**CEMUS – 2019 Climate Change Leadership in Practice**

**Lecture by Bo Kjellén, Associate of the Stockholm Environment Institute and former Chief Negotiator in the Ministry of Environment of Sweden on September 11 at 13.00 hrs: History and future of the climate negotiations.**

**Introductory remarks and background comments**

The lecture is based on my own experience as a multilateral negotiator; I was leading the Swedish delegations in the climate negotiations from the beginning in 1991 to my retirement in 2001; after that I participated off and on as adviser to the Ministry of Environment and continue to follow the negotiations closely. Since the purpose of my talk is to give you an inside personal view I will not use powerpoint, in order to give maximum time for questions and discussion.

I suggest that our 45 minutes before the break will be divided in three parts of 15 minutes each:

* First, an introduction about the climate change issue within the general UN environmental action, and the importance of science and research including the role of the IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
* Second, a commentary on the negotiations of the Convention (1991-1992), finalized in Rio de Janeiro 1992, and entered into force 1994. I will then turn to the Kyoto Protocol, negotiated in 1997, entering into force 2005. Special attention will be given to the fact that the first commitment period (1990-2012) was supposed to be followed by a second period (2012-2020). However, this was not to be, and COP 15 in Copenhagen 2009 was initially seen as
* a complete failure. But a document with more general contents, the “Copenhagen Accord” was agreed after negotiations at the highest level, and opened the way to a new approach, finally resulting in the Paris Agreement 2015.
* Third, I will discuss the main difference between the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement: Kyoto commitments were binding international law; the Paris NDC:s – Nationally Determined Contributions, not binding. However, the control mechanisms for the follow-up of national action through global stocktake and other methods may have a real impact, especially since the 1,5 degree target is mentioned in the text of the agreement. Many technical points have been negotiated, and the Paris Agreement Work Programme has made concrete progress, even if a number of points are still outstanding. COP 25 in Santiago de Chile in December is of crucial importance, since the Paris agreement will be fully operative in 2020. .

Against this background, I will make some comments of a more general nature after the break, related to the general problems of the international political and economic situation – which in some respects is very worrying. However, I believe that we also have to recognize that the energy revolution is accelerating and that public concern about climate change goes deeper than ever with the manifestations all over the world by young people following the example of Greta Thunberg, who has just sailed into New York to participate in the UN Summit on climate change later in September. I will be very brief in order to leave maximum time for your comments, questions, objections, and concrete ideas related to the negotiations and to climate leadership.