

# Political Platform

of the Norwegian government formed by the Conservative Party, the Progress Party and  
the Liberal Party

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# 1. Introduction

## **Sustainable welfare state**

A government formed by the Conservative Party, Progress Party and Liberal Party aims to ensure that everyone can live free and independent lives. The Government strongly believes that when people are trusted they will also take responsibility. The Government will liberate and support the innovativeness that inherently lies within everyone, the fellowships created at work, families and voluntary organisations. A good society is built from the bottom up. The Government will disseminate power and give each individual, family and local community the opportunity to control their daily lives and shape their own future. Opportunities for all and the freedom to live one's life is only secured through a fair and sustainable welfare state, in which ability and effort counts more than background and ethnicity.

A free society does not just appear on its own. It relies on functional fellowship, in addition to shared values and institutions, such as security under the law, the right of privacy, freedom of speech, trust, freedom of the press, market economy, ownership rights and volunteerism. The Government will work for these values and the institutions that support our society.

The Government will solve the major challenges that Norway faces:

1. Restructuring of the Norwegian economy to create growth, new jobs and provide more legs for us to stand on.
2. Fulfilment of Norway's climate obligations to ensure that we take our share of the responsibility for solving climate issues.
3. Creation of an inclusive labour market. Technological developments create immense opportunities to bring jobs back home, empower the people and streamline, but they also challenge existing jobs and the competence of each person.
4. Securement of a good benefits system. We are happy that more people are living longer, but in order to sustain the Norwegian benefits system more people need to be occupationally active longer.
5. Reduction of poverty. Too many people are affected by poverty and exclusion without any possibility to create a good life for themselves.
6. Implement an integration plan. International migration is very unpredictable and we must be well-prepared for rapid changes. Integration in the workplace must be improved, as it is important for everyone and the sustainability of our benefits system.

The Government will solve these challenges through a wide range of measures to create a sustainable welfare state. This requires increased wealth creation, more jobs and green

adaptation. Norway shall fulfil its climate obligations, whilst more people enter the labour market. We will work towards the maintenance of a society with few differences where people trust one another. We will modernise the public sector to facilitate further development of the benefits system. If this is delayed, we will only accrue a larger bill, which in turn will make it more difficult to safeguard Norway a society, in which everyone can continue to succeed and live the secure and safe life they want to lead. The Government will safeguard civil protection through strengthening the police force and modernising the armed forces.

More people working: More jobs must be created and more people must obtain qualifications for the jobs. The dropout rate at upper secondary schools must be reduced and focus must be placed on vocational subjects and apprenticeships. More emphasis must be placed on knowledge, research and development. The teacher education reform must be continued. A new competence policy must be developed to meet technological shifts and a new labour market. Sustained employment must be strengthened. The Government will take the initiative to stimulate voluntary communal action to promote inclusion in order for more people to enter the labour market. The daily lives of the serious employers in the labour market must become easier and labour market crime must be fought aggressively. The Government will ensure that taxes and VAT levels are cut, and we will reduce bureaucracy to support employment and jobs throughout the country.

Green restructuring Norway must adapt in order to fulfil its climate obligations and to take care of the nature. Through knowledge, research and innovation, many new jobs must be created with high wealth creation. Our new labour market must be green, intelligent and innovative. Norwegian trade and industry have excellent opportunities to be winners in new and large markets. In order to strengthen such opportunities more commitment must be made to new green technology, polluters must pay and we must develop markets for zero emission solutions. It must be easier to create new companies and more profitable to invest in Norwegian jobs. Norway needs more ways to secure its financial position and to reduce climate risk.

Nationwide expansion: The expansion and maintenance of Norway's infrastructure must remain a high priority. Good infrastructure connects the country, reduces accidents and deaths, and strengthens wealth creation. A commitment to improving roads and public transport in towns and cities, in addition to railways, is important for better mobility and growth throughout the country, to solve climate issues and to make the daily lives of most people and businesses easier. The expansion of broadband networks, a better trunk network and fibre to other countries will contribute to more jobs nationwide and boost civil protection.

Digitalisation of Norway: The public sector must be streamlined and more power must be returned to the people. Work on innovation within the public sector must be reinforced. Digitalisation of the public sector must be carried out at a faster pace and cooperation with the private sector

must be strengthened to simplify daily living. Work in schools and higher education must prepare pupils and students for a digital future. Laws and regulations must be adapted to digital solutions.

Norway - the land of opportunities: Norway shall be a country in which everyone has the opportunity to succeed, regardless their background. Education for all, increased emphasis on competence, an integration policy more focused on employment, improved sustainable employment and work-for-benefits schemes will be important instruments. Children who grow up in low-income families shall have the same opportunities and freedom to create their own future as everyone else.

Modernised social welfare: Social safety nets must be strengthened to reduce the number of people who fall outside society. More people shall be supported and encouraged. The benefits system must be modernised in order to be sustainable. Services must be improved through new and improved working methods, increased competence and more freedom of choice for users. Increased digitalisation and streamlining shall free more time to care for others. Good public health is created by prevention when possible and remedying when needed. Healthcare waiting times still need to be reduced and the reform of the child welfare service completed. Services for the most vulnerable, especially within mental health, and alcohol and drug abuse must still be strengthened. Norway shall be an age-friendly society. People who have lived a long time and need help, shall also lead a meaningful and dignified life. The senior citizens reform 'Leve hele livet' (Live Throughout your Life) must therefore be implemented.

A less complicated Norway: Society's urge to create and invent must be realised. The public authorities must not regulate more than necessary. The Government will remove unnecessary prohibition and regulations. Deregulation and new technology can assist in making the daily lives of the self-employed, citizens and civil servants easier.

A safer Norway: Norway must be armed to deal with new threats against society and civil protection. Considerable focus must be placed on work connected to ICT security. The local police reform must be implemented, the police force must be further strengthened and better equipment procured. Norway must have viable defence. Norway's ability to defend itself must be reinforced through long-term plans, and the military defence proposition must be implemented.

A diverse Norway: Immigration provides a source of new impulses and cultural exchange. Variety contributes to new ideas, innovation and creativity. Immigration has contributed to economic growth in Norway and made the country more diverse, but despite this, the Government sees challenges connected to immigration and integration. Waves of migration, regardless the reason, test the Norwegian society, especially the sustainability of the Norwegian welfare state. Therefore, it is necessary to have a restrictive and responsible immigration policy with security



under the law. Norway shall be a driving force in finding adequate solutions for the world's refugees by accepting quota refugees and offering assistance in their local communities. Those who are legally permitted to stay in Norway shall be received in an acceptable way. The Government will change its integration policy to enable more people to enter the labour market. The introduction programme must be more targeted. Civil society must be mobilised to facilitate improved integration on a day-to-day basis.

Global sustainability: More and more of our home affairs are being affected by changes that occur beyond our borders. Therefore in order to have a sustainable welfare state, it is a prerequisite that our foreign policy maintains Norway's interests and contributes to increased international cooperation on transnational challenges. Environmental and climate issues, war and terrorism, people on the run, poverty and insufficient development are problems that no country can solve on their own.

Norway as a global contributor: Norway shall accept its international responsibility and support international cooperation through NATO, the EEA and the United Nations. The Government wants Norway to be a driving force behind international agreements and legal systems, human rights and less restricted trade to include more countries in the global economy and economic growth. The Government considers the sustainable development goals of the United Nations to be key factors in solving the worst global challenges in modern times, and will play an active role in following-up the goals internationally and in Norway. As part of this, we will follow up the commitment to a global educational reform to ensure access to education for all.

Norway as a trading nation: An open economy and extensive international trade is critical to Norway as a trade and export nation. The Government will strengthen Norway's position as a leading maritime nation, secure access to export markets, attract foreign investment to Norway and position Norway as a leading nation within research and innovation.

*This platform discusses how the Government aims to achieve the described political goals. The degree to which the Government succeeds in achieving these goals depends on economic leeway.*

## 2. Employment and society

The goal of the Government is a reliable and flexible labour market with low unemployment and high employment. This is crucial to safeguard a sustainable welfare state.

A well-functioning labour market is also essential to enable everyone to realise their dreams and ambitions. It must always pay to work. More people must work longer, and more people must be included in the labour market. At the same time, the Government shall work to ensure that the benefits system can help the most needy.

### Labour market

Along with other economic policies, the labour market policy should support wealth creation, growth and high employment.

The labour market is undergoing rapid changes. Automation, robots and increased utilisation of artificial intelligence will develop at a fast pace in the years to come. Many areas of society and jobs will be affected. Therefore it is even more important to create new jobs. The Government will prioritise a competency plan to facilitate life-long learning, so that everyone is qualified to work.

Education programmes must be adapted and employee competence enhanced. Knowledge and competence will be critical factors for a successful inclusive labour market.

Some groups of people have difficulties in finding employment or maintaining a job over time. This particularly applies to the functionally impaired, some groups of immigrants and young people, who have not completed their education. The Government will reduce the threshold for taking part in the labour market for the functionally impaired. The Government would also like employers, the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (Nav), recruitment agencies, rehabilitation companies and other actors to better cooperate to get more people in work. The State must take more responsibility for employing the functionally impaired and those with other challenges that hinder them from entering the labour market or establishing their own businesses.

### The Government will:

- Retain permanent employment as the main rule in the Norwegian Working Environment Act.
- Endeavour to reduce the utilisation of temporary positions in the public sector.

- Strengthen efforts to reduce long-term unemployment and unemployment amongst young people.
- Continue and strengthen effective schemes, such as pay supplements and work experience in ordinary enterprises to help more people enter the labour market.
- Organise the social security and taxation systems to motivate people to work.
- Examine a system that includes compulsory regular activity, work-for-benefits scheme or social security payments to young people, who are at risk of falling permanently outside the labour market.
- Ensure that Nav enforces compulsory activity for people on sick leave, for example, in compliance with the 'Hedmark model' and ensure improved follow up and activity for people, who receive the work assessment allowance.
- Ensure less central micromanagement and give Nav more responsibility to ensure that the right programmes are implemented for users at the right time.
- Introduce more stringent requirements in relation to Nav's programme providers and ensure that the results achieved are weighted when awarding assignments.
- Increase labour market competence and expertise in relation to the challenges of young people and opportunities available through Nav.
- Assess initiatives that can limit and stop the export of social security benefits, for example, work towards acceptance of purchasing power parity in the EU for social security benefits.
- Improve the terms and conditions for non-profit organisations and social entrepreneurs to enable them to help solve social problems, especially in terms of the entry of more people into the labour market.
- Adapt legislation to allow more people to change their jobs more frequently and to give many people different types of affiliations to the labour market than earlier.

## **The functionally impaired**

The vision of this Government is a Norwegian society, in which everyone can take part. Most people aspire to have an education and a job with the expectation of leading a free and independent life. The functionally impaired must be accommodated at work and in their daily lives. This is because society needs a labour force and each individual should be able to work. The functionally impaired continue to meet barriers that prevent them from having equal opportunities to take part and access activities.

## The Government will:

- Improve the situation of the functionally impaired in the labour market through, for example, strengthening the functional assistance scheme and trainee schemes within public administration.
- Make the permanently adapted work (VTA) scheme more available.
- Improve access to assistive technology for the functionally impaired to facilitate day-to-day living and to obtain work and an education.
- Include more functionally impaired individuals in the labour market through, for example, improved adaptation and increased utilisation of personal adaptation agreements.
- Continue its work on creating a universally designed society prioritising schools and teaching facilities.
- Consider expanding the national transportation scheme for the disabled (TT-ordningen).
- Assess the recommendations of the Kaldheim Committee (Norwegian Official Report: NOU 2016:17 *På lik linje* (Equal Footing) and various initiatives that may improve the living standards of the mentally disabled.

## Labour market

The objective of this Government is to have a Norwegian labour market that provides employees with stability and flexibility, serious employers, and efficient third-party cooperation that functions well. Through cooperation between employers, employees and the authorities, Norway has created one of the most modern and adaptable labour markets in the world. The Government will further develop the best of the Norwegian model and we believe that Norway has a competitive edge with its highly organised, equal and inclusive labour market.

The Government will execute a proactive policy to combat work crimes with targeted initiatives, increased control and cooperation between the authorities and actors in the labour market. To combat work crimes, the Government will focus on prevention, changing attitudes, crime detection and also determine whether penalties should be increased.

Many employees want more flexibility to more easily combine work with their private lives.

Therefore, the Government will continue its efforts to modernise and adapt the Norwegian Working Environment Act to the labour market wanted by both employers and employees. The Government recognises that many employees choose not to be organised.

Absence due to illness is still too high in Norway and significantly higher than sick leave in comparable countries. Consequently, the Government will continually assess measures that might reduce such absence, especially long-term sick leave.

The Government will invite the public and private sectors to join forces and voluntarily promote inclusion with the specific goal of employing more people with impaired functionality or a 'hole' in their CV. The Government believes that it rests with the state to be a role model for such voluntary work.

The Government will enable as many people as possible to take part in the labour market. At the same time, however, some people will experience situations that prevent them from supporting themselves. For example, involuntary unemployment, periods of short/long-term illness or permanent incapacity for work. In such instances, each individual shall be guaranteed a decent and predictable income.

### **The Government will:**

- Facilitate organised labour and good third-party cooperation that functions.
- Strengthen its efforts against work crimes and unreported work by, for example, further developing third-party cooperation with different vulnerable industries, restrict the right to hire contracted labour and strengthen the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority.
- Review legislation and penalties, and improve the efficiency of forfeiture to combat work crimes.
- Increase the competence of state and municipal procurers to secure a sound labour market.
- Strengthen international cooperation to combat transnational work crimes.
- Follow up and assess the recommendations of the Norwegian Official Report: NOU 2016:1 *Arbeidstidsutvalget - Regulering av arbeidstid - vern og fleksibilitet* (Working Hours Committee - Regulation of Working Hours - Protection and Flexibility).
- Aim to establish a work culture with full-time jobs.
- Continue to enforce tax deductions for union membership fees at the 2017 level.
- Carry out a review of the framework conditions and schemes for founders and the self-employed to secure their social security rights.
- Make it a statutory right to discuss and notify layoffs.
- Take the initiative to promote voluntary joint action to support the inclusion of more people in the labour market.
- Set a target, i.e. that at least five per cent of new employees within central government services shall have a functional impairment or 'hole' in their CV.
- Review and assess the effect of initiatives related to senior citizen policies.
- Assess initiatives for harmonising and simplifying the social security system.
- Strengthen efforts to reduce absence due to illness and critically review the

arrangement in the current agreement on an inclusive labour market (IA-avtalen) before its potential renewal.

- Strengthen programmes for competence enhancement in the labour market.
- Implement the goal that Nav users under the age of 30 shall not surpass more than eight weeks of unemployment without being offered work, a training course, work experience or other relevant activity.
- Assess a national pilot scheme, in which part of the Government's social security budget will be transferred to selected municipalities, who will be responsible for financing some of the social security payments jointly with central government, but can keep any savings should they succeed in helping vulnerable groups enter the labour market.

## Pensions

The Government is committed to safeguarding the dignity of the elderly with security. Therefore it is crucial to have a predictable, robust and transparent pension system. It is also important to motivate people to save for their pensions. Securing one's own financial security during retirement is positive for both society and households.

In the long-term, there will be fewer employees per pensioner in Norway. In order to secure the economic sustainability of the welfare state, the main principles of the pension reform must remain constant and the pension schemes adapted for manoeuvrability between the private and public sectors.

### The Government will:

- Safeguard the welfare of pensioners through a responsible financial policy.
- Continue with the implementation of the pension reform in both the public and private sectors. Amongst other things, this means that a public service pension must offer good incentives for a person to work and facilitate manoeuvrability between the public and private sectors.
- Increase the general age limit for the civil service to 72 years, as laid down in the Norwegian Working Environment Act.
- Continue the state's contribution to contractual early retirement pensions in the private sector, but not above the current level in terms of cost or proportional share, if employers choose to retain the scheme.
- Facilitate reliable and predictable frameworks for private pension savings and private occupational saving schemes.
- Consider initiatives that will enable older employees to work longer, including further

increase of the upper age limit in the Norwegian Working Environment Act.

## **Targeted effort to reduce poverty**

The Government's goal is a society with few inequalities. The Government will make a targeted effort to fight poverty, especially amongst families with children. The most important instruments will be voluntary joint action for inclusion to get as many people working as possible, and a reform of mental healthcare, and alcohol and drug abuse services.

Poverty affects people's health, education and social life. Therefore, the first priority of the Government's social policy is the prevention of poverty, especially amongst families with children. Efficient and good care services, in addition to excellent kindergartens are essential to secure equal opportunities and a good standard of living for all. Employment-focused initiatives, adequate integration, safe and good living conditions, good health services and inclusive leisure activities are essential in the fight against poverty. The Government aims to have zero homelessness. Everyone shall have a safe and good place to live.

### **The Government will:**

- Continue to reduce kindergarten fees and kindergarten will be free during core hours for parents on a low income.
- Introduce schemes for reduced kindergarten fees and free half-day places at pre/after school clubs (SFO), equivalent to the kindergarten schemes for children of parents on a low income.
- Offer free kindergarten places to all children in integration reception centres.
- Strengthen the well child health clinics and school health service.
- Improve treatment and aftercare within mental healthcare, and alcohol and drug abuse services.
- Arrange for more people to own their own home, for example, through increased usage of the rent-to-own model.
- Reinforce work on the social housing policy.
- Endeavour to ensure that all children and adolescents have the opportunity to take part in recreational and cultural activities.
- Strengthen the support schemes for voluntary organisations involved in social inclusion local communities.
- Strengthen pro bona legal assistance schemes.

- Support the work of the Norwegian volunteer centres with, for example, homework help, and support and inclusion schemes for vulnerable children and youths through governmental support schemes and reinforcement, and simplification of the financial support scheme for membership fees.
- Increase housing benefit for families with children.
- Make it more profitable to work, especially for people on a low income by, for example, reducing income tax.



### **3. Children, families, equality and consumer rights**

The Government's policy will enable all children and youths to have a safe and good childhood with opportunities for all. Children and youths are our most important resource. The best interests of the child is a fundamental consideration.

Families create and provide security during childhood, regardless of how the family is built up. Each individual's own worth, choices and self-respect are central aspects of the Government's family policy. The Government will prioritise work on the provision of excellent kindergartens and schools that nurture and educate all children, and develop their skills. The social safety net must be strengthened in a way that provides children and youths with adequate help and follow up when needed.

All human beings shall have equal rights and opportunities in society, regardless their gender, functional ability, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, religion and gender identity. For the Government, real equality and equal worth does not only concern equal rights, but real opportunities as well.

#### **Families with children**

Children and families are different and have different needs. Therefore, each family must be secured flexibility and freedom to choose the solutions that best suit them. Well-functioning families provide security, a sense of belonging and they promote development.

The Government believes it is paramount for children to grow up in safe and stable families. Consequently, society must be open to new family reforms. A child's right to a safe and secure childhood is fundamental.

The Government will fight poverty through employment-focused initiatives, and a health and social welfare policy that will lead to fewer people falling outside society. Children who grow up in low-income families must be given the same opportunity to develop and take part in society. Therefore, the Government will strengthen its commitment towards children who grow up in families on a permanently low income.

Children have the right to good caregivers, and it is the responsibility of parents to nurture and love their children, and to give them security. It is important that society has adequate schemes to take care of children, who do not receive such care at home.

### **The Government will:**

- Continue all payments made to families with children, but assess the organisation and scope of the various schemes with the aim of securing adequate distribution and targeting families with children on a permanently low-income.
- Seek to ensure that parental leave is split into three parts.
- Work towards a more rapid and smoother adoption process, both at home and abroad.
- Improve support schemes for students with children.

### **Child welfare service and family protection**

Children are vulnerable and have a special need for protection, care and affection. At the same time, children are individuals with independent rights. A child's right to be safe and secure shall always be prioritised. Children also have the right to be heard. The Government believes that the child welfare service and other public offices who work with children must allow children to become more involved in decisions affecting their lives.

The Government will strengthen earlier efforts, preventive measures and support to allow as many children as possible to grow up with their own family in their own local environment. All agencies that work with families with children must coordinate their work and cooperate better to offer a uniform service. A good child welfare and family protection service must be adapted to the needs of each child and family. The Government will facilitate a variety of services to guarantee high quality, freedom of choice and adaptation to the needs of each child.

Violence and the abuse of children both physically and mentally are serious violations. The Government will follow up the escalation plan against violence and abuse through the reinforcement of preventive measures, treatment and monitoring.

The Government will build its family protection policy around the principle of preventive work and early intervention to safeguard children a good childhood.

### **The Government will:**

- Strengthen the rights of children and consider the best interests of the child.
- Strengthen the opportunity for children who are under the care of the child welfare service to be heard and complain about the services they receive.
- Establish a court system to handle cases involving children and families, cf. the recommendations in the Norwegian Official Report: NOU 2017:8

*Særdomstoler på nye områder (Special Courts for New types of Cases).*

- Examine whether conversations should be recorded in child welfare cases to improve security under the law.
- Implement the reform of the child welfare service by giving municipalities more professional and financial responsibility for municipal child welfare services.
- Introduce competence requirements and authorisations within municipal child welfare services.
- Follow up the Norwegian Official Report: NOU 2016:16 *Ny barnevernslov - Sikring av barnets rett till omsorg og beskyttelse (New Child Welfare Act - Safeguarding the Right of the Child to receive Care and Protection)*, so the Child Welfare Service Act becomes an Act of rights.
- Set up a public committee to review the rights of the child, especially in an international perspective.
- Follow up the escalation plan against violence against children and child abuse.
- Help ensure that mediation upon the break-up of a relationship is better adapted to the challenges of each family.
- Conduct a full review of the family protection service to strengthen the service.
- Establish a youth panel to advise the Government about current issues, for example, integration, mental health, upper secondary school dropout rates, etc.
- Establish a committee to review and modernise the Norwegian Children's Act. Amongst other things, the committee will assess the importance of the structure of the maintenance system in terms of giving both parents equal shared parental responsibility, and how parents can be assured equal rights as caregivers based on the best interests of the child.
- Implement a quality and competency plan for municipal child welfare services.
- Give municipalities the right to choose child welfare measures following an assessment of the quality, cost and best interests of the child, regardless the provider.
- Secure openness around the content, quality and cost of child welfare services and improve the approval and control schemes through institutional quality criteria.
- Give children under the care of the child welfare service better adapted schooling.
- Improve the right to aftercare for children under the care of the child welfare service.
- Aim to ensure that all siblings grow up in the same foster home when possible and in the best interests of the child.
- Review and improve the terms and conditions for foster families.

## Equality

The Government's aim is that everyone shall have equal opportunities and the freedom to make their own choices. The Government will work for equal worth and equal opportunities for all, regardless gender, age, ethnicity, religion, functional impairment, sexual orientation or a person's gender identity. In addition, the Government will strengthen equality within society and give everyone the opportunity to combine family life with work. Gendered education programmes contribute to the continuation of a gendered labour market. Therefore, the Government will put forward a strategy that will contribute to a more equal education system and labour market.

Education, employment, integration and initiatives against violence in close relationships are important areas of commitment in terms of equality. The feminist perspective also needs to be reinforced in development policies.

The Government will improve competence throughout the public support services and enhance the coordination of work against violence and coercion in close relationships.

The Government will continue to implement the Competency Plan 2020 for female-dominated occupations, for example, in kindergartens, and nursing and care services. The Government will also prioritise measures that might contribute to female entrepreneurship and a variety of solutions within welfare and welfare innovation. The Government will also proactively contribute towards the counteraction of sexual harassment.

### The Government will:

- Promote measures that reinforce female entrepreneurship and welfare innovation.
- Encourage more people to choose untraditional education programmes and careers to contribute to a less gendered labour market by turning schemes, such as 'Menn i helse' (Men in Healthcare) and 'Jenter og teknologi' (Women and Technology) into national schemes.
- Aim to ensure that the management teams of governmental companies, directorates and agencies are at least 40% male and female.
- Secure the rights of LHBTIQ people, contribute to openness, actively counteract discrimination and help ensure that the competence of this group is included in the framework plans of all relevant educational programmes.
- Evaluate a scheme to transfer responsibility for crisis centres to municipalities and assess measures that will secure a good service.
- Fight genital mutilation.

- Improve sex education in primary and lower secondary schools.
- Improve language training and other targeted measures to enable more women with a minority group background to take part in the labour market.
- Reinforce work aimed at equality within minority environments by strengthening the position of voluntary organisations that specially focus on the integration of minority women into Norwegian society.
- Reinforce work connected to the counteraction of human trafficking, violence in close relationships and sexual violence against women.
- Fight racism, religious discrimination, anti-semitism, social control and prejudices based on gender, sexual identity and ethnicity.
- Implement measures to counteract discrimination in the labour market, housing market and nightclubs.
- Ensure that Norway is an international leader in promoting the rights of sexual minorities.
- Reinforce the efforts of the Norwegian Labour Authority and examine a low-threshold service for the enforcement of sexual harassment cases.
- Prevent sexual harassment in schools.

## Consumer rights

The Government believes that good consumer rights are crucial for a market economy based on trust. When faced with professional actors, it is essential that consumers have adequate and determined rights in order to make informed decisions and to protect them from fraud and illegal marketing, especially when shopping and selling online.

More and more shopping is done online and through various digital solutions. If physical stores are to survive in a continually growing global digital world, stores and municipalities must be able to voluntarily adapt their opening hours based on consumer needs. The Government will initially follow up the recommendations of Norwegian Official Report: NOU 2017:17 *På ein søndag? (On a Sunday?)* and simplify the rules for Sunday trading.

The Government is concerned about the growth of consumer loans without security or a diligent assessment of the borrower's ability to repay. Such loans can create problems for those who are already experiencing financial hardship. A number of initiatives have recently been implemented to help this market function better. The Government will assess the need for additional regulation of the market, for example, to help ensure that such loans are justifiably given. The Government will also assess whether there should be an upper limit for effective

interest rates on unsecured consumer loans.

#### **The Government will:**

- Present a white paper on the Government's consumer policy with special focus on consumer rights and data protection within the digital economy.
- Improve consumer rights and help counteract fraud and illegal marketing.
- Strengthen the interests of consumers and professional actors when purchasing a dwelling.
- Contribute to more openness surrounding the information that different actors gather and how it will be used.
- Aim to simplify the terms and conditions of users for digital services.
- Simplify the rules for Sunday trading.
- Assess whether there should be an upper limit for effective interest rates on unsecured consumer loans.
- Extend the outer frameworks of the Norwegian Alcohol Act governing municipal licenses, to sell alcoholic beverages up to 9pm on weekdays and Saturdays.
- Amend the Norwegian Alcohol Act to allow the opening hours of Vinmonopolet's local stores to follow the alcohol licensing hours set by the municipalities.
- Assess measures that might make it easier to change banks, including the option of bank account numbers following the customer and not the bank.

## **4. Justice and preparedness**

The Government will build its policies around the security needs of each individual and society at large. The Government will ensure that the police are available and visible, that the courts have the capacity to handle cases in line with statutory deadlines and the correctional services shall have the capacity to receive convicts for incarceration without long waiting times.

Prevention is the best way to fight crime. The Government will reinforce crime prevention and rehabilitation of convicts.

## Police and preparedness

Crime is continually developing and the judicial authorities must be equipped to meet such developments. The police must have the competence to fight new crimes and access to the necessary policing methods to prevent, avert and investigate crimes, whilst maintaining and respecting privacy and security under the law. In order to protect civilians in an emergency situation, more police are needed with good basic training, and quick access to the right and adequate equipment, vehicles and helicopters.

The Government believes that policing methods shall be effective, but they must never go beyond those that are necessary or appropriate.

The Government will follow up the settled local police reform from 2015. The police shall work more intelligently, be present in several spheres and possess different competencies to carry out social assignments.

Police districts shall have more control over their resources and spend them as they deem appropriate. The Government will prioritise increased funding to the districts instead of the National Police Directorate.

The Government will continue to improve Norway's preparedness to better prepare for crises and serious situations. Good equipment, ICT security, and cooperation and coordination between the various agencies and sectors are critical. The Government will continue cooperating with voluntary preparedness organisations.

### The Government will:

- Complete its work on the local police reform.
- Aim to achieve the goal of two policemen per 1000 people by 2020.
- Give access to armed police at vulnerable locations following a risk and vulnerability analysis.
- Test electroshock weapons in some police districts.
- Establish a public committee to evaluate current policing methods.
- Consider the establishment of a new Norwegian Police University College outside Oslo City Centre.
- Finish the preparedness centre at Taraldrud within the planned timeframe in compliance with the zoning plan, and in cooperation with the local environment and neighbours.
- Improve the capacity and competence of the police to fight data crimes, including more presence of the police online.
- Review the rules for using surplus information.

- Continue to allow municipalities to introduce rules on begging.

## Rule of law and judicial proceedings

Law enforcement policies shall safeguard the right of each person to security under the law, justice and equality under the law. The Government believes that the most vulnerable in society must also have access to legal assistance, and will therefore continue to improve pro bono legal assistance initiatives.

The judicial sector requires substantial resources and a structure that makes it as efficient and unbureaucratic as possible. Therefore, the Government will assess the current organisation of the courts and correctional services with the aim of releasing funds for swifter court case processing, and increased capacity and improved correctional services.

### The Government will:

- Prevent crime through initiatives to change attitudes and targeted efforts in cooperation with the police.
- Continue to prioritise the battle against abuse and violence in close relationships.
- Strengthen efforts against rape and enhance the competence of the police in this area.
- Strengthen pro bono legal assistance initiatives.
- Assess the organisation of the structure of the courts and correctional services based on evaluations.
- Set fees in the national budget after consulting the Norwegian Bar Association.
- Will oppose the use of religious garments and symbols in the police force, courts and correctional services when executing state power and authority.
- Seek to ensure that private actors and social entrepreneurs contribute more to the recruitment of convicts.
- Facilitate the use of new digital working methods for more efficient utilisation of resources.
- Keep incarceration waiting times at a low level. The prison cell lease agreement with The Netherlands will be terminated by the time the new prison in Agder is opened at the latest.
- Reinforce the work to fight financial crimes.
- Review legislation and penalties, and improve the efficiency of forfeiture to combat work crimes.
- Work towards the establishment of a new industry-steered and digital 'tribunal building' (Nemndenes hus) in Norway.
- Continue the work on more streamlined criminal case processing and fast-tracking in the



courts, whilst maintaining security under the law.

- Escalate the work aimed at introducing audio and video recordings in Norwegian courts.
- Elucidate the regulations on the right of a suspect to inspect the documents of their own case when following up a criminal law committee report.
- Examine the advantages and disadvantages of separating the police and prosecution authorities.

## **Data protection**

The Government considers that data protection is a constitutional right, that everyone has the right to a private life and that the state is responsible for securing personal integrity. Pressure to protect personal data is growing due to increased usage of digital solutions and the Internet. The Government will have more stringent requirements on safe storage of personal data in relation to both private and public actors.

### **The Government will:**

- Implement the EU General Data Protection Regulations as soon as possible.
- Establish a data protection commission to assess the position of data protection in Norway. Amongst other things, the Government will look at data protection in the judicial sector and how data protection can be secured with increased usage of digital solutions, including the rights of social media users.
- Secure the right of each individual to control their own private details.

### **Punishment and incarceration**

The Government will maintain the general level of punishment, but will be open to minor adjustments in some areas should sentencing seem unreasonable.

The Government will reduce the use of isolation on the basis that isolation might be harmful to convicts. The decisions of the correctional services must be open, well-grounded and testable.

The Government believes that there must be a good balance between sentencing and rehabilitation. Most convicts in Norwegian prisons will return to normal life and they must be recruited into the labour market, as soon as possible after incarceration. The Government will work towards increasing the number of foreign prisoners transferred to their home countries by entering into agreements with countries that respect human rights.

The Government wants to improve the rights of victims and will work towards further improvement of the offices for victims of crime.

### **The Government will:**

- Maintain the general level of sentencing during the government's term, but remain open to making minor adjustments in some areas within the current frameworks.
- Aim to transfer more foreign citizens, who commit crimes in Norway, to their country of origin for incarceration.
- Work towards creating a sentencing system with increased focus on rehabilitation by placing more emphasis on activities during incarceration.
- Amend the Norwegian Criminal Code so that prisoners serving a preventive detention sentence cannot be released from prison earlier than he/she would have done with an ordinary prison sentence.
- Review the use of police custody and assess increased use of alternative coercive

measures instead of imprisonment, to keep the use of police custody at the lowest low level possible.

- Investigate and assess a victim of crime fund in accordance with the Swedish model.
- Investigate a ban on domicile or residence for perpetrators originating from the same municipality as the victims of severe cases of violence and sexual crimes.
- Review a scheme with secret addresses to give victims more freedom, and a more normal life.

## 5. Immigration and integration

Immigration has contributed to economic growth in Norway and made us a more diverse nation. Along with know-how and competence, this contributes to increased innovation and development of trade and industry. At the same time as immigration has turned Norway into a more diverse nation, there are challenges linked to integration.

International migration is very unpredictable and we must be well-prepared for rapid shifts. We must be better at integration in the labour market, as this is crucial for each individual and the sustainability of our benefits system. Waves of migration, regardless the reason, test the Norwegian society. This particularly applies to the sustainability of the Norwegian welfare state. Therefore it is essential to regulate immigration. It is important to have an asylum policy that keeps the number of asylum seekers, who do not need protection, as low as possible in order to use resources on those who do need protection, as well as quota refugees. The number of quota refugees must be seen in relation to other challenges linked to immigration and integration.

Norway shall be a driving force in finding adequate solutions for refugees by accepting quota refugees and offering assistance in their local communities. Labour migration can bring important skills to society and contribute to workforce shortages in many sectors.

### **A sustainable immigration policy.**

The right to seek asylum is a basic human right. The Government will have a restrictive and responsible immigration policy with security under the law within the frameworks of international obligations. Processing under the security of the law is crucial to ensure that those who need protection actually receive it and those who do not are quickly returned. The Government will seek to enter into return agreements with several countries to prevent illegal immigrants living in Norway.

In terms of family immigration to Norway, the Government believes that the immigrant must be able to support him/herself or be supported by the person he/she is being reunited with. The Government wants to counteract forced marriages and polygamy, and prevent the rules on family immigration from being undermined through exploitation. Therefore a review of the regulations and practices is necessary, as well as the presentation of prevention measures.

Children on the run are more vulnerable than adults. The best interests of the child must be taken

into account and weighted as a basic consideration in all immigration cases involving children.

Norway has taken its share of responsibility for a long time for people on the run, however such responsibility must be divided between more countries. Therefore the Government will, as a starting point, support plans for a binding European quota system that provides a permanent distribution mechanism between all European countries. To alleviate the reasons why people migrate, the Government will reinforce its efforts focused on more development and democracy.

#### **The Government will:**

- Ensure that applications for asylum are processed rapidly without affecting the security of asylum seekers under the law.
- Continue the excellent schemes for forced prostitution and victims of human trafficking.
- Continue the commitment to force return illegal immigrants and facilitate more assisted returns.
- Improve services for single minors with a temporary residence permit by improved efforts to track families and education that is relevant to their return. For example, through adapted upper secondary school education.
- Prioritise quota refugees that have most chance of integrating successfully.
- Sustain the determined number of quota refugees, but increase the quota if the current number of arrivals continues. However, this must be seen in relation to other challenges linked to immigration and integration.
- Aim to establish care centres in the countries of origin concerned.
- Contribute to the prevention of conflicts and the reasons for migration through stronger international efforts and stronger connection of Norway to the European processes for a joint European system, which could also entail the establishment of joint asylum centres outside the EU and strengthening of the Schengen countries' external borders.
- Continue to ensure rapid settlement of refugees.
- Continue a differentiated reception centre structure with, for example, arrival reception centres, integration reception centres and returns reception centres adapted to the needs of society and asylum seekers.
- Ensure that the voice of the child is heard more during oral processing of immigration cases.
- Introduce dual citizenship.
- Expect individuals to support themselves or the person with whom they are being

reunited in family immigration cases.

- Review the regulations and practices, and promote initiatives for the prevention of proforma marriages, polygamy and recurring family immigration.
- Use DNA tests in all family reunification cases to clarify kinship.
- Ensure that Norwegian citizenship is a privilege and not easy to obtain. It is an advantage for everyone if the granting of citizenship is also arranged in a way to help integration. Therefore, the Government will propose amendments to the Norwegian Nationality Act to accomplish this. The Government will examine and amend the Norwegian Nationality Act to change the main rule to eight years of residency in Norway to obtain citizenship. Exceptions will be made for individuals who support themselves in accordance with set criteria. In such instances, the requirement will be six years. Those who are exempted in accordance with the current main requirements and are recognised as refugees, will fall under the current residency requirements.
- Strengthen efforts to uncover individuals who have been granted residency in Norway on false terms.
- Continue efforts to withdraw permits when protection is no longer needed.
- Maintain temporary border controls as long necessary to secure national security.
- Reduce family reunification fees for people who have been granted refugee status.
- Secure good pro bono legal assistance schemes.
- Carry out a new review of the complaint procedure for immigration cases.
- Seek to ensure that procedures connected to work permit and visa applications, and extension and renewal of work permits, are swifter and less complicated.
- Open up for more labour migrants with relevant competence from countries outside the EEA to come to Norway.
- The follow up to the administrative decision of the Norwegian Parliament, dated 14.11.2017, regarding single minor asylum seekers, states that the person's age at the time of the decision shall be taken into account during the new application process.

## Effective integration policy

Integration is a two-way process, in which the authorities shall provide good opportunities and the immigrant shall put in some self-effort. The Norwegian welfare model relies on high participation in the labour market, but immigrants who have fled are far too frequently non-participants. The Government will prioritise efforts to ensure that immigrants who have fled their own country enter the labour market sooner by motivating them to work and setting requirements. The Government will completely reform the integration process to achieve faster and better results.

Many immigrants do not have a network when entering the labour market and this can be a problem. Therefore the Government will organise employment schemes for highly qualified immigrants to make the transition to employment easier.

Labour migrants and family migrants immediately have an employment-related or family network when arriving in Norway. However, asylum seekers are always placed in reception centres whilst waiting for their asylum application to be processed. Long case processing times result in long waiting times for settlement in a municipality. Therefore the Government believes that a differentiated structure for reception centres is crucial in order to start the integration process as quickly as possible for asylum seekers, who will most likely be allowed to stay.

A good integration process and well-functioning society depends on a general understanding of Norwegian society and culture. It is a given that a knowledge of Norwegian and an understanding of Norwegian society is required for individuals who stay in Norway over time. This requires effort on the part of each person, who will be living in Norway. Voluntary organisations will play an important role in integration, as such the Government will ensure they have adequate frameworks for their activities.

Wearing a full-face veil is not a right, but it is not forbidden either. It must be possible to identify everyone when necessary and full-face veils will not be permitted in kindergartens or during teaching sessions.

#### **The Government will:**

- Reform the introduction programme with clear expectations of producing good results and more employment-focused initiatives.
- Introduce empowerment courses for women, as a compulsory part of the introduction programme.
- Assess new models for the introduction benefit with the objective of participants completing the programme. For example, completion bonuses upon completion of the programme.
- Make it easier to combine participation in the introduction programme and ordinary work.
- Combine language training with work experience.
- Work towards a reform and improvement of Norwegian language training to provide everyone with a good foundation to learn and to take part in the labour market and social life.
- Give the employer the controlling right to ban employees from wearing full-face veils during working hours.

- Assess schemes in which private or non-profit organisations can offer the entire introduction programme or parts thereof.
- Waive the condition of documented identity required for asylum seekers to work if an applicant takes part in an integration-promoting programme arranged by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI).
- Continue and improve schemes such as 'Jobbsjansen' (A Chance to Work).
- Seek to ensure that lessons are not divided by gender due to cultural or religious reasons. There is something special about girls and boys having the same lessons together.
- Introduce a scheme which will require individuals, who have been granted a residence permit and have lived in Norway for five years, but are not yet working and receive municipal benefits and support, to be active by attending language classes.
- Make it easier for immigrants to have education from their country of origin approved, for example, healthcare qualifications.
- Continue the scheme that allows public benefits to be withdrawn from people who refuse to work due to religious reasons.
- Ensure that all children undergo compulsory testing of their Norwegian language skills at their 4-year-old check-up.
- Carry out experiments with anonymous applications to the public authorities.
- Offer Norwegian language and social studies classes included in the introduction programme to labour migrants from EEA countries when they pay themselves.
- Ensure that pupils who come to Norway without having completed primary and lower secondary school education, are not transferred from reception centre classes to ordinary classes before they have a good command of Norwegian.

## Negative social control

Some girls and boys grow up in Norway without the freedom to decide over their own lives and bodies or who they will marry. Children are also sent against their own will to schools abroad where they are exposed to violence and abuse. Negative social control is a serious social problem and it must be counteracted. The Government will make it easier for people to decide how they want to live their lives. This requires transparent measures, a broad approach and efforts across borders.



### **The Government will:**

- Follow up the plan of action against negative social control, forced marriages and genital mutilation (2017-2020), including reinforcement of efforts to prevent people from travelling outside the Schengen Area when, for example, the child welfare service has passed an administrative decision banning such travel, retainment or non-issuing of a passport to prevent children from being sent abroad against their will, and establish routines for information and warnings between public agencies to counteract negative social control.
- Implement measures to counteract children from being sent to schools abroad against their will where they are exposed to violence and abuse.
- Support organisations that work to improve the rights of women from a minority background and fight honour-based cultures and negative social control.
- Ensure that a divorce granted under Norwegian law is respected by different faiths and belief systems, and counteract the formation of religious courts.
- Encourage close monitoring of pupils and parents, including home visits, when it is suspected that a child is being kept away from school.
- Examine how preachers, who encourage violence and terror can be prevented from entering the country.

## **6. Economy, tax and sustainability**

Norway is a land of great opportunities. Hard work and high productivity is fundamental to high wealth creation throughout the country. The Government will base its economic policy on the prerequisite of wealth creation before it can be shared. The Government will have a responsible economic policy, in which public spending is adapted to the situation of the economy within the frameworks of budgetary rule.

Increased usage of oil money will be turned around into investments in knowledge and infrastructure, in addition to tax relief to promote growth.

The Government will contribute to the creation of robust and diverse businesses. Therefore, the Government's economic policy will increase future wealth creation. The value of our future work efforts constitutes the largest portion of our national wealth. Therefore, the Government will prioritise the reinforcement of sustained employment and invest in competence enhancement.

In the long-term, growth in our mainland economy will determine the development of the welfare system in Norway. Therefore, the Government will prioritise initiatives that promote wealth creation and increased productivity in the Norwegian economy. This applies to both the private

and public sectors.

A lower demand for products and services from oil undertakings is a permanent change. Norway needs more legs to stand on in the years to come. We must have well-functioning markets and growth, and jobs must be facilitated in sectors that are exposed to competition. Good restructuring skills will advantageously help prepare Norwegian companies for global competition. The tax system must promote growth and stimulate competitiveness and create more profitable jobs. The Government wants to a tax system that stimulates employment and work effort, and a lower tax level to give families more freedom of choice. Natural resources should be taxed in a way that allows surpluses to go to society, whilst enabling companies to extract profitable resources at the same time.

People's homes and holiday homes shall not be taxable objects. This is an unsocial form of taxation that affects owners, regardless of their ability to pay. Therefore, the Government will reduce property tax rates and the basis for tax.

#### **The Government will:**

- Have a responsible economic policy based on the budgetary rule and keep the economy in order.
- Make the Norwegian economy less vulnerable to fluctuations in the price of oil by strengthening the growth of our mainland economy.
- Implement measures for increased wealth creation and productivity.
- Reduce tax levels.
- Improve the tax system by reducing tax rates and reviewing tax deductions that are not particularly attached to income and employment, with the aim of simplifying the tax system.
- Secure the basis for tax by avoiding holes.
- Prevent the transfer of surpluses, secure the basis for tax and be a global driving force behind long-term and principle-based joint solutions to combat tax evasion.
- Improve the general arrangements for favourable purchases and allocation of shares and options in one's own company.
- Evaluate the SkatteFUNN scheme and consider improvements.
- Simplify the VAT system and reduce the number of rates.
- Seek to ensure that the right of the municipalities to collect property tax is reduced through the reduction of the maximum property tax rate by at least two thousandths for homes and holiday homes.
- Introduce a compulsory rule that caps the valuation of property tax on homes and

holiday homes. This will be executed in such a way that the annual income losses of each municipality will not be significantly high, whilst reducing the property tax of as many people as possible at the same time.

- Increase basic deductions and discounts for working capital in wealth tax.
- Work towards a mutual reduction in custom duty rates to help increase free trading.
- Ensure that the second poorest developing countries receive better terms and conditions for custom duties than other average income countries by reducing custom duty rates on all products included in the Norwegian preferential customs treatment scheme.
- Increase the limit for saving in the name of a child by extending the limit for when county governors can take over management.
- Uphold the abolishment of inheritance tax.
- Assess whether the financial activity tax should be removed from workplaces due to problems with EEA law, the work on improving the basis for tax and possibility of tax circumvention.
- Assess a minimum standard deduction model for the self-employed as an alternative to factual deductions.

## Green tax shift

Climate change is one of the main challenges of modern times. Tax and VAT policies shall contribute to the reduction of Norwegian greenhouse gas emissions. The Government will build its climate policy on market-based and cost-efficient initiatives. The main instruments of Norway's climate policy are and should be cross-sector instruments, such as greenhouse gas taxes and saleable quotas.

### The Government will:

- Introduce a flat rate CO<sub>2</sub> tax of NOK 500 within all sectors with gradual escalation during the period. Other relevant taxes (for example HFC/PFC taxes) will be increased accordingly. The proceeds will be used to reduce other taxes and surcharges of the affected groups to ease restructuring. This will also include agriculture and fisheries, but looked at in relation to compensatory measures in consultation with the industries.
- Continue the green shift in relation to the one-time tax when purchasing a vehicle by increasing the CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> components and reducing other components. The restructuring will not increase the revenue from taxes in the budget.

- Open up for increasing diesel road user charges in order to reach the goal of zero-emissions from all new cars sold from 2025. Additional revenue from potential higher charges will be used to reduce traffic insurance tax (previously road tax) with a similar sum.
- Sharpen the instruments for public and commercial transport compensated with depreciation rates, etc.
- Start work on a vehicle tax system that will be sustainable after 2025.
- Continue to implement tax benefits for electric cars in relation to the one-time tax and VAT throughout the period to reach the goals for 2025.
- Follow up the expert committee established to assess climate-related risk factors and how they affect the Norwegian economy.

### **Improve competition and make the public sector more efficient.**

Efficient use of resources entails doing things correctly and prioritising the right objectives. The Government will implement structural measures that contribute to more efficient usage of all the combined resources of society. This could give benefits in the form of reduced taxes across the national budget, but the effects could also be seen in the form of higher quality and better results without changing the level of taxation. Structural measures could also include amendments to regulations that first and foremost benefit the private sector, for example, through increased productivity.

To secure a sustainable welfare state, it is becoming increasingly important to review public spending and to better spend tax payers' money. This requires clear prioritisation of expenses in the national budget. The Government will work towards more targeted transactions to private persons and oversee that public investments are used for profitable socioeconomic projects. At the same time, the public sector must show that it has the ability and will to restructure, and initiatives to streamline and make the public sector less bureaucratic.

An efficient public sector is also necessary to meet the need for welfare services without reducing the access of the private sector to labour. The Government will facilitate high-quality services and use competitive tenders to improve services and the production of efficient services.

Private bidders should be able to compete on the delivery of publicly financed services on the same terms as public enterprises when viable.

#### **The Government will:**

- Increase productivity by structure reforms that boost the growth of trade and industry and initiatives to streamline the public sector.

- Implement initiatives that will simplify and make the work between the ministries, directorates and agencies less bureaucratic.
- Prevent public enterprises from receiving special advantages that distort competition.
- Make the right investment choices by prioritising investment projects and choosing the right solutions when making investments, in addition to securing good management and cost control during the projects.
- Secure standards that contribute to innovation and cost-efficient solutions.
- Secure binding profit realisation in determined digitalisation projects and structure reforms.
- Ensure that public transactions are more targeted.
- Allow private bidders to compete for the delivery of publicly financed services when viable.

## Finance markets

Well-functioning finance markets are critical to the growth of the economy and the daily lives of the public in that profitable projects have access to capital at prices that reflect the risks, and the public has access to loans and investment opportunities. The Government will facilitate a well-functioning capital market, stable banks and a competitive finance industry.

### The Government will:

- Consider additional restraints to restrict access to consumer loans.
- Review the Norwegian Estate Agency Act to simplify the Act and provide consumers with security.

## The Norwegian oil fund - Government Pension Fund Global (SPU)

The oil fund has been a success because Norwegian politicians have used professional investment strategy reports as a basis, with the aim of getting the highest possible returns with moderate risk and ethically motivated exclusion criteria. For example, related to weapons, human rights and severe damage to the environment. The Government will also base administration on current guidelines and professional assessments with the aim of a long-term investment strategy with acceptable risks.

### The Government will:

- The Norwegian Pension Fund Global will follow recognised international standards for

responsible administration.

- Seek to ensure that the Norwegian Pension Fund Global exercises responsible investment practices that enable good management of the companies in which investments are made, promote openness and consider environmental and social affairs.
- Seek to ensure that the Norwegian Pension Fund Global does not become a political instrument.
- Consider allowing the Norwegian Pension Fund Global to invest in unlisted infrastructure and companies with the same requirements of openness, returns and risks applicable to other investments made by the fund.
- Consider various steering models for the administration of the Norwegian Pension Fund Global (SPU), including a separate Board for the fund independent of the main board of Norges Bank.
- Consider reporting requirements surrounding the active corporate governance of the Norwegian Pension Fund Global.

## **7. Trade and industry, and the fisheries**

It is crucial that trade and industry is strong, diverse and competitive in order to secure good social security in the future. Therefore, good general framework conditions and a tax system that stimulates the establishment of companies, jobs and Norwegian private ownership are essential.

The Government will have a future-focused trade and industry policy that facilitates wealth creation and growth in the private sector, profitable jobs and restructuring of Norwegian trade and industry. Through know-how, research and innovation the foundation for new jobs with high valuation creation will be formed to support a sustainable welfare state.

The Government will be more committed to green technology The Government will reduce bureaucracy, make it easier to establish new companies and make it more profitable to invest in Norwegian jobs.

The Government will build its trade and industry policy on broad instruments that promote invention and innovation to support the best projects across all sectors. Norway is rich in resources and these provide the basis for nationwide activity, innovation and the development of trade and industry. These resources must be utilised in a sustainable way and provide the foundation for profitable jobs. The Government will have a trade and industry police that facilitates the exploitation of Norway's natural abilities and strengthen technology and competence environments. The Government's goal is that Norway will be one of Europe's

leaders within innovation. It shall be easier and less bureaucratic to establish new companies and create more jobs.

There is a clear connection between transport and the development of trade and industry, especially in the districts. Therefore the Government will continue its strong commitment to transport and communication throughout the nation.

### **The Government will:**

- Establish Prosess21, a cooperation forum for minimum waste and sustainable growth in the processing industry.
- Assess how the Government can contribute to helpful projects having access to capital, including the assessment of schemes linked to seed money/preseed money based on the capital access committee's report and other current processes.
- Make it easier to use public financing in Norway.
- Develop a strategy for the development of trade and industry and innovation on Svalbard.
- Evaluate the Norwegian Mineral Act in connection with sustainable resource development.
- Prepare strategies for the space industry, and small and medium-size businesses.
- Consider simplifying the VAT system, so that special taxes work as intended.
- Facilitate the development of a new green industry in Norway.
- Organise the tax system and instruments aimed at businesses as efficiently as possible to stimulate wealth creation, restructuring and innovation.
- Put forward a white paper on the retail industry,
- Put forward a white paper on the healthcare industry, which will partly concern how the public health service can contribute to the development of innovation and new solutions.
- Follow up the measures in the industry report to help ensure that Norway is a nation of industry and technology based on know-how.
- Introduce flexible alcohol limits to take into account the differences in the quality of products to help micro and mini breweries sell their products in ordinary stores.

### **Digital reform**

Society is changing due to technological developments linked to digitalisation and automation, etc. The developments create immense opportunities for more jobs in Norway and increased productivity and streamlining, but also threatens existing jobs and each person's

competence. The Government wants Norway to be a leader in the utilisation of new digital opportunities in all sectors

#### **The Government will:**

- Organise test facilities for the development and utilisation of new technology in all industries.
- Commit to enabling technologies.
- Facilitate profitable development of data centres in Norway.
- Follow up the work on a uniform and complete strategy for increased digitalisation across the industries and trades through a Digital21 process.
- Continue the work on digitalisation of public services and communication between the public sector and trade and industry.
- Make more public services available online.
- Assess how block-chain technology can form the basis for new wealth creation.
- Remove or change the regulations that prevent technological development and new business models in trade and industry, as well as the public sector.

#### **Innovation**

Know-how, research and innovation are crucial in order to create new jobs with high wealth creation. Good competence environments and systems to stimulate research and innovation increase the competitive power of Norwegian trade and industry, and make Norway a more attractive country in which to establish businesses.

Innovation in Norwegian trade and industry is already taking place in existing companies that are branching out, as well as in new establishments. The Government's objective is to see that Norway becomes a country of innovation and will as such strengthen its commitment to industry-focused research and innovation.

#### **The Government will:**

- Strengthen the interaction between trade and industry, the world of academics, and innovation and research environments.
- Prioritise the instruments set forth in the industry policy that produce the highest level of



innovation and efficiency.

- Continue the commitment to broad nationwide schemes.
- Facilitate the commercialisation of research results.
- Facilitate business clusters as a driving force behind innovation.
- Aim to attract the research and development, and head office activities of international companies to Norway.
- Have good schemes to stimulate the research and development activities of businesses, whilst continuing the commitment to industry-focused research and development.
- Start work on the assessment of how unified industry-focused policy instruments should be best organised for users.
- Continue the Katapult scheme.
- Ensure that innovation funds are also allocated to the development of new working methods.
- Seek to ensure that public procurement contributes to innovation and environmentally friendly solutions through, for example, tender requirements and development contracts.

## Entrepreneurship

The Government's industry policy shall provide good frameworks for entrepreneurs and start-up companies to make it easier and more secure to create new jobs. The Government will work towards improved conditions for small and medium-size companies to grow.

### The Government will:

- Better integrate entrepreneurship throughout the education system.
- Strengthen the interaction between education institutions and businesses in the private sector.
- Review the framework conditions to make it easier for the self-employed and freelancers to start their own businesses.
- Improved the possibilities of the self-employed to save for a pension.
- Raise the income limit for companies run by pupils and youths and facilitate the changeover to an ordinary company.
- Assess the instruments for the promotion of investments of private individuals in start-ups, including higher tax deductions.
- Assess the organisation of government instruments aimed at access to capital during the early and growth phases.
- Make it easier for small companies to take part in public tenders.

## Simplification

The Government's goal is to use society's resources as efficiently as possible and will work towards an easier daily life for the public and companies. An overwhelming number of forms and demanding requirements to submit reports puts pressure on businesses. Unnecessary bureaucracy reduces the competitive power of businesses and their ability to create wealth. The public authorities have a need to exercise their controlling power and this must be better balanced with the need of businesses for everything to be simpler.

### The Government will:

- Continue to reduce the costs of businesses by simplifying reports, laws and regulations. The goal is to reduce costs by NOK 10 million from 2017-2021.
- Continue working on making things easier for businesses with special focus on simplification measures that benefit small and medium-size businesses.
- Review company law to promote increased wealth creation.
- Further develop Altinn as a platform and aim to ensure that businesses only need to report the same information to the authorities once.
- Seek to ensure that the development of businesses shall be given more weight when implementing simplification measures.
- Work towards more co-ordinated and uniform supervisory practices when inspecting businesses and reinforce the duty of the supervisors to give advice.
- Repeal unnecessary and aged laws and regulations, including the repeal of the Norwegian Act relating to the Deletion of a Company.

## Competition

Effective competition contributes to efficient spending of society's resources, the maintenance of low costs, the promotion of innovation and reduction of differences in society. A well-functioning market economy depends on transparent regulations and measures against the abuse of market power.

The use of competition mechanisms and markets is crucial to secure the spreading of power in society and contribute to innovation, in both the public and private sectors. The Government's policy will include more cooperation between the public sector, and trade and

industry, when the private sector has the capacity and competence to assist with new solutions and improve the range of services.

#### **The Government will:**

- Implement initiatives to secure equal competition terms and conditions between the public and private sector to enable private service providers to help solve community tasks.
- Clarify the distribution of work between the private and public sectors in line with the development of markets and technology.

### **Ownership in Norwegian trade and industry**

Small and medium size companies are largely responsible for employment and wealth creation in Norway. Local owners provide stable jobs. Strong and diverse ownership environments are important to the development of profitable and sustainable companies and business clusters. Private ownership is the rule of thumb in Norwegian trade and industry.

The Government's policy will aim to strengthen Norwegian private ownership.

Some companies will still be state-owned in Norway. This might be the right thing to do for some companies to secure the localisation of head office activities in Norway. The Government will have a responsible and predictable ownership policy based on determined principles for steering state ownership. The Government will be open to wealth-increasing transactions and strategic alliances linked to the state's owner interests. Decisions shall be based on relevant conjunctures, market conditions, financial position of the companies and general future prospects.

The Government's policy will make it attractive to invest foreign capital in Norway.

#### **The Government will:**

- Strengthen Norwegian private ownership.
- Gradually reduce state shares in companies whose primary objective is business returns.
- Further develop the state ownership policy through the presentation of a new state ownership report.

## Trading

Norway's economy is small and transparent, and trading with other countries has been and remains important to obtain a better welfare system than we would have managed on our own.

During the last few decades many people have been lifted out of poverty and the trend shows that market economies and international trading are key prerequisites in fighting poverty.

Norway shall be a driving force behind open markets and free trading through multilateral and bilateral agreements.

The Government is concerned with market access in emerging markets. Amongst other things, the Government will continue the trading agreements with Asian countries, Mercosur countries and other relevant trading partners.

The Government will work towards Norway and other countries having open markets for products from developing countries.

### The Government will:

- Seek to ensure that Norway is an active driving force behind free trading.
- Work towards fair global trading regulations under WTO that reduce trade barriers and safeguard equal opportunities for development - between developing and industrialised countries as well.
- Focus on multilateral trade agreements through WTO to create stable framework conditions and equal competition conditions globally.
- Develop political trading partnerships with our closest trading partners, including the EU.
- Safeguard the EEA agreement to support Norwegian jobs and wealth creation.
- Work towards other countries opening their markets for products from developing countries.
- Remove export subsidies on food production in accordance with WTO commitments.
- Review the entire system that promotes Norwegian business interests abroad.
- Increase the utilisation of bilateral investment agreements (BIT) when possible and appropriate.

## Maritime

Norway shall be a leading maritime nation. In order to achieve this, the Government will contribute to sustainable wealth creation and employment in the maritime industries. Important

instruments will be good framework conditions, the development of know-how and technology, and strengthening of the international competitive power of the maritime industries. The ocean shall be a main focus area for Norwegian foreign and development policies by placing emphasis on sustainable utilisation and wealth creation, and clean and healthy oceans. Sustainable utilisation of the ocean is also important to development policies.

The Government will follow up initiatives from the 'Ny vekst, stolt historie' ocean strategy, Parliamentary Bill 'Hav i utenriks- og utviklingspolitikken', the Nordic area strategy and bio-economic strategy, and implement initiatives to combat plastic waste in oceans.

#### **The Government will:**

- Strengthen Norway's profile as maritime nation.
- Aim to develop the maritime industries.
- Aim to develop existing and new jobs based on maritime resources.
- Facilitate a competitive maritime industry in Norway.
- Have competitive ship registers.
- Continue the net pay scheme for seamen.
- Have a competitive taxation system for shipping companies.
- Give the marine and maritime industries the opportunity to test full-scale solutions through 'Demo HAV'.
- Contribute towards innovation through increased industry-focused research across the maritime industries.
- Continue the Government's strategy for floating offshore wind turbines.
- Follow up the work with Ocean Space Centre.

#### **Fisheries and aquaculture**

In the future, the fishery and aquaculture industries, amongst others, will be the most important industries in Norway. Sustainable growth within these sectors will create profitable jobs in all parts of the country. The Government will continue the work with stable and good framework conditions that contribute to sustainable growth and safeguard important environmental and natural resources.

There is massive potential for growth in these industries, which can be triggered through sustainable organisation and open trading markets. Therefore, the Government's policy will stimulate more trading and market access.

Ocean resources will play a central role in the new bio-economy, therefore the Government will promote sustainable growth in the sector.

## Fisheries

Our joint fishery resources are a constant resource and can contribute to growth and wealth creation throughout Norway, but only when properly managed. The Government will therefore base its extraction of ocean resources on professional advice and fight illegal fishing. Active management of sea mammals is still necessary. Research and the development of knowledge is paramount in order to increase the possibility of taxing species that are not commercially exploited today. The Government will prevent unnecessary regulation of the fleet and modernise the quote scheme.

### The Government will:

- Strengthen Norway as a maritime nation and secure solid market access for Norwegian products.
- Facilitate a sustainable fishing industry that shall also be profitable and innovative.
- Assess new measures that can stimulate recruitment and development within the industry.
- Secure optimal and sustainable exploitation of the fish populations.
- Seek to ensure that full quotas are set following professional advice.
- Allow potential structural changes on vessels longer than 11 metres and consider structuring for those under 11 metres long.
- Put forward a new Parliamentary Bill for obligations to be maintained.
- Put forward a Parliamentary Bill for a quota system based on the Eidesen Committee Report.
- Escalate the fight against illegal fishing.
- Work towards increasing the value of each kilo of fish and other marine resources.
- Increase the national commitment to research within the whitefish industry, for example, fishing methods, processing, live storage, logistics and marketing.

## Aquaculture

Aquaculture is one of Norway's future industries. The Government will make aquaculture more competitive and versatile through innovation, product development and focus on export-promoting initiatives. There is still a large potential for growth within agriculture, but it must be sustainable.

New technology means that the industry will be able to operate in other locations, with less risk of fish escaping than today. At the same time, the industry must continue its work to reduce disease and risk of escape.

### **The Government will:**

- Facilitate sustainable growth through practising the traffic light rating scheme.
- Simplify the rules governing the establishment of offshore aquaculture.
- Stimulate municipalities to provide locations for the industry to use through using the aquaculture fund.
- Increase its commitment to research, innovation and technological development.
- Use development permits to develop new and better solutions for aquaculture and the seafood industry.
- Set stringent environmental requirements for the aquaculture industry.
- Cooperate with the industry to fight salmon lice and fish escaping.

## 8. Agriculture and food

The Government will take care of the uniqueness of Norwegian food production, for example, minimal use of medications, high animal welfare a long value chain. At the same time, additional reforms are needed to secure the right of farmers to rule over their own production and property. The Government bases its agriculture policy on a clear understanding that farmers are self-employed.

### Agriculture

Agriculture is important to food production, human settlement and maintenance of the cultural landscape. The Government wants to continue the modernisation process to create a viable agriculture industry that facilitates increased production of food and profitable operations throughout the country. The Government will reinforce the basis for competitive agriculture through promoting investments and the use of technology to reduce costs.

Local food production will be important for agriculture in years to come. The current regulations governing production, distribution and the serving of food and beverages often results in manufacturers failing. The Government will stimulate increased diversity by additional commitment to geographical origin and speciality labelling. The Government will also liberalise the regulations for farmers to process food on their own farms, under the prerequisite that health and food safety regulations are followed.

Agriculture is an important contributor to the green shift through carbon bonding and production of renewable, bio-based energy and fuel. At the same time, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture must be reduced. The Government's policy will give incentives for fewer emissions and essential agriculture greenhouse gas initiatives.

### The Government will:

- Base the main objectives of its agriculture policy on the understanding of the four non-socialistic parties in connection with White Paper 11 (2016-2017) *En fremtidsrettet jordbruksproduksjon* (Future-focused Agriculture).
- Have an agriculture policy based on farmers being self-employed with the possibility and responsibility for organising operations that best serve them.
- Give farmers more freedom in their businesses.
- More generation of income from agriculture depends on low costs, improved productivity and market adaptation. The objective is that farmers will largely get their income from the



market.

- Carry out additional simplification to reduce bureaucracy and make the daily lives of farmers easier.
- Help more farmers who currently farm on properties to own them instead through necessary liberalisation of the Norwegian Concession Act. The obligation to farm will be continued.
- Examine the consequences of abolishing the Norwegian Allodial Rights Act and protection of Allodial rights in the Constitution.
- Improve the distribution of work in Norwegian agriculture to maintain areas for corn and the production of vegetables, but grass-based production from farm animals will remain in the districts.
- Follow up the soil conservation strategy.
- Stimulate organic production demanded by the market.
- Facilitate urban agriculture.
- Improve agricultural education and implement competence-focused initiatives to stimulate recruitment to the industries.
- Continue the commitment to local food and beverages, and liberalise the regulations for manufacturing on one's own farm.
- Strengthen the competition in the food industry in general, especially in the milk sector.
- Have an industry policy that facilitates an efficient and profitable food industry.
- Remove the opportunity to use sales tax for general marketing of agricultural products.
- Facilitate increased competition within the retail and distribution of food products and other groceries.
- Reinforce efforts concerning good animal welfare, including gradual introduction of an animal police force in all counties.
- Establish a law committee to gather all legislation governing agriculture into fewer and more transparent law.

## Forestry

Norwegian forests are growing at a significantly faster pace than harvesting. This contributes to carbon bonding, but also shows potential for creating new and greater wealth based on forest resources. Resources in forests and the wilderness could play an important role in the Norwegian bio-economy. Therefore the Government will follow up the bio-economy strategy. The Government's forestry policy will facilitate the creation of wealth from Norwegian forest resources that will also help to voluntarily protect forests.

### **The Government will:**

- Follow up the forest report.
- Improve the foundation for forestry through cost-reducing measures, the removal of bottlenecks in the infrastructure and development of roads for forestry vehicles and timber quays.
- Work towards abolishing the licensing requirement and requirement to live on forest land.
- Facilitate increased tree harvesting.
- Follow up the requirement of re-planting after harvesting.
- Protect 10% of all forests combined through private voluntary protection and protection of publicly-owned forest land.
- Implement an industry policy that also benefits the Norwegian pulp and paper industry.
- Follow up the bio-economy strategy and further develop the measures that stimulate the use of wood.
- Stimulate the construction industry to be innovative and use wood as a construction material.
- Facilitate the creation of new profitable jobs in the bio industries.

### **Reindeer herding**

Reindeer herding is an important bearer of culture for Sami people. This is supported by sustainable grazing areas and responsible animal welfare. Therefore, the Government will cooperate with the reindeer breeding industry to facilitate an organically sustainable industry. The industry must continue to be market-oriented.

### **The Government will:**

- Facilitate an organically sustainable reindeer breeding industry that provides a foundation for financial profitability and Sami culture.
- Follow up the reindeer herding report through amendments to the Norwegian Reindeer Herding Act.
- Sharpen the requirements for publishing the reindeer population.
- Introduce sanctions against the re-localisation of reindeer to prevent adaptation in a way that pushes actors, who have remained loyal to earlier adopted administrative decisions, aside.
- Aim to organise a Norwegian-Swedish reindeer grazing convention.
- Fight CWD in animals.

## Fur animals

The Government will rapidly wind up the fur farming industry. A Bill will be put forward to the Norwegian Parliament to abolish fur farming with a winding up period for existing manufacturers up until the end/beginning of 2024/2025.

To prevent violation of ECHR, Supplementary Protocol 1, Article 1, during the winding up period and to give fur farmers the required predictability, existing industry actors will receive per 15.01.2018 financial compensation for loss of the right to run a fur farm, cf. the judicial assessment attached to White Paper 8 (2016-2017). The compensation scheme will be examined and prepared during 2018 to provide the actors with the necessary security to wind up. It will also be assessed whether other measures should also be implemented to facilitate the changeover to other types of agriculture for the farmers concerned.

This will be discussed with the parties in the agriculture settlement for 2019. In addition, the Government will take the initiative to cooperate with the municipalities where fur farming is of great importance to secure measures during the restructuring period and flexibility for fur farmers affected by the wind up. The requirement of improved animal welfare within the fur industry set forth in White Paper 8 (2016-2017) and Opinion 151 S (2016-2017), will not be implemented during the wind up period.

## 9. Health and care services

The Government will prioritise work on securing good medical assistance and care services that maintain the security of the elderly and others. Health and care services must be organised based on the needs of the patient. The Government aims to create a health service for the patient. Each patient shall feel respected and experience openness when using the health service and shall not be subjected to unnecessary waiting times. No decisions concerning the patient shall be made without consulting the patient.

The Government is responsible for providing good health and care services for all. The Government will secure good partnerships with various private and non-profit actors that contribute to innovation, diversity, quality and freedom to choose between services.

Waiting times must be further reduced and the services must be improved through new and better working methods. The Government will secure users the freedom to choose and improve the competence of personnel. Increased digitalisation and streamlining shall provide more time for medical assistance and care. Services for the most vulnerable, especially within mental healthcare, and alcohol and drug abuse, must still be reinforced.

Even if public health is generally good in Norway and life expectancy high, there are still challenges connected to social differences, i.e. health and living conditions. The Government will facilitate good health and living conditions to give more opportunities to all.

### Primary health care

Municipal health and care services must be modernised and strengthened, and work must be done to offer a uniform and coherent service adapted to the patient's needs. The number of elderly in the population is growing and increasingly more people have chronic diseases and comprehensive healthcare needs. This puts more pressure on the primary health service. The Government will ensure that everyone has access to competent and well-organised primary healthcare services, regardless of where they live.

#### The Government will:

- Improve and modernise the GP scheme to improve recruitment and better doctor coverage across the nation. The Government will evaluate the scheme and further develop GP services in cooperation with the parties concerned.
- Introduce the requirement that GPs must offer e-consultations for those who want

them.

- Facilitate cross-disciplinary primary care and follow up teams in the municipalities.
- Consider including more occupational groups in the primary healthcare teams.
- Secure early intervention and place weight on preventive healthcare.
- Continue the commitment to cross-disciplinary services at well child clinics and in the school health service, which shall provide children and youths with good access to help and support.
- Facilitate access to psychologists in all municipalities.
- Ensure that the user-controlled personal assistant scheme (BPA) functions as intended.
- Put forward a white paper on prioritisation in the primary health service.
- Maintain and further develop efforts to prevent dental problems, especially for the elderly.
- Further develop the dental service and gradually extend the screening programmes.
- Implement a research scheme to enable municipalities to take over responsibility for the dental service.
- Establish a national digital solution for municipal health services in connection with the 'Én innbygger, én journal' (One patient, one set of medical records).
- Assess how state subsidies for corporate healthcare can be extended to include more companies.

## Care for the elderly and those in need of nursing services

The Government will provide excellent and dignified care adapted to the needs of the individual. Welfare technology must be used more to increase the quality of the services. The services must be further developed to give everyone who needs them, high quality services and activity.

The Government will carry out the 'Live your entire life' reform. The reform will help the elderly to cope with their lives longer, feel confident that they will receive help when needed, and relatives will be able to help without encountering exhausted and employees will be able use their skills whilst performing the services. The reform shall strengthen the quality of the basics: Food, meals, activity, fellowship, healthcare and coherence between the services.

### The Government will:

- Help the municipalities to further facilitate the right of the user to choose within community services and community nursing.

- Give subsidies for the net growth of nursing home places and sheltered housing.
- Work towards having a dementia-friendly society.
- Motivate more municipalities to implement preventive home visits for the elderly.
- Ensure more knowledge is obtained about the quality of the care services from both public and private service providers.
- Facilitate extended utilisation of objective quality indicators and measurement of user satisfaction in the municipalities and safeguard openness surrounding such knowledge.
- Strengthen both municipal and private development of safe housing for the elderly, nursing home places, hospices, specialist housing development for people with dementia and private shared housing.
- Establish more cross-disciplinary follow up teams to contribute to the co-ordination of externally adapted multi-disciplinary services, and strengthen palliative services (relief from suffering treatment).
- Help more municipalities take into use welfare technology.
- Enable more people to live in their own home.
- Extend pilot schemes for state-financed care services in terms of duration and the number of municipalities.
- Establish a subsidy scheme for kitchens in nursing homes, for example, based on experiences in Denmark to provide a better service to the elderly living in institutions.
- Establish a national user ombudsperson for the elderly and patients. The ombudsperson will be localised with one of the existing patient and user ombudspersons.
- Ensure that couples, who want to live together in a nursing home or sheltered housing, shall be allowed to do so.
- Further reduce the deductible for people who are placed in a double room against their will.

## Specialist healthcare

Patients shall receive high-quality treatments in the health service, waiting times shall be as short as possible, and the patient shall be heard in all sections of the health service. Patients shall be met with expertise and respect. In order to safeguard this, it is important that the flow of information and communication between the municipal health service, GPs and the specialist health service is good. In an updated national health plan, the overarching priorities of the health service will be stated, and each hospital will be given flexibility and the room to act to provide the best possible treatment.

The freedom to choose treatment is important to cut hospital waiting times, and both private and foreign services can relieve and reduce waiting times. The quality of the hospitals still varies greatly, and the Government will therefore work to improve the quality and to obtain more openness about the quality of the services.

#### **The Government will:**

- Provide safe hospitals and good health services, regardless of where one lives in the country.
- Further reduce waiting times before commencement of treatment or investigation, as well as during the course of treatment.
- Develop and introduce treatment packages for several conditions, including treatment packages for stroke patients, pain treatment, exhaustion, muscle and skeletal disorders, alcohol and drug abuse, mental health and separate treatment packages for 'cancer patients at home'.
- Offer more cancer patients and others with a serious disease access to treatments undergoing testing.
- Extend the freedom to choose treatment to include new areas.
- Assess methods when introducing publicly financed drugs and new methods in the specialist health service against the criteria in the priority report.
- Increase the utilisation of private agreement specialists.
- Seek to ensure that Norway is a global driving force behind co-ordinated work against antibiotic resistance.
- Establish financial incentives to oversee that hospitals report full figures to the quality registers.
- Put forward an updated national health and hospital plan focused on digitalisation, competence, recruitment and mental health.
- Continue the current management system, but give each hospital more authority and responsibility.
- Further develop activity-based financing to include more coherent courses of treatment for patients, and then assess whether to increase such financing.
- Decentralise specialist health services to make them available to patients in their local community when possible and viable.
- Reinforce health research, especially on chronic diseases and exhaustion disorders.
- Carry out a process with the municipalities in West Finnmark connected to the development of specialist health services at a clinic in Alta to significantly cover the needs of the population for hospital services.

## Alcohol and drug abuse

The Government's alcohol and drug policy will be knowledge-based with the aim of preventing the development of alcohol and drug problems, the reduction of harm and limitation of harmful effects. Saving lives and securing one's dignity must always form the basis for human alcohol and drug abuse care services. The most effective initiatives shall be prioritised.

The Government wants to change the response of the authorities to people who are caught in possession of narcotics from punishment to help, to treatment and monitoring. The Government will not legalise the use of and possession of narcotics, but this shall not stand in the way of focus on the reduction of harm.

The Government will work towards the establishment of more rehabilitation places and offer a better service both before and after treatment whilst undergoing rehabilitation, as well as establish more teams to help users. These will include the specialist health service and municipal services.

### The Government will:

- Follow up the escalation plan for alcohol and drug abuse services, including improved aftercare.
- Carry out an alcohol and drug abuse reform to secure a better service for addicts. Responsibility for society's response to the possession of illegal drugs for personal use will be transferred from the justice sector to the health service. The Government will soon establish a governmental committee to prepare for the implementation of this reform. The police should be able to order addicts to turn up with health-focused measures. Sanctions will be imposed if they are not followed up.
- Reinforce cooperation with voluntary actors and social entrepreneurs.
- Strengthen healthcare measures and methods as a reaction to minor drug-related offences, hereunder the use of youth contracts and a drug programme under the control of the courts pending an alcohol and drug abuse reform.
- Include more pharmaceutical drugs and ensure more freedom to choose in medically assisted detoxification (LAR), as well as carry out a trial with heroin-assisted treatment within LAR.
- Strengthen efforts to prevent fatal overdoses by allowing more drugs that could lead to a fatal overdose to be injected in user rooms. Those with a strong drug addiction will also be trained on how to make the transition from injection usage



to gentler methods.

- Introduce treatment packages for treating alcohol and drug abuse by 2020 in accordance with the treatment packages for cancer when patients with an alcohol and drug problem will immediately be transferred from detoxification to treatment.
- Strengthen the low-threshold service for children of alcoholics and drug addicts.
- Strengthen initiatives against alcohol and drug abuse amongst children and youths, for example, in municipalities through the Coordination of Local Crime Prevention (SLT) programme.
- Strengthen the detoxification and life coping skills programme for imprisoned convicts with a drug problem.
- Ensure that those who wish to receive such treatment, are offered medication-free treatment for their dependency.
- Establish more treatment places and improved aftercare for alcoholics.
- Strengthen research on substance abuse and treatment, as well as establish a national quality register for specialised alcohol and drug treatment.

## **Mental health**

Mental health is one of the Government's most important areas of commitment. Good mental health is important in order to have a good quality of life and to cope with daily life and work. There must be a low threshold for receiving help and help must be available locally. Intervention as early as possible must therefore be implemented for those suffering from mental health problems. Seek to ensure that mental health disorders do not arise but can also be prevented through, for example, the prevention of bullying and social isolation, etc., amongst children, young people and adults. Work and activity shall form an integrated part of treatment and followup. The Government will remove the obstacles attached to seeking help, for example, for minority groups.

### **The Government will:**

- Introduce mental health treatment packages.
- Prioritise early intervention and preventive measures.
- Put forward an escalation plan for the mental health of children and youths.
- Introduce compulsory payment for municipalities when discharging mental health patients to ensure binding cooperation and better monitoring after treatment.
- Revise all involuntary treatment laws based on the recommendations of the Involuntary Treatment Law Commission.
- Introduce 'job prescriptions' and further develop the green prescription scheme, as part of

treatment, to encourage patients to be active.

- Make it possible to offer activity and work, for example, through Fontenehus.
- Strengthen cross-disciplinary cooperation between the services.
- Strengthen mental health treatment within the correctional services.
- Strengthen the cooperation between volunteers and other private actors to facilitate a wide range of services.
- Continue and reinforce cooperation between the child welfare service and youth psychiatric services.

## **Habilitation and rehabilitation**

Habilitation and rehabilitation services must be strengthened to enable more people to cope with daily life and to take part in education programmes, the labour market and society. Good services within municipal healthcare and the specialist health service are paramount.

### **The Government will:**

- Strengthen and further develop habilitation and rehabilitation services in the health service, including daily rehabilitation.
- Gradually include rehabilitation in the approval scheme that allows patients to freely choose treatment.
- Enable the municipalities to accept more responsibility for rehabilitation services for the most common patient groups.
- Develop and test respite care models in accordance with the model used for the right to user-controlled personal assistance (BPA).
- Incorporate rehabilitation treatment packages when it forms a natural part of treatment.
- Strengthen the offer of trips abroad for treatment.

## **Public health**

The Government will follow the principal of prevention when possible and remedying when necessary to get to the bottom of public health.

A good and preventive public health policy should help people to make the right choices with regard to their own health. Good health and a good standard of living are intertwined and public health efforts must facilitate good health for all. This will also help reduce social inequalities. Health habits that are established in childhood play a role in how successful a child is at school and at work.

### **The Government will:**

- Improve preventive healthcare.
- Continue cooperation with trade and industry to help facilitate the stocking of healthy products in supermarkets and adequate labelling on healthy alternatives.
- Seek to ensure that health will form an integral part of public health efforts, including efforts to counteract loneliness.
- Facilitate increased exercise in schools and encourage healthier diets.
- Cooperate with volunteers to develop services for vulnerable groups of children and youths, the elderly and chronically ill.
- Continue cooperating with the Norwegian Outdoor Recreation Council and recreational organisations about low-threshold recreational services within local communities and follow up the Recreation Report
- Put forward a white paper on the Government's public health policy.
- Test schemes for carrying out 4-year-old check-ups in kindergartens
- Continue the enforcement of the main elements of the current alcohol policy and give municipalities more leeway in relation to serving times and points of sale within the frameworks of the policy.
- Work towards the continuation of good compliance with the vaccination programme for children and assess new measures to secure this.

### **Relatives**

Relatives are a resource, and the cooperation and support for relatives will be reinforced. It is important to be aware that relatives can play many roles, i.e. they can give respite care; and they are caregivers and they make decisions on the course of treatment. The Government believes it is important to base treatment on the broadest possible inflow of knowledge.

### **The Government will:**

- Acknowledge relatives as an important resource for health and care services.
- Put forward a separate strategy for relatives.
- Promote good health and services for relatives in a stressful care situation.
- Contribute to ensuring that relatives are taken more seriously in all parts of the treatment chain.
- Make the responsibility of municipalities more transparent to safeguard the impact of users and relatives.
- Facilitate the establishment of more care centres around Norway for cancer patients and their relatives, for example, Maggie's Centre.

## Gene and bio-technology

Gene and bio-technology provides more opportunities for treatment and disease prevention. The Government will continually assess the possibilities that bio-technology gives us. At the same time, bio-technology presents us with significant ethical challenges and dilemmas. Therefore, the possibilities that bio-technology gives us in terms of treatment and disease prevention, assisted fertilisation, etc., must be managed in consideration of human dignity and the value of a society that accommodates everyone. The Government will strengthen research and further develop specialised environments of expertise within this field.

### The Government will:

- Help ensure that the development of medical technology and access to better analysis tools can benefit patients through acceptable usage of resources at the same time as the rights of each individual, privacy and health are maintained.
- Offer patients more precise and targeted diagnostics and treatment through facilitating the development of personally adapted medication.
- Help ensure that results from clinical and basic medical research are transferred to diagnostics and patient treatment.
- Keep non-anonymous sperm donations and introduce a duty for parents to inform the child if he/she was conceived through artificial insemination to maintain the right of the child to know his/her biological background.
- Extend the right to store unfertilised eggs for women who become infertile at a young age.

## Pharmaceutical drugs

The Government will ensure that patients have equal and swift access to new and effective medicines. Our pharmaceutical policy shall contribute to increased patient safety, good treatment, low governmental costs and innovation. The Government will ensure that medicines are available on the Norwegian market and safeguard access to medicines, regardless one's ability to pay.

### The Government will:

- Strengthen research on vaccines.
- Safeguard proper use of medicines.
- Effectuate the use of new medications more quickly.

- Streamline the assessment of methods and decision-making processes in the health service.
- Ensure that the pharmaceutical policy, including the procurement of medicines, contributes to research and innovation.
- Put forward a plan of action for clinical trials in Norway.
- Reduce co-payment fees and keep them at a moderate level whilst improving screening programmes for the chronically ill.
- Introduce a fast-track scheme for the approval of new medicines.

## E-health and digitalisation

In order to create good health and care services, it is essential to use new knowledge. The Government wants to facilitate the development of e-health businesses through research and innovation. Development of user-friendly welfare technology must be encouraged, and users and employees must receive training on how to use such technology. In the future, it will be easy and natural for patients to contact the health service online.

### The Government will:

- Digitalise more health services and establish online patient healthcare.
- Facilitate good mobile health solutions such as increased use of digital self-tests, whilst safeguarding privacy.
- Intensify the work on 'Én innbygger – én journal' (One patient - one set of medical records)
- Facilitate better exploitation of all the health data in Norway to develop improved and more targeted health services within the frameworks of good data protection and data security.

## Reproductive health

Good sexual health is important to the quality of life of each human being. Children, young people and adults need information and confidence to make independent choices about their bodies and sexuality. Through adequate information and other measures, the Government will aim to promote understanding and tolerance towards diversity, and thus reduce prejudices and discrimination.

### **The Government will:**

- Offer guidance through well child clinics to give parents and guardians the necessary information to help them talk to their children about the human body, genders, sexuality, safety and boundaries.
- Ensure the provision of good educational programmes in schools and kindergartens to give children and youths the information, skills and attitudes they need to respect each other and to make informed choices.
- Prioritise guidance and better access to contraception to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies.
- Consider expanding the free contraception service.
- Cooperate with NGOs about measures to reduce the risk of spreading sexually transmitted diseases.

## **10. Modernisation and the municipalities**

The Government will facilitate vibrant local communities throughout Norway. We will spread power and build society from the bottom up. A strong local popular government gives people in the local community freedom and the opportunity to control their daily lives and the development of society. Governmental micro-management and bureaucracy must be reduced and more power must be decentralised and transferred to local communities and their elected representatives.

Amongst others, a popular government and welfare state rest upon the supports of the municipalities. The structure of municipalities must be adapted to the challenges of today and the future. Larger and stronger municipalities offer better welfare services, more sustainable community development and stronger local self-governance.

The municipal reform must therefore continue.

The regional reform will be implemented. Fewer counties will lead to stronger regions that will offer better services and improved coordination of community development. This facilitates the development of attractive residential and industrial areas and good environmental transport solutions.

### **The Government will:**

- Strengthen municipal self-governance and reduce government micro-management. The rights and security of each individual under the law shall be maintained.

- Review government enterprises and directorates with the aim of transferring more authority and duties to the relevant level of publicly elected representatives.
- Give the municipalities more responsibility when a better and more complete service can be offered, for example, child welfare services.
- Continue implementing the municipal reform through incentives and tools for good local processes.
- Be open to more experiments that will enable duties to be transferred to municipalities and counties or test new working methods if they will lead to better and more coordinated services.
- Implement the regional reform
- Follow up the election law committee, which will include an assessment of whether the constituency boundaries in connection with general elections will be changed to correspond with the new regions.
- Give voters more influence during elections.
- Present a new Municipal Act that strengthens local popular governments.
- Ensure that the municipalities have good and predictable financial frameworks. Secure a revenue system that will give good and equal services across the nation, and does not prevent necessary changes to the municipal structure.
- Review and streamline earmarked schemes to allow more room for the municipalities to act and reduce state and municipal bureaucracy.
- Reinforce cooperation between the state and municipalities regarding digitalisation, clear language and other measures to promote user orientation, innovation and efficiency.
- Seek to ensure that ownership rights form a general principle in laws and regulations.
- Place great emphasis on local democracy in planning and development matters, whilst taking into account important national considerations.
- Continue the work on coordination and thus limit objections to municipal plans from governmental authorities.
- Review the regulations for full cost calculation of municipal taxes to obtain less ambiguous regulations that will secure lower charges for most people.
- Enforce national requirements for satisfactory Norwegian language skills when necessary to safeguard health, safety and the quality of services, for example, within the health sector and kindergartens. As an employer, municipalities must ensure that employees have the necessary language skills to perform their duties through, for example, competence enhancing measures.

## The High North

The Government's High North policy will be aggressive and the comprehensive elements of the High North policy will be continued. The Government's vision for the High North is one of peace, innovation and sustainability in the region. This requires synergy between foreign and domestic policy. International cooperation is crucial to trigger the full potential for growth and it is a prerequisite to elevate Norway's interests in northern regions. The Government will follow up the High North strategy with focus on international cooperation, the development of trade and industry, knowledge, infrastructure, environmental protection, security and preparedness.

### The Government will:

- Ensure that the Arctic remains a peaceful, predictable and stable region based on international cooperation and respect for the principles of international law.
- Instigate international cooperation on cross-border issues, such as climate change, the environment, resource management, and health and safety.
- Facilitate increased wealth creation and innovativeness in businesses in North Norway based on the resources of the region, including reinforcement of the supplier development programme.
- Strengthen cooperation between academic environments, and trade and industry within fields propitious to the region.
- Safeguard good education programmes.
- Aim to ensure that North Norway has an efficient and coherent infrastructure that contributes to sustainable development and adaptability for businesses in the region.
- Strengthen safety and emergency preparedness connected to increased activity in the north.
- Reduce climate emissions and pollution in compliance with national objectives and international commitments.
- Continue and further develop the Regional High North Consortium.
- Put forward a new white paper on the Government's High North policy.

## District policy

The Government will facilitate vibrant local communities and growth throughout Norway.

In order to secure significant growth in all regions across Norway, it is paramount that



businesses can maintain and create new profitable jobs.

A good district policy includes decentralisation of power and authority. The Government's policy for municipal structuring, competence, business development, agriculture, transport and communication, know-how and health, has been designed to strengthen and empower local communities and district centres to make it possible to live and survive anywhere in Norway. A good district policy also includes reinforcement of the connections between companies and public institutions in towns, cities and districts.

#### **The Government will:**

- Prioritise instruments that can strengthen innovation and establishment of businesses in all parts of the country with focus on entrepreneurs.
- Keep the scheme for regional differentiated employer contributions whereby companies in the districts pay lower contributions for their employees.
- Give municipalities and counties more authority and local leeway in land use policies.
- Give municipalities and counties more administrative responsibility in conservation areas.
- Localise new competence-requiring civil service jobs across the country, including outside the largest towns and cities. As a main rule, new state-owned enterprises shall be established outside Oslo.
- Continue streamlining the administration of the wilderness through coordination and digitalisation.
- Revise state planning guidelines for beach zones with the aim of producing more differentiated management in scattered developed areas to give more local leeway, whilst maintaining recreational opportunities and conservation of the cultural landscape.

#### **Housing and community development**

The Government will facilitate high quality community development based on coordinated planning in terms of land-use and transport. Good land-use planning is an instrument in attaining the long-term climate and environmental goals. The Government will strengthen local democracy and facilitate input of the public, whilst simplifying the Norwegian Planning and Building Act.

The Government will aim to ensure that everyone has a good and safe place to live. As many people as possible shall have the opportunity to own their own dwelling. Social housing schemes contribute to helping those with financial difficulties to acquire and retain a good dwelling and they play an important role in the social safety net.

It should be possible to build dwellings, infrastructure and industrial areas faster and cheaper.

Public regulation shall not unnecessarily delay the process or make it more expensive. Therefore simplification will continue through effective planning processes and a fully digital building application process.

#### **The Government will:**

- Continue to make the Norwegian Planning and Building Act and associated technical regulations less complicated. This will include making it easier for home owners to alter their own dwelling without having to submit an application.
- Facilitate digital planning and building application processes and provide better self-service solutions for public mapping data, planning data and information on buildings and property.
- Simplify the processes and regulations for densification and transformations in towns/cities and densely populated areas.
- Secure better cohesion between planning and building application processing, sequential requirements and development agreements.
- Facilitate efficient planning processes that respect local governance.
- Develop energy requirements for buildings in line with the climate settlement.
- Continue the implementation of high standards for universal design when building homes, infrastructure and industrial areas.
- Continue the work on urban growth agreements where the state, counties and municipalities cooperate on land use and transport in urban areas.
- Continue the work focused on certain areas in large towns/cities to enhance boroughs with social challenges.
- Review the effect of costs when amending planning and building regulations every four years.
- Reinforce initiatives against housing speculations and growth of bed-sits.
- Secure a good housing benefit scheme aimed at those who need it the most.
- Ensure that the 'Rent-to-own' initiative gives more people the opportunity to own their own home.
- Ensure that the Norwegian Housing Bank has sufficient frameworks to cover the public's need for social housing and have flexible schemes adapted to the needs of the individual and municipality.
- Make it easier to be a law-abiding actor in the construction industry and strengthen efforts to counteract work crime in cooperation with the industry.
- Strengthen research and developmental work that could make new dwellings more environmentally friendly without making construction work more costly.
- Encourage modernisation of accommodation for the elderly.
- Consider allowing more alternative types of residences, hereunder the implementation of

micro-house pilot project.

## Indigenous people and national minority groups

The Government will help the Sami people and national minority groups in Norway to develop their own language, culture and community life. In Norway, the Sami people have been allocated the status of indigenous people. Jews, Kven people/Norwegian Finns, the Romani people/gypsies, Forest Finns and gypsies have the status of national minority groups.

### The Government will:

- Keep the Sami Parliament and consultation scheme between the Sami Parliament and the Government.
- Continue following-up Norwegian Official Report: NOU 2007:13 *Den nye sameretten* (New Rights of the Sami People), (Sami Rights Committee 2). Enactment of consultations will be given first priority during the term.
- Develop Sami trade and industry, hereunder travel connected to Sami culture and the traditional Sami business industries.
- Follow up Norwegian Official Report: NOU 2016:18 *Hjertespråket* (Language of the Heart) in cooperation with the Sami Parliament.
- Work towards a new budget scheme for the Sami Parliament.
- Work towards signing and ratifying a *Nordic Sami Convention*.
- Follow up the measures in *the plan of action against anti-semitism*.
- Put forward and follow up *the targeted plan for the Kven language*.
- Continue work on following up Norwegian Official Report: NOU 2015:7 *Assimilering og motstand* (Assimilation and Resistance).
- Follow up the work linked to the establishment of a culture and resource centre as part of the collective restitution of Norwegian gypsies.
- Put forward a new white paper on policies and initiatives concerning national minority groups during the Government's term.

## User-focused, modern and efficient public administration

The Government will further develop public administration to ensure that it is user-focused, efficient, result-focused and modern.

Work connected to innovation within the public sector must be reinforced to secure good services, better coordination and adequate utilisation of the society's resources. In general, the

services must be based on the needs of the individual and be more coordinated across all levels and sectors. More diversity and freedom to choose between public services will be facilitated.

Work connected to digitalisation of public services shall continue in accordance with the guidelines in the Digital Agenda for Norway. ICT security must be maintained and adapted to new threats.

#### **The Government will:**

- Prepare a white paper addressing innovation in the public sector.
- Reinforce efforts aimed at using clear and concise language when communicating with the public.
- Further develop measures for improved steering and management, especially directed at digitalisation, innovation, user-information and coordination.
- Develop a strategy for digitalisation in the public sector to reinforce efforts, cooperation and coordination.
- Further develop the co-financing scheme for state digitalisation projects.
- Reinforce cooperation with the municipal sector, hereunder measures for increased utilisation of welfare technology.
- Develop digital solutions based on the needs of users across all sectors and levels of administration.
- Establish a new central marketplace for cloud services.
- Develop a strategy that will contribute to adequate and updated ICT competence within public administration.
- Strengthen the digital competence of the population through, for example, nationwide digital advice centres.
- Assess how state public services can be offered by municipal service offices to help make them more accessible and to safeguard efficient public administration.
- Secure better compliance with regulations governing universal design in ICT solutions in the public sector.
- Reinforce measures to preserve data protection and ensure that each person has as much sovereignty as possible over their own personal information.
- Develop guidelines and ethical principles for using artificial intelligence.
- Ensure that the growth of the number of employees in government administration is, in general, lower than the rate of employment, and that the number of employees of the central government administration is lower in 2021 than in 2017.
- Consider gradual and down-scaled construction of new government quarters.

## Openness and inspection

Openness and inspection are fundamental to a democracy. Openness gives the public the opportunity to make an impact in decision-making processes and is crucial to preserve trust in the political system. In addition, openness is a safety net against corruption and the abuse of power. As a general rule, all public documents

should be available for inspection. Only some documents can be exempted from public disclosure. Public data shall be readily available and supplied in relevant and searchable formats to the extent possible. They should not cost any more than it cost the authorities to distribute them.

**The Government will:**

- Seek to ensure that public data is readily available in open formats with a free licence.
- Ensure that public records are digitalised to the extent possible and that records are available in a searchable format.
- Enable public administrative documents to be published in searchable formats.

**Employer policy of the state**

The state shall be a modern and attractive place to work and have the ability to recruit, develop and retain competent employees. The Government shall follow up the strategy for the employer policy of the state.

**The Government will:**

- Ensure that the state has a transparent and professional employer, who contributes to the further development of third party cooperation.
- Contribute to the development of good tools for competence enhancement of the state's employees.
- A voluntary national inclusion campaign aimed at getting more people into work, for example, by increasing the number of trainee places for people with impaired functionality and ensure that at least five per cent of new state employees have impaired functionality or a 'hole' in their CV.
- Help ensure that state enterprises in cooperation with local employee representatives have the best possible room to act to distribute salaries to meet local needs.
- Strengthen the right of enterprises to impact the employer policy through actively using the Employer Council.



## 11. Culture

Art and culture are expressions with community-building power, as such culture policies shall be built on the freedom of speech and tolerance. Culture and civil society are important prerequisites for an informed public and thus an investment in democracy and civility. Culture shall be free, and built on personal engagement and volunteerism.

The Government believes that culture, volunteerism and media exposure are independent building blocks in society. It must be possible to develop them as much as possible on their own terms without state control, but the state shall facilitate development and a wide range of private and public financing sources. The protection of our cultural heritage is an important task.

### Art and culture

The Government's objective is to have a culture that includes a diverse range of actors that provide varied experiences to as many people as possible. The Government wants to spread the power in the public culture policy and will strengthen free realm within art and culture. Culture aimed at the public is an important part of the culture policy.

The Government will enable more artists and people working within culture to create their own workplace. The Government will therefore review the framework conditions for entrepreneurs and the self-employed to secure their social rights, as well as reduce the number of forms to fill in and provide the competence needed to become an entrepreneur and run a business.

The Government also wants more foreign actors to use Norway as a starting point for their cultural productions. The Government will commit to cultural innovation and adaptation when transitioning to new platforms and formats.

Access to art and culture benefits producers and consumers alike. No one shall unduly profit from the intellectual property of others. Anyone who creates intellectual property shall be protected against misuse and secured fair payment. The Government will encourage wealth creation and investments in Norwegian content and ensure that the Norwegian culture industry has equally good framework conditions as other industries.

### The Government will:

- Encourage disbursement of power within the culture industry geographically, organisationally and financially.



- Public funding shall to a greater extent than earlier go towards performances - not just to production.
- Contribute to predictable framework conditions for art and culture institutions, for example, by assessing models for more predictable subsidy schemes.
- Facilitate free realm within art and culture, and help give groups and freelancers in various fields of art predictability.
- Continue good and long-term grant schemes for artists.
- Strengthen private financing within the field of art through, for example, OPS and incentive schemes such as the donation reinforcement scheme.
- Contribute to quality and diversity in culture and focus on its business potential.
- Continue the art assistant scheme.
- Continue the initiative Talent Norge.
- Consider extending the incentive scheme for TV and film productions in Norway.
- Facilitate increased export of Norwegian art and culture through good incentive schemes and large gatherings of competence in cluster environments in all parts of Norway.
- Simplify the regulations and reduce the bureaucracy surrounding applications in the culture sector.
- Continue working on digital communication of art and culture.
- Carry out a complete review of legislation governing culture, including laws for libraries, museums and archives.
- Continue to give support to the development of technology for computer games for entertainment, learning and communicating culture.
- Preserve the National Gallery as an art gallery connected to the National Museum provided that it will not lead to high refurbishment costs.
- Finish the Southern Sami culture centre, Saemien Sijte.
- Assess the design and distribution of betting funds for culture and charity-owned buildings within the frameworks governing the current distribution of the surpluses from betting.
- Aim to modernise the Norwegian Copyright Act.
- Ensure that copyright holders are paid for their work, regardless of the platform used to promote it.
- Examine the length of time copyright can be protected in light of our international obligations.
- Allow Norwegian intellectual property to be available online when the protection period has expired.

## Culture for children and youths

The Government believes that children and youths should have the opportunity to create their own charitableness and organise their own youth culture. The Government will give children and youths a cultural anchor, training and joy when encountering various expressions of art. The Government will give more children the opportunity to take part in courses offered by schools of culture through the facilitation of cooperation between such schools, after school clubs and charities, whilst preserving the uniqueness of the schools. The Government will ensure that municipalities have the freedom to find their own solutions to offer the best schools of culture and recreational activities in each municipality, but will facilitate availability, diversity and quality of the service offered.

### The Government will:

- Put forward a white paper on children and youth culture.
- Facilitate cooperation between the schools of culture, after school clubs and volunteers, and in this way ensure that more children have access to the schools through increased availability and adequate schemes for low-income families.
- Strengthen the role of schools of culture as regional talent actors.
- Assess how culture services for children attending kindergarten can be improved nationally.
- Secure continuation of the Frifond scheme for children and youth organisations, and unorganised volunteer-controlled activities.

## Volunteerism and sports

Volunteerism creates local engagement, fellowship, integration, and cultural and democratic awareness. The Government will help ensure that volunteerism grows from the bottom up with less political control and it will be allowed to develop on its own terms through, for example, broad and non-bureaucratic support schemes.

A person's financial situation and social background shall not stand in the way of participation and volunteering. Funding and initiatives aimed at children and youths will be prioritised.

The Government will secure good framework conditions for organised and self-organised sports, especially for those aimed at children and youths. Organised sports are particularly responsible for ensuring that the threshold for taking part is so low that everyone can participate. Public

funding will be channelled even more to local engagement and contribute to a wide range of activities.

#### **The Government will:**

- Facilitate variety and diversity through adequate support schemes for volunteers and prioritise activities for children and youths.
- Implement a volunteerism simplification reform.
- Strengthen culture through volunteerism, such as choirs, brass bands and amateur theatre.
- Improve the VAT compensation scheme for voluntary organisations.
- Help ensure that the largest portion of sports financing possible goes to activities and sports facilities - not to administration.
- Review and improve the terms and conditions for self-organised sport, including sports facilities.
- Ensure that a large share of facility funding is allocated to facilities in local communities, public health initiatives and recreational sports.
- Enable the functionally impaired to take part in volunteerism and sport.
- Enable organisations and sport clubs to more easily include minority groups.

### **Gambling policy**

The Government's policy takes into account social responsibility and gamblers, whilst emphasising the need for changes caused by technological developments. For many people gambling is a pleasant recreational activity and it is also a source of revenue for social causes. The Government will continue the requirement that revenue from monetary gambling in Norway shall be awarded to volunteers and non-profit purposes. At the same time, support schemes must help organisations develop on their own terms.

#### **The Government will:**

- Continue the exclusive rights model and consider the possibility of allowing more humanitarian and voluntary actors within the framework of the ESA-approved exception.
- Implement a broad and external evaluation of Norwegian gambling policies.

## Museums and cultural heritage

The Government will emphasise the diversity of Norway's cultural heritage. Our cultural heritage represents our shared history and significant economic and cultural wealth, and contributes to a sense of identity and fellowship.

Museums and culture institutions should stimulate public engagement and have more opportunities to finance themselves. Cultural heritage is best preserved through utilisation and administration. The Government will strengthen the work on the status of crafts and preservation of craft traditions.

### The Government will:

- Facilitate the development of cultural business undertakings connected to museums and cultural heritage.
- Carry out a full assessment of the museum reform, and review state instruments and museum financing after the consolidation process to secure predictable frameworks.
- Make our cultural heritage more available by strengthening the research and communication skills of museums.
- Better facilitate digitalisation of the archive sector and communication activities in museums.
- Further develop Nordic cooperation on education in small and vulnerable craft subjects within the field of culture.
- Carry out an investigation to examine aspects of our intellectual cultural heritage in relation to business policies.

## Language, libraries and literature

Language forms the foundation for thought and interaction, it plays an important role in our cultural heritage and it is a prerequisite for taking part in a democracy. The Government will secure good conditions for usage and training in the official languages in Norway and the two forms of Norwegian.

Norwegian participation in the Frankfurt 2019 Book Fair is an important cultural commitment that provides good opportunities for long-term profiling of Norwegian culture. The Government will have a proactive literature policy and emphasise the need for digital restructuring in terms of the book market and libraries.

The Government will continue the fixed priced scheme for books, but assess how competition in

the book market can be improved.

#### **The Government will:**

- Put forward a proposal for a new and complete language Act that will pass on the principles in current legislation on equal forms of Norwegian and minority group languages, and assess measures to strengthen training in the main and second forms of Norwegian, as well as allow local experimentation.
- Remove the VAT difference between paper books and e-books, and introduce VAT exemption for e-books as well.
- Continue and revise literature procurement schemes with the aim of, for example, increased publishing and inclusion of digital platforms, etc.
- Focus on public and school libraries through, for example, strengthening the work on digital platforms and new models for running libraries.
- Continue working on digitalisation of large dictionary projects.
- Secure a joint understanding of Nordic languages by overseeing that films and TV programmes are broadcast with subtitles and not dubbed when they are supported or financed by the state.
- Strengthen national reading projects.

#### **Media, Internet and publication**

The Government's media policy shall facilitate freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom to give information in order to have good news programmes across the country and broad public discussions in a society of digital media. The media policy shall stimulate innovation and invention, whilst maintaining the traditions and basic values of the free press in a new era. The Government wants predictable and unbureaucratic media support well separated from political authorities.

The Government will protect open networks whilst taking care of data protection and copyright.

#### **The Government will:**

- Safeguard NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation) as a high-quality non-commercial general broadcasting service.
- Aim to ensure that NRK only minimally reduces the activity basis of media that obtain their income in the market.

- Consider adapting the NRK poster so it projects the diversity of media in a digital world.
- Preserve the diversity of the media and possibility for alternative general broadcasting services financed by commercials.
- Modernise subsidies for the media to secure a variety of publications on different platforms, Norwegian journalism, and continue the innovation scheme for the development of digital media.
- Remove the current TV licence and change the NRK financing model to make it more future-focused, secure editorial independency and legitimacy, strengthen the channels social profile, and make it simple and unbureaucratic. Following assessment, all media subsidies might be combined into one scheme.
- Consider whether productions that fall under NRK copyright shall be available digitally through a free licence.
- Aim to ensure that international media actors must follow Norway's competition terms and conditions when operating in Norway.
- Put forward a new law governing the responsibility of the media, which will consider source protection and editorial responsibility.
- Enforce the principle of neutrality online to give everyone equal opportunities when using the Internet, and diverse media.

## Religion and philosophies of life

The Government's religion and philosophies of life policy will be an all-round policy that respects the uniqueness of all types of belief systems with financing schemes that maintain the principle of equality. The Government considers that the beliefs of each individual is a personal matter and the state must not discriminate or favour one belief or philosophy over the other.

### The Government will:

- Carry out a broad review of the Government's religion and philosophies of life policy and assess new financing models for the policy.
- Safeguard equal treatment between religions and philosophies of life through legislation and financing. Historically, the Church of Norway holds a special position in relation to size and is recognised without shattering the principle of equal treatment.
- Finalise the separation of the Church from the state and secure preservation of protected church buildings.

- Abolish statutory regulation of affiliation to a religion or philosophy of life for children (affiliation scheme).
- Examine ways of securing openness about foreign donations to belief communities and religious associations that receive public subsidies.
- Follow up the establishment of an official Norwegian language training for religious leaders from relevant belief communities.
- Give religious leaders information about their role as a religious leader, democracy, equality, negative social control, violence and abuse, radicalisation and violent extremism, etc.
- Demand written confirmation from religious and philosophical communities that put forward an application for subsidies, that they are aware of and will follow the terms and conditions of receiving a subsidy.
- Give municipalities the opportunity to take over the administration of funerals when desired and facilitated.
- Allow more religious neutrality at funeral ceremonies.

## 12. Knowledge

Knowledge is fundamental to democracy, wealth creation and welfare. Kindergartens and schools shall provide children with secure frameworks and build up the necessary skills to realise their dreams and ambitions.

The Government will prioritise early intervention in schools to ensure that struggling pupils receive help, and we believe that each pupil must be given the knowledge and skills to grasp the opportunities of the future labour market.

### Kindergartens

Kindergartens shall provide security and good care, whilst encouraging play, learning and development on the terms of the child. The Government wants a diverse kindergarten service and will enable all children to have the opportunity to attend kindergarten. Good social skills and an understanding of the boundaries of themselves and others is an important attribute that kindergartens can give to children, and the Government will emphasise the importance of practising social competences. Language is the key to equal opportunities at school and in society. Children must learn through play and each kindergarten is free to create adapted lessons.

#### The Government will:

- Follow up the competence strategy for increased quality in kindergartens.
- Ensure the presence of more kindergarten staff through a justifiable standard level of staffing and increase the number of pedagogues.
- Strengthen further and continuing education to enable more employees to gain the competence needed to work in kindergarten.
- Secure the implementation of a more predictable admission system.
- Strengthen language training in kindergartens.
- Emphasise practising of social competences and development of social skills.
- Secure a diverse owner structure and kindergartens with different profiles.
- Give all children the opportunity to attend kindergarten.
- Reinforce recruitment of more men to work in kindergartens.
- Aim to include topics such as sexuality and boundaries in kindergartens.
- Evaluate the current kindergarten inspection scheme.



- Continue to treat public and private kindergartens equally.
- Strengthen cooperation between parents, kindergartens, schools and pre/after school clubs (if applicable) to make it easier for pupils when starting school.

## Schools

The most important task of schools is to develop the knowledge, skills and comprehension of pupils and how to apply such competence. Schools shall educate children and teach them manners, and be safe arenas for mastery.

Through schooling, all children shall acquire the basic skills of reading, arithmetic, verbal and written expression and IT skills. A safe and inclusive school environment requires systematic effort. Schools must encompass children. Early intervention is crucial and special education resources must be utilised as early as possible during education.

### The Government will:

- Update the Knowledge Promotion to secure more in-depth learning, relevant content, simplification, make priorities more transparent and improve coherence between subjects on the curricula.
- Continue focusing on reading, writing and arithmetic as basic skills.
- Encompass pupils with teachers, special pedagogical resources and the school health service.
- Continue work on bullying at school and commit to the prevention of bullying on digital platforms.
- Map learning results throughout school life and secure full openness about the results at school level.
- Make a trip to a school camp during primary and secondary education a statutory right.
- Improve the transition from primary school to lower secondary school, and lower secondary school to upper secondary school.
- Introduce schemes for reduced kindergarten fees and free half-day places at pre/after school clubs (SFO), equivalent to the kindergarten schemes for children of parents on a low income.
- Improve the quality of pre/after school clubs/activity schools through the preparation of a national template for local framework plans.
- Introduce a lower threshold for the quality of schools and order the owners of schools with poor school results over a prolonged period of time to accept national assistance to enhance the quality of the schools. For example, through a national advisory team made up of school experts to guide teachers and school management

teams.

- Assess whether swimming lessons can be given concentrated earlier than now.

## Early intervention

Too many pupils leave lower secondary school with poor reading and writing skills. The Government believes that struggling pupils must receive help earlier during their education. Such help must also be given to pupils who are bullied, experiencing a difficult family situation or sustain a mental health problem.

### The Government will:

- Prioritise early intervention from Year 1 to Year 4. The goal is that all pupils will leave lower secondary school with good reading, writing and arithmetic skills.
- Introduce an obligation for all schools to give additional follow up to pupils who struggle with reading, writing and arithmetic.
- Seek to give all schools access to teaching specialists, who have just started training, and give 3,000 teachers the opportunity to become school teaching specialists within five years.
- Strengthen the school health service, especially mental healthcare and improve the cooperation between parents and schools.
- Prepare a competence plan and inclusion requirements based on the report of an expert group for children and youths who require special adaptation.
- Assess whether to introduce a requirement for schools to have sufficient resources available with professional expertise in special needs education during the primary years.
- Assess whether to establish a continuing education programme for special needs education.
- Map the utilisation of occupational groups other than teachers in special needs education with the aim of all pupils receiving the professional adaptation and monitoring they need.

## Commitment to teachers

The knowledge and skills of teachers are crucial to pupil learning outcomes. A lack of trained teachers is one of the largest problems encountered by schools. Therefore, the Government believes that the teacher reform must be continued. In order for the teaching profession to be attractive, we must have good and appealing teacher training programmes and ensure that training is worthwhile - for teachers as well. The Government will elevate the status of the

teaching profession through a master's degree in teacher training, commitment to systematic further and continuing education and several career pathways for teachers.

#### **The Government will:**

- Seek to ensure that all teachers have undergone in-depth training in the subjects they teach.
- Carry out an aggressive effort, along with the sector, to recruit more teachers from other occupations.
- Continue the intensive focus on further and continuing education and extend the offer of continuing education to more subjects.
- Consider gradual introduction of competence requirements in relevant subjects.
- Continue work on strengthening teacher training through, for example, the strategy: Lærerutdanning 2025 (Teacher Training 2025).
- Reduce bureaucracy at schools through the removal of time-consuming activities to give teachers more time for each pupil.
- Establish national frameworks for a mentor scheme for newly qualified teachers.
- Examine a teacher certification scheme and possible protection of the title of teacher during the Government's term.
- Seek to ensure tighter cooperation between schools and education institutions through university schools, secondment schemes and research cooperation.
- Facilitate more career pathways for teachers.
- Strengthen the school manager role by offering further and continued education.

#### **Digital competence and innovation**

One of the most important tasks of society is to ensure that Norwegian youths can enter the labour market, and society on the whole, with solid knowledge, skills, curiosity and creativity that can lead to innovation. Digital skills are one of the basic skills that all pupils shall have upon completion of their education. Therefore, they need to acquire more knowledge and a greater understanding of ICT.

#### **The Government will:**

- Increase competence within innovation and entrepreneurship throughout school life.
- Encourage tighter cooperation between schools, companies and research environments.
- Strengthen Ungt Entrepreneurship (Young Entrepreneurship) as an important arena for

cooperation with the labour market.

- Ensure that teacher training programmes and continuing education for teachers integrate digital competence in all subjects.
- Ensure that pupils acquire knowledge about and an understanding of technology, algorithmic thinking and coding in more subjects than previously during school life.
- Facilitate an open and accessible digital market for teaching tools that encourage diversity and the development of intelligent teaching tools for pupils, teachers, school owners and manufacturers of teaching tools.

## Upper secondary education

Upper secondary education shall provide pupils with a basis for further study or occupational activity. Career pathways are formed at upper secondary school, therefore it is essential to offer good careers advice. The Government's objective is that nine out of ten pupils who start upper secondary education shall complete their education and pass the exams by 2030.

### The Government will:

- Strengthen careers advice and school counsellor services, hereunder continue the separate school counsellor training programme.
- Continue close cooperation with higher education institutions to ensure that pupils who wish to take subjects at a higher level can do so.
- Seek to ensure tighter follow up of pupils who are at risk of dropping out of school, and make it easier for pupils to retake subjects when they do not have the basis to obtain a mark.
- Secure the right of the pupil to assess the learning environment at schools and businesses that offer apprenticeships.
- Seek to have more teaching arenas throughout a pupil's education to enable youths, who are struggling with motivation, to work in a practical and varied way during the school day.
- Maintain the opportunity to run private schools as a supplement and alternative to state schools.
- Introduce the right to choose a school in all counties.

## Vocational subjects

Employees with vocational and professional training will be greatly sought in the future, therefore the Government believes it is necessary to elevate the status of vocational subjects to reduce the dropout rate of the programmes. A master craftsman certificate is equally as important as a

master's degree. Vocational training programmes at upper secondary schools must be more practical and less theoretical. More apprenticeship places are needed and more adapted training courses.

#### **The Government will:**

- Allow more adapted training courses, such as exchange models, work experience certificates and apprenticeship candidate schemes.
- Continue work on obtaining more apprenticeship places through, for example, improving the financial arrangements, demanding public entities to accept apprentices with clearer requirements, and by working with counties and the labour market.
- Demand that all government agencies and subordinate enterprises shall accept apprentices.
- Renew the vocational study programmes.
- Introduce a new practical and job-focused craft subject as an elective subject at lower secondary school.
- Give the labour market and the parties greater influence over the content of vocational training courses.
- Develop models that contribute to updated and quality assured equipment for the vocational training programmes and increase the equipment grant for the more expensive programmes.
- Continue the commitment to further and continuing education for vocational teachers through the vocational teacher reform.
- Strengthen the secondment scheme for vocational teachers and continue the scheme for teachers with a master's degree - lektor 2.

#### **Tertiary vocational colleges**

The Government believes that more jobs must be created and tertiary vocational colleges are an important instrument in helping to achieve the goal of qualifying more people to fill the jobs. Training from tertiary vocational colleges is often referred to as 'training for the labour market', as the training programmes are closely developed in cooperation with the labour market. This enables the programmes to be tailored to the competence requirements of the labour market and give students relevant training.

#### **The Government will:**

- Enhance the quality of tertiary vocational colleges and give the students the

same status as other students.

- Encourage tighter cooperation between school owners and businesses to enhance the quality and secure training programmes with practical courses.
- Improved changeover schemes from tertiary vocational college to university college/university.
- Give more information about tertiary vocational training programmes in careers advice services.

## Higher education

A good education system is a prerequisite for the labour market, and trade and industry to function well. The Government will increase investing in universities and university colleges, and commit to knowledge and research. As a small country, we must focus on developing some professional environments that will be world leading, whilst focusing on research and development where we have special advantages and needs. The Government believes that the quality of teaching in higher education must be strengthened. It must pay to be a good teacher in the world of academics. Everyone who teaches at universities and university colleges shall have the relevant competence, and good teaching must be merited.

### The Government will:

- Increase the number of study places in accordance with the needs and wants of the labour market and desires of students.
- Implement the Higher Education Quality Report and Humanities Report.
- Strengthen the quality of the courses through reinforcement of the National Arena for the Quality of Education.
- Further develop the scheme with the Centres of Excellence (SFU).
- Enable education institutions to use supplementary methods of admission.
- Encourage the development of digital learning resources and more flexible lessons, as well as the introduction of digital assessments and examinations in subjects when natural to do so.
- Be more flexible in allowing students to obtain relevant work experience, whilst studying.
- Take the initiative to carry out a feasibility study to look at different types of affiliation for the university and university college sectors, for example, the enterprise model to safeguard more independent institutions.

## Student welfare

In order for education to be realistic, it is important to provide good student support and welfare services. Everyone should have the opportunity to take higher education, regardless their background, financial situation or place of abode.

### The Government will:

- Build more student housing, and review budgetary frameworks and subsidy rates.
- Continue the gradual introduction of 11 months of student support.
- Strengthen work on monitoring students' mental health.
- Put forward a white paper on studying abroad and Norwegian students abroad.
- Introduce trial schemes for combined sheltered housing and student housing.

## Research

In order to develop a sustainable welfare state and competitive trade and industry, the Government will have a long-term and binding commitment to research. The Government will commit to all research institutions across the spectre and facilitate increased interaction and cooperation between public and private research actors. Publicly financed research must be high quality and not attached to any political guidelines or special interests. As much as possible research in Norway shall be financed with unconditional grants and open national research programmes.

### The Government will:

- Gradually increase governmental commitment to research in excess of one per cent of the BNP during a restructuring phase and, in particular, prioritise potential technologies and research that contribute to wealth creation.
- Put forward a revised long-term plan for research and higher education.
- Seek to ensure that increased research grants shall trigger increased private investment.
- Strengthen the Research Council of Norway's open programmes that place critical weight on quality, for example, Unconditional Project Support, Centres of Excellence, Centres for Research-Based Innovation and Centres for Environment-Friendly Energy Research.
- Work towards and encourage increased internationalisation of research, hereunder prioritise stronger participation in EU framework programmes.
- Better facilitate the commercialisation of research amongst students and researchers.
- Secure good utilisation of the faculty sector by using the entire spectre of the research and knowledge environments.

- Encourage more research within trade and industry, and stronger interaction with the academic world.
- Make research more accessible by encouraging more openness when communicating research and data.
- Simplify the bureaucracy surrounding applications for research funding.
- Strengthen existing research environments and encourage more world-leading research environments.

## Lifelong learning

The labour market changes rapidly and demands more competence. Everyone needs to replenish their knowledge during their career. The Government will facilitate higher competence and career development within different spheres throughout life. Folk schools are an important part of a diverse education system.

### The Government will:

- Prepare and initiate a competence reform to enable everyone to be up-to-date.
- Strengthen the programme for labour market training through the Kompetansepluss scheme.
- Assess how it can be easier to obtain subsistence financing for adults who want to study to make them more attractive in the labour market.
- Consider incentive schemes for lifelong learning.
- Consider a 'KompetanseFunn' scheme based on the 'SkatteFUNN' tax model.
- Facilitate better cooperation on digital competence between trade and industry and the education sector.
- Strengthen the voluntary, open and unbureaucratic training programmes in the voluntary work sector arranged by, for example, the study associations.
- Introduce a general right to map the basic skills of adults.
- Adapt the programmes of folk high schools to what students select, so that services with a low number of applicants are phased out and new ones are offered, and communicate with the folk high schools to find a model to phase out short courses in accordance with the budget agreement for 2018.



## 13. Climate and environment

Climate change, the spreading of environmental toxins and diminishment of diversity within nature are the biggest environmental challenges of modern times. These challenges must be solved through local, national and international initiatives. Nature has provided the basis for Norwegian welfare and growth, but natural resources must be used in a sustainable way. The diversity of nature and the livelihoods of future generations must be safeguarded to enable our children to at least inherit the nature and environment that we inherited from our forefathers.

The Government's climate and environment policy is ambitious and is built on administrative responsibility and the precautionary principle. The Government's policy will strengthen Norway's competitive power, create green growth and new green jobs. Transformation into a modern sustainable low-emission society is essential. Norway is a high competence society. We have technology and access to capital that makes it possible to significantly contribute to such a transformation.

### Climate

The climate problem can only be solved through global cooperation, but Norway must also reduce its own emissions.

The Government wants Norway to be a driving force behind international climate efforts and will reinforce the climate agreement. Norway shall fulfil the Kyoto protocol. Our own obligations under the Paris Agreement, i.e. at least 40 per cent less emissions compared to 1990, shall be followed up through an agreement with the EU on joint implementation. The Government's objective is that Norway will be climate neutral by 2030. This will be followed up and we will contribute to overseeing that Norway becomes a low-emission society by 2050. National initiatives shall not lead to the displacement of emissions or increase global emissions.

The Government will support development and the spreading of zero-emission solutions and help create markets for new zero-emission technology. The Government will choose instruments based on the criterion that polluters shall pay, and that climate goals are achieved as affordably as possible with the best security, and will therefore work on a green tax shift. The Government wants to reduce Norway's climate risks and contribute to the development of renewable energy solutions in developing countries.

The Government wants Norway to remain a pioneering nation within renewable energy and work towards the reduction of emissions within the transport sector. Norway has a massive and

increasing share of zero and low-emissions from new vehicles. The Government's ambitious goal of 85 g per km CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020 was achieved three years earlier.

#### The Government will:

- Reduce Norway's greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent in the non-quota sector in cooperation with the EU. Gradually introduce new technology, develop technology and the main instrument for achieving this goal will be CO<sub>2</sub> pricing.
- Use the option in the EU quota system (ETS) and possibility to enter into direct agreements with countries within the EU framework to fulfil Norway's climate obligations in non-quota committed sectors, whilst retaining the ambition to fulfil most of the obligation nationally.
- Prepare a plan to fulfil Norway's climate obligations in non-quota committed sectors when an agreement with the EU on joint fulfilment is in place.
- Have sectoral ambitions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in non-quota committed sectors, hereunder half the emissions of the transport sector by 2030. These targets are based on improvements within technological maturity in different parts of the transport sector.
- Follow up the seal of approval of the Norwegian Parliament when handling the energy report on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Follow up the bio-fuel escalation plan to reach the targets set for the reduction of emissions in the transport sector, and aim for 40 per cent intervention by 2030 depending on technological developments and development of alternative energy carriers.
- Have a complete strategy for research, technological development and hydrogen as an energy carrier.
- Create a plan to reach the goal of fossil free public transport by 2025.
- Continue work on a CO<sub>2</sub> fund for trade and industry.
- Facilitate rapid development of EV charging infrastructure throughout the nation through a combination of governmental instruments and market-based solutions to keep up with the increasing number of electric vehicles.
- Use the targets of the National Transport Plan 2018-2029 as a basis for the Government's work.
- Consider a requirement of zero-emission transport when delivering to public entities.
- Set the requirement of zero-emission or renewable solutions in public ferry tenders when facilitated.
- Further develop the green shipping programme to include zero-emission and hybrid concepts for different types of vessels by 2030.

- Establish separate plan programmes for the reduction of emissions within the marine and maritime sectors.
- Closely liaise with trade and industry to create profitable green jobs based on their path towards a low-emission society and the principles for green competitive power.
- Continue the 30 per cent environmental impact rating in connection with public procurement when applicable or use concrete environmental and emission requirements when viable.
- Use public procurement and regulations to stimulate the demand for products that are manufactured with low-emission technology, for example, cement and asphalt.
- Ensure that ENOVA SF is an important instrument in the Government's climate policy and continue to enable ENOVA to support the changeover to low-emission technology in all sectors.
- Develop a more efficient and co-ordinated system of climate instruments, in which important instruments, such as Innovation Norway's environmental technology scheme, the Research Council of Norway's climate technology programmes and ENOVA are seen in the same context.
- Strengthen Norway's green competitive power by facilitating industrial clusters that contribute to the development of climate technology, and which create new and profitable jobs that contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- Continue the climate and forest initiative as an important part of the solution to climate change.
- Continue work on the restoration of swamps and cost-efficient climate initiatives, such as the fertilisation and planting of indigenous forests.
- Continue Norway's efforts, as a leading sustainable investor in poor countries through, for example, Norfund.
- Set stringent climate requirements for the manufacturing phase on fields on the Norwegian Continental Shelf, hereunder the requirement to use the best available technology.
- Contribute to the development of cost-efficient technology to capture, transport and store CO<sub>2</sub>. The Government will present the Norwegian Parliament with an overall assessment of full-scale handling of CO<sub>2</sub> in connection with RNB 2018 at the latest, and will aim to realise a cost-efficient solution for a full-scale handling facility for CO<sub>2</sub> in Norway provided that it results in technological developments within an international perspective.

## Environment

Norway's nature is varied, lush and clean and it is crucial to preserve these qualities for future

generations.

The Government will facilitate sustainable preservation of Norway's strong traditions within hunting, fishing and outdoor pursuits based on the right of public access to the wilderness. The Norwegian Nature Diversity Act shall continue to apply. Urban fields and green areas in towns and cities must be preserved as important recreation areas for the public.

Globally, the spreading of environmental toxins and diminishment of diversity within nature represent a massive environmental problem. Even though the situation in Norwegian eco systems is generally good, Norway also faces some challenges in this respect as well. The Government will aim to preserve threatened species and types of nature, and safeguard a representative selection of Norwegian nature. The Government's nature preservation policy will be built on trust in each person and local community. Ownership rights are fundamental and landowners contribute greatly to the preservation and administration of the cultural landscape, forests and protected nature.

#### **The Government will:**

- Strengthen efforts against environmental crime, both nationally and internationally.
- Seek to ensure that Norway is a pioneering nation in the development of a green circular economy that better utilises resources.
- Work towards achieving the goals in the Aichi protocol and follow up the Nature Diversity Report in line with the adoption of the Norwegian Parliament.
- Consider that protection through utilisation is an important instrument in the way that Norway administers nature, whilst providing a basis for wealth creation.
- Preserve the right of public access to the wilderness and enable everyone to take part in outdoor pursuits in the nature.
- Put forward a plan of action for outdoor pursuits.

#### **Clean oceans**

The Government will strengthen Norway's international pioneering role in the work to combat marine littering and to lead the way with offensive national initiatives. The Government will reduce littering, clean up pollution and use alternatives to fossil plastic. This can provide new opportunities for innovation, new establishments and green growth.

### **The Government will:**

- Strengthen and professionalise efforts against marine littering by, for example, increasing subsidies for different types of clean-up initiatives.
- Have an aggressive strategy to combat marine littering and the spreading of microplastics nationally and internationally.
- Set requirements for household sorting and recycling of materials made from plastic, in addition to food waste, and similar waste from businesses. The Government will examine a schedule and frameworks for implementation in more detail.
- Strengthen research on marine littering.
- Further develop the oil preservation centre in Lofoten/Vesterålen, as a national and international leading competence environment for work on oil preservation and action against marine plastic litter.
- Cooperate with municipalities about following up the plan of action against microplastics.
- Improve checks on waste from the shipping industry, the fisheries and fish farms, hereunder strengthen waste acceptance systems for waste from ships in Norwegian ports.
- Further develop the scheme for registering lost fishing gear and introduce a visible labelling on fishing equipment.
- Continue work on cleaning up the masses on the seabeds of ports and fjords that have been severely polluted by environmental toxins.
- Secure adequate oil spill and accident preparedness, ample tug boats and good coastline surveillance.

### **Biological diversity**

The Government believes it is important to take care of our eco systems. The Government will work towards achieving the goals in the Aichi protocol and follow up the Nature Diversity Report in line with the proposals of the Norwegian Parliament. Norway is a seafaring and coast nation, and we administer stunning natural assets.

### **The Government will:**

- Protect 10% of all forests combined through private voluntary protection and protection of publicly-owned forest land.
- Draw up a plan for protected marine areas with the aim of protecting a representative selection of ocean areas.
- Have a knowledge plan for Norwegian nature and continue the work on an ecological

base map for Norway.

- Increase the number of prioritised species, selected types of nature and cultural landscapes.
- Safeguard viable populations of the five main species of large predators: wolverines, wolves, bears, lynx and king eagles.
- Establish an independent large predator complaints board to handle all complaints about decisions concerning hunting quotas and capture passed by the Norwegian Environment Agency and large predator boards.
- Strengthen and improve interaction with local capture teams to secure good local anchoring of such hunting.
- Consider allowing new and more effective hunting methods to control populations.
- Strengthen Norway's nature management and adequately manage protected areas.
- Consider supplementing the national park plan. Local impact and acceptance are a prerequisite for the establishment of new national parks, but regional considerations will be taken into account (for example, in Østmarka).
- Have a plan of action to meet the quality standards for wild salmon.
- Stop the downgrading of swamps and restore those that have been destroyed.
- Stop the planting and spreading of black-listed species and remove high-risk species from Norwegian nature.
- Strengthen Norwegian water management and follow up the water regulations.
- Supplement the watercourse preservation plan with Øystese watercourse.

## **Environmental toxins and other pollution**

Pollution in water, soil, air and vegetation often has a serious effect on nature. Environmental toxins also collect in the food chain. Therefore, it is important to reduce the spreading of environmental toxins and that Norway follows up international agreements related to this topic.

### **The Government will:**

- Set new and ambitious goals to phase out prioritised environmental toxins.
- Put forward a plan of action for toxic free living.
- Work towards strengthening international labelling schemes.
- Reduce local air pollution.
- Map and tidy up old greenhouse gas emissions.
- Safeguard sufficient hazardous waste management in line with national goals and international obligations.
- Draw up a plan to limit the volume of hazardous waste.
- Have a positive attitude towards mineral recovery and facilitate stable framework

conditions, new activity and good disposal solutions. The Government will evaluate the Norwegian Minerals Act to safeguard the development of sustainable resources and to ensure that environmental considerations have been sufficiently maintained. The evaluation shall also assess the connection between the environment and legislation governing minerals, including a special assessment to determine whether waste disposal laws for the mining industry are good enough, and examine the potential impact of banning seafills. New emission permits for mine waste seafills will not be issued during the Government's term.

## **Preservation of cultural heritage**

Our cultural heritage represents our shared history and significant economic and cultural wealth, and contributes to a sense of identity and fellowship. The Government will further develop schemes that encourage the preservation of both our material and intellectual cultural heritage, and preserve new findings to enable future generations to derive pleasure from Norway's cultural heritage. The Government wants to strengthen the Cultural Heritage Fund to allow more private owners to receive a subsidy for restoring property that could be protected.

### **The Government will:**

- Put forward a new cultural heritage report.
- Strengthen preservation of cultural heritage in counties and municipalities through additional responsibility, competence and incentives, whilst maintaining national responsibility.
- Strengthen the preservation of Norwegian vessels and adapt the regulations.

## 13. Oil and energy

### Energy

A stable energy supply is fundamental to a modern welfare state and it gives Norwegian industry a competitive advantage. The Government will build its policy on efficient exploitation of society's resources, hereunder our energy resources. Norway has a wealth of energy resources and shall be pioneering nation within eco-friendly energy and production. The Government will facilitate profitable production of renewable energy in Norway. Norway's position as a leading energy nation, including within renewable energy, will be maintained and further developed. A well-functioning power market is critical to the reliability of the electricity supply. The Government believes that the operation of the power system, and the selling and buying of power, must be based on market-related solutions as much as possible.

### Renewable energy

Norway generates significant wealth from its energy resources. These resources provide a basis for industrial development and wealth creation, and are critical intervention factors for important parts of Norwegian industry and businesses. When changing over to a low-emission society, renewable energy sources will play an even bigger role in the future than earlier and provide new opportunities for renewable industries in Norway, both nationally and internationally. The Government will enable Norwegian industry to benefit from our renewable resources.

All power production, including the production of renewable power, could impact the environment- Power production must therefore be weighed against other important environmental considerations in some cases, for example, the preservation of biological diversity, wild reindeer, nature experiences and outdoor pursuits.

Regulated hydropower will continue to be the backbone of our energy system. With an increasingly unregulated European power system, hydropower is advantageous to Norway when transitioning to increased utilisation of renewable energy in the transport sector.

The restructuring of the energy supply in Europe provides many opportunities for wealth creation in Norway due to our energy resources. We must exploit the opportunities this gives for profitable production and generation of Norwegian power. Through the exchange of electricity with our neighbouring countries, we can contribute to climate-friendly restructuring of Europe. Therefore, the Government will ensure good and stable framework conditions for power generation, whilst considering nature.



Most of our energy supply is already based on renewable energy sources. Norway's power sector is now practically emission-free. The Government will enable more community sectors to use energy in a more efficient and climate-friendly way.

#### **The Government will:**

- Facilitate profitable socioeconomic production of renewable energy in Norway.
- Use Fornybar AS, a state-owned investment company, to invest in new technology during the changeover from technological development to commercialisation that contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Enable Norwegian industry to benefit from Norway's renewable resources.
- Facilitate a green shift with more emphasis on renewable energy and when clean energy can be used to phase out fossil energy in other sectors.
- Develop Norwegian trade and industry through a commitment to climate technology that could be profitable over time. In connection with new technology and through predictable framework conditions, the Government must facilitate research, development and grants for pilot schemes, demonstrations, risk reduction and introduction of the technology to markets.
- Establish an expert committee to review the tax system for Norwegian hydropower,
- Facilitate the development of new technologies and market solutions that contribute to strengthening the reliability of the supply.
- Continue the cooperation on energy with the EU and actively promote Norwegian views and interests in the development of the European market and regulations.
- Assess measures to make it easier to connect self-produced energy to the electricity grid.
- Facilitate energy efficiency in all parts of Norway's economy and implement the EU directive on energy efficiency with adaptations.

#### **Oil and gas**

During the last few decades, the oil and gas industry has been a cornerstone for Norwegian economy. In the coming years, the oil and gas industry will also play an important role in the Norwegian economy and continue to significantly contribute to the financing of the Norwegian welfare state. The Government will continue to have a stable and long-term petroleum policy and the oil search policy will contribute to this.

At the same time, the global demand for oil and gas will be affected by climate initiatives implemented in each country, as the world must achieve the climate goals in the Paris Agreement. This requires a changeover from fossil fuel to using renewable energy and production.

Gas from the Norwegian Continental Shelf is a short to medium-term part-solution when coal is phased out in European energy production and will contribute to the changeover to a renewable low-emission European society. Therefore, Norway should facilitate continued exportation of natural gas to Europe.

When making decisions on the development of new oil and gas fields, the climate risks must be incorporated into the basis for the decision. The Government will follow up the recommendations and assessments of the climate risk committee.

Norway has a long tradition of developing its most important maritime industries alongside each other and maintaining its environmental values within its maritime areas. Through the management plans for the different maritime areas, we ensure that a variety of considerations are weighted against each other. The Government will continue the current system with regular updates and revision of the management plans.

#### **The Government will:**

- Facilitate profitable production of oil and gas through, for example, predictable framework conditions.
- Follow up the views of the climate risk committee and set the requirement that companies must highlight climate risks in their development plans.
- Support the work of the industry with by increasing wealth creation through streamlining, digitalisation and innovation.
- Continue the current practice of regular licensing rounds on the Norwegian Continental Shelf to give the industry access to new areas to search.
- When issuing recovery permits in the current 24th licensing round, emphasis will be placed on advice from environmental experts in or close to particularly valuable areas (SVO), hereunder restrictions on drilling in oil-bearing layers in a large radius around Bjørnøya.
- Not carry out the 25th licensing round before the administrative plan for the Barents Sea has been revised and Lofoten has been fully processed.
- Continue to gather information through the continued mapping of petroleum resources, including areas that have not yet been opened for petroleum activities.

- Not allow petroleum activities or investigate the impact of such activities in maritime areas outside Lofoten, Vesterålen and Senja from 2017-2021 in accordance with the Norwegian Petroleum Act nor implement petroleum activities on Jan Mayer, the ice edge, Skagerrak or the Møre fields. Determine the definition of the ice edge in connection with the revision of the management plan for the Barents sea and maritime areas outside Lofoten and according to the recommendations of the professional forum.
- Continue the quota obligation and CO<sub>2</sub> tax as main instruments in the climate policy for the Norwegian Continental Shelf, whilst maintaining stringent environmental requirements for Norwegian oil production.
- Facilitate further development of oil and gas activities; and other maritime industries.
- Use the entire system of instruments, including Norwegian Energy Partners and Innovation Norway to assist Norwegian oil technology companies internationally.
- Continue the commitment to petroleum-based research to increase wealth creation, strengthen international competitive power and reduce the impact of the activities on the climate and environment, hereunder establish a centre for low-emission solutions for the oil and gas industry.
- Set stringent climate requirements for the production phase in fields on the Norwegian Continental Shelf, hereunder the requirement of using the best available technology.
- Enable the Norwegian petroleum industry to maintain its position as a leader, including within health, safety and the environment.
- Contribute to adequate oil spill preparedness in cooperation with private actors.

## Seabed minerals

In the long-term, it might be possible to profitably recover seabed minerals on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. At the same time, mineral recovery must be performed in an environmentally viable and sustainable manner. Therefore it is crucial to establish good regulations in advance of any potential commercial activity.

The Government will therefore put forward a proposal for such legislation and assess opening up parts of the Norwegian Continental Shelf for commercial and sustainable recovery of seabed minerals.

### The Government will:

- Assess how the prevalence of seabed minerals on the Norwegian Continental Shelf can be efficiently mapped.
- Establish licensing regulations for permits to recover seabed minerals.

## Climate change adaptation

A climate change-adapted society is capable of limiting or avoiding damage caused by the climate. Climate change makes land use planning more demanding, as increased and more substantial amounts of rain, and rivers and streams that find new routes to flow, result in different areas being exposed to flooding and landslides. This means that municipalities need more competence.

### The Government will:

- Follow up the views of the stormwater committee.
- Encourage increased research on climate change adaptation.
- Continue the sectoral principle, in which each sector is responsible for climate change adaptation within their field.
- Cooperate with the municipalities to make them more capable of handling new challenges caused by climate change.

## 14. Transport

Norway is a very long country with nationwide business activities and human settlement. Good infrastructure is therefore important to create good regions to live and work in; and to connect the production of products and services to the markets. The Government shall contribute to easier and safer travelling with fewer environmental consequences. Improved infrastructure shall make the daily lives of travellers easier and safer, reduce travelling times, increased mobility and stronger competitive power throughout the country.

The Government will further develop infrastructure and transport solutions based on new and modern technology, the weighting of maintenance and investment in new capacities. The National Transport Plan for 2018-2029 (NTP) forms the basis for the Government's policy and includes an historical transport reform. The NTP for 2018-2029 continues and follows up the efforts that the majority have agreed to implement in the 2013-2017 Parliamentary term. The Government will strive to follow up the goals and ambitions in the NTP. Cost efficiency and the total benefits to society from each project are important in order to realise as many as possible of the projects (during the NTP period) that will benefit society.

The Government will facilitate significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the sector. New technology, increased use of bio-fuel, development of infrastructure for zero-emission vehicles, and the tax and VAT policy, will be important instruments if Norway is to achieve its goal of becoming a low-emission society by 2050.

The Government's commitment to freight, public transport, walking and cycling initiatives will also contribute to fewer emissions from the sector.

The goals for reduced emissions are based on improvement in terms of technological maturity within the various parts of the transport sector to allow zero-emission solutions to be competitive against fossil transport solutions.

### **The Government will:**

- Consider the aims of the National Transport Plan for 2018-2029.
- Follow up the National Transport Plan for 2018-2029, so that the balance between road traffic and public transport is maintained in line with the plan during the four-year government term, and place special focus on cost-control and more benefits to society in the projects.
- Be more open to increased usage of state plans, the reduction of planning time

and coordinated public objections.

- Ensure that land use planning is better coordinated with the development of infrastructure.
- Have good conditions for freight transport and contribute to fair competition within the industry.
- Follow up the aim of transferring 30 per cent of freight more than 300 km from roads to the sea/fjords or railway service before the plan expires.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the sector by gradually introducing zero and low-emission technology, increasing the sale of sustainable bio-fuel and govern with a targeted tax and VAT policy.
- Oversee that new cars and light-weight vans are zero-emission vehicles by 2025.
- Seek to ensure that future national transport plans are more overarching and strategic to secure more cost-efficient and complete development.
- Actively work against liberalisation of the cabotage regulations and reduce the scope of illegal cabotage.
- Strengthen the formalised cooperation between the enforcement authorities to secure increased and targeted control of the transport industry on the roads, in companies and at terminals, and facilitate efficient enforcement.
- Consider increased utilisation of charges as a response to minor violation of the regulations.
- Assess new measures to prevent drivers of a vehicle from not stopping for inspection by the Norwegian Road Administration.

## Road network

The Government will work towards safe, efficient and future-focused road transport. Good main traffic routes between the different regions within Norway are important, as they contribute to the profits of businesses, help heavy transport and contribute to efficient passenger transport. Good road solutions give shorter travelling times, have less negative impact on the environment and make travelling safer. The Government will continue to reduce the backlog of maintenance in the road sector.

The road reform will be continued and work on less costly road construction will also continue.

The Government will continue targeted work on achieving the vision of zero deaths on the roads by continuing the commitment to the construction of safe, efficient roads, and walking and cycling lanes, in addition to attitude-changing work.

### **The Government will:**

- Plan and build new roads with a long-term perspective to take into account potential increases in traffic, whilst considering costs.
- Set the requirement of zero-emission or renewable solutions in all public ferry tenders from the state, counties and municipalities when facilitated.
- Restrict the use of Automatic Traffic Control (ATK).
- Consider changing speed limits so they are better adapted to the location of the road and modern vehicles, as well as consider increasing the speed limit on the best motorways.
- Have a vision of zero severe injuries and deaths on the road and prioritise attitude-creating work, maintenance and renewal of infrastructure and non-traffic meeting main roads to increase road safety.
- Change the rules for road signs so that drivers receive more information about vehicle and driver-related services, such as signs for energy points, accommodation, restaurants, hubs and cultural attractions.
- Examine the possibility of simplifying the driving licence requirements.
- Continue work on simplifying vehicle technical requirements.
- Add more projects to 'Nye veier' for the most important national and European roads.
- Modernise the Norwegian Road Administration with the aim of giving it more room to act and to be more efficient in the production of services.
- Seek to ensure that barriers on side roads are generally avoided, unless necessary to realise a project.
- Continue work on streamlining the road tolls sector to reduce the number of tolls motorists have to pay.
- Ensure that foreign longer heavier vehicles obligate to paying tolls and other taxes.
- Assess how important export routes that include regional and national roads, can be better equipped to meet the transport needs of businesses.
- Put forward a strategy for stop off places.

### **Railway, urban environments and public transport**

Urbanisation is a global trend that increases the need for adequate and environmentally friendly transport chains in urban areas. With public transport solutions, the Government will enable more people to select their daily mode of transport. The Government aims to ensure that all growth of passenger transport in towns and cities is covered by public transport, cycling and walking. Amongst other things, the Government aims to ensure that the number of people cycling in towns and cities reaches 20 per cent and that the Government shall contribute

towards 50 per cent of financing for large public transport projects in the largest towns and cities, in addition to increased focus on urban environment and urban growth agreements.

The railway is an important mode of transport that is particularly suitable for commuting in densely populated areas and for long distance freight transport. The Government will continue its strong focus on the railway through increased maintenance and investment in higher capacity. The Government will continue work on streamlining the sector to get the best possible amount of railway for the available money, hereunder a better service for travellers. The Government also aims to see more cargo freighted on railways to reduce the negative environmental impact of heavy vehicles.

#### **The Government will:**

- Finish the railway reform and ensure that the Government purchases railway services from bidders, who give the best offer for the available money.
- Follow up railway prioritisations in the NTP.
- Continue the development of efficient solutions for public transport, walking and cycling in urban areas through the establishment of urban growth agreements and reward schemes in compliance with the NTP.
- Facilitate efficient railway freight transport through realisation of the freight strategy in the NTP.
- Prioritise inbound parking in compliance with the NTP.
- Take the initiative to conduct a Scandinavian railway study in cooperation with Sweden and Denmark.
- Allow increased utilisation of shared economy for passenger transport within a set of rules and requirements for predictable bidders.
- Fully liberalise the express bus policy for unsubsidised express buses.
- Make it easier to use motorbikes as an alternative environmentally friendly mode of transport.
- Review the 'kjøreveisavgiften' (route tax) for the railways.

#### **Aviation**

Aviation is an important part of the Norwegian transport network. It is especially important to most parts of the districts, in addition to wealth creation throughout Norway. The Government's competition-focused aviation policy, which contributes to the development of a competitive Norwegian aviation industry. Interesting developments are taken place within aviation and technology will provide new opportunities to reduce negative impact on the environment and



increased transport services.

**The Government will:**

- Facilitate the use of bio-fuel in aircraft.
- Commission Avinor to develop a programme to facilitate the introduction of electric aircraft for commercial flights.
- Secure good and fair framework conditions for non-state owned airports.
- Enable municipalities and private individuals to take part in the development of airports and the surroundings.
- Develop regional airports to strengthen the export of seafood,
- Assess how airport taxes can be restructured to increase the competitive power of Norwegian aviation.

**Mail service and electronic communication**

The Government will focus on digital infrastructure. This type of infrastructure is gaining more and more momentum in line with the rapid digitalisation of society. The Government will facilitate a good broadband infrastructure and 4G/5G coverage across the country. In addition, the Government will focus on securing alternative main networks and more fibre cables to other countries.

The Government will continue to work on the adaptation of healthy competition, high investments and increased security. Regulations must help to keep costs low. Commercial actors have significantly increased their investments and are responsible for most of the expansion of mobile network coverage and broadband to households. In order to reach the goals on good coverage around the country, commercial investments will be crucial, but naturally the Government will assist in areas where it cannot be done.

The Government will secure a good and similar postal service across the country adapted to the demand for postal services.

**The Government will:**

- Carry out a comprehensive evaluation of Norwegian laws and regulations to identify unnecessary rules that prevent or delay the use of transport technology and ICT solutions.
- Facilitate pilot projects for self-driving vehicles with the main focus being on public transport.
- Facilitate increased expansion of broadband through, for example, additional state

funding for the expansion of broadband in the districts.

- Examine how a market-driving approach to a 'gigabyte society' can be facilitated.
- Update the 'Digital Agenda' during the Government's term.
- Facilitate the use of intelligent traffic systems, autonomous solutions and other new technology within the transport sector if capacities will be better utilised, increased traffic safety and a better service for travellers.

## Coastline

Local shipping activities have a long tradition in Norway and play an important role in transport services along the coastline. The Government will enable more refrigerated cargo to be freighted and will facilitate continued development of the shipping industry in a more environmentally friendly way. The Government will continue to prioritise safety and preparedness in the maritime sector.

### The Government will:

- Reduce the backlog of maintenance work on coastal installations along the coastline.
- Focus on maritime safety and measures against maritime pollution, hereunder oil spill preparedness.
- Continue the incentive scheme for local shipping transport to contribute to the transfer of an increased volume of cargo freighted over maritime waters.
- Improve and extend fairways into the most important towns/cities and ports.
- Establish a subsidy scheme for more efficient and environmentally friendly ports in compliance with the guidelines in the NTP.
- Continue work on the digitalisation of maps.

## 14. Defence

The most important task of the Government is to protect the population and make it safe. Our defence and security policy must build on reducing tension, deterrents, conflict prevention, security, and stability on home ground and work aimed at stopping the spread of international terrorism. The Government believes that Norwegian security is best maintained through international cooperation, binding alliances, increased trading and liaison with as many countries as possible. When seen in context, the parliamentary compromises on the Long-term Plan for the Norwegian Armed Forces (LTP) and the military defence proposition, form the basis for the policy in the area.

Norway's security policy is now moving in different areas. The situation in our local areas and the border zone of Europe is more challenging than earlier. The combination of traditional geopolitics, and new and somewhat unconventional challenges create a more complex situation. Global affairs also affect us more directly than before. International terrorism, organised crime and cyber threats challenge us in ways that our established security routines cannot withstand. All of these problems combined, means that new requirements must be devised for how the Norwegian Armed Forces shall adapt.

The High North is Norway's most important strategic priority area. The Government will therefore strengthen the Norwegian Army and Home Guard, as well as the presence of the naval forces to strengthen Norway's coastal defence. The Government will invest in future-focused strategic capacities and intelligence to safeguard an adequate understanding of the situation, assertion of sovereignty and control in northern territories.

The Government wants to further develop the country's defence, so it is well-equipped to safeguard Norway's interests, our sovereignty and to fulfil our NATO obligations. The Government will prioritise an operative defence, fighting strength and endurance in all branches of the Norwegian Armed Forces. The organisation of our defence shall be cost-efficient and professional within financially viable frameworks that secure resources for physical activity, maintenance, investments and recruitment of suitable and motivated personnel.

Individuals who have served internationally must be adequately followed up. Veterans must receive the recognition they deserve. The Government will encourage more municipalities to draw up their own plans for veterans, preferably in cooperation with the veteran organisations to enable veterans to receive good follow up. The Government will also work towards regional co-ordination of the efforts for veterans in the associated municipalities and counties. The municipalities and counties must be encouraged to financially support local well-being

organisations and to provide suitable premises for the organisations to do their work.

#### The Government will:

- Continue with real strengthening of the Norwegian Armed Forces and safeguard the balance between assignments, structure and finances. In line with that agreed and determined at the NATO summit in Cardiff, the Government's aims to increase the defence budget in a way that will eventually enable us to achieve the two per cent target.
- Fight international terrorism through political and financial instruments and participation in international cooperation.
- Independently examine and establish a form of digital defence for Norway's borders solely for foreign intelligence purposes that increase our ability to protect ourselves in the event of threats against the security of the Realm, and maintain core human rights and data protection obligations. The Liberal Party has made reservations about potential dissenting opinions in the Government when this matter is processed.
- Maintain Norway's NATO obligations and secure continued Norwegian influence in NATO through active participation in political and military forums.
- Further develop dialogue with the EU on security policies and apply for active participation in EU security and defence policy forums.
- Further develop the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEF) when natural to do so as a supplement to the cooperation with our allies in NATO.
- Strengthen work on enforcing and ratifying the convention on the prohibition of landmines and cluster munitions, and get more countries to do the same. Norway should actively take part in work connected to the destruction of cluster ammunition.
- Strengthen the Norwegian defence industry through active use of industrial partnership agreements during procurement when viable.
- Further develop cooperation with alliance partners for the procurement of defence materials.
- Keep general national service for men and women.
- Ensure that those who have carried out international service receive good follow up and give veterans the recognition they deserve.
- Based on the current external quality assurance of the Concept Committee's report on Evenes Air Force Base, the Government will carry out an updated review of the reason for closing down Andøya Air Force Base and the establishment of the base at Evenes.

## 15. Foreign affairs and development

The Government's foreign policy will have clear priorities embedded in liberal values. The main objective of the foreign policy is to secure important Norwegian interests and help Norway achieve its UN sustainability goals, reduce international tension, and contribute to security, stability, peace and reconciliation, less-restricted world trade, financial development and respect for human rights. The foreign policy shall contribute to national security, financial growth and a higher standard of living. The Government will consciously work towards assisting Norwegian citizens and Norwegian business abroad.

The world around us has become more unpredictable. Fundamental values, such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law are being put under pressure. This also applies to international institutions, who regulate cooperation between countries. It benefits Norway to defend and preserve these values and institutions. The Government wants global development with more democracy and rule of law principles.

The Government will contribute to peace, democracy and development through promoting human rights and rule of law principles, and direct more attention towards civilians and political rights in neighbouring areas as well

The main aspects of the Norwegian foreign policy will still apply. Norway shall be a predictable, secure and trustworthy partner. The Government will build its policy on binding international cooperation. Norway shall be an active contributor to the United Nations, NATO, WTO and other international organisations. The Government will continue cooperating with Norway's civil society to achieve the goals of Norwegian foreign policy.

Norway's most important interests and communities of shared values will still be the Nordic, European and Atlantic. The Government will actively seek cooperation with new partners and become involved globally. At the same time, changes to the political, economical and military balance of power requires even stronger anchoring of values and pragmatic politics in the Western fellowship of neighbours, allies and trading partner.

### **The Government will:**

- Prioritise Norway's neighbours in the foreign policy.
- Continue close Nordic cooperation.
- Have an active High North policy and strengthen cooperation between the Arctic countries and the EU to prevent and limit both natural and man-made disasters.

- Make it possible to have a viable local community on Svalbard.
- Work towards a modernised, strong and more efficient United Nations.
- Direct Norwegian efforts and economic engagement to the parts of the United Nations that efficiently deliver good results and work in compliance with Norwegian priorities.
- Use international negotiations to promote Norwegian interests.
- Strengthen the work on human rights through international forums, the development policy and support for the development of civil societies.
- Prioritise civil and political rights, education and work for women's rights.
- Work to support international prevention of illegal capital flight and tax evasion, unreported work and corruption.
- Support international work and aim for openness when placing capital and capital movement between countries, in addition to supporting work for better tax principles for global companies.
- Cooperate with other countries to implement economic and political sanctions with severe and permanent breach of international law.
- Cooperate with vulnerable democratic countries about economic and democratic development, especially the West Balkans and Europe's limitrofe states.
- Strengthen international work to counteract the illegal sale of weapons, drug dealing and human trafficking.
- Further develop the Norwegian effort for peace and reconciliation in areas with war and conflict.
- Support the International Criminal Court and encourage more countries to accept the jurisdiction of the court.
- Consider a balanced attitude to towards the Middle East crisis, actively support the goal of Israel and Palestine as two states within set and internationally recognised boundaries, and support democratic development in the Middle East.
- Continue efforts to tidy up Russian nuclear waste and work towards reducing environmental threats from Kolahalvøya.
- Be an international leader in connection with the initiative for clearing the oceans of plastic, and follow up the vision of zero-waste in maritime.

## Europe

European countries and EU are close neighbours of Norway, our friends and most important trading partners. Access to the inner market through the EEA agreement provides Norway's trade and industry with predictability, and the opportunity to sell their products and services. This is crucial to secure economic growth and well-being in Norway. As a result, Norwegian foreign

policy must start in Europe. In general, the Government is positive towards binding international cooperation.

The Government will consider the EEA agreement and all other agreements that affect Norway's relationship with Europe. The Government will work for improvement of the frameworks of the EEA agreement and have an active European policy to increase Norway's impact on decisions that affect Norway's interests.

Trust in our shared outer borders in Europe must be re-established and the Government will support EU efforts to find good solutions for shared challenges linked to migration. The Government believes that Norway must assist with this work. The development of the EU joint foreign and security policy creates additional value for NATO as an alliance. The Government is positive towards EU cooperation on defence and will work towards participation of a third country.

#### **The Government will:**

- Take part in the development of joint European solutions for justice, migration and the climate, and seek implementation of a joint climate policy in the EEA agreement.
- Maintain Norwegian interests by influencing in the early stages of processes, in addition to the shaping of EU policies.
- Take care of Norwegian interests in connection with Brexit through close liaison with the EU and the UK.
- Actively support EU policies on rule of law principles in Europe.
- Seek to strengthen bilateral relationships with central European countries.
- Assess initiatives that can limit and stop the export of social security benefits, for example, work towards acceptance of purchasing power parity in the EU for social security benefits.
- Ensure that EEA funding contributes to stronger democracy and rule of law in Europe, and sustainable economic growth.
- Take part in formal and informal European forums, especially when permitted through the EEA agreement.
- Strengthen the co-ordination of all European cases handled by public administration to secure efficient case processing and improved Norwegian impact.
- Involve Parliament in the early stages of important EEA processes.
- Follow up the Government's initiative for the EU to intensify work against work crimes.

## Security policy

Norway's security policy is now moving in different areas. The situation in our local areas and the border zone of Europe is more challenging than earlier and a combination of traditional geopolitics and new and somewhat unconventional challenges create a more complex situation. Global affairs also affect us more directly than earlier. The Government will prioritise security and stability in Norway's local areas in the security policy. We must build our security in cooperation with others embedded in NATO and the transatlantic relationship. Peace and stability are best assured through the widest possible cooperation on a security policy.

The focus on verification is the most concrete disarmament work currently being conducted. The Government wants to develop concrete solutions in cooperation with other countries to enable countries, both with and without nuclear weapons, to be more capable of monitoring destruction of such weapons. The Government's goal is to have a world free of nuclear weapons.

### The Government will:

- Prioritise security and stability in Norway's local areas in the foreign and security policy.
- Have a security and defence policy that helps NATO remain a strong and credible alliance, and that Norway remains a predictable, secure and trustworthy ally.
- Apply for membership of the United Nations Security Council 2021-22.
- Further strengthen the transatlantic relationship and cooperation with central European allies and partners.
- Further develop dialogue with the EU on security policies and apply for active participation in EU security and defence policy forums.
- Have strong, clear and stable frameworks for export checks on weapons and ammunition that provide Norwegian industry with predictability. The Government will actively work in international spheres to create a consensus for joint formats and standards for end user documentation and re-export insurance.
- Cooperation with allies on the intensification of the effort for active, balanced, irreversible, mutual and testable disarming of nuclear weapons within the frameworks of the non-proliferation agreement.
- Further develop Norway's international leading role within verification of nuclear weapon disarmament to contribute to real disarmament actually taking place and increased trust in disarmament agreements.
- Strengthen work on enforcing and ratifying the convention on the prohibition of landmines and cluster munitions, and get more countries to do the same. Norway



should actively take part in work connected to the destruction of cluster ammunition.

- Weight the work against new global security threats, such as terrorism, organised crime, irregular migration, digital security and illegitimately influencing information.

## Development

Most indicators show that the world is developing in a positive direction. Large groups of people are still being taken out of poverty and increasingly more are learning to read and write. At the same time, climate change, terrorism, war, environmental threats and poverty are the worst global challenges we have encountered. The objective of the Government's development policy is to save lives, contribute to more democracy and the realisation of human rights, as well as contribute to the erasure of poverty permanently. Sustainable combating of poverty requires economic, social and environmental solutions to be found.

The Government builds its policy on the fact that all human beings have universal rights, such as freedom of speech, the right to choose a faith and protection of private property rights. The Government will help fight rape and suppression, and place special focus on vulnerable groups, such as women, children, religious minority groups, the disabled and sexual minority groups. Work on securing the right to education, particularly for girls, must continue.

The Government's development policy will be based on knowledge, and it shall be effective with human rights and the sustainability goals of the United Nations as the overarching framework. Within the goals for sustainability, the Government will choose some areas in which Norway is exceptionally good and is most likely to make a difference. When considering Norway's areas of commitment, it is important to think in the long-term, and the Government will take care of the areas in which Norway is currently playing a global role.

The Government will preserve the high quality of Norway aid and will further the goal of giving one per cent of the GNI to development cooperation. A high aid budget is less important than having a complete, effective and functional development policy. The aid shall help countries function independently without aid in the long-term. Therefore, the Government will enable Norwegian aid administrators to use the resources efficiently and share the work between various actors as best possible. The efforts of national authorities and political ownership of self-development are prerequisites for Norwegian aid. Solid community institutions, economic and political transparency, strong civil societies, the spreading of power and a well-functioning rule of law are the keys to economic progress. Good distribution of resources contributes to enabling economic growth to benefit all, even the poor.

### The Government will:

- Have a synchronised policy for development if the United Nations goals for sustainability are taken into account and various initiatives largely gravitate into the same direction in line with Parliament's handling of White Paper 24 (2016 - 2017) *Felles ansvar for felles fremtid (Joint Responsibility for a Joint Future)*.
- Ensure that the humanitarian aid remains high quality and that the help is given to people who need it the most; and to forgotten conflicts and catastrophes.
- Set more requirements for recipients of Norwegian aid, i.e. progress within the areas of democracy, civil society, anti-corruption, development of the rule of law, human rights and the will to balance their public budgets.
- Prioritise capacity building, the transfer of competencies and professional assistance to cooperating countries.
- Use the governmental aid in a way that it can also trigger private resources, help achieve the goals for sustainability and to create good jobs in developing countries.
- Reform the organisation of Norwegian development policies to secure knowledge-based and effective aid, hereunder the distribution of roles between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UD), Norad and other actors.
- Facilitate voluntary aid through humanitarian organisations.
- Use Norway's position as, for example, an aid donor, to secure more return agreements.
- Not support organisations in Palestinian areas that encourage violence or hateful speech, racism or anti-semitism.
- Contribute to industrial development and job creation in low-income countries, and especially prioritise cooperation with low-income countries south of the Sahara with whom Norway has a cooperation agreement.
- Increase trade with poor countries. Facilitate imports and trading.
- Further enable Norwegian businesses to become partners in development policies, and help ensure that Norway negotiates tax agreements with as many of the applicable countries as possible to avoid paying double tax.
- Further develop Norway's leading role in the initiative on high quality education for all.
- Strengthen the effort for global health, especially vaccination, children's health, and sexual and reproductive health.
- Continue work on developing civil societies and a good governance in developing countries.
- Continue a broad commitment to the climate and preservation of the rain forests, and

intensify commitment to the environment and fighting environmental crime.

## **Norwegians abroad**

The Government aims to ensure that it is easy and as unbureaucratic as possible for Norwegians to stay abroad or settle in another country, especially within the EEA area, and to move home again.

### **The Government will:**

- Assist Norwegian citizens and Norwegian businesses abroad and provide good consular services.
- Review the toll and VAT systems for Norwegian who move back to Norway.
- Continue the work on a joint digital ID solution for Nordic citizens.
- Simplify the process for approving marriages between Norwegians and other EEA citizens.
- Maintain good conditions for the Seaman's Church.