

Speaking note Sweden

CBD Pre-session biodiversity and health

Distinguished Executive Secretary Mrema,
Distinguished Chairs of SBSTTA and SBI,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

- It is reassuring that the international biodiversity community is still able to meet in these difficult times when most of us are still suffering, one way or the other, from effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to all who have lost friends or family members.
- Sweden is aligned with the statement made by Germany of behalf on the EU and its Member States.
- Humanity is pushing the precious ecosystems of Earth to the limit – and beyond. We need to acknowledge the linkages between the loss and degradation of biodiversity and poor health, including the increased risk of disease spill-over.
- These are some of the reasons why the Post2020 global strategic framework for biodiversity must take into account the health dimension, including in its goals and targets. It is imperative for the GBF to contribute to sustainable development.
- The Covid-19 crisis has taught us that countries and leaders around the world can act quickly and decisively when faced with a common threat. This is something that we must build on with regards to the biodiversity crisis as well. The recovery should both in the short and the long run address the drivers of biodiversity loss.
- We must ensure a green recovery by investing in and unlocking the potential of nature. The Swedish Government has therefore proposed an increase of green investments by almost one billion EURO for next year's budget, from an already high level. This investment will mitigate climate change, restore

wetlands, protect areas with high value for biodiversity, give people access to nature, preserve pollinators and other threatened species – and create new jobs. All of this will have important co-benefits for people's health.

- Access to nature is very important for the Swedish people indeed spending time in nature can improve health and wellbeing. During the pandemic the Swedish people has found solace in nature. We have seen an increase in hiking in nature reserves and visiting of green areas.
- One Health continues to be a crucial concept integrating the health of people, animals and the environment – simultaneously improving the health of people and planet. Sweden has a longstanding engagement in One Health, not least in the area of antimicrobial resistance. We very much appreciate the developing cooperation between WHO, the FAO, the OIE and the CBD in this regard.
- I'd also like to draw the attention to Stockholm+50, a high-level UN-meeting that Sweden has offered to host in Stockholm in June 2022, which aims to redefine our relationship to nature and foster a green recovery through a transition towards sustainable consumption and production, as well as securing people's health, leaving no one behind.
- Thank you!