



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Joint Statement on UN Common Agenda report

Published 10 September 2021 Updated 20 September 2021

Today UN Secretary General António Guterres launched his Common Agenda report.

The report comes at a key moment for the future of multilateralism and it sets out a bold plan for how we as a global community must tackle the climate crisis and loss of bio diversity, pandemics, inequality and other existential crisis we are facing today and will have to deal with tomorrow. We stand before the threat of breakdown or the opportunity of breakthrough. We must seize this opportunity to build a better future.

We, Costa Rica, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Spain and Sweden are deeply dedicated to a reinvigorated rules-based system of international cooperation, with a stronger and a more inclusive UN at its core. At the upcoming meeting of the UN General Assembly, we will send a clear strong signal that we cannot wait. We must urgently step up our actions to strengthen the global health architecture, tackle the planetary emergency more forcefully, ensure inclusion, equality participation and justice, strengthen peacebuilding and our ability to tackle new threats and build a more open and inclusive multilateral system where youth, civil society, private sector, academia and others have a space at the table.

We, the undersigned, commit to support the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations to translate the ambitious agenda he has just presented into reality. We will provide our full support to efforts to strengthen international cooperation and get ready to tackle the big challenges of our time together. We will respond to the voices of young people, who clearly and rightfully demand that we act to ensure that this

opportunity - to strengthen international cooperation for the greater good - is not lost. This is the call of our times.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Published 20 January 2021

## Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, 20 January 2021

Today, Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States, and Kamala Harris as Vice President. I warmly congratulate President Biden and Vice President Harris. The Swedish Government looks forward to close cooperation with their administration.

The Presidential election campaign and the period thereafter have been dramatic. The storming of the Capitol was an assault on democracy that showed what polarisation, populism and extremism can lead to – even in well-established democracies. At the same time, it is important to note that, in the end, democracy and the rule of law proved stronger than the forces that attempted to overturn the election results: the US institutions fulfilled their constitutional roles in the election process, and the new President has now been installed.

President Biden is facing several major challenges, not least with regard to the pandemic and the economy. The difficult task of uniting a divided country is something the President must do together with US society as a whole. I know Joe Biden from his time as Vice President, and I am certain that he is the right person for this job. The importance of unifying the nation and looking forward were also key themes in President Biden's inaugural address.

Our relations with the United States are of central importance to Sweden, including for our security and prosperity. The Swedish Government sees great opportunities for further broadening and deepening the excellent cooperation between our countries, not least concerning multilateralism, democracy, new technologies and security in our neighbourhood. In the

wake of the pandemic and climate change, Sweden and the United States can, together with others, lead a green transition that creates jobs for the future.

I look forward to close cooperation with President Biden and his administration. We have an important and shared task ahead of us – for democracy, peace, security, prosperity, the climate and multilateralism.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the developments in Washington D.C.

Published 07 January 2021

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, 7 January 2021

Deeply worrying developments in Washington, D.C. This is an assault on democracy. President Trump and several members of Congress bear substantial responsibility for developments. The democratic election process must be respected.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Joint statement by the Members of European Council

Published 30 October 2020

We, European Leaders, are shocked and saddened by the terrorist attacks in France.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms these attacks which represent attacks on our shared values.

We stand united and firm in our solidarity with France, with the French people and the Government of France – in our common and continued fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

We call on Leaders around the world to work towards dialogue and understanding among communities and religions rather than division.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the developments in Belarus

Published 18 August 2020

I take a very serious view of the developments in Belarus. The presidential election of 9 August was neither free nor fair, and I condemn the violence and arrests used against peaceful demonstrators, for which the Belarusian regime and authorities are responsible.

The extremely widespread demonstrations we have seen in Belarus in recent days show very clearly that the Belarusian people do not accept the announced election result, and are seeking democratic change and reform.

Before the election, the Swedish Government made it clear that the election must be conducted in accordance with international standards.

Since the election, we have been a driving force in the European Union for resolute action, including sanctions targeting those responsible for electoral fraud and abuses.

The EU has acted decisively and has begun drawing up targeted sanctions. On Wednesday, an extraordinary meeting of the European Council will be held on Belarus, and I will continue to push for an active and clear EU response.

We stand united with the Belarusian people, and fully support their right to decide over their own future and freely elect their leaders. It is vital that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belarus and the will of the Belarusian people are respected by all.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union

Published 31 January 2020

- As of midnight tonight, the United Kingdom will no longer be a member of the European Union. No country has ever left the EU, and I deeply regret that the UK is now doing so. The UK has been our close partner in the EU, and it has contributed to making the EU safer and stronger.

- Now that the day of withdrawal is upon us, it is time to look ahead and take the next step in our relationship. Sweden, and the EU, will continue to have strong ties with the UK. This is important for our economy, our security and our development in Europe.

- Even though a large and important country is leaving the EU, the EU remains strong. This is important for Sweden. Being a member of the EU is of great importance to Sweden: it makes us safer and more prosperous, and is better for our economy. As a country that strongly depends on exports, the single market – with the free movement of goods, services, capital and people – is vital to Sweden. It gives Swedish companies direct access to the world's largest market – contributing to jobs, growth and increased welfare in Sweden.



Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement in connection with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven's telephone call this evening with Iran's President Hassan Rouhani

Published 12 January 2020

The Prime Minister conveyed Sweden's condemnation of the shooting down of passenger flight PS 752. He stressed that the relatives of those affected are entitled to a swift explanation of responsibility for the shooting down, and that Iran must take full responsibility, including in relation to those affected. President Rouhani promised that Iranian authorities would fully cooperate.

The Prime Minister noted that Iran's admission provides the basis for a comprehensive and transparent investigation that must clarify all of the circumstances surrounding the shooting down. The national experts that Sweden and the other affected countries are entitled to send must be given full insight into the investigation. The Prime Minister also emphasised the close cooperation between the countries affected.

The Prime Minister expressed his deep concern about the Iranian missile attack earlier in the week, which also targeted the international presence in Iraq, in which Sweden is participating, and he noted that any attack on international troops must be condemned. The Prime Minister urged Iran to exercise restraint and take concrete measures to reduce tensions in the region. He also emphasised the role the EU could play in supporting de-escalation, regional dialogue and political solutions.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement from PM Stefan Löfven regarding the Ukrainian passenger aircraft

Published 11 January 2020

## Statement from PM Stefan Löfven regarding the Ukrainian passenger aircraft .

Here in Sweden, and around the whole world, people are grieving for the victims of the aircraft crash outside Tehran on 8 January. I feel strongly for all of those who have lost a relative.

Iran has assumed responsibility for the aircraft being shot down. Iran has stated that the aircraft was shot down by mistake. This statement provides the basis for a comprehensive and transparent investigation, which must shed light on all of the circumstances surrounding the crash. The relatives of those affected are entitled to a full explanation of responsibility for the crash. We demand that Iran cooperates without restrictions in the continuing investigation, and that the affected countries are given the opportunity to participate using their national expertise and are given full insight into the investigation.

I take a very serious view of the statement Iran has now given. The fact that the aircraft was shot down is terrible and horrifying. Shooting down a civilian aircraft - regardless of whether or not this was a mistake - is an action that must be condemned and for which Iran must take full responsibility, including in relation to those affected.

Sweden is in close contact with the other countries whose citizens were killed in the crash, and yesterday a group was established at foreign minister level (the International Coordination and Response Group for victims of Flight PS752) together with these countries. I will ensure that the group

quickly establishes contact in light of the statement from Iran. We also have the support of the EU in our demands for a full investigation and for Iran's cooperation in this.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement on the information regarding the crash of the Ukrainian passenger aircraft

Published 10 January 2020

**Prime Minister Stefan Löfven's statement on the information regarding the crash of the Ukrainian passenger aircraft.**

I spoke yesterday with Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and this morning with the United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson in light of the very serious reports that the Ukrainian passenger aircraft may have been shot down by an Iranian missile. We agreed that these reports further increase the need for a swift, complete and transparent investigation.

We agreed that the countries affected need to have the opportunity to contribute their national expertise and be given full insight into the investigation.

We also agreed on the importance of close cooperation between all countries affected.

I also spoke earlier yesterday with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky. Ukraine is a key actor in cooperation between the affected countries and we will have close contact with Ukraine during the investigation.

It is crucial now that all parties work towards reducing tensions in the region. My thoughts go to the victims and their families.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Telephone discussion between Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan

Published 18 September 2019

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven today received a telephone call from Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. The call mainly focused on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr Löfven highlighted the messages recently conveyed by the EU on developments. Among the points he emphasised were the need for de-escalation and bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan to reach a political solution, and the importance of including the people of Jammu and Kashmir in discussions and decisions about their future. Finally, Mr Löfven brought up the importance of combating terrorism.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Prime Minister Stefan Löfven congratulates H.E. Boris Johnson on his appointment as Prime Minister

Published 24 July 2019

I congratulate H.E. Boris Johnson on being appointed Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Relations with the United Kingdom are important for Sweden, not least in the areas of trade and security, cultural exchange, and research and education. I look forward to close and trustful cooperation with the new Prime Minister.

We hope that the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU is concluded in an orderly way. I also look forward to further developing and strengthening the excellent relations Sweden already enjoys with the United Kingdom.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the election of Ursula von der Leyen as President of the European Commission

Published 16 July 2019

I welcome the approval of Ursula von der Leyen as President of the European Commission. It was high time there was a woman in this key position. It is positive that the leadership of the EU institutions is now being put in place so that we can continue the work on the crucial issues for our future, such as jobs, climate change, migration and security.

The Government will now initiate discussions with the incoming President on the Swedish Commissioner and the distribution of portfolios. We will of course contribute to the creation of a gender-balanced Commission.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by the Prime Minister on the plane crash outside Umeå

Published 14 July 2019

"It is with great sorrow that I have learned about the plane crash outside Umeå. My thoughts go to the victims and their families at this difficult time. The Government is in close contact with the relevant authorities, and it is now important to investigate the cause of the crash," said Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by the Prime Minister in connection with the terrorist attack in New Zealand

Published 15 March 2019

”A horrific terrorist attack has been carried out targeting people at Friday afternoon prayers in Christchurch, New Zealand. This is a heinous attack directed at an open society, the aim of which is to create fear and division. It is in such difficult times as these that community is the most important. I would like to express my solidarity with New Zealand and show that we are on their side. My thoughts go to the victims, their families and loved ones,” says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by the Prime Minister concerning the plane crash in Ethiopia

Published 10 March 2019 Updated 22 March 2019

“I have sent Sweden’s deepest condolences to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed following the horrific plane crash in Ethiopia. We mourn together with all those who have lost their loved ones today,” said Prime Minister Stefan Löfven in a statement concerning the plane crash in Ethiopia.



Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the passing of President George HW Bush

Published 01 December 2018

George HW Bush was President of the United States of America during a time of important transition in the world. He was politically active throughout the post-war years, and led the United States during one of the greatest periods of upheaval of our time – the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the Cold War and the break-up of the Soviet Union. During these decisive years, new forms of cooperation could be attempted between former adversaries. President Bush's attitude contributed to a stability in Eastern Europe that would otherwise probably have been difficult to achieve.

President Bush believed in the UN and multilateralism as the best way forward. In the latter years of his life, he took a clear stand in favour of common sense, and against increasing polarisation.

President Bush will be remembered for his deeds, and for his humility, his humour and his fundamental decency. Our thoughts and condolences go to the President's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and to the entire American people.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the situation in Syria

Published 18 September 2018

The immediate threat of a large-scale military offensive against Idlib now, seems to be over. This hopefully means that an unprecedented humanitarian disaster has been averted. This comes after Russia and Turkey have agreed to establish a demilitarised zone. The detailed contents of the agreement remain unclear.

In the United Nations Security Council, Sweden has been pushing for a ceasefire, the protection of civilians and respect for international humanitarian law. We will continue our efforts in the Security Council and in the EU to prevent a military offensive and avoid any disastrous developments. What is now required is full respect for international law and the understanding that only a political solution can create sustainable peace.



Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the conflict in Syria

Published 15 September 2018

The Syrian nightmare has been going on for more than seven years. An offensive against Idlib is likely to spark another humanitarian disaster. Three million people, including one million children, are trapped in Idlib.

Despite this, the Syrian regime and its allies are preparing a large-scale military offensive. Sweden continues to call on the Astana guarantors – Russia, Iran and Turkey – to do everything possible to prevent this offensive. I fully support UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who, in the strongest terms, has warned of a bloodbath and stressed that it is imperative to protect civilians. Sweden is making a major contribution to humanitarian efforts. The UN recalls the need for global preparedness to deal with the severe humanitarian consequences of an offensive.

I have spoken to UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura about the situation in Syria and specifically in Idlib. Sweden supports Staffan de Mistura's work and the international efforts to urge those responsible to prevent an offensive, protect civilians and de-escalate the violence. I have also spoken to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, who underscored the importance of creating scope for further negotiations.

As a member of the UN Security Council, Sweden is pushing for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Syria and for the protection of civilians. But ultimately, the responsibility lies with the Syrian regime and its allies, not least Russia and Iran.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Joint Press Statement from the Summit between India and the Nordic countries

Published 17 April 2018

## Visit of H.E. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, to Stockholm 16-17 April 2018.

Today in Stockholm, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of Denmark Lars Løkke Rasmussen, the Prime Minister of Finland Juha Sipilä, the Prime Minister of Iceland Katrín Jakobsdóttir, the Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg and the Prime Minister of Sweden Stefan Löfven held a Summit hosted by the Swedish Prime Minister and the Indian Prime Minister.

During the Summit, the Prime Ministers pledged to deepen cooperation between the Nordic countries and India, and focused their discussions on key issues related to global security, economic growth, innovation and climate change. The Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of free trade as a catalyst for achieving inclusive growth and realising the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Prime Ministers acknowledged that innovation and digital transformation drive growth in an interconnected world and underpin a growing engagement between the Nordic countries and India. The role of the Nordic countries as global innovation leaders was underlined. The Nordic approach to innovation systems, characterised by a strong collaboration between public sector, private sector and academia, was discussed, and synergies were identified with India's rich pool of talent and skills.

The Summit emphasised the Indian Government's strong commitment to innovation and digital initiatives as key to prosperity and sustainable

development, with national flagship programmes such as Make in India, Startup India, Digital India and Clean India. Nordic solutions in clean technologies, maritime solutions, port modernisation, food processing, health, life-sciences and agriculture were mentioned. The Summit welcomed the Nordic Sustainable Cities Project aimed at supporting the Smart Cities Program of the Government of India.

The Prime Ministers noted that the unique strengths of India and the Nordic countries offer immense opportunities for trade and investment diversification and mutually beneficial collaboration. During the talks, the importance of the rules-based multilateral trading system as well as open and inclusive international trade for prosperity and growth was underlined. The Ease of Doing Business practices were emphasised as a priority for both the Nordic countries and India.

The Prime Ministers acknowledged that terrorism and violent extremism are major challenges for the international community. They discussed global security, including cyber security, based upon their shared values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and their commitment to uphold the rules-based international system. They also discussed export control and non-proliferation. The Nordic countries welcomed India's application for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group and reaffirmed their commitment to work constructively within the Group with the aim of reaching a positive outcome at the earliest opportunity.

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their support for the United Nations and the Secretary-General's reform efforts to ensure a UN fit to support Member States to deliver on Agenda 2030 and took note of his proposals to strengthen the UN, including in the areas of development, peace operations, peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The Nordic countries and India reaffirmed the need for reform of the UN Security Council, including its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent seats to make it more representative, accountable, effective and responsive to the realities of the 21st century. The Nordic countries agree that India is a strong candidate for a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council expanded with both permanent and non-permanent members.

The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their full commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development as well as the ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement. They agreed to continue efforts to develop cleaner energy systems, renewable energy and fuels, increased energy efficiency and technologies for cleaner energy production. The Prime

Ministers noted that women's full and meaningful participation in political, social and economic life is key to inclusive development and agreed to promote the empowerment of women.

The Prime Ministers agreed that a strong partnership can help spur innovations, economic growth, sustainable solutions and mutually beneficial trade and investments. The Summit emphasized the importance of strong people-to-people contacts through education, culture, labour mobility and tourism – all areas where the Nordic countries and India see a continuous increase in both interests and numbers.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Sweden-India Joint Action Plan, agreed by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Published 17 April 2018

## Visit of H.E. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, to Stockholm 16-17 April 2018.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Löfven, Prime Minister Modi paid an official visit to Stockholm on 16-17 April 2018.

Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Löfven met on 17 April and recalled their Joint Statement issued in Mumbai in 2016, welcomed progress so far on its implementation and reconfirmed their commitment to the Joint Statement as the overall political framework for cooperation.

India and Sweden share values of democracy, rule of law, respect of human rights, pluralism and a rule-based international order. Both Prime Ministers reiterated their commitment to dialogue and cooperation on key international issues of mutual concern, including climate change, Agenda 2030, international peace and security, human rights, gender equality, humanitarian issues, international trade. The Prime Ministers underlined the urgency to step up global efforts to combat climate change, and emphasized their common continued commitment to the Paris Agreement. Both sides agreed to continue security policy dialogue at the level of National Security Advisors, in line with the Joint Statement.

Both Prime Ministers agreed to close cooperation in the UN, and other multilateral fora. They took note of the UN Secretary-General's reform efforts to ensure a UN fit to support Member States to deliver on Agenda

2030. They also reaffirmed the need for reform of the UN Security Council, including its expansion, to make it more representative, accountable, effective, and responsive to the realities of the 21st century. Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Löfven for Sweden's support to India's candidature for non-permanent membership of United Nations Security Council (2021-22) and for Sweden's support to India's permanent membership of a reformed and expanded United Nations Security Council.

Both Prime Ministers expressed their commitment to support and strengthen global export control, non-proliferation and disarmament objectives and looked forward to close cooperation in these areas. Prime Minister Löfven welcomed India's recent accession to the international export control regimes, including to Australia Group (AG), Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC), and expressed support for India's membership of the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG).

Both Prime Ministers called for greater unity and stronger international partnership to counter terrorism, disrupt terrorist networks and financing, and to prevent violent extremism. They emphasized that the global counter terrorism legal framework should be regularly updated to address the changing threat of terrorism with strength, and underscored that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with international law. In this regard both countries called for an early finalisation of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

To further promote bilateral cooperation, they decided on the following India-Sweden Joint Action Plan, under which India and Sweden, through relevant ministries, agencies and actors, aim to:

## Innovation

- Initiate a multi-stake holder Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future, underpinning our mutual commitment to drive prosperity and growth and address societal challenges such as climate change and sustainable development through innovation.

- Carry out dialogue and cooperative activities in the field of intellectual property rights under the MoU signed between the Swedish Patent Registration Office and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion of India.

## Trade and investment

- Encourage trade and facilitate investment in both directions, such as Sweden's investment in India through 'Invest India' and Indian investment in Sweden through 'Business Sweden'.
- Encourage the work of the India-Sweden Business Leaders Round Table (ISBLRT) to further strengthen India-Sweden business cooperation within inter alia smart cities, digitization, skills development and defence, and to move its relations, ideas, partnerships and recommendations forward.

## Smart Cities and Next Generation Transport

- Exchange knowledge and explore cooperation on smart cities, including transit-oriented urban development, air pollution control, waste management, waste-to-energy, waste-water treatment, district cooling and circular economy, including through dialogue and capacity building.
- Exchange know-how and explore cooperation in the areas of electro-mobility as well as renewable fuels.
- Exchange know-how and explore cooperation in the area of railways, such as railway policy development, safety, training and operation and maintenance of railways.

## Smart, sustainable and renewable energy

- Engage and seek mutual collaboration on the demonstration and development of smart grid technologies such as smart metering, demand response, power quality management, distribution automation, electric vehicle/charging infrastructure as well as renewable integration, through research, capacity building, policy cooperation and learning on market design prerequisites including business models.
- Expand research, innovation and business cooperation on new innovative energy technologies through the India-Sweden Innovations' Accelerator, focusing on technologies to utilise renewable energy and energy efficiency.

## Women's skills development and empowerment

- Encourage joint efforts towards women's empowerment by skilling

employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women through projects such as “Kraftsamla” - a project undertaken by Swedish and Indian actors in Pune, Maharashtra which provides skills training for women in jobs suitable for industry such as forklift drivers, warehouse managers, assembly operators and more.

## Defence

- Explore the finalization of a bilateral agreement on exchange and mutual protection of classified information for cooperation in the defence area.
- Enhance Indo-Swedish dialogue on defence cooperation. Proceed with India-Sweden defence seminars in India and Sweden in 2018-19 and explore, together with the ISBLRT, opportunities for investment in Defence Production Corridors in India.
- Encourage industry partners to develop supply chains for small and medium sized enterprises (SME) with major Defence & Aerospace Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

## Space and science

- Acknowledge the importance of bilateral cooperation on space research, technology, innovation and applications. Encourage the space agencies and other space entities to enhance space cooperation under the Memorandum of Understanding, particularly in Earth observation, planetary exploration and satellite ground station activities, through inter alia an Indo-Swedish Space Seminar and a visit by an Indian delegation to Swedish space establishments.
- Explore possible collaboration between the European Spallation Source (ESS), hosted by Sweden, and Indian partners.

## Health and Life Sciences

- Enhance collaboration on the priority issues identified in the field of health, such as health research, pharmacovigilance and anti-microbial resistance, under the Memorandum of Understanding in the field of health care and public health.

## Follow-up

- The Indo-Swedish Joint Commission on Scientific and Economic Affairs, Foreign Office Consultations and other relevant bilateral fora and Joint Working Groups will oversee the implementation of this Action Plan.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Joint Declaration on Sweden-India Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future

Published 17 April 2018

The governments of Sweden and India hereby agree to deepen our collaboration in the field of innovation through a strategic innovation partnership. The innovation partnership represents a step-change in India-Sweden science and innovation collaboration, underpinning our mutual commitment to drive prosperity and address global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development through innovation.

The partnership sets the framework for future cooperation to jointly tackle societal challenges including innovation driven challenges on cross sectoral issues with multi-stakeholder/agency participation from both countries. The partnership will cover co-operation across a wide spectrum, from the creation of effective innovation systems to the commercialisation of new technologies. The partnership is based on the principles of co-funding, co-development and co-creation, towards mutual benefits, making full use of our complementary strengths. The partnership will deepen the long and fruitful relations between our countries, building upon the Joint Statement between our Prime Ministers issued in Mumbai 2016 and the Joint Action Plan agreed in Stockholm in 2018. Existing MoUs in areas such as science and technology, sustainable urban development, biotechnology, energy, environment, space, and health and disease prevention will play an encompassing role in the partnership.

Sweden and India will explore ways to increase the impact of our bilateral

cooperation in innovation, science and technology, at multiple levels and by engaging stakeholders from government, agencies, industry, enterprises and academia. We also agree to encourage innovation funding agencies and industry to develop joint programmes and calls, in dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

The Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation in Sweden, together with the Ministry of Science and Technology in India (Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology) are the leading partners for developing collaboration within the partnership, including, but not limited to, the following areas and activities:

## Areas for collaboration

- Smart cities and transportation including e-mobility
- Smart industry, digitalisation, start-ups and IPR issues
- New materials and advanced manufacturing
- Space and aeronautics
- Circular and bio-based economy including biomaterials
- Health and life sciences including biomedical devices

## Activities to deepen our cooperation

### Sweden-India Innovation Dialogue

Both countries will explore how to optimize the formal bilateral collaboration mechanisms, to increase synergies between policy areas and enable exchange of experiences and best practice regarding innovation policies and the creation of innovation ecosystems. This will include establishing a Sweden-India Innovation Dialogue with key innovation stakeholders from relevant line ministries and agencies to provide overall strategic direction for innovation policy development. The dialogue will be supported and advised by an Expert group.

### Sweden-India Partnership Development Activities

Both countries will organise Partnership Development Activities (PDA) in the identified areas of collaboration, to enable information dissemination and promote networking of key research agencies, industry players, enterprises, R&D institutions and other funding agencies to identify common challenges

and develop joint projects. The PDA will also be a forum for communicating and showcasing the wide range of existing Indo-Swedish innovation activities.

## **Sweden-India Joint Industrial R&D Projects**

Both countries will jointly commit to co-funding for support of bilateral innovation projects. Both countries will launch challenge-based joint industrial R&D and technological innovation projects to address challenges and opportunities identified by both sides. The projects will be funded on an 'n+n model' that combines funding from government and businesses. The joint funding will increase the impact and concrete deliverables of the innovation collaboration by investing in jointly developed projects, making full use of the comparative strengths of our industries and innovation systems.

## **Sweden-India Start-up Collaboration**

Both countries will explore opportunities for start-up innovation collaboration, to accelerate the transition of research and technology development into commercial propositions. The start-up collaboration can be based out of existing structures in India, and may include the creation of an incubator exchange program for Swedish and Indian start-ups, including incubator managers, as well as offering a forum to facilitate cooperation between incubators and technology clusters. The start-up collaboration may result in the creation of bilateral innovation challenges for start-ups in Sweden and India. Both countries will also encourage activities to bring the innovation clusters in Sweden and India together.

## **Research and Innovation Infrastructure and Testbeds**

Both countries will explore the establishing of mechanisms to facilitate mutual access to research and innovation infrastructure in both countries. This may include collaboration between testbeds and the creation of open innovation arenas, new testbeds and living labs, within the areas for collaboration mentioned above.

## **The way ahead**

The implementation of the innovation partnership will be supported by a roadmap document that will be developed by the Swedish Ministry of

Enterprise and Innovation together with the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology (Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology) in consultation with other line ministries, as appropriate. Meetings will be set up on a regular basis throughout 2018 and onwards, with due involvement and support from both sides. Joint activities will be coordinated between agencies designated by the Indian government and the Swedish government. To ensure a comprehensive approach with maximum impact, relevant institutional and government stakeholders on both sides, as well as business representatives, research institutes and academia will be invited to contribute to these activities, as appropriate.

Progress in the implementation of the partnership will be reported to the Ministers of Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology in 2020, for review and assessment.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Statement in relation to the anniversary of the murder of Zaida Catalán

Published 12 March 2018

## Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

One year ago, Zaida Catalán and Michael Sharp disappeared. They were later found brutally murdered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The loss has been deeply felt. In Sweden, Zaida was important to many people. Before becoming an international civil servant, she had been a youth leader of one of the political parties now in government. Indeed, she was always on a mission to change the world for the better; to make it more just, equal and dignified. She was energetic, with contagious enthusiasm and an unwavering commitment to her ideals and service.

Since day one, the Swedish government has worked to ensure that the murders are fully investigated, and the perpetrators brought to justice. We support the work of the follow-on mechanism appointed by the Secretary-General to assist Congolese investigative authorities. Further international investigation may be necessary. And if so, we will call for it and work to ensure it is carried out. No stone should be left unturned in this work.

This is important not only for the sake of achieving justice for Zaida and Michael. It also matters because they worked for the UN, as members of a group mandated by the Security Council. The safety of sanctions experts must be ensured, because this must never happen again. For this reason, Sweden took the initiative to include a specific criterion related to sanctions expert in the sanction regime for the DRC. Work is also underway within the UN system to review security routines for experts in the field. Sweden will

continue to promote human rights and democratic development in the DRC,  
to carry forward the legacy of Zaida and Michael.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Published 10 December 2017

I am outraged by the attack on the synagogue in Gothenburg yesterday and that violence against Jews was incited at a demonstration in Malmö. There is no place for anti-Semitism in Swedish society. The perpetrators must be held to account. All democratic forces must now work together to build a tolerant and open society in which everyone feels safe.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Published 25 September 2017

This evening, I congratulated Angela Merkel on her victory in the German elections. I look forward to continuing to develop our close cooperation – bilaterally, in Europe and globally. It is important to continue this work together for a strong and democratic Europe.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Congratulations from Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Published 01 September 2017

“We are delighted today to hear that Princess Sofia, Prince Carl Philip and big brother Alexander have a new addition to their family. I offer my warmest congratulations to the growing family,” says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Published 18 August 2017

I am appalled that yet another European city has been affected by grief and worry following what is feared to be a terrorist attack. My thoughts are with those whose relatives have died or been injured and all of those who have not yet been able to make contact with their loved ones.

We are following developments closely. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is in contact with the Embassy in Madrid and the Consulate in Barcelona, which are ready to assist Swedes on the ground.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Joint Nordic letter to President Trump regarding the Paris Agreement

Published 01 June 2017

Today the Nordic heads of government have sent a joint letter to US President Trump regarding the future of the Paris Agreement

1 June 2017

His Excellency  
Mr Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States of America

Dear Mr President,

In Paris, in December 2015, global leaders made a commitment. To our children. To future generations. To the world.

We must reduce global warming. The effects are already visible in all parts of our planet. It is of crucial importance that all parties stick to the Paris Agreement.

We strongly urge you to show global leadership – and to make the right decision.

With the very best of intentions.

Your Nordic Friends,

Lars Løkke Rasmussen  
Juha Sipilä

Bjarni Benediktsson  
Erna Solberg  
Stefan Löfven



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven concerning the attack in Manchester

Published 23 May 2017

Last night the world witnessed a horrific attack, targeting children, young people and their parents on their way home following a concert in Manchester. This was a brutal and senseless act that breaks the heart of everyone with any human empathy. We mourn the dead; our thoughts go to the families whose loved ones did not come home, and to those whose lives have been changed forever. Sweden shares the shock and outrage of the British people.

British police are treating this as an act of terrorism. The Swedish Government is following the situation closely and is in close contact with the British authorities. We stand ready to assist in any way we can in this dark hour.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by the Prime Minister of Sweden on the result of the French election

Published 07 May 2017

- We congratulate Emmanuel Macron on his victory in the French presidential election. This is a victory for the French people and for European cooperation. New opportunities will now open up for the proactive agenda needed to strengthen the EU, including more jobs and fair working conditions, a stronger climate policy and a functioning asylum system in which everyone takes responsibility.
- Cooperation between Sweden and France is strong. The Government will now forge new ties with Macron's government and work with them to advance European cooperation.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on Drottninggatan, Stockholm, 8 April

Published 08 April 2017

– Today is a day of mourning. The whole of Sweden is grieving the victims of yesterday's horrific attack. Four people have died and 15 are injured.

The aim of this kind of attack is to spread fear and hate. Over the last twenty-four hours, Sweden has also shown itself at its best. We have helped each other, supported each other, and opened up our homes. This shows that there is a strength in Sweden that nobody can take away from us.

The Swedish Security Service and Swedish Police work around the clock to prevent and deter this kind of act. But sadly, it is simply not possible to guarantee that they will never happen. The Government has implemented a range of measures to combat terrorism and violent extremism. In the period ahead, we will need to take further measures, both at national level and at EU and international level. We will do everything in our power to ensure that people feel safe in Sweden. And Sweden does not stand alone. Condolences are arriving from people all over the world; they are with us, and we are with them.

A memorial ceremony will be held at 12.00 on Monday 10 April. In connection with this, a minute's silence will be held. Today, the whole of Sweden mourns. But we will get through this – together.

We are very grateful for the expressions of solidarity and condolences from around the world after yesterday's attack in Stockholm.



Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven in connection with the incident in Stockholm

Published 08 April 2017

Today we have suffered a horrific attack in the heart of our capital. At 14.53 a truck ploughed down Drottninggatan in Stockholm and into Åhléns department store. We know that four people have died. Many more are injured. An entire country is united, in mourning, anger and resolve.

Firstly, to those of you who today are mourning a loss or are worried about someone who is injured, I want you to know that Sweden is by your side.

The police have reinforced their presence throughout the country and in strategic locations, and report that a person has been apprehended. The National Task Force is in operation. The Swedish Armed Forces are on heightened alert. The Government has gathered together. We have been keeping up-to-date and ensuring that the authorities have the resources they need and are supporting them in their efforts. We have also decided to strengthen border controls. We still urge everyone to be vigilant and to follow the information from the police.

The police are investigating this as a likely terrorist attack. If it is a terrorist attack, and regardless of whether it was carried out by an organisation or a lone perpetrator, the aim of terrorism is to undermine democracy. To sow discord between people, so that more people will begin to hate and distrust one another. But those kinds of acts will never succeed in Sweden. We know that our enemy is this kind of vile murderer – not one another. We will use all of Sweden's strength to track you down. Our message will always be clear: You cannot suppress us. You cannot control our lives. You will never win.

We are not alone. Leaders from all around the world have sent their messages of sympathy. At this difficult time Sweden is also showing its strength. The police, hospitals and rescue service personnel are working hard to help and ensure security for others. People in Stockholm have opened up their homes and workplaces to each other and displayed compassion, warmth and respect. You make Sweden proud.

I know that many are now worried and frightened. Many of us tonight are hugging those we love more tightly. The Government and I will work tirelessly to ensure your security. Take care of each other. Together we will take care of Sweden.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Published 07 April 2017

Sweden has been attacked. All indications are that it was a terrorist attack. Our thoughts are with the victims, their families and those injured.

The Government is being kept up-to-date and is doing everything it can to assist the relevant authorities in their work. I encourage everyone to be vigilant and to pay attention to the information from the police.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement on 5 April by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven regarding the chemical weapons attack in Syria

Published 05 April 2017 Updated 06 April 2017

The war in Syria is a shameful stain on humanity.

Yesterday, in Idlib province in Syria, there was an attack on a rebel-controlled area. There are strong indications that this was the worst attack using chemical weapons since August 2013, when the Security Council decided that all such weapons should be eliminated in Syria. This attack must be added to other war crimes carried out during the conflict in Syria.

There are no words to describe the images of parents trying to save their children from being suffocated by the poisonous gases.

Today, the Security Council will consider a resolution condemning the attack, requiring a rapid international investigation of the chemical weapons attack and underlining the importance of holding those responsible to account. Sweden will do everything we can to ensure the resolution is adopted.



Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the UK's intention to withdraw from the EU

Published 29 March 2017

## Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the UK's intention to withdraw from the EU.

Prime Minister Theresa May intends today, 29 March, to notify the European Council of the United Kingdom's intention to withdraw from the EU. The notification will start the clock ticking and the UK will leave the EU when an agreement on the withdrawal takes effect, but not later than two years after the notification unless the European Council unanimously decides to extend the deadline.

"The UK has been a close and valuable partner in the EU. We regret the UK's decision to leave the EU, but it's good that the negotiation process can now begin after quite a long waiting period. I welcome the constructive approach in Prime Minister May's letter. I would like to see orderly and results-oriented negotiations, and want our relationship with the UK to be as positive and mutually beneficial as possible even after the withdrawal. This is important for the UK, the EU and for Sweden," says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

"Sweden's key priorities are a good financial agreement where the UK pays for commitments made, and a good solution for the EU citizens who have exercised their right to settle in the UK, and vice versa. In the future relationship between the EU and the UK, we want trade relations to be as favourable as possible, and we want effective cooperation to continue in other areas, including security," says Mr Löfven.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Published 29 March 2017

## Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the death of Zaida Catalán in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is with great sorrow and dismay that I have learned that Zaida Catalán was killed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Zaida Catalán, employed by the UN as a humanitarian expert, was there to strengthen peace in the country. This task is crucial for creating greater security in the entire region and inspiring hope in a country long plagued by violence and destruction.

Zaida Catalán worked tirelessly for peace and justice, and risked her own life to save others. We mourn the fact that one more person has lost their life in the service of the UN and of peace; we share the sense of loss and despair with her family and friends, while also feeling a deep sense of gratitude for her work.

We must now find out what happened to Zaida Catalán, her colleagues and the others affected. The UN and the Democratic Republic of the Congo must investigate this incident and hold those responsible to account. Sweden is naturally ready to assist in this work.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the events in Berlin and Ankara

Published 20 December 2016 Updated 20 December 2016

## Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the events in Berlin and Ankara.

"Appalling events have taken place this evening. In what may have been an attack in Berlin, innocent people were killed and injured as they prepared to celebrate Christmas. In Ankara, the Russian Ambassador has been murdered in an attack on the freedom for diplomats to safely represent their countries. Two more terrible outrages are added to the roster of 2016.

"This evening, my thoughts go to all of the families and friends who are grieving, and to the countries affected. The Government is following the situation closely. We are in close contact with both the German and Turkish authorities, and we currently have no information indicating that any Swedish citizens have been injured in the attacks."



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement

# Statement from the Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the outcome of the US presidential election

Published 09 November 2016 Updated 09 November 2016

This is an election outcome that many people feel concerned about but that we have prepared for.

Sweden has a long tradition of cooperation with US governments, regardless of party political affiliations, and the Swedish Government will contact the administration that takes office at an early stage to safeguard Swedish and European interests, and to promote global security and stability.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the death of Shimon Peres

Published 28 September 2016 Updated 28 September 2016

With the death of Shimon Peres, Israel has lost a legendary leader and the world has lost a champion of peace. Shimon Peres was part of the generation who founded modern Israel. He will be remembered for his decades as a leading political representative in Israel for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister on the events in Turkey

Published 16 July 2016 Updated 16 July 2016

The situation in Turkey is serious and continues to be of great concern. The military coup appears to have failed but the situation still doesn't seem to be completely under the control of the Turkish Government.

I understand that many Swedes in Turkey are worried and afraid in these uncertain circumstances. The Swedish Government is working with the relevant authorities to ensure that you can feel safe and secure. At this point in time, we have no information regarding Swedish casualties, but those who are in the country are urged to contact their families and keep themselves updated. The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs' advice against all unnecessary travel to Turkey remains in place.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven concerning the events in Nice

Published 15 July 2016 Updated 15 July 2016

The reports from Nice are horrific. This is an attack on innocent people and at the same time it is an attack on our open and democratic society. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to the people of France. My thoughts tonight are with the victims and their loved ones.

The Government is following the situation closely. We are monitoring the scale of the attack and how Swedes in the area are affected by the events.



Statement

# Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the results of the referendum in the United Kingdom

Published 24 June 2016 Updated 24 June 2016

It is now clear that the people of the United Kingdom have voted to leave the European Union. We respect their decision, but it is a serious one - primarily for the people of the UK, who had a great deal to gain by remaining, but also for the EU.

Sweden will now lose an important partner in the EU. We have often pursued issues together, not least important trade issues. The UK will remain an important partner for Sweden in its new role outside the EU.

The Swedish Government's starting point is responsibility for Sweden. What we need now is stability and a long-term approach. The fact that the UK is leaving the EU will have major repercussions. But we remain convinced of the importance of European cooperation. Our need for effective European cooperation has never been greater. This is particularly true for Sweden, which is a small, export-dependent country. The EU offers us greater opportunities to resolve the problems of our time, but it also enhances the conditions for more jobs and higher growth. And it safeguards peace and security.

At the same time, the debate and campaigning in the run-up to the referendum should serve as a wake-up call for Europe. They elicited stark polarisation and disturbing nationalism. This shows that EU cooperation must be developed and improved.

We must be able to demonstrate that our cooperation is actually capable of

tackling our common challenges in the way that people expect it to. We must have fair conditions in the European labour market. Climate and environmental challenges know no borders. And all EU Member States must take responsibility for the refugees fleeing to Europe.

Our cooperation must always inspire the confidence of our peoples. We must build an EU for the people, by the people, with the people – an EU that delivers in people's everyday lives.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the murder of British parliamentarian Jo Cox

Published 16 June 2016 Updated 16 June 2016

## Statement 16 June 2016

My fellow party colleague has been killed in a heinous attack. The murder of Jo Cox is an attack on democracy because it is an attack on a person serving it. This is why it concerns all of us who believe in a free society. My thoughts are with Jo Cox's family and her colleagues.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Joint statement on the occasion of the State Visit by President Michelle Bachelet to Sweden, 10-12 May 2016

Published 10 May 2016 Updated 10 May 2016

## Joint statement by President Michelle Bachelet and Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

Considering the solid and historic bilateral ties of friendship between Chile and Sweden and the proximity of the 200th anniversary of bilateral relations;

Reaffirming the importance both countries attach to the preservation of peace and international security, democratic principles, the promotion of human rights and social justice, and the rule of law;

Stressing their readiness to cooperate on strengthening multilateralism, the preservation of peace and international security, disarmament and non-proliferation, sustainable development and environmental preservation;

Reaffirming an interest in furthering partnership, in particular in the fields of trade and investment, science, technology and innovation, sustainable energy, climate change, sustainable development, welfare policies and cultural exchange, to the benefit of the Chilean and Swedish societies;

The Government of the Republic of Chile and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden have agreed as follows:

### I Regular bilateral consultations

Chile and Sweden will continue to hold regular political consultations to

develop and identify opportunities for closer bilateral cooperation as well as joint action in the international arena.

## II Trade and investment

Chile and Sweden reassert their commitment to expand and diversify bilateral trade, boost investment flows and enhance their dialogue on global and bilateral economic and commercial issues.

Chile and Sweden welcome the Chile-Sweden Business Forum on the occasion of President Michelle Bachelet's State Visit to Sweden, with the participation of private and public companies and governmental institutions. Chile acknowledges the permanent support given by Sweden to the process of negotiating the modernisation of its Association Agreement with the European Union. Both countries recognise the importance of the participation of Sweden as an observer state to the Pacific Alliance, which paves the way for future cooperation with the member countries of the Pacific Alliance.

## III Corporate Social Responsibility

Sustainable business, including respect for human rights, is of growing importance in the international debate. Export-oriented countries like Chile and Sweden should work together to promote sustainable business around the world. Social dialogue between the parties on the labour market is of crucial importance when doing business in a responsible way.

Chile and Sweden have strengthened their collaboration on Corporate Social Responsibility by signing a Memorandum of Understanding in which human rights, social dialogue, environmental issues and anti-corruption are given special attention. In this regard, both countries also stress the importance of the Global Deal initiative launched by Sweden and sustainable business as a comparative advantage for companies.

## IV Cooperation in the area of welfare

Chile and Sweden have reaffirmed their satisfaction with and commitment to their cooperation in the area of welfare by signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Both countries share a strong ambition to achieve equitable and gender-

equal welfare systems/societies for their citizens. Gender equality, health care, public health, geriatric care and the rights of children are examples of areas where Sweden and Chile could share experience and learn from each other.

## V Green technologies and innovation, sustainable urban development, and sustainable infrastructure and public procurement

How cities are planned, and how transportation, housing and industry are coordinated, is very important for a healthy environment, sustainable growth and good quality of life for citizens. New innovative solutions, such as bio-based fuels for public transportation, could strengthen development in both countries. By utilising organic waste for the production of biogas, a perceived problem can be transformed into a resource.

By signing a Memorandum of Understanding, both countries have also committed themselves to exploring opportunities for cooperation in the field of sustainable energy, with the ambition of accelerating the transition to a clean energy future.

Both countries welcome Chile's signing of a Declaration of Intent regarding a Global Stars pilot call as part of the process of becoming an associated member of EUREKA, a network that promotes transnational research, development and innovation collaboration.

## VI Sustainable mining and green technologies

The mining industry is of great importance in both Chile and Sweden in terms of exports, growth and job creation/employment.

Chile and Sweden have signed a Memorandum of Understanding promoting bilateral cooperation related to sustainable and innovative mining. The priorities for cooperation are improved efficiency and profitability, innovation, mining skills development and industry. It will encourage the establishment of contacts between government and professional operators in the private sector.

## VII Sustainable forest management

Both Chile and Sweden have unique forest resources. Sustainable forest

management contributes to both countries' shared effort to tackle climate change and achieve sustainable development.

The countries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further develop their collaboration in the area of sustainable forest management. Bioenergy, wood construction, research and innovation, the participation of smallholders and forest owners, and gender equality are strategically important areas of collaboration.

Both countries welcome the agreement signed between the Chilean Development Cooperation Agency (CORFO) and the SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden to coordinate activities aimed at facilitating and promoting joint projects related to wood construction systems.

## VIII Cooperation on science, technology and education

Both sides reaffirm their mutual interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of research and higher education.

The parties took note of the agreement between the universities of Lund and Uppsala and the University of Chile and the Pontifical Catholic University to organise academic forums open to researchers from both countries.

## IX Working holidays

Chile and Sweden have signed a working holiday agreement. With this agreement in place, young people will be able to travel more freely and improve their knowledge of a different language and culture. The agreement creates possibilities for the individual and strengthens the ties between our countries.

## X Cooperation on cultural exchange

Chile and Sweden reassert their interest in working towards expanding bilateral cultural exchange based on mutual cultural dissemination in creative areas such as literature, music and cinema.

## XI Cooperation on triangular development cooperation

Chile and Sweden affirm their preparedness to work together for sustainable development in third countries where cooperation projects of mutual interest are identified.

## XII Implementation

At the regular bilateral political consultations, Chile and Sweden will take stock of progress made in implementing the agreements announced today. The two countries may decide to establish joint additional steering groups to monitor implementation in specific areas.

### Annex 1

#### Examples of possible joint actions as a follow-up of the State Visit

- Chile-Sweden Business Forum will allow the establishment of new contacts and the possibility of increasing trade and investment.
- Participation of the Swedish Ambassador for CSR in a seminar on Business and Human Rights to be held in Santiago de Chile at the end of May 2016.
- Continue collaboration and exchange of experiences regarding CSR practices, enhanced social dialogue in the labour market [Global Deal] and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Explore an exchange and collaboration between SENCE and the Swedish Public Employment Agency.
- Exchange of information and experience in the planning, formulation and implementation of public policies in the area of health. Learn about how to deal with the progressive ageing of the populations. Carry out a visit to Sweden by a Chilean delegation.
- Visits of experts and professionals to learn about the public policies, policy implementation and best practices implemented to counter the consumption of drugs.
- Exchange of information to promote women's participation in decision-making spheres.

- Study visits to learn about support and assistance in healthcare for the elderly and persons with dementia, including the gender perspective.
- Explore possibilities of cooperation between public sector actors at central and local government level regarding activities to safeguard the rights of the child, including the role and work of the Ombudsman for Children in Sweden.
- Promote cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of Chile and Fryshuset in issues related to the social inclusion of young people.
- Visit to Sweden during the second half of 2016 of a delegation from the Ministry of Energy to study what Sweden is doing in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Visit to Sweden by a delegation from INFOR to study possible cooperation with Skogforsk Institute.
- Implementation of the MOU signed by CORFO and the SP Technical Research Institute.
- The first meeting between the universities of Lund and Uppsala and the University of Chile and the Pontifical Catholic University will be held in the city of Lund in 2017, initiating a close scientific cooperation between Sweden and Chile oriented towards joint societal challenges.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the terrorist attacks in Brussels

Published 22 March 2016 Updated 22 March 2016

Brussels has been hit by terrorist attacks, and although the scale is not yet fully known, it is an attack on our democratic Europe. We will never accept terrorists attacking our open societies.

The Swedish Government is following the situation minute by minute.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Joint statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Published 15 February 2016 Updated 15 February 2016

Visit of H.E. Mr Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden, to India from 12-14 February 2016

## New Momentum, Higher Ambition

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Stefan Löfven met in Mumbai on 13 February on the occasion of the Make in India Week.
2. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the growing vigour in relations between the two countries. Both Prime Ministers recognized how the respective strengths and character of the two countries and economies together underpin the great potential in the bilateral partnership. They noted that India's economic development and rise as a global power has created new opportunities to further deepen and extend this partnership to foster economic growth and inclusive development in both countries as well as to meet global challenges. The Prime Ministers agreed to scale up bilateral relations and committed to a close bilateral dialogue at all levels.
3. They welcomed the successful State visit of the Honourable President of India to Sweden in 2015. They appreciated the revival of the NSA-level bilateral dialogue and welcomed the commitment of the counterparts to develop a roadmap for a deepened engagement on issues of mutual strategic interest. They further looked forward to the next round of Foreign Office Consultations and the next bi-annual ministerial meeting of the Indo-Swedish Joint Commission on Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation.

A growing Economic Partnership

4. Prime Minister Modi welcomed the high-level business delegation accompanying Prime Minister Löfven. Both Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the upward trend in bilateral trade and investments.

5. Prime Minister Löfven welcomed the 'Make in India' initiative. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that Swedish companies had been Making in India for many decades and had created employment opportunities directly and indirectly for approximately 1.2 million people. They agreed that the 'Make in India' initiative had improved conditions for these companies to expand and deepen their investments. Prime Minister Löfven welcomed the Indian government's efforts to improve the Ease of Doing Business. The leaders noted with satisfaction the favourable result of the recent Sweden Business Climate Survey, where 80 % of Swedish companies in India shared their intent to invest further in the coming years.

6. The two Prime Ministers committed to a continued dialogue within the framework of the Joint Commission to enhance the environment for doing business in their respective countries and further facilitate and promote bilateral economic cooperation. Both Prime Ministers supported a stronger business-to-business dialogue between the two countries and welcomed the creation of an India-Sweden Business Leaders' Round Table.

7. The two governments underlined the particular importance of information technology and digital industries in both countries as a key driver of growth and prosperity. Prime Minister Löfven welcomed the "Digital India" initiative of the Indian Government. Recognizing the potential benefits of expanding and deepening cooperation in this area, both sides endorsed the creation of a new Joint Working Group on Digital Technologies and Economy.

8. Prime Minister Löfven welcomed India's "Smart Cities" programme. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the launch of the Joint Working Group on Sustainable Urban Development under the MoU signed in 2015 and agreed to encourage their companies and government agencies to support the development of Smart Cities. They looked forward to the finalization of a Joint Action Plan, focusing on digital land management, solid waste management and urban transport. In the context of the MoU, the Swedish side also expressed interest in focusing on one or more cities for development as smart cities.

9. The two Prime Ministers noted that Sweden is recognized as one of the leading nations in the world in innovation and that India has a vast pool of

talented professionals and is known for its world-class engineering. They agreed that this creates synergies to be explored by both business and government partnerships. Prime Minister Löfven, chairman of the Swedish National Innovation Council, extended an invitation to an Indian delegation to visit Sweden for a bilateral Sweden-India Innovation Dialogue.

10. The two Prime Minister welcomed the ongoing bilateral cooperation in Education and the many new academic partnerships that were agreed during the visit to Sweden of the President of India.

11. The two Prime Minister took note of the active cooperation in Science & Technology under the inter-governmental agreement and welcomed the new programme launched between India's Department of Science & Technology and the Swedish Research Council on collaborative research projects, with support from other Swedish governmental agencies.

12. The two Prime Ministers recognized the great potential for exchange in the area of Transport and Infrastructure and agreed to explore a deeper collaboration. They welcomed the finalization of the text of a MoU on Co-operation in the Rail sector and acknowledged the potential business opportunities for the rail industry as well as opportunities of cooperation in research and education in the sector.

13. The Prime Ministers expressed their appreciation for the ongoing cooperation under the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Environment, signed in November 2009. They looked forward to future cooperation within the Indo-Swedish Working Group on Cooperation in the field of Environmental Protection.

14. The two Prime Ministers emphasized the importance of skills development to prepare young people for the jobs of the 21st Century and noted with satisfaction the important contribution made by the skills development programmes of Swedish companies in India. They encouraged the companies to consider opportunities to scale up skill development to cover larger number of people. Both sides also noted the mutual benefits of facilitating labour mobility.

15. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the ongoing cooperation under the Memorandum of Understanding on Health, covering a large variety of areas including maternal and child health and public health policy as well as antimicrobial resistance. The Prime Ministers also recognized the potential business opportunities in the health sector and looked forward to the next

meeting in the Joint Working Group, in March, as an occasion to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

16. The Prime Ministers welcomed cooperation under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Swedish National Space Board (SNSB) signed in 1986 and agreed to intensify collaboration in space science, exploration of the solar system, earth observation, climate and environmental studies and efficient use of space-related resources available in India as well as in Sweden such as satellite ground stations.

#### Cooperation on Defence matters

17. It was agreed that India and Sweden will enhance dialogue on Defence in key areas. They welcomed progress in the Joint Working Group under the MoU on Defence including plans for India-Sweden defence seminars in India in spring 2016 focusing on aviation, maritime security as well as combat training and simulation in the army domain. The two prime ministers acknowledged the potential for successful collaboration and agreed that under the rubric of Make in India, cooperation possibilities between their respective defence industries could be identified and taken forward appropriately, including in the field of aviation.

#### People-to-people ties

18. Both sides recognized that enhancing awareness of each other's cultures boosts people-to-people ties and welcomed reciprocal festivals of 'Namaste Stockholm' in Sweden and Sweden-India Nobel Memorial Week in India. Both sides welcomed the designation of 21st of June as the International Day of Yoga by the UN General Assembly and recalled that all member states of United Nations had agreed to "observe this day in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise awareness of the benefits of practising yoga".

#### A deepened dialogue on Global Affairs

19. Both Prime Ministers agreed to a deeper bilateral dialogue on UN Issues at both capital and UN-Mission-level. They reiterated the need for urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council through an expansion in both categories of membership, to make it more effective and representative of the contemporary geo-political realities. Prime Minister Löfven expressed the view that it would be inconceivable that an important global actor such

as India not be a Permanent Member of an enlarged Security Council and said that he will seek Parliamentary support for this view. The two countries called for forward movement in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform, and stressed their commitment to initiate text-based negotiations within the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly. Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India's support for Sweden's candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for 2017-2018.

20. In their joint efforts to strengthen global non-proliferation and disarmament objectives, India and Sweden committed to work towards India's further participation in the multilateral export control regimes.

21. The two prime ministers recognized the common interest in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism and the benefits of a closer dialogue and mutual exchange of information and good practices. They looked forward to an exchange of visits of their respective Special Envoys, with a view to explore agency level cooperation, capacity building, countering violent extremism experience sharing, and cooperation in developing an international framework against terrorism including elaborating and finalizing a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

22. The Prime Ministers are committed to promote human rights online, cyber security, combat cybercrime, and develop a common understanding on international cyber issues and support an open, inclusive, transparent and multi-stakeholder system of internet governance as well as the application of international law in cyberspace. In this regard, both sides agreed to explore cooperation among relevant agencies through a second round of bilateral consultations on cyber issues.

23. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the Paris Agreement and its objective to hold the global temperature increase well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C. Addressing climate change and promoting secure, affordable and sustainable supplies of energy are shared strategic priorities for India and Sweden, and the Prime Ministers welcomed the active ongoing collaboration under the Memorandum of Understanding on Sweden-India Renewable Energy Cooperation and the announcement by the Swedish Energy Agency to contribute US Dollars 5 million towards funding for research and pilot projects in India in 2016-2018.

24. The two Prime Ministers also welcomed the adoption of the "Agenda

2030 for Sustainable Development" and committed to supporting its implementation. They recognised the universal, indivisible and integrated nature of the Agenda 2030 which balances the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, the social and the environmental.

25. Based on long democratic traditions in both countries, the two Prime Ministers expressed a continued commitment to democracy, rule of law, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They welcomed the fruitful cooperation between the two countries on strengthening the role of democratic governance globally, both through the UN, and its subsidiary bodies including the Human Rights Council, and through organizations like International IDEA.

26. The two Prime Ministers agreed on the need to continue and step up efforts to ensure gender equality, respect for women's and girls' rights, and empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life.

27. The two Prime Ministers shared the conviction that the international humanitarian response system must be strengthened and in this context noted the problems of providing timely assistance and relief to people affected by natural disasters and crises. They welcomed the recent India-Sweden Joint Statement to the UN General Assembly on the Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations. They looked forward to the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit on 23-24 May in Istanbul, and stressed the need for constructive and inclusive outcomes.

28. The two Prime Ministers agreed on the need to tap the full potential of the EU-India strategic partnership, and welcomed the intention of the two sides to hold a summit in 2016. They also welcomed the prospect of resumption of talks on the India – EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).

29. Both the Indian and Swedish side remain committed to the WTO and a transparent, fair and predictable global trade regime.

Other issues

30. The two Prime Ministers also discussed other issues of regional and global interest.

31. Prime Minister Löfven invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Sweden on

mutually convenient dates, to be decided through diplomatic channels.

13 February 2016, Mumbai



Statement from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Today we celebrate the United Nations' 70th anniversary and Sweden's UN membership

Published 24 October 2015 Updated 24 October 2015

Today we celebrate United Nations Day. And we are doing so in a world that is more uncertain than for many years and in which the United Nations is needed more than ever. Global crises and challenges require common solutions.

Sweden is ready to assume its share of responsibility. This is why Sweden is strengthening its engagement in the UN and why we are seeking a seat on the Security Council for 2017–2018.

Sweden's UN policy contributes to peace, security, sustainable development and gender equality. It is part of a solidarity-based foreign policy and a means for responding to crises that affect us.

Sweden is one of the top contributors to the UN. We contribute personnel to peace operations, aid, climate financing and humanitarian assistance. Our contributions also include engagement, resources and ideas.

We also set clear requirements for a modern, effective, transparent and legitimate United Nations that is equipped to meet future challenges and take advantage of future opportunities.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Prime Minister Stefan Löfven's statement in response to the violence in Trollhättan

Published 22 October 2015 Updated 22 October 2015

22 October Following the dreadful acts of violence that have occurred, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will travel to Trollhättan this afternoon to meet the people concerned and show his sympathy.

“This is a dark day for Sweden. My thoughts go out to the victims and their families, pupils and staff, and the entire community that has been affected. There are no words to describe what they are going through right now. We share in their grief and we will ensure that they are given all the support they need,” says Mr Löfven.



# Joint France-Sweden statement

Published 18 September 2015 Updated 18 September 2015

Stockholm – 18 September 2015.

1. Our bilateral relationship is rich in economic, cultural and human terms. Our friendship is deeply rooted in a common history and has been reconfirmed at the recent State Visit to France by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf and H.M. Queen Silvia. The ties between our two countries have never been stronger than they are today. A deepening of our dialogue, based on common values, confidence and mutual understanding, will help us find concrete answers. Our cooperation will be carried out in an open, flexible and pragmatic manner. It will be responsive to evolving events, challenges and opportunities.

2. At European level, we are pursuing the same goal of working in an inclusive way for a Europe of growth and jobs, a Europe that invests in its future and its youth by promoting an ambitious social model. We want Europe to step up its efforts to find a common solution to the migration crisis. We want Europe to play a leading role in the fight against climate change and we are committed to an ambitious outcome for COP21. We want an influential Europe that promotes sustainable development as well as prevents and resolves conflicts in a spirit of solidarity and assistance as its response to crises.

3. Sweden and France share a common vision regarding international relations. Our countries are deeply committed to promoting the United Nations and working together for peace, security and human rights. We will promote closer collaboration in the area of development cooperation. Our countries are convinced of the importance of combating terrorism.

4. Determined to strengthen our partnership and convergences at European level, we have decided on the following measures:

a) To increase our efforts to respond to the migration crisis situation by

advocating increased responsibility and solidarity among all Member States. It is crucial that all Member States fully apply to the agreed asylum acquis. Improving the European asylum procedures and reinforcing the harmonisation of national rules will, in due time, lead to a truly common European asylum system. Another important component of a comprehensive, balanced and long-term EU migration policy is increased resettlement. In the run up to the conference concerning the Western Balkans and the Valletta Summit on migration, we will address international protection and asylum, prevention and the fight against migrant smuggling, cooperation with countries of origin and transit and mobility opportunities, focusing on development effects, root causes of irregular migration and return issues.

b) To foster initiatives to boost competitiveness and growth in Europe and increase the number of jobs through investment, innovation, free trade agreements, better regulation, structural reforms and sound public finances. At EU level, the investment plan will contribute to increase investments and improve the investment climate, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses. A joint effort will be undertaken, in cooperation with representatives of the French and Swedish business sectors and public institutions, to find the best ways to promote innovation and competitiveness.

c) To take joint action to promote social convergence in Europe, including protecting workers' rights, encouraging mobility while ensuring a sustainable level of social protection through the portability of social rights, and promoting women's labour market participation as important factors for growth, employment, competitiveness and social justice. We are committed to promoting a common view, as regards the improvement of working conditions and, preventing social dumping within the EU, as expressed by Austria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in a joint letter of 18 June to the European Commission, in which we welcome the initiative to start a 'targeted review' of the Posting of Workers Directive. We call on Swedish and French social partners to support these common endeavours by working together.

d) To strengthen our cooperation in preventing extremism and fighting radicalisation, for example in schools, youth detention centres, prisons and on the internet and social media. A French-Swedish seminar will take place on 18 September in Stockholm to exchange views on the best ways of fighting radicalisation, and Mona Sahlin, the Swedish National Coordinator against Violent Extremism, will be invited to visit France as part of the work

to identify key partners among local authorities and civil society.

e) To continue our strong mobilisation in fighting climate change, with the aim of achieving a legally binding and universal climate agreement at the Paris Climate Conference in December 2015 that, over time, contributes to keeping global warming below two degrees. The full mobilisation of civil society and the promotion of a positive agenda, at local and national level, both from the public and the private sector, will be a key point. We encourage Swedish and French think tanks to provide us with new ideas on 'green solutions'. We will continue to consult one another and exchange good practices on eco-friendly solutions for buildings, all modes of transportation, and green and smart cities.

f) To continue to promote a strong European foreign policy. We will jointly identify ideas to feed into a new EU global strategy. We will seek progress in the Middle East peace process and promote a strong EU engagement in our southern and eastern neighbourhoods. Together, we will enhance multilateral cooperation through the United Nations and advance shared objectives, such as our cooperation in promoting safe and secure developments in Mali.

Representatives of our Governments will meet, as appropriate, to further the objectives of the deepened dialogue.



Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Published 07 August 2015 Updated 07 August 2015

It is now 70 years since the atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima. The human race was then faced with a new weapon of mass destruction that had wiped out two cities, killed hundreds of thousands of people and maimed many more.

There was a false belief that these weapons would make us safe. This belief still exists. The threat of nuclear weapons around the world remains. This is why the fight for disarmament and non-proliferation of these diabolical weapons must be intensified. Security is created through people feeling safe, not scared. It relies on cooperation for our common survival, not threats of mutual destruction.

This anniversary is an occasion to pause and reflect. We are remembering so that we can continue to work tirelessly for a world free of nuclear weapons. We honour the victims by doing our utmost to ensure that the suffering that came in the wake of the atomic bomb is never repeated. We must never forget Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Published 08 May 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Over the next few days, people around the world will gather to remember and honour the victims of the deadliest conflict humanity has ever seen.

We have a joint responsibility to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and the unprecedented human suffering caused by the war. It is up to us to pass on the importance of protecting democracy, human dignity and human rights to future generations.

By defending our fundamental values, we can create peaceful, open and inclusive societies. By safeguarding the European and international cooperation that emerged from the ashes of destruction, we can tackle the threats to peace that we see today.

Like so many others who are now taking time to remember, we know that humanity's best means of honouring the victims of the past is to shape a future in which the events of the Second World War will never be repeated.



Statement from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Statement on the first anniversary of Yanukovych regime violence against protesters in Independence Square in Kyiv

Published 22 February 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Today we remember and honour the people who lost their lives in the Yanukovych regime's violent crackdown on protesters in Independence Square in Kyiv. Over the last twelve months, in violation of all international law, Russia has annexed Crimea and via so-called 'separatists' subjected Ukraine to acts of aggression that have so far claimed the lives of more than 5 000 people. Almost 1.5 million people have been forced to flee from their homes. The responsibility for this lies unequivocally with Russia.

Sweden and the EU have supported the diplomatic efforts to uphold Ukraine's and territorial integrity and sovereignty and to bring an end to the conflict. The Minsk agreements have been important in creating a basis for a political solution to the conflict. However, the continuous breaches of the ceasefire negotiated in Minsk just over a week ago indicate that Russia and the separatists are still not ready to lay down their arms. By abiding by and pursuing the sanctions that have been adopted, the EU and the rest of the world must now show Russia that aggression in eastern Ukraine will come at an increasingly high price. By supporting Ukraine, we keep the hope of change alive. We also demonstrate that aggression and the use of armed force will never pay off or be accepted in our time.



Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Written statement following discussion with European Council President Donald Tusk

Published 19 February 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

I spoke today with the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk. The backdrop to our discussion was the fact that the ceasefire in Ukraine, which entered into force on Sunday 15 February, has obviously been broken by the separatists supported by Russia, in particular through their continued offensive against the town of Debaltseve.

Ukraine's withdrawal as part of the agreement reached on 12 February on implementation of the earlier Minsk agreements is welcome. I spoke with President Tusk about the talks that took place earlier today between the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, the Federal Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, and the President of France, François Hollande. President Tusk and I fully support the efforts made by Chancellor Merkel and President Hollande. What is required now is immediate and concrete steps, by the separatists and Russia, to put the ceasefire into effect and withdraw heavy weaponry.

I confirmed to President Tusk that the Swedish Government wished to see a continued readiness on the part of the EU to introduce broader and extended economic sanctions. I also stated that it was important to give Ukraine further support in the country's difficult economic situation and to continue to facilitate Ukraine's reform efforts.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by the Prime Minister in connection with the demonstration in Copenhagen this evening

Published 16 February 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

The attacks in Copenhagen, which have taken the lives of two people and injured five, targeted the freedom of expression and the Jewish community, and are an attack on us all.

Free speech and freedom of religion are fundamental to our democracy and must always be defended. We will never give in to terrorism and never tolerate the hate crimes and attacks against Jews that we see in the world around us and in Sweden.

Accordingly, right now the Swedish Government is stepping up its efforts, taking action both to suppress and prevent extremism, whatever its source, and to protect the right of all citizens to make their voice heard and to freely manifest and exercise their faith, identity and culture.

This evening I am travelling to Copenhagen to demonstrate together with all the people and elected representatives who want to show their support for those affected, their abhorrence of violence and extremism, and their unyielding determination to defend democracy.

In this dark hour it is even more important that we come together, across national borders and party lines, and stand up for the open society and for one another.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven concerning the attack in Copenhagen

Published 14 February 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Our open and democratic society has once again been attacked, resulting in injuries and loss of life. My thoughts go to the family of the deceased and to the injured police officers.

I have spoken to Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt on the telephone this evening, and offered our condolences and received information on the situation. We also agreed that we would continue to keep in close contact.

There is every indication that this is a political attack, and therefore an act of terrorism. In this situation, I would like to express my solidarity with the Danish people and emphatically condemn all attempts to silence free debate.

Together we must stand up for freedom of expression. Nothing must be allowed to stifle freedom of speech.

Swedish police are now undertaking special measures both to raise the level of alert in our own country and to give Danish police any support they may require.



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Statement by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven concerning the attack in Paris

Published 07 January 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

“I condemn the appalling attack that took place in Paris today. My thoughts go to the victims and their families.

“It was a repulsive attack on the foundations of democracy and underlines our responsibility to always stand up for freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

“I will send a telegram of condolence to President François Hollande and offer our support to France in this difficult time.”



Government Offices of Sweden

Statement from Prime Minister's Office

# Prime Minister's comments on Swedish Armed Forces analysis of intelligence operation in Stockholm archipelago

Published 14 November 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

Welcome to this press conference. This week, the Swedish Armed Forces have reported to the Government on the results of the intelligence operation conducted in the Stockholm archipelago just under a month ago.

The Government's assessment is that the contents of the report should be made public as far as possible without compromising Swedish security interests.

This report, then, states that the Swedish Armed Forces, with the highest degree of certainty in its assessment, considers itself able to confirm that a violation of Swedish territorial waters occurred in October.

The report also states that it has not been possible to establish the nationality.

The Government considers this information extremely serious and also of course challenging.

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The purpose of Sweden's security policy is to protect our country's territorial integrity and our national independence.

Securing the country's borders is one of the absolutely foremost responsibilities of any government.

Needless to say, safeguarding our territorial integrity enjoys the broad and unquestioned support of the Swedish Riksdag. The proposals of the Defence Commission can also be seen from precisely this perspective.

Many hypotheses can no doubt be advanced, now that this report has been made public.

But as a government and as responsible politicians, we must act above all, and solely, on the basis of facts. And I do not hesitate to speak out with great seriousness in response to the report of violations of our territorial sea.

We do not know who is behind the reported violation. But let me say this, loud and clear, to those who are responsible:

This is completely unacceptable.

We will not have any foreign underwater activities in our waters.

We will strengthen our capability to detect and identify anyone engaged in unlawful business in Swedish territory.

We demand respect for Sweden's borders.

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The Government I lead has taken office at a time of increased tension, both globally and in our own neighbourhood. The threats to our security have multiplied and vary somewhat in nature.

On the African continent, a deadly virus is spreading. It has rapidly taken the lives of thousands of people, and its spread has so far proved impossible to stop.

Greenhouse gas emissions are occurring everywhere on the planet on such a scale that, if not stopped, they risk destroying the conditions for all human life on Earth.

In Syria and Iraq, IS terrorists are engaged in violence of unparalleled savageness, cruelty and ruthlessness. The fact that Swedish citizens are also participating in these atrocities adds to the tragedy. How their experiences will have marked them by the time they return home – if they return home – is also an important question.

In Ukraine, the Russian Federation has annexed Crimea in blatant contravention of international law, and in addition to this is providing shameless support to separatists in the eastern part of the country.

The security policy situation, in a broad sense, has clearly deteriorated. And the report that the Swedish Armed Forces have now delivered naturally does nothing to diminish fears for the future.

I do not – and let me stress this – want what I say to be understood to mean that any acute danger exists right now. Many forces are also moving to check these threats, and we in Sweden, as much as anyone, support and encourage them.

However, in my opinion, security policy issues, in a broad sense, need to be treated in a more coherent manner, at both international and national level.

Since 1945, as everyone knows, the United Nations Security Council has exercised an overarching responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. But seldom has the need to tackle the major threats to peace and security through joint action been so apparent.

In Sweden as elsewhere, there is reason to take a more concerted approach to security issues. A security policy council will therefore be set up at the Government Offices that will meet regularly to coordinate the management of issues relating to Sweden's security. I myself will lead the council, which will also include the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Defence, and the Minister for Home Affairs. Other ministers will also take part in the work of the council when necessary, as will certain state secretaries, as well as any government agencies that may sometimes be directly concerned.

We have a good tradition in our country of seeking broad consensus on security policy issues. As Prime Minister, the approach I will adopt and use will be to inform the parliamentary opposition about events that may affect our security. I will therefore initiate more regular information meetings with representatives of the parties represented in the Riksdag. In line with this ambition, this morning the Government informed the party leaders or their deputies about the report that has now been made public and the measures that the Government is taking.

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It is very difficult to detect a subsurface vessel. The Swedish navy is not the only one to know this; it is a general experience over many decades.

Sweden has a coastline as long as the entire east coast of the United States. No naval force in the world can control such an area in a way that guarantees one hundred per cent that no unauthorised party finds its way in under water.

But what we can do is to increase the risk of detection.

Anyone considering entering Swedish territory unlawfully should also be aware of the enormous risks involved for those who may be directly involved in such violations. We will defend our territorial integrity with all the means at our disposal. And I would like to remind everyone that the Swedish Armed Forces have all the authority needed in a critical situation to prevent a foreign vessel from escaping, including as a last resort military force.

Sweden is a peaceful country. We do not belong to any military alliances and have managed to keep out of wars for 200 years. But we have always demanded respect for and asserted our territorial integrity. And I wish to say, in no uncertain terms, that this remains true today.