

MEETING WITH THE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORWAY
WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2013, AT 12:20 P.M.

H.E. Mr. Børge Brende
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway

H.E. Mr. Geir Pedersen
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

Ms. Ingrid Skjøtskift
Political Adviser
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Leni Stenseth
Director General for UN-Policy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Tore Hattrem
Director General for Regional Issues
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Kjetil Elsebutangen
Senior Adviser from the Secretariat of the Foreign Minister

Ms. Meena Syed
Counsellor (Political Affairs)
Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations



Trip meeting on Peru

Josiane Ambiehl to: lee19

Cc: Isabelle Kim, gallaghert, Rommel Maranan, punsal

12/11/2013 09:57 PM

Dear Sanghwa

I have scheduled the trip meeting for Peru as follows:

Wednesday, 27 November

4:00-4:20 Trip Meeting on Peru

**Talking Points for the Secretary-General's meeting with
H.E. Mr. Espen Borge Brende,
Incoming Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway
13 November 2013, 12:20 p.m.**

Philippines	2
Syria (See generic)	2
Middle East peace process	3
Myanmar	4
Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development	5
Sustainable Energy for All	6
[Time permitting]	
Mali & the Sahel	7
Norway's support to peacekeeping	9
Management reform [If raised]	11

[Objectives of meeting: i) to once again congratulate H.E. Mr. Borge Brende on his appointment as Foreign Minister of Norway and encourage continued UN-Norway cooperation throughout his tenure; ii) to express concern about humanitarian situation in the Philippines and seek Norwegian support for the humanitarian response; iii) to discuss efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian conflict; iv) to commend Norway's efforts in facilitating mediation in the Middle East peace process and seek Mr. Brende's views on the way forward; v) to welcome Norway's support to UN Good Offices in Myanmar; vi) to exchange views on the Post-2015 Development Agenda as well as sustainable development; vii)[time permitting] to discuss the situation in the Sahel region and Mali; viii)[time permitting] to commend Norway on its contributions to UN peacekeeping operations; ix) [if raised] discuss UN management reform, underscoring the UN's efforts in strengthening transparency and accountability].

Philippines

- I am deeply concerned about the death and destruction caused by Typhoon Haiyan. Time is of the essence, and very fast action is required if more lives are to be spared.
- The Government of the Philippines is quite experienced in disaster preparedness and response; however, the sheer magnitude of this crisis requires the support of the international community in the response.
- UN teams were on the ground within hours of the storm. To support the Government's efforts, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, activated the humanitarian system's highest level of response, prioritizing resources for this crisis.
- The UN immediately released US\$25 million from the CERF. However, it has left the Fund at an extremely low cash position.
- As one of our top donors, I urge Norway to consider an early payment for any pledges to the CERF in 2014 so that the United Nations may be able to respond to new emergencies quickly and effectively.
- Yesterday, the ERC also launched the Typhoon Haiyan Action Plan, seeking US\$301 million to support the humanitarian response over the next six months.

- Immediate priority interventions include the provision of clean water, sanitation and hygiene, food, shelter, logistics and debris cleaning and health services.
- In this context, I also appeal for Norway's urgent support to the emergency response.

Syria (See generic)

Middle East Peace Process

- I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my appreciation for the important role that your country has always played in support of peace efforts in the Middle East, most recently through the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (ALHC). I hope that Norway will continue to play a lead role in this regard.
- Secretary Kerry's determination to bring peace negotiations forward deserves credit. Leaders on both sides have taken significant political risks. They will need to demonstrate strong leadership to bring this process to fruition.
- 20 years after Oslo, we must do everything we can to support current efforts.

- I am particularly concerned by the impact that recent announcement of Israeli settlements may have on the negotiations. I publicly deplored them.
- I am also concerned by tensions in the West Bank, and the deterioration of the overall humanitarian situation in Gaza, in particular the lack of fuel, construction materials and medical supplies. The United Nations has repeatedly called for the opening of all legitimate crossings, and the lifting of restriction imposed on Gaza.
- It is also essential to maintain financial support to the Palestinian Authority and to UNRWA, for which I count on Norway's continued support.
- Overall, how do you assess the current economic situation and areas requiring urgent attention to support the Palestinian State-building agenda?
What role Norway might be able to play in this regard?

Myanmar

- I appreciate Norway's significant role in assisting with the reform efforts in Myanmar, as well as its support for the Office of my Special Adviser. I welcome your continued cooperation and support.

- With the appointment of Ambassador Ollestad in Yangon, I hope Norway can play an even more constructive role in support of Myanmar's reform process.
- The recent talks between the Government and ethnic groups towards a political solution were a significant move forward in the national reconciliation process.
- In the immediate term, I am deeply concerned by the communal tensions in Rakhine and elsewhere in Myanmar. The international community must actively help the Government address these concerns in a timely and effective manner.
- I am urging the donor community to provide increased funding to address the urgent humanitarian needs in the affected areas.

Norway and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development

- I would like to thank Norway for its active engagement in the post-2015 discussions and Rio+20 follow-up, as member of the Open Working Group and as co-host on the thematic consultation on energy.
- Norway has also been very supportive of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.

- Norway's commitment and leadership is crucial in the process of identifying priority areas for the post-2015 development agenda.
- Norway's commitment and leadership is crucial in the process of identifying priority areas for the post-2015 development agenda.
- In my recent report "A Life of Dignity for All", I call for a single, coherent and ambitious post-2015 agenda with sustainable development at its core and poverty eradication as its highest priority.
- This agenda should produce one concise set of inspirational goals.
- I am eager to hear more about the themes Norway has identified as priorities for the future agenda.

Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)

- Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity and an environment that allows the world to thrive.
- I am grateful for the leadership and commitment of Norway so far.
- I welcome you to join the Advisory Board, which I personally co-chair along with President Kim of the World Bank.

- We are at the beginning of a multi-year mission towards Sustainable Energy for All. It will require strong support from all stakeholders.
- I hope we can continue to rely on Norway, both in terms of supporting the initiative and supporting the integration of energy into the Post-2015 Development Framework.

Mali & the Sahel [Time permitting]

- I visited the Sahel region last week, alongside the Chairperson of the African Union and the President of the World Bank.
- This joint visit constituted a first step in our efforts to enhance international coordination and cooperation on the Sahel, for more effective and targeted support that is also in accordance with the priority areas identified by countries and organizations of the region.
- I was also pleased to count on the participation of the EU Development Commissioner, Mr. Andris Piebalgs of Latvia, in the joint visit to the Sahel.

- The main objective of the **UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel**, which is a product of a UN system-wide effort led by my **Special Envoy for the Sahel, Mr. Romano Prodi**, is to find a comprehensive approach to address the structural causes of instability and fragility in the region.
- The effective and swift implementation of the strategy, in close coordination with other international partners, is of paramount importance to tackle the challenges facing the Sahel.

Mali/MINUSMA

- Recent security incidents, including the attack on MINUSMA peacekeepers in Tessalit on 23 October, are a clear sign that Mali must remain vigilant.
- Mali has made tremendous progress over the last year with the signature of the **Preliminary Agreement**, the holding of the presidential election and the deployment of MINUSMA.
- These are, however, only the initial steps on the long road to peace and stability. The legislative elections are the next step in the reestablishment of constitutional order.

- The Government now needs to focus on the root causes of the crisis and work on national reconciliation, improving governance, protecting human rights, reforming the security sector, extending state authority and capacity in the north and promoting sustainable development.
- These challenges need to be tackled in an inclusive manner.
- Strong support by international partners for the peace process in Mali continues to be required. The international community must work together with the parties to the 18 June Preliminary Agreement to ensure that all parties stay on board and that its implementation moves forward in an inclusive manner.

Norway's support to Peacekeeping [Time permitting]

- I would like to thank Norway for its important contributions to UN Peacekeeping Operations. I especially welcome the deployment of so many female Norwegian uniformed personnel.
- I hope Norway will consider additional deployments in the future. We are especially looking for high technological assets, particularly in aviation.

- In particular, military helicopters, sensors, engineers, hospitals and well trained and professional staff officers are greatly needed.
- Let me also thank you for removing the caveats on your personnel in UNTSO, which is a welcome example for other troop-contributing countries. We have taken extensive security measures for the safety and security of the civilian and military personnel in Syria.
- I appreciate Norway's contribution and pledge to MINUSMA. I can only emphasize the need for intelligence capabilities to address the fluid security situation in Mali.
- I am also very grateful for Norway's financial support to various projects in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, aimed at enhancing the capabilities of troops, including in the area of protection of civilians and sexual and gender-based violence.
- Norway's model in supporting MINUSTAH's project to address sexual and gender-based violence in Haiti is commendable as is its contribution to UNMISS in the area of civilian justice.

- More broadly, we are grateful for Norway's contribution to the development of the United Nations Rule of Law Indicators, which are being used as a tool to identify the strengths and challenges in the police, justice and corrections areas in several peacekeeping host countries.

Management reform [If raised]

- I am grateful for Member States' support for my reform initiatives, which I have laid out to strengthen the Organization. These initiatives will enable the United Nations to "Work as One".
- I highly appreciate that we share the common goals of delivering mandates more effectively and managing resources better.
- However, I have noticed that, lately, the General Assembly has become more explicit in its guidance to the Secretariat.
- I would value your support in advocating for the Secretariat to be given a much freer reign to focus on the critical tasks ahead of us. This would be especially important in the Fifth Committee.