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Swedish intervention at Thematic Discussion: Industrial development and sustainable natural resource management

I want to align myself with the statement made by the EU and highlight some issues that we find particularly important.

Improved economic conditions, increased welfare and environmental protection can be mutually supportive. One lesson that we have learnt in Sweden is that environmental improvement in business is not an expense item but an investment. Integration of environmental work in business strategies can lead to great competitive advantages for both small and larger businesses. This was the Swedish Agency for Economics and Regional conclusion drawn from a Program on Environmental Driven Business.

The cost of inaction should not be borne by future generations. We need strong institutional frameworks, good governance and international cooperation but we also need to work closely together with the market to be successful. Business relations can be an effective driver for sustainable development. However we need to explore how Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility and Accountability can be further implemented and its development impact enhanced. This could be done for example through supply chain management.

Unsustainable consumption and production patterns are a mayor barrier. There has been much emphasis on the need for technology and recycling but we must also address our lifestyles. For the affluent this will mean to consume differently, for the poor to be able to consume more. I would like to underline what Australia said about SCP and the Marrakech process and the need to integrate the work of the Task Forces in the work of CSD. Sweden will host the 3rd international meeting in the Marrakech process in Stockholm next year.

Tonight after this session in this room there will be a possibility to further discuss how to achieve energy efficiency through Sustainable Consumption and Production and Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility and Accountability, supply chain management and tools.