



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans to participate in UN high-level week in New York on 19–23 September

Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans will visit New York to participate in the high-level week, known as UNGA Week, in connection with the opening of the UN General Assembly on 19–23 September.

The overriding issue when world leaders meet in New York will be Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the extensive regional and global consequences that the war has brought. Other high-priority issues for the Swedish delegation will include the climate, food security and humanitarian issues, education and health. In addition, Sweden has a clear focus on actively promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as gender equality in times of backsliding in these areas.

An overall Swedish priority during the week is also, through participation, to stand up for the UN Charter and the rules-based international order, which is particularly important in light of Russia's aggression and at a time of increased geopolitical tensions.

Published 14 September 2022



Sweden participating in two court cases concerning the war in Ukraine

Sweden has chosen to intervene (participate) in two court cases concerning Russia's responsibility for violations of international law. A case between Ukraine and Russia on allegations of genocide is pending before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. At the same time, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg is hearing an inter-state case against Russia concerning serious violations of human rights during the war in Ukraine.

“Accountability for crimes committed in connection with Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a high priority for Sweden. Sweden has therefore chosen to participate in several of the court cases currently pending to hold Russia accountable,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Sweden is a party to the Genocide Convention and has chosen to participate in the case brought by Ukraine against Russia in the International Court of Justice earlier this year. A declaration of intervention submitted to the Court today sets out Sweden's view on the questions of interpretation raised in the case.

The inter-state case before the European Court concerns widespread and serious violations of human rights during the war in Ukraine. A key question in the case is the extent to which Russia can be held legally responsible under the European Convention on Human Rights for events on Ukrainian territory. Yesterday, the Government decided that Sweden should request leave to intervene in the case as a third party.

In both cases, Sweden will put forward positions that are in line with those of Ukraine. For Sweden, it is of fundamental importance that international law is respected, that accountability for acts of aggression is ensured and that any potential war crimes are investigated. Deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian objects are contrary to the laws of war. Human rights and fundamental freedoms apply even in wartime and must always be protected.

Published 09 September 2022



Government approves SEK 500 million to Ukraine for reconstruction and humanitarian support

The Government has approved another SEK 500 million to support Ukraine in accordance with what the Prime Minister told Ukraine's minister for foreign affairs when he visited Stockholm on 29 August. The funds will be used for the reconstruction of Ukraine, humanitarian procurements and transport of Ukrainian wheat.

“Sweden has supported Ukraine for many years – from the time of its independence to February this year, this support has amounted to approximately SEK 4 billion. Since Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February, that support has been more than doubled through a number of decisions concerning another SEK 5.2 billion thus far for military support, humanitarian support, financial guarantees, reform support, civilian operations and reconstruction support,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Following this decision, Sweden will provide increased support for the impending reconstruction process, including sustainable management of destroyed infrastructure. Sweden will also be responsible for coordinating waste management and recycling during the reconstruction of Ukraine – a request made by President Zelenskyy when Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson visited Kyiv in July.

In addition, Sweden will help with procurement funding and the delivery of Ukrainian wheat to countries most at risk of widespread starvation. The initiative aims at supporting the country's economy – and thus its independence – and the implementation of the agreement regarding the

export of Ukrainian grain from ports in the Black Sea. Sweden will cover the costs for the purchase of at least 40 000 tonnes of wheat that will be transported by sea from Ukraine.

“By purchasing 40 000 tonnes of wheat and then shipping it, Sweden is helping to mitigate the already great human suffering that Russia’s aggression has exacerbated for millions of people who suffer from hunger in other parts of the world. This will reduce the acute risk of starvation. It will also strengthen Ukraine’s economy and its independence,” says Minister for Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans.

Ukraine was a crucial exporter of grain before Russia’s invasion. Millions of tonnes of grain are currently stuck in Ukraine following the invasion, which has had a serious impact on Ukraine’s economy and the already acute hunger crisis in the world. Fifty million people in 45 countries are already on the brink of starvation. In July, Ukraine and Russia agreed to resume grain exports from ports in the Black Sea.

The purchase and transport of Ukrainian wheat will take place via the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and be delivered to countries that are most at risk of starvation, such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Yemen. Since the agreement was made, the WFP has made one delivery of Ukrainian grain on humanitarian grounds. Thanks to this decision, further transports will now be possible.

Published 02 September 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson to receive Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson will receive Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba, who will be visiting Stockholm on 29 August.

During their meeting Ms Andersson and Mr Kuleba will discuss matters such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Swedish support to Ukraine, Ukraine's EU accession process and the country's reconstruction.

Minister for foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba will also meet with Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans during the visit.

Media programme

09.15: Photo opportunity when Ms Andersson receives Mr Kuleba at Björnen

08.30–09.00: Admittance and security check for photographers via Kopparporten, Rödbodgatan 6

09.50: Joint press conference with Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba. Language: English

09.10–09.30: Admittance and security check for journalists via Kopparporten, Rödbodgatan 6

Advance registration to attend the photo opportunity and press conference is required. Please send an email to Nina Kefi by 07.00 on Monday, 29 August

(see Press contacts below).

Published 28 August 2022



Ann Linde presents new 2022 Statement of Foreign Policy

On 10 June, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde will present a new Statement of Foreign Policy in the Riksdag. A Statement of Foreign Policy was presented on 16 February this year. In light of the new security environment, the Riksdag and the Government decided that a new Statement of Foreign Policy and debate are needed.

“Russia’s war has created a new and more dangerous reality for Europe and Sweden. Continued support to Ukraine and continued sanctions against Russia and Belarus are our most important contributions to bringing an end to this ruthless war” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Sweden’s foreign policy presented at the foreign policy debate in February this year remains largely unchanged.

“We have a long history of standing up for international law, human rights and gender equality. This will be our future too,” says Ms Linde.

Ms Linde will deliver the Statement of Foreign Policy in the Riksdag at 9.00 on 10 June and she will be available to the media in the Riksdag at 14.00. Please contact Ms Linde’s press secretary for further information.



Sweden re-launches research partnership for increased support to the environment, climate and security

A research partnership was re-launched 18 May for the environment, climate and security. Called the Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate and Security, it combines the strengths of four world-leading Swedish research institutes in the environment, climate and security area. The hub will receive more funding for its continuing work to promote knowledge development and policy dialogue.

The effects of climate change, in combination with environmental damage and declining biodiversity, have major implications for the planet's natural resources and the human environment. More and more people will have to share fewer and fewer resources. Extreme weather events are putting people's livelihoods at risk. Consequently, the risk of conflicts is increasing, and preventive efforts are becoming more important.

“For years, Sweden has prioritised highlighting the links between the climate and security, and we have contributed to important steps being taken in the UN, OSCE and EU. We need to continue to improve our understanding of the links between these issues to prevent geopolitical competition for natural resources and avoid new conflicts,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

“The countries that are most vulnerable and exposed to climate change and environmental damage are often developing countries, even if we are all affected. This research partnership is one step in providing the best support to the most vulnerable countries through evidence-based analysis and

dialogue,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans.

“Stockholm has become a hub for research on the challenges facing peace and security in the wake of the environmental and climate crisis. This research partnership is aimed at inspiring and supporting Sweden in our leading role in multilateral efforts to find and win support for sustainable solutions together with our partners,” says Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Chair Jan Eliasson.

The Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate and Security is a partnership between the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC). Taking part in the re-launch of the partnership were Ms Linde, Ms Ernkrans, Mr Eliasson, the heads of the four institutes, and the heads and high-level representatives of a number of other Swedish ministries, government agencies and institutes, including Sida and the Folke Bernadotte Academy. Ongoing funding will be provided by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Published 19 May 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Media invitation: Result of security policy discussions to be presented

On 16 March this year, the Government initiated discussion with the parties of the Riksdag concerning the changed security situation following Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The result of these discussions will be presented at a press briefing on Friday 13 May.

The press briefing will be attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist, Kenneth G. Forslund (Social Democratic Party), Hans Wallmark (Moderate Party), Pål Jonsson (Moderate Party), Aron Emilsson (Sweden Democrats), Kerstin Lundgren (Centre Party), Håkan Svenneling (Left Party), Mikael Oscarsson (Christian Democrat Party), Allan Widman (Liberal Party) and Maria Ferm (Green Party). The press conference will be held in Swedish.

Published 12 May 2022



Sweden increases support to International Criminal Court war crimes investigations

Russia's violent aggression against Ukraine is the worst in Europe since the Second World War. Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde announced that Sweden will increase its support to the International Criminal Court by SEK 5 million.

The war crimes in Ukraine have dramatically increased demands on the International Criminal Court (ICC). Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde pledged a SEK 5 million increase in Swedish support to the ICC in a meeting on Monday morning with ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan.

- The alarming reports we're receiving of executions, rape and pillaging of civilian property in Bucha and other cities suggest a pattern of systematic violations and abuses, and disregard for the laws of war. International crimes must be investigated and those responsible brought to account. The ICC needs the full support of the international community, says Ms Linde.

Sweden and the EU support the ICC as a pillar of the international architecture that was established to uphold respect for international law and the rules-based international order. Sweden is joined by 40 other States in the decision to refer the situation in Ukraine to the ICC in The Hague. The ICC Prosecutor has opened an investigation into international crimes in Ukraine.

In addition to the SEK 5 million in new support, Sweden had earlier decided on an additional SEK 2 million to the ICC after the outbreak of war. The support goes to a newly established trust fund to respond to the urgent resource needs of the Office of the Prosecutor and make it possible to effectively manage all the situations under investigation or legal proceedings.

Sweden also contributes EUR 2.5 million in support annually to the ICC. Moreover, the Swedish Prosecution Authority and the Swedish Police Authority take active measures to provide the ICC with national experts.

Published 12 April 2022



Sweden hosts UN conference on deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Yemen

Sweden, together with Switzerland and the UN, is hosting an international pledging conference for Yemen on 16 March. The aim is to mobilise continued support to the UN-led humanitarian response in Yemen, which faces growing challenges due to the war in Ukraine. UN Secretary-General António Guterres will open the conference and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde will represent Sweden. UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will also take part.

Yemen is currently suffering one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. More than 23 million people are in need of help and protection, as the situation has deteriorated due to intensified fighting and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the war in Ukraine, prices for vital foods and fuel are rising, resulting in a dramatic increase in the cost of the humanitarian response. While Sweden and the international community join forces to respond to the acute humanitarian situation in Ukraine, engagement in other humanitarian crises such as the one in Yemen must continue.

“The situation in Yemen is acute. We must do everything we can to alleviate the suffering. Millions of people are on the brink of famine, and many are at risk of dying. A concerted effort is needed to gather resources so that acute life-saving efforts can continue,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

This is the fifth year that Sweden and Switzerland co-host the annual pledging conference. UN Secretary-General António Guterres will lead the conference, together with Ms Linde and President of the Swiss Federation and head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis, and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths. UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie will share her impressions from her travels in Yemen last week.

In conjunction with the pledging conference, Sweden and Switzerland will host a side event on the role of women in the humanitarian response, and Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans will deliver the opening address. Participants include UNICEF's Executive Director Catherine Russell and leading women representatives from Yemeni civil society.

“Humanitarian organisations in Yemen are working in a very difficult environment. We want to highlight the particular challenges facing women humanitarian staff and the important work they carry out there,” says Ms Ernkrans.

The pledging conference will be streamed on a live webcast on [UN Web TV](#) on 16 March at 14.30. The side event on the role of Yemeni women will be streamed live on [Youtube](#) on 16 March at 12.45.

[Read more about the conference and side event.](#)

[Press release from OCHA: Donors Meet to Pledge Support for Humanitarian Response in Yemen](#)

Published 16 March 2022



Ann Linde to present the 2022 Statement of Foreign Policy

Today, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde will present the Government's Statement of Foreign Policy in the Riksdag. This year's Statement of Foreign Policy is Ms Linde's third as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Statement, which summarises the Government's foreign policy priorities for 2022, contains a number of focus areas.

“The security situation has deteriorated. Russia's increasingly confrontational rhetoric and military activities are unacceptable. Standing up for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is essential for the security of Europe as a whole,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

During Sweden's term as Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe last year, important results were achieved, including through the decision concerning the climate and security.

“The climate is of critical importance to our security. We must take climate-related security threats extremely seriously,” says Ann Linde.

Ms Linde will deliver the Statement of Foreign Policy in the Riksdag at 09.00 on 16 February, and she will be available to the media in the Riksdag at 13.30. Please contact her press secretary for further information.



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden joins international Media Freedom Coalition

Sweden has joined the global Media Freedom Coalition (MFC). Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde will represent Sweden at the MFC's Third Global Conference for Media Freedom, which will take place in Tallinn on 9–10 February.

“It is with pleasure that I can announce that Sweden has joined the Media Freedom Coalition. The negative trend in recent years of intimidation and harassment of journalists is a threat to democracy. Sweden has a long tradition of standing up for freedom of expression and freedom of the press internationally,” says Ms Linde.

“As the minister responsible for media and democracy, I see the value in exchanging experiences internationally on issues relating to freedom of the press and freedom of expression. This is a shared concern and I therefore welcome Sweden's membership of the Media Freedom Coalition,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

The MFC was founded in 2019 at the initiative of the United Kingdom. The MFC currently has 50 members.

Members of the MFC have signed the Global Pledge on Media Freedom, a written commitment to improving media freedom domestically and working together internationally, including by taking action when journalists or other media actors are threatened, and working for accountability when media freedom is curtailed.

Published 10 February 2022



Ann Linde to lead Ministerial Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament

The fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament will be held on Tuesday 14 December. Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde will chair the meeting together with Germany's Federal Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who will come to Stockholm for the first time in her new role.

“The risk of nuclear weapons being used is greater than it has been for a long time, and nuclear disarmament is a prerequisite for safeguarding humankind and our common security,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

The Ministerial Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, which will be held in hybrid format, is an important opportunity for Ms Linde and her colleagues from Argentina, Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, South Korea and Switzerland to stress the importance of nuclear disarmament and to discuss the latest developments in the area. The countries participating in the Ministerial Meeting are all part of the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament.

“The Stockholm Initiative plays an important role in putting pressure on nuclear-weapon states to take steps towards disarmament and proposing constructive ways forward. It is particularly important that progress can be made in connection with the upcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is the most important framework for disarmament and non-proliferation,” says Ms Linde.

Launched by the Swedish Government in 2019, the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament gathers sixteen countries from different parts of the world. Thus far, some 20 additional countries have backed the Stockholm

Initiative's proposals to promote disarmament and to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons being used.

The ambition is that the ministers at the meeting can reaffirm their strong commitment and agree on joint initiatives in the coming weeks.

The media will be welcomed to a press conference with Ms Linde, Ms Baerbock and Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs Anniken Huitfeldt on Tuesday 14 December at 16.15.

Additional information on the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament is available [here](#).

Published 13 December 2021



Change of government, 30 November 2021

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

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

Prime Minister's Office

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

Ministry of Employment

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

Ministry of Finance

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

Ministry of Defence

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

Ministry of Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Ministry of Justice

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

Ministry of Culture

Jeanette Gustafsdotter, Minister for Culture

Ministry of the Environment

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Anna-Caren Säterberg, Minister for Rural Affairs

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for Social Security

Ministry of Education and Research

Anna Ekström, Minister for Education

Lina Axelsson Kihlblom, Minister for Schools

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Anna Hallberg, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Matilda Ernkrans, Minister for International Development Cooperation

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Published 30 November 2021



Minister for Foreign Affairs to host OSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm

On 2–3 December, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde will host 56 of her foreign minister colleagues in Stockholm at the annual OSCE Ministerial Council.

The Council will be held in Stockholm as Sweden is Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2021. The participants will include foreign ministers from North America, Europe and Central Asia, including Russia and the United States. The meeting will be held at a time of major security policy challenges.

“Cooperation within the OSCE has an important role to play in identifying sustainable solutions to crises and conflicts that also impact security in Sweden’s neighbourhood. The common principles and commitments of the OSCE participating States are more important than ever in terms of addressing the challenges in our region of the world and preventing new crises and conflicts from arising,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

The OSCE Ministerial Council is an important opportunity for the foreign ministers from the 57 OSCE participating States to meet and discuss a wide range of issues facing the region. The important recurring issues include the political crises and unresolved conflicts in the OSCE region, not least the developments in and around Ukraine, the southern Caucasus and Moldova. As Chair, Sweden is working to make the Council a catalyst to motivate participating States to make stronger commitments on priority issues such as women’s economic empowerment and climate and security.



Government intends to open embassy in Dublin and consulate-general in San Francisco

The Government today decided to strengthen Sweden's presence in Ireland and the US, and intends to open an embassy in Dublin and a consulate-general in San Francisco. The Government has also strengthened Sweden's presence in Ouagadougou and La Paz. As part of a regular review of Sweden's missions abroad, the Government will also close the embassies in Angola and Peru.

Ireland is an important partner for Sweden in the EU, bilaterally and multilaterally. Sweden will therefore strengthen its presence in Ireland for political agency and increased trade and investment exchange.

“A stronger Swedish presence in both Ireland and the US will create new opportunities for Swedish foreign policy and our promotion activities to make an impact. Reopening an Embassy in Dublin has been eagerly awaited – Ireland is an important partner for Sweden, not least in light of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Establishing a consulate-general in San Francisco will create new opportunities for trade promotion and promotion of Sweden on the US west coast and will support Swedish companies with matchmaking activities in tomorrow's technologies and the cultural and creative industries.

“A consulate-general in San Francisco will strengthen Sweden's presence on the US west coast and improve our opportunities to conduct active trade promotion and promotion of Sweden. The business sector in particular has looked forward to the opening the consulate-general as it will facilitate new

partnerships for Swedish companies in the area of green technologies and new innovations,” says Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg.

The Government has already upgraded two missions abroad – one in Africa and one in Latin America – to full embassies under the leadership of an ambassador. These are the missions in Ouagadougou and La Paz, whose positions have now been reinforced.

“I am pleased that we have been able to strengthen our diplomatic relations in Africa and Latin America. Our embassies provide us with important tools to help combat poverty and support climate transition, and to push demands on democracy, human rights and women’s rights,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Per Olsson Fridh.

The changes are one step in the continuous adaptation made by the organisation abroad in relation to changes around the world, altered requirements and needs, and the budgetary situation, to create the best possible conditions to implement Sweden’s foreign policy and promote Swedish interests abroad. This is a constant process of change in which Sweden sometimes opens or closes embassies and consulates.

Sweden has good bilateral relations with both Angola and Peru, which include close cooperation in areas such as trade. These relations will continue to be safeguarded, preserved and developed. In the future, this will take place in other forms, as the embassies themselves will be closed.

The missions abroad affected by today’s decision may open or close at different times, depending on the situation of each mission. All changes are planned to take place in the second half of 2022.

Published 03 November 2021



NATO Secretary General to visit Sweden and Finland

On 25–27 October, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the NAC – NATO’s principal political decision-making body – will visit Sweden and Finland which are partners to NATO.

The North Atlantic Council (NAC), the principal political decision-making body within NATO, where every member country is represented by an ambassador, conducts a number of international visits every year. The NAC is chaired by Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. NAC visits are made to member countries of the Alliance and to partner countries. A NAC visit to Sweden and Finland will take place on 25–27 October. The visit will begin in Finland on 25 October and continue in Sweden on 26–27 October.

The programme includes discussions on security developments in Finland’s and Sweden’s neighbourhood and on the countries’ close partnership with NATO. The visit will also highlight the close security cooperation between Finland and Sweden, not least in the defence area. It will also offer an insight into Sweden’s efforts to enhance its military and civil defence within the total defence framework.

“I am delighted that I will have the opportunity next week to welcome NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the NATO countries’ ambassadors to Sweden. Our partnership is an important part of Sweden’s security and defence policy, and the visit is a natural part of this partnership. The visit gives Sweden and Finland an opportunity to share our views on the situation in our neighbourhood, our close bilateral cooperation and security developments more broadly,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde, who will host the visit to Sweden.

“The security situation in our part of Europe has deteriorated over time. This is why we have shifted from international operations to national defence. Sweden’s defence policy rests on two pillars: increased national military

capabilities and deepened military cooperation with other countries and organisations. Our cooperation with Finland and Sweden's and Finland's partnership with NATO contribute to stability, predictability and increased security," says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

The programme also includes meetings with HM The King, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, the Riksdag, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Home Affairs. The Delegation will also visit SWENEX – the Swedish naval exercise, which Finland is participating in and is an example of the enhanced cooperation between Sweden and Finland. Finnish Minister of Defence Antti Kaikkonen will take part in this segment of the programme.

A number of media activities will take place in connection with the visit. A press invitation to these activities will be issued on Monday 25 October.

Published 20 October 2021



Ministry for Foreign Affairs lifts pandemic-related advice against travel

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs' advice against non-essential travel to every country in the world was introduced on 14 March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the first time a decision on advice against travel had applied to the whole world. As the situation has improved, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has successively lifted the advice against travel to a number of countries, primarily in Europe. With today's decision, the pandemic-related advice against travel to the rest of the world will be lifted as of 1 October.

“The advice against travel to every country in the world was an extraordinary measure in a difficult and unpredictable time. The ambition has always been to lift the advice against travel as soon as possible and our assessment is that we have reached that point. However, it is important to remember that the pandemic is far from over, which will still affect travel,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs decided to lift the advice against travel because the global pandemic situation has improved, and many countries have lifted their restrictions. Sweden has a high vaccination rate, and travellers and the travel industry have adapted to the new situation.

“Travellers still have a major responsibility to find out for themselves what applies at their travel destination and follow the rules and recommendations that are in place,” says Ms Linde.

Even without broad pandemic-related advice against travel in place, many countries still have restrictions that can affect travel, such as requiring a mask or the presentation of a negative PCR test or vaccination certificate. Some countries still have an entry ban in place for foreign travellers. In general, it is easier to travel if you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The Public Health Agency of Sweden recommends that unvaccinated international travellers get tested when they return to Sweden.

Embassy travel information for each country is available on swedenabroad.se and in the UD Resklar app. This includes information on any conditions? for entry or reference to where this information can be found.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs remains prepared to reintroduce pandemic-related advice against travel to countries or regions if the situation deteriorates significantly. The Ministry's decisions on advice against travel for reasons other than the pandemic are not affected by today's decision and remain in effect. You can find the countries and regions to which the Ministry for Foreign Affairs advises against travel for security reasons via the link under Shortcuts.

Published 24 September 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde to attend UN General Assembly

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde are travelling to New York for the opening of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 21 September 2021.

In connection with UNGA, Mr Löfven will take part in meetings on the climate crisis, work to address the global pandemic, child labour and youth issues. Mr Löfven will also meet representatives from Jewish organisations ahead of the Malmö Forum, discuss the green transition with representatives from the business sector, meet with civil society representatives and have bilateral meetings with the UN Secretary-General and other heads of state and government who are present in New York.

Ms Linde's participation will focus on Sweden's role in conflicts and crises, such as those in Yemen and Afghanistan, as well as disarmament and humanitarian issues. Ms Linde will take part in or host meetings on the women, peace and security agenda, Sweden's feminist foreign policy, democracy and gender equality/HBTQI issues. She will also have bilateral meetings with her visiting counterparts and UN representatives.

Mr Löfven and Ms Linde will also honour the victims of the terror attack on 11 September 2001.

Published 20 September 2021



Yemen's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak visiting Stockholm

Yemen's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak is visiting Stockholm on 9–10 September for talks on the situation in Yemen and Sweden's support to the international peace efforts.

“The situation in Yemen is extremely serious. The visit of Dr Bin Mubarak is an important opportunity to discuss the crisis and how Sweden and other countries can contribute to a positive change in the conflict. The visit follows on from my trip to Yemen earlier this year and is a continuation of Sweden's strong engagement in the peace efforts,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

During the visit, the ministers will discuss UN efforts for new talks between the parties to end the conflict, as well as the need of more international support to the Yemeni people. On 5 September, Swedish diplomat Hans Grundberg took office as UN Special Envoy for Yemen and is now leading UN efforts for a political solution to the conflict.

During the visit, Dr Bin Mubarak will also meet with Minister for International Development Cooperation Per Olsson Fridh, State Secretary Karin Wallensteen, the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, Sida and the Folke Bernadotte Academy. It is the first visit of a Yemeni minister to Sweden since 2018, when Sweden hosted the UN-led talks between the parties which resulted in the ‘Stockholm Agreement’.

The Yemeni conflict has caused the world's largest humanitarian crisis in which two thirds of the population – 21 million people – depend on humanitarian assistance. More international financing for the UN's humanitarian efforts in Yemen is needed during the year. This will be discussed at the meeting with Mr Fridh.

“We are seeing a growing risk of widespread starvation in the country. More countries need to do more to keep the UN’s life-saving measures in place. Sweden and Switzerland co-hosted the UN’s pledging event for Yemen in March, during which USD 1.7 billion was pledged for the UN’s humanitarian activities, but more is needed. We will also discuss how a combination of humanitarian aid, development initiatives and diplomatic support can pave the way for peace,” says Mr Fridh.

Published 09 September 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden's new Government

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

Ministry of Employment

Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg

Published 09 July 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Ann Linde presented the 2021 Statement of Foreign Policy

Today, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde presented the Government's Statement of Foreign Policy in the Riksdag. This year's Statement of Foreign Policy was Ms Linde's second as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Statement, which summarises the Government's foreign policy priorities for 2021, contained a number focus areas.

“The focus of this year's Statement of Foreign Policy is on the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship and delivering and developing the initiatives that have already been launched. We are deepening the Drive for Democracy, while the work on the feminist foreign policy and the fight against organised crime continues,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Naturally, the Statement was also shaped by the current pandemic.

The Statement of Foreign Policy was presented in the Riksdag at 09.00 on 24 February.

Published 24 February 2021



Ministry for Foreign Affairs extends advice against travel

Today, 26 January, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs decided to extend its advice against all non-essential travel to all countries outside the EU/EEA/Schengen area. The decision remains in effect until 15 April 2021.

On 14 March 2020, the MFA decided to advise against non-essential travel to all countries due to the extensive spread of the COVID-19 virus and its impact on the conditions for international travel. Since then, the MFA has lifted this advice for a number of countries in the EU/EEA/Schengen area.

The MFA today decided to extend its advice against non-essential travel to countries outside the EU/EEA/Schengen area. The decision remains in effect until 15 April 2021.

It is important to carefully consider whether now is the right time to travel. Many countries still have closed borders or far-reaching entry and exit restrictions, quarantine provisions and curfews. There is great uncertainty and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, it is not possible to predict when it will be possible to travel safely and freely around the world.

All Swedes who nonetheless decide to travel abroad should follow these three guidelines: read up when planning the trip, follow local regulations at the destination and plan for the journey home. This is now also clarified further on our travel app UD Resklar and [swedenabroad.se](https://www.swedenabroad.se)



Government Offices of Sweden

Chairperson-in-Office Ann Linde presented Sweden's 2021 priorities to Permanent Council

Over the coming year, the Swedish Chairpersonship will do its part to ensure that the OSCE can make a real difference on the ground and defend the principles on which the Organization was founded, said OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Ann Linde in her virtual address to the Permanent Council today.

“In a situation where multilateral co-operation and international law are increasingly being challenged, and our agreements and instruments to strengthen security are being questioned, we need to remind ourselves why we designed them in the first place,” said Linde. “Sweden is convinced that multilateral co-operation is the best way to address our common challenges. Sweden has shown that we are ready to shoulder our responsibility for the multilateral system.”

Elaborating on the Chairpersonship's priorities, she said they will focus on the principles and commitments shared by all 57 participating States, defending the European security order and upholding the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security. Political and economic security, human rights, democracy, the rule of law and equality are interrelated and interconnected, she added.

“Through the shared commitments on which the OSCE was founded, the link between security and respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law is crystal clear,” said Linde. “Together we have declared all OSCE principles and commitments to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States.”

“By holding each other accountable, we make sure that our commitments remain relevant. By honouring our commitments, we make sure that our region is safe. This is where the unique value of our organization lies.”

Conflict resolution efforts in the region is a high priority, Linde said, noting the ongoing conflicts and crises in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Belarus.

“Threats to international peace and security, as well as the suffering caused by conflicts, are simply unacceptable,” Linde said. “We therefore need to keep the resolution of the conflicts in our region at the top of our agenda.”

She said that the Chair will call for respect for international law in all conflicts and will back measures to mitigate the humanitarian consequences and advocate an inclusive approach. The Chair remains ready to engage directly with stakeholders and offers OSCE’s good offices to facilitate solutions, Linde added.

She underscored that the OSCE “is only as effective as we, the participating States, allow it to be” and called on participating States to “engage constructively” on the OSCE Unified Budget. She said the Chair stands “ready to do our part in leading negotiations.”

She stressed that achieving comprehensive security throughout the region requires meaningful inclusion and empowerment of women. Linde emphasized that as Chairperson-in-Office, she would place special emphasis on strengthening gender equality in all aspects of the Organization’s work. She also raised the strong and

Published 15 January 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Changes to Sweden's presence in Cambodia

The Government decided today that the Embassy of Sweden in Phnom Penh will be closed by the end of 2021. Sweden has good relations with Cambodia. These will now continue in new ways.

The intention is to concurrently accredit the Ambassador in Bangkok to Cambodia, and the activities of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) will be transferred to the Embassy in Bangkok. The MFA will no longer have any staff stationed in Cambodia when the Embassy has been closed. Development cooperation will continue to be carried out by Sida.

These changes are part of the MFA's continuous adaptation of its organisation abroad to external changes and new monitoring and service requirements. This is a constant process of change, and involves Sweden sometimes opening or closing embassies and consulates.

Published 26 November 2020



Nordic Foreign Ministers receive report on Nordic cooperation on foreign and security policy

On 30 October 2019, the foreign ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden decided to task Mr. Björn Bjarnason of Iceland to prepare an independent report with non-binding proposals on how to further develop Nordic cooperation on foreign and security policy. This tasking marked ten years since Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg of Norway drafted a similar report presenting a range of recommendations of which a large share have already been implemented.

In the mandate, delivered to Mr. Bjarnason on 2 December 2019, he was requested to specifically focus on the scope for cooperation in addressing global climate change, addressing hybrid threats and cyber issues, and strengthening and reforming multilateralism and the rule-based international order. The mandate moreover stipulated that the report and the proposals should be ready by mid-year 2020. In his work he enjoyed the support of a reference group of experts and analysts from each of the five Nordic countries.

The Nordic Foreign Ministers express their appreciation to Mr. Bjarnason for his important work and look forward to studying the report's recommendations. They will formally discuss the concrete proposals at their meeting in Copenhagen in September during Denmark's presidency of the N5 cooperation.

The report is published online and can be [downloaded here](#).



Ann Linde and Åsa Lindhagen to participate in Global Pride

The virtual Global Pride festival kicks off on 27 June. Artists, politicians and activists from around the world will take part in the 26-hour livestream event.

- States and governments all have the same responsibility to respect and safeguard our human rights. And yet people around the world continue to be subjected to violence and discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Ms Linde and Minister for Gender Equality Åsa Lindhagen have both contributed to the Global Pride programme via pre-recorded video greetings.

- This is a day to celebrate diversity and the right of every person to be proud of who they are, define their own identity and love whoever they like. Sweden remains a strong voice for human rights regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, says Ms Linde.

In her video greeting, Ms Lindhagen says:

- As authoritarian forces try to suppress human rights that have already been won, we must instead strengthen respect for human rights even further. Far too many LGBTI people are forced to hide who they are. As a bisexual person, I myself know how it feels, and my own country, Sweden, still has a great deal left to do. We will not rest until every LGBTI person in the world can live their life in freedom, says Ms Lindhagen.

LGBTI associations in more than 90 countries have contributed films to the virtual festival. These will be shown over a 26-hour period, interspersed with a number of major stage shows. Former US Vice President Joe Biden and Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau are among those taking part. As well as politicians, there will be appearances by musicians, drag queens and activists.

Ms Linde's and Ms Lindhagen's greetings will be available on government.se following the event.

Published 26 June 2020



The MFA has extended the advice against travel to countries outside the EU, the EEA and the Schengen area until 31 August, and will remove the advice against travel to a number of countries in the EU, the EEA and the Schengen area as of 30 June

There have been developments recently in the EU, the EEA and the Schengen area that have led to the easing of restrictions that had previously represented obstacles and risks to Swedish travellers. Therefore, as of 30 June, the MFA will remove the advice against non-essential travel to the following countries: Belgium, Croatia, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland.

The reason that the advice against travel is being removed for these countries is that they have decided to open up for travellers from Sweden and the rest of the EU, which means that the uncertainty factors for Swedes are minimised. The decision to remove the advice against travel to these countries will apply as of 30 June 2020 until further notice.

For other countries in the EU, the EEA and the Schengen area, the advice against travel remains in place until 15 July.

The great uncertainty concerning global travel remains. Closed borders or far-reaching restrictions on possibilities to enter and leave countries, quarantine provisions and curfews remain a reality in large parts of the world. The disruption of international passenger traffic continues.

For travel to countries outside the EU, the EEA and the Schengen area, the advice against non-essential travel is therefore being extended to 31 August 2020.

In good time before this date, the MFA will provide information about whether the advice against travel will be changed, extended or removed.

The fact that the advice against travel is now being removed for certain European countries does not mean that the situation is back to normal. The situation remains uncertain and changeable, even in Europe. Individuals carry a great level of responsibility.

Every traveller should carefully consider their journey, prepare thoroughly, stay informed and follow the advice and instructions of local authorities when abroad.

In the same way as applies for travellers in Sweden, you should not travel if you have symptoms. Furthermore, travellers should be aware that there are a large number of local restrictions and rules and that they can quickly change. This could involve monitoring of people's temperatures upon entry, face mask requirements and social distancing rules, for example at restaurants, shopping centres and beaches.

For those opting to travel, it is important to point out that neither the MFA nor the Swedish authorities will be able to assist with transport to Sweden for people experiencing difficulties returning home as a consequence of the current situation.

Travellers are urged to maintain close contact with their travel operators and review their insurance cover. They should also download the MFA's Resklar app and continuously stay informed of the relevant embassy's travel information on the Sweden Abroad website.



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde presents Royal Order of the Polar Star to woman peacebuilder in Cyprus

To mark ten years of successful peacebuilding work in Cyprus, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde today held a virtual dialogue and meeting with Cyprus's religious leaders.

“They have shown that religion can bring people together instead of forcing them apart, and that Cyprus as a whole has to reflect both the Christian and Muslim presence,” says Ms Linde.

Cooperation between Muslim and Christian leaders broke down when the Cyprus conflict intensified in 1963. Contact was non-existent until the religious dialogue, supported by Sweden, was initiated ten years ago. By working together and supporting each other, Cyprus's religious leaders have been able to improve freedom of religion, which was neglected in the conflict, and demonstrate the importance of cooperation for making progress in the deadlocked conflict.

In connection with the dialogue, Ms Linde presented the Royal Order of the Polar Star (first class) to Salpy Eskidjian Weiderud, Executive Director of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process (RTCYPP). Ms Eskidjian Weiderud was awarded the Order for having given Sweden a political role and visibility in the Cyprus peace process and having promoted Sweden and Swedish culture.

“Salpy Eskidjian Weiderud is a unique peace mediator. For ten years she has been working intensively and tirelessly for peace and reconciliation. She is a very concrete example of the importance of women for peace processes. Her

work for dialogue, human rights and gender equality is nothing less than pioneering,” says Ms Linde.

The RTCYPP was initiated in 2010. It brings together religious leaders on the island with the aim of strengthening human rights, peace and reconciliation. The initiative is primarily funded by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Sweden participates through its Embassy in Nicosia.

Published 16 June 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

WikiGap makes internet more gender equal

In connection with International Women's Day on 8 March, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is conducting a worldwide campaign for the third year in a row to make the internet more equal. In parallel, edit-a-thons aimed at increasing the number of women on Wikipedia will be held in almost 30 countries. In Sweden, a WikiGap edit-a-thon will be held at the University of Gothenburg.

Wikipedia is the world's largest online and user-generated encyclopaedia. Its content influences and shapes readers' view of the world. But Wikipedia has a significant gender imbalance. Ninety per cent of the content is created by men, and there are four times as many articles about men as there are about women.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Wikimedia Sweden initiated WikiGap with the goal of making Wikipedia a more accurate reflection of our world. Since the initiative began in 2018, edit-a-thons have been held in more than 60 countries, resulting in more than 35 000 new and expanded Wikipedia articles about women actors, experts and role models in various fields.

“When women's contributions are not seen, it affects our gender equality and our democracy. Concrete efforts are needed to rectify the imbalances that exist, both in the real world and in the digital world,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Sweden's feminist foreign policy is based on the ambition to strengthen women's and girls' rights, representation and resources. The WikiGap initiative is part of this policy and aims to improve the representation of women on Wikipedia.

The WikiGap event in Gothenburg on 6 March is being organised in

cooperation with Wikimedia Sweden and the University of Gothenburg. The theme is 'Historic women'.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sweden's embassies will co-host WikiGap events with Wikimedia and local partners. WikiGap aims to provide a platform for volunteers who want to contribute to a more gender-equal internet. The theme is chosen by the organisers, but the participants are responsible for the texts they produce. During the event, the articles will not be written or edited by the missions abroad or the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; instead, this will be done by the those taking part in the edit-a-thons.

Read more about WikiGap at www.swemfa.se/wikigap

More information about WikiGap Gothenburg is available here:
<https://hum.gu.se/om-fakulteten/oppna-evenemang/wikigap-humanisten>

Published 03 March 2020



Petra Lärke appointed head of the Task Force for Swedish Chair of the OSCE

The Government has today decided to appoint Petra Lärke as head of the Task Force that is to lead and plan Sweden's Chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2021. She will take up her post on 2 March 2020.

The OSCE is a security policy cooperation body with 57 participating States. All European States plus the United States, Canada and central Asian countries participate in the OSCE on equal terms. The OSCE's activities are based on a broadly defined view of security that includes military arms control, human rights, rule of law and democracy. Sweden has been appointed to chair the OSCE in 2021.

“As Chair of the OSCE, Sweden will continue to work to restore respect for the principles upon which the European security order rests. Ms Lärke will have a key role in the prioritised work of strengthening democracy, human rights and gender equality during the Chairmanship,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

From 2 March, Ms Lärke will be responsible for initiating the Stockholm-based operations, while Ulrika Funered will continue to lead Sweden's Permanent Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna.

“I am pleased to have been entrusted with leading the preparations for and work during Sweden's Chairmanship of the OSCE. Sweden's Chairmanship is coming at a time of difficult challenges to the principles and commitments on which the OSCE is based. It will be an important, but probably challenging task,” says Ms Lärke.

Ms Lärke was most recently deputy head of the Department for European

Security Policy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She has previously been head of the Eastern Europe Group at the Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and worked at the Prime Minister's Office and in Brussels.

Published 27 February 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

Ann Linde presents the 2020 Statement of Foreign Policy

Today, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde is presenting the Government's Statement of Foreign Policy to the Riksdag. The Statement, which summarises the Government's foreign policy priorities for 2020, includes a new announcement on strengthened efforts to combat organised crime. Also notable in the Statement is a stronger focus on security in Europe ahead of Sweden assuming the role of Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2021.

“My principal duty is to work for security in Sweden. International developments affect us, regardless of whether they involve security in our neighbourhood, climate change or the pushback against democracy. Organised crime is a good example of this, because it has clear international links,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Another new announcement is that the Government is strengthening its focus on trade union rights abroad as part of its Drive for Democracy, launched last year in the Statement of Foreign Policy.

The Statement of Foreign Policy will be delivered in the Riksdag on 12 February at 9.00.

Published 12 February 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde to attend ministerial meeting on shooting down of Flight PS752 over Iran

On Thursday 16 January, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde will travel to London to attend the International Coordination and Response Group for the families of the victims of Flight PS752. The meeting will bring together foreign ministers from the countries that lost residents in the aircraft crash in Iran on 8 January.

The meeting was called at the initiative of Canada and aims to coordinate measures for the countries affected by the shooting down of Flight PS752. In addition to Sweden and Canada, Afghanistan, the United Kingdom and Ukraine will also participate. The Dutch foreign minister will also participate to share the experience of the Netherlands following the shooting down of Flight MH17 over Ukraine.

“We will emphasise the importance of a full and transparent investigation into the shooting down of the aircraft and we expect the cooperation of Iranian authorities. We will also discuss support and compensation to relatives and the identification and repatriation of remains,” says Ms Linde.

Published 15 January 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

Robert Rydberg new State Secretary for Foreign Affairs – Annika Söder leaving to work in peace promotion

Today, the Government appointed Robert Rydberg, currently Sweden's Ambassador to Rome, as new State Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Annika Söder, who has held the position for the past five years, is leaving to work in peace promotion and conflict resolution.

“I welcome Robert Rydberg to an eminent position at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and look forward to working closely with him. He is a clear leader with solid diplomatic experience from virtually every complex area that our foreign policy covers. Together, we will continue Sweden's successful work for democracy and peace, and continue to promote the benefits of equitable and gender-equal societies,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Robert Rydberg is also Sweden's Ambassador to San Marino, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the UN World Food Programme and the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

“I look forward to contributing the experience I have gained from my multifaceted service to enhance our Foreign Service. It is a top-class foreign service, and this is what we need in a world where interests and principles that are essential for us are coming under increasing pressure. It is particularly important that we safeguard strong European cooperation,” says Mr Rydberg.

Mr Rydberg has a law degree and an extensive career in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, where he was employed in 1984. His previous posts include

Ambassador to Israel and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He has worked at the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York and with the UN Security Council, in areas including European security policy and disarmament, and has been Chair of the EU Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management.

Former State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Annika Söder has been appointed President of the Board of the European Institute of Peace.

“I am looking forward to being able to engage fully and devote more time to this role. Work to promote conflict resolution, reconciliation, security and peacebuilding is more important than ever before,” says Ms Söder.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde has valued Ms Söder’s work highly.

“There is nothing dramatic about this. We decided in September with the change of foreign minister that she would remain during the transitional period. I would like to thank her most sincerely for her five years as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and for sharing her invaluable experience,” says Ms Linde.

Published 11 December 2019



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden appointed Chair of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2021

Sweden was today appointed Chair of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2021. The decision was taken unanimously by the OSCE's 57 participating States at the organisation's Ministerial Council in Bratislava, Slovakia, on Thursday.

Sweden was today appointed Chair of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2021. The decision was taken unanimously by the OSCE's 57 participating States at the organisation's Ministerial Council in Bratislava, Slovakia, on Thursday.

“I am honoured that Sweden has been entrusted to assume the role of Chair of the OSCE in 2021. The OSCE offers a unique platform for dialogue on peace and security in Europe. It is also an organisation that deals with issues that have a direct bearing on security in our region,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

The OSCE is a security policy cooperation body with 57 participating States. All European States plus the United States, Canada and central Asian countries participate in the OSCE on equal terms. The OSCE's activities are based on a broadly defined view of security that includes military arms control, human rights, legal certainty and democracy.

“As Chair, Sweden will continue to work to restore respect for the principles upon which the European security order rests. We will give priority to efforts to strengthen democracy, human rights and gender equality in all relevant forums,” says Ms Linde.

Slovakia, which currently holds the Chairmanship of the OSCE, will hand over the role to Albania on 1 January 2020. Sweden will in turn assume the Chairmanship in 2021.

Published 05 December 2019



New UN Ambassador

The Government today appointed Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström as new Head of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations (UN) in New York.

Ms Eneström is currently Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations. She has previously held the position of Director-General for Political Affairs at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and has been Deputy Chef de Cabinet of the Office of the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. In addition, Ms Eneström has served at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the Swedish Embassy in Nairobi and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York. She has also been Sweden's Ambassador in Islamabad and Kabul, and served as Sweden's representative to the Political and Security Committee (PSC) at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU in Brussels.



Government Offices of Sweden

State Visit to India

The King and Queen of Sweden will pay a State Visit to India on 2–6 December 2019 at the invitation of President Ram Nath Kovind.

The Swedish Government will be represented by Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan and State Secretary at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Maja Fjaestad.

Some 50 Swedish companies – encompassing both large, well-established companies and start-ups – will take part, along with representatives of Swedish government agencies and universities, through the business delegation arranged by Business Sweden.

The aim of the State Visit is to further strengthen the good relations between Sweden and India, and to promote Swedish-Indian cooperation, including within the frameworks of the Joint Action Plan, the Innovation Partnership and existing memorandums of understanding. The visit affirms Sweden's willingness to be a key partner for India in its rapid development, and in efforts to tackle common social challenges in areas such as the climate/environment, infrastructure, research and health. The visit aims to enable increased trade and investment for Swedish and Indian companies in both directions.

The State Visit will last for five days and encompass New Delhi, Mumbai and the state of Uttarakhand.

The programme in brief

Sunday 1 December

The King and Queen arrive in New Delhi.

Monday 2 December

President Ram Nath Kovind and Ms Savita Kovind welcome the King and Queen at an official ceremony, followed by the laying of a wreath at Raj

Ghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation. Meetings with President Kovind, Prime Minister Modi and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar will take place during the day. The King and Queen will also take part in a high-level dialogue on innovation with Swedish and Indian representatives from companies, government agencies and academia. They will also visit the Jama Masjid mosque and the Red Fort World Heritage site. The day will conclude with a state banquet at the President's official residence.

Tuesday 3 December

Climate and environmental issues and business issues will be discussed during the second day of the State Visit. The day will begin with the India-Sweden Business Summit, arranged by Business Sweden and the Confederation of Indian Industry. The Summit will offer Indian private and public actors the opportunity to meet Swedish companies and discuss business opportunities and cooperation. The King will then take part in a round-table discussion about Swedish and Indian efforts to reduce emissions and air pollution. In parallel, the Queen will visit the All India Institute for Medical Science (AIIMS) to discuss geriatric and dementia care in India. The Queen will later visit the UN office in India to learn about efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. The King and Queen will meet Indian alumni at a lunch hosted by the Swedish Institute. During the afternoon, the King and Queen will take part in the inauguration of the India-Sweden Business Leaders Roundtable. In the evening, the King and Queen will be the guests of honour at a major reception at the Embassy of Sweden.

Wednesday 4 December

On Wednesday the programme will continue in Mumbai, with the King and Queen arriving there in the morning. The King and Queen will take part in the world's largest beach clean-up project on Versova beach with the project's initiator and volunteers. In the afternoon, the King and Queen will visit the Door Step School, which gives marginalised children free schooling and homework support. This will be followed by an international Tekla workshop that aims to inspire young girls to explore technology. In the evening, the King will hold talks with senior Swedish and Indian business leaders. The evening will conclude with a reception hosted by the Swedish Consulate-General at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya museum.

Thursday 5 December

The fourth day of the State Visit will continue in the state of Uttarakhand, with a visit to Rishikesh on the banks of the Ganges. There the King and

Queen will have the opportunity to talk to young environment and climate activists, along with the head of the Centre for Science and Environment, an NGO. This will be followed by a traditional ceremony by the holy river Ganges. The King and Queen will then take part, alongside the Indian Minister of Jal Shakti, responsible for water issues, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in the inauguration of a sewage treatment plant in Haridwar. The plant is part of the national project to clean the river Ganges. In the afternoon and evening, the King and Queen will meet experts on nature conservation and sustainable forest management.

Friday 6 December

On Friday morning, the King and Queen will continue their meetings on nature conservation and biodiversity. They will also visit a Van Gujjar village to discuss and learn about the community's traditional farming and animal husbandry methods.

Ms Linde, Mr Baylan and Ms Fjaestad will take part in large parts of the programme. They will also engage in bilateral meetings and activities with representatives of the Indian Government.

Published 26 November 2019



Government Offices of Sweden

#GirlsTakeover – a global initiative to promote girls’ rights and highlight their agency

Within the context of Sweden’s feminist foreign policy, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is taking part in the global #GirlsTakeover campaign. Through this campaign – an initiative of Plan International – girls all over the world will step into a leadership role on 11 October in connection with International Day of the Girl Child.

In 21 countries, Swedish missions abroad have invited girls from the local community to take part in their work for one day. At the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, a girl will work alongside Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde on 11 October. On the same day in Stockholm, an international conference on girls’ rights organised by Plan International will also highlight the campaign.

- “As a group in society, girls are often doubly discriminated against – on the basis of both sex and age. We must break the pattern and focus on girls’ agency and leadership to ensure their rights and create democratic and sustainable societies,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Despite discrimination, girls around the world are standing up against outdated traditions, norms and laws. Sweden wants to support them and increase their visibility.

In 2014, Sweden became the first country in the world to launch a feminist foreign policy. The aim is to strengthen rights, representation and resources for all women and girls. This policy is needed. No country has achieved full gender equality, advances are being challenged, and women and girls are still systematically subordinated in every part of the world. Sweden wants to see

an end to the injustices, ensure the full enjoyment of human rights for all women and girls, and make girls' agency and leadership visible. Follow the work on #GirlsTakeover.

Published 10 October 2019



Government Offices of Sweden

Joint Press Statement on the EU Arctic Forum

The European Union's long standing commitment to enhance sustainable international cooperation in the Arctic

Today, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Ann Linde, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and European Commissioner Karmenu Vella released the following statement on the EU Arctic Forum held in Umeå (Sweden):

In view of the challenges facing the Arctic due to global warming, the EU is strongly committed to helping the region adapt to climate change, protecting the environment and developing its economy in a sustainable way. We are delivering on this commitment in three practical ways: by investing in research and development, by protecting local ecosystems and biodiversity, and where appropriate, by building better infrastructure to connect the region to the mainland, including broadband connection.

The EU recognizes the need to work closely with national, regional and local authorities in the European Arctic in this regard. The EU emphasizes its commitment to facilitate Arctic stakeholder engagement in the European Arctic region.

With three EU Member States and two European Economic Area members being Arctic states, the EU has a strategic role and interest in the Arctic remaining a “low-tension–high cooperation” area. The EU promotes sustainable economic development in the Arctic region, based on the best available science and taking into account the impact on fragile ecosystems as well as the living conditions of local populations, in particular the indigenous peoples.

The EU is directly affected by climatic and environmental changes in the

Arctic, which profoundly alters living conditions in the Arctic and globally. Last week's Special Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on oceans and the cryosphere has strongly reinforced the message that we need to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The EU is committed to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and becoming a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.

The EU will continue to contribute to international and regional cooperation in the Arctic through enhanced work on climate action and environmental research, sustainable development, as well as concrete cooperation with Arctic states, institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities.

About the event

On 3-4 October, the Government of Sweden and the European Union are co-hosting the EU Arctic Forum in Umeå, Sweden. This two-day event gathers Ministers and other high-level representatives from Arctic countries and EU member states, senior officials from the European Commission and the European External Action Service, international organisations, business, science and local stakeholders to discuss developments in the Arctic. Part of the programme is the annual Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue. More than 600 participants from over 30 countries are attending the event. The 2019 EU Arctic Forum will mainly discuss international cooperation, the climate-environment-ocean nexus, sustainable investments, and connectivity. It will inform the EU's policy direction on Arctic issues post-2020.

The broad and senior level participation from Arctic stakeholders underscores the shared and longstanding commitment of the European Union and Sweden to the EU Arctic Policy.

[Event website](#)
[Programme](#)

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

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

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

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

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

Ms Linde will take part in the opening of the General Assembly, a high-level

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

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

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

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

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