

Tal från Miljödepartementet

Åsa Romsons tal vid klimatmötet i New York

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New York den 22 april 2016. Det talade ordet gäller.

Ministers, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

"What used to be unthinkable is now unstoppable." I believe those were the words used by Mr Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in Paris. Future generations will remember Paris as the deal that saved the world as we know it. The strong commitment to implement and fulfil the agreement is shown here in New York today.

Sweden will work for a quick ratification, in which we stand by our strong promises and commitments.

Sweden has taken the path to become one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations. We do this not just because it is morally right, it is also economically smart. Clean development is the opportunity for economic development in the world today.

The fact that financial market actors have now started to move their investments away from fossil energy is a clear sign that the future development is in low carbon economies.

Going green creates new jobs. Just a small example: around 7.7 million people were employed by the renewable energy industry in 2014 and it grew by 18 % in the year 2015.

In the Fossil-free Sweden initiative the business sector, local authorities and other stakeholders are coming together. They inspire each other and challenge their counterparts around the world in a positive competition on who will get fossil free first.

Partnership with all actors in society is the Swedish model in fighting climate change.

Sweden has positive experience of both reducing emissions as well as improving the economy and welfare in our society. For many years we have used effective policies that put a price on carbon.

Our aim is to ensure that Sweden's work to reduce emissions is long-term, clear and transparent. The government will also propose a new climate law and an independent climate policy council. Swedish emissions shall decrease by at least 85 percent no later than 2045 compared to 1990.

We see that climate change affects the poor and most vulnerable the most. More countries must provide the support needed. Sweden is committed to lead the way on climate finance, being the largest contributor per capita to the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund.

Excellences,

We know that Paris was only a stop on our journey. To pursue efforts towards 1.5 degrees will demand much more from all of us. We have agreed on a dynamic instrument and we will need to substantially raise ambition over the years to come. To know where we are, and where we are going, we also need to put in place a robust system for reporting and tracking progress.

Friends,

Fighting climate change is about supporting each other to shift the paradigm to a fossil-free world. The change that used to be unthinkable is now unstoppable. It is time to go from words to actions, and to do so together.

Thank you.



Tal från Miljödepartementet

Åsa Romsons tal på Action Day under COP21 (Engelska)

Publicerad 05 december 2015 Uppdaterad 05 december 2015

Countries in the world need new pathways for development, away from fossil carbon into renewable and fossil free future.

Sweden of today is built on revenues from the steel and paper industry, but our development has not finished. Climate change is now questioning the old development pathways.

Sweden is in a good position, we have nearly managed to phase out fossil energy in the sectors of heating and electricity. Our carbon emission accounted for in the Kyoto protocol shows 5,5 ton per capita, less than China of today. A carbon tax has been instrumental to make this happen.

We have seen how phasing out fossil energy has improved air quality and health, and has per strengthened our economy.

So we are ready for the next step. We start the reforms that Sweden will be one of the world's first fossil-free nations.

There are two simple reasons why a government of a developed country want to race towards such a goal:

1. It is our responsibility, to protect the prosperity and life of coming generations.
2. It makes good economic sense, minimizing the cost of damage and fostering innovation and future export.

Sweden has the possibility to show that a fossil free development pathway is both possible and better.

But to do this in practice cooperation between state and non-state actors is a key factor. Therefore we launched, parallel to the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, an initiative together with Swedish companies like IKEA, Volvo Group, H&M and Ericsson and Sweden's major towns and cities. All actors contribute to reduced emissions, several Swedish towns and cities have decided to go completely fossil-free well before the middle of this century.

All actors in the society need to be mobilized in fossil free development.

I am encouraging other countries to accept Sweden's challenge to see who can go fossil-free first.

I hope that many will take up the challenge.



Regeringskansliet

Tal från Miljödepartementet

Tal av klimat- och miljöminister Åsa Romson vid seminariet "Climate Risk and the Financial Sector"

Publicerad 26 september 2015 Uppdaterad 26 september 2015

(Check against delivery)

Ladies and gentlemen,

The New Climate Economy has shown that over the coming 15 years, up to 2030, 90 trillion dollars will be invested within energy, urban development and land use. Depending on how these investments are done they can make our climate objectives possible or impossible to reach.

If investments flow the wrong way the climate related risks will be huge. Luckily there are several ways for us as policy makes to support a more long term certainty for investments and help capital to flow the other way - the right way.

One immediate possibility on the global level is an ambitious climate agreement in December. I am convinced that a successful outcome in Paris, providing such long term certainty, will have to include:

- A long term goal that will keep global warming as far below 2 degrees as possible. This implies that emissions should be near zero or below by 2100 and global emissions should peak as soon as possible.
- Emission reduction commitments for all countries.
- A predictable and regular 5 year ambition mechanism in which all

- parties review their commitments and increase their ambition over time.
- Transparent and common rules for measuring, verification and reporting of emission reductions.
 - Support to vulnerable countries, to adapt and mitigate risks associated with climate change.
 - Encourage cooperation between public and private sector.

I hope everyone around this table can help push for such an agreement.

We must also recognize the need to strengthen national action. Sweden, like other rich countries, has a responsibility to be frontrunners. The Swedish governments last week announced a new ambition - to become one of the first fossil free welfare nations of the world. That in itself is a strong signal for investments, but not enough, it must be backed by policy measures.

The Swedish state budget adopted this Monday is a clear step towards this ambitious goal. It includes inter alia: investments in renewable energy, public transport and incentives for “green cars”, investment support for local emission reduction initiatives by municipalities, companies and organisations. Energy and carbon taxes are also raised and I’m proud that we have followed the principle that the polluter should pay, while we support good behaviour and clean investments.

While our intentions are good it is always difficult to change incentives in society. As a politician I would warmly welcome stronger demand from the investment community to introduce ambitions and long term policies to reduce climate risks.

2015 is a year of opportunity for several reasons:

- nations of the world are coming together here in New York to adopt global sustainable development goals hopefully resulting in a revitalisation of global cooperative action on sustainable development;
- the climate conference in Paris in December;
- technology and low carbon alternatives are breaking new ground as never before.

In this context I’m eager to listen to you what expectations and criteria you have for a successful outcome in Paris in order to facilitate your work in handling risks, and also what national policies are on your wish lists.

Thank you!



Regeringskansliet

Tal från Miljödepartementet

Klimat- och miljöminister Åsa Romson vid Världsvattenveckan 28 augusti 2015

Publicerad 28 augusti 2015 Uppdaterad 28 augusti 2015

Inledningstal vid avslutningsceremonin av klimat- och miljöminister Åsa Romson under världsvattenveckan 2015. "Water in the climate agenda and the 2015 climate agreement" Det talade ordet gäller.

Distinguish guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, Climate change is the challenge of our generation.

The effects of changes many times becomes obvious as a result of changes in the water system as you have been discussing this week. Many parts of the world are already facing changes in rainfall patterns, water flows and water supply. As the temperature increases sea levels rise and glaciers melt. Extreme events around the globe remind us of the kind of events that risk being more commonplace, and severe, as a consequence of climate change.

Those at risk of facing the most severe consequences often have the least means of coping with changes. Poor countries and poor people are disproportionately affected by changes in climate and water systems. For many it is an issue of survival. The Swedish government comes to the conclusion that these changes poses a serious risk to poverty reduction and threatens to undo development efforts. We are therefore eager to tackle climate change and integrate adaptation and water resilience in international development cooperation.

We believe cooperative responses to climate change are needed, with actions both at home and abroad. While Sweden has shown good leadership in climate issues for a long time this government now steps up the efforts for

reducing emissions in Sweden and support the business sector in a transform to new fossil free models. We aim for an energy system with 100% renewables and have a vision of net-zero emissions by 2050. We work continuously for putting in place policies to improve climate efforts on local to national level as to show others that taking climate seriously is the way to a more prosperous future for all.

2015 is a crucial year for global sustainability and future generations.

We have already agreed a Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and an Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development.

Once officially adopted the Sustainable Development Goals will constitute a very positive narrative to be united around globally.

It is my belief that the progressive record of Sendai, Addis Abeba and New York will create a good environment for a successful negotiation on Climate Change in Paris later this year. This is an opportunity to seer towards sustainable development where we tackle pressing global challenges jointly. The opportunity is now, and as was quoted by the Swedish king on the night of the prize ceremony, the decision has to be taken now.

A new climate agreement under the UN is crucial to international climate efforts. In Paris we need to agree a comprehensive, fair, legally binding and durable agreement that includes all Parties, and over time keeps the global temperature as far below 2 degrees as possible.

Adaptation to climate change impacts is an important part of a new agreement. Efforts must be strengthened in all countries in order to build resilience. If waters are not managed properly and water resources management is not well integrated in climate efforts, climate impacts will have a significant effect on our societies – it is a challenge for all countries. I take with me from this week the need to strengthen water resilience as part of the implementation of the Paris agreement. I want to encourage further discussions on how to strengthen water resilience as part of the Action agenda and to make sure that climate investments, including through the Green Climate Fund, can support water resilience. Given the multiple sustainability challenges we face we cannot afford dealing with one issue at the time.

The theme of this year World water week – "Water for development" – could not be more timely. It is of outmost importance to integrate and

address water in the global climate discourse and this World Water Week has been an important platform for such collaborative discussions towards Paris. Let me take this opportunity to thank Stockholm International Water Institute and Mr Torgny Holmgren and Mrs Karin Lexén and all engaged people for your ability to, once again, manage to make the World Water Week an outstanding platform for dialog about crucial water challenges. For this, the government is most thankful.

Ladies and Gentlemen, under increasingly unpredictable conditions, and globally increasing demands for water, energy, food and materials, we must ensure that human influence stick within the planetary boundaries. Recognizing and addressing competing demands and trade-offs between different uses and users of freshwater is critical to resilience.

We will need creativity to succeed. This year Laureate of the Stockholm Water Prize, Mr Rajendra Singh, has indeed shown such creativity. With his work on supporting thousands of villages in India to collect water, he showed how to modernize ancient water technologies to meet the demands of coming water and climate challenges. This is a brilliant example where water technology and water management lines up to strengthening social resilience.

We have heard during this week that both states and stakeholders are calling for action and political courage and willingness to take necessary decisions.

The Swedish government stands ready. Strong decisions in Paris are utterly important as we join forces and secure a more prosperous future for our children.

Thank you!



Regeringskansliet

Tal från Miljödepartementet

Sweden's national statement at COP20

Publicerad 10 december 2014 Uppdaterad 02 april 2015

Lima, Peru 10 december 2014 Check against delivery.

Mr/Mme President, Ministers, Delegates, Friends,

Climate change is the challenge of our generation; its effects are already seen in different parts of the world. We, politicians of today, have a responsibility towards our children and future generations.

When taking on this challenge we must make use of our best collective knowledge. At this very moment the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony is taking place in my hometown Stockholm. As part of the ceremony, the Swedish King gives rewards to distinguished laureates; scientists and writers.

The message from the scientific climate change community is clear: the world needs to move away from fossil dependency to sustainable levels of greenhouse gas emissions. The meeting here in Lima is our chance to show political leadership and make possible a global agreement that offers the world good livelihood for all people.

There is strong evidence today that there are potentials, in all types of economies, to cut emissions whilst improving economic performance and creating benefits for health, poverty reduction and energy security.

I have come to Lima ready to lay the foundation for an ambitious, fair and global, legally binding climate change agreement in Paris next year. We now have the momentum to succeed in these negotiations.

Many governments are actively preparing their nationally determined mitigation contributions. In the EU, we will prepare a contribution based on the recent decision of a binding EU target of at least 40 percent domestic

reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990.

Further, we welcome the initial replenishment process of the Green Climate Fund. Sweden has made a pledge of 580 million USD to the fund.

There is an urgent need for adaptation, especially in poor and vulnerable countries. We welcome the decision by the GCF to allocate 50 percent of its funding to adaptation over time.

Mr President, a new climate regime must facilitate a transition to a climate resilient sustainable development - for all countries.

Sweden is ready to take the lead along with other developed countries. Our experience is that clear climate objectives foster engagement from businesses, cities and nations.

It is of great importance that a new agreement must be dynamic and ensure increased ambition over time that responds to new scientific findings and technological developments. Our common goal, to keep the average global temperature increase below two or one point five degrees, must guide our decisions here in Lima and the new agreement.

One of the Nobel laureates is receiving the prize for inventing a new energy-efficient and environmentally friendly light - the LED-lamp; an invention that will transform lighting and reduce energy. Here in Lima we need to make decisions that enable and encourage the transformation of climate related technologies.

Agreeing a new global climate agreement in Paris is an opportunity the world cannot afford to miss.