

PLEASE, CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Statement by Ms Anna Lindh, Minister of Environment, Sweden, at the Third
Conference of Parties of the Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto, December 1997**

Mr Chairman,

Let me first congratulate you on your election and tell you how much we appreciate working under your guidance. I also wish to thank Ambassador Estrada for his decisive role in managing the negotiation process.

Mr Chairman,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are not here to make speeches.

We are here to take action, to bring forward a very complex undertaking: to prevent global warming.

The call for action is obvious but there are no simple solutions. Yet we must find the basis for an ambitious and equitable protocol. What is the solution we should seek?

Firstly, a solution based on science. Since we all agree on the conclusions made by IPCC, we must follow its recommendations and get a substantial reduction.

Secondly, a solution based on justice. CO2 emissions are directly linked to industrialization and living standards, and therefore the industrialized countries have to take their responsibility. The excuses for not doing so may be well-formulated and well-spoken. But they lack in logic and moral. The rich and industrialized countries have to take the lead.

Thirdly, a solution based on credibility. The most important issue is the level of reduction, but also how to obtain it. Sweden strongly supports the EU proposals on policies and measures.

Credibility also means that reductions must not be made hollow because of exceptions or undue flexibility. Therefore we cannot have open-ended provisions on sinks or trading.

Sweden has tried to combat the CO₂ problem by taking different measures. In 1991, a tax was introduced on fossil fuels. I believe Sweden is one of the few countries to have done that. We are introducing extensive programs to promote the introduction of renewables, such as biofuels. Today, we have among the lowest CO₂ emissions per capita in OECD.

But it has not been easy.

We faced strong opposition from lobby groups, defending their interest in maintaining old-fashioned structures. But it is still not enough. We must continue. Sweden stands firmly behind the EU decision on the bubble. Additional to this the Parliament of Sweden has decided to stabilize CO₂ emissions on the 1990 level by the year 2000, and to reduce emissions after 2000. The level will be decided next spring.

Many countries have made serious efforts in reducing their emissions. Let us, in everyone's interest, try to agree on a Protocol and on follow-up action.

It is time for serious negotiation, time to display all our imagination and experience. Of course it is difficult to agree on compromises. But it can be done. It has to be done.

My delegation will do everything it can to promote a solution here in Kyoto.