



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Swedish national statement for High-level Political Forum 2020, delivered by State Secretary for the Environment, Eva Svedling

Published 14 July 2020 Updated 14 July 2020

Stockholm, 14 July 2020. Check against delivery.

Excellencies, ministers, colleagues, friends,

The outbreak of COVID-19 reminds us of the importance of a strong multilateral system to tackle cross-border and global challenges.

We need to build back better to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Today's challenges are multifaceted and require a holistic response. The Government recently presented a bill to the Riksdag (the Swedish Parliament) to accelerate action and delivery on the SDGs. We have set an overarching goal to achieve the 2030 Agenda with an emphasis on policy coherence for sustainable development, spanning across different policy areas. We are weaving the SDGs into our national fabric.

I'm convinced that if we all nurture the SDGs by working together and integrating them into our recovery, we will build stronger, more resilient societies that will stand steady beyond 2030.

Friends,

This pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on people in vulnerable situations. Delivering on the principle of 'leaving no one behind' is crucial to reaching the goals for everyone, everywhere.

We need not only to combat growing inequalities and a lack of gender

equality, but also to target actions towards those living in poverty, marginalisation and exclusion.

While Sweden has favourable conditions for sustainable development, we also face multiple challenges. Inequalities and gender gaps are growing. Socioeconomically disadvantaged areas in Sweden are worse hit by COVID-19. We need to work harder towards equity in health care, equal access to lifelong learning and sustainable economic growth.

Sweden has a long history of a universal welfare system that has been key in building an open, inclusive and more gender-equal society. Social protection is a human right and universal policies, including floors, are key to upholding the principle of leaving no one behind.

Globally, we continue to show leadership for sustainable and inclusive growth, reduced inequalities and promotion of social dialogue together with the ILO, the OECD and a core group of countries, companies, employers' organisations and trade unions in the Global Deal partnership.

As we enter the Decade of Action, we need to focus more on the conditions and opportunities of future generations.

The proportion of young people in the world is the largest in history. Children and young people deserve equal access to services and opportunities. A special focus needs to be placed on girls. Young people must be recognised as agents of change and meaningful partners in decision-making.

The message from our young people on climate change is clear. We need to act, and we need to listen. Recovering after the COVID-19 crisis should speed up a green transition towards carbon neutrality and resilience. Sweden aims to become the world's first fossil-free welfare state, reaching net zero emissions by 2045 at the latest.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change, ensuring more efficient and circular use of resources, and safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystem services will be vital to improving resilience and safeguarding the future of both people and the planet.

In 2022, the world will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first UN Conference on the Human Environment, which was held in Stockholm. We believe it is our responsibility to use every possible milestone opportunity to

act, to accelerate a transformation that leaves no one behind and to ensure a healthy planet for all. This is what we hope to achieve in Stockholm in 2022 with a high-level global meeting, and we look forward to working with all of you on this.

Leaving no one behind requires the full realisation of human rights, gender equality and access to participation for those who are frequently left out of the conversation, including women and girls, people with disabilities, LGBTI people, minorities and newly arrived immigrants.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the pushback of sexual and reproductive health and rights and exposed more women to domestic violence and sexual exploitation. Sweden has a feminist government and we believe in prioritising gender equality and women's and girls' enjoyment of all their human rights at this crucial period.

The response to COVID-19 should not compromise the universal values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and gender equality. Sweden's Drive for Democracy provides support to democracy's institutions, processes and defenders.

My hope is that this year's High-level Political Forum will enable us to learn valuable lessons from coming together through technology and innovation. It is time for delivery on the SDGs. For this we need leaders, doers, who are prepared to step up and come together to build back better and leave no one behind.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of the Environment

# Speech by Minister for the Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin at COP 25

Published 10 December 2019

Madrid, Spain 2019-12-10 Check against delivery.

Excellencies,

Natural disasters are pestering our planet, more and more frequently, and more and more violently.

Just recently, we have seen violent flooding here in Spain. In Venice. In Kenya and all over East Africa where hundreds of people tragically have lost their lives. The past year hurricanes have demolished the Bahamas, and Mozambique, and historic wildfires have ravaged California and Australia – and - not least -marine heatwaves have killed coral reefs and life under water.

We see what's happening.

We hear the calls for action, from the youth movement, and from all the sectors of society that committed to action at the UN Climate Action Summit. And from the scientists.

Dear world. We must act on science and facts. Anything else would be complete irresponsibility, or total immorality.

It's really not that difficult. Let's just understand one simple fact: getting out of fossil fuels is not a sacrifice; it's the salvation of our planet, and of people living here now, and of all future generations.

The time to act is now. I am going to outline four key areas where I expect

us all to act:

First, we need to enhance ambition. Our current pledges are far from sufficient, they will lead us to at least three degrees, not 2 or 1,5 .

Secondly, Article 6 can play a key role to reduce global emissions. It is essential that the rules we decide on ensure the highest possible integrity. We simply cannot afford to register emissions reduction on paper, if they are double-counted and not reduced in reality.

Thirdly, we must respond to climate change in a more integrated way and find synergies between reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity and improving ocean health. This should be reflected in the decisions at this Blue COP.

Lastly, as we move from words to action, it is time to incorporate the Paris goals into our national laws, policies and programs. In Sweden we have begun our journey with a climate law obliging us to reach net-zero emissions by 2045 at the latest. And Sweden will continue supporting developing countries and we have doubled our contribution to the Green Climate Fund.

The world and our very own children are calling upon us to act. No one can do it alone. But if we all work together we can do it. Let this be the Cop where leaders show the world we are determined to do it here, now, and without any hesitation. Let's just do it!



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of the Environment

# National statement by Isabella Lövin, Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, at UNEA-4

Published 15 March 2019

Nairobi, Kenya, 14 March 2019. Check against delivery.

Excellencies, ministers, distinguished delegates,

We have gathered here today to encourage action on the environment. But some of us that should have been among us are tragically missing. Our thoughts are with their families and friends in their difficult time. We share the sorrow of colleagues and others who knew those on the Ethiopian flight 302. Together we will remember them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The story of mankind's relationship with our planet has long been a story of conquest. Finding new land, taming the wild, cutting down trees and killing animals. But our attitude towards our planet urgently needs to change. Entire species are going extinct at an alarming pace, the number of plastic particles in the ocean far exceeds the stars in the Milky Way and climate change is altering the very conditions of life on land - and the very biochemistry of the ocean, with no turning back.

It's late on Earth for us to come together to make sure that the story takes a new turn. We no longer need to conquer our planet – it already has been conquered. The next chapter must be about how to heal and protect our planet. It must be about stewardship and sustainable use, so that we leave our planet in a better condition to our children than it was when we arrived. This is a global challenge.

So let us all continue to strengthen the United Nations Environment Assembly as an important arena to write this chapter. UNEP has helped us to maintain a focus on the environment ever since the Stockholm Conference in 1972. Now, when we need to realize the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, its role is more crucial than ever.

The disastrous effects of climate change tell us with abundant clarity that we need to mitigate and make adaptive efforts. But climate change also urges us to do more. The increasing stress rising temperatures puts on all life means that we must try much harder to reduce other pressures. We simply cannot expect our oceans to cope with both plastic pollution, overfishing and eutrophication – on top of the effects of climate change; warming, acidification and deoxygenation. We urgently need to increase the resilience of marine ecosystems. I hope that UNEA 4 will be a turning point, when we set the stage for clean waters, healthy marine habitats and restored fish populations.

Excellencies,

Plastic is found everywhere – and we are fed up with it. Marine plastics from littering and mismanaged waste are major threats to ecosystems. Take single-use products for example, many of which are only used for a few seconds, while it takes hundreds of years for them to degrade. One of my most important missions for this meeting is to push for action against plastic pollution. As noted in the study commissioned by UNEA 2, current governance strategies and approaches do not adequately tackle this issue. We absolutely do need to step up our efforts, and I look forward to continue working with you all on this.

Plastic pollution is linked to another important problem and threat to human health: the use and spread of toxic chemicals. Since 1950, more than 140 000 new chemicals and pesticides have been synthesised. Many of these pose serious risks. In fact, every 30 seconds, one worker dies from exposure to toxic chemicals.

Sadly, we will not reach the 2020 goal of minimising the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment. This is why Sweden, together with Uruguay, last year launched the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste. Our ambition is to drive an ambitious global framework on chemicals and waste for 2020 and beyond. The High Ambition Alliance is open to everyone who would like to take the lead in this important work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Right now, mankind is writing the next chapter in the story of its relationship with the planet. This chapter is about how we can tackle climate change, pollution and degradation.

Sweden is trying to do its part and today I pledge € 48 million to fight climate change within the framework of One Planet Summit.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I see some heroes in this chapter that we are writing, such as the youth who have come together to protest on the streets to demand that adults take climate responsibility. I hope history will tell, that we listened to them and that we acted. Only if we do that, the story we are writing together will have a happy ending. So let's just do it. Together we actually can change the sad story into one of hope and new and better lives for everyone.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# National statement by Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister, at COP24

Published 12 December 2018

Katowice, Poland, 12 December 2018. Check against delivery.

Excellencies, ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The effects of climate change are already here. People see them with their own eyes, live the effect of them around the world. In Sweden we experienced an extremely hot summer this year, with drought and violent forest fires in the Arctic region like never before. We watch the news and we see wildfires in California, hurricanes hitting the Caribbean and the Pacific, violent torrential rains in Japan and droughts in Africa, and we can no longer ignore the disastrous consequences for this planet and all future generations if we do not take action now.

Some people say we should not talk about the enormous threat of climate change because then people might lose hope. But to quote Greta Thunberg, a remarkable 15-year old climate activist from Sweden, the world does not need hope. It needs action. But when we take action – hope is everywhere.

The action that is needed here in Katowice is deciding on a robust, detailed, clear and stable rulebook for the Paris Agreement. A transparent rulebook that creates comparability and predictability, and also enables the necessary flexibility and – crucially – increased ambition over time.

Every school child today knows about science. Scientific knowledge is more precise than ever. The IPCC 1.5 degree report provides abundant clarity as to the need for action. And it does not leave room for hesitation.

So, let's face the facts. A nationally determined system, the beating heart of the Paris Agreement, requires responsible action by everyone. And current pledges are sadly far from sufficient. Time is not just limited, we are on the verge here. This is it. It's time to step up.

Our leadership is called for by our children. We need to show a predictable pathway towards low-carbon economies. Our constituencies need and demand it, and luckily business increasingly echoes those sentiments.

Dialogue between states is key, but dialogue between other parts of society is needed as well. Sweden has a proud tradition of upholding dialogue between business, unions, and government.

With the Fossil-free Sweden initiative, we enable dialogue between government at all levels, industry, and stakeholders. It has resulted in the industries themselves developing concrete roadmaps for fossil-free competitiveness in many sectors. From the steel, cement and aviation industries, to the forest and retail sectors, as well as many more. This shows action is possible.

Low-carbon transition offers new opportunities for investments, jobs and better lives. The Swedish economy has grown substantially, by more than 60 per cent, while our emissions are down more than 25 per cent since the early 1990s.

We want to, and look forward to, continue sharing our experience on policies, financing and technology with partners.

We believe developed countries must lead the first step of a global transition, encouraging and supporting others to move forward. We also know climate change hits some countries and regions harder than others. The least developed countries and small island states face very real and pressing danger. Developed countries must lead the first steps of a global transition, encouraging and supporting others to move forward.

Therefore, Sweden is proud to be one of the largest per capita providers of climate finance globally. I am also happy that here in Katowice we have been able to announce an additional contribution for 2018 of SEK 50 million

each to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. This is in addition to the contributions announced at COP23.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We warmly welcome the initiative from the United Nations Secretary-General to organise the Climate Summit in 2019. The summit will serve as an important complement to the UNFCCC process to mobilise political willingness to act and to demonstrate transformative action.

We need action. The cost of inaction is monumental; impossible to quantify. Nations are disappearing, ecological systems are being damaged beyond repair. The difference between 2 degrees and 1.5 is vast: we must pursue the most ambitious outcome.

And our duty as leaders is to ensure that the transition benefits all. An inclusive approach is part of the spirit of Paris and the 2030 Agenda. It requires full engagement from all stakeholders. It requires rules.

Rules that requires all states to take action. Because when there is action – as Greta, the 15-year old demanding the right to a safe future without climate collapse, says – where there is action, there is hope. And there is hope everywhere.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of the Environment

# Sweden's national statements at the high level segment of UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn

Published 16 November 2017

Statements by Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister. Bonn, Germany, November 16, 2017. Check against delivery.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Closing statement at the Ocean Conference by Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister, Sweden

Published 13 June 2017

New York, 9 June 2017. Check against delivery.

Mr. President of the General Assembly, Madame Deputy Secretary General, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends of our Ocean,

In closing this historic conference I would like to echo the gratitude expressed by Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama to all involved.

What an inspiring conference this has been!

During this week we have carried out several extremely productive partnership dialogues and I would like to thank the co-chairs, as well as the moderators and panelists. The partnership dialogues have always been the heart of this conference and I believe that the very fruitful discussions have shed light on some of the solutions needed to save our oceans and bring sustainable blue development to all.

The strong response we have received from the thousands of people that have participated during the conference has been truly overwhelming. The number of interesting and crowded side events on the broad range of urgent and burning issues facing the oceans, including overfishing, marine litter and

ocean acidification, have contributed greatly to the success of this conference and I would like to thank every single participant for your contribution.

Friends, for the first time ever leaders from all over the world have gathered here at this great hall of Humanity to discuss all the combined pressures that are threatening our ocean. It has become evident that the piecemeal way of dealing with our ocean must come to an end. The ocean is one. And this historic UN Ocean Conference has finally overcome this curse of fragmentation. It has broken down silos. Member states, UN Agencies, civil society, the private sector, academia and other stakeholders have all recognized the need to work together, across borders and boundaries, everyone taking their responsibility if we are going to have a chance to save our ocean. Before this week, the Ocean as a whole was not on the global agenda. Now it is. I want to underline, that we are all much indebted to Fiji and the other small island states for their tireless efforts and leadership in raising the ocean making sure we have the SDG 14.

And not least on raising awareness that the climate and ocean agenda go hand in hand. The conference has confirmed a strong commitment among stakeholders to urgently address the causes and severe consequences of climate change for the oceans and the importance of the Paris Agreement.

Ocean friends -we have set the sail, the wind is blowing in the right direction – now we need to keep the course steady.

It is the firm view of the Co-Presidents that we must build on the strong momentum created by this conference. During this week we have heard many interventions about the urgent need to reverse the serious decline in the state of our ocean and the calls for a strong process to drive the implementation of SDG 14 towards 2030. In this context the Co-Presidents would like to welcome the generous offers made in plenary this week by the governments of Kenya and Portugal to carry the torch forward by hosting the next conference in 2020. We strongly support these offers which will be reflected in the report by the Co-Presidents to the General Assembly for its consideration.

Distinguished delegates, we need a strong home for the ocean at the United Nations. The Call for Action that we have just adopted calls upon the UN Secretary-General to enhance interagency coordination and coherence throughout the UN system on ocean issues. So we look to his leadership to help drive the SDG 14 agenda forward and to the UN system to assist in

maintaining the engagement at the country and regional levels. We also note the many calls to ensure that these efforts are galvanized at a high level.

Friends, I am so happy to be part of this historical week when we, all of us together, put the Ocean where it belongs. At the centre of the political agenda. Finally putting it in its right context: As a matter of human survival.

This week has been the game changer we wanted it to be, and we must not lose this momentum! There is no turning back. Let me repeat what I said in my opening remarks: change is possible – if there is political will. It's as simple as that. The knowledge we now have, on how close to collapse our oceans are, must produce this will. All of us care about the oceans. We all depend on them. We must now show the political leadership and courage and continue this path. It is a question of survival!

Friends, as has been said here this week – together we are all crew on the spacecraft Earth. Or if you will: we are all islanders on the island Earth in the black empty sea of space. It's our only home. We have traveled a long way. It took a billion years for us to get where we are now. On our journey in space, the ocean is what has kept us alive. Let's make sure to not fail it. Let's now promise each other to keep this beautiful blue planet alive!

Thank you!



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Deputy Prime Minister Lövins remarks for World Oceans Day

Published 08 June 2017

Worlds Oceans Day in New York, 8 June 2017. Check against delivery.

Your Royal Highness, President of the General Assembly, Secretary General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to this very special celebration of World Oceans Day. I am absolutely delighted to be here with you today, and to stand with my friends from Fiji in realizing our dream of a vibrant and productive Ocean conference here this week.
- I offer my gratitude to Prime minister Bainimarama and his wonderful team for their tireless efforts in working with us to make this a reality. And to the president of the General Assembly Peter Thomson, without whom we would not be here today.
- I also offer my sincere thanks to the many organizers and partners who have made this event possible.
- Friends, imagine planet Earth – without water. Without water; no life, no blue, no green.
- These are the words of a woman I deeply admire, marine biologist Sylvia Earle, who is present here and will join our event today, and who is one of the people on the planet who has spent longest time under water, as a diver and researcher.
- The esteemed Sylvia Earle, sometimes called Her Deepness - also often points out that when astronomers are looking for signs of life in space, they look for one thing – water. In a cold, black infinite universe dotted with blazing stars, black holes and red desert planets, our shimmering living blue planet is a spectacular exception.
- Almost all astronauts who have seen the planet from space, who have seen how the blue planet hangs there in the black emptiness, have

undergone a fundamental change, a phenomenon that has been dubbed The Overview Effect. National boundaries are not visible from space, and it is quite obvious that there is just one Planet Earth, that it is alive and that we all belong together.

- The American environmentalist Aldo Leopold once said that it is impossible to engage and have an ethical approach to something that you do not feel anything for, and it is impossible to feel anything for something you do not know about. And that, I believe, is one of the reasons of the decline of our ocean. People have not known about it. We have not understood the extent of the damage we have caused our ocean by all the combined pressures.
- Overfishing. Pollution. Plastic litter. Eutrophication. Destruction of coastal ecosystems. Climate change.
- Now we can no longer say we don't know. Now we must engage, now we must act.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends,

- I'm an optimist when it comes to the world's ability to solve crises. I'm an optimist because I know that change is possible. I've seen it through my political life many times. I know what we are capable of when we are working together.
- This year, for example, the historic protection of the Ross Sea in Antarctica, sometimes called the "Last Ocean", will come in to force. The Ross Sea is probably the least altered marine ecosystem on earth. It is a wild place, a kingdom of wildlife with emperor penguins, leopard seals, minke whales and killer whales. It is one of these rare places where humans are only visitors and large animals rule. I think the protection of this area shows that the world can successfully cooperate in saving our ocean, and we need to celebrate it.
- But one-off achievements in protecting the ocean will not be enough. We need to incorporate ocean health into all our plans for economic and social development. The two issues cannot be separated, and by now we know that. Today is a celebration for this vision. A celebration of the ocean that gives us life, and that we all depend upon.
- Now, I am delighted that we are able to spend this day together and I am very excited by, and very grateful to, all the Ocean heroes that are here and that we can listen to this morning.
- It is now my pleasure to declare this World Oceans Day celebration open!



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Swedish national statement at The Ocean Conference, 6 June 2017, by Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister

Published 06 June 2017

Mr President,

As much as we all share the air we breathe – we all share the ocean. Climate change and ocean health both need international frameworks and joint efforts by all stakeholders. We are in this together! We need to cooperate. We need multilateralism. The Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda are vital and the Swedish Government remains firmly committed to these agreements, and encourage others to do the same.

Together with Fiji, Sweden is a proud initiator of this conference. We expect it to show how important our ocean is for the success of the entire 2030 Agenda.

Mr President,

Already back in 1972, at the Stockholm Conference, the first UN Conference on the Human Environment, pollution of the seas was recognised as a threat to human development. It's easy, and sad, to see that 45 years later, we haven't done our homework.

As with climate change, the deterioration of marine environments hits the poorest and most vulnerable the hardest, particularly in LDCs and SIDS. Saving our ocean is a matter of justice. It has existential consequences for

entire nations and threatens the security of millions of people.

Therefore, one of Sweden's voluntary commitments is that we will significantly strengthen our development cooperation in support of SDG 14. Our next global strategy on the environment, climate, oceans and natural resources will be implemented for the period 2018–2022. The funds – up to USD 750 million over the 5-year period – mean significantly raised ambitions for the oceans.

The Ocean Conference provides a unique opportunity to change the path and ensure a living ocean for future generations. Sweden is making more than 20 voluntary commitments this week to safeguard the marine environment, achieve sustainable fisheries and strengthen resilience to climate change.

Mr President,  
Our commitments focus on three critical areas.

### **Firstly, on climate change**

The ocean has for too long been too absent in the international climate discussions. Yet we know, the ocean is fundamentally changing because of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions. It has become 30 per cent more acidic.

More than 90 per cent of all the heat humanity has added to the planet since the 1950s has been absorbed by the oceans. And we are just beginning to understand the seriousness of ocean acidification, warming and deoxygenation.

To put it in simple words: To save our oceans we must live up to the Paris Agreement and cut emissions. Our goal is make Sweden the first fossil-free welfare nation with zero net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2045. To this end, the Swedish parliament will next week adopt a new climate policy framework with a historic climate act that is binding for future governments.

We must cut emissions, but we also must strengthen the ocean's resilience. Mangroves, seagrass beds and other coastal habitats are crucial for CO<sub>2</sub> storage as so called blue carbon. Sweden will support the IUCN, the Ocean Foundation and the International Coral Reef Initiative with USD 1.6 million to strengthen developing countries' knowledge and capacity to handle ocean effects of climate change. Sweden will also contribute financially to Germany's new Blue Action Fund with approx. USD 5.5 million.

## **Secondly, marine litter**

Litter and microplastics in oceans and marine food chains are spreading at a catastrophic pace. We urgently need to identify the pathways of pollution, from land to sea, and take necessary action.

Sweden is committing to strengthening our support by more than USD 1.7 million to UN Environment's Global Program of Action for Land-based Pollution and the Clean Sea Campaign, and to the Action Platform on Source-to-Sea Management.

At home in Sweden, we will implement a national programme on sound plastic management. Together with our neighbours in the Baltic and North Sea region we are working for a ban on microplastics in cosmetics. Sweden will also co-lead the Arctic Marine Debris project. The sensitive and vulnerable Arctic environment and biodiversity need our particular attention.

## **Thirdly, sustainable blue economy**

Sweden has a long coastline. A healthy sea is important for our people and our economy.

We recently achieved SDG 14's target on marine protected area after doubling the level of protected areas within Swedish territory, which is now above 13 per cent.

In 2015, the Government also presented an Integrated Maritime Strategy based on sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. This was a landmark for our sustainable blue economy. Measures to protect biodiversity and decisions to cut harmful emissions from shipping to a fraction at global level are being implemented. HELCOM, OSPAR and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region are important frameworks to this end.

Sweden warmly welcomes the entry into force of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. We commit to a contribution of USD 5.5 million to the FAO to support the implementation of this important agreement in developing countries also supporting the Global Record of Fishing Vessels. We are also pushing for multilateral efforts within the WTO to fight harmful fisheries subsidies and meet target 6 of SDG 14.

Mr President,  
Sweden joins others in calling for the Secretary-General to build on the

momentum of the Ocean conference for the implementation of SDG 14. We should ensure concrete ways to apply the outcomes across the UN system.

For the sake of all creatures that live below water – as well as all women and men, boys and girls who depend on them and for the sake of our children and grandchildren, for the sake of this blue planet ocean – the time to act is now. This conference is just the starting point!

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Address by Isabella Lövin Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation at She Decides Conference 2 March 2017

Published 07 March 2017

Check against delivery.

Your Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends,

What an honour to be here today! Allow me, on behalf of my Government, to begin by expressing my immense gratitude to Minister De Croo for hosting us, Minister Ploumen and Minister Tørnæs for co-organising the She Decides conference with us, and to all our friends gathered in this room in support of women's and girl's human rights.

I am profoundly encouraged by the fact that we, at such short notice, have travelled from all regions of the world to demonstrate our support for organisations that make sexual and reproductive health and rights a reality for millions of women and girls. Now, more than ever, is the time to join forces: Governments, parliamentarians, CSOs, UN agencies and EU institutions, and the private sector.

I have the pleasure to introduce the high-level panel that will shortly be discussing the risks we are taking if we do not keep our promises to women and girls to provide them with full access to SRHR. The panel is composed of:

- Your Excellency, Minister of Public Health of Chad Doctor Ngarmbatina Odjimbeye Soukate,

- Your Excellency, Minister of Health of Ethiopia Professor Yifru Berhan,
- UNFPA's Executive Director Doctor Babatunde Osotimehin,
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) General Director Tewodros Melesse, and
- the Guttmacher Institute's President Ann Stars.

We are very honoured that Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kate Gilmore, will be moderating this important session.

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Let us first remind ourselves that 100 years ago, half of humanity was still largely unrepresented in the public realm and in public decision-making. The female half.

Our mothers and grandmothers fought for women's liberation – for women's participation in politics and the workforce, and for a woman's right to decide over her body and reproduction. We are harvesting the fruits of their labour and I would argue that we, women and men, have a moral obligation to continue their struggle – because women's and girl's human rights shall never be taken for granted.

The situation for women, girls and adolescents has improved. A hundred years ago I would not have been able to cast a vote, far less run for office. Today, I am the Deputy Prime Minister of a government consisting of 12 women and 12 men.

Since the early 90s, the world has seen a nearly 50 per cent decline in the maternal death ratio – a remarkable achievement.

But progress has been unacceptably slow and uneven. One woman or girl still dies every two minutes from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth. Together with labour complications, and harmful practices, such as genital mutilation, unsafe abortion puts women's and girls' lives at risk every day.

Their deaths are intolerable because the vast majority of them are preventable.

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SRHR is not an optional extra. SRHR is right and smart.

The full enjoyment of human rights includes the right to decide freely over

your own body, sexuality and reproduction. Absence or presence of these rights can mean the difference between life and death for a young girl.

But SRHR is also intricately linked to areas such as decent work, peaceful societies and political participation of women, as well as women's full enjoyment of other human rights, such as economic rights and right to education.

That is why SRHR is smart. When we empower women and girls, we empower their families and their future children. We empower communities. We empower nations. Ultimately, we eradicate poverty.

Ensuring SRHR for all will have a direct impact on the possibilities of achieving many of the targets in the 2030 Agenda.

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An hour ago, the Government of Sweden decided to increase its global SRHR support by SEK 200 million, approximately EUR 21 million, in 2017, as part of the She Decides initiative.

An important part of our increased funding will be channelled through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to civil society organisations that make SRHR a reality for millions of women and girls in the field.

The contributions and the role of CSOs cannot be emphasised enough. I say this in terms of strengthening evidence-based action and ensuring accountability, but also in terms of cross-regional bridge-builders.

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Sweden also believes in the UN Development System's capacity to tackle global development challenges. Sweden, with its ten million inhabitants, is the sixth largest donor to the system as a whole.

It is in support of women and children's health globally that Sweden remains the leading donor of core support to UNFPA, and the second largest funder of total support. Sweden will continue to prioritise flexible funding and will raise its core contribution to UNFPA in 2017 to approximately USD 61 million.

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We welcome fellow Member States, the European Commission and private institutions to join us.

We should have high expectations of ourselves. And we should trigger and inspire each other to achieve more. Some countries and individuals will not agree with us, but we stand prepared with patience, fortitude and endurance.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# The Ocean Conference preparatory meeting opening remerks

Published 02 March 2017

New York, 15 February 2017. Check against delivery.

Mr. President of the General Assembly, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends of our ocean,

I would like to start by thanking Ambassadors Mendonça e Moura and Gafoor, the esteemed co-facilitators of the preparatory process of The Ocean Conference. We're less than four months away now, and I'm very glad to see that the preparations are making good progress, thanks to the significant efforts of the co-facilitators and all other parties engaged in this work.

I'm also very pleased to be in the presence of the President of the General Assembly, Peter Thomson, and Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo. We are very confident in your strong leadership. We're also very thankful for the support of Assistant Secretary-General Stephen Mathias and the Office of Legal Affairs.

Furthermore, I'm delighted to share the podium with Minister Koroilavesau of Fiji. Sweden is very proud to have taken the initiative, together with Fiji, to realize The Ocean Conference. As co-presidents, we both hope that it will be the game-changer the ocean needs so badly. Two countries far apart geographically, we are joined by our strong commitment to and dependency on the same ocean.

Sweden and Fiji are very much encouraged by the strong response we have received from UN Member States, all parts of the UN System, the knowledge community, business and civil society on The Ocean Conference. This has reassured us of the readiness of the international community to come

together and take real and urgent action

Friends,

Aside from offering endless beauty and inspiration, we all know that the world's oceans and seas are fundamental in eradicating poverty and creating food security and prosperity for millions of people. There is no doubt that the situation is grave. The ocean is warming and acidifying, corals are bleaching, fish stocks are in decline and the amount of marine litter is increasing. The immense deterioration of marine environments and resources strikes the already disadvantaged and vulnerable the hardest.

The ocean supports all life on earth. To survive and prosper, we need a healthy ocean. There is enormous potential in a global and sustainable Blue Economy.

We're fortunate to have Agenda 2030 and SDG 14. Now is the time to come forward with ambitious commitments and effective collaborative action to protect our ocean.

By adopting SDG 14, the international community has made a clear and momentous commitment to end overfishing and eliminate illegal fishing, to better protect marine and coastal areas, to reduce plastic litter and other sources of marine pollution, and to increase ocean resilience to acidification.

But if we don't change our ways, including consumption and production patterns, our prospects are grim and uncertain. There will be as much plastic as fish in the ocean by 2050. By the middle of this century, we will also face the dire possibility of having an ocean that is too acid and warm for our precious coral reefs.

In other words: we have to act now, tomorrow will be too late!

Friends,

Sweden remains fully committed to maintaining the political momentum created by the adoption of Agenda 2030 and calls upon all countries – as well as other critical stakeholders, such as business, civil society and academia – to actively engage for the successful implementation of this tremendously important goal.

The significance of broad stakeholder participation leading up to and at the Conference cannot be overstated. We need the engagement of all relevant

stakeholders to bring forward sustainable solutions and initiate real change. I'm elated to see so many various stakeholder groups represented in New York this week – which is also manifested in the wide range of interesting side events.

This is a unique opportunity to make real difference for the ocean. Ambitious voluntary commitments, translated into effective joint action, to protect our ocean, are of paramount importance. We strongly encourage all United Nations Member States and other stakeholders to present - existing and new - plans and priorities that contribute to the implementation of SDG 14 and its targets. In this regard, I want to take the opportunity to inform you all about a special side event on how you can register your voluntary commitments, taking place during the lunch hour in Conference Room 3.

We're also looking forward to having fruitful discussions on the themes for the partnership dialogues, as well as on the elements for a Call for Action. We hope to have a political declaration that strikes the balance between ambition and conciseness, and avoid protracted negotiations in the run-up to the June Conference.

We intend for the Call for Action to be a good starting point for long-term action-oriented implementation of SDG 14 and all its targets. I trust that all parties gathered here in New York will work constructively and creatively in the coming two days.

Friends and ocean enthusiasts,

The ocean is the reason why I decided to involve myself in politics. Working as a journalist, I was appalled by the overfishing in our Swedish waters, the Baltic Sea. Entering the political realm, I was elected to the European Parliament, where I had the opportunity to play a very active role in reforming the EU Common Fisheries Policy. I truly believe that The Ocean Conference will provide yet another opportunity for real change, to the benefit of us all, especially the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

I know that this Preparatory Meeting will shed further light on the unifying forces that the ocean conjures, and what can be achieved if people cooperate and work toward a common goal.

Time may be running out, but viewing all the initiatives that you are involved in or plan to launch to accelerate the implementation of Goal 14, there are

still good reasons for hope. If we all assume the shared responsibility and act together, it is still possible to save our ocean!

I thank you!



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Isabella Lövin at donor conference for Afghanistan

Published 05 October 2016 Updated 05 October 2016

Speech by Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden and Minister of International Development Cooperation and Climate at Brussels Conference on Afghanistan 4-5 October 2016. Check against delivery.

Excellencies, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sweden would like to express its gratitude to the European Union and the government of Afghanistan, for co-hosting this Conference. We are gathered here today to reaffirm our continued support to Afghanistan on its path towards self-reliance and peace.

I had the privilege to visit Afghanistan in November last year. I could see with my own eyes the many challenges Afghanistan is facing. The increased number of attacks on civilians is a great concern. So is the increasing number of internally displaced persons, the growing number of returnees as well as the limitations in humanitarian access. My thoughts are with all those affected by the conflict which has lasted for almost 40 years.

But I was also struck by the great hospitality, the beauty of the country and not the least the engagement by the young people. I was taken aback by the courage and commitment of women leaders working in their communities to end violence, to educate the children and challenge norms impeding not only their own development but their entire country. There is so much unleashed potential that could really make a change. That gives hope.

I would like to thank the Afghan National Unity Government for its commitment to the reform process. Its continued unity will be paramount for continued progress. Sweden recognizes the efforts made and the steps taken,

including in areas such as anti-corruption and regional cooperation. Improved regional connectivity and economic integration is key for sustainable and long-term development. We welcome the Government's efforts in the field of peace and the accord recently negotiated with one of the insurgent groups. Its implementation will require careful attention. The parties have agreed to reassure that all Afghan women and men have equal rights before the law; they have also reassured that these laws will guarantee the protection of all Afghan citizens. Internal reconciliation is key to reach sustainable peace and this shows that the Government is ready to engage in an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace process with any group of resistance.

I strongly encourage the National Unity Government to continue to implement necessary reforms – including within key areas, such as improvements in the field of human rights and especially women's enjoyment of those rights, anti-corruption and the electoral system. The time is now to move ahead so that free and fair elections can be held. To progress further, a maturing democracy needs to hold elections intermittently.

Women and girls must be made part of the solution in Afghanistan - their economic empowerment, participation in all political processes, at all levels, as well as freedom from all forms of violence is a precondition for sustainable development. I especially want to highlight the importance of women's active participation in a future peace process. Without women there will be no lasting peace. And without peace there will be no development.

I would also like to stress the importance of a vivid and pluralistic civil society. The civil society's rights to act and effect in its own right must be protected.

The situation for the poorest of the poor in Afghanistan is alarming; during the past years we have seen an increase, from 36 to 39 per cent, of people living below the poverty line. Among those, women and girls are the most vulnerable. We need to step up every effort to fight the scourge of poverty. The launch of the Citizen's Charter is a commendable step in this direction.

Afghanistan is a founding member of the g7+ organization of fragile states and successfully hosted the g7+ fourth ministerial meeting earlier this year. The g7+ is an appreciated partner with a number of the major donors in the International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and statebuilding. I would like to encourage Afghanistan to continue its strong engagement in g7+ and to keep on convincing donors of the advantages of using the New Deal principles

when planning their investments and when implementing the Agenda 2030.

Mr/Mrs Chairman,

Two years into the transformation decade, the concerns are many. We all knew that it would not be an easy process. We knew that patience and long-term commitment would be necessary. We need to remember this today. It is crucial to stay on course and continue to work towards strategic and long-term goals.

In Tokyo, Sweden made a commitment to support Afghanistan throughout the transformation decade - a long-term commitment for the period 2015 to 2024 of an indicative amount of 8-8,5 billion SEK. Today I reiterate that ambition. I hope that others will follow suit and make long-term commitments.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Isabella Lövin at UN High-Level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants

Published 20 September 2016 Updated 20 September 2016

UN High-Level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, 19 September 2016, New York. Round table – addressing the root causes of large movements of migrants Check against delivery.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

In a world increasingly characterised by conflict, climate change, and extremism, where we are witnessing the largest number of refugees since World War II, we need to think innovatively and boldly about how to address the root causes fuelling forced displacement. This summit and the round table discussion here today show that we have moved forward in thinking about issues of large movements of refugees and their root causes more cohesively. At the same time, the international community needs to scale up its efforts in tackling the factors that trigger forced displacement in order to break the current trajectory. Sweden would like to highlight four areas in particular.

**Firstly, we need to recognise that the solution to violence and poverty is not humanitarian. It is political.**

We need to be much better at preventing fragile and conflict-affected countries continuing to relapsing into violence. There is a framework for this developed by fragile states and donor countries: the New Deal for Peace,

reaffirmed in the Stockholm declaration adopted earlier this year – a tool to implement the Global Goals in the most complex settings. The tools are there – what we need is political will to implement them, and for donor countries to better coordinate their efforts and to engage in long-term development, not only in short-term projects. The New Deal identifies 5 areas that we should focus on: political inclusiveness, justice, security, jobs, and social services.

**Secondly, multiple root causes of forced displacement are linked to climatic and environmental degradation.**

Climate change is a threat multiplier that can aggravate existing tensions and divisions within a society and among nations. It strikes disproportionately at the most vulnerable and poor people of the world and adversely affects security in fragile settings.

As such, Sweden aims to ensure that the UNSC coherently includes climate analyses and sustainable solutions to the root causes fuelling conflicts. Sweden has also made a commitment to streamline all of its development cooperation to be climate-friendly and conflict-sensitive, both to support developing countries becoming more resilient to droughts, flooding and extreme weather, and to help them leapfrog to the future renewable energy market, which is absolutely key.

**Thirdly, empower women and girls.**

Act feminist. Sixteen years on from the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, one can firmly state that the promotion of gender equality is not only a matter of women's rights, but also a matter of ensuring peace and security for all. Nothing can be discussed about women without women.

**Fourthly – we need to bridge the gap between humanitarian aid and long-term development.**

As a concrete example, earlier this year Sweden launched a USD 200 million development strategy for the Syria crisis to complement and seek synergies with our significant humanitarian aid in Syria and neighbouring countries. The strategy seeks to strengthen resilience among the Syrian population and host communities in neighbouring countries, which have received large groups of refugees, by strengthening local capacity, creating livelihoods, supporting human rights defenders and addressing gender-based violence.

We are also planning to give additional core funding of MUS\$ 16 to UNCHR this year.

Ladies and gentlemen, we need to fully integrate migration and refugee analyses into the way we think about international development cooperation. Migration and refugee issues cut across many policy areas. Today, and in the future, we need long-term commitment, interaction and utilisation of all tools at hand.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Isabella Lövin at UNICEF event

Published 19 September 2016 Updated 19 September 2016

Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin at Carry Light for Children event, UNICEF, New York, 18 September 2016. Check against delivery.

Every one of the world's almost 50 million uprooted children represents a heartbreaking let down by the world community. We need to turn this collective failure into collective action for the children who need it the most.

Children can never be held responsible for wars and conflicts, but they are always the most exposed to their consequences.

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Children are our future. We cannot afford to have 50 million uprooted girls and boys; millions of them are trapped, held hostage in refugee situations without any possibility of living a full life or a fair chance to build a future. More than four million Syrian children have not gone to school for years. An entire generation of children are growing up in fear, amid conflict and destruction.

What will happen to them? And how will this affect Syria's future?

Children are amazingly resilient, finding a way to live an everyday life in extreme situations. Many of the children I have met in conflict regions and refugee camps, in Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan and Dadaab in Kenya are still so full of curiosity and creativity. I always ask them what they want to be when they grow up. And each time they answer: I want to be a doctor,

a judge, a teacher, a policeman, a nurse, a football player...

And often, schools and teachers are their window to the future.

I will never forget the school children chanting in Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp where people have lived for generations. They were standing there in blue UNICEF T-shirts repeating: Education, education brings development for generation, generation, generation...

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We must do everything in our power to make their vision come true. The vulnerability of children, and in particular unaccompanied children, calls for measures to ensure that all children are protected from violence, abuse and exploitation, and given access to education.

However, it is not enough to help children in need. We must prevent war from breaking out in the first place. The root causes of armed conflict must be addressed. Peacebuilding and statebuilding must be reinforced. Efforts to promote democracy and human rights deserve far greater political attention and financial resources.

In the Global Goals era, UNICEF has to work very closely with other UN agencies and multilateral organisations, as well as with civil society and the private sector. In fragile and conflict-affected countries, where complexities abound, UN cohesion is more critical than anywhere else.

The world needs countries that demonstrate leadership. I am proud that Sweden gives unearmarked core support to UNICEF. We are now stepping up our efforts to help children, wherever in the world, who are fleeing from war, conflict and disasters. We plan to double our support to UNICEF this year. Sustaining peace and protecting victims of violence – this is our shared global responsibility to every single one of the 50 million uprooted children in today's world.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, and Deputy Prime at the UN Security Council, 10 June 2016

Published 10 June 2016 Updated 10 June 2016

Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin, delivered in connection with an open debate on protection of civilians and peacekeeping operations. 10 June 2016 at the UN Security Council. Check against delivery!

Mr. President,

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway – and my own country, Sweden. These remarks are in addition to the statement which will be delivered by the representative of the European Union later today, with which we align ourselves.

To begin with, let me thank you for convening this important open debate. I would also like to thank [the briefers] for their contributions this morning, and the Council for its efforts to strengthen the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

As outlined in the Secretary-General's report, the protection of civilians is at the core of our common purpose. The heroic efforts of UN personnel and the commitment of troop and police contributing countries are testament to this.

They deserve our deepest respect, recognising that their mission may also entail sacrifice.

Mr. President,

Let me highlight three ideas that we believe should underpin the PoC-agenda of the 21st century:

Firstly, peacekeepers and peace operations must be properly resourced to protect.

Governments have the primary responsibility to protect civilians. But while we re-commit to enhancing national efforts, UN peace operations must be able to assist in fulfilling this responsibility. All peacekeepers need to be properly prepared, trained and equipped.

We must therefore ensure that all UN personnel, at all levels and in all functions, receive adequate training on the protection of civilians, child protection and preventing conflict-related sexual violence before deployment – and that continual training is provided in the field.

The Nordic countries commit significant resources to capacity building – across the board, from military to civilian personnel, local authorities to civil society, and States to regional organisations. We do so in a wide variety of contexts, ranging from the coalition against Daesh, to support to the East African Standby Force.

In addition, Sweden is supporting the development of pre-deployment training standards for UN corrections officers. Over the last 11 years, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service has provided pre-deployment training to more than 400 corrections officers from all over the world.

Secondly, prevention contributes to protection.

By increasing our efforts in the field of prevention and peacebuilding, and addressing the root causes of conflict, we foster sustainable peace. Important joint steps towards this have been taken through the recent resolutions on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. We believe that a shift towards prevention, underpinned by local perspectives, should be seen as an antidote to atrocities.

Needless to say, the protection of civilians includes the protection of women and children, in particular girls. Furthermore, women and girls need to be

considered as powerful agents for prevention and protection. We therefore need to ensure women's and girls' influence and meaningful participation. One tool in support of UN mediation activities is our Nordic Women Mediators' Network.

Our experiences in MINUSMA have taught us that efficient protection of civilians requires close cooperation among military, police and civilian components within the UN system, as well as successful coordination with local authorities, humanitarian organizations and civil society. MINUSMA has also demonstrated the importance of strengthened situational awareness to effective protection of civilians as well as peacekeepers. We welcome the development of a policy framework for intelligence in support of UN peace operations.

Seeking national and regional perspectives is key – and enhanced and more dynamic partnerships are critical, including with regional and sub-regional organizations. More predictable, sustainable and long-term financing is also essential in this regard. The Nordic countries provide long-term financing for peace and development in a wide variety of ways, including through significant non-earmarked contributions to different parts of the UN system.

Thirdly, we need norms that safeguard humanity.

Humanitarian organizations and humanitarian and medical personnel play a crucial role in the protection of civilians, both through active efforts and through their very presence. They must be respected and given swift and unimpeded access to those in need. Their facilities and transports must be protected. And they must never be targeted, harmed or prevented from saving lives in contravention of international law.

The very purpose of international humanitarian law is to protect civilians in armed conflict. These norms that safeguard humanity must be upheld. We therefore commend the Council for its adoption of Resolution 2286, which strongly condemns acts of violence, attacks and threats against the wounded and sick, medical and humanitarian personnel and hospitals and medical facilities.

We also need to increase our humanitarian efforts to respond effectively to crises. The first ever World Humanitarian Summit held in May provides an excellent point of departure for our intensified efforts and the way forward.

The Nordic countries have long been among the top financial and political

supporters to the humanitarian agenda. We intend to maintain our high level of support.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by honouring the legacy of an individual who I believe embodied the courage that defines the proud mission carried out by UN peacekeepers all over the world, every day: the late Captain Mbaye Diagne, who saved hundreds, perhaps as many as a thousand lives. His heroic deeds illustrate that the protection of civilians is within the scope of our common action.

Because the protection of civilians needs to be pursued in partnership.

We need to listen to the voices of the vulnerable.

We need to ensure the dignity of the defenceless.

And we need to keep civilians safe – together.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by the Minister for International Development Cooperation at the IPPF event - Call to Humanity

Published 24 May 2016 Updated 24 May 2016

Speech by the Minister for International Development Cooperation at the IPPF event - Call to Humanity - Transformative Humanitarian Action for Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health, Istanbul 23 May, 2016. Check against delivery!

Your royal highness, executive director, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

As I have travelled across the world as a minister of development cooperation, I have noticed there is usually one single phrase creating more reactions than anything else I say. From cheers and applause to complete silence. That I represent a feminist government.

Sweden is in fact the first country that has an outspoken feminist foreign policy. What does this in fact mean?

To put it in very simple terms: that we put a gender lens on all issues, and that a gender perspective is implemented in all foreign policy areas, not least in peace and security efforts. Why is this so important?

Because if we don't, peacebuilding will never be sustainable in the longer perspective. Women's issues are not soft issues, they are hard issues of human rights, life and death!

I have visited many humanitarian missions, and quite a few refugee camps - from Dadaab in Kenya, to the Bekaa valley in Lebanon. There is one common fact that stands out: women and girls share the same stories of living in fear of violence and sexual abuse, and of not having the rights over their own bodies, or the fear of being given away to be married at a too early age, fear of dying giving birth.

This evident vulnerability of women and girls remains one of our main challenges when now looking at the humanitarian system with critical eyes.

Therefore, two of our focus areas in our feminist foreign policy is "Women and girls in humanitarian settings", and Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR),

60 percent of the preventable maternal deaths worldwide occur in emergencies. Only today, an estimated 500 women in these settings die during pregnancy and childbirth. These deaths could have been avoided with quite simple access to sexuality education, affordable contraceptives, safe and legal abortion and access to basic health care.

It doesn't have to be very complicated, As I visited Mogadishu last year I witnessed the cruel and stark contrasts between women giving birth with and without the help from trained midwives. And it is literally a matter of life and death. It's not unique for Somalia, I heard the same stories in Afghanistan and South Sudan.

Sexual and reproductive rights are human rights. Still, for too long, the humanitarian response has not taken adequate measures to protect these rights. And the consequences have been dreadful. Here we also see that local women's groups have a key role for empowerment and the fulfillment of these human rights.

One of our commitments for the World Humanitarian Summit is to ensure the implementation of the targets for the 2030 Agenda on maternal, newborn and maternal health in emergencies. Ensuring that women have access to comprehensive health care is about saving lives.

Sweden is in a strong position to exert an influence, thanks to our substantial humanitarian aid. We demand our partners provide maternity care. This is also an example of a feminist foreign policy!

Now, I would like to take this opportunity welcoming RFSU/IPPF as a new

partner in the Call to Action for addressing Gender-based violence. We need more partners that forcefully promote women's sexual and reproductive rights. RFSU has an extraordinary track record of working successfully with these issues, and I know that their contribution will be of great value for the initiative.

This year Sweden is leading the Call to Action of Protection from gender-based violence in emergencies with the aim to build a truly global coalition to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian situations. By joining the Call to action, we can hold ourselves accountable. Making commitments is simply not enough.

Worldwide, an estimated one in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime. One in every three, most often by someone she knows. These numbers are outrageous and totally unacceptable!

And we know that domestic violence, sexual assault and rape, increase in times of war and conflict, and the perpetrators of these crimes often enjoy a higher degree of impunity. We will significantly improve our humanitarian support to organisations with a protection mandate, including to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and to promote integration of protection in all humanitarian sectors.

To sum up, The World Humanitarian summit must lead to political commitments that are translated to concrete change for women and girls on the ground. We will use the Call to Action to ensure that commitments are put into action. As Chair of the Call to Action in 2016, I encourage all states and organisations to endorse the Call to Action and its Roadmap.

The Roadmap provides a framework to follow-up the commitments being made here at the summit. It is a tool for humanitarian actors to ensure that pledges are translated into and targeted actions on the ground.

Sweden will continue to actively push for SRHR within the framework of our feminist foreign policy and within Call to Action.

We therefore commit to only fund humanitarian interventions that explicitly include a gender analysis with sex- and age disaggregated data. We also demand that partners apply the IASC, ECHO or other gender- and age Markers into all humanitarian operations by 2018. This is one example of our Swedish feminist foreign policy!

Only with this perspective can humanitarian assistance truly be part of peace-building.

Thank you



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Introductory speech at the International Dialogue side event at WHS

Published 24 May 2016 Updated 24 May 2016

Introductory speech by Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation, at the International Dialogue side event at the World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul 23 May, 2016. Check against delivery!

Excellencies, Madam Moderator, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

You have probably heard the numbers many times at this summit, but I think they deserve to be repeated once again. 125 million people are in need of humanitarian support. If it would be a country it would be the 11th biggest in the world. 80% of these are suffering because of man-made wars & conflicts. The amount is twelve times greater than fifteen years ago, still the funding gap is 15 billion dollars.

As Sweden's minister of development I have visited quite a few refugee camps across the world. From Gambella to Dadaab and Tindouf. One single fact, one insight, has been more painful to grasp than others. That there seems to be no hope for a future outside the camp for the people living there. Generation after generation have faced or will have to face this destiny, if we - the international community - don't bring our act together. The average length of conflict-induced displacement is an astonishing 17 years. To many, displacement has become a life sentence.

This is not only a matter of wasted lives and dreams. This is not only a matter of dignity. It might also be a ticking bomb. When society can't bring

hope for a better future, people tend to look for alternatives. We see the results in terms of terrorist organisations recruiting young people by offering false promises to people in despair.

So we have gathered here in Istanbul at a critical moment.

Although many humanitarian appeals remain unanswered, the issue of increasing humanitarian needs is not only a financial problem. It is political.

The UN Secretary General calls in "One Humanity" for five core responsibilities critical to deliver better for humanity.

1. To prevent and to end conflicts
2. To uphold the norms that safeguard humanity
3. Leave no-one behind
4. Deliver and finance aid differently and
5. To invest in humanity.

These have to be transformed into political action. We must mobilize the political will to reach these ambitious goals. We need to marshal resources to end fragility and violent conflicts.

The best way to deal with growing humanitarian needs is to address their root causes. In fragile and conflict affected situations, institutions are weak or dysfunctional and less able to withstand shocks. Whether in the form of health epidemics (as we have seen in Western Africa during the ebola crisis), whether in the form of natural disasters (as in Nepal or Bangladesh which I recently visited) or terrorist attacks (as countries like Somalia and Afghanistan now suffer from).

What begins as a short-term humanitarian emergency often turns into a long-term development challenge.

Fragile states can soon become conflict affected states unless we act now. And which the next fragile states are we must be better at identifying.

In April the members of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding adopted the Stockholm Declaration on Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World.

If we are to reverse the trend of an increase of protracted humanitarian crises, we need to have a long-term perspective. The Stockholm Declaration emphasizes that we need to focus more on prevention by addressing the root

causes and the drivers of fragility and conflict. We need to work together, and we need to do it horizontally rather than vertically.

The Stockholm declaration commits members of the International Dialogue to bridge the divide between humanitarian and development actors.

It calls for collective outcomes that supports the "Leave no-one behind" ambition. And it strives for the implementation of Agenda 2030 in fragile and conflict affected contexts.

The International Dialogue can be a platform for creating closer working collaboration. Together we can achieve collective outcomes and scaling up innovation at country levels.

The International Dialogue and two of its members, Germany and UNDP, have organized this event today to answer the UN Secretary General's call.

Therefore, we have three requests for all of you here today.

1. That you share innovations on how we can collaborate productively when working with the humanitarian and development communities.
2. That you explore opportunities for joint analysis and how to work more effectively and inclusively with national and local governments and communities.
3. And last but not the least, that you explore how we can work on implementing the global goals in fragile environments.

I encourage you, as the chair of the International Dialogue to see how this closer partnership should translate in practice!



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Isabella Lövin at the Security Council Open Debate on the Middle East Peace Process

Published 19 April 2016 Updated 19 April 2016

Swedish national statement, New York 18 April, 2016.  
Check against delivery.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by welcoming today's adoption of the Presidential Statement on Yemen by this Council. The UN-led peace talks that have been resumed today in Kuwait will hopefully take us closer to a political solution in Yemen.

Sweden welcomes the Cessation of Hostilities in place since 10 April and we urge all parties to respect it

The massive humanitarian needs must be met. Sweden is among the largest humanitarian donors to Yemen, with contributions over 50 million US dollars since the conflict began.

Mr. President,

Making the Syria talks in Geneva a success is an enormous challenge, but the world cannot afford to fail. Five years of horrific warfare must be brought to an end. A political transition must be realised. The Syrian people deserve to live in peace and democracy.

For the talks to succeed, all parties must fully implement the Resolutions of this Council.

While the Cessation of Hostilities seems to be broadly holding, I am gravely

concerned by the slowing down in humanitarian access.

In particular, I am appalled by reports that medicines and medical equipment are being removed from humanitarian convoys, costing innocent lives. This is unacceptable!

Sweden supports the work of Special Envoy de Mistura, not least by funding Syrian women's participation.

Sweden is assisting the Syrian people in three ways:

First, we are stepping up resilience funding through our new Syria Crisis Strategy of 200 million US dollars. Secondly, we are increasing our humanitarian aid, amounting to over 300 million US dollars. Thirdly, we have received over 120 000 refugees that have fled Syria, one of the highest in Europe.

Sweden recognises that neighbouring countries, especially Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, are under immense pressure. That is why our Syria crisis strategy includes support in these countries as well.

Mr. President,

Next year marks 50 years of occupation of Palestine. 50 years!

All of us are aware of the urgency of the situation on the ground and the absence of a political horizon. The two-state solution is fading away before our eyes.

We are seeing continued violence, we are seeing a rapid continuation of the settlements, and we are seeing unprecedented numbers of demolitions of Palestinian homes and infrastructure.

The settlements are illegal and an obstacle to peace. Settlement activity in East Jerusalem seriously jeopardizes the possibility of Jerusalem serving as the future capital of both states.

A fundamental change of the settlement policy is needed, particularly in East Jerusalem and Area C.

Such a change would increase economic opportunities, it would empower Palestinian institutions and it would enhance stability and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Sweden stands firmly against terrorism. All acts of violence against civilians are despicable, and must be condemned by all.

Yet, security measures alone will not end the violence. The underlying causes of the conflict must be addressed.

Only then will the violence come to an end.

Only then will peace and stability prevail.

Only then will the citizens in Israel and Palestine be able to live their lives in dignity.

The situation in Gaza remains critical. Recent rocket attacks from Gaza and the Israeli air strike-retaliation show the urgency of the situation. These are reminders of the risk of further violent escalation. In a couple of years, the lack of potable water is irreversible.

Therefore the isolation of Gaza must end and the reconstruction must be fast-tracked.

The European Union and Sweden have called on all parties to guarantee unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza for humanitarian organisations and other international actors including state representatives, as foreseen by international humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

To save the prospects of a two-state solution, and to counter the growing hopelessness among the youth, the international community must move from words to action.

We must help the parties to move forward by creating new dynamics and a momentum for a meaningful peace process to end the occupation.

Sweden therefore fully supports the French initiative on an international peace conference, as a way for the parties and the world to recommit to the two-state solution. Sweden is encouraged by the increased Quartet activity, and is looking forward to the publication of the announced Quartet report.

The Security Council has a central role to play, and must shoulder its responsibility to uphold its resolutions and the UN Charter.

If we, the international community, are serious about our commitment to the two-state solution, we have important work to do in the months ahead.

Thank you, Mr. President.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin at SRHR seminar on Resources for women and girls: realizing the vision of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all through agenda 2030

Published 07 April 2016 Updated 07 April 2016

All-Party Parliamentary Group on SRHR seminar on Resources for women and girls: realizing the vision of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all through agenda 2030, Stockholm, 7 April 2016. Check against delivery!

Dear all,

I'm happy to be here and to be able to conclude this important seminar. Thanks to the Parliamentary Group and RFSU for inviting me. This week, Stockholm and the Swedish government hosted the high-level International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and State building. This dialogue is an important process to put the spotlight on the fragile states, which we know are the ones that did not fulfill the Millennium Development Goals. To fully realise the 2030 Agenda these countries are key.

Sweden sees the importance of these issues, which is why we will lead the work on target 16 in the new agenda. This target and the international dialogue both have special importance for the work to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights. It is in the context of conflicts that maternal deaths increase. It is in the context of fragile states that the human rights for women and girls are grossly neglected. It is in the context of a state rebuilding its' peace that sexual abuse and trauma have to be addressed on a systemic level.

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So, in a world with more conflicts, the challenges of sexual and reproductive health and rights are more important to address than they have ever been.

Every year, the denial of women and girls' basic right to decide over their ownbodies leads to 80 million unplanned pregnancies, 30 million unplanned births and 20 million unsafe abortions around the world. It prevents more than 220 million women and girls from having access to effective and affordable contraception. Every year, more than 300 000 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. The figures are shocking.

The absolute fundamental right to control one's own body is still controversial in many parts of the world, mainly due to discriminatory laws, norms and practices. Laws and structures keep many women, girls, adolescents and LGBT persons from enjoying their human rights, reaching their potential and contributing to their societies.

Sweden is deeply concerned about the increased resistance against gender equality and SRHR.

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Luckily, this is not only a time of challenges but also a time of opportunities. We have a new architecture for development, through the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda, with its two goals that explicitly relate to SRHR, offers a real opportunity for change. Its implementation is a top priority for Sweden. We welcome collaboration and ideas on how to progress and succeed on the goals and targets set out to advance the SRHR situation.

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Next month, the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit will take place in

Istanbul. The summit must lead to political commitments that are translated to concrete changes for women and girls on the ground.

As you know, about three in five of all maternal deaths worldwide occur in humanitarian or fragile contexts, which include wars and natural disasters. Every day, more than 500 women in these settings die during pregnancy and childbirth.

For too long, the humanitarian response has not taken adequate measures to protect the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls. At the World Humanitarian Summit, one of the Swedish priorities will therefore be the inclusion and the empowerment of women and girls in the humanitarian response.

A concrete tool for change is the initiative Call to Action on protection from gender-based violence in emergencies. Since the beginning of this year, Sweden is leading the Call to Action in emergencies and the implementation of its Road map. I would like to express my appreciation to UNFPA for its engagement as co-chair in the Call.

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This seminar addresses a core question – who will fund SRHR in the 2030 Agenda – and how?

Nearly 85 per cent of Swedish bilateral aid directly or indirectly affects gender equality, since the gender perspective is mainstreamed into our strategies. Swedish support to SRHR makes up around 60 per cent of the Swedish development assistance for health and around 7 per cent of our total development cooperation. It is also of course a vital part of our development assistance to human rights and democracy.

Sweden is the largest donor to UN Women and the second largest donor to UNFPA and UNAIDS. The government's increase of core-support to UNFPA and UN Women in 2016 was a deliberate political choice. I have instructed The Swedish international Development Cooperation Agency to especially prioritise SRHR in country strategies and programmes in 2016, in a time when we have been forced to cut back on our aid budget. Our serious commitment to SRHR cannot be questioned.

While the ODA that goes to SRHR continues to increase, the global needs for SRHR by far exceed the resources available. In order to increase access

and funding to SRHR, we need an efficient multilateral system with a robust global financial architecture.

A robust financial system must be based on core support. Core support allows UN Funds and programmes to remain strategic. It should be complemented with flexible earmarked support and innovative funding in order to give the organisations maximum room for manoeuvre. This is a Swedish commitment.

We also need strong health systems. Systems for health must be strengthened in a broad sense; health must be part of global and national development priorities, plans and budgets.

In the multilateral system, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and UNAIDS have unique normative mandates. They are key partners for political dialogue about issues related to gender equality and SRHR of women, children and adolescents.

We all want the World Bank and the Ministries of Finance to consider these issues to a greater extent! But when establishing new funds, such as the GFF and the GFF Trust Fund, we must make sure that it does not lead to underfinancing of UN organizations. This can lead to undermining their capacities, technical expertise and important normative roles. The Swedish Government engages in the discussions with the World Bank and we voice these concerns.

Yet, above all, the most important issue with regard to financing is ultimately – political will. We need a strong political will from donors and governments, to further these rights and to build the systems.

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Dear friends, in conclusion. The Swedish Government is and will continue to be a strong advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and LGBT rights, as integral parts of human rights. We will continue to prioritize these issues even if the times are difficult.

We should invest in gender equality not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because when women and girls can educate themselves and find a job they like, they bring economic development. If every country would match the most gender equal country in its region, in terms of women's access to the labour market, the global GDP would increase by 11 percent!

Gender equality can truly be a key to ending poverty!

We remain committed to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, where we luckily see a broad support in the Swedish parliament. We continuously work together with other governments to address the challenges of SRHR globally, and to increase the funding to tackle these challenges.

We do this because these rights are absolute – every woman and girl should be able to make the decisions about her own body. Every LGBT person should be treated with respect and dignity, in the eyes of the law and in their life. Every adolescent should get access to sexuality education and youth friendly services. And every woman should rest assured that the birth of her child will happen in a safe place.

To make this a reality, a lot of work is needed. So let's get to work.

Thank you.

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Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Opening statement by Isabella Lövin at the Fifth Global Meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

Published 05 April 2016 Updated 05 April 2016

Opening statement by H.E. Isabella Lövin at the Fifth Global Meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Stockholm, 5 April 2016. Check against delivery.

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, (UN High Commissioner for Refugees), Chair of the g7+ and Co-chair of the International Dialogue of Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and an honour to welcome you to Stockholm for the fifth Global Meeting of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

The world has changed quite dramatically since the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding was created less than ten years ago.

As a result of the efforts made to meet the Millennium Development Goals, extreme poverty has decreased significantly in most developing countries over the last two decades.

Probably all of us in this room have heard the success stories. Extreme poverty has been halved; child mortality has been drastically reduced – in most developing countries.

With one exception: in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Very few of fragile and conflict-affected states have met the poverty target. The ten worst performing countries on maternal mortality globally are all in conflict affected countries.

Syria has shown that conflict and violence means development in reverse – 20 million people who used to live in a middle-income country have been thrown into poverty and half of the population has been forced to leave their homes.

60 per cent of the population is unemployed; 4 million children are out of school.

The cost of rebuilding a country once it has been destroyed by war is incalculable. Yet the World Bank has tried to quantify it: some 35 billion dollars have been lost since the outbreak of the Syrian war only.

The total cost of conflict in 2014 was 14.3 trillion US dollars; equal to the size of the GDPs of Germany and France. And the UK. And Canada. And Spain.

These figures are of course staggering. But what is worse that it will take at least a generation to rebuild a country affected by serious conflict.

Not since the Second World War have we seen such huge numbers of refugees, and the trend is extremely worrying: after declining for many years, the number of major civil wars almost tripled from four to eleven between 2007 and 2014.

We can't afford to allow this to continue! Not in terms of human suffering, not in terms of global security.

And if we want to achieve the new Global Goals that the world committed to in September, we urgently need to address conflict, and start working on peacebuilding and conflict prevention in new ways.

This is why we are here today. The world needs to focus on addressing the underlying issues that lead to conflict, fragility and chronic poverty. We must address the root causes and deal with them.

Peace and development are interlinked.

Where there is no peace, there is no development.

Where there is no development, there is no peace.

The two cannot be regarded as two different things the way the international community still tends to do.

But we have an opportunity to change that now.

The entire international system is shifting. If 2015 was an important year for global governance - with worldwide agreements, the climate agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, 2016 is the time to allocate resources and shift from setting the targets, to acting to achieve them.

It's time to focus on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, to commit to inclusive peace processes and to invest the necessary political capital in international cooperation for peace; this is ultimately a matter of political will and pro-active leadership. I know that this transition is not easy, but utterly necessary.

This is where the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding comes in.

The dialogue was the driving force behind the New Deal for fragile states, with its 5 Peace building and State building Goals. The Dialogue also successfully pushed to have goal 16 on peaceful societies included in the 2030 Agenda. With the Dialogue as a platform, and the New Deal as the tool, we can make sure that the Sustainable Development Goals set last year are implemented also in fragile and conflict-affected countries. This is the force and added value of the IDPS. It is the coalition of the willing.

The five peace- and statebuilding goals identified in the New Deal by the fragile states themselves – legitimate politics, security, justice, economic development and service delivery – should, in my view, be the guiding principles of all peacebuilding, statebuilding and development work.

I actually see a lot of that language and thinking in the recent review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. This is a good sign. We should work together, we must work together, to achieve concrete results on the ground, not only preventing conflict from re-emerging, but also sustaining peace – that is, working on conflict prevention before conflict erupts, costing lives, livelihoods, time and reversing development.

Recognising the urgency of addressing these global challenges, we would

like today to seek members' commitment in the following four areas:

First. We need to renew our commitment to the New Deal.

Through local ownership, by addressing the root causes of violence, conflict and fragility, the New Deal can achieve concrete results in difficult environments. To achieve this we need to improve our systems to ensure inclusion and rebuild trust between states and citizens. We must show that we can use the New Deal to achieve results. This will also include strengthening gender approaches and women's active participation in peacebuilding, as well as recognizing and harnessing the positive potential of young people.

Secondly: We should use the New Deal principles to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The New Deal is a key framework for achieving resilience and development outcomes in fragile and conflict-affected environments and for meeting the commitment to 'leaving no one behind'. The New Deal provides a unique platform for political, economic and social reforms by strengthening dialogue between national authorities and development partners, and by including civil society. We must lead by example and show how to implement the 2030 Agenda in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

Thirdly: Development partners should provide smarter, more effective, more innovative and more targeted development support in fragile and conflict-affected situations, especially in protracted humanitarian crises and in g7+ countries. It is important to strengthen country systems and to make relevant development aid conflict-sensitive, based on an analysis of conflict and fragility drivers and 'do no harm' principles

Finally, we must strengthen our partnerships. If we want to improve our responses to conflict we need broader, deeper and more effective coalitions for peacebuilding and statebuilding. Achieving sustainable peace and development in conflict-affected countries requires the international community to work together like never before, in new partnerships and in new ways. Here, I would highlight in particular 'fragile-to-fragile' cooperation, a closer cooperation with civil society and the need for the International Dialogue to have closer cooperation with the UN. The International Dialogue is a flexible and ready partner in this regard.

Mr Co-chair,

To conclude: responding to the challenges of today, and drawing on the experiences of the past, we need a new global partnership to prevent violent conflict, reduce humanitarian needs, and sustain peace. This meeting here today, taking place just before the WHS, is a key moment in which the principles of the New Deal for fragile states can lay the foundation for such a partnership. The New Deal can be used as the tool for implementing goal 16 in fragile states. It provides a relevant framework that brings together partners and stakeholders. It's difficult to reinvent the New Deal, because its principles are still valid. But by renewing our commitment to it we can revitalise it, and make it a central part of implementing and achieving the entire 2030 Agenda.

Because without peace – no development.

And without development – no peace.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin at UN Women panel discussion in Juba, South Sudan, celebrating International Women's Day, 8 March 2016

Published 08 March 2016 Updated 08 March 2016

**Check against delivery!**

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, panellists and friends,

I am honoured to be here with you today to celebrate International Women's Day, to honour your work and learn from your experiences.

I thank UN Women for organising this event and for their close and productive cooperation over several years here in South Sudan and elsewhere in the world.

I know that you – the women of South Sudan – are in a battle. I know that you have lived through decades of war and violence that have permeated the very fabric of your society.

I also know that your consistent hard efforts are making a difference – laying the ground work for peace and a better future for your children.

The stories of our sisters that I have met in other war-torn countries – Afghanistan, Somalia, Lebanon and Liberia – have made deep impressions

and will stay with me forever. They have made my commitment to women's rights and gender equality even stronger.

In a time when warlords with guns are trying to set the agenda – driving millions of people from their homes, creating long-lasting wounds that will take decades or sometimes centuries to heal – you stand out as the true heroes and 'peace lords' of our time.

You ensure safety for your families, put food on the table, mediate conflicts in your communities, build bridges between groups and strive to bury the hatred – looking ahead to the future – rather than holding on to the violent past.

I am proud to represent the first explicitly feminist government in the world. We are convinced that gender equality is the foundation of sustainable development and we are now working hard to ensure that all our policies in all political fields have a gender perspective.

I would argue that Sweden's own success is linked to our improvement in the area of gender equality. This includes important reforms such as:

- Parental leave – the rapid expansion of child care provision, preschools and individual parental insurance. Both parents are equally entitled by law to parental leave.
- Maternal health care – providing access to professional midwives and education about sexual and reproductive health and rights. A century ago many women in Sweden died in pregnancy or childbirth, now almost all survive. Exercising control over your own body is also the first building block of a truly democratic society and key for economic development. Girls who become mothers are often forced to quit school, perpetuating the cycle of poverty for their children.

Today, Sweden is one of the most gender-equal countries in the world, and has one of the highest standards of living.

This has not always been the case.

I am harvesting the fruits of my mother's and grandmother's struggle. Together with women throughout Sweden, they fought to become full citizens – to gain rights, resources and representation. This fight continues.

Feminism – gender equality and inclusive politics – is needed more than ever.

We are living at a time when armed conflicts yet again are on the rise, where almost half of all peace agreements fail within five years, where each day over 42 000 women, men, girls and boys are forced to leave their homes due to conflicts and persecution, where the average length of conflict-induced displacement is 17 years. This illustrates that we desperately need new ways of building peaceful and resilient societies.

Research and our own experience demonstrate that women's inclusion and participation is critical to achieving successful and sustainable peace that encompasses all citizens.

The UN Security Council has stated that widespread sexual violence during and after conflicts undermines the chances for peace and security.

Despite this – as you know all too well – these facts have not led to any real change on the ground. Of the 1 168 peace agreements signed between 1990 and 2013, only 18 per cent made any reference to women or gender. From 1992 to 2011 less than four per cent of signatories to peace agreements were women. The recurring violence against women and children is absolutely appalling and continues to shatter lives, families and communities.

This must change if we are going to stop the vicious circle of armed conflicts.

You, the women of South Sudan, have shown your leaders and the world that you won't be silenced or sidestepped.

You have a proud history of fighting for a seat at the table during peace negotiations and for trying to bridge divides in times of conflict. Groups such as the Sudanese Women Association in Nairobi, Sudanese Women's Voice for Peace and, most recently, all the women who participated in the peace negotiations in Addis Ababa deserve recognition.

You have shown that progress can be made, despite extremely difficult circumstances. South Sudan's accession to CEDAW last year was an important landmark. Work on the national gender policy has pointed the way forward. Our Embassy has reported on the inspirational efforts of girls and young women across South Sudan to end child marriage and ensure equal access to education.

Sweden has been a steadfast supporter of women's rights and women's participation in the peace process in South Sudan. Our support stretches

from development cooperation to political dialogue. We are pleased and proud to be the largest donor to UN Women in South Sudan, and also to be able to support the government and organisations working on women's health and midwifery, including supporting and educating midwives in different parts of the country.

You can rest assured that I will raise gender issues in all my meetings during my two days here in Juba.

I look forward to our discussion here today to learn how Sweden can enhance the work for women's rights and peacebuilding in South Sudan.

Our discussions and my visit are also very timely and important for two other reasons:

Firstly, in April, I will host a high-level meeting in Stockholm, together with Minister of Finance and Economic Development Kaifala Marah of Sierra Leone. We are co-Chairs of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding – of which South Sudan is a member. Our ambition is that leaders from donor countries and fragile states will commit to a new deal for peace – the Stockholm Declaration. Evidently your experience is extremely important here.

And secondly, in May, the first ever World Humanitarian Summit will be held. I would therefore like to take the opportunity to hear from you how humanitarian response can better ensure the protection and participation of women and girls. I will use my presence at the Summit to voice your call to action.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Isabella Lövin at the International Fisheries Transparency Initiative conference

Published 05 February 2016 Updated 05 February 2016

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), Mauretanie, 3  
February 2016. Check against delivery.

Your Excellency Mr President Ould Abdel Aziz, ministers, colleagues, ladies  
and gentlemen.

First of all, I'd like to express my congratulations to Mauritania for showing  
extraordinary commitment in supporting the establishment of the Fisheries  
Transparency Initiative.

We are really making history now – with the very first International Fisheries  
Transparency Initiative conference!

I would also like to thank professor Peter Eigen, chairman of the FiTI  
International Advisory Group, for your achievements as founding chair of  
Transparency International and Extractive industries Initiative – now taking  
the initiative to create a new mechanism to allow the world to better protect  
and preserve the resources of the oceans, and at the same time promote  
transparency, fight corruption and thereby promote better governance, the  
rule of law and a better future not only for our oceans – but for our children.

I am indeed greatly honoured to have been invited here as a keynote  
speaker, an honour I expect I have been awarded thanks to my engagement  
in fighting overfishing, not only in my own home country Sweden, but also at  
European and international level.

The problem of over-exploitation of our oceans has so many dimensions to

it.

The environmental aspect is one; seven out of ten fish stocks around the world are fully or over-exploited, and too few fish in the ocean means that they cannot fulfil the functions that the marine ecosystems rely on.

Jellyfish invade our coasts when no fish control their numbers. And algal blooming that colours the oceans yellow or green like a pea soup is exacerbated by the same phenomena. This is of course terrifying those of us that have seen these effects with our own eyes.

But then we have other types of terrifying effects – the social consequences. The links between overfishing in Sweden and the vanishing of livelihoods for artisanal fishermen in West Africa might not be completely obvious to everybody, but they are there. Fish is one of the top commodities traded internationally, and most of it is transported from the global south to the global north. Europe imports over 60 per cent of all fish that it consumes. Some of it comes from aquaculture, but that doesn't mean it doesn't affect the oceans. Even farmed salmon has to be fed by some marine protein, which means some of the feed is fished, for instance, in West Africa.

But then some of the fish that is consumed in Europe comes from European boats that have been fishing in waters outside Europe. Not only Europeans do this – the Russians, the Chinese, the Koreans, the Americans, the Japanese and others have extensive fishing outside of their own waters, sometimes fishing in international waters, sometimes buying access to third countries' waters.

When I was at the European Parliament I worked very hard for a reform of the EU Common fisheries policy and its external dimensions. And in 2013 we actually managed to conclude this reform, which many along with me consider a big success. One of the major advances in the reform dealt with transparency. The EU was already publishing its fisheries agreements with third countries, so that the terms and the payments were already publically available. But two additional important principles are now mandatory for the EU:

The first is that the EU now is decoupling payment for aid, or sectoral support, from access costs. In other words, previously it was often not transparent how much the EU was paying for actual access, since part of the money should go to supporting the local fishing sector, monitoring and control, or research, etc. Decoupling makes accountability for the payments

much easier and comparison between various actors possible.

Second, another major shift was that for the first time, we now have the obligation to make sure the EU only buys access to surplus fish – fish resources that are not needed by the country or its fishermen.

This is of course already an obligation to everyone under the UN Law of the Sea, that a country can only sell access to surplus fish – but now for the first time this important principle is enshrined in EU legislation. This obligation of course poses a great responsibility on everyone involved: how can the EU be sure the third country has a surplus of fish to sell, if there are a number of other foreign fleets operating under confidentiality clauses, and in addition to that, a lack of sufficient fisheries control of a country's exclusive economic zone – including fishing by its own nationals – and because of all these unknowns, a lack of reliable scientific data?

But anyhow, a first step in the new direction of the EU policy was taken when the EU did not ask to include octopus in the fisheries protocol with Mauritania, because this resource was fully exploited by the Mauritanian fishermen – also an important step for Mauritania to support and develop its own domestic fishing sector.

But I want to be frank here: this was not an easy battle. Why? Because as long as there are other foreign fleets out there not publishing what they pay, not publishing what they catch, not respecting the principle of only access to surplus – of course some of the European fishermen argue that it makes no sense for them to be "punished" for behaving well, when everyone else is involved in shady business practices, and fishing on the sly.

So therefore the FiTI is so extremely important.

We need to set common standards on transparency, creating a level playing field for all actors. Of course we should not prevent anyone from taking their ambitions even further, since we all know the oceans need a lot of attention and better management to recover from so many decades of overfishing, including extensive illegal and unreported fishing which is now estimated at about 20 per cent of all catches.

I think the FiTI is on the right track with the three core categories of reporting that have been identified.

First, on tenure arrangements: Who has the right to fish, how is it to be

conducted and where is it to take place? Transparency regarding vessel owners and operators – since these often are different – is important, as well as including information on beneficial ownership, and of course the IMO numbers of the vessels. Knowing who is out there in a transparent way also allows for other fishermen to check that their colleagues actually have a right to be where they are, fishing for whatever they are fishing for.

Second, on FiTI reporting on payments. I think it is important that other actors follow the EU's example and decouple access payment from development aid, or sectoral support, that often accompanies actual access payments. To include transparent reporting on fines and penalties is of course highly relevant in any country; it is a guarantee of the rule of law.

The third category is transparency on catches. I would very much recommend not only including catches in the countries EEZ, but also landings in the country, which would include data on catches landed locally but derived from fishing in another EEZ, or the high seas.

But it is also important to stress the FiTI does not replace other agreements and important commitments that countries have undertaken, and in many cases have yet to implement. The FAO Code of Conduct of responsible fisheries for instance, the Port State Measures Agreement, the EU IUU regulation, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, the Compliance Agreement and other commitments under UNCLOS or the new global agenda, the 2030 Agenda.

Rather, it should be seen as a tool, an instrument to fulfil certain parts of these commitments. The FiTI is also a useful exercise in identifying difficulties and gaps, not least for developing countries in terms of their capacity and resources. I am very happy to also see the small-scale sector included in this initiative – not only because a substantial part of all catches are made by the small-scale sector, but it means, not least, that lack of data and reporting for this important sector will be identified, and resources will have to be directed towards this end. This is excellent and not at all impossible. With new technology and political will it can be done, and it should, not only for the sake of the well-being of our oceans, but also for the long term sustainability of the small-scale fishermen themselves.

One of the priorities of the Swedish Government is to always make visible the issue of gender equality, and it must also be emphasised here how crucial sustainable fisheries are for millions of people around the world, not least

women. In Africa, I have met widows of small-scale fishermen who have taken far too big risks far out on the ocean, to try to make a living when the coastal zones have been emptied by foreign fleets. I have met women who struggle to make their living as fish smokers or fish traders when there is less and less fish, their children playing in the smoke all day long. With more transparency and accountability their future can be much brighter, and their potential in different parts of the fisheries sector can be developed, when supply is stable.

But of course transparency alone will not make a huge difference if it is not accompanied in many cases by improved governance. There are no short cuts to good fisheries management. First of all you, need good legislation, based both on science and social justice – who should have the right to fish? You need reasonable, dissuasive sanctions if fishermen do not comply, and you need control and enforcement, data collection, improved science, you need cooperation between coastal states, market states, port states and flag states – you need all of this – but above all you need the political will to address the problems. Lack of transparency provides opportunities for corruption – let's say that clearly. Here, initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Initiative, Transparency International and Publish What You Pay have taken important steps and shown how transparency can make it more difficult for money to disappear, and also how good practises can also be encouraged by consumers in market states such as Europe. I also see great potential in the FiTI, and I am convinced consumers appreciate information on everything from bycatches to discards and the working conditions on board the fishing vessels. Too many shocking reports have been published on slave-like conditions of fishermen on large vessels around the world. This could also be an area the FiTI could investigate.

To conclude

Ladies and gentlemen, I have been writing and talking about the ocean for more than a decade now. As Minister for International Development Cooperation I see even more closely the link between environmental sustainability and the fight against poverty and hunger. We are not only fishing unsustainably – we are living unsustainably. And, as always, it is hitting the poorest and the most vulnerable the hardest.

But on a more positive note, I think we must all be aware that the world has entered a new phase. In September last year at the UN, all the world's leaders adopted a global agenda, an agenda for the next 15 years – the 2030 Agenda with 17 new sustainable development goals. Many of the goals are in

the area of environment kind, but always with a clear connection to people.

As with Goal 14 on oceans– it is not only about healthy fish stocks and coral reefs, it is about people.

It is about how people can work together and cooperate across borders and boundaries to put governance and structures in place for the benefit of all, acknowledging that what some people might profit from in the short term is depriving other people of earnings and livelihoods in the longer term.

It is about fair distribution of available resources, for this generation and the ones to come.

That is why Sweden has partnered with Fiji and other small island developing states to host the world's first UN conference in support of implementing Goal 14 on the oceans, next year in Fiji.

Because we recognise we need more cooperation to make this ambitious goal become a reality. And the FiTI is one very important initiative that I hope many countries will join, as a way of making the implementation of Goal 14 and the sub-targets on sustainable fisheries, protecting small-scale fisheries and eradicating IUU, become true.

And everyone who cares about fisheries must also care about the other problems our oceans are facing. These include the immense spread of microplastics, acidification, warming, sea-level rise, marine pollution. We all need to work together to address the root-causes of all these problems. And the gains are huge if we succeed:

The FAO estimates that ending overfishing at global level will mean global fish catches can increase by 20 per cent – providing millions of people with food and livelihoods – which the world needs if we are going to support an increasing population of another 2 billion people by 2050.

Mr President, again, my great gratitude to you for spearheading this important initiative that can make governments and private actors accountable for what is happening in our oceans. If many other countries now join, I believe we can make a difference. Thank you for your attention, and my best wishes for the continuation of this work.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Isabella Lövin at the European launch of the World Development Report 2016

Published 27 January 2016 Updated 27 January 2016

Sida, Stockholm, 25 January 2016. Check against delivery.

Ladies and gentlemen, The World Development report team, Mr. Basu!

I am very happy to be here at this important launch of this year's World Development Report, for many reasons.

One reason being that I remember that one of my very first meetings I had as a minister of development cooperation a year and a half ago, was with you Mr Basu, at the World bank annual meeting in Washington, and that we were discussing the premises of the work with this very report.

Secondly I am also very happy to see such a broad group of people in the audience, both from the internet and the development communities, both from civil society and from business.

Thirdly I am happy because I am a true technology optimist. Technology is of course not the answer to everything, and human rights, democracy and the rule of law must always be defended - never taken for granted - but I can't help being truly optimistic that ICT technologies will provide us with new possibilities that will shape and transform our societies in profound ways.

Of course, they already have. When I was a girl, highest on my wish list was to have a set of walkie-talkies.

Imagine me and my friend being able to talk to each other wherever we were, out-doors; even in the woods! That was for me science fiction, a

dream of ultimate freedom - a sense of magic! And imagine today – I can sit in the woods of my childhood and with my cell phone directly call anyone of the world's more than seven billions subscribers of cellphones, wherever they may be! In Australia, in Africa – or in a remote small island far away in the Pacific Ocean.

And it is not magic – it is technology.

Now – the publication of this report comes at a very good point in time. The world now has adopted a new universal, global agenda: Agenda 2030. It is indeed a very ambitious agenda. Many have been doubtful and even critical to the vastness of the 17 new Sustainable Development Goals; It would have been more realistic with only perhaps 10 goals, instead of 17, some have argued. And how can we achieve absolute goals such as No poverty, no hunger, education for all, sustainable energy for all, access to good health care for all etc. – and all of this in only 15 years?

Well, one thing is clear – without the huge possibilities of leapfrogging development that ICT technologies provides, the prospects of fully achieving the Agenda 2030 are very small, if not microscopic. But with them? Well, remember, only twenty years ago most people didn't even know what the Internet was at all. I remember that because in my previous life as a journalist, in 1995 I did a piece on an international youth conference with participants from different continents communicating through computers – and I do remember that I had to explain what Internet was – " computers interconnected through the telephone lines". !

Now only twenty years later, ICT and the Internet are now a fundamental part of Sweden's society and economy, providing us with nearly half of our nations growth! And – the world has a global agenda were one of the explicit sub targets within goal number 9 is to "strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020".

I think this is wise, because if we achieve that by 2020 there is still time up until 2030 to work with ICT tools to help deliver on all the other goals, allowing for leapfrogging technology to help everything from access to finance to citizens, to transparency, e-learning, e-health, e-commerce, access to public services, to information, allowing for greater transparency in decision making, accountability, public participation, etc. And just image what advanced 3D printers could mean for poor, remote areas! We are only beginning to see the impact this will have for health, education, agriculture and many other areas, not least climate change. According to some studies,

ICTs only, could help reduce yearly global emissions by 20% by 2030.

In 2000, when there were close to no mobile phone subscriptions in many parts of Africa, few people envisioned there would be over 900 million subscriptions today – meaning basically everyone that can use a phone today has one.

Fortunately some people did see this development coming. Sida has, in fact, been working with ICT and development issues since the late 90s in various forms; building infrastructure, setting up training programs and helping countries improve their regulations and institutions. I know some of the pioneers of this work are in the audience today, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts and foresight!

Still too many people - In fact 60 percent of the worlds population - do not have access to internet. So increasing access and closing the so called digital divide is of course a key issue.

For remote villages in many parts of Africa where there aren't even any roads, the arrival of a solar-panel powered mobile base station means instant access to education, health care, local markets and improved security, not least for women. Access to ICTs can mean both economic and social empowerment of women – which is also emphasized in the Agenda 2030, under goal number 5, where there is agreement to "enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women."

Empowerment of women is of course not only an issue of access of technology - it is also one of participation and representation. Already 20 years ago - in 1995 - the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing set out as one of its strategic objectives to "Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication."

So now it is time to deliver on these promises.

But as this report shows, access is not enough to achieve positive development outcomes.

Countries also need good governance, strong institutions, appropriate regulation and they need to develop skills for the future, not for the past.

Helping countries that are now moving towards digital future to avoid the

mistakes, and draw on the best practices of others must be a key part of our development cooperation.

This is true not least for the many challenges that sometimes dominate the discussion on Internet issues.

Cybercrime, cyberattacks, radicalisation, hate speech and online threats are but a few.

Also another very worrying global trend is the shrinking space for civil society in many parts of the world, which often includes restrictive internet legislation.

Censorship and blocking is increasing.

Countries are contemplating or enacting legislation against encryption.

In many cases, these actions are the result of immediate reactions to security threats.

We must address these challenges, but do so within a framework of human rights and accountable institutions, good regulation and the rule of law.

And we must share our best practices globally, so that countries facing these challenges do not fall into the trap of choosing the easy way of repression.

It is an important message in the World development report that where public sector accountability is low, digital technologies often help control rather than empower citizens.

So we should not be too much of technology optimists, not to the point that we become naïve. Technology alone does not change the world, it is the people using it that does that, so we need all of us, business community, governments and civil society together to engage in all aspects of development, making sure not only functioning broad band technology is available, but also functioning democratic institutions.

Therefore I am convinced that having a rights-based perspective on digital development, with a particular focus on the gender divide is crucial.

In this field, Sweden will lead the way. We will remain committed to an open and inclusive Internet that contributes to economic and social development worldwide.

And I'd like to finish by mentioning that this fall, the Stockholm Internet Forum for Global Development will gather hundreds of delegates to further the global conversation on technology, gender and sustainable development.

This will be an important step in advancing the digital agenda of poverty eradication, leaving no one behind and bringing all of us closer together. To make us all fully realize the potential and responsibility of being one global community, just one cell phone call away.

I hope to see many of you there.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Prime Minister's Office

# Speech by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven at the launch of Sweden's action towards the Global Goals

Published 19 January 2016 Updated 19 January 2016

Stockholm 18 January 2016 Check against delivery.

Your Royal Highness,  
Dr Nabarro,  
Friends,

A very warm welcome to this launch of Sweden's action to implement the 2030 Agenda. It is particularly exciting to see so many here from so many sectors of society.

Because if there's one thing I know, it is that we get results when we work together – the business sector, trade unions, civil society, researchers, politicians and civil servants at all levels.

One of the success factors for the Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda is that so many have been involved in developing them.

This gives us strength as we move forward and begin to implement the goals.

Thank you for being here ready to take on this task. I very much look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas about the work that lies ahead of us.

Friends,

"A quiet life on the peak of a volcano is illusory. In today's world everything concerns everyone."

These were the words of Václav Havel, formulated when the Berlin Wall fell and the world was in upheaval. Gone was the stalemate of the Cold War and a new era of global cooperation began. It was a time when world leaders and countries came face to face with the completely new challenges and new opportunities that globalisation presented.

The decade that followed was a time when the major future global issues were discussed at a string of world conferences, not least the Earth Summit in Rio, the Conference on Women in Beijing, the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

And it was those efforts that resulted in the Millennium Development Goals.

And I know that at the turn of the millennium, there weren't many who believed that those goals could be achieved.

We were used to the United Nations setting important goals and visions but we were also used to careless implementation of the decisions that were taken.

But the prophets of doom were wrong. We have proved that it is possible to change and improve the world. When there is willingness, when global leadership is strong and when the opportunities globalisation offers are seized.

At the end of last year, the American magazine The Atlantic wrote that 2015 was "the best year in history for the average human being".

And much of what was reported there relates to the UN Millennium Development Goals. Poverty was halved – five years ahead of the deadline. Today, nine out of ten girls and boys around the world go to school. Maternal mortality has fallen. Child mortality has fallen.

Billions of people have gained access to clean water. A global middle class is emerging where every second person has access to a mobile phone.

Friends, the world is not worse. It's better.

But we live in paradoxical times.

Alongside positive developments we see deepening wars and conflicts, terrorist attacks, an ongoing refugee crisis and serious environmental and

climate threats. This adds to our unease.

And despite the huge progress that has been made 800 million people are still living in extreme poverty. Ninety million children around the world are still suffering from malnutrition. Women across the globe still have less power, and poorer access to the labour market and education.

A lot of work remains to be done.

It was with this perspective – of challenges and opportunities – that the world's leaders gathered in New York in September last year and adopted the 2030 Agenda and its 17 global goals.

And it was recognising our common destiny that we gathered in December and agreed on a new binding climate agreement.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed it well. "We are the first generation that can eradicate poverty. And the last that can put an end to climate change."

And the work is not to be done by someone else, somewhere else. It has to be done by all of us together. The goals make great demands on all countries and all actors. It is my ambition to see Sweden take the lead.

And there are two reasons for this.

1. It is morally right.

We have a responsibility towards others, and not just ourselves here and now. We have a responsibility towards people all over the world, but also towards future generations.

2. But it is also economically smart.

I want Swedish companies to be the ones to develop the new technology and solutions that the world is crying out for to reduce carbon emissions. Our country will benefit from being at the forefront of climate adaptation.

Sweden's strength lies in being an egalitarian and gender equal society, which not despite, but because of its solidarity and tolerance, is rich, modern and a world development leader. This is the Sweden we are striving to build. This is the Sweden we believe in.

And I know that there are plenty of ideas and solutions in Sweden.

Just over a year ago, I met Mehrdad Mahdjoubi when he was named

Technologist of the Year. I'm sure you have heard of him. He has developed the world's most advanced and efficient shower system, saving 90 per cent water and 80 per cent energy, and the shower water is cleaner than ordinary hot tap water. In addition, he has succeeded in turning his innovation into a business idea and set up a company called Orbital Systems. It is now ready for a global launch.

Many Swedish companies are well ahead. Scania and Volvo, working tenaciously for a low-emission green transport sector. H&M, one of the world's largest users of organic cotton and working for workers' rights.

There are more examples: Ericsson's digital solutions, ABB's development of smart grids and IKEA's goal to produce its own renewable energy and make it easy for us ordinary people to live greener lives with LED lights and solar panels.

I could go on because this is what I think is really exciting – when jobs are created through innovations that are turned into business ideas and reach new markets.

Sustainable business models give Swedish companies a competitive edge. This is Sweden's future. This makes a difference – in Sweden and in the world. And this creates jobs and growth.

Let me give you another example of leadership. Malmö – a municipality that has made the global goals its own. You are showing the way both on innovative environmental efforts and proposals to reduce health inequalities. And there are many more municipalities making important investments in sustainable development – Karlstad, Örebro, Lomma, Östersund and Borås to name but a few.

We have to take advantage of all the available knowledge and experience.

Three government ministers have particular responsibility for implementation. Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin and Minister for Strategic Development Kristina Persson.

The Government will soon appoint a national delegation to facilitate and stimulate implementation. It will be tasked with producing a national action plan.

We will be assisted by a large number of government agencies that will

contribute their knowledge, such as SCB, which will help to develop indicators for the follow-up. This will make our work and the results concrete.

But what is most important is all of you here today, the breadth that you represent and the engagement you bring. Your knowledge is essential. Your work is crucial. We will do this together.

And what a historic opportunity to be a part of this process and make a difference.

We have a long to-do list. Let's get started.

Once again, a warm welcome to you all.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Isabella Lövin at the UN Women side event on gender and climate at COP21

Published 08 December 2015 Updated 09 December 2015

Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin at the UN Women side event on Gender and Climate at COP21 in Paris on December 8th 2015.

Check upon delivery

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For far too long the world has been blind to gender issues and the role of gender equality for sustainable development. This includes not least the dimensions of energy and climate issues.

How many of us haven't seen the pictures of starving polar bears and melting icebergs? Quite recently, people started realising that human beings would be affected too, especially those living in poverty.

Slowly there was also recognition that men and women are affected differently, both by the impacts of climate change and by the effects of energy poverty.

Today we have come to realise all this, but the world has yet to realise the full potential of women as key stakeholders to combat climate change and promote sustainable energy for all.

Experience shows that the resilience of households and communities depends greatly on the resilience of women. Women's and girls' traditional

responsibilities as food growers, water and fuel gatherers, and caregivers connect them closely to available natural resources and the climate.

In parts of Africa, as much as 80% of the workforce in food production are women. If women had as much resources as men, food production would increase by more than 20%. Women are experts on food, water and energy systems and have the crucial knowledge needed for the transformation to sustainable development. This must not go to waste. But how can we ensure this?

"We wake up at 5 a.m. to pound our millet and to collect water. We have one single tap, which is far away.

After the pounding is over we do not even have time to sweep our compounds as we have to run to join the queue for water collection."

This is a snapshot of a normal day for a great number of women around the world. Imagine what a difference a solar-powered milling machine, water pump or lighting could make if this was your everyday life. Promoting green and renewable energy is not only a way to promote environmental sustainability – it is also an important part of the puzzle to promote gender equality. The time and effort spent by women and girls on routine tasks could be reduced significantly if adequate resources were in place to deliver green electricity, modern cooking and heating fuels, running water and sanitation, and basic transportation services. Today women in developing countries are working on average 13 hours more per week than men. Reducing women's household burdens can therefore have dramatic effects on women's levels of empowerment, education, literacy, nutrition, health, economic opportunities and involvement in social and political activities.

But promoting women in the local context is not enough. Estimates by the International Renewable Energy Agency shows that only around 20% of the workforce in the modern renewable energy sector are women, and examples of women energy entrepreneurs remain largely limited to small-scale initiatives. This must change in order to unleash the powerful role that women can play as agents of change in the transition to sustainable energy, and is also something I will promote through my role on the Advisory Board of Sustainable Energy for All.

We must also ensure that women are included and allowed to be active in planning, finance and policy-making processes. And in order to achieve this we must also work with the men. Yes, look around you here at COP21 –

even though we have many good examples of excellent women in the negotiations, we can see the patriarchal structures reflected even here.

We must therefore highlight the benefits of having both men and women involved in the decisions being made. We must encourage the men in power to dare to share.

Lastly I would like to say that I am proud to represent a government that promotes gender issues through key organisations like UN Women and ENERGIA. But as a feminist government we know that we have to work with these issues wherever we are, and that is why mainstreaming gender considerations is a fundamental principle of our development cooperation – also in relations with the multilateral climate funds, such as the Global Environment Facility [GEF CEO Naoko Ishii is next speaker, TBC]. Step by step we have put in place gender policies and action plans. Step by step we are building a greener and more equal world, one reinforcing the other.

Thank you very much.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Minister for International Development Cooperation at the UN Seminar ahead of United Nations Day

Published 26 October 2015 Updated 26 October 2015

Stockholm Concert Hall, 23 October. (Check against delivery)

Today we celebrate the United Nations. It is a wonderful thing: an organisation that ties together all the countries of the world.

As we celebrate, we should also remember why we are here. Seventy years ago, Europe lay in ruins and the world was rocked to its core. Devastation and suffering were carved into people's very souls. Millions of people were fleeing, yet more were dead. The gates of the concentration camps were opened, revealing the worst mass murder of our time and exposing the inherent evil of war and what humans are capable of. The atomic bomb struck terror in the heart of humanity, and its mushroom cloud has hung over us ever since, a constant reminder of our ability to annihilate ourselves.

Never again. Never again would this be allowed to happen.

From the realisation of the hell of war, the countries of the world came together in a union – the United Nations. Out of chaos, something beautiful was born. A common global set of values was born:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

The beginning of the Charter also states:

We the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding

generations from the scourge of war.

Today, the world is once again facing global challenges and threats that may seem overwhelming. Once again, war and armed conflict are on the increase. Once again, refugee numbers have reached historic levels, and the climate threat risks destabilising entire regions and forcing even greater numbers to flee.

Once again, the world needs to come together.

The need for global solutions and a common road map towards sustainable development is glaringly obvious.

And a few weeks ago, we managed to achieve this. The world's leaders, under the aegis of the United Nations, adopted 17 global goals for sustainable development that map out the way forward for the peoples of the world up to 2030. This is fantastic. We did it! It inspires hope and confidence in our troubled times.

The global goals show that the UN is still extremely relevant. This 70 year-old will not be allowed to retire: it is needed more than ever.

The global goals offer us a vision and tools to avoid future Syrian crises, climate disasters and economic crashes. Achieving the goals will require a strong, reformed and modern UN.

The Government has therefore restored the UN's place in Swedish politics.

Sweden will be an active, attentive partner that pushes for a more effective UN. We can play a leading role for international peace and security, for social and gender equality, and in efforts to eradicate poverty and oppression, and to save our beloved planet.

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To successfully achieve the global goals, to build sustainable peace and prevent war and conflicts, we must tackle one of the greatest human rights scandals of our time: the systematic discrimination against girls and women. Violence against girls and women.

In my travels during my first year as Minister for International Development Cooperation, it is the stories told by girls and women that have made an indelible impression.

Take, for example, my trip to Liberia during the Ebola outbreak.

At a 'one-stop shop' project in the capital, Monrovia, where women who are victims of violence can sneak into a special building in the hospital grounds to obtain medical, psychological and legal help, the staff testified that the number of rapes of women and children had increased dramatically since the Ebola outbreak. I was taken aback to hear that rape is the most common crime in Liberia – despite being extremely under-reported, as women and girls who have fallen victim are ashamed, and blame themselves. I began to truly understand the scale of the problem when I heard the advice given by the doctors at the rape clinic to mothers of small girls:

“Put an extra pair of trousers on them under their school uniform, that makes it harder to get at them.”

Liberia has survived a terrible civil war marked by sexual violence. It is obvious that violence against women did not end with the peace agreement. Instead, as in so many other post-conflict countries, it spread into society, the home, schools, workplaces and the streets. Sexual violence sows dissension between people and eats away at the very fabric of society – at trust between people, the glue that holds families and people together. Traumatized men with guns and a lack of a functioning legal system to hold perpetrators to account is a lethal mix for women and girls.

Lebanon:

In the Beqaa valley in Lebanon, on the border with Syria, I met women who are fighting to keep their families together after the men were killed or disappeared in the war. If it is only possible to send one member of the family to school, far too often it is the boys who are chosen. I was told that the number of child marriages is increasing as parents feel that they cannot protect or support their daughters in the camps. Their fear is justified. Human trafficking and violence against women are increasing. But the solution cannot be to lock girls up in a marriage that entails a clear risk of further violence and abuse.

Bangladesh:

In Bangladesh I met women in the delta who had been forced to move following widespread flooding that has been exacerbated by climate change. They told me how vulnerable girls and women are when they are forced to move, that violence follows in their footsteps, and that they feel forced to marry off their daughters for the same reasons cited in the refugee camps of

Lebanon. What is more, in Bangladesh a girl's parents have to provide a dowry worth several years' salary just for her to be married off, with all of the tragedy that ensues.

These are all variations on the truly appalling reality that the poorest girls and women endure in far too many countries in the world today.

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A UN report this week confirmed that one in three women have been subjected to sexual or physical abuse, and far more than half of these cases are never reported.

One in three women. Rich and poor alike.

The widespread physical and mental violence against women is the single biggest factor that oppresses women and prevents them from asserting their human rights. Violence haunts women throughout the life cycle and increases during and after conflicts.

Sexual violence in times of war is nothing new. It is a feature of almost all armed conflicts – in Myanmar, Cambodia, Afghanistan, the Balkans, Congo, Sudan and Colombia. Sexual violence is used as a weapon to instil fear and divide opponents. As a way to control reproduction among the enemy. Or because women's bodies are seen as 'fair game' as an outlet for soldiers' frustration and to demonstrate their power.

We hear horrific accounts from Syria. The UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, has warned that sexual violence is part of ISIL's ideology. That systematic rapes, forced abortions and human trafficking have become a strategy and a source of income.

When the UN, together with the Member States, launched the celebrations of the 15th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security last week, it was reiterated that violence against women constitutes a real threat not only to individual women, but also to peace itself. It is established that:

When sexual violence is used as a method or tactic of war, it can significantly exacerbate and prolong armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security.

The time when sexual violence was seen as a natural, if regrettable, part of

war must be past.

Violence is not a law of nature. It can be stopped.

It is gratifying that there is growing international realisation and consensus to that effect. The UN has played an important role in pursuing this. The challenge is, as always, to breathe life into resolutions and commitments so that they make a real difference for women on the ground.

It is not enough to merely talk about the violence and how we are to 'protect' women. We must not fall into the trap of reinforcing the image of women as nothing more than victims.

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We must talk about women's participation – about power and influence.

Through the ages, individual women and women's organisations have shown exceptional courage and drive, maintaining daily life with minimal means as war rages around them, conducting dialogue across lines of conflict, forging alliances and building peace from below in highly trying circumstances. They deserve all of our support and attention.

Take the women's activists fighting for peace from within Syria. A new report from the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation and the Syrian organisation Badael outlines how women are negotiating with various militias for access to water and electricity that have been cut off by militia groups in besieged areas; others have taken part in negotiations to free kidnap-victims or are trying to stop the recruitment of child soldiers. These positive forces need to be highlighted to show that there actually are groups in Syria fighting without violence for a better future.

Their voices must be heard all the way to the negotiating tables. Peace and the future cannot be negotiated only by men with guns – the ones who started the war. It should be perfectly obvious to everyone that any such agreement rests on a fragile foundation, as it does not represent the interests of the people, only of the warlords.

As one women's activist wondered: how can a warlord be a peace-lord? As the UN global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 presented ahead of the 15th anniversary quite rightly states:

- Women's participation is key to sustainable peace. Research shows that

women's participation is crucial to effective, successful and sustainable peace processes.

If we really want peace, it should therefore be a top priority of the international community to include women at all levels and at all stages of peace-building activities.

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## WHAT IS SWEDEN DOING?

The implementation of resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions is a priority issue for Sweden. Using a combination of political dialogue and strategic development cooperation, Sweden is pushing the women, peace and security agenda at national, regional and international level.

The Government is currently producing a new action plan on resolution 1325, which is due to be completed by 2016. To ensure that it is as relevant as possible, we have consulted with women from five conflict-ridden areas in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Palestine and Colombia. They have all presented the same message:

“There cannot be sustainable peace without us: without half of the population.”

Sweden has therefore taken the initiative of starting a network of women mediators, who in two years' time will be ready to assist in peace negotiations wherever the need might arise. Alongside this, Sweden is helping to form a Nordic network of women mediators.

Violence against women is a crime that must be punished. As long as the perpetrators walk free, violations of women's rights will continue. In the efforts to combat conflict-related sexual violence, Sweden is working with the Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court to combat impunity for sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and strengthen national prosecution of perpetrators.

The issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights is crucial in efforts to combat sexual violence, and it is another issue that we are pursuing vigorously.

In 2016, Sweden will take over the chair of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. In this capacity, Sweden will

work to improve the way in which gender-based violence is handled in humanitarian crises.

Through Sida, Sweden supports organisations working for gender equality and women's rights and participation in conflict and post-conflict countries.

Sweden was one of the driving forces behind the formation of UN Women, and in 2014 was its largest donor (with support totalling SEK 270 million).

We also use our influence to raise 1325-related issues on the agenda of regional and multilateral organisations.

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In conclusion

Why are we a feminist government? What is the point of it? On my travels, when I explain that Sweden has a feminist government I encounter astonishment and joy, not least among women's activists. They are astonished that our Prime Minister, Stefan Löfven, is a feminist, and that our Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström, is pursuing a feminist foreign policy. When I told the women at a Swedish-financed Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation project in West Point, Liberia, they rejoiced, danced and chanted "We are women!" for several minutes.

Sweden's long history of working for gender equality has inspired engagement in the global arena, and will continue to do so at an increasing rate as reactionary forces try to limit the freedoms that women have struggled to obtain over the last few centuries.

The new global goals and the chain of resolutions that we now have on women, peace and security lend a new impetus to efforts to

- stop the violence against women;
- break the trend of increasing war in the world;
- build sustainable peace; and
- prevent conflicts.

I look forward to our continued close cooperation with the UN. We all have a responsibility to defend the Charter, which belongs to us all, and to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Thank you.





Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation

Published 08 October 2015 Updated 08 October 2015

United Nations, New York, 30 September 2015. Please check against delivery.

First of all a warm thanks for convening this meeting. The World Humanitarian Summit is now only eight months away. So it's really crunch time and we need to shift focus in our discussions from process to substance. Sweden is the fifth biggest humanitarian donor in the world, which we are very proud of. We are facing great challenges and a shift of the humanitarian landscape at the same time as the needs are greater than ever before.

We have identified the following pressing issues that we urgently need to address – many of which I have heard from several of you during these past days in NY.

- **Access:** Civilians are being targeted, schools bombed and aid workers attacked. People in desperate need of life-saving support are stuck, isolated, without any help. We must take action to reinforce the respect of the humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law. It is of the utmost importance that these values constitute the very basis of our civilisation.
- **Participation:** Due to the situation it is more important than ever to reach out and listen to local populations and civil society, including women's organisations, to make sure that their voices are heard at the Summit. We have already started: next week we are initiating a CSO forum with Swedish NGOs working on the ground to start discussions. We are also conducting a study from different countries affected by conflicts and crisis to see how local populations can participate more

effectively in shaping the humanitarian response.

- **Bridge humanitarian aid and development:** Around the world we see refugees being kept hostage in refugee camps for decades. We see children becoming lost generations without a chance to go to school or get a job or citizenship. Humanitarian aid is not short-term anymore – it has become a band aid for unresolved conflicts. Two thirds of humanitarian financing goes to thirty countries that have been receiving it for eight years or more. On average, a refugee spends 17 years as a refugee. The unsustainable situation may lead to new conflicts and refugee crises. We desperately need to link humanitarian and long-term development aid much more effectively. We must not allow humanitarian aid to contribute to cementing conflicts. On the contrary, we need to put much more effort into conflict prevention.
- **Coordination:** We need to look at how the international humanitarian system can be more effective and better coordinated in order to make the best use of our limited resources.
- **International responsibility:** There is a huge gap between the UN appeals and pledges made. Today, the humanitarian system is upheld by a few countries – this is not sustainable. We support the idea of asserted contributions to the humanitarian system: everyone needs to help. We also need to break the trend of growing earmarked funding where the humanitarian priorities risk being determined by media headlines or internal politics rather than actual needs, leaving forgotten conflicts and people behind. Sweden is one of the biggest donors of core support to UN agencies, which makes it possible for them to plan ahead and to act swiftly wherever crises occur.

We urge other countries to follow our example.

We are looking forward discussing these topics with you today and on the road to the Summit.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by the Minister of Development Cooperation: Implementing the New Development Framework in Countries Affected by Conflict and Fragility

Published 01 October 2015 Updated 01 October 2015

United Nations, New York, 28 September 2015 Check against delivery

Seventy years ago, the United Nations was founded after the most dreadful and horrendous war the modern world had ever seen. It was founded with the hope of being able to prevent and intervene in conflicts between nations and to make future wars impossible, or at least limited. This was the core purpose of the grand idea of uniting the world under a common roof and a joint institution.

Today, we have gathered here on the margins of what the Secretary-General has called the most important event since the founding of this institution. And I personally share the Secretary-General's view. Because looking at the world of today, we see that we share the same goals as the founding members of the UN. But we also see new challenges as well as new possibilities ahead of us. This is why the Sustainable Development Goals are so important – because they are universal, in terms of both ambition and responsibility. They bring new energy to the UN and its members. And of course, SDG goal number 16 on peaceful societies is at the core of the agenda. Implementing the new goals will be a particular challenge for countries in conflict and fragility – but it must be done. This is where poverty

is taking root today. This is where the flaws of our international community are the most visible and perhaps the most painful. This is where the work must start.

A couple of weeks ago I visited the world's largest refugee camp, Dadaab in northeast Kenya, close to the Somali border, hosting more than 350 000 Somali refugees. Many of them have been there since 1991. What hope can the international community bring to them? What opportunities can we provide? These must be the core questions that have to be answered, and this is where the work of the New Deal takes off.

### **What needs to be done?**

I would like to address three things that need to be done, now that the new sustainable development agenda is in place.

#### **First of all:**

The SDGs are universal and it is therefore the responsibility of all governments to make sure that national policies work towards SDG fulfilment. That is why my government takes a whole-of-government approach to the implementation of the SDGs. This means that we pledge to look at how all policy areas contribute to equitable global development. The new goals also affirm the importance of the 0.7 per cent target of ODA/GNI to developing countries, and I am proud to say that Sweden has consistently advocated and delivered on even more than this, with our 1 per cent of GNI commitment to development aid and our hope that this will serve as an example to others.

#### **Secondly:**

The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding has an important role to play, and I am proud to be co-chairing it along with Minister of Finance Marah. Through implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States we have gained knowledge and learned lessons that will be crucial when implementing the SDGs. Not least the experience from fragile-to-fragile cooperation is invaluable.

When it became clear that it was difficult for countries in conflict and fragility to deliver on the MDGs, the answer was the New Deal for Fragile States. We can be proud that the cornerstones of the New Deal are now incorporated in the SDGs.

The five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals of the New Deal rest on solid ground. If we were to reinvent them, we would probably come up with the same result:

- 1) Inclusiveness
- 2) Security
- 3) Rule of law
- 4) Livelihood
- 5) Good institutions and service delivery.

The New Deal's five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals rest on solid ground, and they continue to constitute the cornerstone of our work. The fact that these insights are now reflected in the new global development agenda puts us in a better position than ever to effect real and lasting change in conflict-affected countries through international development efforts.

**Last but not least:**

**As Minister for International Development Cooperation** I am constantly reminded that conflict and violence is a major threat to sustainable peace and development. Therefore, I regard my participation in the international dialogue as one of my most important tasks. **I am committed to making all Swedish bilateral and multilateral aid conflict-sensitive.** In practice, this means that from now on, all Swedish support must be systematically underpinned by an analysis of conflict and fragility. I challenge other donors to do the same. Let's make the new deal a new deal for peace.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Minister of International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin Speech at Sustainable Energy for All's event

Published 30 September 2015 Updated 30 September 2015

Speech at Sustainable Energy for All's event in conjunction with the UN member states adoption of Agenda 2030: Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030

Thank you Director General Amin, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted and honoured to participate in this high-level event on the seventh Sustainable Development Goal – ensuring access to sustainable energy for all. This goal is at the very heart of sustainable development. It is at the heart of determining whether we will be able to tackle two of the biggest challenges of our time: making poverty history and stopping global warming.

\*

Many of us who are privileged enough to have reliable access to energy probably don't often think about what our lives would be like without it. If we didn't have modern stoves, how would we cook? If we didn't have fridges, how would we store food? If we didn't have proper lighting, how would our children do their homework in the evening?

Lack of energy deprives you of so many things that are essential to a life in dignity and prosperity. And for billions of people, that lack is a reality today.

But I believe we are at a moment in time which heralds a better future, one in which no one will be deprived of reliable, modern energy.

\*

I'd like to tell you about one of the things that has truly moved me and given me hope recently. Last autumn, I travelled in rural Bangladesh. And what I saw in so many villages was that there is electricity for only a few hours a day, often erratically. So people dwell by the light of kerosene lamps, inhaling the dirty smoke. They use noisy diesel generators, which emit noxious particles. They live lives of *energy poverty*.

But what I also saw, on rooftop after rooftop, were solar panels. Some of them were installed through Swedish development aid, but many other countries and actors have done important work as well. And what is now happening is quite fantastic – people's lives are being transformed:

Children are able to do their schoolwork without straining their eyes. And they can study longer hours when they don't have to rely on an expensive fuel like kerosene. People don't have to wake up with sooty, blackened faces and a pain in their chest. They don't have to fear that their houses will burn down if they forget to put out the light. (In poor countries, burns are the main cause of childhood injuries or deaths, roughly half of which are caused by kerosene lamps.) And families are relieved of a huge burden when they don't have to spend a large part of their slim budget on fuel.

In essence: solar energy makes life better, it makes it healthier, and it makes it sustainable.

This is why one of my priorities as Minister for International Development Cooperation is sustainable energy. If there's one thing I hope we can all agree on, it is that clean, affordable energy is the key with which we can unlock a sustainable future.

Making the shift to a 100 per cent renewable global energy system should be the priority of every government, every corporation and every community. We are all responsible, and we are all part of the solution. Developed countries have a special responsibility to transit quickly to clean energy systems and at the same time to support developing countries to leap-frog directly to renewables.

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I often hear people say that this is a task that requires global action on a scale and at a pace we've never seen before. They say we won't be able to make it happen fast enough to avert dangerous climate change.

But when I look at what's happening across the world, I start to believe. What we're seeing is a revolution in clean energy that is *already under way*. Investment is booming, prices are going down, the market is moving in ways unimaginable only a few years back, and countless communities and individuals are joining the revolution. Even today, renewables can often match the cost of non-renewables. The cost of installing solar panels has gone down some 70 per cent in just six years' time, to mention only one telling fact.

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But all of this will not move forward by itself. All of us – governments, businesses and individuals – need to push for it. So before I finish, let me tell you briefly what the Swedish Government is doing in my field, international development:

-We have joined the Power Africa project, committed to catalysing investment in renewables of up to USD 1 billion for Power Africa over a ten-year period, through grants, loans and guarantees.

-We have pledged some USD 580 million to the Green Climate Fund, making us the biggest donor per capita in the world.

-We are a major contributor to many multilateral initiatives and funds, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and SE4All, which are spurring action in the field of energy and climate change.

-We are pushing for fossil fuel subsidies to be phased out.

-We are streamlining climate change policy in all our development programmes.

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Making the world safe from the danger of climate change and expanding access to modern, sustainable energy in developing countries – these are two of our biggest challenges and responsibilities.

Not all the solutions needed to address these challenges are available yet,

and those that are may not be apparent. Figuring out these solutions and aligning them across scales will require more effort. Yet the task is achievable if we have enough of a vision, if we can work together, and if we offer ourselves the right incentives.

Someone once said that “the impossible will take a little while”. What we are seeing in the field of energy across the world – in the poor villages of Bangladesh and elsewhere – is that we are making it come true.

Thank you.



Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Minister of International Development Cooperation Ms Isabella Lövin's speech at the GPEDCs side event: "Using partners hip to deliver on the SDGs: The case of gender responsive budgeting"

Published 27 September 2015 Updated 27 September 2015

New York 26 September 2015 Check against delivery

When I was a child, Sweden went through a revolution. My mother, grandmother and great grandmother had fought together with women throughout Sweden to become full citizens – to gain rights, resources and representation.

I bear the fruits of their struggle.

I honour them by keeping up the fight for women's rights. Their gains can never be taken for granted.

Consequently, I am proud to represent the world's first feminist government. Today, Sweden is ranked as one of the most equal societies in the world – but we are far from perfect. And my Government has high ambitions.

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But first let me take you back in time. Why has Sweden come so far? Well it has not been purely by luck. It has been through a strong women's

movement AND brave politicians with a clear vision. Who dared to challenge prejudices and traditional values that kept women in the home.

Politics is nothing but will. Politics should be driven by values. And while in office, politics is about turning those values into concrete reforms.

I want to share a few concrete political reforms that have been key in our gender equality revolution:

- Maternal health care – providing access to professional midwives and education about sexual and reproductive health and rights. A century and a half ago, more women died in pregnancy in Sweden than in Nepal today. Now almost all women survive. Exercising control over your own body is also the first building block of a truly democratic society, and key to economic development. Girls who become mothers are often forced to quit school, perpetuating the cycle of poverty for their children.
- The abolition of the joint taxation system. This reform meant that spouses were taxed individually and not jointly. This is of relevance, for example, when it comes to pensions that are linked to how much tax you have paid throughout your working life.
- The expansion of high-quality child care provision, the rapid expansion of preschools, and individual parental insurance. Both spouses are equally entitled by law to parental leave, and we currently have two ‘daddy months’ which only the father can use. In 2016, three months will be reserved for fathers.

These reforms have made it possible for women to take a proper step into the labour market and become financially independent, and they have challenged the perception of femininity and masculinity – enabling my mother, my sisters and me to leave the narrow roles of mainly caregivers and service providers.

This has released the energy and potential of 50 per cent of the population.

It has made our society more diversified, more dynamic, more intelligent and more participatory.

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Although Sweden has come a long way toward gender equality – we are not perfect and we are still struggling to achieve equal pay for equal work, crack

the glass ceiling and end men's violence against women.

**One effective tool to achieve gender equality is the budget.**

That is why my Government has worked with gender-responsive budgeting and gender mainstreaming in the Swedish central government budget for 2016. Our ambition is that the effects on gender equality should be taken into account in every policy area – be it in housing construction, school reforms or infrastructure initiatives.

Gender budgeting is not a theoretical policy discussion – **it is about putting your money where your mouth is.**

**Our work nationally gives us a voice internationally.** My ambition is for the budget for international development cooperation to be 100 per cent gender integrated.

Increasing gender equality is not just about allocating resources. **It also releases resources and fuels development. Investing in women pays off.**

- Girls and women spend 90 per cent of their earned income on their families, while men spend only 30–40 per cent.
- Closing the gender gap in agriculture could lift 100–150 million people out of hunger (FAO, 2011).

Most of us realise the importance of narrowing gender gaps and respecting the rights of all women and girls. But this stands in stark contrast to the evidence. Discrimination of women and girls still exists around the globe. All throughout the life cycle.

We see the evidence, so it is time to act.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires political commitment, financial resources and action at all levels of society. Working with other stakeholders, not least women's organisations, will be vital to achieving results.

We stand ready to deliver on all counts.

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Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation at World Water Week

Published 28 August 2015 Updated 28 August 2015

“Reflecting on the outcome of the Third Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa.” Welcome address by Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin at the ministerial panel “Means of implementing the Post 2015 development agenda: Heads of state and ministerial perspectives” during World Water Week 2015. Check against delivery.

**“Reflecting on the outcome of the Third Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa”**

President Loeak, Excellences, Distinguished guests

First, I would like to thank the Stockholm International Water Institute for organizing this inspiring event during the past 25 years.

The theme for this year’s World Water Week is “Water for development”. For me, as a minister of development cooperation, with a long history of working with issues concerning issues such as water and fisheries I must say: you couldn’t have chosen a better theme!

I will give you some numbers: Out of all of you, that is to say every human being, 65% is water. Out of all of this planet’s surface, 72% is water. 1 billion people is dependant on the protein coming from fish – living in the water. And of course: all of us – the entire mankind - is dependent on the

access of water. Still, despite the fact that access to water has been declared by the UN as a human right, around 800 million people still lack access to this global good, more than 2 billion people still live without improved sanitation.

Needless to say, water should be in the center of every discussion and every strategic plan on sustainable development.

So this theme also links well into this historic year. The agenda we are about to adopt – of the people, by the people, for the people – will shift us onto a universal path of poverty eradication and environmental, social and economic development. With the 17 new sustainable development goals the world is about to shift its trajectory – from short sight to long vision. From a path of hopelessness, to a path of dignity. But much work is of course still to be done.

Because, at the same time as we are about to do the almost impossible, setting these crucial goals, the challenges lying ahead of us is the least to say, demanding. And water is one of our most urgent issues to manage.

During my first trip as a minister to Bangladesh last autumn, I became deeply aware of the discrepancy of development. At the same time as I could see that almost every girl I met had access to a mobile phone, they hadn't got access to lavatories and fresh water. This is the paradox of human development today.

Without addressing the issue of water we cannot properly address poverty.

At the same time the population of the world is growing rapidly. More people will get out of poverty and receive a higher standard of living. This will also mean an increased demand for food production and other purposes, such as household water, sanitation, industrial and energy production. etc.

As you may know, if the entire world would have the same living standard as the Swedes, we would need 3.7 planet earths. It's a tough equation to solve without a radical shift in how we treat our natural resources, in how we produce and how we consume.

I recently read that this year's month of July was the warmest month recorded in history. That is unfortunately not just a historic bump, but a clear trajectory: the 14 warmest years in recorded history have all come in the last 15 years. As a result of this we see extreme weather patterns increase

throughout the world, not least the latest flooding in Myanmar.

As we look around the world we see upcoming and escalating conflicts emerging out of areas which also happen to be cursed by droughts and water stress. Disputes over shared water resources are many times the reason for conflicts, social tensions, political instability and intensified refugee flows. As the co-chair of the international dialogue of peace building and state building I daily recognize the need for an inclusive economic and social development to successfully build sustainable peace and resilient states. But without proper water resources there can not be any economic and social development. So water is also a matter of peace, and security.

The challenges around water are in many cases a matter of coherence. Water issues are usually lifted as separate issues, but are interlinked to several policy areas that are central to social development: health, industry, agriculture, fishing, forestry, transport, gender equality, security and so forth. Achieving a successful management of water resources thus requires a combination of efforts not only in development cooperation but within and across several policy areas.

With that said, I still want my message to be one of optimism and hope.

As I said before: this is 2015 – a most extraordinary year. Never before has the international community been more determined to transform the world into a better and safer home for all. By consensus, we have already adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development. And we are now about to agree on realizing the human rights of all, end poverty and hunger, ensure healthy lives, combat climate change, sustainably manage natural resources and energy systems, create just and democratic societies, achieve sustainable economic growth, gender equality and decent work for all, close the digital divide, exercise non-discrimination, and ensure that no one is left behind. Isn't this amazing?

We must have these goals in mind when we evaluate the outcome and adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. For the first time, financing for development is not only about economies, but also includes a social and environmental perspective. For a minister coming from a Green party, representing a red-green government, it was encouraging to see that the focus in Addis Ababa was on the global transition to a green economy. A transition that has to do with everything from investments in sustainable energy and infrastructure, as well as taking important steps towards putting a

price on carbon and facing out harmful subsidies for fossil fuels.

I'm also very pleased to see the recognition of several Swedish key priorities in the final documents, including the importance that tackling poverty reduction and environmental and climate issues goes hand in hand, as well as several references to the importance of gender equality.

Sweden also welcomes the strengthened language on the importance of Official Development Assistance. No other source of finance is equally targeted on poverty reduction and has a significant value which cannot be replaced by other funding. It is therefore crucial that ODA is to be used where it is needed the most. Using ODA strategically it can also generate more resources and impacts for development. I'm therefore proud of representing a country remainingly committed to allocate 1 percent of its gross national income to ODA.

However, development cooperation can never by its own create the conditions necessary for change. For this, all of us need to contribute and action is needed at all levels: national and sub-national, regional and global.

The universal nature of the new SDG:s means that all countries are responsible for implementing every goal, of course including one of the corner stones: Goal 6 which says: "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation". This will be the guiding light for the water and sanitation community for the coming 15 years.

Implementing such a comprehensive agenda is a challenge, but nevertheless it gives us a unique opportunity to redefine and strengthen the way the global community work together. We have to form a new global partnership for poverty reduction and sustainable development in order to deliver on the future SDG:s.

Countries ownership of the agenda and Domestic Resources Mobilization are central to the agenda. Sweden look forward to see that the next generations of national development plans seriously take responsibility for the social, economic and environmental dimensions. The Swedish Government will soon present a comprehensive plan for our own implementation of the SDG:s, rooted in our current approach on policy coherence for development.

In 2003, Sweden became one of the first countries in the world to adopt a coherent policy for global development. A policy that states that efforts

towards sustainable development and poverty reduction can never be a task only for development policy or development actors. It is a shared responsibility for all policy areas and thus all ministries.

In the Budgeted Bill for 2015, the Swedish Government committed itself to accelerate the implementation of this agenda. All ministries are currently drafting action plans to spell out the implementation of this policy.

This work I believe will contribute to an equitable and sustainable development in line with the SDG:s.

Although, for a successful implementation it can not only be the responsibility of the governments but by all actors to contribute to this transformation. The UN, The Multilateral Development Banks (MDB:s), the International Financial Institutions (IFI:s), civility society organizations, industries, the scientific community, government agencies, municipalities, private sectors, schools and educators . all development actors and others need to be involved. Global challenges require global approaches.

Last but not the least:

In December, a new international climate agreement will be adopted at the Climate Conference in Paris.

The impact of global climate change has clear impacts in all areas and especially on water. If I may once again refer to my trip to Bangladesh, almost 20% of this beautiful but crowded country is supposedly under water by 2050. That means 30 million people displaced. And by then the life giving rivers also will have been severely affected by the melting glaciers.

We have no time to loose. As the Secretary General has put it: we are the first generation to end poverty, and we may be the last to stop climate change.

Sweden has here an important role to play in the global arena, as well as in the climate negotiations.

Sweden can by means of climate financing, mainstreaming environment and climate in its development cooperation and increased pressure on multilateral actors such as the World Bank and the United Nations contribute to concrete steps towards a green economy. Even on a global level .

Our recent contribution to the Green Climate Fund of four billion SEK (580

m USD) has received strong recognition and appreciation internationally and has also inspired many other countries to add or increase their contributions. Our commitment to climate finance should be seen as an investment for the humanity in our collective future.

This fund plays a significant role in overcoming one of the most difficult stumbling blocks in the international climate negotiations on how a transition to a green economy and climate adaptation in developing countries can be financed.

So to conclude. This is the time to turn the political commitments into real change. Together we now have the responsibility to contribute to a more sustainable and just world. The future is bright, if it's green and blue. When we – as nations, peoples and humans – seek prosperity our outcome is rich. So let's join forces in this endeavor . I look forward working with all of you, both bilaterally and within the multilateral context.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin at the High-Level Event on Climate Change in New York

Published 06 July 2015 Updated 06 July 2015

Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin at the High-Level Event on Climate Change in New York, 29 June 2015. Check against delivery.

Thank you Mister President, Excellencies, colleagues, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great honour to be here today at this important high-level event to mobilise political momentum for climate action.

There is no doubt that we need more ambition. Hurricanes, floods, droughts and heatwaves related to climate change are already here. Some of these have in indirect ways even contributed to the wars in Syria and Libya.

Climate change is already a great cost to society, but the cost will be almost immeasurable if we don't manage to halt the temperature rise at two degrees. Let's be frank: basically all of the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals - that we all want to see adopted here in New York in September - will be unattainable in a world ravaged by climate change.

But focusing only on the problems caused by climate change is likely to lead to a dead end. So far, the global debate has often focused on the costs and challenges. But by doing so, we tend to lose sight of the abundant

opportunities that come with the transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient future.

Under the leadership of you, President Calderón [Moderator of this session], The New Climate Economy report has in an excellent way shown that countries at all income levels have the opportunity to build lasting economic development, and at the same time reduce the immense risk of climate change. I am proud that Sweden has supported this game-changing work.

The report shows that the world is going to invest 90 trillion dollars in infrastructure projects - 45 trillion on energy infrastructure alone - in the next fifteen years. 90 trillion dollars. That is a lot more than the yearly 100 billion dollars we pledged to climate change adaptation and mitigation in Copenhagen in 2009. It is also more than the 500 billion dollars that is right now going into direct fossil fuels subsidies – which is, by the way, almost five times the amount spent on subsidizing renewables today.

The point is - money is not the real problem. The money is already there. It is just not spent in a way that serves the good of our common planet, our common future. With the right incentives and policies however, such as putting a prize on carbon emissions and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, the money could be spent on a transition to a low carbon future that will have a number of new and exciting opportunities, not least for developing countries.

If we were to rid ourselves of old infrastructure and investments in fossil fuels, we would trigger enormous opportunities for leap-frogging, for example by using small scale off-grid renewable solutions. 1.3 billion of the poorest people in the world have no access to energy today. But with the price of solar plummeting as much as 70 percent in just five years, coupled with the growing potential of wind, hydro, wave, geothermal and biomass power - energy that is available everywhere - energy production can be made more democratic, more resilient, safer, cheaper, cleaner and closer to consumers. And inexhaustible!

Today, an energy revolution is underway, but we need an ambitious, binding agreement in Paris to fully unleash the potential of technology, research and development oriented towards renewable energy and to abandon investments in the fossil technology of the 19th and 20th centuries. We, the governments cannot achieve this development alone, but we have the possibility and the duty to send a clear signal to the private sector and investors - so they know where their many trillion dollars should be invested.

With the right incentives things will change. Sweden put a tax on carbon in the early 1990s and since then, GHG emissions have gone down by 23, while economic development has remained solid, with GDP increasing some 58 percent. This shows that it is possible to decouple greenhouse gas emissions from economic development.

Adaptation to climate change - in particular ecosystem - and community based adaptation - also offers many opportunities to advance quality of life and improve livelihoods. As the Sendai Framework shows us prevention is better than cure. A cement barrier may be efficient to prevent flooding, but other measures, such as planting mangroves as storm protection, will create valuable co-benefits for fisheries, biodiversity, and tourism.

We need to get the incentives right, and reprioritise funds available to make transformational change possible. But we should also not shy away from the fact that additional resources are needed to tackle this challenge. Sweden has pledged four billion Swedish Crowns (580 million dollars) to the Green Climate Fund, making us the largest donor per capita to the fund. We make this investment beyond the one percent of GNI we already spend on Overseas Development Assistance.

In addition, we are a partner of the Power Africa initiative and have set ourselves the goal of catalysing one billion dollars in renewable and socially sustainable energy. We are analysing how Swedfund, the Swedish state's development financier, can scale up investment in renewable energy. And we are contributing to the adaptation Fund and The Least Developed Countries Fund. All of this shows our commitment to climate finance, and we believe that it should not be seen as a charity, but as an investment in our collective future. Finally, we are now making efforts to streamline climate and environmental sustainability in all our development assistance.

In his Synthesis report on the new Sustainable Development Goals, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon writes that we are the first generation that can eradicate poverty, and the last that can stop climate change. This is an opportunity, ladies and gentlemen, which we must not fail.

A recent study by the Lancet pointed out that slashing fossil fuel use presents the greatest global opportunity to improve people's health in 21st century. That is a convincing argument alone. But the most convincing one in economic terms is that we are going to spend the money anyway. So let's make sure we spend it in a way so that we can say to our children - we did it. We made the transition to a zero carbon society. We made it possible for the

17 SDGs to come true. And dear children and grandchildren: we are proud of it.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# How does SRHR fit into the feminist foreign policy as part of the post-2015 agenda?

Published 12 June 2015 Updated 12 June 2015

Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin at the High-level Dialogue on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Development Framework, in the Swedish Riksdag, 10 June 2015. Check against delivery.

I am very happy to be here today. I am proud that Sweden has a long history of being at the forefront of the global fight for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Our mothers and grandmothers fought for women's liberation – for women's participation in politics and the workforce, and for a woman's right to decide over her body and reproduction. We are harvesting the fruits of their labour and I would argue that we, women and men, have a moral obligation to continue their struggle, in Sweden and internationally – because women's rights can never be taken for granted.

This morning I returned from a trip to Mozambique, a country with great potential for growth and development. However, there is one big obstacle: the status of women and girls. Half of all marriages take place before the age of 18. And the vast majority of these children are girls. Girls should be in school, not at home taking care of husbands and babies. The irony, though, is that the sexual abuse of girls in schools by teachers and others is so great that many parents do not want to send their daughters to school. This is an untenable situation.

Consequently, we are strengthening the work on SRHR in the new strategy launched in Maputo on Monday. And I have also seen that change is possible. I met the fantastic Futebol da Forca team – teenage girls playing fearless football and discussing SRHR before the games. Their coach was earnestly maintaining that they have rights, that they shouldn't risk having babies, that they should continue to fulfil their dreams. The club provided them a safe place and an opportunity to see an alternative future.

On every trip I have made as minister, I have noted a similar pattern of control and violence against women: in Bangladesh, where the legalisation on child marriages is currently being discussed; in Liberia, where almost 90 per cent of women have undergone genital mutilation; and in Lebanon, where trafficking is increasing as a result of the war in Syria and the serious refugee situation.

Many people I speak with are noticing a growing resistance against the rights of women and LGBT individuals in the world –not just in the form of ISIL and other violent extremist groups, for whom the control of women's sexuality is at the very heart of their existence and rhetoric – but also in negotiation rooms and within nationalistic and populist parties in Europe. We need to join forces: governments, parliamentarians, CSOs and other relevant actors. This is another reason why SRHR is a central part of a feminist government's work.

The systematic violence and oppression against women is one of the most pervasive human rights abuses of our time – and a huge obstacle for the development of society at large.

Accordingly, it is not by chance that we estimate that nearly 85 per cent of bilateral aid directly or indirectly affects gender equality. Swedish support to SRHR makes up around 60 per cent of our Swedish development assistance for health and around 7 per cent of our total bilateral and multilateral development cooperation.

The new sustainable development goals offer a great opportunity for change. When we empower women and girls we empower their families and their future children. We empower communities, we empower nations, and ultimately we reduce poverty.

Within the post-2015 framework, Sweden, together with other likeminded countries from various regions, has been working hard to advance SRHR issues and to ensure they are included under both the gender equality and

health goals. That being said, we would of course have liked to see an even stronger text on SRHR.

It is crucial to deal with SRHR as a gender equality issue and not reduce it to merely a health issue. This dual track reflects the Swedish approach to SRHR. Sweden was vocal in supporting this approach during the negotiations in the Open Working Group. This focus on the rights and gender equality aspects of SRHR has now received even more emphasis with Sweden's feminist foreign policy.

Ensuring SRHR for all will also have a direct impact on the possibilities of achieving many of the other targets in the future post-2015 agenda. Sweden recognises the clear links between SRHR and areas such as decent work, economic rights, peaceful societies and political participation of women.

For example: boys are twice as likely as girls to attend secondary school. One of the primary causes of girls dropping out of school is early marriage or pregnancy. It is vital to offer young people comprehensive sexuality education, youth friendly services and contraceptives so that girls can remain in school as long as boys.

Women and girls should also have the right and access to legal and safe abortions. Making abortion illegal does not reduce the number of abortions, it only drives them underground.

Sweden put the feminist foreign policy into action in the negotiations on the EU Council conclusions on Gender in Development that were adopted late May. Sweden fought hard, with other likeminded countries, for strong language. For far too long, the EU has not been able to agree on a strong common position on SRHR – crucial at this stage with increasing resistance in negotiations on the SDGs and how to finance and implement the goals.

The hard work gave results – the outcome provides us with a solid foundation for future EU action on implementing the post-2015 development agenda.

There are three main elements in the Council conclusions that are of particular relevance to the post-2015 agenda:

Firstly, the conclusions underline the importance of ensuring coherence between internal and external EU policies at all levels in guaranteeing the fulfilment of rights of women and girls, and of groups such as LGBTI

persons. The conclusions state that women's and girls' rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be at the core of the post-2015 agenda.

Secondly, the Council emphasises that “gender equality is both a goal in itself and a means to achieve sustainable development. It stresses that ambitious objectives must be matched with adequate financial and non-financial means of implementation, and a strong political commitment from all actors and at all levels.”

Thirdly, the Council reaffirms “the EU's commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. The Council further stresses the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services.”

The need for accountability to ensure women's empowerment and the fulfilment of SRHR is evident. Sweden and the EU are vocal advocates for establishing a well-structured monitoring, accountability and review framework, based on a multi-stakeholder approach.

*Sweden has worked strategically throughout the negotiations to secure SRHR and gender equality in the post-2015 agenda.*

The strategic cross-regional cooperation with likeminded member states and civil society has been – and continues to be – crucial.

At this point, as we are approaching the final phase of the negotiations, we do not foresee reopening the agreed targets on SRHR and SRH.

In the event of any unforeseen turns in the negotiations, Sweden will of course engage actively with likeminded countries, both in and outside the EU, in order to safeguard strong language.

The contributions and the role of CSOs are also imperative, and Sweden has worked closely with civil society throughout the negotiations. I say this in terms of strengthening evidence-based action and ensuring accountability, but also in terms of cross-regional bridge-builders. The level of mobilisation is as impressive as it is valuable, especially in the global women's rights and

LGBT rights movements.

Ensuring that women and girls AND men and boys have full autonomy over their lives, bodies and sexualities is a first crucial step towards fulfilling human rights, achieving gender equality, and enhancing health and well-being, as well as the well-being of society as a whole.

This must be at the heart of the post-2015 agenda!



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech at IDPS

Published 27 May 2015 Updated 27 May 2015

## Check against delivery.

Your Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to be here with you today. As you are aware this is my first meeting with the International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding steering group. I have met some of you before and I am looking forward to get to know the rest of you during the course of the day. It is almost five months since I took on this task as co-chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, and I would like to express my appreciation to my co-chair Minister Marah for his strong commitment and cooperation.

In my role as minister for development cooperation I am constantly reminded that conflict and violence is a major threat. Therefore I regard this as one of my most important tasks.

Today we have this meeting at an historical time against a backdrop of important political processes. The Secretary General recently pointed out that this year is the most important year since the UN itself was founded. This year we have the creation of the new Sustainable Development Goals, the Financing for Development agenda, the Climate Conference in Paris and the reviews of UN peace building. This is the year when we can be an important contributor to the development agenda, and we must not miss this window of opportunity. We should be proud of the work we've done so far, and we shouldn't hesitate to call goal 16 one of our major achievements.

The international community is about to change the way it supports states in fragility and conflict, and I believe that fragile and conflict affected states are about to change the way they work towards sustainable peace. This meeting is our chance to decide on how we can and should affect ongoing processes.

The change is welcome, especially for the growing number of poor and vulnerable people who live in fragile and conflict affected areas. The situation in the world right now looks bleaker than in a long time.

We all know the figures. Today, 43 percent of the world's poorest live in fragile states. By 2030, this is expected to increase to two thirds. If we do not act and figure out a way to change this trend, extreme poverty will continue to take root in fragile states. Here we have a clear cut task to show that we are taking this challenge seriously.

The significant increase of violence and conflict in the world has generated a record high wave of refugees and internally displaced people, comparable to those of the Second World War. This is also part of our broad agenda.

We must also factor in climate change. We are already experiencing impacts of climate change and they will keep on increasing. Climate change is a threat multiplier, not least in already fragile states.

We know that those who suffer first and worst are the people who are already the most vulnerable, often women and children.

Inclusion is absolutely key for peace and development and to counteract fragility. For example, recent research has shown that quality inclusion of women in peace negotiations significantly increases the likelihood of sustainable peace. And EXCLUSION of ANY important group in society from discussion is the recipe for fragility and potential conflicts.

Whole of government and whole of society engagement needs to be established. National ownership of the New Deal must be established from civil society to senior civil servants, across mass media, education – targeting all sectors of political and economical life.

The financing for development process will be crucial for the implementation of the new development goals. Goal 16 is extremely important but goal 5 on gender equality, goal 8 on economic growth and jobs and goal 11 on urban safety and sustainability are other examples of important development goals that reflect the New Deal principles. And goal 13 on climate change I also want to stress, since environmental sustainability is fundamental to the survival of our planet, and therefore a prerequisite for peaceful societies...

As the Minister for International Development I have committed to make all Swedish bilateral and multilateral aid conflict sensitive. In practice that

means that all Swedish support from now on must be systematically underpinned by an analysis of conflict and fragility. I intend to challenge other donors to do the same.

The challenges we are facing today requires a collective effort. The International Dialogue is a unique channel for direct communication between donors, fragile states and civil society on how to build peaceful and resilient societies together. I hope that today we can have straightforward discussions on the important issues we have in front of us. I also hope that we will be able to make commitments and agree on outcomes of this meeting that will enhance the implementation of the New Deal principles. This is what the International Dialogue is about and where we can make a difference for people who depend on us for a better future. I have said it before and I will say it again, “There can be no more business as usual”. We have a unique and important role to play. I am very much looking forward to the discussions today.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Opening address at the Stockholm Forum on Security and Development 2015 - "Promoting sustainable peace"

Published 12 May 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Stockholm Forum on Security and Development 12 maj 2015 Check against delivery.

I am delighted to see all of you here today. And I'm very happy with the turnout to the Stockholm Forum, and the great cooperation between the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and its co-host, SIPRI.

I am pleased to stand here with Minister Kaifala Marah of Sierra Leone. Together, we serve as co-chairs of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. This forum serves as a channel for direct communication between donors and fragile states on how to build peaceful and resilient societies. Let me also extend a warm welcome to our other prominent guests in the panel.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have all been personally invited for a reason: because you are needed.

Solving today's challenges of conflict, violence and fragility requires a collective effort. We all have important complementary roles to play – individually and together.

Since last year, the number of conflicts and wars has increased. Forty armed conflicts – of which 11 are major wars – are ripping societies and peoples'

lives apart all over the world. This significant increase of violence and conflict has generated a record high wave of refugees and internally displaced people, comparable to that of the Second World War. Millions of women, men and children have been trapped in conflict zones around the world. We also see desperate people fleeing in the hope of a better future for themselves and their families – only to lose their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean in their search for safety.

A record number of 75 million people are now in desperate need of humanitarian aid.

The humanitarian system is crumbling under this burden. Costs are rising, people are dying, children are not going to school.

My own country, Sweden, is also affected, facing a steady influx of refugees escaping the conflict zones of Syria, Iraq and other places.

This situation is completely unsustainable.

We know that once a country slips into conflict, there is a risk of it being caught in a vicious circle of recurrent violence, poverty and fragility.

Today, 43 per cent of the world's poorest people live in fragile states. By 2030, this proportion is expected to increase to about two thirds. Most fragile states are still struggling to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving infant mortality. The situation is more or less the same in terms of access to clean water. In other words, we are witnessing extreme poverty taking root in fragile states.

No country is insulated from the risk of conflict, violence and instability. Middle income countries that are hit by conflict today could turn into low income countries tomorrow. Radicalisation is on the rise in Europe, including in Sweden.

The promotion of sustainable peace is a universal challenge.

If we want to achieve it, we must also factor in climate change. We are already experiencing climate change and its impacts will keep on increasing. We know that those who suffer first and worst are those who are already the most vulnerable. In recent years, there has been an increase in incidences of water-related violence around the world.

Climate change acts as a threat multiplier. The Syrian uprising in 2011

occurred shortly after a very severe multi-year drought, which caused crop damage and mass migration to cities. In the past, it was not unusual for Syria to experience a wet year followed by a dry year, but multi-year droughts consisting of three or more consecutive dry years have been much less common.

Has climate change directly contributed to the war in Syria? We cannot know this for certain. But we do know that drought has increased insecurity and has had a disastrous effect on an already vulnerable country.

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So, what can we do to change this around?

The world is in need of long-term sustainable solutions. There are no quick fixes.

To achieve sustainable peace, many decisions and actions need to be taken by different actors, all pulling in the same direction. Donor coordination is one key to boost development effectiveness and to build capacity. The International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding has a role to play in promoting enhanced coordination.

I see this forum as one step in a process of change.

One fundamental issue is how we deal with problems – that we approach them in a more comprehensive way. The mix of competence, geographic representation and function that you represent is not a coincidence. I also feel that there are some areas where we need to step things up.

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First, let me speak about conflict.

Today, a majority of armed conflicts are internal. Reaching constructive and non-violent interaction between a government, an opposition, civil society and local communities is key to preventing escalation into conflict.

It is my humble opinion that external actors can play a partial but important role in facilitating this.

To do so, we need to properly understand the causes of conflict and tensions.

Therefore, it is my intention that all Swedish bilateral and multilateral aid is made conflict-sensitive.

What this means in practice is that all Swedish support must be systematically underpinned by an analysis of conflict and fragility.

Engaging in conflict prevention in practice means that you try to detect tensions, for example through systematic increases in human rights abuses, before they develop into large-scale violence and conflict.

The next step is to address the causes of tensions. That is the crucial role that development can play.

We need to become better at picking the daily fights on inclusion and accountability. Because ultimately, this may save us from war.

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My second point has to do with the inclusion of women and girls.

Inclusion is absolutely key to peace and development.

Inclusion is necessary in order to make good political decisions. But security, justice, service delivery and other efforts to promote sustainable development also need to be inclusive.

Let me give you one illustrative example from a rule of law project in Palestine. The support is aimed at developing accountable and harmonised justice and security institutions that are gender-sensitive and serve the entire of the population.

The project consists of experts that are seconded to the rule of law institutions. They provide mentoring, coaching, and training to their Palestinian counterparts. But the support also targets the “demand side” by empowering women’s groups and civil society to call for access to improved services and provide feedback.

This shows how the social contract between citizens and the State can be strengthened with external support.

Another example is the important role that the diaspora plays in the development of Somalia. Together with the International Organization for Migration, the Swedish Government is supporting 65 Somali university

graduates who have returned to Somalia to work in ministries and government agencies for a three-year period. They are placed in judicial, health and public finance institutions at the federal level as well as in Somaliland and Puntland.

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My third point has to do with sustainability.

The world is in urgent need of sustainable solutions that:

- go beyond political election cycles,
- go beyond mission and programme completion,
- go beyond quarterly reporting.

One such solution, of course, is that we urgently need to curb the current direction of climate change. Otherwise, life on Earth as we know it will be fundamentally changed.

To promote sustainable peace, we need to be ready for long-term engagement and for a bumpy ride, with risks and set-backs. We know that progress in institutional transformation could take between 17 to 40 years (!). It is important to get the military out of politics, to root out corruption and attain the rule of law.

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These are admittedly very difficult issues.

But if we want to eradicate extreme poverty and improve the lives of the most vulnerable people, these are issues we need to tackle.

I see efforts to promote peace, gender, and climate as interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

This special year, with three crucial agreements to make – on sustainable development goals, financing for development, and climate – we have an opportunity to show that we have the courage, the endurance, and the energy to put this world on a better track.

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My colleagues and I will listen carefully to your discussions over the coming

days.

Thank you once again for being here.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech given at Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day

Published 18 April 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day, Wahsington DC 18 april 2015 Check against delivery.

Hello everyone,

I am so pleased to be here on Global Citizen Earth Day. I would like to thank the Global Poverty Project and the Earth Day Network for organising this outstanding event.

I am from the Swedish Green Party and we are proud to be part of the Swedish Government. I am also extremely proud to say that the Swedish Government is a feminist government - the first feminist government in the world!

Being feminist means respecting everyone: women and men, children and elderly people - and future generations.

Our biggest challenge today, if we are ever going to eradicate poverty, is preventing climate change. With business as usual and no significant carbon emission cuts, we have only 15 years left before we have emitted enough CO<sub>2</sub> to make this planet more than 2 degrees warmer. Then we will see a dramatic increase in droughts, floods, storms and species extinction - and we will have changed the conditions for every generation to come.

This is not a political statement but a scientific one.  
Fifteen years left.

So we must start changing our energy systems now, going from fossil to renewable now. No more subsidies for fossil fuels, which today are six times higher than those for renewables.

I represent Sweden, a country of some nine million people. Today, Earth Day, I want to share with the world how proud I am to represent a country that for a very long time has put global solidarity high on its agenda. Bono actually dedicated his song 'One' to Sweden because we give one per cent of our Gross National Income to aid. And on behalf of the Swedish people I'd like to take this opportunity to reaffirm this commitment of one per cent.

I hope other countries will follow.

But there is more. I would also like to announce that Sweden has also committed to streamlining all its development assistance to be climate friendly.

We have 15 years left of 'business as usual' carbon emissions. But we also have a unique chance to change the course of the world this year. The climate conference in Paris will give us that chance. But we also need to provide extra financing to help the poor countries build their capacity for sustainable development.

The Swedish Government has therefore made the largest per capita commitment by far to the new Green Climate Fund: USD 580 million. We don't see this as charity. We see this as an insurance policy for our common future.

We can't afford more business as usual. We only have one planet - and we are all one humanity. Women and men, future generations, all have the right to a good life.

Fellow citizens of the world, we are actually the first generation that can eradicate poverty. And we are the last generation that can prevent disastrous climate change. If we all join forces, I truly believe we can do it.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech given at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai

Published 16 March 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

UN 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai 16 mars 2015 Check against delivery.

Madame Chairperson,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here in Sendai today at this important 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and I would like to thank the Japanese government for hosting.

What is disaster risk reduction about?

Disaster risk reduction is about protecting human lives.

It is about protecting villages and cities, schools and property, businesses and livelihoods. Today and in the future. It is about understanding and respecting the forces of nature. DRR is actually also thinking about future generations.

It is therefore very timely that this conference take place at this moment in time. Firstly because we know much more about how to reduce risk successfully today than ten or fifteen years ago. DRR is now firmly on the political radar, and it is recognised as being closely linked to development. It is clear that the Hyogo Framework of Action has contributed greatly to this.

But we also face new challenges today, which require a renewed commitment to DRR. We know that disaster risk is increasing in the world. Poverty, urbanisation, and climate change – these factors are leaving people

and communities ever more exposed. We know that the last 10 years have seen some of the largest disasters on record.

Secondly because 2015 is the year of thinking and planning for the future. We have major summits coming up in Addis Ababa, New York and Paris, which will all have a profound influence on our future.

We all know disasters put hard-won development achievements at risk. They reverse economic growth and the progress we have made in eliminating poverty. Sadly, climate change will make things worse. Wet seasons are getting wetter, dry seasons drier. Hurricanes and other extreme events are getting more frequent and intense. And waiting in the wings is the peril of sea level rise. Climate-related disasters now account for the vast majority of all disaster events, and they contribute enormously to economic losses and population displacement.

With everything we know, we have a golden opportunity this year to establish a broad framework where DRR, the new development agenda, including the FFD conference, and the climate treaty can form mutually reinforcing parts of a sustainable, resilient whole.

Sweden is convinced that the new DRR framework will help us all move forward with disaster risk reduction.

We stand ready to continue working together with all States and other stakeholders to establish the new Framework. We all have a shared responsibility to contribute.

We see prevention as one of the keys to disaster risk reduction. Climate change and the loss of biodiversity must be halted. The loss of forests, wetlands and coastal areas with mangroves and coral reefs have direct implications for risk – they weaken nature’s ability to withstand extreme weather events. We need to strengthen the protection of ecosystems and more clearly see the services they provide. We need to invest more in environmental and climate resilience.

We also see a need to see the growing inequality of risk exposure. According to UNDP’s latest Human Development Report, 98 per cent of those who are affected by or die from natural disasters live in developing countries. Developed countries are not spared disasters and extreme weather, but as so often, the poor and the vulnerable are hit the hardest.

Moreover, we believe that a consistent gender perspective should be applied, when it comes to both the understanding of risk factors and concrete action. Women's participation is critical in designing and implementing disaster risk reduction programmes. We would like to see this reflected in the political declaration of the Sendai meeting.

We believe that the use of targets and indicators that are neither too complicated, nor too many, will be of great help. Designated Focal Points and National Platforms are key, as are the existing mechanisms for evaluation and follow-up, such as the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review for monitoring and follow-up of the new framework.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2015 is the year of possibilities of our generation. The decisions we make this year will shape the course of the world for a long time. Here in Sendai, we are called upon to take the first, crucial step. Let's put suspicion aside and stop regarding each other as two opposing teams where one can win over the other. Only together we can make this year the success it has the potential to be. Only together we can start the course towards a new world working together in respect, unity and solidarity. If we miss this chance – no one will win!

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech given at the 3 March Ebola Conference – "From Emergency to Recovery"

Published 04 March 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

European Commission High-level international conference on Ebola 3 mars 2015 4 mars 2015 Speech by MS Isabella Lövin. Check against delivery.

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

I want to start by expressing my deepest condolences to the victims of Ebola, their families and all the affected countries. My admiration is truly profound for the people and governments who continue to courageously fight this outbreak. The struggle is not over until the last victim of Ebola has been found and cared for, and we must all make a decisive contribution to reach the very end of that road.

Sweden is one of the countries that has contributed the most per capita in financial terms, and is still active in the efforts to finally end this Ebola outbreak, through health workers and experts on the ground.

Less than two weeks ago I visited Liberia and Sierra Leone, and my strong impression – that I know I share with many of you – is that Ebola is not primarily a medical problem. People have not died primarily because of Ebola. Too often they have died because of a lack of confidence in the authorities, because of weak institutions and because of a lack of education.

As we now discuss investing in a more resilient health system and economic recovery, we need to remember that when Ebola hit, it exposed and exacerbated country-specific challenges. More than ten years of peace and economic development was reversed in just a few months. We must ask

ourselves why? Was it only because of a lack of health institutions? Was it because of a lack of economic investments? I believe this crisis actually presents a unique opportunity to really analyse how we can support the affected countries to truly strengthen their resilience against future shocks. How can we create an enabling environment for sustainable economic growth, how can we address the root causes of the fragility of the affected countries and not just continue with ‘business as usual’?

Since the beginning of this year, I have been co-chairing the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, together with the Minister of Finance of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Kaifala Marah. A conclusion from my recent trip to Liberia and Sierra Leone, where I met Mr Marah, is that I believe the New Deal principles put forward and agreed by the G7+ countries can be better used to guide the recovery.

- Politics need to be more inclusive.
- Security and justice must be put high on the agenda.
- Institutions must become better at delivering the services people ask for and need.
- Reconciliation and trust need to be key concepts.

Governance should include all groups of society. The role of women must be strengthened and integrated in all processes. The private sector must be involved, and civil society – including traditional leaders, who have been key actors in combating Ebola – should continue to play an important role.

This is to say that peacebuilding and statebuilding essentially have to be an integrated part of the post Ebola-strategy.

Sweden has been committed to supporting Liberia in its peace- and statebuilding efforts for a long time. It is now three years since Liberia and Sweden became partners to pilot the New Deal (together with the United States) in Liberia, and since Sweden started chairing the UN Peacebuilding Commission’s Liberia configuration.

In Liberia, peacebuilding priorities based on the New Deal principles should be emphasised – such as support for justice and security sectors, the reconciliation process and strengthening institutional capacity. Not least in view of the UNMIL Transition Plan, and preparations for the 2017 elections. The PBC will continue to provide an important platform for international coordination and for developing coherent strategy, linking development, security and political aspects, including the post-Ebola recovery.

For Liberia to come out of this stronger and more resilient to future shocks, we need to invest, not only in hospitals and infrastructure, but also in the people and the government, to build a sustainable future for all. Sweden will continue to stand by Liberia and we want to do it the right way – together.

Finally, I would like to commend the organisers of this important conference and champion the unfailing efforts of all those involved in fighting the Ebola outbreak. Not the least those brave men and women who have been – and are still – on the frontline every day fighting the virus. They are our true heroes. For them and the people of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, not least the children, we need to make our very best efforts to support the affected countries in their pursuit to heal, build and strengthen their societies. In Brussels today, I hope that we have taken a first step on that journey together.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech given at the UN General Assembly High Level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post 2015 development agenda

Published 09 February 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

High Level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post 2015 development agenda, New York 9 februari 2015 Check against delivery.

Mr President,  
Mr Secretary-General,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Delegates,

It is a pleasure for me to be here today and I am grateful for the opportunity to address the General Assembly on these very important matters.

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We stand at the outset of a seminal year for global development. This year, 2015, presents an opportunity that we may never see again in our lifetime. A historic opportunity to resolutely address humanity's major global challenges and to embark on a truly sustainable pathway. But this year also harbours a risk – the risk of missing this opportunity. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-

moon puts it in his synthesis report:

“We are the first generation that can end poverty. And the last one that can take steps to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.”

Mr President,

Even without the threat of climate change, the world is facing no shortage of serious challenges: extreme poverty, fragile states, increased inequalities within and between countries, oppression of women, an increasing number of wars and conflicts, unsustainable use of ecosystems, terrorism, pollution – the list can be made much longer – however, the threat of serious climate change is currently the backdrop against which we must tackle all of the other serious challenges.

Because if we do not succeed at the climate conference in Paris, all the other sustainable development goals will be a lot harder, if not impossible, to achieve.

How can I say that?

I visited Bangladesh not long ago on my first field trip as Minister for International Development Cooperation, and there I learnt that the predicted consequences of climate change are that rises in sea level and the melting glaciers of the Himalayas will mean that 20 per cent of Bangladesh will be under water by 2050. Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. So this would mean that 30 million people would be driven from their homes – 30 million!

It would also mean salt water intrusion into groundwater. It would mean less land to be used for farming. It would mean conflicts over resources and food insecurity. It would mean – as usual – that the weakest will be hit the hardest, that children, women and those who are already poor will not have the chance to develop, gain access to higher education or lift themselves out of poverty.

I will not labour this point, honourable ministers and delegates, but the view of the Swedish Government is clear: we believe that a successful outcome in Paris and a transition to a zero-carbon society are absolutely fundamental in order for the world to be successful in the new, ambitious sustainable development agenda, which we fully support.

Mr President,

The Millennium Development Goals have played a hugely important role for international development. The MDGs show that when we come together, we can achieve remarkable things. At the same time, it is clear that much still remains to be done.

The new Sustainable Development Goals agenda is even more ambitious than the MDGs, and for the first time it places sustainability, in the full sense of the term, at the core. I believe this is necessary. Fighting poverty without tackling environmental problems will never be successful in the long term.

However: the post-2015 agenda, no matter how good it may look on paper, will be meaningless unless it is accompanied by adequate means of implementation.

In this context, the very basis to me is the universality of the new agenda.

The agenda is for all countries and peoples – and it is also by all countries and peoples, which is important because it gives universal ownership to it. But if it is to succeed it is also necessary that all countries – and all stakeholders – contribute towards its implementation.

As indicated in the background papers for this meeting, the means of implementation can and must take many shapes and forms.

We need to think new and big; we need to build on existing flows, find innovative ways of mobilising new ones and create synergies. And not least, we must make them all work towards sustainable development.

Sweden remains convinced that Official Development Assistance, ODA, is an important, but limited, source of financing.

As a scarce commodity, ODA should be directed towards countries most in need, and allocated in an effective and efficient manner and be used to catalyse other, much greater, financial sources.

Sweden remains committed to allocating not just 0.7 per cent, but as much as 1 per cent of its GNI to ODA, of which a large proportion is allocated to the least developed countries. This is something I, as newly elected co-chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, find particularly important to stress.

The well-being of developing countries is the concern of all developed countries, and I would urge those countries that have committed to the 0.7 per cent target to stand by their commitments, and all other developed countries to commit as well.

This is a matter of credibility and trust.

Increased resource mobilisation is fundamental, but not enough to implement the new development agenda. Possibly even more important is Policy Coherence for Development: ensuring that all policies at national, regional and global level on areas such as trade, investments, migration, climate, environment, fisheries and employment promote sustainability and take account of the developing countries' perspectives.

Sweden has had its framework for Policy Coherence for Development for 10 years and has been working on a lot of these issues, and I know that this is not an easy task. However, the need for this approach remains, and is even greater today. This is why I have recently taken the initiative to strengthen my own Government's work on PCD, with the aim of mainstreaming it in every branch of government. I hope other governments will do the same this year. Because only by mainstreaming all policy areas towards global development can we ever hope to achieve the SDGs within 15 years.

Finally, on the subject of resource mobilisation, I would like to mention an all too often forgotten resource: women. I know gender equality is one of the proposed sustainable development goals – but I am convinced we must also see it as a crucial means of implementation.

Gender equality is simply smart economics. We cannot afford not to use the resources of 50 per cent of the population.

Mr President,

The time has come to mobilise our political energy and leadership to ensure successful outcomes – in Addis, New York and Paris.

The outcomes of these processes will have a major impact on the course of events in the world for a long time to come.

To make robust and genuine sustainable development possible, we need a strong and dynamic Global Partnership – one that will mobilise the commitment and resources, skills and enthusiasm of all major stakeholders.

If we succeed in that – really engaging all stakeholders, including business and academia – we have the means of implementation.

This is a historic opportunity and I truly hope that we seize it.

I can assure you that the Swedish Government will engage at all levels with the aim of delivering in each and every instance throughout this year.

The risk of not succeeding is simply much too great.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech by Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin at the Green Climate Fund Pledging Conf

Published 20 November 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

Green Climate Fund Pledging Conference, Berlin 20 november 2014 Check against delivery.

Ministers, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the German Government for its hospitality in hosting this very important conference. I very much look forward to a fruitful discussion during this panel discussion.

The proposed theme of this discussion, ‘Climate Action Now – What is the Green Climate Fund to deliver?’ is very much to the point.

My simple answer to the question of what the Green Climate Fund should deliver is: security.

Security for the world.  
Security for investors and businesses.  
Security for developing nations.  
Security for future generations.

We all know that global action on climate change is long overdue and greatly needed. The amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached a new record high in 2013.

The global carbon budget – which is the amount of carbon that can be burnt before it becomes unlikely we can avoid more than two degrees of global warming – is being rapidly used up.

If we go on with business as usual, without changing our energy systems, we have only 15 years left before the world has emitted so much greenhouse gas into the atmosphere that we cannot use any more of the planet's fossil reserves – unless we are ready to accept a world that is warmer than the two degree Celsius target agreed at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009.

We also know that if we do not succeed in staying below the target of keeping temperature rises below two degrees Celsius, relative to preindustrial levels, the consequences are likely to be disastrous. We will have an insecure world. Climate change poses a serious threat to the livelihoods of millions of people, causing unprecedented refugee flows and, in the worst case scenario, new conflicts and wars.

Climate change will hit poor countries and poor people the hardest. Unless concerted action is taken, small Pacific island states even face the threat of disappearing completely. Other countries, particularly around the equator, risk being laid waste by extreme drought or flooding, leading to climate refugees. The truth is that if we do not succeed in tackling climate change, it will be extremely hard to eradicate extreme poverty, ensure food security, foster a world free from violence or deliver on any other development ambitions that we, as an international community, have set forth.

The Green Climate Fund is about creating hope that the world will not be one of such insecurity.

But of course, developed countries will not be immune to the consequences of climate change. This summer Sweden suffered exceptional natural disasters – the largest forest fire in our history, and floods and torrential rain that destroyed houses and knocked out infrastructure. Similar disasters have occurred in several other developed countries this year. Just this weekend, I saw pictures of extreme flooding in Italy. Before that it was in the UK, and this spring in the Balkans.

But no country can act alone in order to successfully curb global warming. Our efforts must be shared and genuinely cooperative. Yet developed countries have a particular responsibility to take the lead. Sweden is one of the rich countries whose economic development has been made possible by

exploiting fossil energy. It is therefore clear to us that we have both the responsibility and the self-interest to make a substantial contribution to this Fund that can help the world avoid the insecurity posed by a warmer planet.

In light of this, the new green-red government in Sweden has promised USD 580m (GBP 370m) to the GCF, a contribution covering the period 2015–2018.

Sweden sees the GCF as pivotal in furthering momentum to tackle climate change – by strengthening mutual confidence among all parties involved, rich countries and poor, and catalysing new capital for effective finance for climate action in developing countries.

The GCF is also about security of investments. Applying a wide range of instruments – public and private, grants and other non-grant instruments – offers a unique opportunity to mobilise the resources needed to make a difference in supporting developing countries to embark on low-emission and climate resilient pathways.

In creating this new Fund, let us also draw on lessons learned from past experiences in establishing and managing other multilateral funds, as well as bilateral agencies. Guarantees are one example of financial instruments, in which public money can be used to unlock significant investments on a transformative scale, not least from the private sector. In this context we want to emphasise the importance of social and environmental standards always being fully met when public money is involved. And we also want to highlight the importance of a gender perspective in the work of the GCF. Women are hit disproportionately by climate change, but women can also be powerful agents of change. We should therefore ensure that we make use of the full potential of a robust gender policy and a gender plan of action.

We are particularly pleased that the fund will now be operational ahead of the climate conference in Paris in December next year. This will make it possible to demonstrate that projects for climate mitigation and adaptation in the most vulnerable countries can actually be financed – and this offers hope that change is possible.

The Swedish Government is strongly committed to helping advance global progress on climate change in all areas in which we have influence. Our development policy will be one instrument. And of course we will continue to advocate an ambitious and just climate agreement to be adopted in Paris next year.

Many people regard the UN climate summit in Paris as the last chance for the world to unite on a climate agreement that will enable us to meet the two degree Celsius target. Little time remains before then. For this reason, today's pledging conference represents a crucial opportunity for the international community to demonstrate its commitment to addressing global warming, with Paris firmly in sight.

The Swedish Government hopes and expects that many more of the developed countries will put enough money into the new GCF today to enable it to send a real signal that the world is jointly taking its responsibility, and that we believe that a zero carbon economy – what scientists tell us we have to create within the next century – is possible.

It is my hope that the Green Climate Fund will kick-start this new economy. The Fund should function as a security for investors, and be a catalyst of innovation and real transition to a society based on clean and renewable energy. I hope this conference will be portrayed in the history books as the one where that transition took off. Where we created the hope of a peaceful, more resilient and just world in which we all strive towards a common goal.

Once again, contributing money to the Green Climate Fund is nothing less than investing in a more secure world for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you.

Isabella Lövin



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech at the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

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Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, Vienna 3 november 2014 Check against delivery.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to drastically change perspective just for a brief moment. This is a conference about the challenges of being a landlocked country. Being landlocked is by definition being locked away from the vast blue surface of our planet – the ocean. It is quite ironic really, that I, in my brand new capacity as a Minister of International development cooperation in Sweden, would be asked to speak on this High-level Round table on the particular challenges of being landlocked, when I have up until now, both in my political life, and in my former life as a writer, have always been an ardent champion for - let's call it the other side of the coin – the protection of our oceans! In 2007 I wrote the book “Silent seas”, mainly describing the global problem of overfishing, and I have since then, as a member of the European Parliament, been working very intensively on reforming the destructive EU Common fisheries policy, and dealing with the particular challenges of industrial distant water fishing fleets, vacuuming the worlds oceans, not least in developing countries waters, including the SIDS.

However, the challenges of protecting the oceans, as well as supporting the peoples of landlocked countries - in the end all come down to the same principles - rights and responsibilities of all peoples – principles that are beautifully described in the most successful piece of globally binding legislation the world has produced so far – the UN Law of the Seas

(UNCLOS).

In UNCLOS the rights of landlocked countries access to the sea, as well as equitable share of any surplus of living marine resources is clearly described. As well as the notion of “The Area” – the vast part of our oceans that lie beyond national jurisdiction. Are you all aware that 50 per cent of the globe – everything beyond 20 nautical miles from the shorelines - is defined as “The common heritage of Mankind”? And that activities in this area shall be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole – irrespective of whether states are landlocked or not?

So – with this perspective in mind – the benefit of mankind as a whole – I am greatly honoured to make my contribution to this roundtable on achieving structural changes in Landlocked developing states. In an increasingly interconnected world, problems such as Climate change, ocean degradation or political instability is no longer the problems of just a few states, but is the responsibility of humankind. And I believe the 32 landlocked developing countries with a population of 450 million people - with their perspectives and particular problems - are very important players in a world that needs to learn how to cooperate more, not less.

Now, throughout our conference preparations, LLDCs have raised structural transformation as a priority need. Sweden, as co-chair of negotiations towards the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, to be adopted here on Wednesday, has listened carefully to those concerns.

LLDCs notoriously face vast distances and high transport costs to major markets. They have a locational disadvantage.

To some, this handicap is exacerbated by trade barriers and political factors. And yet, it clearly is not the case that all landlocked countries are lagging behind or on the other hand that all coastal states are prospering. Other factors than just geographical location are of course even more important for the wellbeing of people and creation of prosperity in any country.

This is one of my most fundamental messages here today: Being landlocked has important implications for a country’s development strategy, but it does not necessarily undermine the potential for development. LLDCs can make conscious political choices that create intentional societal rewards.

Due to high transport costs, the scope for ‘traditional industrialization’ is smaller in LLDCs than elsewhere. Production of goods with basic

technology and low value added is rarely successful. This is a disadvantage that should be turned into an advantage. As land-locked countries it will be hard to compete on the market with other countries that export commodities with low value added, or raw materials. Instead, progress lies in a development strategy that combines investment in human capital and sustainable, smart technologies with a view to develop comparative advantages that are not 'God given'.

Export of services that do not require personal contact, such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT), has proven to be effective since trade in services entail low transportation costs. Tourism and care-based services are other possible niches. In landlocked countries with only limited trade and foreign direct investment, it is important that the government adopts special measures to promote technological change and increase competitiveness.

Sweden's devotion to free and fair trade works to enhance opportunities for LLDCs. The priority that the Swedish government attaches to bringing the benefits of ICT to developing countries is also of special importance to LLDCs.

In this decisive moment in history where the world needs to address climate change, I am also convinced that landlocked countries must seek comparative advantages by focussing on climate-smart green skills and technologies. Many landlocked countries are already struck by droughts and other natural disasters. Investing in oil and gas pipelines - while the world knows we cannot use four fifths of the known fossil reserves if we want to stay within the 2 degree target- is not a good idea. Investing in clean solar and wind power is – making the LLDC:s self-sufficient in energy would be the greatest comparative advantage imaginable in our time.

Sweden wants to continue to give support that encourages regional transportation and energy systems, including smart supergrids based on renewable energy.

However, infrastructure is not all. Every country has its particular circumstances, and I would like to take the opportunity here to mention the State of Palestine which is a special case of locked-in country, with most of its territory on the West Bank. More than 20 years have passed since "The Oslo Agreement" stated Palestinian Statehood within five years. Yet, Palestine remains under occupation. Sweden's firm belief is that the appropriate time has come for the recognition of Palestine as an independent

state.

Last Thursday, the Government of Sweden recognized the State of Palestine. At the same time, the Swedish government also adopted a five year development cooperation strategy in support of Palestinian state building.

In addition to Sweden's traditional strong ties with the State of Israel, we will from now on have a relationship of corresponding nature with the other partner in that two-state solution which is seen by the broad world community as the way to achieving lasting peace in the Middle East.

Sweden has a long-standing history of development cooperation. Our ODA has doubled over the past ten years and will remain at 1 % of GDI. Swedish partnerships with LLDCs provide us with appreciation of their conditions. Rwanda and Moldova beautifully illustrate my point today that strategic policy choices matter.

Moldova, though not far from the heart of Europe, was exceptionally isolated after independence and, indeed, until quite recently. While the Russian market was shut down for political reasons, non-tariff trade barriers inhibited access to EU markets. Strict EU visa requirements further added to the isolation. Swedish support to Moldova, which goes back to the early days of independence, has helped break down the non-geographic barriers. In just eight years, since 2006, Moldova has brought down its national poverty rate by just about half, to 16.6 %.

Similarly, in Rwanda, Sweden was early on the scene to assist with economic and social reconstruction of the country after the genocide. During the 20 years that have passed, economic progress has been remarkable. Rwandan exports of top-quality brand named coffee sells at 2-3 times the price of regular coffee. This compensates neatly any costs incurred by geographic location. Rwandan gender equality adds greatly to economic success – the country just climbed to 7th place (out 142) on the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index. Women are half of the world's population. Through education, empowerment and economic opportunity, women double the potential of any country – land-locked, or, let's call it "gender-locked"!

My message should hopefully be clear by now: LLDCs deserve access to global markets and goods. They merit international support for transportation and communication systems. In that spirit, Sweden has supported this conference, Sweden is a leading donor in multilateral organisations and Sweden partners with several landlocked countries. On the part of

landlocked countries themselves, the best recipe for development is never to accept a role as victim, but to pursue a determined sustainable strategy for comparative advantage. To the benefit not only of their own people – but also for all humankind, which I think is the perspective we should always have.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Speech at the Berlin Conference on the Syrian Refugee Situation

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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first of all thank the Government of Germany for hosting this timely event. It is high time that we increase our efforts to support the host nations.

The number of casualties and wounded in Syria is staggering and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons keeps growing. It has been said time and again but it needs to be repeated: the only way to end the suffering of innocent civilians is a sustainable political solution. Every effort must be made to once and for all find a peaceful solution to the crisis. It will never be possible to respond to the overwhelming needs solely through humanitarian aid.

Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt have all received and supported people fleeing the fighting in Syria. The generosity of the countries in the region should be recognised and applauded. The need to maintain that generosity is crucial to alleviate the suffering of millions of people.

The international community must come together to share this burden.

We welcome the important role of the UN system in coordinating and implementing the humanitarian response to the Syria crisis. Having said that, we need to get better at coordination between humanitarian actors and development actors. Finding ways to bridge humanitarian response and development efforts is fundamental. There is no room for in-fighting over mandates.

Sweden has contributed more than 175 million USD in humanitarian aid since 2011. In addition to this, we have provided significant un-earmarked core budget support to the main UN humanitarian actors. To mention one example this year alone, more than 24 million USD of our core budget support to the World Food Programme has been allocated to help alleviate the Syria crisis.

Sweden and Germany are by far the two largest recipients of Syrian asylum seekers within the EU. More than 55 000 asylum seekers from Syria have sought protection in my country since the conflict started. The determination to give Syrians protection should not be the task of a few. We strongly encourage all other European and Western countries to share this responsibility.

Mere gratitude does not ease the burden on the host communities and the humanitarian response alone is not enough. Therefore, Sweden has decided this week to allocate an additional 13 million USD to support host communities in the region.

I would again like to thank the Government of Germany and High Commissioner Guterres for calling this meeting. We must all come together to try to support those suffering the consequences of the fighting in Syria. This support must go both to those fleeing their homes and to those generously receiving people in need of shelter.