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Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY SWEDEN

(Presented by Swedish Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth)

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear colleagues,

We are all here today to take action.

In Paris 2015, the world agreed on the goal to limit the increase in temperature to one point five (1,5) degrees Celsius. I want to underline how essential it is to fulfil this commitment.

For a Swedish perspective, we have even higher ambitions. The Swedish Government has declared its intention for Sweden to become one of the first fossil-fuel-free welfare nations.

There is only one way forward – we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions dramatically, and reduce fossil-fuel dependence in all parts of society.

A radical shift is needed - especially in the transport sector. New technology and innovations will help us. Electrification, bio- fuels and increased transport efficiency are important measures. The aviation industry has started its work. It has set ambitious goals to reduce the global footprint.

But more needs to be done. We need to combine this with courage and political leadership. From my perspective, transport ministers have to be the new climate ministers.

Three years ago the Assembly took the historic decision of establishing CORSIA as the global market-based measure for international aviation. To have this agreement is nothing but a huge political success.

Sweden stands fully behind CORSIA, and urge all states to join the pilot phase. An efficient and ambitious CORSIA is a must for seriously reducing the CO₂-emissions from aviation.

National and regional measures and incentives also play a vital part. In Sweden, we introduced an aviation tax in 2018. We are currently looking into how we can differentiate airport charges further in order to reward a more sustainable aviation. We are also preparing a reduction obligation for fuel suppliers to reduce their emissions through use of bio-jet fuel. The Swedish aviation industry has, through

the association Swedish Aviation, developed a roadmap for how Swedish aviation can become fossil-free. The roadmap shows how domestic flights can be completely fossil-free in 2030 and how flights starting from Swedish airports can be fossil-free in 2045.

These are all important measures – but more needs to be done. We must start discussing taxation. It should be possible to tax fossil jet fuel in international aviation.

To tax aviation fuel would make a lot of sense. Not only would it address climate change. It would also address imbalances that exists between different means of transportation. Today, the aviation sector has an exception when it comes to taxing jet fuel.

But no sector can have such a free pass. All transport sectors must contribute to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement.

To fully achieve this we need solidarity. All states should be given the support to develop sustainable and safe aviation. And that is why initiatives such as the No Country Left Behind are so important. Climate change knows no borders – we are in this together!

Dear delegates, dear colleagues. From last Friday and one week onwards, millions of young people around the world are gathering to strike – for the climate. The world is watching. It is time for action.

Let's get to work.

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