

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, water-friends,

This side-event addresses several areas of cooperation of high importance for Sweden. The platform has over the years developed mutual benefits from sharing knowledge and sustainable technology.

Impacts of and adaption to climate change on water resources and countermeasures including eutrophication and flooding, makes it clear we need to work with integrated water resource management.

Water is a cross-cutting issue, as is mirrored in the shared responsibility for water issues between different departments and agencies in our countries. Sustainable water management and development must therefore go beyond sectorial solutions.

There is a need for stronger inclusion of sustainable practices such as circular economy across the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus and in sustainable consumption and production. It is crucial to promote resource use efficiency and reuse, as a priority objective for circular economy as well as good cross-sectoral governance.

The increasing demands for water and the increasing uncertainty due to climate change has highlighted the need to address water in a more holistic way. To ensure and sustain water security is one of the grand challenges to achieve the sustainable development goals.

The change driven by innovative leaders, communities and business leaders strengthens my belief that a more resilient future is possible – let's now join forces in building resilience faster.

Thank you!