



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# USD 12 million in extra support to address increased challenges to democracy and human rights in Asia and the Pacific Region due to COVID-19

Published 18 January 2021

The global trend of democratic backsliding, as well as lack of respect for human rights and the rule of law, risks being exacerbated by the pandemic. We have seen several worrying signs of this – not least in Asia and the Pacific Region. The Government has therefore decided to allocate approximately USD 12 million (SEK 100 million) in extra support to the Swedish strategy for regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Region.

Democratic societal development and respect for civil and political rights have deteriorated in several parts of Asia and the Pacific Region in recent years. In several countries, civil society organisation have had their ability to take action curtailed and the media are under increasing pressure. Furthermore, corruption in several countries permeates all parts of society, including the legal system. Violence against women remains a major problem. This development has been further reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year.

“I view with concern the negative development of democracy and the lack of respect for human rights in several countries in the region. With today’s

decision, the Government wants to further strengthen support to the forces working to counter this,” says Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation.

The Swedish strategy for regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Region, which applies for 2016–2021, has an integrated goal: sustainable development in Asia through mutual cooperation between human rights, democracy, gender equality, the environment and climate. In connection with the government decision of 11 June 2020 to phase out the bilateral strategy for Cambodia, a specific goal was also added regarding democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Cambodia. Today’s decision only covers the first-mentioned goal.

“Sweden must stand up for democracy and human rights where these are challenged,” says Ms Lövin.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden submits long-term climate strategy to UN

Published 15 December 2020

Sweden has submitted its long-term climate strategy to the UN. The strategy is part of Sweden's work under the Paris Agreement and contains ambitious emission targets and measures that will drive climate transition in Sweden in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The overarching objective of the Paris Agreement is to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius, and preferably below 1.5 degrees Celsius. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes are required in all aspects of society. All countries are encouraged to submit long-term climate strategies in 2020 for achieving these changes. The strategies can then guide the countries' continued work under the Agreement.

“Sweden was one of the first countries in the world to adopt a net-zero emissions target, and the strategy reflects this very ambitious target. In this way we're also demonstrating international leadership and showing other countries that transition is possible,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The strategy is based on the climate policy framework with the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2045 and negative net emissions thereafter. To ensure that Sweden achieves this goal, several interim goals have been set. The strategy summarises the national measures taken in different sectors, including industry, transport, agriculture and energy.

Developing countries are often the hardest hit by climate change. Sweden's national measures are complemented with support to help these countries

tackle climate change and drive the climate transition in these countries. Sweden is currently one of the world's largest climate donors in the and Swedish companies offer competitive solutions that can contribute to the transition in other countries.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Agreement on higher ambitions and increased international collaboration at LeadIT Summit

Published 01 December 2020

The Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) – launched by Sweden and India to drive the climate transition in energy-intensive industries – held its Leadership Summit today. LeadIT members agreed on a range of ambitious commitments to contribute to freedom from fossil fuels and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

LeadIT was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in 2019. Its members are countries and companies that are working together to drive the low-carbon transition of energy-intensive industries and achieve net-zero carbon emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050.

“Fine words are not enough. Setting a good example is the best way to influence the rest of the world. The Leadership Group shows that it is possible for energy-intensive industries to be fossil-free,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The theme of the digital summit was how strengthened demand, investments in the green transition and a greater youth perspective can help to accelerate the transition.

At the summit, agreement was reached on concrete action by the public and private sectors to promote innovation and technology exchange, the development of roadmaps for the industry transition, and policy and

financial solutions to drive the transition. LeadIT also encourages increased international collaboration between key actors to accelerate the climate transition in energy-intensive industries.

Its commitments will be presented at the UN's event marking the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Paris Agreement and will be followed up in connection with the UN's climate negotiations, COP26, in Glasgow next year.

At the Summit, Ms Lövin announced that Sweden also intends to contribute SEK 300 million to a new and innovative industry transition programme within the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds. SEK 100 million per year will be provided between 2020 and 2022.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden supports programme for climate transition of energy-intensive industries in developing countries

Published 01 December 2020

At a summit on the climate transition of energy-intensive industries, Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin announced that Sweden intends to contribute a total of SEK 300 million to a new and innovative industry transition programme within the World Bank's climate finance mechanism, the Climate Investment Funds (CIF).

Sweden will provide SEK 100 million per year between 2020 and 2022 to help developing countries and their industries develop roadmaps and climate strategies, and enable technological innovations throughout the value chain in energy-intensive industries.

“By helping other countries develop their roadmaps to fossil fuel freedom, we can accelerate progress towards zero emissions in the whole world,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The CIF has decided to set up a new programme as part of its broader reform efforts to strengthen its funds and increase integration of climate, energy and biodiversity into its activities. Sweden's new support brings its total contribution to the CIF – up to and including this budget year – to SEK 1 110 million.

“Sweden's support of SEK 300 million over three years, 2020 to 2022, to a

new and innovative programme with the CIF is fully in line with Sweden's development cooperation priorities. This support is an important contribution to a sustainable climate transition and renewable energy in energy-intensive industries. It also means that Sweden is taking additional responsibility to assist poor countries in implementing a climate-smart industry transition and phasing out fossil fuels throughout the value chain," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment

# Swedish strategy for circular economy accelerates the transition to sustainability

Published 23 November 2020

The national strategy for a circular economy sets out the direction and ambition for a long-term and sustainable transition of Swedish society. The Government adopted the national strategy for a circular economy earlier this year. The strategy is now available in English. The strategy is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The transition to a circular economy is essential/crucial if Sweden is going to achieve the environmental and climate objectives, as well as several of the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda. Later this autumn the government will also adopt an action plan for circular economy, containing a long list of measures and instruments necessary to bring about the transition.

The core of the strategy is a vision: “A society in which resources are used efficiently in toxic-free circular flows, replacing new materials.” The strategy focuses on four areas: sustainable production and product design; sustainable ways of consuming and using materials, products and services; toxic-free and circular material cycles; and the circular economy as a driving force for the business sector and other actors through measures to promote innovation and circular business models.

The strategy is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden increasing its contribution to climate action in developing countries

Published 02 October 2020

Sweden has committed to supporting the efforts of developing countries on emission reductions, climate adaptation, capacity-building and technology transfer. Since 2014, the Government has more than tripled its climate aid to developing countries. Climate financing in 2019 was 20 per cent higher than in 2018.

In total, Swedish climate financing in 2019 amounted to SEK 7.5 billion, which is 3.5 times higher than in 2014 and 20 per cent higher than in 2018. Of this SEK 7.5 billion, SEK 2.3 billion went to climate adaptation measures, SEK 1.1 billion to emission reduction measures and SEK 4.4 billion to cross-cutting financing (i.e. both emission reductions and adaptation).

“Climate leadership involves taking the lead both nationally and internationally. Through our climate action, we have shown that Sweden can lead the way with substantially reduced emissions while also helping poorer countries adapt their societies to a warmer climate and develop in a climate-smart way,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

Multilateral funds are one way of providing climate financing. Sweden is one of the biggest donors per capita to this financial mechanism within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Sweden also provides substantial funding through other multilateral climate funds, such as the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. The remainder of climate financing is

via regional and bilateral cooperation and other funds. Sweden's aid is 'climate-proof'.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Infrastructure

# Green recovery will lift Sweden out of dual crisis

Published 16 September 2020

Global warming continues regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic. Climate change will remain the defining issue of our generation. The Government is therefore proposing investments of SEK 9.7 billion in green recovery initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2021. The Government's proposals are based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

All of Sweden has come together to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce the spread of infection. It is now crucial that a green transition forms the basis of the recovery after the crisis. Investments in industry's climate transition, sustainable transport and biodiversity will help us emerge from the crisis. Investments in climate neutral and non-toxic circular solutions throughout the country will reduce carbon dioxide emissions, lay the foundation for new jobs and strengthen our competitiveness.

## Industry's transition will lead to new jobs

The Government proposes several major industrial initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2021 that can reduce emissions, create new jobs and strengthen competitiveness. Public sector investments in green transition will help us create jobs throughout Sweden and lay the foundation for industry's transition.

By means of the green credit guarantees, the Government can promote

major industrial investments that contribute to achieving the goals of the environmental objectives system and the climate policy framework. The Green Industry Leap will be developed and broadened to allow more investments in facilities that reduce industrial emissions and contribute to the transition to a fossil-free and circular society. Through shorter processing times for the expansion of electricity networks and complete tax exemption for more actors who produce their own electricity, more stakeholders will be included in the transition.

## Increased biodiversity and other initiatives for Sweden's natural environment

One million species are at risk of extinction. In Sweden, the number of species at risk of disappearing has increased by 11 per cent over the past five years. This crisis is impairing the conditions for human life on our planet and is reinforced by climate change.

The Government proposes an initiative targeting Sweden's natural environment. This initiative will help stop species extinction and includes measures to protect and manage valuable natural habitats and reinforce efforts for clean seas and water. It includes funds for sustainable fisheries and a ban on bottom trawling in protected areas. The possibility of limited exceptions may be provided in the management plan.

Part of the Government's initiative will also go to restoring wetlands. Emissions from drained peatlands that were previously wetlands account for 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents – which is more than from private cars in Sweden. Restoring wetlands prevents the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, so that nature does the climate work for us.

## Sustainable transport reduces emissions

Domestic transport accounts for about one third of Sweden's greenhouse gas emissions, and the pace at which emissions are reduced must be considerably increased until 2030. The Government proposes initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2021 so that it is easier for both private individuals and companies to reduce emissions.

The transition to a fossil-free vehicle fleet will be reinforced by means of changes to the bonus-malus system. The reduction obligation will be

tightened so that more renewable fuels are mixed in with petrol and diesel, and so that long-term conditions are created for the production of Swedish biofuels. A major investment is being made in railways in the form of greater maintenance. To continue pushing for the transfer of freight transport from roads to rail, the Government proposes extending and further developing the environmental compensation. Green Cargo is currently facing a challenging financial situation, which is further aggravated by the ongoing pandemic. Green Cargo will receive a capital injection so that necessary investments can be made and to ensure the company's long-term stability and profitability. This capital injection is given in light of the environmental compensation for rail freight transport simultaneously proposed to the Riksdag.

## Energy efficiency in housing

The Government considers major investments are still needed both to achieve better energy performance and to address the renovation needs of the existing building stock. The Government will therefore provide SEK 900 million for 2021 to a new form of support for energy efficiency improvements and renovation of apartment buildings.

## Initiatives for local green transition

The Government proposes initiatives to support local and regional efforts for a green transition. This includes municipal energy and climate advisory services, and measures to reduce the risk of landslides.

## Improved climate projections and international climate action

The Government also proposes initiatives to support national and international environmental and climate action in the Budget Bill for 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden transitioning to a circular economy

Published 09 July 2020

The Government has adopted a national strategy for a circular economy that sets out the direction and ambition for a long-term and sustainable transition of Swedish society. This is an important step towards Sweden becoming the world's first fossil-free welfare nation.

We need to accelerate the transition to a circular economy if we are to achieve the environmental and climate objectives, as well as several of the Global Goals in the 2030 Agenda. Using materials more efficiently increases their lifespan and value, and reduces both the extraction of new raw materials and landfill waste.

Over the last few months, the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the resulting economic crisis have had a major impact on society. The world after the COVID-19 pandemic will not be what it was before the crisis.

“It’s madness that valuable material is used just once and then thrown away. We’re going to change this now. The green recovery that society now needs will accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral and circular economy. Approximately 50 per cent of our climate emissions and more than 90 per cent of the world’s water shortages and biodiversity losses are a result of inefficient resource management. A circular economy is smarter, much better for the environment and also allows us to create opportunities for many new jobs and sustainable business,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The core of the strategy is a vision: “A society in which resources are used efficiently in toxin-free circular flows, replacing new materials.” The national work for a circular economy will focus on sustainable production and product design; sustainable ways of consuming and using materials, products and services; toxin-free and circular ecocycles; and the circular economy as a driving force for the business sector and other actors through measures to promote innovation and circular business models.

“As one of the world’s most innovative countries, Sweden has good prospects for managing this transition. This also gives us advantages in the global market and many Swedish companies can already see the opportunities in transitioning their activities. This will create more companies, new jobs and greater welfare, while reducing the environmental impact,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The transition to a circular economy must be conducted jointly by politicians, the business sector, the public sector, academia, private individuals and civil society. The Government’s role is to create the conditions for the good work that is already under way in regions and municipalities, the business sector, universities and other higher education institutions, and civil society. The Government will take a number of measures in this area during this electoral period. In addition to the strategy, action plans containing concrete measures will be adopted.

The strategy is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

## About the strategy for a circular economy

A circular economy is a tool for reducing society’s resource use and the resulting environmental impact. The strategy sets out four focus areas in which measures are necessary.

Focus areas:

1. A circular economy through sustainable production and product design.
2. A circular economy through sustainable ways of consuming and using materials, products and services.
3. A circular economy through toxin-free and circular ecocycles.
4. A circular economy as a driving force for the business sector and other actors through measures to promote innovation and circular business

models.

Each focus area contains a series of more concrete measures to aim for. These include:

- steering towards a situation in which products are designed to have a long lifespan;
- promoting greater use of toxin-free recycled materials in new products;
- strengthening the innovation and business climate so that more circular companies can grow;
- promoting the development of Sweden's bioeconomy so that bio-based, renewable and sustainably produced raw materials can replace fossil-based raw materials in products and production processes;
- improving consumer information to make it easier for individual consumers to make sustainable and circular choices in their everyday lives;
- making it simple and profitable for business operators and private individuals to share, repair and re-use products;
- contributing to resource efficiency, recycling and circular business models through public procurement;
- designing policy instruments that contribute to greater supply of and demand for circular products and services, and re-used and recycled materials;
- setting the requirement that both recycled and new materials are toxin-free; and
- promoting research, innovation and technological development in the areas of recycling, digitalisation and traceability.

Virgin materials must be replaced as far as possible by resources used efficiently in circular flows. Consideration must be given to the need for virgin materials to enable the climate transition and recycling. The strategy describes what materials will be prioritised in national action on the circular economy. All of these must be better used and taken care of than is the case today: plastic, textiles, renewable and biobased raw materials, foodstuffs, materials in the construction and property sector, and metals and minerals critical to innovation.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# State Secretary Eva Svedling takes part in virtual UN high-level forum on the 2030 Agenda

Published 07 July 2020

On 7–14 July, State Secretary Eva Svedling and a Swedish delegation will take part in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York. In line with the UN Secretary-General’s call, this year’s theme is ‘Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realising the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development’. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, and for the first time ever, this year’s HLPF will be held in a virtual format.

Eva Svedling, State Secretary with responsibility for Sweden’s national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, will be taking part in the HLPF and heading Sweden’s eDelegation comprising representatives from business, research, the public sector and civil society.

“The COVID-19 crisis has exposed many global vulnerabilities. This crisis shows that implementation of the 2030 Agenda is more crucial than ever. It is our roadmap for creating sustainable and just societies in which no one is left behind. It is particularly important to invest in the future of children, young people and coming generations,” says Ms Svedling.

At this year’s HLPF, Sweden will focus on the following areas.

- The society that emerges from the COVID-19 crisis must be more sustainable than the society that entered the crisis. Sweden will work to

build back better and strengthen social, economic and ecological resilience.

- Sweden's action on the Global Goals, both nationally and globally, will seek to deliver on the 'leave no one behind' principle. The Global Goals must be achieved for everyone, all around the world. We must, in particular, safeguard opportunities for future generations.
- We must support and facilitate the meaningful participation and engagement of stakeholders.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden demands that the EU raise the bar ahead of Climate Change Conference in Glasgow

Published 04 March 2020

In a letter to the European Commission, Sweden and eleven other EU Member States call on the Commission to propose how the EU can show leadership in the climate transition and step up ambitions ahead of and during the UN Climate Change Conference at the end of the year.

On 9–19 November 2020, the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) will be held in Glasgow, UK. Ahead of the meeting, all the countries of the world have been asked to produce revised nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. If the world is to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees, it is important that the new NDCs scale up climate action ambitions.

To pursue this aim, Sweden, along with eleven other countries, has written to European Commissioner Frans Timmermans. In the letter, the countries ask that the Commission present its 2030 Climate Target Plan as soon as possible.

“The world needs strong climate leadership, and the EU has a responsibility to use the existing positive climate momentum to raise the bar. For maximum impact, it needs to be announced in good time ahead of COP26 in Glasgow,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

All parties to the Paris Agreement have NDCs that they are expected to live up to. The EU has joint NDCs, with targets to be achieved by 2030. The

European Commission has announced that later this year it will present an impact-assessed plan to increase the EU's emissions reductions target to at least 50 per cent (and towards 55 per cent) compared with 1990 levels by 2030. Sweden wants the Commission's plan to be presented as soon as possible, and no later than June 2020, to allow a decision on the EU's revised NDCs to be made in good time before COP26 in Glasgow. This is important so that the EU can influence other countries to raise their climate ambitions.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Gabriel Wikström appointed national coordinator for the 2030 Agenda

Published 21 February 2020 Updated 21 February 2020

The Government has appointed Gabriel Wikström as national coordinator for the 2030 Agenda. The appointment of a national coordinator is part of the Government's work to implement the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda, including the 17 Global Goals, is a plan of action to end poverty and hunger, make human rights a reality for all, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.

“Sweden will be a leader in implementing the 2030 Agenda. We will build a sustainable world for future generations and all actors are needed for the transition to a sustainable society – in Sweden and globally. With his background, Gabriel Wikström has the broad knowledge and understanding that are needed to advance these efforts,” says Minister Isabella Lövin.

Mr Wikström has previously been Minister with responsibility for public health and health care issues. He has also been a municipal politician and engaged in youth issues.

“I am pleased and honoured to be able to take on this task. I will work to ensure that the focus on issues concerning the 2030 Agenda is strengthened in our municipalities, regions, business sector, civil society and academia,” says Mr Wikström.

As national coordinator, Mr Wikström will work to strengthen, promote and deepen the work of different actors. Joint plans will be developed through

collaboration and partnerships between different actors in society. The coordinator's work will focus in particular on the perspective and participation of children and young people, and on those in a particularly vulnerable situation.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Isabella Lövin attends World Economic Forum

Published 23 January 2020

On 22–23 January, Minister for Environment and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin is attending the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland. The theme of this year’s meeting is Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World.

During the meeting, Ms Lövin and Indian Minister of State for Shipping and for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh L. Mandayiva will chair a meeting of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition, which was launched by Sweden and India at the Climate Action Summit in New York in September. The companies and governments that are members of the Leadership Group, along with other key actors, will discuss the group’s priorities and how public-private partnership can strengthen the conditions for climate transition.

“I am delighted that the theme in Davos is about how businesses can contribute to sustainability and the climate transition. The Leadership Group is a way to really move this work from discussion into practice. As well as chairing the meeting with those who have already joined, in Davos I will meet many representatives from sectors such as the chemicals industry and the mining and metals industry, and I am very hopeful that more will join the Leadership Group. If there is no transition in heavy industry, the world will not be able to achieve the Paris Agreement’s 1.5-degree target,” says Ms Lövin.

At the WEF, Ms Lövin will take part in meetings of the WEF Platform on Shaping the Future of Global Public Goods and of the Friends of Ocean

Action coalition, where leaders from the public, private and civil society sectors will discuss how to team up to accelerate and scale up ocean solutions beyond 2020.

She will also take part in a meeting on the Getting to Zero Coalition organised by the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO). Actors who sign up to the initiative are committed to ensuring that zero-emission vessels are commercially available by 2030, thus contributing to the target of halving greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping by 2050.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden signs up to initiative to protect 30 per cent of oceans by 2030

Published 22 January 2020

Biodiversity in our oceans is under threat. For this reason, the Government is signing up to the UK's initiative calling for a global target of 30 per cent of the planet's oceans to be protected by 2030.

The world's oceans put food on the tables of many people, mitigate climate change and are home to a rich variety of species. Half of all the oxygen produced comes from the oceans. The ocean environment is under huge pressure from climate change, overexploitation, pollution and eutrophication. Only one per cent of international oceans are protected. The Government wants to see a global target of 30 per cent of oceans designated marine protection areas.

“We must do what we can to protect the oceans, and creating marine protection areas is one of the most important measures we can take. When well-managed and effective, such areas can protect biodiversity, make the ecosystem more resilient and contribute to more sustainable use of marine resources,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

“The global oceans are not in good shape. To save them, and to avoid overexploiting their life-giving resources, we must take better care of them. That is why this is a priority for the Government,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

The initiative's proposed target of 30 per cent of oceans to be protected by 2030 is global and international.

The aim of the initiative is to propose a new target under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and also to contribute to the process of creating an instrument to protect biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction – that is, oceans that belong to everybody and nobody – under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# A coherent policy for the climate

Published 17 December 2019

For the first time, the Government is presenting a climate policy action plan to the Riksdag. The climate will be integrated into all relevant policy areas. The government bill, with its 132 measures, takes a holistic approach to how emissions will be reduced throughout Swedish society.

The development of the world's climate is alarming. Right now, the world's land-based ice sheets are melting, ocean temperatures are rising and the frequency of massive forest fires is increasing. A stable climate is essential for Earth's ecosystems and human welfare.

Sweden is now taking an important step by integrating the climate into all relevant policy areas. The first climate policy action plan contains more than a hundred measures that the Government will implement during this electoral period and that cover every sector of society.

“The climate emergency is a serious threat to global prosperity and security if we do not end our dependence on fossil fuels and build environmentally sustainable societies. Ignoring scientists' repeated warnings would be completely irresponsible. Sweden can lead the way and show that a fossil-free world is not only possible but can also promote our prosperity and our companies. In a unique move, Sweden is moving forward with an action plan and the fundamental approach that consideration of the climate must be incorporated into everything we do in society,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The Government's overarching proposal in the government bill is that greater efforts must be made to integrate climate policy into all relevant policy areas. All sectors of society need to contribute to achieve the target

that Sweden will have net zero atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest. The work of integrating climate policy will involve reviewing all relevant legislation to ensure that the climate policy framework has an impact. It will also involve the Government, in connection with the next review of each societal objective, reformulating the objectives where necessary to ensure they are in line with the climate objectives, and conducting climate change impact assessments for the proposals in the relevant areas.

This action plan contains 132 measures that the Government intends to implement during this electoral period, both within specific sectors and overall. The action plan includes such sectors as manufacturing, transport, consumption, public procurement, agriculture, forestry, financial markets and international climate action.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Climate negotiations conclude at UN Climate Change Conference COP25

Published 17 December 2019

The UN Climate Change Conference COP25 in Madrid, Spain, concluded in overtime. The Conference was challenging both technically and politically, and several issues were deferred until future meetings as the Parties were unable to agree. The main progress made at the Conference included strengthened action to address loss and damage, an updated gender action plan, strong political signals on the importance of countries raising the bar in their climate action in 2020, and the importance of strengthening the link between oceans and the climate.

One of the issues on which the Parties were unable to agree was rules on how countries can achieve parts of the targets in their national climate plans through cooperation with other countries. This can be done via emissions trading, for example, or through one country implementing climate measures in another country.

“It is unfortunate that we were unable to agree on these rules. However, both Sweden and the EU had made it very clear that we will not accept rules that risk undermining the goals and purpose of the Paris Agreement. For this reason, we would rather the negotiations on these issues continue at future meetings. For us, it is completely crucial that the rules guarantee that these forms of cooperation lead to real emissions reductions, and that climate

measures implemented in another country lead to positive developments for both the climate and the country in which the measure is undertaken,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

Another important issue at the Conference was the importance of raising the bar for global climate action, and ensuring that efforts are consistent with the latest science. The negotiations resulted in documents that will give additional weight to research from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Parties also approved documents urging all Parties to submit updated national climate action plans in 2020.

“Important steps towards higher ambitions were taken during the Conference, not least through the presentation by the EU of the Green Deal, with its target of becoming the world’s first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Nonetheless, progress is too slow and more countries must step up the pace of their national climate action. We need to show the world that we treat the climate crisis with the utmost seriousness. The importance of greater ambition must therefore also be reflected in the climate action plans that all countries are due to submit next year,” says Ms Lövin.

Another important matter for negotiation was the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.

“Sweden has long been a driving force for ensuring that more is done to support the countries hardest hit by climate change, and we are currently one of the largest per capita donors of climate aid. At the Conference, the Parties agreed that more financing is needed, and a working group to support this was established. A network was also established to provide technical assistance to developing countries,” says Ms Lövin.

To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, it is important that everyone has the opportunity to participate in climate efforts. At the Conference, the Parties therefore agreed on an updated gender action plan. The new plan covers a five-year period and contains specific activities to strengthen gender mainstreaming in decision-making processes associated with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and in countries’ own climate action.

Ahead of the Conference, Chile stated that through its Presidency, it wanted to highlight the climate’s impact on the oceans. During the two weeks of the Conference, several high-level meetings were held in this area and a platform was launched to help create positive synergies between oceans and

the climate. Sweden has long been a driving force for strengthening the link between the oceans and the climate, and is co-chair of the Ocean Pathway project.

“It is gratifying that ocean issues were given additional space at this year’s conference. This is an important issue for many countries, not least for a number of the small island states that have already been hit hard by rising sea levels. As we now enter the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement, it is important to integrate ocean issues into our work,” says Ms Lövin.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Presentation of the new updated Trade and Investment Strategy for more jobs throughout the country

Published 16 December 2019

More people than ever before are now employed in exporting companies in Sweden. Exports drive the Swedish economy and keep around 1.5 million people in employment. To continue to strengthen Swedish exports, on Friday 13 December the Government launched an updated Trade and Investment Strategy to create jobs and growth throughout the country.

Since the previous export strategy was presented, the international context has changed. Threats to free trade have amplified, along with the competition for major procurements and investments.

At the same time, the previously weak export development in Sweden has turned around. In the last two years, exports from all Swedish counties have increased, and more people than ever work for exporting companies.

The 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement have in turn created new opportunities for Swedish companies to contribute to climate transition. To address these challenges and opportunities, the Export Strategy has been updated with an enhanced focus on sustainability and regional growth.

“I am proud to be able to present a strategy that so clearly involves the regions in ensuring that the whole of Sweden exports more. When we trade with the rest of the world, jobs and growth are created that strengthen

welfare throughout the country,” says Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg.

“Sweden will be the world’s first fossil-free welfare nation, and we will export solutions that lead the world to freedom from fossil fuels. We have world-leading companies in climate-smart solutions, and this will strengthen Sweden’s competitiveness as all countries are now required to adapt their economies,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

“The Export Strategy has served Sweden well. By updating and adapting the strategy to a changing world, we are ensuring that it will continue to contribute to more jobs throughout the country,” says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

### The five strategic goals of the new strategy:

1. Increase Sweden’s exports, both in absolute figures and as a proportion of GDP
2. Ensure that more small and medium-sized enterprises export
3. Ensure that Sweden is a driving force for free, sustainable and equitable international trade
4. Use Sweden’s innovation leadership to enhance the export capabilities and international competitiveness of Swedish business
5. Increase Sweden’s attractiveness to foreign investors, skills, talent and visitors

Sweden’s new Trade and Investment Strategy will help ensure that we meet the 2030 Agenda’s global goals for sustainable development and live up to the Paris Agreement. The decision is part of the January Agreement, which is based on an agreement between the Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Centre Party and the Liberals.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden hosted high-level meeting on industry transition

Published 12 December 2019

The 2019 UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) is currently taking place in Madrid. Last night, Sweden and India hosted the first high-level meeting of the global Leadership Group for Industry Transition, a joint Sweden-India initiative launched earlier this year. The group comprises countries and companies that will work together to accelerate the heavy industry and transport transition. At the meeting, Australia announced that it would be joining the group.

The meeting was chaired by Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin and India's Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar. The meeting was the first opportunity for ministers, companies and other participants to discuss challenges and opportunities presented by the industry transition, and the way forward in this endeavour.

“The heavy industry transition presents both major challenges and major opportunities. But the transition is much more difficult to achieve alone than through private and public partnerships. This is a platform where we can showcase best practice and exchange experience, not least regarding the huge benefits that the transition means for businesses,” says Ms Lövin.

During the meeting, participants offered their views and perspectives on the proposed programme of work, which focuses in particular on activities for 2020. The aim is to present the results of these activities at the climate conference in Glasgow next year.

“The time to act is now. Climate change won’t wait. It would be a great success to be able to present tangible results as early as at COP26 in Glasgow, to show how sectors that represent thirty per cent of global emissions are prepared to make the transition,” says Ms Lövin.

The countries and companies in the group are required to commit to measures to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and agree that all heavy industry sectors should take measures to reduce their emissions and strive to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. They also commit to international collaboration and public-private partnerships to accelerate industry transition.

In addition to Sweden and India, the group comprises Argentina, Australia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, South Korea and the United Kingdom. The companies that have joined the group are: Dalmia Cement, DSM, Heathrow Airport, LKAB, Mahindra Group, Royal Schiphol Group, Scania, SpiceJet, SSAB, Thyssenkrupp and Vattenfall.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden is advocating clear rules and a higher level of ambition

Published 11 December 2019

On 2–13 December, the countries of the world are gathering for the UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 in Madrid under the Presidency of Chile. There the countries will negotiate and decide on future work under the Paris Agreement.

In Paris in 2015, the countries of the world agreed on a new global and legally binding climate agreement with the goal of keeping the global rise in temperature well below two degrees Celsius, and preferably below 1.5 degrees Celsius. During COP 25, the countries will negotiate the final parts of the Paris Agreement ‘rulebook’. This guides how the countries are to plan, communicate, implement and report on their national climate plans, and how follow-up of this work is to be carried out.

The rules that have yet to be agreed deal with international forms of cooperation. Under the Paris Agreement, countries can fulfil parts of their national climate plans by cooperating with other countries. For example, this can be done by one country carrying out climate action in another country or through emissions trading. Cooperation of this kind is intended to help reduce global emissions and strengthen sustainable development.

“It is extremely important that emission reductions take place in reality, and not just on paper. We must therefore have robust rules on how international cooperation is to be reported so that emission reductions cannot be counted twice. It is also important that climate projects carried out in other countries lead to positive developments both for the climate and for the country in which the project is carried out,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

Last year's special report from the IPCC on the 1.5-degree goal showed that the countries' current climate action is far from sufficient to meet that goal. The message that the countries must substantially increase their level of ambition so that it reflects the science has therefore been an integral part of the negotiations in 2019. Sweden is negotiating as part of the EU and has particularly emphasised that the EU should come to COP 25 with a high level of ambition.

“The world is not doing enough to stop the climate emergency and we need to increase the pace. We can negotiate with one another, but we cannot negotiate with the climate,” says Ms Lövin.

Through its Presidency, Chile has stated that it wants to highlight the climate's impact on the oceans. Sweden welcomes this decision, and has long worked to strengthen the link between oceans and the climate, including by co-chairing the Ocean Pathway initiative.

Sweden's negotiating team will be led by Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin. Sweden's chief negotiator is Mattias Frumerie.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Isabella Lövin chaired high-level meeting on chemicals and waste at COP25

Published 11 December 2019

The High Ambition Alliance meeting on Chemicals and Waste took place today in Madrid under the leadership of Sweden and Uruguay. The meeting discussed the way forward for an ambitious global framework for chemicals and waste management. The current global chemicals strategy runs until 2020.

“Every year, countless people die prematurely from exposure to hazardous substances. Dangerous chemicals are also being found in unborn babies. This is frightening, and we need global action to tackle this problem. That’s why Sweden launched a high ambition alliance to move efforts forward,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The High Ambition Alliance meeting was held in connection with COP25, the UN climate change conference currently taking place in Madrid. Ms Lövin co-chaired the meeting with her Uruguayan counterpart, Eneida de León.

“Issues related to chemicals cannot be dealt with as national issues. Global trade and private imports mean that goods cross borders in ways that pose new challenges for how we regulate hazardous chemicals,” says Ms Lövin.

According to ILO estimates, two million workers die prematurely every year (three workers per minute) due to exposure to toxic chemicals, pesticides, radiation and other hazardous substances. This highlights the urgent need for countries around the world to find common solutions for a non-toxic

environment.

## Background

The High Ambition Alliance for Chemicals and Waste is a Swedish initiative created in New York in 2018 by some 20 countries, a number of UN organisations and agencies. Through this Alliance, Sweden is strengthening its leadership and catalytic role in global environmental action. This increases the likelihood of reaching our national environmental quality objective of a non-toxic environment, the generational goal, and SDG target 12.4 on chemicals and waste, whose target year is 2020.

At present, there is no clear process for dealing with target 12.4 after 2020. The current global Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) runs until 2020. The High Ambition Alliance is pushing to ensure that the ongoing negotiating process under SAICM will lead to the world's countries adopting a new global framework for chemicals management in October next year.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden moving the global environment and climate agenda forward together with the UN Environment Programme

Published 05 December 2019

On 5 December 2019, the Government adopted a new strategy for Sweden's partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for 2020–2023. The strategy is guided by the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Through our support to UNEP, we want to strengthen the UN's role in the environmental area and intergovernmental environmental cooperation. In times when global cooperation is being called into question, it is more important than ever to strengthen these institutions and stand up for the value of our joint efforts,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

UNEP is a key cooperation partner in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Sweden urges UNEP to take global leadership in areas including biodiversity, climate and air, chemicals and waste, and oceans, coastal areas and water. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, UNEP and countries around the world must harness the potential inherent in synergies between these areas, such as links between environment and health.

“We want UNEP to highlight the 50th anniversary of the 1972 Stockholm Conference – the first ever environmental conference – in a way that moves the environment and climate agenda forward. The world is facing major environmental challenges, and we see this as an opportunity to tackle them

together,” says Ms Lövin.

Over the next few years, several crucial decisions regarding the environment will be taken at global level. Sweden wants UNEP to actively promote the adoption of two new, ambitious global frameworks in 2020 – one for biodiversity and one for chemicals and waste. Sweden also wants UNEP to drive progress towards a global agreement on regulations on marine littering, plastics and microplastics.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden will continue working for the ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement

Published 07 November 2019

The United States announced earlier this week that it has now issued formal notification of withdrawal from the climate agreement signed in Paris in 2015. Since the United States first announced that it would give notification of withdrawal, a further 40 countries have joined the Paris Agreement.

“I truly regret the decision of the United States to begin the process of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, by arguing that it is somehow unfair to the United States. This is not true. The agreement applies to all countries throughout the world. The countries that can talk about unfairness are the poorest countries that have not become rich off of the use of fossil fuels, but that are hardest hit by the consequences of the climate crisis,” says Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin.

Sweden and the European Union will continue to take the lead in international climate efforts, and for the ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement. At the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in September this year, Sweden announced that it will double its support to the Green Climate Fund and launched a Leadership Group for Industry Transition led by India and Sweden.

“Sweden will continue to work with all of the states, cities, corporations and sections of civil society in the United States that continue to have high climate ambitions,” says Ms Lövin.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden launches global leadership group to reduce industry emissions

Published 24 September 2019

Sweden and India have launched a global leadership group to push the climate transition in heavy industry. The initiative was presented by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven during the UN Climate Action Summit in New York.

- Substantially reducing emissions from heavy industry is crucial if we are to be able to attain the goals of the Paris Agreement. In Sweden, we have come a long way in our industry transition, and co-leading this work gives us the opportunity to share our experiences and help accelerate the transition, says Mr Löfven.

The leadership group has been developed in cooperation with the World Economic Forum and will gather both private and public actors. The countries and companies that join the group must be ready to substantially raise and pursue efforts to reach net-zero carbon emissions by mid-century. This will be guaranteed through a series of ambitious commitments that the members of the leadership group must support. The leadership group will also work to promote innovation and technology exchange, and share experiences of how governments, academic institutions and businesses can cooperate to push the transition. The group will have regular meetings to report on progress and share experiences, including in connection with the UN's climate negotiations.

- Only by working together can we solve the climate challenge. This is how we are working on industry transition in Sweden, and this is an opportunity

to share this cooperation throughout the world. Industry transition is crucial to stopping climate change, says Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin.

In addition to Sweden and India, Argentina, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, South Korea and the United Kingdom have joined the group. Several international companies have also joined, including Indian Dalmia Cement and the German steel group ThyssenKrupp. Among the Swedish companies in the leadership group are Scania, which is conducting a project to develop fossil-free heavy goods vehicle transports and SSAB, LKAB and Vattenfall, which, through their jointly owned company HYBRIT, are conducting a project to make steel without using coking coal.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# The Government to take part in opening of UN General Assembly 17–30 September

Published 20 September 2019

Next week, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson will travel to New York for the opening of the UN General Assembly.

Sweden's priorities during the week are to stand up for international cooperation with focus on the UN, work to tackle the challenge of climate change, intensify implementation of the 2030 Agenda and contribute to finding solutions to conflicts and humanitarian crises, such as those in Yemen, Venezuela and Syria. The week is also an opportunity to highlight democracy and gender equality issues, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to continue work on disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Prime Minister Löfven will attend the opening of the General Assembly, take part in the Climate Action Summit where Sweden is co-chair of the industry track, and take part in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit. He will also attend an event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, Mr Löfven will take part in a roundtable discussion with US business executives and a conference entitled 'The Future of Work'.

Ms Lövin will take part in the Climate Action Summit, the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDG) Summit and the high-level meeting on universal health coverage. Ms Lövin will be in New York on 20–25 September.

Ms Linde will take part in the opening of the General Assembly, a high-level event on climate and security and a high-level meeting on the elimination of nuclear weapons (Article IV, Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty). Ms Linde will also co-host a meeting on the situation in Yemen. In addition, she will host a meeting on women, peace and leadership and, together with South Korea, co-organise the annual dinner for female foreign ministers. Ms Linde will deliver Sweden's address in the General Assembly. Ms Linde will be in New York on 22–28 September.

Mr Eriksson will take part in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit, the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and the High-level Review of the SAMOA Pathway, as well as meetings on Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria. In addition, his programme will focus on humanitarian issues, climate financing, women's rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Mr Eriksson will be in New York on 23–27 September.

All the ministers will also take part in a number of bilateral meetings with counterparts from other countries and UN representatives.

For more information and detailed programmes, please contact the relevant minister's press secretary.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Bonus car initiative and protection of valuable natural environments

Published 11 September 2019

In its autumn amending budget for 2019, the Government proposes that more money should be invested this year in the protection of valuable natural environments and in a climate bonus for cars with very low emissions. The Government's proposal for the autumn amending budget is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

“The Government wants to step up the pace of efforts to protect valuable natural environments this year. We therefore propose providing additional funds that reduce the negative impact of the cutbacks made in the budget adopted by the Riksdag,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

In the spring amending budget for 2019, the Government increased the appropriation for the protection and preservation of valuable natural environments. Despite these additional funds, there are a number of cases involving nature reserves where the landowner has still not received compensation. To facilitate these payments, and since further measures for the protection and preservation of valuable natural environments are needed, additional funds must be added to the appropriation. The Government therefore considers that the appropriation for the protection of valuable natural environments should be increased by SEK 200 million in the autumn amending budget.

Furthermore, the Government proposes that in the autumn amending budget,

the climate bonus for cars in the bonus-malus system be increased by SEK 100 million in 2019 since the need for funds is greater than previously estimated, in part because the sale of climate bonus cars increased more than was previously expected.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Improved and safer hiking trails to make the natural environment accessible to more people

Published 11 September 2019

Sweden's fantastic natural environment is to be made accessible to more people. The Government is now proposing to enhance the work on hiking trails as well as a special investment in preparations for the Outdoor Activities Year 2021. The Budget Bill builds on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

“Sweden has a fantastic natural environment that everyone should have access to. It is therefore important to invest in making it more accessible. The Government is now proposing investments in improving hiking trails in the mountains,” says Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin.

Through previous Government investments, improvement of the state hiking trail system in the mountains has begun. In recent years, for example, 257 bridges have been replaced or repaired, 90 shelters taken care of and markings on 2 000 kilometres of trails improved. The state hiking trail system in the mountains will continue to be improved and added to. The Government is proposing an investment of SEK 20 million per year in 2020–2022. State trails in the mountains increase accessibility and provide better conditions, security and safety for outdoor activities and nature tourism.

The Government considers that a special investment in outdoor recreation organisations is needed ahead of the implementation of the Outdoor Activities Year 2021 – a year when there will be a special focus on various

types of outdoor activities. The Government is therefore proposing an investment of SEK 3 million for 2020.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# SEK 70 million to benefit pollinating insects

Published 11 September 2019

Pollination is a very important ecosystem service that contributes to the production of food. In the Budget Bill for 2020, the Government is proposing a total of SEK 70 million per year in 2020–2022 for measures to benefit pollinating insects. The Budget Bill builds on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

Pollination is a very important ecosystem service – a service carried out by honey bees and other organisms in the natural environment, and one that humans totally depend on. In the Budget Bill for 2020, the Government is therefore proposing a package of measures over three years for pollinating insects.

“Around a third of the food we eat in the world depends on pollinating insects. Many of these species are today classed as threatened in Sweden. In light of this, it is the responsibility of the Government to take forceful measures. This is why we are now going ahead with a package of measures for pollinating insects in the Budget Bill for 2020,” says Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin.

To secure the pollination of plants, society needs more information on the status and significance of pollinating insects. Many actors in society can contribute to securing the survival of pollinating insects.

The package of measures includes enhancing the work on pollinating insects in environmental monitoring with SEK 20 million. It also includes increasing the appropriation Measures for valuable natural environments by SEK 50

million for the work carried out by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, in cooperation with other agencies and organisations, to benefit pollinating insects.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Infrastructure

# Government proposes faster pace for climate efforts

Published 11 September 2019

The pace of climate efforts needs to speed up if Sweden is to meet its climate objectives. The Government is therefore proposing increased investments for the climate transition of the industrial and transport sectors. The Budget Bill builds on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

## Green Industry Leap

The Green Industry Leap supports the industrial sector's transition to zero emissions through technological advances. This is a necessity if Sweden is to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2045. To support the industrial sector's transition away from fossil fuels, the Government is proposing a further strengthening of the Green Industry Leap compared with 2019. It represents a doubling of the appropriation compared with 2018, from SEK 300 million in 2018 to SEK 600 million in 2020.

“Sweden has a unique opportunity to be a climate forerunner with a green and successful industrial sector that inspires others to follow suit. And we should seize that opportunity. Through the Green Industry Leap we are taking the lead and showing the way to becoming the world's first fossil-free welfare nation, a path that other countries are inspired by,” says Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin.

## The Climate Leap

The Climate Leap is a local investment programme that has contributed

funds to more than 3 200 projects throughout Sweden. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency expects it to lead to emission reductions equivalent to more than 1.45 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. The programme is important for creating significant emission reductions in all sectors of society and complements other policy instruments such as the carbon dioxide tax. The Government is proposing that the appropriation for climate investments be increased by SEK 1.16 billion, which means it will amount to almost SEK 2 billion for 2020.

## New climate premium for electric lorries

To achieve the goal of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from domestic transport (except aviation) by at least 70 per cent by 2030, compared with 2010 levels, a comprehensive and rapid transition of the vehicle fleet to low-emission vehicles is required. Electrification is an important part of these efforts. The market introduction of electric vehicles is needed in several sectors.

“It is important that all branches are involved and contribute to the Swedish climate transition. By providing support for electrically powered mobile mechanised equipment in the agricultural sector, for example, we help the whole of society to transition to a fossil-free and climate-smart future,” says Ms Lövin.

This is why a new climate premium for electric lorries and electrically powered mobile mechanised equipment is proposed. It is proposed that the premium be combined with the previous electric bus premium, and that the combined appropriation for these climate premiums be increased by SEK 20 million for 2020 to a total of SEK 120 million.

“Sweden will be the world’s first fossil-free welfare nation. The climate premium for electric lorries is a great example of how this journey is possible. Because the whole transport sector needs to adjust and become climate-smart,” says Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth.

## Goods transports at sea

In addition, the Government is also proposing that the eco-bonus scheme be extended, with SEK 50 million per year until 2022. The bonus is intended to hasten the shift of goods transports from roads to shipping.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance

# Major investments in valuable natural environments in Government's Budget Bill

Published 10 September 2019

The Government is now proposing to enhance the work for Sweden's valuable natural environments through investments in the protection of forests, more monitoring of the situation in natural environments and more robust efforts against eutrophication. The Budget Bill builds on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

“Climate change and the rapid loss of species on Earth is taking place here and now, and this also affects us here in Sweden. We cannot leave these enormous problems to our children; need to take responsibility here and now. This is why we are again proposing historically large investments in both the environment and climate,” says Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin.

## Clean sea and water

“The sea, lakes and our watercourses give us life and sustenance. It is therefore incredibly serious when parts of Sweden are affected by recurring water shortages, and lakes and the sea are polluted and become eutrophic, and when biological diversity is reduced. This is why the Government is investing in helping our sea and waters recover through the important ‘Rent hav’ (clean sea) initiative,” says Ms Lövin.

It is the Government's view that the pace of work on reaching the marine

and water-related environmental quality objectives needs to increase. The Government is therefore proposing SEK 240 million for efforts to combat eutrophication in 2020. As part of the clean sea and water investment, the Government is also proposing that work on clearing polluted sediment and environmentally hazardous wrecks be strengthened with an extra SEK 65 million in 2020, which also includes international action on chemicals.

Environmental monitoring is crucial for following the work on achieving Sweden's environmental objectives. Environmental monitoring provides information for making well-founded decisions. The Government is therefore investing SEK 80 million in environmental monitoring of sea and waters.

## Protection and management of valuable natural environments

It is a clear ambition of the Government that forests that are worthy of protection should not be felled, but conserved – either through formal protection or through voluntary set-asides. The resources for the protection of valuable natural environments will be secured, which is why the Government is proposing an extra SEK 200 million for 2020 so that the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and county administrative boards can strengthen the efforts to protect valuable forests.

“We need to take care of the natural environment so that it can take care of us. The Government wants more valuable natural environments to be protected and more important wetlands to be restored. This is why we want to make major investments in the protection and management of valuable natural environments,” says Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, and Deputy Minister for Finance Per Bolund.

The Government is also going ahead with an investment of SEK 400 million for 2020 to strengthen the management of nature reserves and national parks. The investment also aims to strengthen the work against invasive species, the preservation of endangered species, game management, and the restoration and construction of wetlands.

It is important that the county administrative boards have the appropriate conditions for conducting supervision and supervision guidance under the Environmental Code. The Government is therefore proposing that the county administrative boards' administrative appropriation increases by SEK 42 million to strengthen their work on environmental supervision.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Government to consider the permissibility of Preem's planned operations in Lysekil

Published 26 August 2019

Following notification from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Government has decided to consider whether the operations that Preem AB wants to expand at Preemraff Lysekil should be permitted. This is in light of the major climate-related emissions that can be expected as a result of the planned operations.

The Riksdag has adopted a climate framework that includes new climate goals and a Climate Act. The long-term goal is for Sweden to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045, and negative emissions thereafter.

“The climate is a priority issue for the Government, which means that we must maintain a stable climate policy. Ultimately, this is about ensuring that the Government has various options with which to achieve the climate goals adopted by the Riksdag. We must now use all means available to us as we strive towards those ambitious goals. This is our responsibility towards ourselves and our children,” says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

During the summer, the Government received notification from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland that the operations for which Preem AB is seeking an environmental permit are such that the Government may consider whether they should be permitted. Under the Environmental Code, the Government may consider the permissibility of such operations if they can be expected to be substantial or intrusive in relation to the possibility of pursuing sustainable

development, which includes a limited climate impact.

“During the summer, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, with the support of the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland, notified the Government of an application for expanded operations. The Government therefore wishes to consider whether or not these operations can be permitted,” says Ms Lövin.

In November 2018, the Land and Environment Court granted Preemraff a new permit. This permit was appealed against to the Land and Environment Court of Appeal, which decided to suspend the permit in December 2018. This means that no further measures to enforce the judgment of the Land and Environment Court may be taken until another decision is taken.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# International support for new chemicals framework

Published 14 March 2019 Updated 13 March 2019

Today, Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin and Uruguay's Minister of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment Eneida de León co-chaired a meeting of the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste, with representatives from a number of countries and organisations. Participants agreed on a joint statement to work together for a new, ambitious global framework for chemicals and waste to be adopted in 2020.

Only a few chemicals are currently regulated at global level, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) expires in 2020. It is also clear that the Sustainable Development Goal for chemicals will not be achieved by 2020.

“Sweden wants to see an ambitious global framework that eliminates the most hazardous chemicals. It is also important that we receive better information about chemicals in products. My ambition is for an alliance of countries to take the lead to advance global negotiations,” says Ms Lövin.

The High Ambition Alliance was launched by Sweden and Uruguay in July 2018 to advance global efforts to reduce the risks to health and the environment. Today's meeting took place at the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in Nairobi, Kenya.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release

# The ministers' press contacts

Published 22 January 2019

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**Government Offices of Sweden**

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Government Offices

# New state secretaries at the Government Offices

Published 22 January 2019

The Government today appointed 31 state secretaries at the Government Offices. Former state secretaries have been dismissed from their positions. Most of the state secretaries have previously held corresponding positions at the Government Offices.

## Prime Minister's Office

The Government has appointed Nils Vikmång as the Prime Minister's State Secretary. The Government has also appointed Madeleine Harby Samuelsson and Karin Wallensteen as state secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The Government has appointed Paula Carvalho Olovsson as State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

The Government has appointed Mats Andersson and Maria Ferm as state secretaries in the coordinating committee at the Prime Minister's Office.

## Ministry of Employment

The Government has appointed Annika Dahl as State Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

The Government has appointed Karin Strandås as State Secretary to Minister

for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen.

## Ministry of Finance

The Government has appointed Max Elger and Leif Jacobsson as state secretaries to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson.

The Government has appointed Ulf Holm and Elin Olsson as state secretaries to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund.

The Government has appointed Alejandro Firpo as State Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardan Shekarabi.

## Ministry of Defence

The Government has appointed Jan-Olof Lind as State Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

## Ministry of Infrastructure

The Government has appointed Mattias Landgren as State Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth.

The Government has appointed Sebastian De Toro as State Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman.

## Ministry of Justice

The Government has appointed Catharina Espmark and Lars Westbratt as state secretaries to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The Government has appointed Elisabeth Backteman as State Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

## Ministry of Culture

The Government has appointed Helene Öberg as State Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind.

## Ministry of the Environment

The Government has appointed Eva Svedling and Gunvor Ericson as state secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin.

## Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government has appointed Stina Billinger and Emil Högberg as state secretaries to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The Government has appointed Per Callenberg as State Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson.

## Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The Government has appointed Maja Fjaestad as State Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

## Ministry of Education and Research

The Government has appointed Erik Nilsson as State Secretary to Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The Government has appointed Malin Cederfeldt Östberg as State Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and Research Matilda Ernkrans.

## Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government has appointed Annika Söder as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The Government has appointed Per Olsson Fridh as State Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Government has appointed Niklas Johansson as State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Paris Agreement ‘rulebook’ adopted at climate conference in Katowice

Published 18 December 2018

Over the course of two weeks, the UN Climate Change Conference, COP24, has been under way in Katowice, where the focus has been on the formulation of the Paris Agreement ‘rulebook’. At overtime, the countries succeeded in agreeing on a common regulatory framework that will govern how they implement their climate efforts under the Paris Agreement.

The result means that there is now a robust and long-term regulatory framework on how the countries are to plan, communicate, implement, report and follow up their commitments under the Paris Agreement. There are also rules on how to follow up the world's global climate effort and how it correspond to the global goals of the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement contains the requirement that there be rules, and that these rules be developed and decided at this year's conference of the parties. The countries have now fortunately succeeded in delivering this regulatory framework.

“It is very positive that a common, robust and balanced rulebook has now been successfully decided, where the countries are to continuously improve their climate efforts. That almost 200 countries have agreed on such strong rules in today's geopolitical climate is a success and demonstrates the strength of the Paris Agreement,” says Minister for Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin, who led the Swedish delegation in Katowice.

The only thing that the countries did not manage to negotiate in time were

rules for joint forms of cooperation to limit Climate Change. These concern, for example, how countries are to be able to implement climate measures in other countries, and how countries can trade emission rights with each other. Countries will now continue to negotiate these issues next year instead.

“We had of course hoped that we would succeed in taking a decision on this too, but there was simply not enough time to resolve many of the technical and political issues surrounding these rules. At the same time, we believe it is better to continue to develop this next year rather than adopt weak rules. It is important that the use of cooperation mechanisms actually lead to real emission reductions, and rigorous rules are therefore needed on how to count these and enter them in the books,” says Ms Lövin.

## Support to developing countries

Support and Climate funding to developing countries were a crunch issue in the negotiations. One of the cornerstones of the Paris Agreement is that rich countries are to lead the way and reduce their emissions, while supporting developing countries in their transition. A difficult issue has been that the developing countries want to know in advance what support the richer countries will contribute so that they can incorporate this in their planning.

It is, in essence, a question of trust. The developing countries want to know how much support they will receive for a certain time to come. Donor countries like Sweden are trying to resolve this with their annual budget processes and the fact that we change government on a regular basis.

The parties have agreed rules for this and also that every four years, from 2020, an assessment will be carried out of what support the developing countries require in order to implement the Paris Agreement.

## Isabella Lövin mediated in a sensitive issue

A controversy that arose during the meeting on how the countries should receive the special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius has received a great deal of attention. Most countries wanted to see a clear welcoming of the report, whereas Saudi Arabia, the United States, Russia and Kuwait only wanted the report to be noted.

The Polish chair therefore gave Ms Lövin the task of leading the talks between the countries to try to find a solution. Despite the fact that it initially seemed clear that it would be difficult to achieve consensus, a joint formulation was agreed in the end.

“The starting point of talks was to depoliticise the science and content of this important report. The countries have now agreed that we should be guided by the best science available, and acknowledged that the report represents the best science we have right now,” says Ms Lövin.

The task also included leading talks on how the countries are to handle the outcome of the Talanoa Dialogue. During the dialogue, countries have evaluated how global climate efforts correspond to the 1.5 degree Celsius goal, and how ambitions can be raised.

“The Talanoa Dialogue gave visibility to much of the climate efforts taking place throughout the world, and have shown examples of how ambitions can be raised. The countries wanted to highlight this in the decision text. However, no new decisions on how the results should be used were considered necessary. This is because the Paris Agreement already states that the dialogue is to guide countries when they develop their national climate plans,” says Ms Lövin.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Chair of the Climate Change Conference gives Isabella Lövin special assignment to lead talks between countries

Published 12 December 2018 Updated 12 December 2018

The UN Climate Change Conference, COP24, is currently under way in Katowice, Poland. Since Monday, the high-level segment of the conference has been under way, with negotiations at minister level. On Wednesday, the Polish chair announced that Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin would be given a special assignment to lead the talks between countries.

As part of her assignment, Ms Lövin will lead talks on how countries are to approach the results of the IPCC's latest special report on global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius. The report states that the ambition in global climate efforts must be raised considerably, if we are to meet the Paris Agreement's goal of keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees. Ms Lövin will also lead talks on how countries are to address the results of the Talanoa Dialogue, in which countries discuss how global climate efforts correspond to the 1.5 degree goal and how the ambition can be raised.

“I am honoured to have been given this assignment by the Polish chair. It will be a challenge to get all of the countries to agree on a common response to the results in the IPCC report and how we, together, can raise the ambition of global climate efforts. The report makes it abundantly clear that what is being done today is far from sufficient,” says Ms Lövin.

The assignment will be shared with Costa Rica's Minister of Environment and Energy Carlos Manuel Rodríguez.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden positive on EU long-term climate strategy

Published 29 November 2018

The European Commission has presented its strategic long-term climate vision for the EU. Sweden takes a positive view of the level of ambition in the strategy, with its aim of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The proposed EU strategic long-term climate vision contains scenarios showing how different sectors of society can contribute to achieving EU climate targets. The Commission strategy states that the EU should have net-zero atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The strategy is in line with the high level of ambition that Sweden has lobbied for.

“It is an important and positive step that the Commission’s proposal clearly points to net-zero emissions by 2050, and also that it highlights the benefits to all of society offered by such a transition. The EU must lead the way in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and should do whatever is necessary to restrict global warming,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The Government will now analyse the Commission’s proposal. Negotiations with the other EU Member States will then begin in the Council of Ministers. Under the Paris Agreement, the EU is expected to adopt a final version of the long-term climate strategy by 2020 and submit it to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat.

“The IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degrees shows that the whole world needs to increase the level of ambition if we are to prevent the worst consequences of a warmer climate. The latest UNEP Emissions Gap Report reinforces the impression that this must be done urgently,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

By 2045, Sweden will have net zero emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and should thereafter achieve negative emissions. Sweden operates in accordance with the Paris Agreement on the rising aspirations of all countries' climate efforts.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government approves support to Global Environment Facility

Published 12 October 2018

The Government today decided to contribute more than SEK 2 billion to the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7). Sweden will thereby increase its contribution to the GEF by more than 50 per cent for the period 2018–2022, compared with 2014–2018. This makes Sweden the sixth largest donor overall and the largest per capita donor. In total, replenishment pledges total SEK 34 billion (USD 4.1 billion). This decision reflects what was announced by the Government in the Budget Bill for 2018.

“The support to the Global Environment Facility is expected to help double global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. With this decision, Sweden will remain a leading voice in global environment and climate action,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The implementation of GEF-7 will increase integration and strengthen synergies in global climate and environment action, and increase action on biodiversity, chemicals and waste and the ocean, and enhance efforts to combat marine littering and plastic pollution. Partnership with the private sector is crucial, and will generate leverage to make more resources available to achieve global climate and environmental goals.

“Global cooperation is crucial if we are to meet the challenges facing us in the area of the environment. This applies not least to chemicals, where we see great opportunities to phase out mercury and other particularly

hazardous substances. Sweden's support for the Global Environment Facility is thus important for the future," says Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog.

Over the next four-year period (2018–2022), the agreed GEF-7 replenishment is expected to lead to:

- doubled emissions reductions; better management for almost 50 per cent more environments on land and close to water;
- more than 100 000 tonnes of persistent organic pollutants, mercury and other hazardous chemicals being phased out; and
- almost four tonnes of the world's most overexploited fish stocks approaching more sustainable levels.

The GEF was established in 1991 with the mandate to contribute to global environmental public goods through financial support to environmental and climate action in developing countries. It serves as a joint financial mechanism for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and four global environmental conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

To date, the GEF has paid out more than USD 14.5 billion in grants and mobilised USD 75 billion in co-financing to more than 4 000 projects in 183 countries.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden's view of EU negotiating mandate for COP24

Published 09 October 2018

On 9 October, the EU climate ministers are due to agree on the EU's negotiating mandate for the next international climate negotiations. Sweden considers that the EU must work for an ambitious, robust and dynamic framework to implement the Paris Agreement.

At the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in December in Katowice, Poland, the UN Member States will adopt a joint framework to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement. At COP24, the Talanoa Dialogue will offer the first opportunity since the 2015 Paris climate conference for countries to evaluate how global climate action corresponds to the 1.5 degree Celsius goal and how ambitions can be raised. At the meeting of the Environment Council on 9 October, the EU climate ministers will adopt council conclusions on the EU's negotiating mandate for COP24.

“The research speaks for itself. The world must transition at an unprecedented pace if we are to avoid the most serious effects of climate change. Sweden considers that the EU, as a leader in global climate action, must rise to the challenge,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

Sweden considers that the draft council conclusions offer a good basis for a proactive EU stance at COP24. Sweden also wants to see a clear position taken ensuring that the EU will review its nationally determined contributions (NDCs) before 2020, in light of the results of the Talanoa Dialogue and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report.





Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden launches new research collaboration for climate and security

Published 30 August 2018 Updated 30 August 2018

A new research collaboration for climate and security will be launched today in connection with World Water Week in Stockholm. The Stockholm Climate Security Hub brings together four Swedish research institutes that are world leaders in the area of climate and security. The aim is to promote knowledge development and policy dialogue in the area, not least to support the UN and other multilateral actors with evidence-based analyses.

The Stockholm Climate Security Hub comprises four world-class organisations in the area of climate and security: the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC). The initiative is financed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

“To address climate change and its effects, political decisions need to be based on facts. Security around the world will be affected, and greater knowledge is needed about exactly what forms these climate-related security risks will take and what we should do to deal with them. This is where Sweden can contribute,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

Highlighting the link between climate and security has been a priority for the

Government. The negative effects of climate change – such as rising sea levels, flooding and long-term drought – can aggravate social unrest and instability by affecting people’s access to water and food, their livelihoods and migration.

“We need to draw more attention to the link between climate and conflict. This is a priority issue for Sweden to promote peace and security internationally, not least in the UN Security Council. The Hub will be able to support the UN and other multilateral actors by providing the latest knowledge to contribute to more effective and evidence-based decision-making,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# New strategy for Sweden's cooperation with UN Women

Published 24 August 2018

The Government has adopted a new strategy for Sweden's cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) for the period 2018–2022. Sweden is a major donor to UN Women, which promotes gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights worldwide, at global, regional and national level. Swedish core support to UN Women will amount to SEK 536 million during the four-year strategy period.

"UN Women is a leading global advocate for gender equality. Its work is central to women's and girls' rights worldwide, so it is important that Sweden provides long-term support to the organisation," says Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate. "UN Women has helped a total of 52 countries, with a total population of more than 1.5 billion women and girls, to strengthen their legislation on violence against women and girls, including to combat impunity for gender-related and sexual violence. Furthermore, without UN Women we would not have an action plan for the gender-equal implementation of the Paris Agreement," says Ms Lövin.

During the strategy period, Sweden will primarily work to strengthen UN Women's efforts to develop and implement global norms, policies and standards for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, including women's and girls' full enjoyment of their human rights. Sweden will also work to see UN Women strengthen women's economic empowerment and political leadership, participation and influence, and help

all women and girls live free from violence. Furthermore, Sweden will work to see the organisation help strengthen the influence and meaningful participation of women and girls in peace processes, and integrate a clear gender perspective into humanitarian operations.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# One-year anniversary of the UN Ocean Conference – renewed initiatives to save the world's oceans

Published 19 June 2018

In connection with the one-year anniversary of the UN Ocean Conference in New York co-chaired by Sweden and Fiji, the Government has decided to finance a number of new international ocean projects. To continue demonstrating leadership, the Government is allocating a further SEK 80 million to contribute to improving the global marine environment.

"Action for clean and healthy oceans is a government priority. The Ocean Conference was a breakthrough for global ocean action and now it's a matter of implementing the impressive to-do list drawn up by governments, business and other stakeholders. These initiatives will contribute to this action," says Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate.

The Government's global ocean action focuses on four areas: reducing the impact of climate change on the oceans, reducing marine litter, reducing destructive and illegal fishing and strengthening the protection of marine areas.

The SEK 80 million will go to a total of 15 different international projects, related in various ways to the four priorities. Continued efforts to reduce marine litter is a particular focus area the Government is working actively in, both nationally and internationally.

"Plastics in the oceans is a huge problem. But since the Ocean Conference, things have begun to happen. More and more countries are addressing the unsustainable use of single-use plastic, the use of intentionally added microplastics in a range of products, and the need to rid beaches and coastal areas of plastic waste. A great deal remains to be done, but there is hope," says Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# The Government adopts Sweden's action plan for the 2030 Agenda

Published 18 June 2018

The Government can now present Sweden's action plan for the 2030 Agenda. Through the action plan, the Government intends to reinforce efforts to implement the Agenda and make it clear how government agencies and other actors in society can contribute.

Sweden's action plan contains key political measures for the years 2018–2020. It also highlights six cross-sectoral focus areas based on the proposal the 2030 Agenda delegation presented to the Government on 1 June 2017. The six areas the action plan focuses on are: social equality and gender equality, a sustainable society, a socially beneficial, circular and bio-based economy, a strong business sector with corporate social responsibility, a sustainable and healthy food chain, and knowledge and innovation.

"The Government is now presenting the overall policy that will keep Sweden a leader in the transition to sustainable development. The key for this to succeed is broad participation throughout society towards the common goals. The action plan is intended to make it easier for many different actors to help in implementing the Agenda," says Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi.

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 global goals for sustainable development is a detailed agenda that was adopted by all UN Member States in September 2015. The agenda and the goals are to guide the way for both the UN and the world's countries, with the aim of jointly achieving development that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. The action plan now adopted is based on a national perspective, but also covers Sweden's contribution to global implementation.

"The 2030 Agenda is an action plan towards a sustainable world. Sweden's aid will help achieve the Global Goals. Sweden is showing its serious engagement in areas such as climate, gender equality and feminist foreign policy," says, Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister.

The Government recently adopted the 'Strategy for capacity development, partnership and methods' in the context of international development cooperation. This strategy supports the 2030 Agenda through capacity development, cooperation and partnership with a range of actors, and development of methods and working practices. It will also strengthen and broaden the Swedish resource base.

## Tasks assigned to several government agencies

A central idea in the action plan is to encourage partnerships between the public sector, the knowledge-based society, the business sector and civil society. In connection with the decision to adopt the action plan, the Government also assigned a number of tasks to various government agencies.

- Statistics Sweden has been tasked with setting up a national monitoring system by coordinating the development and production of statistics on Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and making these statistics available.
- The National Financial Management Authority will examine the need for additional requirements concerning sustainability reports from government agencies.
- The Swedish Agency for Public Management will analyse and monitor work by government agencies on the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Local implementation will be facilitated through voluntary key indicators for municipalities and county councils based on the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.
- A new government inquiry will be tasked with facilitating the creation of more values-based public partnerships.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden signs multiyear agreement with UN Central Emergency Response Fund

Published 14 June 2018 Updated 14 June 2018

Today, Sweden entered into a new multiyear agreement to support the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). With this support, Sweden is consolidating its position as one of the largest donors to the fund.

"CERF plays an absolutely crucial role in ensuring that fast and effective measures are taken during the early and most critical stages of a humanitarian crisis. This is why it is important that this four-year agreement gives the organisation the right conditions to do its work," says Minister for International Development and Climate Isabella Lövin.

Sweden's agreement with CERF was signed in connection with the visit to Stockholm today by Mark Lowcock, Emergency Relief Coordinator and head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). CERF is handled by OCHA.

"As a strong partner in humanitarian policy and a generous financial contributor, Sweden's role is central to meeting the urgent needs of crisis-affected people. This flexible, predictable and long-term contribution will help get life-saving assistance to the people who need it the most," says Mark Lowcock.

"When a humanitarian disaster occurs, relief efforts must begin immediately to save lives. Aid organisations should not have to contact different countries for financing support because this delays the critical relief effort in its most important phase. This is why CERF is invaluable," says Ms Lövin.

Sweden's support to CERF amounts to SEK 695 million this year, and Sweden has been the second largest donor since CERF was established. In line with Sweden's overarching priority to enter into multiyear agreements with the UN's funds, programmes and specialised agencies, a multiyear agreement for CERF has been drawn up for the period 2018–2021. Other humanitarian organisations are the WFP, UNRWA and UNHCR. The total amount covered by the four-year agreement is SEK 2.78 billion.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government wants to welcome US guest environment and climate researchers

Published 23 May 2018

Climate change is one of the Government's top-three issues, alongside jobs and education. The Government has adopted a guest researcher programme under which US environment and climate researchers can be invited to conduct research in Sweden for a period of up to three years.

"The Government gives high priority to climate change, and is concerned at the reduced importance of climate- and environment-related research in the US. Research is needed to chart the impact of climate change on society, develop adaptation measures, find effective measures to reduce emissions, and transition to a fossil-free circular economy," says Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate.

"This programme can help strengthen our cooperation with the US in an area that we are seeing is growing. Sweden already conducts prominent research in this area, but through this programme we can bring in more highly competent researchers," says Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Higher Education and Research.

The research policy bill, presented in the second half of last year, earmarked funds to tackle various societal challenges. One of these is climate change and the environment. The programme is not just a Swedish contribution to international environment and climate research – it will also boost Swedish research in this area. Marshalling resources and expertise through

international research cooperation is often an effective way to produce results and obtain a good overview of an area.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Canada to co-chair the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

Published 07 May 2018

This is a press release published by both the Government of Sweden and the Government of Canada.

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, and H.E. Isabella Lövin, Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and, Deputy Prime Minister, today announced that Canada will replace Sweden as the co-chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. Sierra Leone currently serves as the other co-chair, representing the g7+ group.

The two co-chairs provide strategic direction and leadership to this forum for political dialogue, which brings together countries affected by conflict and fragility, development partners, and civil society.

## Quotes

"Canada thanks Sweden for its commitment to the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. We look forward to working with our g7+ and civil society partners to continue the work on sustainable development, peace and security, which are not possible unless women and girls are empowered, participate meaningfully and have their human rights respected."

- Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie

"We are very happy that Canada and Minister Marie-Claire Bibeau has

decided to take on this responsibility after Sweden on behalf of INCAF (the International Network on Conflict and Fragility). The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding is a unique platform that gives fragile states and civil society a voice. The International Dialogue is an important and strategic platform for more inclusive approaches to peacebuilding and conflict prevention."

- Isabella Lövin, Minister of International Development Cooperation and Climate and, Deputy Prime Minister

## Quick facts

- Established in 2008, the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding is composed of members of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), the g7+ group of fragile and conflict-affected states, and member organisations of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.
- Sweden has been the INCAF co-chair of the International Dialogue since 2015.
- Other previous co-chairs include Denmark, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Finland, the Netherlands, Timor-Leste, and the United Kingdom.

## Associated links

International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Conflict prevention measures and Sweden's mediation role in focus at peace conference in Stockholm

Published 04 May 2018

'The Politics of Peace' will be the theme when the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) host the fifth annual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development on 7–9 May. The Forum will gather a number of international experts for discussion and debate on how global cooperation on conflict prevention and sustainable peace can be strengthened. The speakers include Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

Although the number of armed conflicts has fallen in the last five years, the need for conflict prevention measures and mediation is greater than ever. The capacity to identify and stop potential conflicts at an early stage around the world through international cooperation is becoming more and more important, not least in a time when conflicts originate in increasingly complex environments.

"Inclusive discussion and debate on how different policy areas, countries and actors can contribute to conflict resolution are vital if we are to achieve sustainable peaceful solutions. It is clear that the work done by Sweden as a member of the United Nations Security Council and our experience gained

there will be important in conversations during the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development," says Ms Wallström.

Both Ms Wallström and Ms Lövin will participate in the Forum and give opening speeches. The ambition with the theme of this year's Forum, 'Politics of Peace', is to strengthen international cooperation on conflict prevention and sustainable peace.

"In recent years, we have seen a worrying rise in violent conflicts. If we are to succeed in reversing this trend, we must increase our capacity to prevent violence through cross-border and long-term cooperation. We cannot continue to 'put out fires'," says Ms Lövin.

Other high-level participants at the Forum will include President of the United Nations General Assembly Miroslav Lajčák, SIPRI Chair and former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Jan Eliasson and ministers from Afghanistan, Liberia and Somalia. In addition to these, the Forum will be attended by 250 international participants from a number of partner countries.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# SEK 34 billion to global climate and environmental efforts

Published 27 April 2018

Sweden has today made pledges of more than SEK 2 billion towards the Global Environmental Facility. This entails an increase of Sweden's contribution to the fund of more than 50 per cent for the period 2018–2022, compared with the period 2014–2018.

Sweden hosted the last and conclusive negotiation meeting on increased funds to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The meeting ended today and 29 donor countries made donation pledges representing a strengthening of the fund by a total of SEK 34 billion (USD 4.1 billion). The money will primarily go towards financing the most ambitious programme of work in the fund's history. The agreement reflects the donors' strong support for the GEF and means that approximately 140 developing countries will receive increased resources to achieve global environmental goals.

As a result of the agreed increase in resources, the GEF is expected, compared with current operations, to be able to contribute to:

- emissions reductions that are twice as large;
- better management for 50 per cent more environments on land and close to water;
- more than 100 000 tonnes of persistent organic pollutants, mercury and other hazardous chemicals being phased out; and
- almost 4 tonnes of the world's most overexploited fish stocks approaching more sustainable levels.

"It is particularly pleasing that the GEF now has resources to strengthen the work for living oceans and combating marine littering and plastics. In

addition, the fund will have an increased focus on innovative financing models. Thus we hope to see a leverage effect that can produce greater dividends per Swedish aid krona," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The GEF is responsible for the primary financing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and a number international environmental conventions. It is an important partner to Sweden in the implementation of the Government's development policy objectives and in work to improve living conditions for poor people locally and strengthen environmental and climate-related public goods in developing countries. Sweden is currently the largest per capita donor and the eighth largest overall.

"A strong Global Environmental Facility means that we can contribute more effectively to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda," says Ms Lövin.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# SEK 1 billion to Government's first global gender equality strategy

Published 13 April 2018

Funds totalling SEK 1 billion will be used to enhance gender equality for women and girls around the world. This was decided by the Government at its meeting on 12 April. It is the first time that Sweden's Government has adopted a global thematic strategy for gender equality.

"We are making this investment at a time when gender equality work is meeting resistance in various places around the world. Activists and women's organisations working for gender equality often face strong opposition in their fight for human rights. The opportunities to work independently are reduced when funding and democratic space shrink," says Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate.

In 2018–2022, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will be tasked with allocating the funds to initiatives in the area of gender equality. These may cover everything from strengthening normative frameworks for gender equality and increasing safety for organisations working with gender equality to better access to sex-disaggregated statistics. Under the strategy, Sida will work on innovative initiatives and with boys and men as actors for gender equality.

The Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality will be held on 15–17 April. It is being organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Institute, in cooperation with Sida and the Folke Bernadotte Academy. The event will take place at the Stockholm City Conference Centre.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality to bring together top names from more than 100 countries

Published 28 March 2018

Award-winning author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner and human rights counsellor Colin Gonsalves are some of the 500 gender equality actors who will participate in the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality on 15–17 April. The global forum is about strengthening women's and girls' rights, representation and access to resources.

The Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality will bring together just over 500 participants from more than 100 countries, from grassroots to ministerial level. They include politicians and representatives of academia, the business world and civil society. Representatives of international organisations will also participate, including the heads of several UN bodies, commissioners from the European Union and African Union, and the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The purpose of the forum is to mobilise the work on global gender equality through alliance-building and exchange of methods and results.

The Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality is being organised by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Institute, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA). Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot

Wallström, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde and Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Lena Hallengren will represent the Swedish Government. The ministers will share their experiences of working on the Government's feminist foreign policy.

The programme has been developed in cooperation with a number of Swedish and international gender equality actors and covers a wide range of topics. These include methods to increase the participation of women and girls in peace processes, the importance of gender equality for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, how we are to ensure the right of women and girls to decide over their own bodies, and how various actors can pave the way for women's economic empowerment. The participants will also hear witness accounts from Colombia about the work on what is sometimes called the world's most gender equal peace agreement, and be able to hold interactive discussions about threats and hatred against women on the internet.

The full programme and detailed press and accreditation information is available at [www.genderequalworld.com](http://www.genderequalworld.com).

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Billions can be saved by preventing violent conflicts, says Swedish-financed study by the UN and the World Bank

Published 13 March 2018

Violent conflicts throughout the world cause enormous human suffering, and they also have a major economic impact. A new study by the UN and the World Bank – Pathways for Peace – shows that violent conflicts cause a drop in global GDP of 13.3 per cent per year. According to the study, investments in conflict prevention measures can mean savings of between USD 5 billion and 70 billion per year.

"The study clearly shows the importance of conflict prevention measures. At the same time, it highlights the need for a combination of diplomacy, mediation, development cooperation and security-building measures to prevent violent conflicts from breaking out. These are also the conclusions we can draw from our work as a member of the UN Security Council," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Pathways for Peace, which will be launched in Stockholm on Wednesday, is the first joint study the UN and the World Bank have conducted on conflict prevention. The two authors – Alexandre Marc from the World Bank and Jago Salmon from the UN – identify several causes of the large number of violent conflicts throughout the world. The main causes mentioned include denying people the opportunity to influence developments in their community, and people's right to natural resources, security and justice.

"The UN's and the World Bank's conclusions are consistent with the strategy for sustainable peace that the Swedish Government adopted last year. Successful conflict prevention work can free up resources for poverty reduction and improved welfare in vulnerable parts of the world. Multilateral bodies such as the UN and the World Bank play a key role in this work," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The launch of Pathways for Peace will take place on Wednesday 14 March at 15.30–17.00 at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs International Press Centre. The authors Alexandre Marc and Jago Salmon will attend the launch, along with State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Annika Söder and State Secretary Ulrika Modéer.

Journalists interested in attending the launch should register by emailing [lina.eidmark@gov.se](mailto:lina.eidmark@gov.se) by 12.00 on Wednesday 14 March.

The Pathways for Peace study can be downloaded at [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden, Jordan and Egypt to hold an extraordinary ministerial meeting to mobilise support for Palestine refugees

Published 03 March 2018 Updated 03 March 2018

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is facing the most difficult financial situation since its inception in 1949. Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs and the co-chairing Foreign Ministers of Jordan and Egypt are therefore convening an extraordinary ministerial conference in Rome on 15 March to mobilise both political and financial support for the Agency, and to find ways to assure sustainable forms of financing for UNRWA.

"Sweden has a long history of close cooperation with UNRWA. In 2017, we were the Agency's fourth largest donor," says Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Today, UNRWA provides humanitarian aid for 5.3 million refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. The Agency provides basic education for more than half a million refugee children, primary health care for 3.5 million refugees, cash and food support for the abject poor and special programmes for vulnerable women.

"UNRWA carries out important humanitarian work and has a stabilising effect on a region severely affected by conflict and extremism," underscores

Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

UNRWA has faced recurring budget shortfalls in recent years, while at the same time the occupation, the situation in Gaza and the war in Syria have led to deteriorating conditions for Palestine refugees in the region. The financial support from the international community has not increased at the same rate as the humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees. The Agency is now facing a budget shortfall of USD 446 million. Sweden and its co-chairs are therefore convening this extraordinary ministerial conference to secure the financial means that UNRWA needs to fulfil its important mandate, pending a peaceful and just solution to the Middle East conflict.

## Background

The ministerial conference will be held on 15 March at the premises of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in Rome. Invitations have been sent to around 90 countries, including some Member States of the League of Arab States and the European Union Member States. The US has also indicated that it will be represented.

UNRWA was established by the UN General Assembly in 1949, after many Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes amidst the unrest following the establishment of the State of Israel. The Agency was mandated with providing humanitarian aid to Palestine refugees pending a just and peaceful solution to the conflict. Today, UNRWA supports more than 5 million refugees, one third of whom still live in refugee camps.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden to host global gender equality conference 15–17 April

Published 14 February 2018

Leaders from all over the world will gather in Stockholm to intensify international efforts for gender equality. The Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality brings together close to 500 key representatives from civil society organisations, governments, business, and academia. The aim is to find solutions, take new initiatives, and strengthen co-operation in the international fight for gender equality.

Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Margot Wallström, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, Ms Isabella Lövin, and Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, Ms Ann Linde, as well as the Director-General of the Swedish Institute, Ms Annika Rembe, will host the forum, which is organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Institute.

The conference is taking place at a decisive moment. Despite some progress, inequality and discrimination of girls and women remains one of the greatest human rights challenges in our time. The forum mobilises forces to achieve the global goals under Agenda 2030 and will focus on critical issues related to women's and girls' rights, representation, and access to resources.

"More rights, representation, and resources for women and girls means more peace, security, and prosperity for the world. A feminist foreign policy is the way forward. With this conference, we create a possibility for grassroots and high-level participants from all over the globe to meet, share knowledge, and inspire political leaders," says Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign

## Affairs

"When we empower women and girls we empower nations and eradicate poverty. It starts with giving every woman and girl the right over her own body," says Isabella Lövin, Minister International Development Cooperation and Climate.

"Gender equality contributes to growth in all countries, regardless of the level of development. This has to guide all economic policy-making, including trade," says Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, Ms Ann Linde.

"We see successes but also movements that seek to limit women's and girls' rights and range. That's why the forum is so important. We need to gather forces, share experiences, and disseminate breakthroughs that make a difference for the individual as well as for society at large," says Annika Rembe, Director-General of the Swedish Institute.

Approximately 500 participants are expected from around the world. During the forum, participants will identify the biggest challenges, as well as possible solutions, for the fight for gender equality today. They will share experiences and good examples as well as build networks. Results as well as new initiatives will be brought into local contexts.

**Date:** 15–17 April

**Location:** Stockholm City Conference Centre, Stockholm, Sweden

For further information and media accreditation, please visit:

[genderequalworld.com](http://genderequalworld.com)

#GenderEqualWorld

#StockholmGenderForum

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden and WFP sign landmark agreement bringing hope to millions in forgotten crises

Published 02 February 2018

The Swedish Government and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement, with Sweden making a historic commitment of approximately US\$370 million in flexible funds to WFP over the next four years (2018 to 2021). The contribution is the largest ever made by a donor within a WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement.

"Sweden's extremely generous contribution provides WFP with one of the largest amounts of flexible and predictable funding any country has ever given us, enabling us to save lives at any given place and at any given time," said WFP Executive Director David Beasley. "The people and the government of Sweden help us bring hope to millions of people, including the most vulnerable people caught up in some of the world's most heart-breaking crises. When it comes to saving lives and changing lives, Sweden is a global leader."

The Swedish contribution comes at a moment of unprecedented needs. The world is facing the worst humanitarian crisis since the end of World War II, with multiple large-scale hunger emergencies occurring across the planet. For the first time in a decade, the number of hungry people in the world is increasing. Today, the majority of world's hungry people live in countries affected by conflict, with ten of the thirteen largest food crises driven mainly by conflict.

"Sweden is a longstanding donor to WFP, since food assistance is one of the

most critical ways to respond to famine and to save lives in acute emergency situations," said Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin. "As part of our partnership, we are working closely with WFP to develop sustainable approaches to save livelihoods by promoting new methodology and policy."

For nearly a decade, Sweden has been the largest donor of flexible – or unearmarked – funds to WFP. Sweden's leadership in providing flexible funding stands out at a time where more than 90 percent of government contributions to WFP are earmarked for specific operations or activities.

In addition to its consistent funding, Sweden stands as one of WFP's strongest advocates for reduced earmarking among donors. Under the agreement known as the Grand Bargain, concluded at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, Sweden and other leading donors committed to progressively reduce earmarking, with an aim of achieving a global target of 30 percent of humanitarian funding that is unearmarked or softly earmarked by 2020.

"The Swedish Government is a humanitarian champion and leading on the global level to increase flexible humanitarian funding for the most pressing needs. Flexible funding is crucial to kick start operations and fund neglected crises, which has been the case in many situations like Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Rohingya crisis," said Minister Lövin.

The Government under the Grand Bargain concluded in 2016 committed to progressively reduce earmarking of humanitarian funding, with an aim of achieving a global target of 30 percent of humanitarian funding that is unearmarked or softly earmarked by 2030;

**To learn more about Sweden's partnership with WFP, visit:**

[www.wfp.org/sweden2018](http://www.wfp.org/sweden2018) (English version)

[www.wfp.org/sverige2018](http://www.wfp.org/sverige2018) (Swedish version)

High-resolution photos that illustrate the Sweden/WFP partnership can be downloaded here:

Photos

### **About WFP**

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to

improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries.

Follow WFP on Twitter @WFP\_Media @WFP @WFPGovts

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government investing SEK 800 million to combat humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa

Published 29 January 2018

The Government has decided to allocate SEK 800 million over four years (2018–2021) to the Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa. The strategy has been updated to more clearly focus on the link between humanitarian assistance and long-term development, particularly in the Horn of Africa countries. The Government considers that there is considerable potential for Sweden to contribute to increased resilience to crises and disasters, and to conflict prevention and conflict management regionally.

- "We know that strong resilience to climate change and natural disasters saves lives. Sweden wants to contribute to long-term sustainable solutions to combat famine and other humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa. By providing additional funds, Sweden can help to increase food and water security, improve the productivity of small-scale farmers, increase the use of renewable energy and counter deforestation," says Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation.

The decision is part of the Government's focus on strengthening engagement in the Horn of Africa countries aimed at countering recurrent humanitarian crises. The Government has previously decided on a new strategy for Sudan and the Government Offices is now working on new strategies for Somalia,

South Sudan and Uganda.

Following the decision, the total allocation for the Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa amounts to SEK 3 500 million, of which SEK 3 470 million is for Sida activities and SEK 30 million for Folke Bernadotte Academy activities.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# As of today, Sweden has a new Climate Act!

Published 01 January 2018 Updated 01 January 2018

Sweden's new Climate Act enters into force today. For the first time, Sweden will have an act stating that each government has an obligation to pursue a climate policy based on the climate goals adopted by the Riksdag.

The Climate Act establishes that the Government's climate policy must be based on the climate goals and specifies how work is to be carried out.

"This is the most important reform for our children and grandchildren. From now on it will be illegal not to prioritise the climate. This is a day I will tell my stepgrandchild about when she gets a little older," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The Climate Act states that the Government must present a climate report every year in its Budget Bill and draw up a climate policy action plan every fourth year to describe how the climate goals are to be achieved.

The new Climate Act enters into force today, 1 January 2018.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# New climate decision to reduce industry and transport emissions

Published 21 December 2017 Updated 21 December 2017

By 2045, Sweden will have achieved net zero greenhouse gas emissions. Several of the Government's proposals in the Budget Bill for 2018, such as the 'charge-at-home' support, the Green Industry Leap and investments for international cooperation, will now be implemented.

"We are now making good on our promise and implementing an ambitious policy to help Swedish society make the transition. We are taking the major initiatives needed to ease the transition for industry and transport, while also making it easier for people to have a sustainable lifestyle," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

Transport currently accounts for one third of Sweden's greenhouse gas emissions. To increase the pace of vehicle fleet electrification, a special 'charge-at-home' grant is being launched. This will make it easier and cheaper for households to install charging points for electric vehicles at home and in this way transition to sustainable means of transport. The ordinance will enter into force on 1 February 2018 but will apply to charging points installed from 1 January.

People installing a charging point may receive a grant of up to 50 per cent of eligible costs, such as charging unit and electrical wiring costs. The maximum amount, however, is SEK 10 000 per property.

Emissions from industrial incineration and processes make up another third of Sweden's total emissions. The Swedish processing industry is very efficient by international standards, but to reduce emissions and achieve

Sweden's climate objectives, businesses need to invest in technology shifts and often unproven technologies. This is why the Government is investing SEK 300 million per year until 2040 to help Swedish industry take the leap towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions. The Government's decision today will enable the Swedish Energy Agency to decide on support to measures to reduce climate impact.

"Industrial transformation is one of the major challenges we face in bringing emissions down to zero. The Green Industry Leap will support industry to develop tomorrow's climate-smart solutions and jobs," says Ms Lövin.

The Government has also decided to provide additional support worth SEK 30 million for investments in international climate cooperation. This will contribute not least to reducing emissions in middle-income countries. Support in 2018 will amount to a total of SEK 235 million.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# A new strategy for human rights, democracy and the rule of law 2018–2022

Published 16 December 2017 Updated 16 December 2017

The Swedish Government has adopted a new strategy for human rights, democracy and the rule of law that will apply to Swedish development cooperation between 2018 and 2022.

"We are seeing worrying trends around the world. The space for civil society is shrinking. It is becoming more and more difficult for human rights defenders and civil society actors in general, and journalists too, to do their work and scrutinise those in power. These dangerous global trends must be combated," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The strategy is based on three areas: inclusive and democratic societies, equal rights for all, and security, justice and responsibility. It will serve as a development cooperation toolbox to fight negative global trends.

Human rights are an integral part of international law and a prerequisite for upholding peace and security, and for just, gender-equal and sustainable development. They are key to upholding democracy and the rule of law. But, at the same time, they in turn require systems of democracy and the rule of law to be fully enjoyed.

Democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law are goals in and of themselves, but also a means of achieving other goals. Women's and girls' enjoyment of human rights is central to all three dimensions of sustainable development, democracy and adherence to the rule of law.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government to attend climate summit in Paris

Published 08 December 2017

On Tuesday 12 December, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin will attend the international climate summit 'One Planet Summit' in Paris.

The One Planet Summit is being organised in light of the fact that it is now two years since the historic climate agreement was adopted in Paris in 2015. The aim of the Summit is to raise the level of ambition regarding climate change and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Prior to the Summit, Mr Löfven will attend a lunch with invited heads of state and government at the Elysée Palace.

Earlier in the day, Ms Lövin will meet France's Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition Nicolas Hulot and take part in a high-level panel on the theme 'Strengthening Policies for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition'.

Minister for Financial Markets and Consumer Affairs Per Bolund will attend the high-level Climate Finance Day conference on 11 December.

Mr Löfven and Ms Lövin will hold a press conference at the residence of the Swedish Ambassador in Paris on 12 December at 09.30.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Several constructive decisions at UN Climate Change Conference COP23 in Bonn

Published 23 November 2017

Negotiations on the rules for implementing the Paris Agreement have been constructive, but have been marked by tough discussions, especially regarding how countries are to report their emissions. Countries have now submitted their views on the rules, and work is now continuing to ensure a decision on the rules can be taken next year.

Negotiations on the rules for implementing the Paris Agreement have been constructive, but have been marked by tough discussions, especially regarding how countries are to report their emissions. Countries have now submitted their views on the rules, and work is now continuing to ensure a decision on the rules can be taken next year.

Alongside negotiations on the rules, decisions have also been reached on several important issues. The Fijian Presidency put forward a proposal for the 'Talanoa Dialogue', which will be the first opportunity since Paris for countries to evaluate how global climate action corresponds to the 1.5 degree Celsius goal and how ambitions can be raised.

Sweden also announced that it is concluding its ratification of the Doha Amendment that establishes the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

"Sweden is now leading the EU in concluding its ratification of the Doha

Amendment. We are pleased that the EU has also announced that it will conclude ratification before the end of the year," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The Doha Amendment means 20 per cent joint emission reductions compared to 1990 levels by 2020, when the first commitment period of the Paris Agreement begins.

"We are also providing an additional SEK 185 million each to the Adaptation Fund and Least Developed Countries Fund, which is an important signal to many developing countries that we are prepared to resolve the issue of financing climate action," says Ms Lövin.

At the conference, the UK and Canada launched the 'Powering Past Coal Alliance', a global coalition to phase out traditional coal power. Sweden and more than 20 other countries have already joined the alliance.

"Coal accounts for a large share of global emissions, and a rapid phase-out of coal power is essential to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. Sweden therefore wholeheartedly supports the alliance," says Ms Lövin.

A two-year gender action plan (GAP) for gender-responsive implementation of the Paris Agreement was also adopted at the conference. The GAP will ensure women's participation in negotiations and decision-making processes.

It is also gratifying that the 'action agenda', which gathers civil society actors, is larger than ever and has contributed positive momentum to the negotiations. The first Yearbook of Climate Action, capturing climate actions taken since 2016, was launched at the conference. The Yearbook shows that 70 per cent of the initiatives have launched new commitments since 2016 and that around half of these have set emissions reduction targets. The participation of civil society in reducing emissions will play a vital role in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden increases climate support to the most vulnerable countries

Published 16 November 2017

Financing climate action in developing countries has been an important issue during the climate negotiations in Bonn. The Paris Agreement contains commitments that lead to a need to scale up support.

Sweden already provides considerable support to international climate action and is the largest per capita donor to several climate-related funds, including the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility. Funds are to go to concrete action to reduce emissions and adapt societies to a changing climate.

The Government has raised its level of ambition and, to strengthen efforts, is now providing additional funds of SEK 185 million each to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund.

"Climate change is having devastating effects around the world. The least developed countries, which do not have sufficient resources to adapt their societies, are the most vulnerable. Countries with high levels of greenhouse gas emissions must increase their support to live up to the Paris Agreement. Sweden's Government is taking responsibility and is now providing additional financing," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden and France join forces for speedy implementation of the Paris Agreement

Published 20 October 2017

Swedish deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin and the French State Secretary Brune Poirson met today in Stockholm to agree on joint efforts to speed up the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement. The meeting took place one week after the EU agreement on Member states' climate objectives and just after the closing of the pre-COP-meeting in Fiji preparing the coming global climate negotiations.

Sweden and France agree on the urgent need for implementation of the Paris agreement and green innovation development. The importance of next weeks' IPCC meeting aiming to bring forward a scientific underpinning of the climate targets of the Paris agreement was highlighted.

"Scientific studies show that the stability of life support systems are still at risk. Countries, regions, cities and business now all need to step up and move beyond commitments in the Paris agreement. Otherwise we will fail on our joint global goal to limit warming to well below two degrees and make efforts to stay below 1,5 degrees" said Ms Lövin and Ms Poirson.

Sweden and France agreed to work more closely to find ways to reinforce EU climate leadership. To do so, they envisage to develop a permanent dialog in the framework of the Green Growth Group (a block of 16 countries within the EU).

The two countries agreed on the need for the EU to be ready to raise its climate ambition in conjunction with the facilitative dialogue 2018. In this GGG framework, Sweden and France wish also to work towards ensuring that the post 2020 European budget (Multiannual Financial Framework) is aligned to the temperature goals in the Paris Agreement. In particular, both Ministers agreed that over the coming decade it will be of utmost importance for the EU to bring down vehicle emissions. Sweden and France will cooperate with the aim to speed up action and policies within EU to develop a real European industrial policy to develop competitiveness in sustainable technologies.

The coming EU Commission's proposal for new CO<sub>2</sub> standards for cars needs to be very ambitious and include clear targets for 2025 and tentative targets for the long term, around 2030, aiming at pursuing a shift to zero-emissions vehicles. Electrification of transport also needs to speed up.

In the perspective of the Paris Climate Summit scheduled on 12 December, they also agreed to coordinate their action on green finance to speed up initiatives to shift financial flows towards a low carbon economy.

Ms Lövin and Ms Poirson both declared that these measures were not only in the interest of EU citizens' protection against climate risk but also in the interest of EU's own competitiveness as green economy opportunities are being missed.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government meets one per cent goal – aid increasing

Published 19 September 2017

This autumn, the Government will present Sweden's largest aid budget ever. In a time when aid is needed more than ever, the money will be used to address the biggest challenges of our time: the humanitarian crisis, sustainable development, peace and human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and achieving the 2030 Agenda.

World need is great. Some 135 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Climate change is affecting the poorest people in the form of drought, flooding and more natural disasters. The oppression of women and girls is continuing, and the space for human rights and democracy is shrinking in many parts of the world.

This autumn, the Government will present Sweden's largest aid budget ever. This has become possible because the development assistance framework is receiving a further injection of SEK 500 million aimed at increasing the level of aid from 0.99 to 1 per cent of gross national income (GNI). At the same time, the costs that can be offset for asylum reception in 2018 are expected to fall from SEK 8.1 billion to SEK 2.8 billion in the Budget Bill for 2017, which is the lowest share of the development assistance framework in ten years.

"I have seen the immense benefit Swedish aid can have. When Somalia teetered on the edge of a new famine at the start of the year, Sweden acted swiftly and resolutely and was therefore able to help prevent a catastrophe. We ensured that resources could quickly be made available to help UNICEF to save children, and the UN's World Food Programme to hand out food and

strengthen the humanitarian operation," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

"But aid is not just a matter of immediate emergency relief. Thanks to increased resources, we can now strengthen efforts for peacebuilding, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, human rights and for the expansion of renewable energy in rural Africa. Our support enables people to lift themselves out of poverty and create a better life," says Ms Lövin.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government ministers at the United Nations General Assembly

Published 15 September 2017

Next week, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will travel to the opening of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Swedish priorities are sustainable development and inclusive growth, the fight against climate change and strengthening the UN's conflict prevention and peacekeeping efforts. The Swedish ministers are scheduled to meet representatives of countries on the Security Council agenda.

During the visit, Mr Löfven will participate in a meeting on peacekeeping missions in the Security Council and meet with a number of leaders and the Secretary-General to discuss current foreign and security policy issues. Mr Löfven will also participate in a climate summit and speak about the efforts for inclusive growth and the Global Deal initiative at the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Summit. Mr Löfven will be in New York between 18 and 20 September.

Ms Lövin will participate in the Conference on the Global Pact for the Environment and co-host an event on climate financing with French Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition Nicolas Hulot. Ms Lövin will also participate in a summit on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan and meet with UN Women and UNFPA to discuss how access to sexual and reproductive health and rights affects women's economic empowerment. Ms Lövin will be in New York between 19 and 20 September.

Ms Wallström will participate in high-level discussions on conflict prevention, children and armed conflict, women, peace and security, as well as meetings on Yemen, Syria and South Sudan. As Sweden is a member of the Security Council, Ms Wallström will also attend a number of meetings during the week on issues currently on the Security Council's agenda. Ms Wallström will be in New York between 17 and 23 September.

For more information and detailed programmes, please contact the relevant minister's press secretary.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Largest ever investment in climate

Published 05 September 2017

In the Budget Bill for 2018, the Government presents the largest ever investment in climate and the environment. In 2018, the Government wants to invest an additional SEK 5 billion in environment and climate efforts in Sweden and around the world to reduce emissions and create jobs and economic development in Sweden.

"We are now making major structural investments to adapt Sweden, including those targeted at industry and the transport sector. But we are also making investments so that sustainability is a natural part of everyday activities. These include investments in solar cells, charging points and electric bikes," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The initiatives cover a large number of measures that include country-wide investments to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, adapt to renewable energy and safeguard biological diversity in oceans and on land. Special measures are also being presented to ensure flourishing and sustainable urban areas.

"Our generation must be able to pass on to our children a society in which the major environmental problems have been solved and where there are flourishing urban areas with healthy environments to grow up in. A lot remains to be done if we are to succeed with this – investments in sustainable development have been insufficient for far too long," says Ms Lövin.

The Government proposes historically large investments in the area of

climate and the environment. For 2018, this means:

- An increase of 109 per cent in expenditure area 20 (General environmental protection and nature conservation) compared with 2014. This means that we have more than doubled investments.
- The budget includes a total of SEK 5 billion for investments in the area of climate and the environment in 2018.

The Budget Bill for 2018 is based on an agreement between the Government and the Left Party.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Major investment in clean seas

Published 30 August 2017

Robust measures are needed to tackle eutrophication, environmental toxins, littering and other threats against Sweden's lakes, seas and coastlines. As early as next year, the Government will invest an additional SEK 600 million in measures for clean seas. With this fresh funding, the Government wants to clean up environmentally hazardous ship wrecks, finance projects to combat eutrophication and strengthen protection of marine areas.

"The threats to our seas are numerous and serious, but we do have solutions. There is a great deal we can do to ensure that we have healthy and clean seas that can provide us with everything from food and jobs to bathing areas and coastal walks. With this budget, Sweden will take a major step forward in these efforts," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The Budget Bill for 2018 is based on an agreement between the Government and the Left Party.

## Getting rid of environmental toxins

There are some 17 000 ship wrecks off the coast of Sweden. Thirty of these are thought to represent an acute environmental hazard. This is often because of bunker oil and other fuel that risks leaking, or that is already leaking. The Government proposes that SEK 25 million per year over a ten-year period be invested in tackling the environmental risks of the wrecks posing the biggest threat to the marine environment. This will enable the

authorities to clean up between one and three hazardous wrecks per year.

It is very important to address the accumulations of environmental toxins in the Baltic Sea. For this reason, the clean-up appropriation is being increased and funds have been earmarked so that known sources can gradually be dealt with. The appropriation will be increased by SEK 80 million in 2018, SEK 100 million in 2019 and SEK 145 million in 2020.

Pharmaceuticals are vital for health and medical care. But when pharmaceutical products are produced, used and disposed of, there is a risk of pharmaceutical residues entering the environment. The Government now wants to invest SEK 50 million in 2018, SEK 55 million in 2019 and SEK 75 million in 2020 to reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals ending up in the environment.

## Vigorous measures to prevent eutrophication

The eutrophication of lakes, coastal areas and seas is still one of our biggest environmental problems. Eutrophication is largely caused by nutrients running off the land and into the sea through watercourses. This is why measures on land are important to address the problem of eutrophication.

The Government is investing SEK 60 million in 2018 to reduce the inflow of nutrients that have gathered at the bottom of lakes and seas, and other measures to limit eutrophication.

In June, the Government presented an investment of SEK 200 million per year in wetlands to secure the supply of drinking water and wetland ecosystems. Aside from the fact that this investment will improve the landscape's ability to store water, it is also an important measure to reduce the inflow of nutrients from the land.

## Better protection of marine areas

The Government's previous investments to protect marine areas have enabled Sweden to double the area of protected marine environment – from 6.7 per cent to 13.6 per cent – in just one year. Sweden has thus achieved the goal of protecting at least 10 per cent of our marine areas by 2020. But protection in each area must be improved and the various areas must be

better linked.

The Government therefore proposes an increase in the appropriation for marine protected areas of SEK 50 million in 2018 and SEK 67 million in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

## Seas free of plastic

In May, the Government presented a package of measures to combat plastic pollution of over SEK 100 million per year until 2020, with the aim of reducing the spread of microplastics and other plastic products, reducing littering from plastic products, and carrying out beach clean-ups.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government adopts new development strategy for Iraq

Published 29 June 2017

The Government today adopts a five-year development strategy for Iraq, thereby increasing its engagement in the country. The strategy is intended to contribute to peacebuilding and strengthening gender equality in the difficult and crucial situation the country is now in.

With this new strategy, Sweden is taking an entirely new approach to long-term engagement in cooperation with Iraq. Sweden has previously had a country strategy for Iraq, but it was decided in early 2014 to phase this out. Since the situation in the country has changed considerably in the last three years, the Government has decided on this new engagement.

"Iraq is standing at a hugely important crossroads as the military fight against Daesh in the country nears its end. The challenges are enormous and require broad engagement to prevent Iraq relapsing into conflict," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The development strategy for Iraq encompasses more than SEK 200 million annually between 2017 and 2021. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) will implement the strategy.

The strategy will take account of the difficult political, economic and humanitarian situation in Iraq. In this way, it will contribute to stabilisation, increased respect for human rights and gender equality, and, in the long term, improved conditions for sustainable peace- and state-building and reconciliation.

"When I visited Fallujah in March I saw for myself the immense devastation caused by the advance of Daesh. It is very important that we contribute to

building up these areas so that the local population can return, not least minority groups who have been hit hard. Bringing about national reconciliation and a sustainable peace requires support for efforts in which the entire Iraqi population – naturally including women – participate actively," says Ms Lövin.

The strategy supplements extensive humanitarian support to Iraq, totalling SEK 145 million so far in 2017, and Sweden's contribution to the military training mission operated by the Global Coalition against Daesh.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Riksdag passes historic climate policy framework

Published 15 June 2017

The Riksdag has passed a climate policy framework for Sweden. The Climate Act and new climate goals will give Sweden an ambitious, long-term and stable climate policy. The Climate Act will enter into force on 1 January 2018.

On 14 March, the Government presented a bill on a climate policy framework. The bill contains new climate goals, a Climate Act and a climate policy council. The aim is to create order and stability in climate policy. The framework is based on last year's agreement within the Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives.

"All countries need to actively demonstrate how they are taking responsibility on climate change. Today's decision shows that Sweden will continue to be a leading country in global efforts to achieve the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement", says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The Climate Act contains provisions on the Government's climate policy efforts. In its annual Budget Bill, the Government is to submit a climate report to the Riksdag and draw up a climate action plan for each electoral period. This means that each government has an obligation to report on how work to achieve the climate goals is progressing. The first climate report will be presented in the second half of 2018, and the first action plan will be presented in 2019.

As a new long-term climate goal, Sweden will have no net emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by 2045. The Riksdag has also passed

new intermediate targets for the years 2030 and 2040.

The Government has begun the work of establishing a climate policy council to assist it by providing an independent assessment of how the overall policy presented by the Government is compatible with the climate goals. The council will be in place before the Climate Act enters into force on 1 January 2018.

The climate policy framework is based on the agreement presented by the Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives in two interim reports in 2016. The agreement is backed by the Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Moderate Party, the Liberal Party, the Centre Party and the Christian Democrats, and in some parts also by the Left Party.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Prime Minister to welcome Aung San Suu Kyi to Stockholm

Published 09 June 2017

On Monday 12 June, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will welcome Myanmar's State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi, to Rosenbad. They will meet to discuss bilateral relations between Sweden and Myanmar.

During her two-day visit to Sweden, Ms Aung San Suu Kyi will have bilateral talks with Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin. She will also give a speech in the Riksdag at the invitation of Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin.

## Programme points

### **Monday 12 June**

Morning Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström receives Ms Aung San Suu Kyi at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Initial talks are followed by a working lunch. Photo opportunity on arrival.

Early afternoon Prime Minister Stefan Löfven receives Ms Aung San Suu Kyi at Rosenbad. Photo opportunity at the entrance to Rosenbad. Photo pool at the start of the meeting. Joint press conference.

Late afternoon Meeting with Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, followed by a meeting with Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin.

## **Tuesday 13 June**

Morning Ms Aung San Suu Kyi gives a speech in the Riksdag. Photo opportunity on arrival. Media representatives with Riksdag accreditation have the opportunity to be present during the speech.

### **Advance registration**

Media representatives must register and/or apply for a place in the photo pool. Please register/apply via the International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no later than 15.00 on Sunday 11 June. More detailed information about times and venues will be sent to media representatives concerned.

Advance registration/application for place in photo pool



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Wallström and Lövin open SIPRI Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

Published 03 May 2017

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) are co-hosting the fourth annual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development on 3–4 May.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin are delivering the Forum's opening address, together with other ministers from countries including Somalia and Liberia.

"In this context, SIPRI helps to bring together various actors from around the world to exchange experiences and provide practical advice on how to strengthen conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts," says Ms Wallström. "It is very important, not least for our work on the UN Security Council, to learn about good practice from those working on the ground in countries affected by conflict."

"Development cooperation plays a key role for countries seeking peaceful conflict resolution. Our experience from the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding may be an inspiration for many countries, and for the multilateral system," says Ms Lövin.

The Forum provides an opportunity for academics, politicians and civil society organisations to come together to discuss current research, develop policy and share good practice.

The theme of this year's Forum is 'Sustaining peace: what works?' The

Sustaining Peace Agenda and the 2030 Agenda reflect global consensus and joint commitments from the UN at policy level. The Forum aims to identify how these commitments can be carried out at country level.

Forum participants include Jan Eliasson and a number of ministers from various conflict and post-conflict countries, as well as experts from the World Bank, the EU and the UN system. Many civil society representatives and academics are also attending.

**For further information on SIPRI's Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development:**

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Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# The Government increases support to middle-income countries receiving large numbers of refugees

Published 21 April 2017

Sweden is increasing support to middle-income countries that receive many refugees, such as Jordan and Lebanon. During a panel debate in connection with the World Bank's spring meeting in Washington, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin announced that Sweden will increase its support to the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) by almost SEK 90 million (USD 10 Million) in additional funds.

The GCFF supports middle-income countries that receive refugees through concessional loans. At present, support via the GCFF is given to Jordan and Lebanon, which have received a large number of Syrian refugees, but in the future this support may also be available to other middle-income countries that take in refugees.

Over the last ten years, global humanitarian needs have increased considerably, mainly as a result of serious conflicts that have often led to protracted refugee situations. It is estimated that there are more than 60 million displaced people around the world. In the long term, the international community must resolve the root causes of conflicts and poverty that force people to leave their homes. While the acute need for life-sustaining measures has increased, there is also a growing need for more long-term

measures.

“We must work to break the chronic refugee status that millions of people find themselves in. On average, it takes 17 years before a refugee returns to their home country or receives protection in another country. This is completely untenable. In the short term, the challenges are naturally enormous, but experience shows that prompt action to organise jobs and education is crucial to starting a new life and building a future,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

In 2016, four projects were granted support from the GCFF, three in Jordan and one in Lebanon. The projects are aimed at job creation and dealing with the increased strain on sewage management, transport and energy. Within the framework of one of the projects in Jordan, 36 000 work permits were issued to Syrian refugees. Reforms to make it easier for Syrian refugees to enter the labour market create an opportunity to build a future, while the project contributes to Jordan’s economic development.

## Swedish support to the GCFF

Of the Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR, some 650 000 are in Jordan and some 1 million are in Lebanon (figures from April 2017 and December 2016, respectively). There is also a large number of people who are not registered with UNHCR.

In the 2016 autumn amending budget, the Government allocated some SEK 180 million (USD 20 million) to the regional part of the GCFF, with focus on Jordan and Lebanon. At the same time, Sida is providing additional support of SEK 180 million (over a three-year period). Besides Sweden, contributors to the GCFF are Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway the UK, the US and the European Commission. Sweden is the fourth largest donor in terms of pledged contributions and the second largest donor in terms of contributions actually paid. The new support amounting to some SEK 90 million for the 2017 budget year will target other middle-income countries that receive many refugees.

Normally, middle-income countries borrow from the World Bank and other development banks on more expensive terms, but an extremely large refugee reception puts a great strain on the countries’ public finances and impacts infrastructure and public services, such as water, education and housing. The GCFF will therefore help ensure that recipient countries are better able to

manage these expenses so that they can continue to pursue their own development agendas at the same time as the situation for refugees improves.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden and California strengthen cooperation on climate action

Published 20 April 2017

Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin and California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr has signed a letter of cooperation focusing on climate change. During a meeting in state capital Sacramento Ms Lövin also announced Sweden's support for California's Under2 Coalition initiative.

The letter of cooperation is a first step towards deeper Swedish-Californian cooperation on climate action. Sweden and California will work together to raise global ambitions in the climate area for example by focusing on supporting non-state actors in the lead up to coming climate negotiations.

"California is the world's sixth largest economy and an important force in global efforts to tackle climate change. We look forward to constructive and enhanced cooperation in areas such as research, innovation, trade and industry, policies, policy levers and measures to reduce climate emissions," says Ms Lövin.

The Under2 Coalition, which Sweden supports, is an initiative that California and the German state of Baden-Württemberg launched ahead of the Paris Climate Conference. The Coalition is based on a commitment to reduce climate emissions by 80–95 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, which corresponds to the level considered necessary to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. At present, 167 regions and countries have signed or endorsed the Coalition, which corresponds to more than a third of the global economy.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Reduced offsets mean more international development assistance

Published 18 April 2017 Updated 18 April 2017

In the spring amending budget for 2017, it is proposed that SEK 1.3 billion be restored to the development assistance budget as a result of reduced offsets for asylum costs. The money will be used to meet the growing humanitarian needs following the drought in sub-Saharan Africa, and to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and international climate efforts. This is part of an agreement between the Government and the Left Party.

“Aid is needed more than ever as the world is currently facing several difficult challenges simultaneously. War, conflicts and drought, which have been exacerbated due to climate change, have caused the worst famine in sub-Saharan Africa in modern times,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

“Following the US government’s announcement that they are reducing support to sexual and reproductive health and rights and climate efforts, it is important that Sweden remains committed to providing strong support and cooperates with other countries to mobilise more support to this important work,” says Ms Lövin.

The Government’s political priorities in the Budget Bill for 2017 remain firm. In its spring amending budget, the Government wants to draw particular attention to the following areas:

- that worldwide humanitarian needs remain at record level;
- the particularly serious situation in fragile and conflict-affected states;
- a lack of respect for human rights and the decreasing democratic space around the world;
- the need to strengthen everyone's full enjoyment of their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); and
- the steadily increasing global need for international environment and climate action, including seas and marine resources.

In the Budget Bill for 2017, the costs of asylum reception within the development assistance framework were estimated at SEK 8.1 billion for 2017, but in the spring amending budget for 2017 these costs are estimated at SEK 6.8 billion. The reason for this is that the number of asylum seekers has decreased from 51 200 people in the Swedish Migration Agency's July 2016 forecast to 34 700 people in the February 2017 forecast. The total development assistance framework for 2017 amounts to SEK 46.1 billion.



Press release from Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Magdalena Andersson and Isabella Lövin to attend Spring Meetings of World Bank and IMF in Washington

Published 13 April 2017 Updated 13 April 2017

Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin will attend the Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 20–23 April in Washington D.C. The main themes of the meetings are the state of the global economy, inclusive growth, and the future role and resources of the World Bank.

The Spring Meeting of the IMF will address the state of the global economy and the measures that should be taken by the IMF and its Member Countries to strengthen recovery. Ms Andersson will take part in the discussions between finance ministers and heads of central banks, the subjects of which will include how to promote issues linked to inclusive growth.

The Spring Meeting of the World Bank Group will focus on the Group's role as a development financier, the question of Member Countries' influence in the Group, and the need to strengthen financial capacity.

In connection with the Spring Meetings, Ms Andersson will host an event on inclusive growth, with a panel discussion on how to turn words into action in the promotion of inclusive growth. She will also deliver an introductory address – alongside Canadian Minister of Finance Bill Morneau – at a

seminar on promoting gender equality in access to financial services.

Events attended by Ms Lövin will include a meeting on how climate efforts can be stepped up, also attended by World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and others. She will also co-host a round-table discussion, together with the World Bank, on support for the development of social security systems. Ms Lövin will also take part in a panel discussion on the refugee situation with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva, and in meetings about the acute and serious famines in Africa and Yemen.

In connection with the Spring Meetings, Ms Lövin and the Embassy of Sweden in Washington will host a seminar on climate-smart growth and the role of the private sector in climate change adaptation. Seminar participants will include Honorary Chair of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate and former President of Mexico Felipe Calderón, representatives of the World Resources Institute and the Haga Initiative and several business executives.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

## Isabella Lövin to California

Published 13 April 2017 Updated 13 April 2017

On 18 April, Minister for Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin will travel to California, USA. The purpose of Ms Lövin's visit is to find out about California's climate efforts and discuss experience exchange and collaboration.

During the visit, Ms Lövin will meet California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr and representatives of the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Ms Lövin will inaugurate the Swedish Energy Agency's cleantech hub in San Francisco, and meet representatives of companies at the vanguard of climate-smart technologies. She will also take part in a roundtable discussion at the University of California Davis on the future of fossil-free transport systems, alongside prominent experts and researchers from California. Various visits will take place during the trip, with a focus on climate adaptation and ongoing innovation collaboration between Sweden and California.

On 21-22 April, Isabella Lövin will be in Washington to attend the Spring Meeting of the World Bank Group.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Global Press Release - Human Development Report 2016

Published 21 March 2017 Updated 21 March 2017

Press release from UNDP. World's most marginalized still left behind by global development priorities: UNDP report Millions of people are not benefiting from progress, with the gap set to widen unless deep-rooted development barriers, including discrimination and unequal political participation, are tackled.

**Stockholm, 21 March 2017** – A quarter-century of impressive human development progress continues to leave many people behind, with systemic, often unmeasured, barriers to catching up. A stronger focus on those excluded and on actions to dismantle these barriers is urgently needed to ensure sustainable human development for all.

These are the findings of the Human Development Report 2016, entitled 'Human Development for Everyone', released today by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The report finds that although average human development improved significantly across all regions from 1990 to 2015, one in three people worldwide continue to live in low levels of human development, as measured by the Human Development Index.

"Leaving no one behind needs to become the way we operate as a global community. In order to overcome the barriers that hamper both human development and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, inclusiveness must guide policy choices," said Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, speaking at the launch of the report in Stockholm today, alongside UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and the report's lead author and Director

of the Human Development Report Office, Selim Jahan.

"The world has come a long way in rolling back extreme poverty, in improving access to education, health and sanitation, and in expanding possibilities for women and girls," said Helen Clark. "But those gains are a prelude to the next, possibly tougher challenge, to ensure the benefits of global progress reach everyone."

This is a concern in developed countries too, where poverty and exclusion are also a challenge, with over 300 million people – including more than one-third of all children – living in relative poverty.

Left behind and unable to catch up: systemic discrimination against women, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, among others

The report notes that not only are deprivations high, but disadvantages disproportionately affect some groups.

"We place too much attention on national averages, which often mask enormous variations in people's lives," stated Selim Jahan. "In order to advance, we need to examine more closely not just what has been achieved, but also who has been excluded and why."

The report shows that in almost every country, several groups face disadvantages that often overlap and reinforce each other, increasing vulnerability, widening the progress gap across generations, and making it harder to catch up as the world moves on.

Women and girls, rural dwellers, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, migrants and refugees, and the LGBTI community are among those systematically excluded by barriers that are not purely economic, but political, social and cultural as well.

In the case of women, the largest of these groups, the report notes that while global gender disparities are narrowing slowly, longstanding patterns of exclusion and lack of empowerment for women and girls remain pressing challenges.

Women tend to be poorer, earn less, and have fewer opportunities in most aspects of life than men. In 100 countries, women are legally excluded from some jobs because of their gender, and in 18 countries, women need their husband's approval to work. Dangerous practices like female genital mutilation and forced marriage continue.

Populations living in rural areas also face multiple barriers. For instance, children from poor rural households attending school are less likely to be learning reading, writing and mathematics.

Moreover, migrants and refugees often face barriers to work, education and political participation and more than 250 million people in the world face discrimination on the basis of their ethnicity, the report notes among other examples.

It is time to face up to deep-rooted barriers to development

"By eliminating deep, persistent, discriminatory social norms and laws, and addressing the unequal access to political participation, which have hindered progress for so many, poverty can be eradicated and a peaceful, just, and sustainable development can be achieved for all," Helen Clark said.

Marginalized groups often have limited opportunities to influence the institutions and policies that determine their lives. Changing this is central to breaking the vicious circle of exclusion and deprivation.

For example, indigenous peoples account for five percent of the world's population, but 15 percent of people living in poverty. And members of the LGBTI community cannot actively advocate for their rights when same-sex acts between men are illegal in more than 70 countries.

The report calls for far greater attention to empowering the most marginalized in society, and recognizes the importance of giving them greater voice in decision-making processes.

The report also calls for a more refined analysis to inform actions, including making a shift toward assessing progress in such areas as participation and autonomy. Key data, disaggregated for characteristics such as place, gender, socioeconomic status and ethnicity, is vital to know who is being left behind.

Moreover, the report warns, key development metrics can overstate progress when they focus on the quantity, rather than the quality, of development. For instance, girls' enrolment in primary education has increased, but in half of 53 developing countries with data, the majority of adult women who completed four to six years of primary school are illiterate.

Human development for everyone is attainable

"Despite progress gaps, universal human development is attainable," said

Selim Jahan. "Over the last decades, we have witnessed achievements in human development that were once thought impossible."

Since 1990, one billion people have escaped extreme poverty, and women's empowerment has become a mainstream issue: while as recently as the 1990s, very few countries legally protected women from domestic violence, today, 127 countries do.

The report stresses the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to build on these gains, noting that the agenda and human development approach are mutually reinforcing.

The report includes recommendations to reorient policies to ensure progress reaches those furthest behind, and urges reforms of global markets and global institutions to make them more equitable and representative.

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**ABOUT THIS REPORT:** The Human Development Report is an editorially independent publication of the United Nations Development Programme. For free downloads of the 2016 Human Development Report, plus additional reference materials on its indices, please visit: <http://hdr.undp.org>

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Full press package in all UN official languages <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report/press>

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Human Development Report 2016 to launch on 21 March 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden

Published 14 March 2017

## Media Advisory from UNDP.

**Who:** Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden  
Helen Clark, United Nations Development Programme Administrator  
Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden  
Selim Jahan, Director of the Human Development Report Office

**What:** Launch on UNDP's Human Development Report 2016 'Human Development for Everyone'

Event will include formal launch and a media Q&A.

**When:** Tuesday, 21 March 2017, at 3 pm in Stockholm, Sweden (2 pm GMT)

**Where:** The Pillar Hall, Norra Latin, Drottninggatan 71B, Stockholm, Sweden. Admittance via Marmorvalvet.

Please bring your press credentials.

Follow livestream at <http://hdr.undp.org>

## 'Human Development for Everyone'

The Human Development Report 2016 'Human Development for Everyone' will be launched on 21 March in Stockholm with the Prime Minister of Sweden, Stefan Löfven; the United Nations Development Programme Administrator, Helen Clark; Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister of

Sweden and the Director of the Human Development Report Office and lead author of the report, Selim Jahan.

In past decades, there have been significant gains in human development levels in almost every country; but millions of people have not benefitted from this progress. Who has been left behind and why? The Human Development Report 2016 looks into these two questions. It identifies and recognizes that in every society certain groups are far more likely to suffer disadvantages than others and identifies deep-rooted, and often unmeasured, barriers to development.

The report also looks to what societies should do to advance human development for everyone. It sets forward policy recommendations at the national level and also looks at ways in which the global development landscape could be made more effective in the fight to leave no one behind and achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Please RSVP: [caroline.aberg@undp.org](mailto:caroline.aberg@undp.org)

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**About this report:** Human development is about expanding the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live. This idea focuses on people and their choices and opportunities. The Human Development Reports use this approach to analyse some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity to achieve sustainable progress. More information at <http://hdr.undp.org>



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government increasing support to sexual and reproductive health and rights

Published 02 March 2017

At the 'She Decides' conference in Brussels today, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin will announce an increase of SEK 200 million in support to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

"Sweden's feminist government remains one of the strongest international voices for the universal right to sexual and reproductive health and rights. We need international leadership that stands up to the forces that seek to restrict women's and girls' rights," says Ms Lövin.

Together with Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands, Sweden is co-organising the 'She Decides' conference taking place in Brussels on Thursday. Representatives of some 50 countries are expected to take part, as well as parliamentarians and organisations from Asia, Africa, Europe and America, as well as UN bodies. She Decides is intended to mobilise financial and political support for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

"No country can lift itself out of poverty without access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Today's conference is the start of a progressive alliance for women's and girls' right to decide over their own bodies," says Ms Lövin.

The Government will support and strengthen the current systems and organisations that are turning SRHR into a reality for millions of people around the world. This investment will go to the United Nations Population

Fund (UNFPA) and via the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to organisations that give women and girls access to advice, sex and relationship education, contraceptives, maternity care and safe abortions.

Maternal mortality around the world has declined by almost 50 per cent since the early 1990s. But one woman or girl still dies every other minute because of complications in pregnancy or childbirth, many as a result of an unsafe abortion. Decisions such as the Mexico City Policy – which the US administration has recently re-introduced and which stops US aid from financing organisations that advocate or offer abortions – jeopardise progress.

### **Sweden's support to sexual and reproductive health and rights**

Globally, Sweden is one of the largest donors of support to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Support to SRHR accounts for over 60 per cent of Swedish health aid through Sida, and approximately 7 per cent of Swedish international development cooperation, totalling some SEK 2.3 billion in 2015.

Sweden is, for example, the largest donor of core support to the UNFPA. The UNFPA estimates that Swedish core support to the organisation in 2014 and 2015 prevented over 200 000 unsafe abortions and approximately 1 000 cases of maternal mortality, and has given over 1 600 000 people across the world access to contraceptives. The Government has decided to increase Swedish core support to the UNFPA for 2017 from SEK 515 million to SEK 545 million.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# EU Member States agreed on future of EU Emissions Trading System

Published 01 March 2017

At the environment minister meeting on 28 February, the EU Member States agreed on the design of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) post-2020. The agreement includes important measures for strengthening the EU ETS price signal and adapting the system to the Paris Agreement. The Swedish position in favour of raising the price of emissions gained support following tough negotiations at the ministerial meeting.

"At a time when the world needs climate leadership more than in a long time, it is important that the EU delivers in the area of climate. An efficient emissions trading system with a strong price signal is crucial if the EU is to achieve its climate targets under the Paris Agreement," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

A key part of the agreement is that more emission allowances will be removed from the market between 2019 and 2023. There is currently a large surplus of emission allowances amounting to almost 1.7 billion tonnes. This large surplus has also led to constantly low prices within the EU ETS. The new proposal involves an initial stage in which almost one billion emission allowances are removed from the market between 2019 and 2023. Today's decision means that a large volume of emission allowances in the market stability reserve will be cancelled in 2024 and subsequently at regular intervals, following a proposal from Sweden.

"It is very positive to see the Swedish proposal receive support in the Council. This means a doubling of the number of emission allowances being cancelled compared with the proposal that was on the table this morning. It must pay to be climate-smart and it must cost to put off the necessary transition that we must now undertake," says Ms Lövin.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Press invitation to the conference #Shedecides in Brussels co-hosted by Sweden and Minister Isabella Lövin

Published 22 February 2017 Updated 22 February 2017

Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo is hosting on 2 March 2017 the Brussels International Conference SHE DECIDES. This conference is coorganised with Lilianne Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate of Sweden and Ulla Tørnæs, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark in support of the Global Fundraising Initiative SHE DECIDES.

**Tid:** 2 mars 2017 at 08.15

**Plats:** Petit Sablon 8 bis, 1000 Brussels

SHE DECIDES is a strong statement in support of women's human rights, in particular their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Each woman should have the right to decide freely for herself when and how many children she wants to have.

This international conference will take place at the Egmont Palace in Brussels (Place du Petit Sablon 8, 1000 Brussels). Like minded countries, NGOs and international organizations will give their support to organizations working on sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls.

**The press is invited to cover the entire event. At 8.30 there is a press point by ministers Alexander De Croo, Lilianne Ploumen, Isabella Lövin and Ulla Tørnæs. At 13.00 opportunity for cameras to take a group photo.**

Appointment for the press: 8.15 at Petit Sablon 8 bis, 1000 Brussels

Mandatory registration through <mailto:michael.vlamijnck@diplobel.fed.be> before Monday 27 February 2017 at 12.00 at the latest. Please mention:

- Name, given name
- Media + function
- Number of press card.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark will hold the She Decides conference in Brussels on 2 March 2017

Published 09 February 2017 Updated 09 February 2017

Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin, together with the development cooperation ministers of Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark, is to convene an international conference entitled She Decides on 2 March in Brussels.

"She Decides is taking a stand for women's rights, in particular their obvious right to decide over their own bodies. We will mobilise political and financial support and show that there is a counterweight to the worrying developments we are seeing in the US and in other parts of the world," says Ms Lövin.

The conference will mobilise political impetus and financial support for organisations realising sexual and reproductive health and rights for millions of women and girls throughout the world. This includes providing access to counselling, evidence-based information and sex and relationship education, contraception, maternity care and safe abortions.

Government representatives from some 50 countries around the world will be invited to the conference, along with intergovernmental organisations, civil society and private actors. Participants will talk about practical efforts for women's health and rights, including access to safe abortions. Women and girls will bear witness to the crucial impact this has had on their lives.

Sweden is co-organising the conference to contribute to a global partnership on these issues of gender equality and rights.

Sweden welcomes additional support for the She Decides initiative via [www.shedecides.eu](http://www.shedecides.eu).



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment

# Government proposes historic climate reform for Sweden

Published 06 February 2017 Updated 06 February 2017

The Government today adopted a proposal on a climate policy framework for Sweden. The climate act and new climate goals will give Sweden an ambitious, long-term and stable climate policy.

A proposal for a new climate policy framework was adopted today. It consists of new climate goals, a climate act and a climate policy council, and is based on an agreement reached last year in the Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives. The proposal has now been sent to the Council on Legislation.

"The climate act is historic and represents an epochal shift for Sweden. Just as we must keep our fiscal house in order, we must also put our house in order regarding climate policy. This is the most important reform that our generation of politicians will carry out for Sweden's young people, our children and grandchildren. Sweden will be one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations," says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The climate act contains fundamental provisions on the Government's climate policy efforts. In its annual Budget Bill, the Government is to submit a climate review to the Riksdag and draw up a climate action plan for each electoral period.

"There will be no more arbitrariness in climate policy. The large majority of the Riksdag supporting the framework enables a long-term approach and stability, which is exactly what climate policy needs. The transition presents enormous opportunities in the form of jobs, better health and competitiveness," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.





Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Isabella Lövin to attend UN climate summit

Published 14 November 2016 Updated 14 November 2016

Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin will travel to the COP22 UN climate summit in Marrakech today to lead the Swedish delegation. Negotiations are already under way on how the Paris Agreement should be implemented in practice, and since the Agreement has now entered into force, the first Meeting of the Parties will be held this week.

"There is no time to lose. Now we have to gather all positive forces and use the current global impetus to implement the Paris Agreement. Following the US elections, Sweden and the EU have an increased responsibility to push the work forwards," says Ms Lövin.

As well as leading the delegation's negotiating activities, Ms Lövin will also take part in a number of ministerial meetings, side events and new initiatives to accelerate countries' emissions reductions and secure financing for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. She will also take part in the first official Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, to be held on Tuesday. Leaders from all countries that have so far ratified the Agreement will be in attendance.

The major issue at COP22 is developing the Paris rule book.

Sweden's three priorities are ensuring that:

- **the review mechanism** contributes in the best possible way to the parties increasing their ambitions over time;
- a transparent **strengthened reporting system** is developed in a way that

makes it possible to monitor and compare all parties' commitments over time, globally and individually;

- **and a good balance is struck between investments in renewable energy and investments in climate change adaptation in developing countries.**

Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog is also a member of the Swedish negotiating delegation. COP22 in Marrakech runs from 7 to 18 November.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Paris climate agreement enters into force today

Published 04 November 2016 Updated 04 November 2016

The Paris climate agreement enters into force on 4 November 2016, which means that the framework adopted by the world's countries in Paris in December 2015 becomes binding for the countries that have ratified it.

To date, 97 countries – representing nearly 70 per cent of the world's total emissions – have ratified the agreement. These include the EU and 11 EU Member States, including Sweden. Sweden ratified the agreement on 13 October, which means that we become party to it 30 days later, on 12 November.

"I note that the world's countries have shown that they take the issue of climate change seriously when almost half of all countries have already ratified the Paris Agreement. Entry into force has gone very quickly, considering that less than one year has passed since the agreement was reached in Paris," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) will begin in Marrakech on Monday 7 November. On 15 November, during the second week in Marrakech, the first Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1) will open.

The comprehensive work on implementation of the agreement and developing its regulatory framework began during the year. Emphasis is now focused on the technical work needed to support implementation and follow-up of the climate agreement.

The global 'stocktake' is a key part of the agreement and aims to inform the countries of what is needed to achieve the temperature targets and so provide the basis for scaling up the national contributions. This requires a transparent system where the countries openly report their estimates and measurements of greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

"At the first meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, we are now meeting as countries with common long-term objectives. I will try to ensure that we achieve a shared high level of ambition in the work ahead and that we design a robust regulatory framework for the Paris Agreement," says Ms Lövin.

The Paris climate agreement



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government increases support to Iraqi people

Published 27 October 2016 Updated 27 October 2016

The Government is planning to give almost SEK 90 million in additional development aid to areas liberated from Daesh. At the same time, work has begun on a new multi-year aid strategy for Iraq.

"It is extremely important to provide assistance quickly to fill the vacuum that otherwise could easily arise. People who have lived under Daesh's grip of terror must be given the opportunity to establish a future for themselves and live a dignified life without threats or violence. Hopefully these measures will help many of those forced to flee to other parts of the country to return home as soon as possible," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The offensive to liberate Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, Daesh's most important remaining stronghold in the country, started just over a week ago. The advances of Daesh in Iraq have had enormous consequences for the civilian population and resulted in a large number of internally displaced people. The destruction in the cities they fled is extensive. To strengthen and stabilise areas liberated from Daesh, Sweden plans to provide almost SEK 90 million of additional funding to the UNDP's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilisation (FFIS). As a large donor, Sweden also sits on the FFIS steering committee. The needs are great in these areas and measures include repairing water and sewage systems, restoring clinics and schools, increasing access to electricity and creating job opportunities.

Work is also starting now on drawing up a new five-year aid strategy for Iraq. The decision to phase out the previous aid strategy was taken by the former Government on the grounds that Iraq was a middle-income country.

The situation since then has deteriorated drastically, with ongoing armed conflict against Daesh, increased political instability and religious clashes, human rights violations and a deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

"Developments in Iraq are deeply troubling and the country is in great need of national reconciliation and long-term stabilisation. The world cannot cease its support to Iraq or fall into the trap of focusing only on emergency assistance. We must manage to do both – provide assistance here and now and support democratic and inclusive development," says Ms Lövin.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will be instructed to produce background material for a strategy. The aim is that the overall focus will be on peacebuilding, statebuilding and gender equality, areas in which Sweden is considered to have clear added value. The plan is to launch the strategy, encompassing around SEK 130 million a year, in mid-2017.

Sweden is also one of the largest humanitarian donors to Iraq. The targeted humanitarian support for 2016 currently amounts to around SEK 155 million. In recent weeks, Sida has decided to contribute more than SEK 12 million to measures in the Mosul area.

Sweden also gives major non-earmarked core support to several humanitarian organisations working in Iraq.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government presents historic climate and environment budget

Published 13 September 2016 Updated 13 September 2016

The Government wants to further strengthen Sweden's position as a climate leader. The Budget Bill for 2017 proposes the largest investment budget in the area of climate and the environment in Sweden's history.

The Government's efforts to build our society are accelerating the transition to a more sustainable society. In the budget for 2017, the Government is proposing SEK 12.9 billion in new investments in climate action, fossil-free travel and renewable energy sources for the period 2017–2020. These investments will primarily be made in four areas: the transition to renewable energy, fossil-free travel, the 'Involving all of Sweden' initiative and international climate investments.

## Climate Leap and urban environment agreements

Through the Climate Leap, the Government is investing a total of SEK 3.5 billion in regional and local initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is being matched by at least 50 per cent co-financing by businesses, municipalities, county councils and tenant-owner associations, thus enabling SEK 7–9 billion in climate investments in Sweden during the period 2015–2020.

The Government proposes increased investment in urban environment agreements. These agreements were launched to contribute to sustainable urban environments through support for public transport investments. This support will now be expanded to include investments in cycling infrastructure as well. The SEK 500 million per year in 2015–2018 that

previously applied will be increased by SEK 250 million in 2017 and SEK 500 million in 2018.

## Fossil-free travel

As a step in breaking free from fossil fuels, the Government is continuing to strengthen the railways to improve the possibilities for more journeys and transports to take place by train. The Government is allocating SEK 5.9 billion to augment resources for the operation and maintenance of railways during the period 2019–2020, and intends to present an infrastructure bill to the Riksdag proposing an economic framework for a national plan during the period 2018–2020.

A special investment of SEK 200 million will be implemented in 2017 to increase railway capacity and make the system more robust.

## International investments

The Government is also introducing a programme for purchasing and cancelling emission allowances in the EU. The intention is to invest SEK 300 million each year in the programme during the period 2018–2040. The initiative is a concrete measure to reduce the total amount of carbon dioxide that may be emitted within the EU Emissions Trading System. SEK 500 million will be added to the development cooperation framework during the period 2017–2020. The proposed increase will improve opportunities for climate financing in low and middle income countries.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# New aid initiative focusing on displaced children

Published 31 August 2016 Updated 31 August 2016

Humanitarian needs in the world are huge. In the autumn amending budget for 2016, which is based on an agreement with the Left Party, the Government proposes that SEK 6.4 billion be fed back to development assistance. SEK 2.5 billion of this will go to new initiatives focusing on displaced children, and SEK 3.9 billion will restore initiatives previously subject to cuts.

In the spring amending budget for 2016, the Government proposed a reduction of SEK 4.1 billion in the development assistance appropriation due to the increased costs of asylum reception. The forecast for the number of asylum seekers has since decreased, which means that funds can be restored to the development assistance appropriation.

Today, 65 million people around the world have fled their homes, and 130 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. There is little indication that the humanitarian situation will improve. Half of displaced people are children. Children are particularly vulnerable in refugee situations. UNICEF estimates that 15 million children in Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Malawi need immediate support. At the same time, like many other parts of the humanitarian system, UNICEF is suffering from a serious lack of funds for its humanitarian operations.

"The world needs countries that demonstrate leadership in acute humanitarian situations. I am proud that Sweden is now shifting up another gear to help children fleeing from war, conflict and disasters," says Minister

for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

A large proportion of the extra funds set aside in the autumn amending budget for 2016 will be allocated to core support to humanitarian organisations' budgets. Core support enables these organisations to react quickly and flexibly to sudden crises and deteriorations in existing situations without having to wait for donors to approve targeted funds.

While the acute need for life-sustaining measures such as deliveries of food and medical supplies has sky-rocketed, there is also a growing need for more long-term measures. For this reason, measures are also needed to help displaced people to find work and ways to support themselves, even in difficult environments. It is also important that children have the opportunity to go to school. More than three million children in Syria have been forced to stop attending school as a result of the war, for example.

"It is not enough to provide food, blankets and medicines, there must also be more long-term measures to build faith in the future among people who are stuck in refugee camps. And we must strengthen work on peacebuilding and statebuilding, democracy and human rights, to prevent conflicts breaking out in the first place," says Ms Lövin.

The Government will also raise its level of ambition with respect to achieving the Global Goal target of improved access to sanitation for 60 million people by 2030. Access to water and sanitation generates many positive effects for the economy, people's health and gender equality.

The SEK 6.4 billion will be allocated as follows:

- Humanitarian aid focusing on children: SEK 1.6 billion (SEK 500 million to UNICEF, a total of SEK 600 million to the UNHCR, CERF, the WFP, etc., and SEK 500 million to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's humanitarian funding)
- Fragile states (including Iraq) and long-term efforts: SEK 500 million
- Gender equality, SRHR, environment/climate and civil society organisations: SEK 400 million
- Restoration of previous cuts and appropriation credits: SEK 3.9 billion



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden, France and Germany in future initiative for the EU

Published 12 July 2016 Updated 12 July 2016

On Monday 11 July, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde is meeting the French and German EU ministers in Berlin to jointly raise the level of ambition for EU job creation efforts and to step up the important climate efforts that the world has undertaken since Paris. Together, they will sign a declaration that shows a higher level of ambition and strengthened cooperation on a few specific issues.

– The world is facing major challenges, in which cooperation and solidarity are essential for our shared success. Climate change, the refugee crisis and unemployment are just a few examples of challenges that must be solved together, across national borders. The European Union was formed with the aim of a more peaceful and stronger Europe, and its most important tasks lie ahead of it, says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

– Brexit does not mean a pause for European cooperation – quite the reverse – political engagement for a united, democratic and open Europe must be strengthened. Sweden also needs to find new partnerships, as we will lose an important partner – the UK – in EU cooperation, says Ms Linde.

Monday's meeting is about creating new jobs, transitioning to a fossil-free Europe and integrating millions of new people in our societies. It is also about standing up for values that have characterised post-war European cooperation, such as gender equality, openness and diversity, at a time when these values are being challenged from many different quarters. It is more

important than ever for European politicians to act responsibly and work for a Europe that is able to meet the challenges of the future instead of creating more division.

As a leader, Sweden plays, and will increasingly play, a key role in the EU. Today we already have more influence than many other Member States of equivalent size. We will work actively to ensure that the EU is better at solving the issues that people expect – contributing to people's daily lives. It is particularly important that the EU focuses, through trade, on creating conditions for more jobs with decent conditions and is able to realise the goals that were adopted at the climate change conference in Paris. If the EU succeeds in this, people will see results in their daily lives and thus the EU's legitimacy will also increase.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sida Director-General is new chair of OECD-DAC

Published 11 July 2016 Updated 11 July 2016

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) today appointed Director-General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, as its new chair.

– The election of Ms Petri Gornitzka as new chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee is a success for Sweden and international aid. This shows that Sweden is an important actor in the area of aid and has considerable international support, says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

As chair of the DAC, Ms Petri Gornitzka will lead the Committee's meetings and represent the donor community in international forums, such as the UN, and in meetings with developing countries and other development actors.

– I am proud of Sweden's efforts in international development and of the confidence shown in Sweden and Ms Petri Gornitzka with this important nomination. In addition to her broad knowledge of development issues, Charlotte will bring with her the long tradition of high-quality and well-reputed Swedish development cooperation to the DAC, says Ms Lövin.

Ms Petri Gornitzka will be the first Swede to take on the role of chair, and the first woman to lead the DAC since the Committee was founded more than 50 years ago.

The OECD-DAC brings together the world's largest donors to develop aid and ensure its quality. It conducts regular examinations of donors' aid and compiles statistics on aid flows.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment

# Real emission reductions and more pressure on the EU due to new Swedish EU ETS policy

Published 02 July 2016 Updated 02 July 2016

The Swedish government today unveiled a new program with the aim to buy and cancel allowances in the EU emissions trading system. The government will annually invest 300 million SEK in allowances. The program is set to run throughout the period 2018-2040. At the current price, emissions of approximately 7 million tons of carbon dioxide will be purchased and cancelled annually.

The new program will not be netted against Sweden's commitments under the EU effort sharing decision or against the national climate target. The cancellation indicates more ambitious Swedish climate actions.

- EU ETS is the EU's key climate policy instruments, but the system has not worked as intended because of the huge surplus of allowances. Sweden will continue to work hard to reform and strengthen the EU ETS in the ongoing negotiations within the EU. By launching this program, we show that Sweden wants to see a strong emissions trading system and we also contribute to the higher level of ambition of the EU's climate policy needed in order to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement, says Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate.

A checkpoint will be set up in 2025 and evaluations of possible further measures in the program in relation to the development of the EU's total emissions will be conducted every five years. The Swedish government will

invite more countries to participate in the program. Individuals and businesses are invited and encouraged to purchase and cancel allowances. Consequently, the government will propose that companies be given greater incentive to do so through tax deductions in its autumn budget.

- Through this action, we can annually cancel another several million tons of emissions, and the overall effect will be considerably less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, says Isabella Lövin.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# New strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia and the Pacific Region 2016–2021

Published 23 June 2016 Updated 23 June 2016

Yesterday, the Government adopted two new strategies for regional development cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa and regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Region.

## Sub-Saharan Africa

Sweden's new regional strategy in sub-Saharan Africa will contribute to strengthened capacity to face cross-border challenges and opportunities at regional level. The strategy focuses on four areas: democratisation, human rights, human security, and climate change and environmental adaptation measures.

"Climate change and armed conflicts are two examples of challenges that transcend national borders and demand increased regional cooperation. The new strategy shows Sweden's broad commitment to development, security and climate in the region," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The new regional strategy amounts to SEK 450 million per year. In total, the strategy encompasses SEK 2.7 billion until 2021. The strategy will be implemented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

## Asia and the Pacific Region

Regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Region will focus on strengthening regional actors and states to take greater responsibility concerning the environment and climate, human rights, democracy and gender equality. The focus is to be on cross-border challenges, where solutions can best be sought in regional cooperation.

"We focus regional development assistance in Asia and the Pacific Region to the places in the region facing the greatest challenges – in the human rights area and with regard to the effects of climate change and environmental damage," says Ms Lövin.

Asia and the Pacific Region will be hardest hit by climate change. The effects are particularly evident for small island states in the Pacific Ocean.

"We now have the opportunity to contribute to strengthened regional cooperation on adaptation, renewable energy and other matters."

The new regional strategy amounts to SEK 300 million per year. In total, the strategy encompasses SEK 1800 million for the strategy period.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Proposals for new goals and measures for climate and air policy

Published 23 June 2016 Updated 23 June 2016

The Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives has submitted its report to the Government. It contains proposals for several new goals for climate and air policy. In a previous interim report from February, a new climate policy framework and a climate act were proposed.

One of the new proposed climate goals is that emissions from domestic transport is to be reduced by 70 per cent by 2030 compared with the level in 2010. Previously, no quantified emissions targets for the transport sector had been set.

The Committee also proposes goals for emissions reductions in other areas: emissions outside the EU Emissions Trading System must be reduced by at least 75 per cent by 2040 compared with 1990.

The Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives proposes a strategy for a cohesive and long-term climate policy. The strategy covers transports, machinery, industry, housing, agriculture, forestry and other areas. Sweden's ambition to be a leader in climate adaptation should be an overarching objective for industrial and innovation policy.

"I am pleased that a broad majority of the Riksdag supports the report. Sweden is to be a leader in the work to realise the ambitious goals of the Paris climate agreement, and this requires a strategy with clear goals," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

The Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives also includes a strategy for a coordinated clean air policy. In its report, the Committee proposes four new intermediate targets. The targets cover road traffic, small-scale wood burning, the import of air pollution from other countries and the commitments that follow from the NEC Directive. The Committee also provides concrete proposals for policy instruments and measures in each area.

"Air pollution in Sweden contributes to some 5 500 premature deaths each year and entails significant socioeconomic costs. The Cross-Party Committee on Environmental Objectives' proposals can help manage specific challenges in the area of air quality and also reduce our climate impact," says Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog.



Press release from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Karolina Skog and Isabella Lövin take part in Environment Council meeting in Luxembourg

Published 21 June 2016 Updated 21 June 2016

20 June 2016: EU climate and environment ministers are meeting today in Luxembourg. The agenda includes negotiations on the EU's emissions trading system, the National Emission Ceilings Directive and ratification of the Paris climate agreement. Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin are taking part in their first Environment Council meeting.

The ministers will discuss the ongoing negotiations on new targets for the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive). The NEC Directive regulates emissions of various air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide in the Member States. The Council and the Parliament have for some time been engaged in difficult negotiations. At the Environment Council meeting, the ministers are expected to receive information on the Presidency's plan regarding continued negotiations.

"Sweden wants to see an ambitious agreement on how air pollution in the EU is to be reduced. We hope for a speedy resolution to this drawn-out process," says Ms Skog.

The negotiations on how to reform the EU's emissions trading system have been ongoing for nearly a year. The ministers will receive a status report at the Environment Council meeting and provide input for the continued

negotiations. The European Commission will also present two additional legislative proposals this summer: one on a division of responsibilities for emission reductions in the non-ETS sectors, and one on emissions and removals of emissions from land use and forestry. Together, the three negotiations will show how the EU intends to achieve its climate objectives by 2030.

"Sweden takes a positive view of the fact that the EU is now seriously considering how to achieve the objectives, and is pushing for a higher level of ambition in all matters," says Ms Lövin.

The issue of how the EU should regulate endocrine disruptors remains relevant. Last week, the European Commission presented a proposal on how to develop criteria for identifying these substances. The Government considers that the European Commission's proposal is insufficient and will not provide the strong effect necessary to eliminate endocrine disruptors from products. Sweden wants to see a more incisive proposal that applies the precautionary principle, i.e. that a substance suspected of having an endocrine-disrupting effect is to be completely prohibited even if research has not completely proven these suspicions.

The ministers are also expected to adopt a statement on the EU's ratification of the Paris climate agreement. They will also agree on Council conclusions on two different action plans presented by the European Commission – one on a circular economy and one on trade in endangered species of animals and plants.

The meeting is the last Environment Council meeting during the Netherlands Presidency. On 1 July, Slovakia will take over the Presidency of the EU.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# New strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Mali, 2016–2020

Published 17 June 2016 Updated 17 June 2016

The Government has adopted a new five-year strategy for Swedish development cooperation with Mali. The new strategy for development cooperation will focus on democratisation, human rights and human security, and climate change and environmental adaptation measures. In total, the new development strategy for Mali amounts to SEK 1.2 billion over the period 2016–2020.

Mali is one of the ten poorest countries in the world. The security situation continues to be a major challenge and Mali's population needs to see concrete results in the areas of security and development.

"Our new strategy focuses on human rights and peace and reconciliation mechanisms, at both national and local level. At the same time, we give priority to the transition to renewable energy," says Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin.

Sweden has had bilateral development cooperation with Mali for 16 years. In addition to development cooperation, Sweden is also one of the largest humanitarian donors to the Sahel region, including Mali.

"The strategy shows Sweden's broad commitment to development, security and environment. We contribute to a strengthened social contract and reduced vulnerability to relapse into conflict. Sweden will also contribute to

more sustainable use of natural resources and strengthened resilience against climate change," says Ms Lövin.

The three priority areas of the strategy are:

- Strengthened democracy and gender equality, and greater respect for human rights
- Human security and freedom from violence
- A better environment, limited climate impact and greater resilience to environmental impact, climate change and natural disasters

The new strategy includes annual support averaging SEK 240 million, which is an increase compared to the current strategy, which amounts to SEK 200 million per year.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Isabella Lövin discusses peace at UN Security Council

Published 07 June 2016 Updated 07 June 2016

Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin is visiting the United Nations headquarters in New York from 7 to 10 June. There she will take part in a debate in the UN Security Council on protection of civilians and peacekeeping operations, and a seminar on the UN Global Goals and education, together with Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin.

"At a time when large parts of the world are experiencing war and conflict, as well as the largest refugee flows since the Second World War, I will talk about the importance of respecting the fundamental humanitarian principles. This also applies to the UN's own peacekeeping troops, who must be well prepared for the operations they are to undertake and trained in ethics, gender equality and human rights. The world must be able to trust the UN to do its job," says Ms Lövin.

Her speech to the Security Council will be delivered in connection with an open debate on 10 June. Alongside Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin, Ms Lövin will also take part in a seminar on the UN's new Global Goals and Sweden's First Generation campaign, which is about highlighting the particularly important role of young people and teachers in achieving the goals, on 9 June.

On 8 June – World Oceans Day – Ms Lövin will take part in a ceremony to welcome the Polynesian voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a alongside UN Secretary

General Ban Ki-moon. Alongside a number of small island nations, Sweden has taken the lead on a follow-up mechanism to ensure the global implementation of Global Goal 14 on sustainable seas. Sweden and Fiji will jointly host a conference on sustainable seas in Fiji in June 2017.



**Government Offices of Sweden**

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice

# Government reshuffle, 25 May 2016

Published 25 May 2016 Updated 01 June 2016

## Newly appointed ministers

Minister for the Environment (Ministry of the Environment and Energy):  
Karolina Skog (Green Party)

Minister for Housing and Digital Development (Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation): Peter Eriksson (Green Party)

Minister for EU Affairs and Trade (Ministry for Foreign Affairs): Ann Linde (Social Democratic Party)

## Changes by ministry

### Prime Minister's Office

- Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy Ibrahim Baylan will be responsible for policy coordination and energy issues.
- Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson leaves the Government.
- The Government will establish a Committee for Strategic Development under the Prime Minister's Office.

### Ministry of Employment

- Ylva Johansson's title is changed to Minister for Employment and

Integration.

## Ministry of Finance

- Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi will be responsible for eGovernment.

## Ministry of Justice

- Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson will be responsible for arms export control issues.

## Ministry of the Environment and Energy

- Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog takes office as head of Ministry, with responsibility for environmental issues and urban environment agreements.

- Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson leaves the Government.

## Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

- Minister for Housing and Digital Development Peter Eriksson takes office, with responsibility for housing and digital development issues.

## Ministry for Foreign Affairs

- Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin will be responsible for international development cooperation and climate issues and is Deputy Prime Minister, but will not substitute for the Prime Minister.

- Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde takes office, with responsibility for EU affairs and trade issues.

- Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will be responsible for Nordic affairs.

## Press contacts for the Prime Minister and newly

## appointed ministers

### Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

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Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Wallström and Lövin to attend global summit in Istanbul

Published 23 May 2016 Updated 23 May 2016

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin will take part in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) on 23 and 24 May. Some 150 countries will take part in the Summit, which is being held at the initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Summit is taking place at a time in which there are more, and more extensive, humanitarian crises than the world has seen for some time. If all of the 125 million people around the globe in urgent need of humanitarian assistance were gathered in a single country, that country would be the eleventh largest in the world. At the same time, UN appeals are underfunded and there is inadequate respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

At the Summit, Ms Wallström will lead a round-table discussion on the situation of women and girls in humanitarian crises. She will also take part in discussions on humanitarian financing. Ms Lövin will take part in discussions on political leadership and how war and conflict can be prevented. The ministers will also take part in a number of side events on topics including international humanitarian law, sexual and gender-based violence, and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

Sweden has produced around 50 specific actions, encompassing all seven round-table subject areas, which will be presented at the Summit. Sweden's main priorities at the WHS are strengthening international humanitarian law, ensuring the influence of women and girls, promoting new forms of financing, and generating hope and a future for all women, men and children

trapped in protracted crises.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden among the largest donors of development aid in the world in proportion to its GNI

Published 13 April 2016 Updated 13 April 2016

New figures from OECD DAC for 2015 show that Sweden is one of the countries in the world with the highest level of development aid as a percentage of GNI. This applies whether costs for asylum reception are included or not.

In 2015, Sweden's development aid budget amounted to 0.96 per cent of GNI. In the OECD DAC outcome data, Sweden ends up with a much higher figure: 1.4 per cent of GNI. The figure is high because Sweden, as in previous years, reports total costs for reception of asylum seekers from developing countries in accordance with applicable DAC principles on what can be counted as development aid. This also includes costs financed through parts of the central government budget other than development aid. Neither the development aid budget nor development aid activities have been affected by the increased costs of asylum reception in 2015. The figure 1.4 per cent also includes advance payments to a number of UN bodies and a capital subscription in the form of a note to the Green Climate Fund, which results in a higher outcome.

In the development aid budget for 2015, 22 per cent of the 0.96 per cent of GNI went to costs for asylum reception. For 2016, the Government has set a limit – a maximum of 30 per cent of the development aid budget may go towards asylum costs. According to the spring amending budget, presented today, asylum costs in 2016 will amount to 28.3 per cent of the development aid budget, which totals approximately SEK 43.4 billion.

The DAC data also shows the percentage of total reported development aid funds that went to asylum costs at home, which in Sweden's case was 33.8 per cent. However, this includes costs financed through other parts of the central government budget. It is therefore important to underline that in 2015, 22 per cent of the Swedish development aid budget went to asylum reception.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Delegates agree major political commitments

Published 05 April 2016 Updated 05 April 2016

Stockholm, 5 April, 2016. - Over 40 countries agree new commitments to support fragile and conflict affected states - Commitments focused on tackling root causes of conflict through the 'New Deal' - The New Deal is an action plan and guide for prioritising investment in peacebuilding and statebuilding - Since launching in 2008 the New Deal has been 'pilot tested' in 8 countries including Somalia, Sierra Leone, and Timor Leste with notable success.

Today, 1.5 billion of the world's poorest live in countries grappling with conflict or fragility. By 2030, without coordinated international action to tackle the root causes, two thirds of the world's poor will be living in countries and regions plagued by endemic violence, and fragility. This will undermine any prospect of achieving the UN's ambitious goal of eradicating extreme poverty in Agenda 2030, which the world signed up to last September. And, crucially, it could further precipitate the global humanitarian and refugee crises and heightened threats of terrorism with increasing repercussions on a global scale.

Recognising the urgency of this challenge, members and supporters of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, from over 40 countries, gathered in Stockholm today to commit to speeding up and scaling

up their efforts to prevent conflict by tackling its root causes.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Sweden's Minister of International Development Cooperation AND Co-Chair of the International Dialogue, Isabella Lövin summed up the challenge:

"This high level meeting comes at a critical time. Increasing refugee flows, violent extremism, a rise in wars and conflicts as well as climate related disasters have changed the global landscape. It is now more important than ever to tackle the root causes of conflict, to fight against extreme poverty and to work on resilience. Agenda 2030 and the Global Goals provide us with an opportunity for action - we need a New Deal for Peace!"

## What is the International Dialogue?

The International Dialogue is a unique multi-stakeholder partnership between the 'g7+' group of countries affected by conflict and fragility, donors from OECD countries, and civil society organisations.

Founded in in 2008 out of the belief that externally imposed solutions do not work and often actually undermine prospects of recovery of states weakened by war and other forms of fragility, the International Dialogue, spearheaded the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States in 2011.

## What is the New Deal?

The New Deal is essentially an action plan and guide for how to prioritise investment in peacebuilding and statebuilding in fragile environments. 'Implementing the New Deal', as it came to be known, meant investing financially and politically in the 5 peacebuilding and statebuilding goals (PSGs) - inclusive politics, security, justice, jobs and basic social services, but in line with basic aid effectiveness principles and nationally defined priorities. This meant rebuilding broken down national institutions (statebuilding), but at the same time rebuilding broken down relations between states and citizens, a common feature in conflict-affected and fragile settings. The New Deal provided a step-by-step guide as to how to do this practically, in ways that donors could then agree to collectively underwrite.

## Progress so far – the case of Somalia

After just a few years, where the New Deal has been 'pilot tested' (Somalia, Sierra Leone, Timor Leste), there have been notable successes. After 20 years of war and incoherent international approaches, although not out of the woods yet, inspired by the New Deal, Somalia has made huge strides. Both Government and International donors, since 2013 have united behind the same priorities, working in partnership, prioritising peacebuilding and statebuilding and pulling actors together across diverse sectors (security, justice, defence, diplomatic) to join forces to build peace.

While much has been achieved, the International Dialogue acknowledges that much remains to be done to turn New Deal commitments, into concrete results on the ground and across the board. In some countries, progress has been slow and erratic; in others there has been little progress at all, as initial international and national enthusiasm has waned.

## Today's Declaration:

The Stockholm Declaration outlines what members must do now to revive commitment to the New Deal and take it the next level, and fast if the UN's ambitious 2030 Agenda for sustainable development for all is to be realised, particularly in fragile and conflict affected environments.

The International Dialogue recognises it cannot do this alone but must work with new stakeholders that can carry its message. At this, its 5th Global Meeting, the Dialogue joined forces with new allies from the humanitarian community, other countries also grappling with conflict and fragility, and a wider network of like-minded stakeholders. Together as part of the 'Stockholm Declaration' they called for stepped commitment to prevention and tackling the root cause of conflict and fragility. Next month, with the International Dialogue, they will send a strong message to World Humanitarian Summit about how to forge stronger collaborative partnerships between humanitarian and development actors based on shared commitments to these goals.

## Statement highlights:

The members of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding concretely committed to:

- accelerating and improving the effort to address root causes of fragility, conflict and violence. And to use the New Deal Peacebuilding and

Statebuilding Goals as tools to guide their interventions

- strengthening women's active participation in peacebuilding by linking the implementation of the New Deal to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, in particular UNSCR 2250 on the need to increase representation of youth in decision-making at all levels;
- developing coherent approaches to make politics inclusive; and building effective structures for conflict management and reconciliation.
- Using development aid more effectively and coordinated. Target development support in fragile and conflict –affected settings, especially in protracted crisis, and bridge the gap between humanitarian aid and long-term development aid.
- Build stronger partnership in order to build trust and share experiences between countries as well as donors and civil society organisations.

## Implementing the 2030 Agenda by using New Deal principles

The New Deal is the preferred framework for achieving resilience and development results in fragile and conflict-affected environments and for meeting our commitment to 'leaving no one behind'. Within this context the members of the IDPS agreed that they will:

- increase political and financial efforts to operationalise and implement the 2030 Agenda in line with the New Deal principles and according to the special needs of fragile contexts;
- strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue at country level; and
- streamline bureaucratic procedures to increase timely delivery of development support.

The IDPS members also committed to using development aid in more innovative ways to better respond to protracted crises. They will:

- aim to increase the investment of country programmable aid in countries affected by fragility, violence and conflict;
- strengthen national public financial management systems and adopt proven risk management strategies in order to reduce fiduciary risks so that the wider use of country systems becomes possible;
- implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development by scaling up the levels of development support invested in domestic resource mobilisation by 2020, with a special focus on

tackling tax avoidance schemes in line with the Addis Ababa Tax Initiative

## About the Ministerial Meeting, the Dialogue, and the New Deal

- The meeting was chaired by the Government's of Sweden and Sierra Leone and was attended by Ministers from International Dialogue signatory states plus major multilateral development organisations including the World Bank and the UN.
- The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding is unique. It is the only peacebuilding and statebuilding forum that brings together donors, fragile and conflict affected states and civil society, to collectively forge transitions out of fragility and towards peace and development.
- By promoting its 'New Deal' principles as a guide to effective engagement in fragile environments, it is rebuilding state capacity and facilitating country-led and country owned pathways out of fragility and conflict in countries as diverse as Somalia, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan.
- The International Dialogue's New Deal is endorsed and supported by 40 signatory states, as well as the major development actors such as the World Bank, UN, and the EU.

For further information on the International Dialogue and the New Deal please refer to the enclosed media briefing note.

Notes to editors:

For further information and interview requests please contact:

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Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# New version: High-level meeting in Stockholm adopts the Stockholm Declaration against war and conflicts

Published 30 March 2016 Updated 30 March 2016

On 5 April, leaders from countries affected by conflict, donor countries, the UN and civil society organisations will meet in Stockholm. Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin will host the meeting, where some 40 countries and organisations are set to agree on a declaration – the Stockholm Declaration – on how to strengthen efforts to prevent conflicts and create the conditions for lasting peace.

In her capacity as chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Ms Lövin is hosting the meeting together with East Timor's deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development Helder Lopes. Participants will include UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, and ministers and government representatives from a number of countries including Somalia, Liberia, Timor-Leste, the UK, Belgium and Germany.

**High-level meeting on 5 April: Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World**

**Press briefing: 14.10–14.40**, with the possibility for individual interviews. UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin. Please state whether

you are interested in interviewing other participants.

Registration is required; please contact Press Secretary Annika Flensburg via email.

**Venue:** Münchenbryggeriet, Stockholm. Room: Fågelström.

The number of armed conflicts in the world is increasing. Not since the Second World War have so many people been displaced, and the need for urgent disaster relief has doubled since 2012. Poverty is increasingly concentrated in conflict-affected countries and it is estimated that, by 2030, two thirds of the world's poor will be living in these countries. In order for the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the world last autumn to become a reality, there must be a greater focus on countries affected by conflict.

"Efforts to prevent war and conflicts are currently not satisfactory. The international community has to get better at working in these environments. Coordination is lacking on the part of the donor countries and support to affected countries is fragmented. In Stockholm we will agree on a new plan to hone these efforts. The world cannot afford any more wars," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding is an association of some 40 countries and organisations working together to ensure the more efficient use of aid in conflict-affected countries and fragile states.

The ministerial meeting will take place in connection with the Stockholm Forum on Security and Development, which is organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Press invitation: High-level meeting in Stockholm on new plan to combat war and conflicts

Published 23 March 2016 Updated 23 March 2016

On 5 April, leaders from countries affected by conflict, donor countries, the UN and civil society organisations will meet in Stockholm. Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin will host the meeting, where participants are set to agree on a declaration about how to strengthen efforts to prevent conflicts and create the conditions for a lasting peace.

The number of armed conflicts in the world is increasing; not since the Second World War have so many people been displaced, and the need for urgent disaster relief has doubled since 2012. Poverty is increasingly concentrated in conflict-affected countries and it is estimated that, by 2030, two thirds of the world's poor will be living in these countries. In order for the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the world last autumn to become a reality, there must be a greater focus on countries affected by conflict.

"Efforts to prevent war and conflicts are currently not up to standard. The international community has to get better at working in these environments. Coordination is lacking on the part of the donor countries and support to affected countries is fragmented. In Stockholm we will agree on a new plan to hone these efforts. The world cannot afford any more wars," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

In her capacity as chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Ms Lövin is hosting the meeting together with Sierra Leone's

Minister of Finance and Economic Development Kaifala Marah. Participants will include UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Helen Clark, and ministers and government representatives from a number of countries including Somalia, Liberia, Timor-Leste, the UK, Belgium and Germany.

**High-level meeting on 5 April:** Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World

**Press briefing:** 14:10-14:40, with the possibility for individual interviews. Registration is required; please contact Press Secretary Annika Flensburg via email.

**Venue:** Münchenbryggeriet, Stockholm. Room: Fågelström.

The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding is an association of some 40 countries and organisations working together to ensure the more efficient use of aid in conflict-affected countries and fragile states.

The ministerial meeting will take place in connection with the Stockholm Forum on Security and Development, which is organised by the Government and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden adopts strategy for gender equality and sustainability within the UN World Food Programme

Published 21 March 2016 Updated 21 March 2016

The Government has adopted a new two-year strategy for the UN World Food Programme (WFP), which highlights the issues Sweden is to pursue to further strengthen the organisation's activities. Increased local procurement, use of cash cards and coupons, and gender equality are some of our priorities. Another priority is the introduction of an environmental management system.

The WFP is the world's largest humanitarian organisation. Its primary goal is to save lives and fight hunger in disaster and emergency situations, using food assistance.

"The WFP plays an extremely important role in helping women, men and children in need. To tackle the challenges that are at record levels, where the need for urgent disaster relief has doubled in just four years, it is necessary for the WFP's work to be honed further," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

Eighty per cent of the needs exist in areas affected by war and conflict. Many of these crises are becoming increasingly protracted, and many people are dependent on urgent disaster relief from the WFP and other actors for many years, sometimes decades.

"As the world's largest humanitarian organisation and a major purchaser, the WFP has huge potential to influence matters in the long term as well. By purchasing more locally and giving those in need of help more cash cards and coupons, the WFP can strengthen local markets, agriculture and women's economic position. If the WFP produces a plan for how to work in a more environmentally sustainable way, I am convinced it can work more efficiently, find synergies and free up resources," says Ms Lövin.

The strategy is also part of Sweden's efforts to ensure more strategic governance of the UN bodies to ensure long-term sustainable results.

In 2014, the WFP delivered 3.2 million tonnes of food assistance to approximately 80 million people in more than 80 countries. Sweden's total support to the WFP in 2015 amounted to approximately SEK 725 million, of which SEK 550 million was core support. For 2016, core support will amount to SEK 600 million, but the total is not clear yet as payments may be made during the course of the year to specific crises.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government appoints delegation for Sweden's implementation of 2030 Agenda

Published 17 March 2016 Updated 17 March 2016

Today, Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin and Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson presents the delegation that has been instructed by the Government to support and stimulate Sweden's implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda and its Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The delegation will produce an overarching action plan for Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda and draw attention to examples of best practice in the area.

"The Government's ambition is for Sweden to be a leader in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda and the 17 Global Goals are largely in line with the objectives set by the Riksdag in various policy areas. In several areas, there are already initiatives, action plans and strategies today that will help achieve the 2030 Agenda goals. Sweden has a strong starting position and our work on the 2030 Agenda will enhance sustainable development in Sweden, as well as in the rest of the world. The delegation will have a very important role to play in this work," says Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi.

The aim of the delegation is to promote, facilitate and stimulate the work of

implementing the 2030 Agenda. The remit includes conducting a survey and assessment of the extent to which Sweden fulfils the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda; submitting proposals for an overarching action plan for Sweden's implementation; and disseminating information on examples of best practice in the area of socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development, and working to ensure these win attention.

"One of the strengths of the Global Goals is that they apply to all countries. This is the world's chance to eradicate poverty and oppression, and transition to sustainable societies. Development aid will play a central role in reaching the most vulnerable people of all, but decisions must come from every policy area to help overcome obstacles and create opportunities for sustainable development. The delegation is essential for advancing this work. We as a Government have a special responsibility, but broad public engagement is needed to ensure the 2030 Agenda becomes reality," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The Chair and members of the delegation together have a wide range of skills and experience. Issues they have worked on include human rights, CSR, culture, the environment, local government, public authorities, business, civil society, research and international development work.

The following people will make up the delegation:

**Parul Sharma (Chair)**

Head of CSR Compliance at Advokatfirman Vinge and Dean of the Academy for Human Rights in Business.

**Ida Texell**

Director and head of rescue operations at Attunda fire brigade.

**Mattias Klum**

Photographer, filmmaker and author, specialising in nature, culture and global environmental issues.

**Ingrid Petersson**

Director General of the Swedish Research Council Formas.

**Johan Hassel**

CEO of Global Challenge, an independent Swedish think tank.

**Johan Rockström**

Professor of Environmental Science at Stockholm University and Executive

Director of Stockholm Resilience Centre.

**Johanna Sandahl**

Chair of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Minister for International Development Cooperation to South Sudan

Published 08 March 2016 Updated 08 March 2016

Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin will arrive in South Sudan today for a two-day visit. The aim of the visit is to promote both the peace process in the country and women's rights.

Ms Lövin will meet representatives of the Government, the opposition and civil society, and discuss how Sweden can support implementation of the peace agreement. Today, on International Women's Day, Ms Lövin will take part in an event with UN Women and local women's organisations, where a central issue is women's participation in peace efforts.

"The civilian population in South Sudan has been subjected to appalling atrocities during the prolonged conflicts in South Sudan. Women and children have been particularly vulnerable. The peace agreement contains promising mechanisms for prosecuting criminals and bringing about national reconciliation. At the same time, it is important that women are not seen merely as victims of the violence of war, but also as actors for peace," says Ms Lövin.

Ms Lövin will also meet actors working with the peace process in South Sudan, particularly the UN UNMISS mission and the newly established Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (JMEC).

"The ceasefire must be respected, violence against the civilian population must cease and help must be permitted to reach those in distress. It is of vital importance that last year's peace agreement is not delayed any further," says Ms Lövin.

Sweden provided SEK 144 million in long-term development assistance to South Sudan in 2015. Ms Lövin's agenda includes visiting internally displaced persons and the Juba Teaching Hospital, where Sweden has financed a newly established programme for midwives. Sweden is also a major donor of emergency relief to South Sudan, which amounted to SEK 310 million in 2015.

South Sudan takes part in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) forum, of which Ms Lövin is one of two co-chairs. For this reason, peacebuilding and statebuilding issues will be highlighted during the visit.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Increased development aid to Ethiopia to strengthen human rights and prevent natural and climate-related disasters

Published 03 March 2016 Updated 03 March 2016

The Government will today approve a new five-year aid strategy for Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous country. The previous strategy dates from 2003 and there was a major need for a relaunch.

Despite economic progress, Ethiopia is still one of the world's poorest countries, with a rapidly increasing population. The challenges are substantial. Climate change is exacerbating the drought and creating recurrent humanitarian crises, the human rights situation is serious, and the scope for civil society is restricted. At the same time, Ethiopia is Africa's largest contributor of troops to peacekeeping operations, and the country has taken in 700 000 refugees from neighbouring countries and has one of the continent's most ambitious climate policies.

"It is high time that we update our support to Ethiopia. Sweden's engagement for the Ethiopian people goes back half a century. We will use this unique position to strengthen efforts for human rights and a free civil society," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The ongoing drought caused by the el Niño weather phenomenon is the worst in 30 years, and risks causing a famine affecting millions of people.

"The recurrent humanitarian crises are bringing the Ethiopian people to their knees. We must both assist them in this acute situation and also work with a more long-term perspective to ensure that in the future, people there –

including the hundreds of thousands of refugees – are better equipped against drought and extreme weather events that are being exacerbated by climate change," says Ms Lövin.

The three priority areas of the strategy are:

- Strengthened democracy and gender equality, and increased respect for human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Strengthened resilience to environmental impacts, climate change and natural disasters.
- Improved opportunities for poor people to improve their living conditions, access to livelihoods and work.

Ethiopia was the first country to which Sweden gave development assistance: cooperation began in 1954. The new strategy includes annual support averaging SEK 200 million.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden's development assistance is of world class according to new OECD review

Published 02 February 2016 Updated 02 February 2016

Sweden is described as a global leader in development issues in a mid-term review by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The review states that Sweden is increasing its role as a leader in the work to help people who are suffering due to war, conflicts or natural disasters.

The review also points out Sweden's leading role to implement the new global goals for sustainable development and that Sweden continues to be one of the most generous donors in the world, with its development assistance goal of 1 per cent of GNI.

"We have every reason to be extremely proud. The review shows that Sweden's development assistance is of world class. This refers to both size and quality. The Swedish people are helping to alleviate the suffering of people in distress, to get at the fundamental causes of war and conflicts so that people are not forced to flee, and to make it possible for women and girls to go to school, work and live a free life," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

In addition, the review highlights Sweden's work to relaunch its Policy for Global Development, which involves all policy areas contributing to development. The review states that Sweden is one of the European countries that has received most refugees in 2015. The OECD-DAC notes that in-donor refugee costs have increased in recent years, but that in 2015 the Government decided to cap refugee costs at 30 per cent of the

development assistance budget for 2016. The review praises Sweden for maintaining, in most cases, its current commitments of aid to organisations and countries at the same levels as the support provided in 2015. Whether in-donor costs for refugee reception reach 30 per cent depends on the number of refugees that come to Sweden in 2016, and the adjustment will be made in the spring amending budget.

"The cap shows that Sweden is safeguarding aid. Aid plays an important role in meeting the global challenges that face us," says Ms Lövin.

The OECD-DAC mid-term review is a follow-up of the larger review that the OECD-DAC carried out of Sweden's development assistance in 2013. That review contained proposals consisting of a number of recommendations on how Swedish aid could be improved. The OECD-DAC states that Sweden is well on the way to implementing all its recommendations.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government to adopt new strategies for the large development banks

Published 02 February 2016 Updated 02 February 2016

The Government will adopt new strategies for Sweden's cooperation with the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) and the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). These strategies mean that the Government is raising its ambitions regarding work by the development banks on environment and climate issues.

Important points of departure for the strategies are the new Global Goals for sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and work to improve gender equality around the world.

"We will push for the banks to develop plans with timetabled goals for scaling up renewable investments and, in the longer term, phasing out fossil fuels. The development banks have an important role to play in helping developing countries skip the fossil stage and instead directly enter the energy market of the future. The needs are pressing; 1.3 billion people currently do not have electricity. The banks should be an engine to change this," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

"We will also give special priority to work by the development banks in the area of gender equality, so that gender equality is truly integrated into all activities and outcomes in the area are followed up and evaluated. There is

great potential for growth – and therefore potential to combat poverty – in more gender-equal societies," continues Ms Lövin.

The strategies also emphasise that the development banks are to raise their ambitions regarding work with sustainable and inclusive economic development, as well as peace and statebuilding.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden behind resolution to save world's oceans

Published 22 December 2015 Updated 22 December 2015

The United Nations General Assembly will today adopt a resolution to give impetus to the work to protect the world's oceans. Sweden and Fiji initiated the resolution, which has received backing from more than 90 countries from all continents, including small island nations.

"It is very gratifying that the resolution will be passed with such broad support. This is an important step towards creating a global partnership to save the world's oceans," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

"Flourishing, healthy oceans are fundamental if we are to combat poverty and create prosperity for millions of people," Ms Lövin continues.

In September, the UN Member States adopted 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development, of which SDG 14 aims to conserve oceans and marine resources. Sweden and Fiji are working together to give impetus to the implementation of this goal, and to ensure that there is a structure for follow-up in place. The resolution is a first step in the creation of an international partnership. It establishes that a global High-level United Nations Conference will be held in Fiji in June 2017. The conference is intended to result in concrete recommendations on how the work to implement SDG 14 will continue. Political leaders and representatives of the business sector and civil society will be invited to attend.

"The High-level Conference will serve to maintain the political pressure. We also hope to address the current lack of coordination between marine

stakeholders," says Ms Lövin.

The state of our oceans is very serious, and this is an issue that transcends national borders. Populations of fish and marine vertebrates in the world's oceans are now half what they were in 1970. Climate change, unsustainable fisheries, ocean acidification and environmental pollutants affect marine ecosystems. The deteriorating marine environment has the harshest impact on people in the poorest countries.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government adopts a new strategy for the Syria crisis

Published 17 December 2015 Updated 17 December 2015

The Government has today adopted a new five-year aid strategy for the Syria crisis that aims to alleviate the effects of the conflict both inside Syria and on vulnerable groups in the neighbouring countries. The Government is reinvigorating its efforts and will increase support by almost SEK 300 million per year.

"The challenges are enormous and disaster relief is not enough. We also have to find new ways of helping people, building hope for the future and improving the prospects for future peace," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

Sweden is the first donor country to take a long-term comprehensive approach to improving the lives of people in Syria and of refugees from Syria, and other vulnerable groups in neighbouring countries. The strategy for the Syria crisis will provide a total of SEK 1.7 billion (MUSD 200/MEUR 180) between 2016 and 2020. This means that development assistance will increase from SEK 50 million to SEK 340 million per year.

"Two million children in Syria are not going to school and people cannot support themselves. We risk creating lost generations that will make the reconstruction of Syria more difficult. We must try to reverse these developments," says Ms Lövin.

The strategy will prioritise the following:

- improving access to school, health care and public services for people in Syria and for people in the neighbouring countries, including refugees

from Syria, who are in a vulnerable situation due to the Syria crisis,

- improving job opportunities for people in Syria and in the neighbouring countries, including refugees from Syria, who are in a vulnerable situation due to the Syria crisis,
- combating and preventing gender-based violence in Syria and in Syria's neighbouring countries,
- strengthening Syrian civil society organisations and independent Syrian media, and
- increasing knowledge about democracy and human rights.

The strategy complements the humanitarian support that Sweden provides. To date, Sweden has approximately SEK 1.9 billion (MUSD 264/MEUR 210) in humanitarian support to the Syria crisis.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# New initiative to protect women and girls against violence in Myanmar

Published 10 December 2015 Updated 10 December 2015

Today, in connection with International Human Rights Day, Sweden is launching a new initiative to safeguard the rights of women and girls in Myanmar. The project will be conducted jointly with Finland and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and will encompass SEK 100 million over a three-year period. Sweden's contribution will amount to SEK 20 million.

The 'Women and Girls First' project will be implemented in cooperation with local and international partners and focus on the most vulnerable women and girls in the remote and conflict-affected provinces of Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan. The aim of the initiative is to prevent and respond to the violence committed against women and girls in Myanmar, and to improve their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The initiative covers preventive measures in the areas of reproductive health and emergency medical care, as well as care, support and treatment for women subjected to violence and rape. Another aim is to increase women's and girls' knowledge about their rights, and also to mobilise men and boys in gender equality work. Improved health for women and children, with a special focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, is also one of three focus areas in Sweden's bilateral cooperation strategy for the country.

"I welcome the launch of this initiative together with our cooperation partners, UNFPA and Finland, to address violence against women and girls. This is particularly important in areas of conflict and where certain ethnic

groups, such as the Rohingya, experience discrimination and lack protection and care in the event of abuse," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. "The recent elections show that the people of Myanmar voted for a change towards democracy, and we look forward to working closely with the new government," she adds.

One important step in the democratisation process is to increase respect for the human rights of all people in Myanmar, regardless of ethnicity, religion or sex. This is why it is important to change men's attitudes, increase women's knowledge about their rights and contribute to the building of a state under the rule of law, where everyone is given protection.

"This initiative is an important part of Sweden's support to Myanmar. Promoting gender equality and women's and girls' enhanced possibilities is a prerequisite for Myanmar being able to move towards a more democratic society. 'Women and Girls First' aims to enable just this kind of development," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# COP21: Sweden increases support to renewable energy in developing countries

Published 08 December 2015 Updated 08 December 2015

Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin is attending COP21 in Paris and will announce new strategic support that will increase access to renewable electricity in the least developed countries. SEK 15 million will go to the UN Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative and SEK 20 million to the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Programme in Low Income Countries.

More than one billion people currently lack access to energy, of whom more than 600 million live in sub-Saharan Africa. The Government is committed to further increasing its support to the development of renewable energy in the developing countries.

"Access to energy is a key issue in fighting poverty and stopping climate change. The solution is small-scale renewable electricity that is produced outside the large grids," says Ms Lövin.

"A revolution is already under way when it comes to the transition to renewable energy. Extra support to the least-developed countries and to the Sustainable Energy for All initiative are important components to help low income countries skip the fossil stage," says Ms Lövin.

During COP21, it will be announced that SEK 20 million will go to the World Bank Scaling up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP) and SEK 15

million to the UN Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative. SE4ALL gathers leaders from the political world, the business community and civil society to exchange experiences, find solutions and give advice to developing countries. SE4ALL is maintaining the political pressure to increase access to electricity in low income countries by promoting a significant increase in renewable energy and energy efficiency.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# SEK 2 billion to development cooperation

Published 03 December 2015 Updated 04 December 2015

The Government and the Left Party today agreed to make an additional payment of some SEK 2 billion to development cooperation in 2015. The money will go to humanitarian aid, refugee and other similar organisations.

"I welcome this agreement. It is very positive for Swedish development cooperation and shows that Sweden takes responsibility and is leading the way in these times of difficult global challenges," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

"The global humanitarian situation has seriously deteriorated in recent months. There are currently more than 60 million refugees around the world and more people than ever before are seeking asylum in Sweden. This is a serious and unprecedented situation," says Ms Lövin.

The Government and the Left Party have agreed to make advance payments of some SEK 2 billion to organisations involved in humanitarian and conflict prevention, including the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The agreement means that the Government will propose that the Riksdag increase the development cooperation appropriation by the corresponding amount over the next few years by reducing the amount of aid used to support refugees.

The Government has previously decided that the costs for refugee reception must not exceed 30 per cent of the development cooperation budget.





Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Prime Minister Stefan Löfven received President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan in Stockholm

Published 30 November 2015 Updated 30 November 2015

On Friday 4 December, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven received the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, in Stockholm. They met to discuss topics including developments in Afghanistan, Swedish support and the international refugee crisis. A cooperation agreement between the two countries was also signed.

## Invitation to press conference

Mr Löfven will receive President Ghani in the entrance to Rosenbad.  
Photo opportunity.

Discussions.  
Photo pool.

Signing of cooperation agreement.  
Photo pool.

Joint press conference with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and President Ashraf Ghani in Bella Venezia Language: English.

The press conference will be webcast live on [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se)

## To editorial offices

Special media accreditation obtained via the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is

required to follow the programme. Please apply to the International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no later than 18.00 on 2 December.

Apply for accreditation

The assembly place and time for each programme point will be announced to the media representatives concerned.

## Programme points, 4 December

During his visit to Sweden, President Ghani will also hold bilateral talks with Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist, and meet Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin. He will also meet Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin, and have a meeting with Crown Princess Victoria at the Royal Palace. He will also undertake a visit to the KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

### Morning

Visit to the KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

Meeting with Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin.

### Late morning

Bilateral talks between President Ghani and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Photo pool.

### Afternoon

Bilateral talks between President Ghani and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Photo pool.

Crown Princess Victoria receives President Ghani at the Royal Palace.

Photo pool.

Mr Löfven receives President Ghani in the entrance to Rosenbad as above.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden increases its contribution to climate change adaptation in the most vulnerable countries

Published 30 November 2015 Updated 30 November 2015

At the opening of the COP21 climate conference in Paris today, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will announce the Government's intention to provide an additional SEK 250 million in support for climate change adaptation to the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries. This contribution encompasses SEK 150 million to the Adaptation Fund and SEK 100 million to the Least Developed Countries Fund. For developing countries, financing for climate change adaptation is one of the most important issues in the negotiations.

Financing for climate change adaptation is extremely important, particularly for small island nations and least developed countries that are already forced to deal with the consequences of climate change. This support shows that Sweden is taking great responsibility and continuing to lead the way in support to the most vulnerable countries, says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) observes that the effects of the climate-related extreme weather events of recent years, including heat waves, droughts, flooding, cyclones, and forest and brush fires, show how vulnerable and exposed societies and ecosystems really are. People living in poverty are particularly vulnerable. Preventive measures and adapting societies to climate change are crucial to save lives and safeguard opportunities to earn a living.

The Adaptation Fund offers support to measures to, for example, develop climate-resilient agricultural methods, warning systems and flood defences, and secure access to water, while the LDCF primarily focuses on supporting the least developed countries in preparing and implementing national action plans for climate change adaptation.

The support announced today supplements previous support from Sweden. Sweden is the largest per capita donor to the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, and also contributes to climate financing in various developing countries via the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

COP21 in Paris begins today, 30 November, and is scheduled to continue until 11 December. Sweden's ambition is that the negotiations will result in a global, fair and legally binding climate agreement that over time helps keep global warming as far below two degrees as possible.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden increasing aid to Iraq and Syria

Published 26 November 2015 Updated 26 November 2015

Today, Sweden is taking a decision on support to the areas in Iraq that have been liberated from ISIL, as well as to areas in Syria controlled by the opposition and in affected neighbouring countries. The increased support totals SEK 79 million.

“This support to Iraq and Syria is important to enable a long-term solution to the conflicts. Sweden continues to work on both the political and the military track, as well as through aid measures,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

“These decisions must be seen as part of Sweden’s broad commitment in the Iraq and Syria crisis. This support to Iraq confirms Sweden’s intention to step up and take responsibility to meet the serious threat that ISIL represents today. Through the Syria fund we can help to ensure that more people in the areas of Syria seriously affected by war gain increased access to water and electricity, and we can contribute to food security,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

**The UN’s stabilisation measures** in Iraq will receive a contribution of almost SEK 35 million. This money will go to a fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the civilian population in the areas liberated from ISIL, thus making it easier for internally displaced persons to return to their homes.

Sweden is providing a new contribution of SEK 16 million to the **Syria Recovery Trust Fund**, which finances rebuilding and the provision of basic social services in the areas of Syria controlled by the opposition.

Syria's neighbouring countries are being subjected to major strains as a result of the very large number of refugees from Syria who have sought protection in these countries. The Government has therefore decided to contribute SEK 28 million to **the Madad Fund**. This fund collects contributions from the EU budget and the Member States for support to refugees and host communities in Syria's neighbouring countries, primarily Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt. Certain countries in the Western Balkans will probably also receive support. In addition, aid can be given to activities within Syria.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to attend Nordic Council in Reykjavik on 27–28 October

Published 27 October 2015 Updated 27 October 2015

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will be in Reykjavik on 27–28 October for the annual session of the Nordic Council. His schedule includes meetings with the Nordic prime ministers, the Nordic Council Presidium and the three self-governing territories of Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland. Subjects including migration, climate, the environment and Syria will be on the agenda.

On Tuesday 27 October, the Prime Minister will take part in the award ceremony for the Nordic Council prizes.

While in Reykjavik, Mr Löfven will also attend a meeting of the Nordic and Baltic prime ministers, focusing on security policy cooperation in our neighbourhood.

In connection to the Nordic Council session, the Nordic–Baltic heads of government will also meet the Prime Minister of the UK within the Northern Future Forum.

Attending alongside Mr Löfven will be Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson, Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke and Minister for International

Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin. For details of the respective programmes, please contact the relevant press secretaries.

## Press briefings

### Wednesday 28 October

11.15–11.45 Press conference with the Nordic prime ministers.

Venue: Harpa – Kaldalón

14.00–14.30 Press conference with the Nordic and Baltic prime ministers.

Venue: Harpa – Kaldalón



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Press release: Sweden and Fiji take initiative to protect oceans

Published 26 September 2015 Updated 26 September 2015

The 17 global goals for sustainable development, including the goal on the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, have just been adopted in New York. Today, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, together with Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin and Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, is announcing a joint initiative to push forward the implementation of this goal and ensure a follow-up system is put in place.

“The world’s oceans and seas are a unique resource under threat. One of the biggest reasons for their continued deterioration is a lack of resources and global coordination. This is a major challenge we are now addressing,” says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

“Healthy, thriving seas and oceans are fundamental to combating poverty and creating prosperity for millions of people. The deterioration of marine environments hits the poorest countries hardest. Fish are an important source of nutrition in many developing countries. Marine ecosystem services are crucial for our entire planet,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The initiative was taken during a meeting between Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin and Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama. The first step will be to present a resolution to the General Assembly of the United Nations on how to implement the global goal on the sustainable use of oceans, seas and

marine resources. It is crucial that a system is put in place to ensure the goal is followed up and its implementation is advanced.

Our oceans are in serious trouble and this is a matter that knows no national borders. Since 1970, half of all marine fish and mammals have disappeared. Climate change, unsustainable fishing, ocean acidification and environmental pollutants are impacting marine ecosystems.

In the long term, unsustainable management of marine environments and their resources could become a threat to peace and security. For example, it is a question of survival for small island states, whose economic development is closely linked to the oceans and their resources.

## Background

Goal 14 on oceans is one of the 17 sustainable development goals in the new global development agenda and focuses on conserving oceans, seas and marine resources. A resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations is necessary to bring about an inclusive international process for implementing goal 14.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government to sign international cooperation agreement for workers' rights in the textile industry

Published 26 September 2015 Updated 26 September 2015

Sweden, Bangladesh and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) will sign a cooperation agreement at a meeting in New York today, aimed at improving the conditions of workers in the textile industry in Bangladesh and promoting union rights.

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will participate, together with Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin, who will sign the agreement on behalf of Sweden. The project is part of *A Global Deal* – Mr Löfven's initiative to promote better conditions for workers throughout the world.

*“It is in everyone's interests that union rights are respected and decent working conditions upheld. The workers win more influence and participation in their workplace. Employers get better qualified staff and can increase their productivity. Society escapes costs for ill health, fatalities and social conflicts. It's a matter of making sure that competition takes place on equal terms and human rights are respected,” says Mr Löfven.*

*“We are proud to be working with Bangladesh and the ILO to strengthen workers' rights in a vulnerable industry in which 80 per cent of those employed are women. This project will put women in a stronger economic position and improve their working conditions,” says Ms Lövin.*

The project will involve an investment of SEK 45 million, to be funded by Sweden and implemented by the ILO between 2015 and 2020. It is expected to result in better dialogue between employers and employees, and better negotiating and dispute resolution mechanisms in the labour market. Four million people work in the textile industry, the overwhelming majority of whom are women. Their interests will be at the heart of the project.

Other participants in the signing ceremony are Secretary Mikhail Shipar of the Ministry of Labour and Employment of Bangladesh and ILO Director-General Guy Ryder, who welcomes the project as a very valuable contribution.

*A Global Deal* will be discussed in New York in the presence of the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, the Director-General of the ILO and the Secretary-General of the OECD. The discussion will focus on how states, trade unions, employers and international organisations can take joint responsibility for promoting good working conditions.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Swedish Government initiates High-Level Group in UN

Published 25 September 2015 Updated 25 September 2015

World leaders are meeting in New York today to adopt 17 global Sustainable Development Goals, which are to be achieved by 2030.

The true test of the entire 2030 Agenda and the global goals is not the adoption of the goals, but that they are implemented throughout the world. The importance of maintaining strong political momentum to realise the new goals cannot be overstated.

The Swedish Government has therefore taken the initiative to start a High-Level Group consisting of nine leaders from various parts of the world to ensure that the 17 global goals and the 2030 Agenda are implemented at all levels of society.

The High-Level Group will work in various ways to promote exchange of experience and discussions on challenges and solutions between governments, civil society, the private sector and international organisations.

Through personal discussions with other world leaders, the High-Level Group will contribute to far-reaching and genuine commitment to implementing the global goals and the 2030 Agenda.

The following are members of the High-Level Group:

- Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff
- Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos
- Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
- Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

- South Africa's President Jacob Zuma
- Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete
- Germany's Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel
- Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi
- Timor-Leste's Prime Minister Rui Maria de Araújo



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Development cooperation budget 2016: More resources for the Syrian crisis, climate issues and humanitarian work

Published 21 September 2015 Updated 21 September 2015

In the Budget Bill for 2016, the development cooperation framework will increase by nearly SEK 3 billion due to increased GNI and additional funding of SEK 886 million. This means that the development cooperation framework amounts to SEK 43.4 billion and that appropriation increases are possible in a number of areas.

The critical situation in the Middle East and the increased humanitarian needs have had an impact on the budget.

“We are strengthening our commitment in the Middle East and increasing the appropriation by SEK 335 million. We will soon have new strategies in place for both the Syrian crisis and the region as a whole that will allow us to work effectively with urgent needs as well as in the long term to strengthen the opportunities for peace and democracy,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The climate is another priority issue in which Sweden is playing an important role in helping bridge the differences between poor and rich countries ahead of the climate summit in Paris.

“Poor countries, which are responsible for the least amount of emissions, are now being hit the hardest by climate change. We are therefore dramatically

increasing the appropriation to climate financing via a number of organisations. If we do not tackle climate change, we will never be able to eradicate poverty,” says Ms Lövin.

The following areas are among those covered by increased appropriations in the development cooperation framework for 2016:

**Humanitarian:** In all, funding to humanitarian work will be increased by SEK 485 million to SEK 5.34 billion. The increased appropriations go to UN bodies and to Sida’s humanitarian appropriation. Also, the appropriation to UNHCR will be increased by SEK 75 million.

**Climate:** The additional SEK 886 million includes SEK 500 million for climate financing in developing countries. In addition, Sweden’s development financier Swedfund will be given a capital injection of SEK 400 million within the framework of the regular development cooperation budget to enable investments in the area of environment and climate.

**Country strategies:** Increased funding for Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The amount for the Middle East will be increased by 45 per cent, which is the largest percentage increase – from SEK 735 million to SEK 1.07 billion.

The Government sees that greater effort must be put into three global development issues: environment and climate, gender equality, and peace and statebuilding. Greater emphasis must be placed on these areas in strategies that govern development assistance to individual countries, thematic areas and via multilateral organisations.

Deductions for refugee costs amount to nearly SEK 8.2 billion, which corresponds to 19 per cent of the development cooperation framework. This is a decrease from 2015, when it amounted to 22 per cent. The estimate is based on the Swedish Migration Agency’s forecast from July.

The development cooperation framework of SEK 43.4 billion corresponds to 1.02 per cent of GNI according to the model that has been used to date. Under the EU’s new GNI model, which was introduced in 2014, the development cooperation framework corresponds to 0.98 per cent. Sweden uses both models to report to the OECD/DAC, and it is the Government’s ambition to achieve 1 per cent under the new GNI model during this electoral period.

Under both models, Sweden is one of the world's largest donors of development assistance. Only five countries fulfil the UN goal of 0.7 per cent of GNI.

“We are pushing for more countries to give more and remain committed to Sweden's one per cent target. We will work in the long term to combat poverty and oppression, and in the short term to take responsibility to meet the needs arising from the increasing number of crises around the world,” says Ms Lövin.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government decides on support to UN bodies for 2015

Published 04 September 2015 Updated 04 September 2015

The Government today decided on organisational support, known as core support, to 15 multilateral organisations, primarily UN bodies that provide crucial assistance to refugees, promote women's rights and improve the living standards of children.

Several of the UN bodies work to help people in need of humanitarian assistance, fleeing war and disasters. These include the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP) and Children's Fund (UNICEF). As the largest donor of core support to the UNHCR, Sweden has helped it to provide rapid and vital protection and assistance to people in places such as Ukraine, South Sudan and Ethiopia, and those affected by the Syrian crisis.

“Distressed and desperate people should not have to wait for each individual donor's analysis, grant management and, in the worst case, policy decisions before the response can be set in motion. Sweden's support enables immediate assistance for women, men, girls and boys who, in many cases, are fighting for their lives,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

A large proportion of Sweden's contributions to multilateral organisations, such as the UNHCR and the WFP, is composed of core support rather than earmarked contributions. This gives them greater flexibility and the possibility to plan their activities over the long term, while still being able to act quickly in the event of a crisis.

Sweden's involvement in multilateral organisations also gives Sweden access to decision-makers in virtually every country in the world and the

opportunity to influence the shape of strategies and work plans. Sweden is, for example, the largest donor of core support to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), which works to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, focusing on women, girls and young people.

“Due to our extensive support, Sweden has a strong voice in the UN system and plays a key role in promoting gender equality work. This is of vital importance at a time when women’s rights are encountering resistance,” says Ms Lövin.

The full list of organisations covered by the decision for 2015 is available on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs website



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# The Government to take part in global summit and UN General Assembly

Published 02 September 2015 Updated 10 September 2015

Reminder. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin and Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson will take part in the opening of the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in late September.

This year, the week will begin with the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit. On 25–26 September, the new global Sustainable Development Goals, that are to replace the Millennium Development Goals, will be adopted by all UN Member States in the presence of representatives of civil society organisations and enterprises. Mr Löfven will give an address at the Summit, take part in seminars and roundtable discussions and hold bilateral meetings with other heads of government. Directly following the Summit, the General Assembly will open the General Debate of the 70th session since the United Nations was founded. Mr Löfven will deliver a speech on Swedish priorities in the UN and participate in panel debates on UN peacebuilding operations.

President Barack Obama, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and Pope Francis will also take part during the week.

Mr Löfven and Ms Lövin will be at the UN on 25–30 September. Ms Wallström will be in New York between 25 September and 3 October. Ms

Romson will take part in the Summit on 25–27 September.

## Press briefing

Ahead of the Swedish delegation's trip to the Summit and the UN General Assembly, we will hold a press briefing, where State Secretary Hans Dahlgren and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Annika Söder and others will describe the Government's objective for the trip and the programme.

**Time:** Thursday 17 September at 16.00.

**Venue:** Rosenbad

Registration (required) to the press briefing via Dan Lundqvist Dahlin:  
[dan.lundqvist.dahlin@regeringskansliet.se](mailto:dan.lundqvist.dahlin@regeringskansliet.se)

## Accreditation

Accreditation for the Summit closes on 9 September.

Information on accreditation is available on the following web page:  
<http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/UNGA70.shtml>

For questions about accreditation, please contact Jeanette Mattsson, Press and Communication Officer at Sweden's Permanent Representation at the UN: [jeanette.mattsson@gov.se](mailto:jeanette.mattsson@gov.se), tel: 001 212 583 2591.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Relaunch of Swedish support to Latin America

Published 27 August 2015 Updated 31 August 2015

The Government has decided to relaunch support to Latin America. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has been tasked with producing new aid strategy proposals for Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala. The previous government had decided to phase out support to Bolivia, a process which is now being stopped.

“These countries find themselves at crucial stages and Swedish aid makes a difference. We have therefore decided to continue our support and strengthen our relations,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

All three countries face a number of challenges. In Guatemala, presidential and parliamentary elections are set to take place at the same time as a serious corruption scandal has given rise to major protests. In Bolivia, climate change has caused glaciers to melt, impacting access to water. In Colombia, scars run deep from decades of civil war, but there is now hope that peace negotiations are entering their final phase. Swedish support can contribute to sustainable democratic development in these countries.

“The ongoing peace process in Colombia offers a unique opportunity to promote women’s political participation in the country. In Guatemala, the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the UN International Commission Against Impunity need continued support in their determined efforts to combat the corruption that is impoverishing the country. In Bolivia, Sweden can help curb climate change and better equip people to deal with natural disasters and the effects of environmental damage,” says Ms Lövin.

The strategies will cover the period 2016–2020 and include a total of SEK 500 million per year. Sida will now produce strategy proposals that the Government will decide on during the autumn. The priority areas for these countries are:

- Bolivia: A better environment, reduced climate impact and greater resilience against natural disasters and environmental impacts. Strengthened democracy and gender equality, and greater respect for human rights.
- Colombia: Strengthened democracy and gender equality, and greater respect for human rights. Human security and freedom from violence.
- Guatemala: Strengthened democracy and gender equality, and greater respect for human rights. Better opportunities and tools to enable poor people to lift themselves out of poverty, such as sustainable and climate-resilient food security. Safeguarding human security and freedom from violence.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government extends bilateral aid to Iraq

Published 12 May 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

The Government has decided to extend the phase-out period of bilateral aid to Iraq in view of the serious situation in the country. The previous government decided to phase out support completely in 2015.

Support is now being raised by SEK 10 million, from SEK 60 million to SEK 70 million in 2015, and in 2016 an additional SEK 30 million will be provided. The money will go to strategically selected projects that will help central and provincial agencies to re-establish their presence and start up community services in areas that ISIL has held or that have been affected by ISIL's advance.

“Sweden has a major commitment in and close contacts with Iraq. The Government feels a responsibility to help the population in this very serious situation,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The increased support will supplement the extensive humanitarian aid that Sweden gives to Iraq. This aid totalled SEK 203 million in 2014 and goes to both UN bodies and civil society organisations to assist in areas such as food, shelter and improving the situation of children.

Sweden has been involved in development cooperation with Iraq since 2004. The previous government decided in 2013 to phase out support in 2015 as the country was classed as a middle-income country with sufficient resources to support itself.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government decides on new development cooperation strategy for Syrian crisis

Published 02 March 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Thursday 26 February the Government took a decision on the direction of new development cooperation strategies for the Syrian crisis, and for the Middle East and North Africa region. The strategy for the Syrian crisis will be unique in that it will also include Syria's neighbours that have been severely affected by the war.

“The conflict in Syria continues to deteriorate and may persist for many years to come. There is substantial risk that the conflict will spread. Consequently, we need a long-term strategy on how Sweden can best help alleviate the suffering caused by the war, how we can support democratic forces and mitigate the impact on neighbouring countries,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The strategy is intended to fill the gap between acute humanitarian assistance and long-term aid that targets schools, health care and democracy development.

“We must focus our efforts to ensure that people do not get caught in a vacuum. There is an impending risk that otherwise we will see a lost generation that is not given the chance to go to school or work. Not only would this be a disaster for the individual, it would make the future reconstruction of Syria more difficult,” says Ms Lövin.

The conflict has already resulted in the worst humanitarian disaster in modern times, and geographically adjacent countries have been subjected to

great strain. Almost four million people from Syria have fled to neighbouring countries, while another eight million people have been displaced within Syria. Women's rights are a priority, as is support to basic public services such as education, health care and sanitation.

The Syrian strategy supplements the regional development cooperation strategy for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), which will also be renewed. The MENA strategy will focus on human rights and democracy, cross-border water issues and increased economic integration in the region – an area in which there is great potential. The strategies are also to include a climate and environmental perspective.

The Syrian strategy will involve between SEK 1.5 billion and SEK 1.7 billion in 2016–2020, while the MENA strategy will involve SEK 1.5 billion to SEK 2 billion during the same period.

Following this decision, which establishes the framework of the strategies, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency will be instructed to produce background material by 1 September that will form the basis of the Government's final wording of the strategies.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Isabella Lövin new co-Chair on work against war and conflict

Published 22 January 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

The OECD's International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) has appointed Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin as its representative in the post of co-Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS).

“I am very proud of this appointment. War and violence are among the greatest obstacles to development and are primary challenges in my role as Minister for International Development Cooperation. Conflict prevention will now have greater weight in Swedish development assistance policy,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The IDPS was initiated by fragile and conflict-affected states and is a unique channel for political dialogue between these states and international development assistance donors. The IDPS includes the twenty or so fragile states in the g7+, such as Afghanistan, Somalia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and Liberia, as well as around 30 donors – both states and international organisations. The purpose of the IDPS is to find better ways to support these states by tackling the root causes of instability and conflict. While more and more people are rising out of poverty, development is going in the opposite direction in the g7+ states.

“As co-Chair of the IDPS I will emphasise the absolutely crucial role of women in building peace that is sustainable and inclusive. I will also persistently highlight the urgent need to tackle climate change, which is a serious threat to the security of these states,” says Ms Lövin.

The IDPS was established in 2008 and is led by two co-Chairs – one representing the donors and one representing the G7+ states. Ms Lövin will serve as co-Chair together with Kaifala Marah, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone. She replaces Pekka Haavisto, former Minister for International Development of Finland, and will formally take over in spring.

The 1.5 billion people living in fragile and conflict-affected states constitute almost half of the world's poor. Many of the states that have experienced war and conflict become trapped in a spiral of violence and revert to conflict. Seventy per cent of fragile states have experienced conflict since 1989.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Isabella Lövin visits Lebanon and Geneva

Published 20 January 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin will travel to Lebanon on 20 January to discuss developments in the country linked to the Syrian crisis with Prime Minister Tammam Salam and with various organisations. During her visit, Ms Lövin will travel to the Bekaa Valley on the Syrian border to meet refugees and hear their stories.

Ms Lövin will also meet Minister of Social Affairs Rashid Derbas.

“Lebanon is the same size as Skåne, with a population of 4 million people. The fact that it has taken in over 1 million refugees obviously entails enormous challenges. Sweden is a major donor and during my visit I will see how we can best help those who have fled from the insanity of war and at the same time support Lebanese society, which is under enormous pressure,” says Ms Lövin.

On her way to Lebanon, Ms Lövin stopped in Geneva to meet Antonio Guterres, head of the UN Refugee Agency, Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Valerie Amos, head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The aim was to discuss the Syrian crisis and how the international community can best respond to increasing humanitarian needs around the world.

“The humanitarian needs in the world today are at record levels and there are more than 50 million displaced people, which is the highest number since the Second World War. Sweden is one of the world’s leading humanitarian donors and I look forward to speaking with representatives of the major

humanitarian organisations about how we can jointly support displaced people around the world,” says Ms Lövin.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden recognises Palestine and increases aid

Published 30 October 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

Sweden has today recognised the State of Palestine. The Government considers that the international law criteria for the recognition of Palestine have been satisfied.

Sweden hopes that its decision will facilitate a peace agreement by making the parties less unequal, supporting the moderate Palestinian forces and contributing to hope at a time when tensions are increasing and no peace talks are taking place.

“The purpose of Sweden’s recognition is to contribute to a future in which Israel and Palestine can live side by side in peace and security. We want to contribute to creating more hope and belief in the future among young Palestinians and Israelis who might otherwise run the risk of believing that there is no alternative to the current situation,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström (Social Democratic Party).

The Government also adopted a five-year aid strategy including substantially increased support to Palestinian state-building. Bilateral aid to Palestine will increase by SEK 500 million to SEK 1.5 billion over the next five-year period, in addition to Sweden’s substantial humanitarian assistance.

“Sweden’s contribution aims among other things to make it easier for Palestinians to support themselves and to continue living where they are, to strengthen women’s empowerment and strengthen resilience to environmental and climate changes. This increased assistance means support to all moderate and non-violent forces in Palestine promoting democracy, human rights and gender equality,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin (Green Party).





Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Support to Syria's neighbours

Published 28 October 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin will visit Berlin on 28 October to take part in an international conference on the refugee crisis resulting from the war in Syria.

The conference will focus on the refugee crisis in Syria's neighbouring countries.

“The Government is greatly concerned by the humanitarian situation in Syria and its neighbouring countries, particularly Lebanon and Jordan, which have had to assume disproportionate responsibility. I can therefore announce today that Sweden will provide targeted support totalling SEK 100 million to these countries,” says Ms Lövin.

The support will be channelled via specialised World Bank funds.

The huge refugee influxes are placing great strain on Syria's neighbours. Lebanon has, for example, taken in Syrian refugees in numbers equivalent to 25 per cent of the country's population.

The humanitarian situation in Syria continues to deteriorate. According to UN estimates, 10.8 million Syrians currently require humanitarian assistance. About 6.5 million of these are internally displaced persons. At the same time, the number of refugees in neighbouring countries has increased to more than 3.2 million, more than half of them children.

As one of the major donors to the humanitarian response to the crisis in Syria, Sweden has contributed more than SEK 1.4 billion in humanitarian and other assistance since the crisis began. The figure so far this year is around SEK 465 million.

Support is primarily directed at UN agencies, the Red Cross movement and civil society NGOs. Apart from targeted support, Sweden is also one of the largest global donors of non-earmarked support to humanitarian organisations such as the UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA and the WFP.

The conference in Berlin will be chaired by Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier, and UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# An additional SEK 400 million for the fight against Ebola and humanitarian disasters

Published 23 October 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

The Government today decided to earmark an additional SEK 400 million from funds for development assistance in Africa for extraordinary measures to combat the Ebola outbreak (SEK 250 million), but also for the humanitarian crises in Syria, Iraq and other parts of the world (SEK 150 million).

The Government recognises major needs in terms of the fight against Ebola and humanitarian crisis areas such as Iraq and Syria. More than one hundred million people around the world are currently in an extremely vulnerable situation and are in need of humanitarian support.

“The Government wants to see a strong UN in efforts to combat Ebola. The UN is doing its coordinating work well and we want to make an additional contribution to that work. We want to provide financial support, but we are also pleased that Sweden, via the expertise and global networks of Anders Nordström, is able to make this crucial contribution to efforts to combat Ebola,” says Ms Lövin.

Through today’s decision the Government is providing additional funds of up to SEK 250 million for the fight against Ebola. This support will go to the UN’s coordinating role and to action being taken by African organisations. The total Swedish support to combat Ebola following today’s decision amounts to SEK 489 million. Sweden is also seconding Anders Nordström, Ambassador for Global Health, to work together with UN special envoy David Nabarro to secure continued international political engagement and

coordination of resources.

“The spotlight in the news has shifted slightly as a result of the Ebola outbreak. However, this does not change the fact that there are still many extremely serious crises occurring in other parts of the world. The Government is taking a holistic approach and providing support to both the fight against Ebola and humanitarian operations where they are needed,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

# Sweden contributes medical care efforts in the fight against Ebola in West Africa

Published 16 October 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

The Government has decided to contribute an additional SEK 100 million in humanitarian support to efforts to combat the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

The new funds are to be channelled through the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency for planning and implementing medical care efforts and coordinating voluntary Swedish health workers. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency will also contribute in other relevant ways, such as with logistical assistance.

“Sweden is now responding to the UN request for more personnel and other resources. The number of people infected in West Africa is doubling every two to three weeks. Sweden has many competent people who want and are able to contribute effectively the fight against Ebola. It is essential that all actors do their utmost. Ebola is now a global security issue,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

In addition to health workers, other personnel, materials (for example trucks) and logistical assistance have also been requested for the construction of accommodation for international relief workers and personnel involved in the UN-led efforts.

Swedish humanitarian support to combat the Ebola outbreak now amounts to SEK 239.3 million.

“Many people want to help, and the Government has now approved a number of decisions to step up Sweden’s efforts. A key issue is that Swedish

personnel who want to go are granted leave from work, and here I think the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions has sent positive signals that people are to be granted leave,” says Minister for Public Health Gabriel Wikström.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Sweden increases its efforts to stop Ebola epidemic in West Africa

Published 07 October 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

Sweden today allocated an additional SEK 105 million in humanitarian support to efforts aimed at stopping the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. Following a decision by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the funds will primarily be given to UN bodies (UNICEF, WHO and WFP) in their joint efforts to fight the epidemic. This means that Sweden's total contribution to fight the epidemic amounts to some SEK 145 million.

“The UN is now focusing on stopping the spread of the virus and ensuring that those affected receive medical care. Success depends upon the world working together in a forceful and coordinated manner,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

Part of Sida's contribution will go to supporting healthcare staff at Ebola clinics. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) will receive SEK 25 million to arrange housing and medical care for up to 200 healthcare workers on-site in Liberia's capital, Monrovia.

“Helping people and stopping the spread of the virus depends on ensuring that healthcare staff can work in an efficient manner,” says Ms Lövin. “Safe working conditions and the opportunity to themselves receive medical care are vital for doctors and nurses from other countries to be willing to volunteer,” Ms Lövin emphasises.

The Government is currently considering what other measures Sweden can take to help in the fight against the ongoing Ebola outbreak in West Africa.