

# Norway

## Cross-cutting issues

- Norway has **listened** to the discussion under the previous agenda items with interest. Many valid points have been made, among others on bioenergy
- One response for climate change mitigation is to **increase the use of bioenergy** to substitute for fossil fuel. Many interventions here have addressed this topic and we agree with those who point to the other side of the coin, namely the potential conflict with food security that arises when agricultural land is used for growing bioenergy crops.

In order for bioenergy to be part of the solution for sustainable development it is therefore important to **develop strong international guidelines** for the production of bioenergy to ensure that the positive potential of increased bioenergy production is achieved while avoiding negative consequences on food security and the environment.

- To us **food security** is the central issue in the thematic cluster we are discussing, particularly for Africa.
- In order to work for food security it is necessary to acknowledge the **role of biological diversity and the ecosystem services** derived from biological diversity.
- These ecosystem services provide food, water, fuel and medicines among other things **necessary for food security, human wellbeing and poverty reduction**. The sustainable management of biological diversity is of vital importance to this end. The introduction of the terms “biodiversity market” and “commercially viable biodiversity” of one of the keynote speaker leaves us puzzled or even alarmed. Biodiversity is not a commodity, it is a common asset to humanity.
- **Climate change** is a real challenge to food security and good **adaptation strategies** are needed. Such strategies must address the need to maintain the diversity both of agricultural species and of these species’ genetic diversity in order to provide a basis for adapting agriculture to projected climate change. The Global Seed Vault on the Norwegian island of Svalbard is a measure in this regard.
- There is also a need for **research** to develop climate change resilient agricultural practices. We acknowledge the important issue of securing the livelihoods of pastoralists and indigenous peoples in this regard.
- For these tasks bodies like all three of the Rio Conventions, as well as the **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources** are **central instruments**
- Thank you, mme Chair