



# Young people's participation a key part of Stockholm+50

On 31 May and 1 June, two major youth meetings with both Nordic and global representation were held in connection with Stockholm+50. During these meetings, the young people summarised and presented their views on Stockholm+50 to several environment and climate ministers.

The participation and inclusion of young people has been a priority issue for Sweden in the Stockholm+50 process. Young people have been included in both the planning and implementation of the international UN meeting, and Sweden is pushing to include young people's perspectives in the meeting's conclusions.

On 31 May and 1 June, the Youth Environmental Assembly was held in Stockholm – a meeting that gathered some 200 young people from all over the world to summarise young people's views on Stockholm+50. It was organised by the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force, consisting of 50 young people between the ages of 16 and 31 and which coordinated efforts to involve young people around the world ahead of the meeting. During the year, they conducted consultations and exchanged knowledge with thousands of young people to gather their perspectives on the themes of the Stockholm+50 meeting. The work of the Youth Environmental Assembly was concluded before the members of the Youth Task Force took part in the official UN meeting on 2–3 June.

Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll took part during the first day of the meeting and listened to the young people's demands and views. Ms Strandhäll highlighted the young people's ambitious goals and how important it is that we try to achieve them.

The second day of the meeting involved several youth-led seminars and

group discussions. US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Environment Keriako Tobiko and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme Inger Andersen also took part in the meeting.

#### From global to Nordic perspective

Later that same afternoon, 12 Nordic youth delegates met the Nordic environment and climate ministers and the Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers to present and discuss the views of young people from a Nordic perspective. The meeting was co-organised with the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations which, from the global as well as the Nordic consultations, prepared guidance questions and recommendations ahead of the meeting, with particular focus on the Nordic countries' responsibilities.

Ms Strandhäll took part, together with State Secretary Anders Grönvall. At the start of the meeting, Ms Strandhäll emphasised the importance of young people's engagement, and noted that they have influenced both the process and content of the Stockholm+50 meeting.

The Nordic youth delegates presented their recommendations, which were then discussed in smaller groups with the ministers. Some of the topics discussed were alternative ways of measuring welfare, climate justice, ecocide and the phasing out of fossil fuels.

The meeting is part of a Nordic project that runs until the end of the year. The discussions from the meeting will be followed up in the project, including by means of a follow-up meeting between young people and Nordic environment and climate ministers.



# The Swedish Government leads the way on climate-smart, circular procurement

As one of the focuses of this year's budget, the Swedish Government is tasking the National Agency for Public Procurement with devising ways of strengthening and developing public procurement to promote the climate transition and the shift to a circular economy.

There are substantial opportunities for using public procurement as a strategic tool in the transition to a circular, fossil-free economy. Public procurement spending totals almost SEK 800 billion a year. Working to make public procurement circular, non-toxic and fossil-free will make a genuine difference in reducing carbon emissions and the unsustainable use of resources.

The assignment is consistent with the circular economy strategy and is also based on a proposal from the innovation partnership programme Climate neutral industry. The proposal states that the Government should be leading the way, and that government agencies therefore need to procure products and services that are less toxic, and more circular, fossil-free and sustainable.

- In Sweden, public procurement accounts for almost SEK 800 billion a year. It has been proposed, including by the Government's innovation partnership programme, that the Government and government agencies should be at the forefront of circular, non-toxic and climate-smart procurement. Leading the way on the climate transition also provides an opportunity to further contribute to the business sector's transition and create future jobs, says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson.

- Climate change poses enormous challenges for Sweden, along with the rest of the world. But it also presents a huge opportunity for us to create green jobs and new investments. Cooperation between the various actors in society

is crucial here. The Government should be at the forefront, encouraging demand for climate-neutral, circular products and services. It's a way of pursuing our own green industrial revolution and accelerating the pace of the green transition, comments Minister for Climate and the Environment, Annika Strandhäll.

- The Government, municipalities and regions have an important role to play in the green transition. By imposing clear requirements for climate-neutral, circular products and services in their procurement processes, the public sector can lead the way and help create the green jobs of the future, says Minister for Public Administration Ida Karkiainen.

**Christina Friborg is Head of Sustainability at SSAB and a member of the working group for Procurement within Climate neutral industry:**

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Government Offices of Sweden

# State Secretary Anders Grönvall in New York heads Swedish delegation to UN meeting on 2030 Agenda

On 13–15 July, State Secretary Anders Grönvall will head the Swedish delegation taking part in the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The theme of this year's HLPF is 'Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

Mr Grönvall, State Secretary with responsibility for Sweden's national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, will take part in the meeting as the head of Sweden's delegation. He will be joined by representatives of civil society, the Riksdag, research institutions and government agencies, at both local and regional level.

Like last year's HLPF, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will be in focus. This year's meeting is also expected to address Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its effects on countries' implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“At a time of parallel crises, it is more important than ever to meet in peaceful dialogue and mobilise resources and stakeholders at all levels to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda,” says Mr Grönvall.

The Government also emphasises including the perspective of young people in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which will be visible in Sweden's participation in this year's HLPF. Climate change will also be among the key issues during the forum. Together with the Paris Agreement, the 2030

Agenda is an important framework for managing and curbing the climate crisis.

Based on the SDGs that this year's HLPF will review in depth (SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17), Sweden's focus will be on the following:

- stressing the importance of equitable and lifelong learning and education for sustainable development;
- emphasising the importance of all women, girls and LGBTIQ people's full enjoyment of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR);
- supporting enhanced efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and ensuring that at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are protected in our exclusive economic zones;
- encouraging the international community to build further on the results of Stockholm+50 to accelerate urgent measures to ensure a better future for all people on a healthy planet;
- stressing the importance of global partnerships and funding for implementation of the 2030 Agenda in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development; and
- promoting efforts to build on young people's engagement during the HLPF, for example by including youth representatives on panels.

Published 12 July 2022



# Sweden calls for faster phase out of hazardous chemicals in consumer products

Sweden and seven other Member States encourage the European Commission to set a cut-off date for when hazardous chemicals are to be phased out of consumer products. They state this in a joint letter to the European Commission.

In the letter, the ministers stress that products such as childcare articles, toys, cosmetics, furniture and clothing are still allowed to contain chemicals that may be hazardous to health, particularly for foetuses and children. The proposal for new regulations concerning controls on chemicals that the Commission intends to present in early 2023 must therefore contain a broad ban on these substances so as to provide adequate protection.

“Consumers have reasonable expectations of not having to be exposed to hazardous chemicals in their everyday lives. It is high time that EU chemicals legislation meets these expectations. It’s not a responsibility that each individual consumer should have to take,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

The ministers therefore propose that the regulatory framework be given a cut-off date by which the most hazardous chemicals are to be removed from all consumer goods. A further proposal from the ministers to assure effective implementation is to give Member States expanded rights to introduce measures against hazardous substances at EU level.

Ms Strandhäll took the initiative to draft the letter. Besides Sweden, the letter was signed by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway and Spain.







# Stockholm agenda shows way forward following Stockholm+50

Some 150 countries gathered in Stockholm to focus on the climate and environment. Sweden and Kenya have now summarised the results in a Stockholm agenda – 10 recommendations to the world to accelerate the pace of the transition.

The points in the Stockholm agenda were presented by Sweden's and Kenya's climate and environment ministers during the closing plenary meeting of Stockholm+50 on 3 June.

“The Stockholm agenda encourages us to do more in a number of crucial areas, such as the participation of young people, the transition of heavy industry and, not least, to ensure that all countries live up to their promises faster. Sweden is at the forefront and we will do more, while also encouraging other countries. We know that the climate transition can create new jobs and opportunities – we see this daily in Sweden,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

The Stockholm agenda: 10 recommendations following Stockholm+50

1. Place human well-being at the centre of a healthy planet and prosperity for all.
2. Recognise and implement the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by fulfilling the vision articulated in Principle 1 of the Stockholm Declaration from 1972.
3. Adopt system-wide change in the way our current economic system works to contribute to a healthy planet.
4. Strengthen national implementation of existing commitments for a healthy planet by enhancing national environmental legislation, budgets, planning processes and institutional frameworks.
5. Align public and private financial flows with environmental, climate and sustainable development commitments.

6. Accelerate system-wide transformations of high-impact sectors, such as food, energy, water, buildings and construction, manufacturing and mobility.
7. Rebuild relationships of trust for strengthened cooperation and solidarity.
8. Reinforce and reinvigorate the multilateral system.
9. Recognise intergenerational responsibility as a cornerstone of sound policy making.
10. Take forward the Stockholm+50 outcomes by reinforcing and reenergising ongoing international processes, such as the UN high-level meeting Summit of the Future in 2023.

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# Sweden bans extraction of coal, oil and natural gas and tightens rules on extraction from alum shale

A ban on extracting coal, oil and natural gas in Sweden will enter into force in Sweden on 1 July this year. It will be an important step in the process of transitioning to a fossil-free society. This was announced by Minister for climate and the environment Annika Strandhäll on World Environment Day, on June 5th.

The Government is giving priority to creating jobs by accelerating the climate transition. Measures against the extraction of substances that are harmful to health and the environment are therefore needed.

“We are tightening environmental legislation by banning the extraction of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. Breaking the entire chain of fossil dependence, from extraction to use, is crucial for Sweden to continue to be a leader in the climate transition,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

“The green and digital transitions will create more jobs and require more metals and minerals. Nevertheless, we must never stray from the environmental legislation. Sweden will also lead the way and ban the extraction of coal, oil and natural gas, and tighten the rules for extraction from alum shale to play our part in the climate transition,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson.

The bill proposes amendments to the Swedish Environmental Code and the Minerals Act. The amendments include a ban on the extraction of coal, lignite, crude oil, shale oil and natural gas in the same way that has been done with uranium, as well as tighter rules for extraction from alum shale. The legislative amendments will enter into force on 1 July 2022.

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Government Offices of Sweden

# Sweden to host World Environment Day on 5 June, together with UN – opening at National Museum of Science and Technology

This year, Sweden will host World Environment Day – 50 years after it was launched in Stockholm. Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll will open World Environment Day on 5 June, together with Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Inger Andersen. The opening will take place at the National Museum of Science and Technology and will include a discussion with young people about their vision for the future. Media representatives are welcome to follow the event onsite.

“This year, World Environment Day is coming home to Sweden. All around the country, municipalities, organisations and individuals will get involved in a range of different activities to contribute to a better environment. Events at local level can have a global impact,” says Ms Strandhäll.

World Environment Day is being held just a few days after the high-level UN conference Stockholm+50, which gathered the countries of the world in Stockholm. It will be a day when many people will have the opportunity to take part and get involved.

World Environment Day is the UN’s international thematic day to strengthen commitment for the environment. This year’s theme, Only One Earth, highlights everyone’s joint responsibility for the planet we call home, and

encourages a more sustainable lifestyle.

At the National Museum of Science and Technology, Ms Strandhäll and Ms Andersen will follow up on one of the themes from the Stockholm+50 meeting, namely the opportunities for young people to get involved and exert influence over the way climate and environmental issues are handled. This will be done in the form of a discussion with young people. The discussion will be held in the same area as the museum's Zero City exhibition, which focuses on sustainable cities of tomorrow.

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# Sweden and US host high-level talks to reduce plastic pollution

Today, 1 June, Sweden and the US hosted a meeting where the business sector, civil society and some 10 countries discussed solutions to reduce plastic pollution and increase recycling of plastics.

The use of plastics causes emissions that contribute to climate change and cause pollution in nature and the oceans. This is why Sweden has been pushing for the international negotiations on a global agreement on plastics that will soon begin.

“Sweden’s goal is for the plastics that are manufactured to have a sustainable design so that they can be reused or recycled without hazardous substances remaining in circulation or impeding the chance for recycling. The impact that plastics have on the climate and the environment must also be reduced throughout the entire lifecycle. Regarding the climate impact, this is particularly relevant at the production stage, but also when it comes to disposal,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

For this reason, the US and Sweden jointly invited other countries and major companies to a high-level meeting on 1 June to discuss new ways of funding the transition away from plastics and towards sustainability. There is great need of both state and private capital. Moreover, it is essential that companies develop a sustainable design of plastics so that they can be recycled more easily.

The Swedish Government will now continue its efforts to push for a legally binding global agreement on plastics. In addition, the Government recently launched a national action plan on plastics based on less plastic usage, more recycling and more new jobs.

Together, these measures on plastics are an important step for Sweden to be

at the forefront of the climate transition and create new jobs throughout the country.

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Government Offices of Sweden

# Swedish-Indian UN initiative continues to lead climate transition in heavy industry

Close to one hundred participants representing countries, industries and international organisations are meeting in Stockholm today under the LeadIT initiative to discuss the climate transition of heavy industry. Sweden, India and the World Economic Forum are hosting the meeting, which calls for decisions and action so that industry can assume international leadership in the climate transition. Two additional countries have now joined the initiative: Japan and South Africa.

The high-level Industry Transition Dialogue within the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) gathers ministers from countries from all continents and business leaders from various industrial sectors to discuss the transition of heavy industry. Sweden and India co-launched LeadIT in 2019 at the request of the UN.

“Sweden will assume the international climate leadership and show the entire world how the climate transition creates jobs and growth. We are seeing the start of a green industrial revolution in Sweden here and now, not at some point in the future. Today I took part in the unveiling of the world’s first vehicle produced in Sweden by Volvo using fossil-free steel from SSAB. Through LeadIT, we cooperate with, encourage and support other countries so that the world can speed up the transition of heavy industry,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

The meeting is an important opportunity for countries and companies to reach agreement on what public and private sector measures are needed to

enable the climate transition of heavy industry so that it can become climate neutral by 2050. This includes creating the conditions for increasing both the supply and demand of climate-smart industrial products. It also includes developing industry transition roadmaps that highlight opportunities, identify obstacles and suggest solutions to drive the transition of domestic industries and attract capital for the necessary investments.

“I am also pleased to welcome two new members to the group today, Japan and South Africa. Their joining LeadIT also makes it possible to strengthen bilateral cooperation on transition issues between our countries,” says Ms Strandhäll.

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Government Offices of Sweden

# International climate and environment week in Stockholm 30 May–5 June

The international climate and environment week in Stockholm is now getting under way with a series of high-level meetings, including LeadIT on industry transition, the UN Stockholm+50 conference at Stockholmsmässan and the annual Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA). UN Secretary-General Guterres and US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry are among those attending.

On 2–3 June 2022, Sweden and Kenya will co-host the UN high-level conference Stockholm+50 in Stockholm. This year marks 50 years since the first UN conference on the human environment – the 1972 Stockholm Conference – was held, on the initiative of Olof Palme. The aim of Stockholm+50 is to commemorate the 50th anniversary and also to help increase the pace of the transition towards a sustainable and green society, more jobs and an environment in balance for everyone, where no one is left behind.

“The countries of the world have made many promises and commitments, but implementation leaves something to be desired. More needs to be done faster if we are to reverse the trend, and that’s why it is important for the world to get together and discuss the way forward,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

Below is a selection of activities taking place during the international climate and environment week in Stockholm:

- **31 May: 6th Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA6).** An annual ministerial dialogue on global climate action and implementation of the

Paris Agreement. Hosts: EU, Canada and China. Venue: Grand Hotel Saltsjöbaden

- **1 June: Industry Transition Dialogue.** Climate and environment ministers discuss industry transition together with companies in the heavy industry sector as part of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) initiative, which was co-launched by Sweden and India in 2019. Venue: Stockholmsmässan
- **1 June: High-level round table discussion on innovative financing against plastic waste and promotion of increased plastic circularity.** Sweden and the US are co-hosts, and the UNDP Alliance to End Plastic Waste will help organise the discussion. Climate and environment ministers will discuss possible solutions together with the business sector, civil society and global financial institutions. Venue: Stockholmsmässan
- **1 June: High-level meeting on three UN conventions on chemicals and waste.** High-level meeting on the three conventions dealing with hazardous chemicals, hazardous waste and persistent organic pollutants. Venue: Stockholmsmässan
- **1 June: Youth event with the Nordic Council of Ministers.** The event highlights the participation of young people, specifically in Stockholm+50 and more generally on how this can be achieved in multilateral processes. Venue: Stockholmsmässan
- **1 June: Ministerial meeting on climate finance.** How enhanced partnerships can contribute to the rapid transition for resilience. Venue: Stockholmsmässan
- **2–3 June: Stockholm+50.** Sweden and Kenya co-host a UN conference on climate and environment, where the world's countries gather to discuss measures to implement global commitments and promises and speed up the climate transition. It is the largest UN conference held in Sweden since 1972, when Olof Palme's engagement led to the first UN environmental conference being held in Stockholm. Venue: Stockholmsmässan
- **5 June: World Environment Day.** Sweden hosts the UN World Environment Day, and a long list of activities will take place throughout the country. The UN will highlight good examples from Sweden. A meeting will be organised at the National Museum of Science and Technology with UNEP Executive Director of Inger Andersen and Annika Strandhäll. Venue: National Museum of Science and Technology



# Sweden becomes government partner and board member of US-led climate coalition

At the request of the United States, Sweden has joined the First Movers Coalition (FMC). Sweden will also sit on the FMC advisory board. The FMC brings together companies and countries that are leading the climate transition by driving the development of climate-smart products. Four major Swedish companies are already members of the FMC.

“Sweden will show the world that the climate transition can create jobs and growth, as it does with Swedish companies leading the way in developing the climate-smart solutions and products that are needed to reduce emissions. By joining the FMC as a government partner, we will now have a further opportunity to drive global climate action,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

As a government partner, Sweden is committed to encouraging more Swedish companies to join the FMC and to spotlighting the FMC as a tool to accelerate global climate action. The FMC encompasses seven sectors that account for 30 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions: aluminium, aviation, chemicals, cement, shipping, steel and trucking. In addition to the United States and Sweden, the FMC advisory board also includes India and Japan. Italy, Norway and the UK are also partner countries in FMC.

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# Annika Strandhäll launches Sweden-US Green Transition Initiative

On 31 March, Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll will launch the Sweden-US Green Transition Initiative in Washington. The initiative, which will establish Sweden as a partner for the US in the transition towards a low-carbon economy, is now being launched by Swedish government agencies and the Swedish Embassy in Washington.

Cooperation between countries at the forefront of sustainability and green technology will be key to the green transition. In addition, cooperation in this area creates new jobs both in Sweden and abroad. The Sweden-US Green Transition Initiative (GTI) will bring together Swedish and US stakeholders, including in the energy sector.

“I’m sure this initiative will contribute to increased cooperation between our countries in a concrete way, and create new decent jobs that reduce climate emissions,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

The joint initiative is being launched by Business Swedish, the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova and the Swedish Embassy in Washington, and will bring all their efforts together. The GTI will become a nodal point for Swedish and US companies, agencies, researchers and other partners, and create opportunities for Swedish companies to expand in the US market. It is hoped that the initiative will lead to further investments in Swedish small- and medium-sized enterprises, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and to Sweden leading the green transition.

The GTI will initially run for three years and have a staff of four. It will

establish an office in Washington and a satellite office in Silicon Valley, California.

Published 31 March 2022



# Annika Strandhäll to lead preparatory UN meeting ahead of Stockholm+50

On Monday 28 March, Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll will lead a meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York. The UN is hosting the meeting as part of the practical preparations for the Stockholm+50 international meeting.

The UN Stockholm+50 meeting on 2–3 June aims to speed up implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals and promote a sustainable recovery following the pandemic. Sweden and Kenya will co-chair the meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York, which will focus on preparations ahead of the three leadership dialogues. In addition to UN Member States and UN organisations, representatives of international institutions, non-profit organisations, civil society, indigenous peoples, academic institutions and the business sector are able to participate.

“The aim of the UN Stockholm+50 conference is to speed up action for global sustainable development. Countries around the world have laid the foundations for many measures and cooperation initiatives, including the 2030 Agenda, but we must now act and build for the future. This is why it’s important to give civil society and young people the chance to make their voices heard. The situation for the climate, biodiversity and human health is in many ways at a critical point right now,” says Ms Strandhäll.

The three leadership dialogues have the following themes:

1. Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all
2. Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
3. Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of



sustainable development in the context of the Decade of Action

Ahead of the three leadership dialogues, the UN is also gathering views through national and regional consultations as well as international working groups. The leadership dialogues will in turn contribute to the Stockholm+50 final document by making clear and concrete recommendations for measures at all levels.

Published 28 March 2022



# Historic resolution at United Nations Environment Assembly to initiate negotiations on global agreement on plastic pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly endorsed a historic resolution to initiate negotiations on a global agreement on plastic pollution. This will be the most important environmental agreement since the Paris Agreement. Sweden has long been a driving force for a global solution to plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution is a cross-border problem. Between 5 and 13 million tonnes of plastic waste flow into the oceans each year, and without effective measures that amount will triple by 2040. The countries of the world have now agreed to initiate negotiations on a global agreement to end plastic pollution. This agreement will take a broad approach aimed at contributing to the climate transition and protecting oceans and biodiversity.

“Sweden has long been a driving force for a global agreement that will prevent and reduce plastic pollution and microplastics, and contribute to circular management of plastic. I am proud that the UN Member States are in agreement and have demonstrated that they take plastic pollution seriously,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll, who is attending UNEA-5.2.

The UN resolution is critical to addressing the problem of plastic pollution and implementing the 2030 Agenda, as well as achieving Sweden’s national environmental objectives. The resolution establishes a framework for the upcoming negotiations on a global agreement. The global agreement could set out common global goals and concrete measures for sustainable production and consumption, with a specific emphasis on product design to

increase reuse and recycling, and promote a circular economy. It could also support the development of national action plans on plastic waste management. In this regard, Sweden is already leading the way, as the Government adopted an action plan aimed at reducing the impact of plastic on the climate and environment less than two weeks ago. The negotiations are expected to begin in the second half of 2022.

Published 03 March 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Annika Strandhäll participating in United Nations Environment Assembly session

Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll is participating in the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, on 28 February–3 March. Sweden is pushing for negotiations on a global agreement on plastic pollution and a green post-pandemic recovery.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) normally brings together the world's environmental ministers in Nairobi every other year. However, last year's session was partly postponed until this year. The overall theme for the resumed fifth session of the UNEA (UNEA-5.2) is 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals' with the aim of highlighting the pivotal role nature plays in sustainable development. Sweden is pushing for a UNEA decision to initiate formal negotiations on a new legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution and its adoption at UNEA-5.2.

The important issue of a green post-pandemic recovery will also be discussed during the session.

“The impact of plastic pollution on the climate, environment and human health is an acute problem that requires a global solution. The UNEA session is an opportunity for the countries of the world to show that we are prepared to tackle this problem together,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

Ms Strandhäll will be taking part in both UNEA-5.2 and the subsequent UNEP@50, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in conjunction with the

Stockholm Conference in 1972. Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will also take part in UNEP@50 virtually and demonstrate Sweden's long-term engagement in global environmental issues. UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50 are also important milestones ahead of the UN Stockholm+50 conference on 1–3 June.

Ms Strandhäll will also meet with UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko. The programme includes study visits to a waste management company and Tetra Pak's local facility. Ms Strandhäll will also speak with young people from around the world participating in Youth Task Force for Stockholm+50 and meet with representatives from a number of countries for bilateral talks.

There will be time for interviews; please contact Press Secretary Tove Kullenberg.

Published 28 February 2022



# Government to permit final disposal of spent nuclear fuel at Forsmark

The Government has today decided to permit the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel at Forsmark in Östhammar Municipality. The Government has also decided to permit construction of the encapsulation plant that is needed to handle the spent nuclear fuel in Oskarshamn Municipality.

“Sweden and Finland are the first countries in the world to take responsibility for nuclear waste. This will be a secure spent fuel repository that will provide safety for both the environment and people. In addition, it provides long-term conditions for the Swedish electricity supply and Swedish jobs,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

The Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB) applied under the Swedish Environmental Code and the Nuclear Activities Act for a permit for a cohesive system for the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel. The Government considers that the applications meet the requirements of the Swedish Environmental Code and the Nuclear Activities Act and therefore permits the construction of the encapsulation plant and the spent fuel repository.

“The technology and the capacity are available. It is irresponsible to leave nuclear waste in water tanks year after year without taking a decision. We must not pass on this responsibility to our children and grandchildren. Our generation must take responsibility for our waste. This is why the Government is permitting the next step in the review process. Everyone can feel confident that the process will continue through the land and environmental court as will the step-by-step review under the responsibility of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority,” says Ms Strandhäll.

The method used, KBS-3, relies on a combination of three barriers – the copper canisters, the Bentonite clay around them and the bedrock itself – to protect people and the environment from harmful radiation. The Government supports the expert assessment of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority that this is the best possible technology for final disposal and that the tripple barrier method is safe and meets the requirements of the legislation, even over a very long time perspective.

“Final disposal has been thoroughly investigated and in preparation for a long time. Research has been going on since the 1970s. The courts and the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority reviewed the application between 2011 and 2018, when the matter was handed over to the Government. Thanks to extensive research, preparation and safe technology, the Government has now been able to make this decision. The process is continuing and the method is being refined with further research and development,” says Ms Strandhäll.

In accordance with the Swedish Environmental Code, the Government is now handing over the case to the Land and Environmental court at Nacka District Court, which will issue a permit and stipulate detailed conditions for the operation. With the Government’s decision, SKB has received a permit under the Nuclear Activities Act. The decision is conditional on the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority conducting a continued step-by-step review, in which future research and technology development will be part of the continued process.

Published 27 January 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Swedish Office of Science and Innovation in London to enhance Swedish-British collaboration

Sweden's seventh international Office of Science and Innovation was established at the Embassy of Sweden in London on 1 January 2022. The Office will develop and strengthen collaboration between the UK and Sweden on issues linked to the Government's life sciences strategy, its export and investment strategy, the Research and Innovation Bill, and the Government's strategic partnership programmes.

“The London Office is an important and strategic initiative for a country like Sweden where export and innovation issues are of vital importance. Establishing the Office is an effective way to meet the objectives of Sweden's life sciences strategy and is completely in line with efforts to help the Government's partnership programmes achieve an international impact,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson.

To maintain Sweden's strong international position as an innovation and knowledge leader, it is important to develop collaborations with world-leading innovation and research countries. Sweden has already established Offices of Science and Innovation at its embassies in Brasilia, New Delhi, Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo and Washington DC.

“The new Office of Science and Innovation in the UK will help increase the international visibility of Swedish higher education institutions. This is important to maintain a high level of quality in research and strengthen Sweden as a research nation,” says Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The UK is a priority country for Sweden and an important partner in areas



such as innovation and research, as well as a close ally on many trade policy issues.

“We are in the midst of a climate-driven green industrial transition, and the UK is a strategically important partner in these efforts. The establishment of the London Office allows us to strengthen our relations and pursue more ambitious climate efforts,” says Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll.

Published 05 January 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

# Change of government, 30 November 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government takes place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty the King. The Council of State begins at 13.00.

**Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 22 ministers.**

## **Prime Minister's Office**

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

## **Ministry of Employment**

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

## **Ministry of Finance**

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

## **Ministry of Defence**

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

**Ministry of Infrastructure**

Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

**Ministry of Justice**

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

**Ministry of Culture**

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