



Minister of the Environment & International Development

17 March 2009

World Wide Views on Global Warming

Norway warmly supports the World Wide Views on Global Warming (WWVGW) initiative. For the first time in the history of international climate negotiations will local people be mobilised to discuss key climate change questions through national meetings on September 26th, 2009.

Climate change will affect people on the ground, and the poor and vulnerable much more than the rich and affluent. For the success of climate mitigation and adaptation it is crucial that the voice of the people be heard. Politicians need to listen, part of the climate solution lies in what the people tell us.

The WWVGW meetings in September will bring together people from all sectors of society, creating a unique opportunity for national discussions on climate change. It might prove difficult for developing nations to organise this event, though the voices of these populations are no less – and in many respects more – significant than others. It is therefore essential that we support institutions in developing countries, both financially and logistically, to stage national WWVGW meetings.

As Minister of Environment and International Development, I am pleased to say that two Norwegian Ministries are involved in the WWVGW; the Ministry of the Environment is partly financing the Norwegian meeting while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is providing financial and organisational input to stage the event in three developing nations.

I am looking forward to follow the world-wide discussions on global warming in September, and particularly to receive the output of this world-wide consultation at the Copenhagen conference (COP 15). I would like to urge other governments to support national WWVGW meetings in your own country and, if possible, in developing nations. Let us not forget that we have a clear goal in the COP 15 negotiations; a new solid climate regime is needed. Let us seize the opportunity the WWVGW event can provide by lifting societal concerns and ideas on climate change up to an international political level. Let us do this now because our future depends on it!

The best of luck to the WWVGW team and to the national partners around the world!

Regards

Erik Solheim