



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of the Environment

Speech by Per Bolund at the UN event Delivering Climate Action

Published 27 October 2021

Speech by Minister for the Environment and Climate Per Bolund at the UN event Delivering Climate Action: for People, Planet, and Prosperity. The speech was given in English and the spoken word applies.

Dear colleagues, ministers, and friends.

I look forward to meet in Glasgow to demonstrate our joint commitments to keeping 1,5 alive. We are currently heading towards 2.7 degrees warming and the world's aggregated NDCs puts us on track to a 16 % increase in global emissions. This is unacceptable.

We have all committed to honour the Paris Agreement and we know what has to be done. It is time to act. You can count on Sweden to do our part, but climate action requires collective action. I urge all countries, especially the G20, to come forward with commitments before COP26 that keeps 1.5 alive.

The outcome of COP26 must reflect this urgency of action. The recent and upcoming IPCC reports as well as the NDC synthesis report are key products that the world expects COP26 to act on.

Moreover, it is essential that the outcome of COP26 reflects developments in the real economy. We are seeing unprecedented and accelerated action that is transforming both industry and finance. For example, we have two Swedish companies aiming to put fossil free steel on the market by 2025. Our financial actors are aligning their portfolios with the Paris Agreement. This is happening now. New jobs. New economic opportunities. I urge us all to embrace the opportunities of climate action.

Transition in the industrial sector is crucial as industry accounts for roughly 30 percent of global carbon emissions. As mentioned, Swedish industry is rapidly transitioning to greener and cleaner methods of production.

The Swedish-Indian initiative and collaboration Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) gathers countries and companies that are committed to action in alignment with the Paris agreement. Members of LeadIT subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industries can and must progress on low-carbon pathways, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

I also want to emphasize the importance of climate finance and specifically finance towards climate adaptation. Since the developing countries are the most vulnerable to climate change, Sweden together with the other wealthier nations have a responsibility to ensure that the USD 100 billion goal is reached on a yearly basis. We are now stepping up our game. Next year Sweden will increase our contribution towards the USD 100 billion goal with 13% (i.e. 1 billion SEK) compared to 2019 and doubling our contribution by 2025.

Furthermore, we need to urgently accelerate actions and set clear timelines to phase out coal power, coal-finance and the exploration and extraction of fossil fuels. Sweden is a frontrunner in sustainable export financing. No Swedish export financing for the extraction and exploration of fossil fuels will take place after 2022. In 2020, the Swedish Export Credit Agency ceased funding for the extraction and transport of coal.

We currently have a unique opportunity for a green recovery. We still have a fighting chance to keep the global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees. COP26 is probably our last window of opportunity to do so.

The world calls on us leaders to deliver, so let us answer to that call.

Thank you.



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Speech from Ministry of the Environment

Speech by Per Bolund at President Biden's climate summit

Published 26 April 2021

Speech by the Minister for Environment and Climate Per Bolund at a roundtable discussion on April 23 led by US Climate Envoy John Kerry and Secretary of State Antony Blinken during President Joe Biden's climate summit. Check against delivery.

Thank you John and Tony for this opportunity to share some Swedish thoughts on the themes of President Biden's Leaders Summit. We're having this roundtable at a crucial time.

One key area we need to tackle is the transition of the heavy industry. It's a difficult sector, but the transition will be rewarding.

I am happy that the United States have joined the Leadership Group for Industry Transition, LeadIT. We are proud partners with India, and a group of ambitious countries and industries, and with the United States on board, the momentum for industry transition grows even stronger. I believe that together, we can change mindsets and drive global change. I welcome other ambitious actors to join us as well!

The green transition is good for all of us. It is a driver of job creation as well as innovation. Swedish companies engage in climate action to enhance their competitiveness.

Sweden is proud to be one of the worlds' largest providers of climate finance. But it is also our job as governments – in both developed and developing countries – to ensure a regulatory framework that attracts private investments.

We need to step up on climate ambition. I expect all Parties to deliver ambitious NDCs ahead of COP26. Recent reports shows the we are far from keeping the promise we made in Paris. In view of this, I welcome the new ambitious goals from the United States.

Finally, next year marks 50 years since the first UN Conference on the Human Environment, which was held in Stockholm. Sweden is once again inviting governments, business and youth to a Stockholm+50 in June 2022. We aim to mobilize political energy for accelerated implementation and driving action on the ground towards 2030 and beyond. Stockholm+50 in an opportunity identify key actions that governments and non-state actors can take to increase progress towards sustainable economic recovery in harmony with nature.

In closing, I want to thank the USA for your leadership. We need to act now, and we need to act with confidence. We are all allies in our efforts to live up to the promises we have made to our children.

Thank you.