The Commitment to Development Index (CDI) ranks 21 of the world’s richest countries based on their dedication to policies that benefit poor nations. Looking beyond standard comparisons of foreign aid flows, the CDI measures national effort in seven policy areas that are important to developing countries: aid, trade, investment, migration, environment, security and technology. This report reviews Norway’s performance on the 2005 CDI.

**Norway’s 2005 CDI performance**

- **Overall score:** 5.8
- **Overall rank 2005:** 5
- **Change since 2003:** +0.1

Norway ranks 5\(^{th}\) overall in 2005. Norway ranks first in the security component, thanks to large contributions of personnel and money to international peacekeeping and forcible humanitarian interventions. Norway also gives a large amount of foreign aid as a share of its income, finishing second in the aid component. But Norway employs some of the most restrictive trade barriers against poor countries and is one of the worst environmental performers due to high fishing subsidies.
Aid

Aid quality is just as important as aid quantity, so the CDI measures gross aid as a share of GDP adjusted for various quality factors: it subtracts debt service, penalizes “tied” aid that makes recipients spend aid only on donor goods and services, rewards aid to poor but relatively uncorrupt recipients, and penalizes overloading poor governments with many small projects.

- **Score: 10.8**
- **Rank: 2**

**Strengths**
- Very high net aid volume as a share of GDP (0.94%; rank: 1)
- Small share of tied aid (0.1%; rank: 4)
- Large amount of private charitable giving attributable to tax policy (rank as a share of GDP: 2)

**Weaknesses**
- Weak on project proliferation; funds many small aid projects (rank: 15)

Trade

International trade has been a force for economic development for centuries. The CDI measures trade barriers in rich countries against exports from developing countries.

- **Score: 1.0**
- **Rank: 20**

**Strengths**
- Low barriers against textiles (rank: 1)
- Low barriers against apparel (rank: 1)

**Weaknesses**
- High total aggregate protection of agricultural commodities (rank: 20)
- High tariffs on agriculture (rank: 20)
- High agricultural subsidies (rank: 19)

Investment

Rich-country investment in poorer countries can transfer technologies, upgrade management and create jobs. The CDI includes a checklist of policies that support healthy investment in developing countries.

- **Score: 5.8**
- **Rank: 7**

**Strengths**
- Provides wide official insurance coverage against political risk
- Participates in international anti-corruption agreements
- Has regulations to punish domestic bribe payers for actions abroad

**Weaknesses**
- Does not allow domestic investors to take advantage of developing country tax incentives
- Allows foreign taxes as an expense instead of a credit

Migration

The movement of people from poor to rich countries provides unskilled immigrants with jobs, income and knowledge. This increases the flow of money sent home by migrants abroad and the transfer of skills when the migrants return.

- **Score: 4.9**
- **Rank: 10**

**Strengths**
- Bears large share of the burden of refugees during humanitarian crises (rank: 6)

**Weaknesses**
- Only a small increase during the 1990s in the number of unskilled immigrants from developing countries living in Norway (rank as a share of population: 10)
Environment

Rich countries use a disproportionate amount of scarce resources and poor countries are most likely to be hurt by global warming and ecological deterioration, so the CDI measures the impact of environmental policies on the global climate, sustainable fisheries and biodiversity.

- **Score:** 4.2
- **Rank:** 19

**Strengths**
- Small number of endangered species imports (rank: 5)

**Weaknesses**
- Only a small decrease in greenhouse gas emission rate between 1999-2003 (average annual growth rate/PPP GDP, -1.3%; rank: 13)
- High fishing subsidies ($36.42 per person; rank: 21)

Security

Since security is a prerequisite for development, the CDI rewards contributions to internationally sanctioned peacekeeping operations and forcible humanitarian interventions, rewards military protection of global sea lanes, and penalizes arms exports to poor and undemocratic governments.

- **Score:** 8.5
- **Rank:** 1

**Strengths**
- Significant financial and personnel contributions during interventions in Bosnia and Kosovo (overall contribution rank over last 10 years as share of GDP: 1)
- Few arms exports to poor and undemocratic governments

**Weaknesses**
- No protection of global sea lanes

Technology

Rich countries contribute to development through the creation and dissemination of new technologies. The CDI captures this by measuring government support for R&D and penalizing strong intellectual property rights regimes that limit the dissemination of new technologies to poor countries.

- **Score:** 5.2
- **Rank:** 9

**Strengths**
- High tax subsidy rate to businesses for R&D (11%; rank: 7)
- Limited patent coverage for software programs

**Weaknesses**
- Low business expenditure on R&D as a share of GDP (rank: 14)
- Offers patent-like proprietary rights to developers of data compilations, including those assembled from data in the public domain

For more information

For details of the 2005 CGD/FP Commitment to Development Index, see “The Commitment to Development Index: 2005 Edition” by David Roodman, available at [www.cgdev.org/cdi](http://www.cgdev.org/cdi).

The CGD website contains reports on each of the 21 countries in the index, as well as background papers organized by policy area:
David Roodman is a Research Fellow and Scott Standley is a Research Assistant at the Center for Global Development. For more information about the 2005 Commitment to Development Index, visit www.cgdev.org/rankingtherich.