

**Ms. Åsa-Britt Karlsson
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Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

- Let me start by saying that the fact that environment is moving up the political agenda should be used as a lever for partnerships and for creating new financing opportunities. At the same time it should be clear that we need to pool resources. There needs to be internal basic financing to gather international funds. The private sector could participate more than before.
- There is also an obvious need for more donor co ordination. We will for instance from the Swedish side support a UK initiative on Sustainable Production and Consumption and many countries pooled resources to get the SCP report from UNEP ready for this conference.
- I would like to talk about the issue of SCP, which is complex and perhaps difficult to grasp, but when it comes down to it traffic in cities, expanding waste volumes, food and paper consumption and its relation to the management of natural resources, the building sector etc, everyone realizes that these issues are at the centre of development and are crucial.
- Some of the challenges we face with unsustainable consumption and production are climate change, depletion and inefficient use of natural resources, the spreading of hazardous substances. Water quality, Air quality and health is at stake.
- The changing of unsustainable consumption and production patterns is essential as EEA pinpoints in its Belgrade assessment report.

- Sustainable Consumption and Production should be used as a lever for sustainable economic growth

- At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 2002, countries agreed to develop a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The Framework will be on the CSD working cycle agenda in 2010 and 2011. We need to identify the main issues, priorities, needs and targets for such a framework. We began this work at the Third International Expert meeting on SCP which was hosted by Sweden in Stockholm this June. The work needs to be continued at national and regional level in accordance with the Chair Summary from the meeting and all countries need to contribute.

- Building on the Stockholm meeting we should seek to strengthen the co-operation with stakeholders such as business, NGOs, Development Agencies etc.

- Additional to the International Framework, the EU Commission will, at the beginning of 2008, present an Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production. It is urgent that member states contribute to this action plan and assist the Commission in identifying priorities and measures.

- Sustainable Consumption and Production requires co-operation at regional and international level. These contributions are essential for the international process as well as for the process in the UNECE/EU region. In order to turn talk into action it is necessary to learn from each other, to co-operate and efficiently use the resources.

- The UNEP report on SCP should serve as a basis to learn what needs and experiences there are on SCP in the UNECE region, especially within the EECCA and SEE countries, and encourage partnerships between countries and regions.
- Sweden has a developed co-operation with Russia through the Barents Council on SCP and is within the framework of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles, developing partnerships with countries within and outside the UNECE.
- Madam Chair, individual partnerships and regional framework and joint efforts are essential. It is crucial that we address these issues.

Thank you.