



New York, 4 May 2006

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Division for Sustainable Development
UN/DESA

**Intervention from Sweden on CSD 14 session on Air pollution
Thursday May 4, 10-13**

Thanks Mr Chair,

- Sweden has in the past suffered from long range transboundary air pollution causing acidification of lakes, high levels of persistent organic pollutants and mercury in fish to mention a few effects. The regional cooperation within the UNECE under the Convention on Long Range Transport of Air Pollution (LRTAP) has been successful and the pollution that reaches Sweden is now lower than it used to be.
- Tackling air pollution calls for strengthened international cooperation. Regional cooperation and cooperation between different regional initiatives and on a global scale should be encouraged. You are all most welcome tonight at 6.15 to the side event on "Tackling Atmospheric Pollution: A Global Approach", in Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium to discuss this further.
- We should share our experiences with the developing countries on tools and methodologies for air quality management such as monitoring, modelling and effect studies as well as best available techniques. The effects of air pollution in the developing countries need to be studied more, for example the effects of ground level ozone on crops and the pollution from uncontrolled waste burning. To this end Sweden supports air quality programmes in Asia and Southern Africa.

The way ahead

- Further international cooperation is needed to address emission sources such as international aviation and maritime shipping. Emission trading is an interesting concept and mechanisms for this can be developed.
- Sweden is concerned about heavy metals such as mercury, lead and cadmium. Sweden welcomes UNEPs efforts to phase out and limit the use of such metals and would support a legally binding agreement as first option or a detailed phase out plan as second option.
- While reviewing the Montreal protocol Sweden would like to support inclusion of more substances, and that the procedure to include new substances will be made quicker. Sweden appreciates this successful mechanism with the aim to reduce the depletion of the ozone layer, but would like to reduce the exemptions regarding CFCs and methyl bromide and promote measures to stop illegal trade.

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- The world now sees an urbanization in developing countries that is unprecedented. Urban planning has consequences for urban transport, energy use, location of industry and waste management, areas that are closely linked to air pollution. Sweden would like to stress the importance of urban planning for sustainable development and the need for participatory processes, including women. The choice on means of transportation is a gender issue and this has to be recognized especially in fora engaged in the planning of infrastructure.

- The UN Decade on Education for sustainable development has to be further implemented as capacity building is key. The work would benefit by being more supportive if it were more closely connected to the CSD working cycles and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- Thank you.