



The Norwegian Government's strategy for cooperation between Brazil and Norway

New perspectives on a long-standing relationship



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



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Introduction

The Government's vision is as follows:

Norway and Brazil will develop a strategic partnership in areas where each country has strengths and expertise to offer the other, and where cooperation will result in mutual enrichment and economic growth and development in both countries. Our cooperation should be long-term and knowledge-based and take full account of social, environmental and economic sustainability. Norway and Brazil will contribute jointly to the resolution of global challenges through close cooperation on international issues.

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world both in geographical area and in terms of population. The country has had strong economic growth in recent years; it is currently the world's seventh largest economy and aims to rise to fifth place in the next few years. It is also a vibrant democracy with a flourishing civil society. Its active policy for social cohesion has lifted millions of people out of poverty over the last few years, although social and economic disparities continue to be a serious challenge. Today Brazil is among the global actors with substantial influence on the international agenda.

Norway and Brazil enjoy a good, mutually enriching and long-lasting relationship. We have been trading partners for more than 170 years, ever since the first Norwegian ship docked in Rio de Janeiro, discharged its cargo of klippfish and returned to Norway loaded with sugar and coffee. Even today, bacalhau still accounts for a quarter of Norway's exports to Brazil, and coffee forms a significant proportion of Norway's imports from the country. Brazil is also Norway's largest export market for services after the EU and the US.

Although trade between our two countries is still growing, our economic relations are dominated by Norwegian investment and the establishment of Norwegian companies in Brazil. Brazil is the country where Norway has its largest investment abroad after the EU and the US, and in 2010, Norway was the seventh largest foreign investor in Brazil. Over 100 Norwegian companies have established themselves in Brazil, and Norwegian ships make 1500 calls a year at Brazilian ports. Currently a quarter of the offshore vessels operating in Brazilian waters have Norwegian owners.

Furthermore, Norway is a major exporter of financial capital through the Government Pension Fund Global, which has larger investments in Brazil than in any of the other emerging economies.

The huge new oil and gas discoveries on the Brazilian continental shelf and the country's leading position in the development and use of renewable energy sources will make Brazil an even more important energy nation, which will again make it an even more valuable partner for Norway.

There is public debate in both Norway and Brazil on the direction in which the respective countries should be developing and on the relationship between economic growth and sustainability. We are both major energy nations and need to address the same environmental and climate issues, which are high on the political agenda in both countries.

Both countries are also strongly engaged in the fight against climate change. Norway is proud of being the first country to contribute to the Amazon Fund, the aim of which is conservation of the rainforest for the benefit of all humanity. The Norwegian–Brazilian partnership in this field is held up as an example to be followed internationally, and has helped to put deforestation high on the international environmental agenda.

Norway wishes to be a reliable partner for Brazil, one that takes account of sustainability, the environment and human rights in its activities and operations. Our goal is that “Noruega” should be a respected brand, and that Norwegian businesses in Brazil should be associated with quality, expertise, environmental awareness and corporate social responsibility.

Like Norway, Brazil plays an active role in the efforts to promote the development of the international legal order, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, multilateralism, the fight against poverty and climate change, and the promotion of human rights. Norway wishes to cooperate closely with Brazil on international issues in both multilateral and bilateral forums.