 14, 2005 address, *Norwegian Policy in the High North*, he noted several emerging priorities for Norway. These include its commitment to safeguard Norway's interests and security in the High North, which involves its relations with Russia; the environment and climate issues in vulnerable Arctic areas; and the rights of indigenous peoples. Norway's engagement in the North derives from its involvement in Barents Sea cooperation, which started in the early 1990s.⁴

Another key factor is the extent to which the energy dimension is changing the role of Norway in the High North. The energy dimension applies directly to Norway, Russia, and all neighbours from whom energy production, supply and security, and global climate and environmental challenges are important concerns. It is clear that the Barents Sea may become one of Europe's most important petroleum provinces. As gas production further south on the Norway shelf diminishes, there will be spare capacity in the pipeline network. Therefore, it will be increasingly important for Norway to be closely involved in developments on the Russian shelf. Russian President Putin has invited Norway to take part in a strategic energy partnership with Russia in the High North, to which Norway has agreed to ensure that the Barents Sea continues to be one of the most unspoiled areas in the world

4. How Norway Mainstreams Environmental Factors into Foreign and Security Policy

In Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Store's February 8 2006 Foreign Policy Address to the Storting, he noted that the government's foreign policy is based on three main tracks. The first track involves supporting the development of an international legal system that regulates the use of force and prevents the domination of the weak by the strong. This involves promotion of human rights, disarmament, environmental protection, fair trade and strengthening international institutions.

The second track of Norwegian foreign policy involves maintaining good relations with its friends and allies. Norway's membership in NATO is an important pillar of its foreign policy.

The third track of Norway's foreign policy involves using opportunities to promote peace, reconciliation, and development. In this regard, Norway takes a long-term approach to

⁴ Peterson, Jan. "Norwegian Policy in the High North". 12-14 May 2005. Arkiv. 10 Jan 2006. <<http://odin.dep.no/odinarkiv/norsk/ud/2005/taler/032171-090387/dok-bn.html>>.

promoting a more equitable world-order that will ensure the redistribution and transfer of technology to enable developing countries to realise their own development potential.⁵

5. How Norway Mainstreams Conflict Prevention and Livelihood Protection into Development Cooperation

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) distinguishes Norwegian development cooperation as a contribution toward long-term improvements in the economic, social, and political conditions of the populations of developing countries, emphasizing that development-aid be used to benefit the poorest people. The five dimensions of Norwegian development cooperation are:

1. To combat poverty and contribute towards lasting improvements in living standards and quality of life, thereby promoting greater social and economic development and justice nationally, regionally, and globally. In such development, priority must be given to employment, health, and education.
2. To contribute towards promoting peace, democracy, and human rights.
3. To promote responsible management and utilization of the global environment and biological diversity.
4. To contribute towards preventing hardship and alleviating distress arising from conflicts and natural disasters.
5. To contribute towards promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and men in all areas of society.

The main goal of Norwegian development cooperation has been the reduction of the gap between the world's rich and poor countries. Human equality is a fundamental principle that is featured in all of the key documents concerning development cooperation policy. Norad asserts that Norway, "as one of the richest countries in the world, has a moral obligation to alleviate suffering and promote humane living conditions in other parts of the world."⁶

6. Environmental Cooperation Over Degraded and Environmentally-stressed Resources in Conflict Prone and Conflict Affected Zones

In his address to the London School of Economics, the Foreign Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Støre emphasized the challenges presented by European integration in terms of international relations.⁷ Even though Norway has elected to stay out of the European Union by popular vote, it is closely allied and fate is intertwined with the rest of Europe. Norway seeks to strengthen its relationship and cooperation with Russia at the bilateral level and through regional forums such as the Arctic and the Barents Councils.

The Arctic Council focuses on environmental protection, climate change issues, and sustainable development in the Arctic region. Norway would like to expand the Arctic Council's role and lay foundations for international measures for dealing with the issues of the region.

As regards the far north, the Barents Cooperation with Russia is a way to look beyond Norway's own region and take active participation in regional cooperation in Europe.

⁵ Store, Jonas Gahr. "Foreign Policy Address to the Storting". 8 Feb 2006. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 14 Jun 2006. <<http://www.odin.dep.no>>.

⁶ "Goals of Norwegian Development Cooperation". 21 Jun 2004. Norad. 10 Jan 2006. Norad. <http://www.norad.no/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=1284>.

⁷ Store, Jonas Gahr. "Norwegian foreign policy priorities". 26 Oct 2005: London". Arkiv. 10 Jan 2006. <http://odin.dep.no/ud/norsk/aktuelt/taler/minister_a/032171-090437/dok-bn.html>.

Baltic Cooperation in the south aims at assisting the strengthening of democracy and the market economy, as well as multiple projects of people-to-people cooperation.

The NATO-Russia Council has become an efficient and practical instrument for linking Russia and Europe more closely together, a development that is having a positive influence on Norway's own relations with Russia. Relations with partnership countries will become increasingly important in the Caucasus and Central Asian regions.

7. How Norway Contributes to Environmental Conflict Prevention and Resolution

Preventing conflict and making, keeping, and building the peace are central priorities in Norwegian foreign policy. Norway has recently developed a Strategic Framework for Peace-building. The Framework will place greater emphasis on peace-building: to preventing armed conflict from breaking out, facilitating and supporting peacemaking processes in countries in conflict, helping to rebuild post-conflict societies, and preventing violence from recurring.

The Framework provides for peace negotiations to be supplemented by a broad range of measures for the advancement of security, as well as political, social, and economic development. The Strategic Framework is designed to assist Norway in targeting its efforts, making them as effective as possible. However, even though Norway now has a common platform on which to base its support for and participation in peace-building efforts, Norway does recognise that every conflict situation is unique and that peace-building must be tailored accordingly.

The Norwegian Government recently announced that it would intensify its efforts to increase the participation of women in efforts to promote peace and security, specifically in civil and military peace operations, mediation and peace-building. It is also increasing efforts to protect women's human rights in conflict areas. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Policy and Children and Equality have developed an action plan.

8. Conclusion

Norway views security as comprehensive to include political, economic, social, and environmental elements. Norway's environmental security priorities deal with the implications from worsening climate change, biodiversity loss, and forest degradation, as well as the protection of the Barents Sea. Achieving nuclear safety is another area of priority which Norway is facing in cooperation with Russia.

Promoting peace, reconciliation and development are three intrinsic elements in Norway's foreign and development-cooperation policies. Norway has recently developed a Strategic Framework for Peace-building, a framework that aims to 'build competence in the foreign service concerning the use of development co-operation for peace-building purposes'.⁸

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⁸ "Peacebuilding: A Development Perspective". Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 16 Aug 2004. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 14 Jun 2006. <<http://www.odin.no/ud/english/topics/dev/032181-120005/dok-bn.html#2>>.