

Template for Case Studies

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (21-22 March 2019, Geneva)

Why?

The [Regional Forum on Sustainable Development \(21-22 March 2019, Geneva\)](#) creates a regional space for peer learning and sharing of practical solutions in implementing the SDGs. Governments and other stakeholders will mutually learn from sharing concrete experiences, best practices and challenges. Case studies will form the basis of the peer learning segment.

How?

Governments and other stakeholders are kindly asked to provide concrete case studies and examples of practical solutions from their experience in SDG implementation. The case studies will be compiled in a document and shared with participants in advance of the Forum (please see last year's [case study compilation](#)). A selection of case studies will be presented during the peer learning segment.

When?

Please submit the case study by 1 March 2019

Please fill in the template

below.

SDG addressed

The case study must address one of the themes discussed at the round tables (see below). Please tick the relevant box.



- ☐ **Learning without Limits:** Lifelong Learning and Inclusive Education
- ☐ **The Power of Knowledge for Change:** Education and Learning as Drivers of Sustainable Development



- ☐ **The Growth We Want:** Solutions for Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth
- ☐ **The Future of Work:** Productive Employment and Decent Work for All



- ☐ **Bridging the Gap:** Achieving Greater Income and Economic Equality
- ☐ **Towards a World of Equal Opportunity:** Tackling inequality caused by exclusion and discrimination



- ☐ **Acting for Climate:** Stepping Up Climate Change Policies, Action and Awareness in the Region
- ☐ **Coping with Climate Change:** Strengthening Resilience and Adaptation



- ☐ **Strengthening Institutions for Change:** Fostering Effective and Inclusive Governance for Sustainable Development
- ☒ **Empowering People to Protect the Planet:** The Environmental Dimension of SDG 16

Title

Please provide a title that reflects the core issues addressed in your case study.

Title: Safe and enabling space for public participation

Summary

Please briefly summarise the objective of the case study/ practical solution (max 100 words).

Art. 3.7 of the Aarhus Convention requires Parties to promote its 3 pillars in International Forums. France has provided an interesting example when hosting in Paris the UNFCCC COP21 in 2015. Another relevant Forum is the Human Rights Council where an Aarhus Party, Norway, has tabled a resolution on the « recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection, and sustainable development ». Norway went even further by including in a bilateral agreement a stop on harassment of organizations involved in environmental protection when providing assistance to another European country.

Situation

Please elaborate on the specific situation/ context. Where possible, draw on statistics and data (max 150 words).

- France: even in the terrible context of a terrorist attack on Paris in 2015, France kept open the possibility for civil society to participate actively in COP21, inside and outside of the UN zones.
- Norway plays an active role in the protection of human rights defenders at the international level and continuously resists to the pressures to water down provisions protecting them or preventing violation of State obligations in this matter. It also aligns its position in bilateral relations.

Strategy

Please describe the approach chosen (max 100 words).

- France counted on the active support of civil society in achieving a positive outcome of COP21 and kept open the conference spaces open to participation, even after terrible terrorist attacks. It promoted in-depth consultations with the public on the substance of the documents and on formats of public participation in advance of the COP. As a result, the space for discussion open to the general public was next to the UN reserved COP21 area, making it possible for all delegates to move easily and quickly from one area to the other.
- Norway has kept a constant open dialogue with civil society organizations and defenders under threat on trends affecting environmental defenders. This has helped to provide precise examples to motivate the provisions included in its draft resolution to the HRC.

Results and lessons learned

Please elaborate on the specific results, challenges encountered and lessons learned. If possible, briefly elaborate whether the concrete experience could be replicated in other contexts. Preferably, summarise your answer in bullet points (max 100 words).

- The example of France as a host of an international event is replicable by all other UNFCCC COP Presidencies. It will be even particularly needed as UNFCCC enters now a period focusing on

reporting mechanism in order to evaluate progress in combatting climate change and fixing ambition to avoid severe and irreversible damages.

- The Norwegian engagement at the international and national levels produces effective outcomes that have positive impacts enabling people to act for the Planet.

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☐ Please tick this box if you do not wish your contact details to be published in the compiled document. The document will be published on our [website](#). Please bear in mind that other stakeholders might wish to contact you in regard to the case study.