



**Intervention by H.E Per Bolund, Minister for the Environment and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, at the Leadership Dialogue of the virtual UNEA5 22 February 2022**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates

The COVID-19 crisis has exposed the vulnerability of modern society in many ways. The road to recovery will be long, but **it provides an opportunity to create a more sustainable and resilient society.**

Climate transition **should constitute the foundation for green recovery.** The future is fossil-free. Continued investments in green technology and innovation, nature-based solutions and circular business models is the route we need to take.

This has been a priority for Sweden. We've expanded and strengthened government programs that support **cutting edge innovation, investments in emission reductions, and a circular economy.** we've expanded both scope and funding.

Sweden together with India has launched **LeadIT**, the Leadership group for industry transition. The group gathers countries and heavy industry **who are committed to be at the forefront of the**

**development to become fossil free by 2050.** We welcome other countries to join.

Another issue where we must work together is **the urgent global crisis of marine plastic litter and pollution of microplastics.** I really hope that by next year, we can decide on the way forward towards an ambitious global agreement on plastics.

**In the context of building back better,** Stockholm+50, in June 2022, presents a great opportunity. We envision a Stockholm+50 that **contributes to redefining our relationship to nature** and advancing a green, just and inclusive recovery by accelerating the transition towards sustainable consumption and production, **leaving no one behind.**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

On the road towards a green recovery, **UNEP's role as the leading environmental authority** will be essential to continue to promote, initiate and communicate the latest research on zoonosis and the connection to air pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss. This should be done in **close coordination with other parts of the UN-family**, so as to increase the overall effectiveness of the efforts of the UN to help Build Back Better and Greener.

Thank you