

Norwegian government



Source: Bjørn H. Stuedal

Who you are:

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Minister of the Environment and International Development, Norway

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State Secretary to the Minister of the Environment and International Development, Norway

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State Secretary to the Minister of the Environment and International Development, Norway

You represent the Norwegian government. The Ministry for Environment and International Development, of which you are a part, supports most initiatives by countries of the Global South devoted to protecting the environment.

Your position regarding Yasuni National Park:

You are fascinated by the Yasuní Initiative, and support Ecuador's bold idea of asking the international community for money to leave the oil in the ground, preserving Yasuní's unique biodiversity

You know that Ecuador needs foreign contributions amounting to 100 million dollars to be paid into the trust fund in order for the project to succeed. Numerous countries have already made financial commitments, such as Spain and Chile, with a million dollars each. France and Italy have offered to waive 25 million dollars of Ecuador's public debt. The Netherlands, Belgium and Norway have expressed an interest in the initiative, but their proposals so far have been vague. You will only get on board if Germany decides to contribute to the fund.

What is more, you have doubts about specific aspects of the initiative. How can the commitment to leave the oil in the ground be made legally binding? What guarantee can be given that the money paid into the fund was not simply wasted if Ecuador one day decides to extract the oil after all? Above all, supporting the project could set a precedent. Other poor countries might also demand money from Norway and other wealthy countries simply because they want to preserve their environment rather than extract valuable resources. This would open a Pandora's box of ramifications.

Your demands:

You will only take part in the Yasuní initiative if Germany contributes to the fund. Your reasoning for this is as follows: Germany, as the world's leading exporter, is Europe's most powerful country in economic terms. Its wealth makes it a prime candidate to contribute to such an initiative. If smaller countries are the only ones to contribute to the Yasuní fund, they will be at a clear competitive disadvantage. In addition, it must be ensured that not every country with oil reserves, such as e.g. the United Arab Emirates or Kuwait, can demand compensation payments for abstaining from oil production.

Your task for the first unofficial round of negotiations:

Seek out potential coalition partners who you think might have interests similar to yours. Discuss in your group who will negotiate with whom. Approach the other groups and find out whether you can form an interest group to further your position.