

Your Royal Highness,

Excellencies,

Distinguished representatives of the youth, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A few weeks ago in Stockholm, the world commemorated 50 years since the first UN environment conference, held in Stockholm in 1972.

Stockholm+50, hosted by Sweden and Kenya, provided a much-needed global push for urgently accelerating a green and blue transition globally and to fulfil the 2030 Agenda. The meeting demonstrated the opportunities arising from a holistic approach, where we truly integrate the broader environmental and climate agenda with sustainable development commitments.

We drafted a new narrative for the future, about possibilities and acceleration, to be continued here in Lisbon and beyond.

The ocean must be at the centre of our efforts, as we tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

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Without a healthy ocean, we cannot reach the 2030 Agenda.

We simply must meet the targets of SDG 14.

Sweden is pleased that the WTO a couple of weeks ago delivered on important parts of SDG 14.6, prohibiting subsidies to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, to overfished stocks and to fishing on the high seas. We look forward to continued work to also prohibit subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity.

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SDG 14 is heavily underfinanced. New blue capital is needed. We have to invest in the ocean economy, create blue jobs and see transformations of both blue and green high impact sectors.

The growing ocean economy holds massive potential but must be guided by evidence-based policy in order to manage the ocean and its resources in a sustainable, fair and inclusive way.

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Climate change and carbon emissions are the biggest threats to the ocean and the coastal communities depending on it.

Sweden's commitment to the fight against climate change is solid.

We are allocating 1% of GNI to international development.

Our goal remains to double our climate finance by 2025.

We are also doubling our support to 400 million US Dollar to the Global Environment Facility. We continue to support Blue Action Fund. Sweden increases substantially and commits 800 million US Dollar to Sweden's Global Development Cooperation Strategy for Environment, Climate and Biodiversity from 2022 to 2026.

Nationally we have entered a path of transition and greening of our industries to reach our goal of net-zero emissions by 2045.

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Our ocean is also under attack by pollution and alarming amounts of plastics.

Sweden applauds the historic decision taken at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi earlier this year. We must secure an ambitious legally binding international instrument to end plastic pollution.

We all need to do more.

The Swedish government has adopted a national plastic action plan with concrete goals and actions.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

Off the coast of Yemen, FSO Safer, containing million barrels of oil, poses an urgent threat. An oil spill would have devastating consequences for the entire Red Sea region. Water supply, fisheries, delivery of humanitarian aid will be affected and threat the lives of millions of people. Sweden contributes with 5 million US Dollar to the international efforts to prevent this disaster.

Friends,

Five years ago, Sweden and Fiji hosted the first UN Ocean Conference. My insights at the time were that of distinct urgency and the significant importance of cooperation.

If the legacy of that Conference is global awareness and mobilization of stakeholders and action, I hope that the legacy of the Lisbon Conference will be solutions at scale and speed.

Thanks for your attention!