

8th High-Level Dialogue Conference of the China Europe Water Platform (CEWP) Sustaining Water Ecology, Improving Water Governance

Speech by Sweden

Dr Granit, Director General, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

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Thank you chair, Ministers, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor, on behalf of the Swedish Government, to participate in the China-Europe Water Platform's 8th high level dialogue meeting.

Sweden thanks the Chair, Peoples Republic of China, and the Co-chair, Portugal, for organizing the high-level dialogue in this digital form thereby keeping up our cooperation in spite of the current pandemic.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management is responsible for the overall management in Sweden of freshwater resources, marine resources and fisheries with the assignment to implement the Swedish governments's coherent national freshwater and marine policy framework.

We have been actively engaged in the CEWP since its inception in 2012 working in partnerships from "source to the sea" in accordance with 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

In our work we strive to restore ecosystem services from our freshwater and coastal ecosystems in support of a circular and bio-based economy thereby mitigating the impacts of climate change and contributing to a carbon free society.

In line with this work we are happy to engage in the CEWP as the co-lead of the platform's "water-energy security" focus area together with our co-leader the Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute.

Together with our partners from China, Austria, Sweden and Italy we have carried out a wide range of activities to provide technical and policy inputs in the following four areas:

1. Development and enforcement of green standard for small hydropower.
 2. Optimization of small hydropower plants while ensuring ecosystem services.
 3. Planning and development of pumped storage hydropower.
 4. Exploration of hydropower's full potential as balancing power in the electricity system
- We have also intensified our work to develop the EU-China Sustainable Hydropower Innovation Network with the aim to provide a long-term and multi-sectoral platform for dialogue and exchange on sustainable hydropower between EU and China.

This work has also enhanced our national agenda to make hydropower sustainable. In Sweden, the government has decided a 20 year plan to ensure that all hydropower plants

have modern environmental permits, while preserving their function to produce renewable electricity meeting national targets.

Sweden will continue our commitment to contribute to the important work under the CEWP exploring source to sea connections and renewable energy transformations.

Finally, I would like to thank the CEWP secretariats and our European and Chinese partners for the cooperation to date and we look forward to the continued cooperation and mutual learning in this valuable platform.

Thank you