



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

Welcome remarks at IEA Ministerial 2017

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Ibrahim Baylan, Swedish Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy, Paris, 7 November 2017.
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Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

It is my honour and privilege to open this 2017 IEA Ministerial meeting. This meeting gathers Ministers from IEA Member countries, and IEA Accession, Association and Partner countries, as well as top leaders from the energy sector through the Energy Business Council.

This year's meeting takes place at a critical time. We have never lived a more modern and comfortable life, yet we see famine, wars and weather disasters hit our planet and people. It's therefore so very important that we continue to further pursue global ambitions on energy security, clean energy, strengthened international cooperation and broader policy objectives such as the Paris Agreement.

Let us start by putting our work here at the IEA in perspective.

According to recent IEA analysis, roughly 1.1 billion people still lack access to modern forms of energy. And traditional forms of solid biomass used for cooking causes up to 2.8 million premature deaths annually, mainly affecting women and children.

These are issues that some of you in this room have experienced first-hand, as have I when growing up as a young boy in a remote village in South-East Turkey before coming to Sweden.

Looking at the issue of basic energy access paints a broader picture on the theme of this Ministerial: "Energy Security for Sustainable Global Growth."

Energy access and the productive use of modern energy are prerequisites for economic development. But it also bears with it consequences on human health and environmental sustainability.

The transition to clean energy is necessary. Not only for bringing energy to all but to do it in a sustainable way. And for the first time in history, we have the possibility to do this. Costs for renewables are dropping rapidly, digitalisation and automation enables further energy efficiencies.

Especially digitalisation is an area where much headway has been made recently. I believe we are at a tipping point for astonishing achievements by combining new digital solutions with increased electrification. We are at a time when it is not just possible but also economically viable and beneficial to transition into a clean energy future.

But conditions vary considerably among countries, and there is no global silver bullet. Our mutual efforts for international collaboration on secure and clean energy systems must recognise the need for a range of solutions to ensure the most cost-effective transitions.

Diversification of energy production utilising local resources is an important driver for increased energy security, decentralised economic activity and robust and resilient energy systems.

Managing this transition, or these transitions, require correct analyses and policies to enable new knowledge, new technologies and new business models.

We have a rare opportunity at hand. If we seize this moment and steadily pave the way for the best possible conditions for our energy markets and businesses, we will be able to look back at this time in history as a major game changer.

We will see this time as the changing period when we for the first time in history could give our people access to modern energy, and to do it in a way that is not harming our health or our environment. In short: bolstering energy security for sustainable global growth.

Thank you.



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Speech from Ministry of the Environment

Speech by Minister for Energy Ibrahim Baylan at Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidiary Reform, COP21

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Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and friends

Thank you for having me and for sharing your interesting experiences and knowledge on this key issue.

On behalf of the Government of Sweden, a dedicated member to the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform, I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to everyone gathered for this important event and for your efforts to support fossil fuel subsidy reform. And of course I also would like to thank everyone who has joined up behind the Communiqué on Reforming Fossil Fuel Subsidies and the growing momentum around fossil fuel subsidy reform.

On a global scale a lot of direct subsidies to fossil fuels still exist, thereby causing climate change. Fossil fuel subsidies are also a poor social welfare policy. They are regressive, costly and inefficient for reducing poverty. Removing subsidies frees up resources to invest in sustainable development for society, for instance in renewable energy, health, education and social welfare systems.

Besides participating in the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform activities, Sweden has since 2011 been supporting Global Subsidies Initiative (GSI) and their work to support government efforts to reduce fossil-fuel subsidies, for instance by helping building capacity, raising awareness of, and facilitate national dialogues on reform options. Sweden will continue support developing countries voluntary work with subsidy reform.

Sweden has a long tradition of ambitious climate policy and we have recently set the ambition to be one of the first fossil-free welfare countries in the world. We believe that leading the way in the transition towards a fossil-free society is not only morally right, but also economically smart.

On the flip side to subsidies is carbon pricing. Sweden has a carbon tax since 1991 alongside with an energy tax. Our carbon tax has gradually been significantly increased, from 29 Euros in 1991 to 120 Euros in 2016.

Our carbon tax has decreased the fossil fuel consumption. Between 1990 and 2014 Swedish domestic greenhouse gas emissions have declined by 24%. In the same period, our GDP has increased by 62%. However, emissions from our consumption of imported goods and international transports have increased. For us, this is another strong argument for carbon pricing as a necessity to tackle the global challenge of climate change.

The carbon dioxide tax is a powerful and cost-efficient measure to reach ambition. It is easy to administer within the same tax system as other duties on energy products. It gives results and is in line with the Polluter Pays Principle.

We welcome the growing consensus world-wide on the need for proper carbon pricing from countries as well as companies.

Sweden is actively working with other countries and organizations to support the design and implementation of carbon pricing instruments. Sweden is one of the 30 countries participating in the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR) and is also supporting new innovative approaches to put a price on greenhouse gas emissions

We are committed to sharing our positive experiences of carbon taxation as well as our experiences from the EU Emissions Trading System and international cooperation.

Thank you very much for your attention.