

Talunderlag inför IPCCs WG1 mötes invigning 23 september i Stockholm

Mr Chairman, Co-chairs, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen - a warm welcome to Stockholm.

It is an honour to host IPCC once again.

Let me first start by express my admiration for your work. More than thousand scientists working together, voluntary, to give the world one scientific message on Climate Change, and also how we can tackle it. This is something unique, and makes it easy to understand why this panel was awarded the Nobel Price.

I know that the IPCC has been falsely accused of incorrect assessments. I also know that despite this, you all patiently and meticulously have carried out your work in accordance with the stringent scientific rules.

I know that you yet have to finalize the new report, and that this will be your main focus this week in Stockholm. However as I understand it, you basically will tell us - again, that we are facing one of the most threatening global changes in history, it happens already, it is man-made and time is running out to take action.

Only this time you are even more certain than 2007. It should be obvious for everyone who believes in science that we have to act. Now, not tomorrow.

Let me just by these pictures illustrate that we already see the effects in the Nordic countries.

[**bild 1**] This is a glacier in Norway that has collapsed in the last decade. The effects will be severe in our part of the world as well, for instance flooding is already increasing in intensity.

[**bild 2**] This map illustrates possible future flooding scenarios (in blue colour) in the city of Örebro in Sweden. Our society, as everywhere else in the world, will need to adapt. But if the worst scenarios will happen we may be beyond adaptation.

After this grave outlook, I would like to point out that I am an optimist, and prefer to focus how we make use of your message to solve the problem and handle the opportunities that follow. Firstly, I think it is imperative to make sure that the fifth assessment reports informs in a timely manner the on-going negotiations towards a new global climate agreement to be decided by 2015. Your reports are arriving just in time to feed in to the negotiations. We need to ensure that the right information from the reports is available at the right time and place during the negotiations.

Secondly, we need get the message of urgency out to public - again. The challenge is to convey the information to the public. If we got the public aboard, the politicians will follow suit. And your report is imperative to this and to widen the discourse – just take a look on how the debate around climate change has evolved in the past years. The discussion is taking place everywhere in society – climate change is not only related to the environment as such, but also to development issues, resource efficiency and even gender policies.

Thirdly, dealing with climate change is not only of environmental concern, it is also of economic concern and even an opportunity for sustainable growth. We need to make it easy and cheap for people to act “climate smart”.

Lastly, much is actually happen to combat climate change. In Sweden we have taken action since the early nineties and have a steadily growing environmental technology sector. Sweden's emissions have dropped by 20 per cent since 1990, while GDP has risen by 60 per cent during the same period. We have used market-based policy levers, such as carbon dioxide tax and electricity certificate systems. Sweden's share of renewable

energies in relation to final energy use amounts to nearly 50 per cent.

The governments' vision, also endorsed by the parliament, is that Sweden should have no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050 and one priority to reach that vision is to have a vehicle fleet independent of fossil fuels by 2030.

We are working with initiatives that complement the on-going work under the UNFCCC. For instance the Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) and the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFFSR). The Clean Air Coalition is a global success story. More than 50 partners working on international efforts to raise awareness of the major environmental and economic benefits that can be achieved by reducing emissions of Short Lived Climate Pollutants.

And finally, I can hardly wait to read your report and wish you a successful meeting. You will present different scenarios of the future that will affect us all and coming generations. In this this race against time and stubborn opposition, I together with my colleagues have to step up and take forward the relay baton.

Thank you

