



# SWEDEN

PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
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STATEMENT BY MS ANNA LINDH

MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, SWEDEN

AT THE CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Geneva 17 July 1996

Convention on Climate Change  
Second Conference of the Parties, Geneva, July 17, 1996

Statement by Ms Anna Lindh  
Minister of the Environment, Sweden

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to support the statement made by Mr Brendan Howlin, Minister of the Environment of Ireland, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

In the past, talk about the weather was considered to be small talk, not really important, but something to discuss on the bus or in the street. Now it is different.

More and more, people understand that the weather we will have tomorrow might depend on how we handle the factors of climate change today. More and more, people worry about the dark prospects and see signs of deadly draught, storms and floods.

The climate change issue is one of the most urgent of all the environmental problems. The IPCC Second Assessment Report underlines that. It is quite clear that human activities has an influence on the climate. The enhanced greenhouse effect will severely change the conditions for human health and development in many countries. This will happen, if not tomorrow, so well within my childrens' lifetime if, and I underline If, we do not follow the route established at the Rio Conference. The concentrations of greenhouse gases has to be stabilized in the atmosphere, at a level and a pace that the natural ecosystems can adapt. The IPCC report, using all possible scientific support, points out a reasonable strategy. The stabilisation will necessitate substantial reductions of the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases. Changes in the global climate system are slow but also difficult to turn around. The path towards stabilisation must therefore be trod on promptly. The later we start, the more drastic the changes will have to be. The IPCC report points out a number of possibilities of remedial actions without excessive costs.

The IPCC report gives a thorough picture of future CO<sub>2</sub> levels, temperature rise and its environmental impact. It represents the most broad and comprehensive work that has been done within this field. It is therefore very sad to see how certain Parties now are trying to weaken and delay the necessary actions implied by this report. The fact that our knowledge is not complete is no reason for delay. If we wait for final evidence, it will be too late. The Precautionary Principle has to be applied in the global and national actions to combat climate change.

For the continued work on a strategy for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions I would like to point out two important components. The **first**, is to include concrete technical measures in a Protocol, to promote energy efficiency as well as switching to less carbon-intensive and carbon-free energy. Our objective must be a wise transformation of our industrial processes, energy systems and transport patterns in the direction of a sustainable society.

In order to achieve the greenhouse gas reductions that we need, it is important to give priority to cost-effective measures. To this end, I suggest that we already now should try to elaborate an

operational system for joint implementation within the Climate Convention. That would stimulate emission reductions where each cent would give most benefit. The Climate Technology Initiative to spread knowledge and experience on climate-friendly technologies should also be encouraged.

Sweden has, within the pilot phase of Activities Implemented Jointly, allocated favourable loans for investments and measures to reduce CO2 emissions in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia. The projects include conversion of boilers from fossil fuels to biofuels, and improved energy efficiency in buildings and distribution networks. Our experience is that great environmental improvements, as well as economic gains, can be achieved.

**Secondly**, I would like to focus on economic instruments to promote cost-effective measures. In Sweden we have positive experiences of environmental taxes. In 1991, a CO2 tax was introduced on fossil fuels. Parallel to this, the general energy tax was reduced and finally abandoned for industrial consumers. The aim of the CO2 tax is to favour energy efficiency and to promote introduction of renewables, such as biofuels. The tax has changed the price relations between different types of fuels in the desired way. Today we can observe a shift from fossil fuels to renewables. Heat that used to be wasted through air and water effluent is recuperated. The effect of energy- and CO2- taxation has been calculated to give a reduction by 7.5 million tonnes CO2, between 1990 and 2000. The tax has thus been successful. An internationally harmonised taxation system would support a more widespread introduction of new technologies and new fuels.

A harmonised taxation on CO2 emissions would be a very effective instrument in addition to regulations on technical measures. I strongly recommend it. In fact, I do not see how we could afford not to use it.

A strategy for further actions must be established as soon as possible, in a protocol or other legal instruments. To become efficient, it should consist of objectives for emission reductions, measures to implement these objectives, and differentiated quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives. Total reduction objectives should be derived from the scientific findings of the IPCC report.

Since global climate change affects the whole world, we are all part of the picture. We will need all our gathered experience and all our gathered efforts to manage the situation.

I hope that this meeting will bring strong support and inspiration to the very important work of the AGBM in the preparation of a protocol. We need a strong commitment on actions to prevent adverse global climate change.

# RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: Sweden NAME OF SPEAKER: Ms Anna Lindh  
 DAY: 17.7 TIME: 12.30 NOTE-TAKER: A3 STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☒

## AGBM-RELATED ISSUES

The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input type="checkbox"/> a preference for a protocol <input type="checkbox"/> that s/he cannot indicate a preference at this time <input type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments: <i>include concrete technical measures</i> <i>- objections to be derived from IPCC SAR</i>
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures	Policies or measures specified: <i>cost-effective measures + regulations</i> <i>econ. instruments, CO<sub>2</sub> has introduced</i> <i>in 1992 → shift from fossil fuel to</i> <i>renewables</i>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <i>→ promote energy efficiency</i>

## SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES

Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments:
Development and transfer of technology	Comments:
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <i>underlines problems of climate change</i> <i>points out reasonable strategy</i> <i>- thorough picture of environmental impact of climate change</i> <i>- comprehensive assessment → action not to be delayed</i> <i>(Precautionary Principle)</i>

## SBI-RELATED ISSUES

Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments:
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments: <i>favorable AIJ</i> <i>Sweden has engaged in AIJ projects</i> <i>→ econ. gains + envt. improvements have resulted</i>
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments:	

OTHER COMMENTS: