

- Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, ocean friends. I am **happy** to be able to attend this interactive dialogue. To my colleagues from Costa Rica and France – **thank you** for an excellent introduction to this important topic.
- I have listened to the discussion with **great interest** and would like to take this opportunity to share some reflections.
- You all know what this meeting here in Lisbon is about. **Let us not destroy the biodiversity of the seas** in the same way we have done on land. Marine ecosystems are **very complex**. **We do not know the full consequences** of human impact. We have already seen restructuring of entire marine food webs in several places, with serious socioeconomic consequences. We see impact of human activities also in my sea, the Baltic Sea. And the **signals are very worrying**.
- The **Swedish governments perspective** is clear: **Science and innovation** are necessary for the green, blue and fair transition to a sustainable future. This was discussed at the UN meeting **Stockholm+50** just a few weeks ago, hosted by Sweden and Kenya. The results were a **success**. I am glad the discussion continues here.
- At the **centre** of this green transition is **the ocean**. We need to make sure that **the ocean** and its resources are **sustainably managed, conserved and protected**. This must be guided by **science-based policy making**, and innovative partnerships. This in turn requires **increasing scientific knowledge** and **developing research capacity** and transfer of marine technology. **Marine spatial planning** is one valuable tool that includes all of this. It shows how different interests can co-exist in a sustainable way.
- This is why the **UN Decade of Ocean Science** is so important. It highlights the policy-science-society interface in decision making.
- One of Sweden's priorities for the decade is **ocean literacy**. An increased understanding of the ocean empowers us to make better decisions that are relevant to the marine environment.
- Now, we must **mobilize** towards actions. As a member of the Ocean Decade Alliance, Sweden will **continue** to use our networks in the ocean community and **engage in collaborations**. Strong engagement and ownership by diverse stakeholders is **essential** for optimizing the unique opportunity provided by the Ocean Decade.

- Now, I look forward to hearing more from this distinguished audience on possible ways forward – for **scientific knowledge** and **inclusive** and **innovative partnerships**.
- Thank you.