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Madame Chair, Your Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Honorable President, Ladies and Gentleman.

I am very honored to be here today to take part in this important symposium, the Baltic Sea Symposium.

Let me say at the outset a few words about the Baltic. The Baltic Sea that unites us who live around the Baltic, and the Baltic which is for me as a minister of environment a major concern, almost every day. Every day we are reminded about the sensitivity of the Baltic Sea. Yesterday afternoon I visited the coast of Skania in southern Sweden where thick black oil is just now invading the shores. A recent collision between two ships in the Bornholm area resulted in the sinking of a large vessel and a major oil leakage. We all know that this can happen every day. We can have much more terrible accidents in the Baltic. So the Baltic Sea needs more protection from all of us, protection from oil leakages, protection from pollution, protection from nutrients, as the honorable president has reminded us about at the beginning of this session.

I think that this accident outside the Swedish coast reminds us about the need for additional protection, and what we are working on right now as ministers of environment around the Baltic is to designate the Baltic Sea area as a particularly sensitive sea area and to apply to the International Maritime Organization that this application should be considered. We will meet in June in Bremen, ministers of environment from the Baltic and we will try to decide on this application, and I think that there is right now no other issue of higher importance than a bold decision on this issue.

Let me now turn to the theme of this seminar. The title is Environment and Globalization: Who Controls Technology and Information. My point of departure when I approach this theme will be the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg that took place in September last year, a tremendous meeting that will for many years provide the agenda for ministers of environment all around the world. The globalization and interdependence that we live in today provides us with new opportunities to trade, investment in capital flows, but also to advances in technology for the growth of the world economy, and for the development and the improvement of living standards for everybody all around the world. However, as has been pointed out already by Dr. Shiva and Prof. Berlinguer, this progress depends on how we decide and control these processes. I think the important message from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg was that we need democracy, we need politics, we need to have a shared responsibility, not only for the Baltic, we need a shared responsibility for the entire global development.

I think that in the last ten to twenty years, we have had a strong ideological current indeed of neo-liberalism, a strong current of privatization, of deregulation all over the world. This has had an important impact on all countries in the world. This current has shaped the policies of the International Monetary Fund, of the World Bank, etc. However, I do think that the World Summit on Sustainable Development was an important step forwards for something different, an idea that we need politics, not only markets; a new idea about how wealth and progress are created, that it is not

only created by markets and corporations, but it is also created by investments in health, in the environment. Mr. Berlinguer has very well described the importance of health investments. I think that this is crucial indeed, and investments in environment as well are basic to progress for our world.

To me, as a politician, globalization implies a need for multi-lateral cooperation, that global markets must be balanced by democratic governance, that competition must be balanced by investments in the future. I will have this as a point of departure, the policy perspective on how we can go ahead with issues of globalization and technology.

Let me say that to many of us, multi-lateral negotiations are a disappointing process indeed. Many think that progress is too slow, if we do not go backwards, which we do sometimes. Of course there are thousands of reasons to be disappointed about these processes, these negotiations, these attempts to do something for the world. I do understand it. However, my message is that there is no other way. We have to try this way forwards. It is absolutely necessary, although it is so disappointing. We need to continue the political dialogue between nations, and we need to try to make commitments, although it is very difficult. We also have to work very hard at home in our own countries, because the progress that we can make at international conferences depend on what governments are represented at these negotiations. This is our responsibility our countries, to fight for progress, for democracy, for environmentally friendly policies. If we can make this, we can also make a difference at the global level.

Who controls technology and information? Today corporations have a very strong position indeed, as pointed out, for example, by Dr. Shiva. However, there are possibilities also to control the development of technology in democratic ways. As in all other sectors, we have to try to do this, to have a balance between markets and corporations, and private property and democracy, and solidarity between people and nations. In my opinion, the primary challenge for the industrial countries, for us here, is to ensure that benefits of technology and knowledge are rooted in a pro-poor development strategy, and in a pro-environment development strategy. This means that technology and knowledge should be used to empower people, to allow them to harness technology, to expand the choices in their daily lives.

It is often argued, as here today, and I think it is true, that there has been no real tangible progress in the transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries in recent years. Instead, since the Rio conference in '92, there has been a great emphasis on increasing the rights of holders of intellectual property, mainly northern corporations, and a corresponding downgrading of the possibilities of the public in technology transfer and diffusion. Property rights are, of course, essential requirements for technological advancement and innovation. In a globalized world, trans-national corporations need to be held accountable, though, by democratic institutions. The Swedish governments promotes international consensus on guidelines of corporate responsibility. In the long term, one suitable option might be to attempt to adopt a United Nations treaty on national guidelines for corporations. Today, many countries are still failing to keep pace. With limited resources, we must work together, not least with the least developed countries, the African governments. We must bridge the technology divide, and ensure poor countries to become fully engaged in the global economy.

I do believe, after all, that research and development are absolutely crucial for the future. However, today the OECD countries spend more than 520 billion dollars on research and development, and this sum is more than the combined economic

output of the world's thirty poorest countries. At the same time, more than sixty percent of the research and development is carried out by the private sector. As a result of their drive to make profits, research often neglects opportunities to develop technologies for poor people, at least as regards health, as we have heard. Similarly, technology is commonly developed by and for men, rather than women. Despite women's key role in fighting poverty and in securing sustainable livelihoods, women's needs are often neglected. There is substantial and growing evidence that if we reduce the gender inequality, it will be key to addressing all dimensions of poverty. So women's access to equal participation on the basis of equality with men is, I think, an important first step that will trigger dynamic and positive spirals of change. I think that we have seen this very clearly in many developed countries, that investments in women's sectors have been crucial for change and for progress in all areas of society.

The Johannesburg plan of implementation expresses a firm commitment to assist developing countries in narrowing the digital divide, in creating digital opportunities and harnessing the potential of a wide range of technologies for sustainable development. This plan is very clear about the role of governments and the initiatives that they must undertake. I would like to take this opportunity to repeat some of the most important commitments that we have in our governments.

First of all, it has been decided that governments must enhance existing national institutional capacity in developing countries to improve access to and the development transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how. Governments must also improve interactions and collaborations, stakeholder relationships and networks between and among universities, research institutions, government agencies, and the private sector. Governments need to assist developing countries in building capacity to access a larger share of multi-lateral and global research and development programs. We need to create and strengthen centers for sustainable development in developing countries, the use of scientific knowledge and technology must increase as well as the beneficial use of local and indigenous knowledge. This must increase in a manner respectful of the holders of that knowledge.

These are beautiful words, and we must remember that this has been decided. This is something that we should demand from our governments, that you should demand from me and other ministers, that it is our responsibility to do what we have decided. We must not stand here ten years from now to see that we did not do what we promised to do at the World Summit for Sustainable Development.

Of course, transfer of technology can never be a one-way communication. We have a lot to learn from one another. In our region here, around the Baltic, a number of projects concerning technology exchange exist. There is also the Baltic University, and throughout the region sustainable development is being integrated into education at all levels. There are a number of imperatives that we need to consider in redressing the technology and knowledge divide.

The UNDP 2001 Human Development Report: Making Technologies Work for Human Development identified a few that are worth repeating as well. First, the technology divide does not necessarily have to follow the income divide. While economic growth does create opportunities for technology creation and diffusion, technology itself can be a tool for sustainable growth and human development. Second, the market is a powerful engine of technological progress, but it is not powerful enough in itself to create and diffuse the technologies needed to eradicate poverty. Third, all countries, even the poorest, need to implement policies that

encourage innovation, access and development of advanced skills. And fourth, national policies will not be sufficient to compensate for global market failures. New international initiatives and fair use of global instruments are needed to channel new technologies towards the urgent needs of the world's poor.

The political challenge now is to help identify the global and national policies and institutions that can best accelerate the benefits of technological advances, while carefully safeguarding against the risks that inevitably accompany them. For us at a sub-regional level here around the Baltic, corporations such as Baltic 21 can achieve a lot.

To conclude, the message that I would like to send is that until today the control of technology has been too limited. It is the right of every country, every region, and every society, to control the technology and the information needed for its development. Technology is a key to future sustainable investments and information is the key to spread it, but we need to base this all on democratic cooperation within countries and between countries. Thank you, and also a very welcome to Stockholm on Saturday.