



Klimat- och näringslivsdepartementet
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Statement by Sweden, Tuesday 20 June 2023, 11:30-12:15, Agenda item 8a

Ladies and gentlemen, secretariat, your excellencies,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words about water management from source-to-sea, particularly in the context of the Water Convention and in the light of the recent workshop held in December 2022.

Sweden is proud to be a part of and contribute to this successful and very important global convention. We are happy to welcome new member states, now and in coming years. The importance of cooperation and hence this convention. will only grow larger in today's geopolitical world.

Last December, we took part in a workshop on a more or less new area of interest to the Water Convention: water management from source to sea. There are obvious advantages of working from source to sea in a transboundary context.

A drainage area is basically a network of interconnected watercourses flowing towards the sea. The advantages of working with integrated water resource management are well known. We apply the principles of IWRM in our cooperation across borders, and we use them also within countries.

The Source2Sea concept is focusing on the governance and management aspects of this continuum. It helps to increase efficient water use and promotes understanding of impacts and effects in the whole interconnected water system, starting already by what we are doing on land.

Some of the areas where the S2S concept are especially important are: Eutrophication (excess nutrients), connectivity and water flows, threats to biodiversity, hazardous substances, and effects of climate change.

In our Swedish assessments we can also see that we have altered many of our coastal ecosystems and impacts of a physical character such as buildings, bridges, harbours and largescale logging. These alterations have removed natural habitats and hinder species from reaching them.

Also, the climate is changing more rapidly than before and as we all know: climate change is often the reason for both droughts and floods and changes in the structure of ecosystems.

Much of this was discussed in the workshop with illustrative examples. We heard about solutions of IWRM from S2S from all over the world. As well as examples of situations where a broader management view including also coastal and marine waters would be advantageous to more than one country.

An S2S approach provides many green and blue economic opportunities along the S2S continuum by focussing on restoring key ecosystems services. It can also be used specifically as a tool to address multi-dimensional poverty in coastal communities particularly dependent on different freshwater and marine ecosystem services.

The Water convention plays an important role in the global community. It provides a framework for cooperation between neighbouring states on transboundary freshwater and facilitates negotiations about water, reducing the risk of conflict. Adding coastal areas and marine ecosystems to the integrated water management of our large river systems is a natural step.

Thank you!