

Swedish intervention by Ambassador Viveka Bohn
21 April 2004, Conference room 10.00-13.00
Overall review

Thank you Mr Chairman,

In addition to the statements made by Ireland on behalf of the European Union Sweden would like to make some national comments.

The Secretary-Generals report on Overview of progress towards sustainable development points out some areas where progress has been made. However, it also contains alarming information in particular on poverty and HIV/Aids in sub-Saharan Africa and on maternal mortality.

Sweden has responded to the international agenda for global development by an effort to translate it into national policy. The bill "Shared Responsibility", adopted by Parliament last December, presents a coherent policy for global development with a single goal for all government activities: To contribute to equitable and sustainable global development.

Development grows from within a society with recognition of the perspectives of poor people, that is: the needs, interest, capacities and conditions of poor women, men and children is the point of departure. The measures taken towards equitable and sustainable development should enhance respect for human rights.

Global development is a shared responsibility between developed and developing countries. Each country is responsible for its own progress and its achievements as regards the MDG's. Each country has to commit itself to good governance, democracy and human rights for development cooperation to be more effective and sustainable. As specified in MDG 8, fair trade, sound agricultural policies, debt relief, investments and effective development assistance are all crucial for the achievements of the goals. Sweden is committed towards reaching all MDG's.

Sweden attaches great importance to the Marrakech process on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Further development of this work is particularly relevant for the themes discussed in this first cycle of the CSD. The building sector is the most material intensive and energy consuming sector and it is of utter importance that human settlement and urban development is energy and material efficient. Since water is a prerequisite for all human activities demand management is of high importance and as pointed out at a Swedish side-event yesterday a shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns in the highly water consuming agriculture sector is crucial. Sustainable consumption and production will also have high relevance for our next CSD-cycle on energy and industrial development. We also need to increase work on corporate social and environmental responsibility.

The overuse and degradation of natural resources continues at an alarming rate. We would like to stress the importance of ratification and implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements in particular the climate change and biodiversity conventions.

Finally, I would like to share with you that last week the Swedish government adopted the second version of our National Sustainable Development Strategy. To improve policy coherence for sustainable development and to co-ordinate the governments' implementation of this Strategy a Co-ordination Unit for Sustainable Development has been established in the Prime Minister's Office.