

**Speaking notes: Climate and sustainable development**

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Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you to the Panel for the excellent presentations. I would like to take this opportunity to share **our experience and lessons** learnt in our efforts to mitigate our emissions.

Sweden recognizes the challenge that addressing climate change poses to development processes in industrialized as well as developing countries. Sweden has undertaken an ambitious approach to addressing climate change that has involved all sectors of our economy and mobilized the whole society. This strategy involves a portfolio of measures that the government has taken which stem from a strong political will to implement concrete, ambitious and lasting measures, an extensive nation-wide information and awareness campaign and a basket of policy instruments such as the electricity certificates to promote renewable energy, carbon dioxide taxes and other incentives to enhance the use of biofuels. The implementation of this strategy has over the last five years resulted in a reduction of our net emissions by an average of 4% below our 1990 levels. At the same time, our economy has grown at a steady rate of 3% per year. The strategy has led to a shift in patterns of production and started to change the behaviour of consumers at all levels. Like the distinguished representative of Brazil and other have noted, **without changing our lifestyles and the way we produce and use products and services, we will find it very difficult to achieve any long term progress in efforts to address climate change.**

Assessments of the overall effect of the policy instruments in the Swedish strategy have shown that our emissions in 2010 would be in the range of 20% higher in 2010 if they had not been applied. As such, the result of the implementation of the climate change strategy shows that it is possible to **decouple economic growth from emissions reduction**.

Every journey begins with the first step. We recognize that we have before us a long and difficult journey but not the time to make it unless we work together to find a quicker way to move. We, in Sweden have taken this step and are committed to continuing our efforts nationally, within the EU and with the rest of the international community to contribute to efforts to address climate change and to a future powered by clean and sustainable energy sources. To this end, the Swedish government has recently set as a new policy target, that we **our economy will be independent of fossil fuels by 2020**. We believe that this ambitious strategy will **foster the innovation, development and application of more energy efficient and renewable energy technologies**.

To conclude, in response to the question on lessons learnt , I would like to stress, that **political will** backed by efforts to **raise the awareness** on the issues and the **involvement of all sectors of society**, is essential if ambitious targets are to be met.

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