

Åslaug Sem-Jacobsens «statement»

Stortinget er invitert til å bidra med et innlegg på ca. 5 minutter i andre del av åpningssesjonen, mellom kl. 15.00 og 17.00. Norge er nr. 11 av 16 observatører og vil komme etter New Zealand og før Papa New Guinea.

Statement by Norway

- President, Delegates, Parliamentary Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- Suostei pelorsiel - Good afternoon, every one.
- It's a great honour for me to address the 43rd AIPA General Assembly as Head of the Norwegian Delegation. This is the first time we have attended the AIPA General Assembly in person as observers. After two years of digital meetings, it's great to finally meet face to face again.
- Norway and ASEAN share a long history of cooperation, especially within trade, peace and reconciliation. But more importantly, we also share the same core values in relation to international affairs. In a world of increasing instability, conflict and war, [or: where international law is blatantly under attack,] our common commitment to international law and the UN Charter is more vital than ever.
- In 2015, Norway and ASEAN took our relationship to a new level by establishing a sector dialogue partnership [and by appointing an ASEAN Ambassador]. In 2020, the partnership was further strengthened by observer status in AIPA. Today, we cooperate in a broad variety of fields. And we hope to strengthen this partnership even further in the future: [I would like to mention three areas of specific interest here:]
 - First, trade. ASEAN is Norway's third largest **trading partner** in services and fourth largest in goods. As a region, you constitute such an interesting and diverse market for Norwegian business. I know our businesses greatly value the good cooperation with their ASEAN partner companies. If this cooperation could be formalized through a trade agreement between EFTA and ASEAN, I know this would be very well received in Norway and would benefit the ASEAN countries as well.

- Second, both Norway and ASEAN have deep, cultural and economic ties to the **ocean**. Historically, marine resources have been key to our survival and economic development. Today, we work together for the survival of the oceans. We have projects within marine pollution and sustainable fisheries. And together, we stand up for the rule of law and freedom of navigation at sea. Our past and future lies in the sea, and we sincerely hope this will continue to be a vital part of our partnership.
- A third pillar in our partnership is **climate change**. Just last week, COP27 ended, where Norway's message was clear: Urgent action is needed to keep the 1.5-degree target alive. Norway is very proud of our collaboration with the ASEAN countries to reduce deforestation. We also look forward to continuing the work with ASEAN on green and equitable [or just] energy solutions, in projects like the ASEAN Climate and Energy Project.
- It is our hope that our parliamentary dialogue will strengthen the close cooperation that already exists between Norway and ASEAN and that AIPA can serve as a platform for a regular exchange of views between our respective parliaments on issues of common interest.
- Strengthening our bonds with ASEAN is crucial for Norway because we share a strong and common belief in the need for a well-functioning multilateral world order – be it through the UN, the WTO or the global climate cooperation. We depend on working together on the regional and global stage, and do so very well already.
- On behalf of the Norwegian Parliament, I'd like to wish you all a very successful General Assembly. Together with my colleagues, I look forward to learning from your discussions and getting to know how you work together on such demanding issues as gender equality, climate change, and post covid-19 recovery.
- With this, Mr President, I'd like to thank you for inviting us as observers to the AIPA General Assembly and for giving us the floor to present our thoughts both here and in the dialogue meeting on Wednesday.
- Thank you!

