



Statement to address the inter-linkages between land and sea in our core operations

The Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs) were adopted in September 2015 and consist of 17 goals and 169 targets, balancing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of long term sustainable development. We are living in an important time with challenges that if not addressed will have severe impact on our common future. One important challenge in implementing the SDGs will consist of addressing the complex inter-linkages between the different goals and targets. The private sector is fundamental for achieving the goals, and the focus on the inter-linkages is crucial.

We all depend on oceans for our common future – due to their critical role and impact on the climate, nutrition, transport, ecosystem services, biodiversity, and also for recreation. Unless the important land-sea linkages are properly recognized and further addressed, there is a risk of hampering the achievement of several other SDGs. The oceans are our common responsibility.

A central challenge in the effort to achieve sustainable development is to balance competing uses of water in a justifiable manner while at the same time maintaining good water quality and ensuring healthy and diverse ecosystems from land to sea¹. The dynamic interface between land activities and oceans represents a key development and environmental challenge of our time. The connections between land, water, coast and sea are strong and human activity on land has a significant impact on the ocean. Recent research predicts that in 2050, plastic materials will exceed the amount of fish in the oceans, and most of the plastics derive from land-based activities².

We, members of Swedish Leadership for Sustainable Development, have through our Joint Commitment pledged to make sustainable development an integral part of our core operations and business models. We acknowledge that our own activities can have an indirect or direct impact on the sea. In our continued efforts to contribute to sustainable production and consumption, we each commit to addressing the inter-linkages between land and sea in our core operations and, in doing so, systematically minimizing the negative environmental impact related to SDG 14.



¹ Berggren, J. and Liss Lymer, B. 2016: Source to Sea – Linkages in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management report 2016:22.

² WEF Report 2016 - <https://www.weforum.org/press/2016/01/more-plastic-than-fish-in-the-ocean-by-2050-report-offers-blueprint-for-change/>