Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. The Swedish Government is taking the challenge seriously and wants to accelerate the transition to a greener and more sustainable society. By taking responsibility for our climate impact at home, we wish to demonstrate leadership to countries around the world.

Sweden has already demonstrated that it is possible to decouple national emissions from economic development. A reduced climate impact is the basis for a long-term sustainable economy and increased prosperity.

The Government has recently adopted a proposal for Sweden’s first climate act, in order to become one of the world’s first fossil-free welfare nations. The act is part of a new climate policy framework which also consists of new medium and long term climate targets that sets long-lasting conditions for the business sector and society, including a target to have net zero emissions by 2045 at the latest, overseen by an independent, expert climate policy council. For the first time, Sweden will have a legislation that entails a responsibility for current and future governments to pursue a climate policy that is based on the climate goals, and also to provide clear reports on how the work is proceeding. The reform is a key component of Sweden’s efforts to live up to the Paris Agreement. Another important step was taken already in 1991 when Sweden introduced a carbon dioxide tax, based on the fossil carbon content in the fuel, and aims at reducing the emissions of carbon dioxide in sectors outside the EU ETS.

To become a fossil free nation, all parts of society must work actively to reduce emissions. The Government has, therefore, launched several national processes, such as “Fossil free Sweden” – an initiative to highlight best practice, share experiences and forge action by businesses, cities and regions as well as civil society. Cities and regions are key innovators in the transition to a greener and more sustainable society. This needs to be supported by political visions and financial support. To enhance action in municipalities and regions to reduce their climate emissions, the Government has launched a programme for local and
regional climate investments – the “Climate leap”. Through the programme, the Government has provided co-financing to a large number of projects including charging stations for electric vehicles as well as biogas production. The Government has also launched urban environment agreements to contribute to and promote sustainable urban environments through support for public transport and cycling infrastructure investments—all in order to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable society.

There is much to learn from each other when developing and transforming our societies. We are therefore pleased to join California, Baden Württemberg, other sub-national governments and nations, in committing to take ambitious new actions to tackle climate change. The Under2 initiative supports this reality.

An Endorsing Partner to the Subnational Global Climate Leadership Memorandum of Understanding is a Nation that allies with the intent of this agreement and supports subnational climate action. The undersigned Nation joins as an Endorsing Partner.

This endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding on Subnational Global Climate Leadership signed as of the 6th of April 2017.

Government Offices of Sweden

Isabella Lövin Karolina Skog
Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for the Environment