



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström shortly to leave the Government and her role as Minister for Foreign Affairs

Published 06 September 2019

The Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström has informed Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven about her wish to leave the Government.

- For five years I have wholeheartedly devoted myself to promoting Sweden's security and prosperity in the world. To face the big challenges of our time, in cooperation with others.

- I now want to spend more time with my husband, my children and my grandchildren, says Ms Wallström.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström to host a ministerial meeting on nuclear disarmament

Published 07 June 2019

On 11 June, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will host an international ministerial meeting in Stockholm on disarmament and non-proliferation. This Swedish initiative will be the first meeting of its kind for many years, and there is a great deal of international interest.

The Government's goal is a world free of nuclear weapons, and the initiative to host this disarmament meeting is an important part of this work. The purpose of Tuesday's meeting is to discuss how governments can work together to create political pressure for disarmament and engagement ahead of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) next year.

“The situation in the world is critical, and the risk of nuclear arms use is greater than it has been for many years. We are taking this initiative because we must make vigorous efforts for disarmament,” says Ms Wallström. “The NPT is the cornerstone of international action for disarmament and non-proliferation. The nuclear-weapon states have made important commitments in this regard, and this is why we are focusing on discussing the NPT in particular when we meet on Tuesday,” she adds.

The discussions in Stockholm will be about reducing the role of nuclear weapons in doctrines, increasing transparency surrounding arsenals and looking into measures to reduce the risk of nuclear weapon use. The idea is that this type of action can contribute to strengthened confidence between

countries and thus also to a better cooperation climate in disarmament diplomacy.

“We have to mobilise political will and increase pressure on parties to actively participate in disarmament work within the framework of the NPT,” says Ms Wallström. “We hope that Tuesday’s meeting will make a contribution to positive progress in this work,” she says.

The 15 countries invited to attend are non-nuclear-weapon states committed to disarmament from all parts of the world and with different security policy conditions. The following countries are taking part: Argentina, Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Switzerland.

For editorial offices

Media will need special accreditation from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to attend the press conference, which will take place after the meeting, and for the photo opportunity at the start of the meeting.

Accreditation application



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden to chair UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) 2019–2020

Published 20 March 2019

It is now clear that Sweden will be elected Chair of the IAEA Board of Governors for 2019–2020.

“It is a great pleasure and honour that Sweden has been entrusted with this prestigious assignment,” said Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström following the announcement.

“The IAEA plays a very important role in promoting peace, security and development. Our role as Chair of the Board is an important part of our efforts to ensure non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, which is a priority issue for the Government. At present, this particularly concerns the verification of Iran’s compliance with the nuclear accord, and the information that the IAEA may receive in the event of a nuclear disarmament agreement with North Korea,” Ms Wallström said.

The IAEA was created in 1956. The organisation is tasked with promoting the peaceful and secure use of nuclear energy while ensuring that nuclear material is not misused for military purposes. Under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, all non-nuclear-weapon states are subject to verification under the IAEA safeguards system. The post of Director-General of the IAEA was held for 36 consecutive years by two Swedes, Sigvard Eklund and Hans Blix, but this will be the first time Sweden will serve as Chair of the Board of Governors.

The assignment of Chair will be carried out by Sweden’s Permanent Representative to the IAEA, Ambassador Mikaela Kumlin Granit.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release

The ministers' press contacts

Published 22 January 2019

Here are the contact details for the ministers' press secretaries.

Prime Minister's Office

Press secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Ingela Nilsson

Mobile telephone: +46 72 551 41 16

Jonatan Holst

Mobile telephone: +46 72 227 85 35

Press Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren

Dan Lundqvist Dahlin

Mobile telephone: +46 72 553 66 29

Ministry of Employment

Press Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson

Natalie Sial

Mobile telephone: +46 72 520 54 49

Press Secretary to Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen

Martin Kling

Mobile telephone: +46 70 539 57 29

Ministry of Finance

Press Secretary to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson

Gösta Brunnander

Mobile telephone: +46 72 544 28 66

Press Secretary to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund

Hanna Hessling

Mobile telephone: +46 72 557 38 01

Press Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardan Shekarabi

Matilda Malmqvist Glas

Mobile telephone: +46 70 367 03 64

Ministry of Defence

Press Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist

Maja Zachrisson

Mobile telephone: +46 70 219 81 64

Ministry of Infrastructure

Press Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth

Karin Röding Boman

Mobile telephone: +46 76 116 65 62

Press Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital

Development Anders Ygeman

Fredrik Persson

Mobile telephone: +46 72 454 55 09

Ministry of Justice

Press Secretary to Minister for Justice Morgan Johansson

Sofie Rudh

Mobile telephone: +46 72 545 74 21

Press Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael
Damberg

Miriam Abu Eid

Mobile telephone: +46 72 216 95 65

Ministry of Culture

Press Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with
responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind

Anna Söderström

Mobile telephone: +46 72 532 17 13

Ministry of the Environment

Press secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate,
and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin

Jakob Lundgren

Mobile telephone: +46 72 206 08 92

Kristoffer Talltorp

Mobile telephone: +46 72 542 80 32

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Press Secretary to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation
Ibrahim Baylan

Sami Mashial

Mobile telephone: +46 76 144 17 03

Press Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson

Maria Soläng

Mobile telephone: +46 72 206 19 47

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Press Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs
Lena Hallengren

Jens Petersen

Mobile telephone: +46 70 293 69 35

Press Secretary to Minister for Social Security Annika
Strandhäll

Victor Harju

Mobile telephone: +46 72 504 36 70

Ministry of Education and Research

Press secretaries to Minister for Education Anna Ekström

Natalie Sial

Mobile telephone: +46 72 520 54 49

Tora Heckscher

Mobile telephone: +46 72 233 84 39

Press Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and
Research Matilda Ernkrans

Daniel Ferreira

Mobile telephone: +46 76 135 56 92

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström

Isabel Lundin

Mobile telephone: +46 76 296 46 38

Press Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson

Hanna Hessling

Mobile telephone: +46 72 55 738 07

Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde

Joanna Abrahamsson

Mobile telephone: +46 72 543 84 89



Government Offices of Sweden

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

New state secretaries at the Government Offices

Published 22 January 2019

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

Prime Minister's Office

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

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

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

Ministry of Employment

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

The Government has appointed Karin Strandås as State Secretary to Minister

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

Ministry of Finance

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

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

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

Ministry of Defence

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

Ministry of Infrastructure

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

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

Ministry of Justice

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

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

Ministry of Culture

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

Ministry of the Environment

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

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

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

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

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

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

Ministry of Education and Research

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

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

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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

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

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



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden's centenary gift to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

Published 21 December 2018

As a gift from Sweden to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Government has set up three cooperation funds to mark the countries' 100th anniversaries in 2018.

Following approval by the Riksdag, SEK 30 million has been set aside in three grants of SEK 10 million each, constituting the founding capital for three foundations with the aim of promoting broad people-to-people exchanges between Sweden and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, respectively.

The foundations will have a particular focus on promoting relations between young people. The Government invites businesses, organisations and private individuals in Sweden and the Baltic States to help ensure the funds grow, with the aim of creating lasting and dynamic relations in society, the economy and culture.

- Promoting contacts between young people in our countries is the main forward-looking purpose of these funds. This is how we want to invest in our common future, says Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström to take part in women foreign ministers' meeting in Canada

Published 20 September 2018

On 21–22 September, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will take part in the Women Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Montreal, Canada. The meeting will be co-led by Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini. Ms Wallström will also take part in a working breakfast with civil society representatives.

At the meeting, Ms Wallström will hold an address during the session on advancing global peace, security and prosperity within the framework of a rules-based international order, during which she will highlight Sweden's feminist foreign policy and experiences from Sweden's membership of the United Nations Security Council.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Sweden launches new research collaboration for climate and security

Published 30 August 2018 Updated 30 August 2018

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

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

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

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

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

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



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden to co-host high-level conference in Brussels on continued peace efforts in Somalia

Published 13 July 2018

On 16–17 July, Sweden, the Federal Government of Somalia and the EU will jointly host the annual Somalia Partnership Forum. Continued efforts for peace and development in Somalia will be discussed at the Forum.

Developments in Somalia are advancing gradually and there have been many positive outcomes in a variety of sectors. Despite major humanitarian challenges and continuing security threats, there is a clear trend of improved stability and development in Somalia.

At the same time, political reforms, including a strengthened federal structure, help ensure continued positive developments in terms of peace and security in the country. The latest parliamentary elections strengthened the proportion of women in the Somali parliament, with almost a quarter of its members now women.

"Somalia has taken incredibly important steps towards sustainable peace and development, and is setting an example for many other war-torn areas. The international community's commitments for continued positive developments in Somalia are crucial, and the Somalia Partnership Forum is an important element of this," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Ms Wallström will co-host the Forum over two days in Brussels alongside EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and President of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed. A total of more than 60 delegations will participate in the Forum, which is expected to give continued strong support to the Somali Government's efforts for

sustainable peace and development.

As recently as earlier this month, the Swedish Government adopted a new strategy for Somalia, doubling Swedish aid to the country. Sweden's aid to Somalia will total SEK 3 billion for the period 2018–2022, allowing extended support for Somalia's peace- and state-building efforts. The new cooperation strategy for Somalia makes Sweden the fourth-largest global donor to the country.

The Somalia Partnership Forum will bring together representatives of the EU, Somalia's neighbours, international donors, the AU, the UN, the World Bank and other international and regional organisations. The aim of the Forum is to follow up on earlier commitments and contribute to continued close cooperation and support for Somalia's development.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs and UN Deputy Secretary-General visit Chad and Niger ahead of UN Security Council meetings

Published 05 July 2018

On 5–8 July, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will visit Chad and Niger in the Sahel region of West Africa. With her on this visit, which coincides with Sweden's Presidency of the UN Security Council, will be UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and the African Union's Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security Bineta Diop.

The joint visit aims to strengthen women's participation in decision-making and peace processes, community life and the economy, and to highlight the importance of tackling climate-related security risks.

"This is a unique visit to take our work on the women, peace and security agenda to the next level. The work of the Security Council needs to be underpinned by the fundamental insight that matters of peace and security concern everyone. The Security Council must make a difference where it is needed the most – in places where millions of women, men, girls and boys are living in the shadow of war, conflict and poverty. Sweden wants to highlight this during our presidency of the Security Council, so directly following the visit I will chair two special meetings of the Security Council on the situation of women in the Sahel region, and the link between climate

and security," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström to host Nordic-Baltic meeting in Stockholm

Published 15 June 2018 Updated 19 June 2018

On 19 June, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will host a Nordic-Baltic meeting with the Visegrad Four (V4): Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. The meeting will be held in Stockholm in light of Sweden's current coordinating role in the Nordic–Baltic Eight (NB8). Hungary currently chairs the Visegrad Group. The participating ministers will discuss the challenges facing Europe regarding the Eastern neighbourhood, security policy, the future of Europe and more.

The Foreign Ministers meeting in the NB8 + V4 format was originally a joint initiative of Poland and Sweden in 2013.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs Péter Szijjártó will hold a press conference in connection with the meeting.

Time: 19 June, 14.30

Venue: Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Gustav Adolfs torg 1

Language: English

Media representatives enter via Kopparporten, Rosenbad 2, at 13.45.

Please bring your press credentials.

Registration required before 11.00 on Tuesday 19 June:

boel.lindbergh@gov.se



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Reminder: Margot Wallström to welcome foreign ministers from Baltic Sea states

Published 12 June 2018 Updated 15 June 2018

On 18 June, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will head a ministerial meeting in Stockholm of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). The meeting agenda will mainly focus on the future role of Baltic Sea cooperation, common security, rescue services, the battle against human trafficking and support for vulnerable children and young people.

Sweden has held the Presidency of the CBSS over the past year and will hand over the Presidency to Latvia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Edgars Rinkēvičs during the meeting.

In connection with the meeting participating ministers and other representatives of participating countries will be available for media.

Time: 18 June, late afternoon/early evening

Venue: Solliden, Skansen

The exact time and venue will be communicated to the media concerned.

Pre-registration is required by 14.00 on Monday 18 to:
boel.lindbergh@gov.se

Please bring valid press card.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Conference on the Baltic Sea Region

Published 11 June 2018

More than 150 policymakers, researchers and practitioners will gather in Stockholm at Fotografiska on June 11–12 for the international conference addressing the complexity of societal security challenges in the Baltic Sea region.

Co-hosted by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the conference will discuss strategies to provide safety for people and build effective resilience in the face of various incidents, ranging from climate change to terrorism and major infrastructural disruptions.

The transnational nature of many societal security challenges requires regional cooperation. Regional cooperation is not only more effective than the efforts of a single state but also a necessary aspect of national preparedness. Cooperation in the Baltic Sea region has been evolving to include societal safety and security issues on the agenda of regional institutions, including the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). Among others, session topics will include climate change adaptation, nuclear security cooperation, strengthening resilience against extremism, gender-based violence and approaches to reduce urban violence.

By convening experts and practitioners from the region, the conference will provide a platform for constructive dialogue and innovative thinking. As a result, the conference will form a basis to further build on existing institutions and frameworks for collaboration to address the societal security challenges faced by Baltic Sea states.

High-level participants include:

- HE Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- HE Vladimir Titov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russia (TBC)
- HE Oleg Kravchenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Belarus
- HE Annika Söder, State Secretary for the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- HE Audun Halvorsen, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- HE Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
- HE Bartosz Cichocki, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland
- Rainer Saks, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia
- Helga Schmid, Secretary General, European External Action Service
- Dagfinn Høybråten, Secretary General, Nordic Council of Ministers
- Maira Mora, Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat
- Cecilia Daae, Director General, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection
- Paola Albrito, Chief of Regional Office for Europe, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- André Jol, Head of Group Climate Change Impacts, European Environment Agency
- Ambassador Jan Eliasson, Chair of the SIPRI Governing Board
- Bengt Sundelius, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

Media are welcome to attend all sessions.

Contact SIPRI Communications Officer Alexandra Manolache to register for the event (professional media only) alexandra.manolache@sipri.org, +46 76 628 61 33.

Contact

Alexandra Manolache, SIPRI

Stephanie Blenckner, SIPRI

Ronnie Nilsson, Ministry for Foreign Affairs +46709349522



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden's gift to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on their 100th anniversary: anniversary funds for increased exchange between our countries

Published 28 May 2018

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström today presented Sweden's gift in the form of three anniversary funds the Government intends to set up for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on the occasion of their 100th anniversaries this year. The gift was announced at Skansen in connection with a four-party meeting between the Swedish and Baltic foreign ministers.

The funds are intended to promote a broad exchange between the people of Sweden and those of our neighbouring countries Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, with a special focus on promoting relations between young people. The Government intends to set aside SEK 30 million (SEK 10 million for each country) as a basic contribution to the funds. The Government will also invite businesses, organisations and private individuals in Sweden and the Baltics to help ensure the funds grow, with the aim of creating lasting and dynamic relations in society, the economy and culture.

An interim committee led by former Minister for Finance Pär Nuder will oversee the process of setting up the funds.

On Saturday 26 May, Skansen was the venue of the XIV Baltic Day, which brought together over 500 participants from Swedish-Baltic diaspora groups

for a cultural day of song, dance, music, food and crafts to celebrate the 100th anniversaries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The foreign ministers of Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania took part.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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

Published 04 May 2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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

Published 28 March 2018

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

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

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

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

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

The full programme and detailed press and accreditation information is available at www.genderequalworld.com.

Contact at the Swedish Institute:

Ulrika Horn af Rantzien
ulrika.hornafrantzien@si.se
+4684537889
+46733368933



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

UN Secretary-General and Security Council to meet in Sweden

Published 22 March 2018

In April, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will hold his annual informal working meeting with the UN Security Council in Sweden. The meeting will be held at Dag Hammarskjöld's farm Backåkra in Skåne. This will be the first time the annual working meeting takes place outside the United States. The meeting will focus on the future of the UN's peace support work – how the UN's peace-keeping missions can be strengthened and made more effective.

"The meeting will be held at Backåkra and in the spirit of Dag Hammarskjöld's legacy. It is great news that the meeting can take place in Sweden, not least in light of our long tradition of working for conflict prevention and peaceful solutions to conflicts," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The Secretary-General will pay a longer visit to Sweden and will also have talks with the Prime Minister, as well as giving the Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture, which is arranged by Uppsala University and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation.

Further details about the date, programme and press information will be published closer to the time of the visit. A press briefing about the meeting will be held on 18 April.

Q&A on the Secretary-General's visit to Sweden

Background

Dag Hammarskjöld's farm Backåkra will be reinaugurated on 28 March. Backåkra has been renovated so as to function as a meeting place on topics that were close to Dag Hammarskjöld's heart, such as international cooperation, peace research, the environment and human rights.

As UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld took the initiative to form the first UN peace-keeping mission with armed troops. Peace-keeping missions remain one of the UN's most powerful instruments and will be the main theme of the working meeting.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Fryshuset Foundation CEO Johan Oljeqvist to host the Child Forum on Children and Armed Conflict

Published 16 March 2018 Updated 16 March 2018

On Thursday 22 March, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Fryshuset Foundation will hold a Child Forum, focusing on children and armed conflict. The Child Forum is part of a series of child consultations hosted in a number of countries.

During its time in the United Nations Security Council, Sweden has chosen 'children and armed conflict' as one of its focus areas. As chair of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, Sweden has consistently highlighted the vulnerable situation of children in armed conflict based on four Swedish priorities: implementing the children and armed conflict agenda, children's right to have their voices heard, children's right to education and children's right to health.

"We cannot afford more lost generations of children deprived of their right to life, to education, who are orphaned, injured and traumatised. If we protect children today, we can prevent conflicts tomorrow," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström in a comment ahead of the event.

For more than a month, 60 children in Sweden have been working on issues concerning children's protection, children's rights and conflict prevention. Based on this work, the children have drafted recommendations to be

presented to Ms Wallström during the Child Forum on 22 March.

Ms Virginia Gamba, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, and Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire, founder of the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, will also take part in the Child Forum.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

North Korea's Minister for Foreign Affairs Ri Yong-Ho will visit Sweden on 15–16 March

Published 15 March 2018

North Korea's Minister for Foreign Affairs Ri Yong-Ho will visit Sweden on 15–16 March for talks with Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. The talks will focus on Sweden's consular responsibilities as a protecting power for the United States, Canada and Australia. They will also address the security situation on the Korean Peninsula, which is high on the Security Council agenda. Sweden is a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2017–2018.

The UN Security Council has unanimously condemned North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programmes and demanded the complete, verifiable and irrevocable elimination of these programmes. The Security Council has also emphasised the need for intensified diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. Sweden fully supports the Security Council resolutions. The aim of the visit is to contribute to the effective implementation of the resolutions.

A press release summarising the talks will be published when the talks are concluded, in the evening of 16 March.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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

Published 13 March 2018

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

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

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

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

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

Journalists interested in attending the launch should register by emailing lina.eidmark@gov.se by 12.00 on Wednesday 14 March.

The Pathways for Peace study can be downloaded at www.worldbank.org.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström's telephone call with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

Published 09 March 2018

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström spoke on the telephone today to UN Secretary-General António Guterres about the upcoming ministerial meeting on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which was convened at the initiative of Sweden and Jordan. Ms Wallström stressed that the purpose of the meeting, to be held in Rome on 15 March, is to mobilise political and financial support for UNRWA, which is currently facing an acute budget deficit of USD 446 million.

UNRWA assists more than five million Palestinian refugees, one third of whom still live in refugee camps, and plays an important stabilising role in an already troubled region.

Ms Wallström thanked the Secretary-General for his strong commitment to UNRWA and his leading role in improving its financing.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Media invitation: #WikiGap at KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Published 05 March 2018

You are invited to attend a press conference with Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström in connection with #WikiGap.

Tid: 8 mars 2018 at 14:00 to 15:00

Plats: The KTH library, Osquars backe 31

On 8 March, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Wikimedia will take joint global action to help make the internet more gender-equal. Edit-a-thons aimed at increasing the number of women on Wikipedia will be organised in parallel in almost 50 countries. Ms Wallström will host #WikiGapSthlm at KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

Programme

14.00–14.30 Introduction by

- Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Anna Wahl, Vice Rector of KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- Sara Mörtzell and John Andersson, Wikimedia Sverige

14.30–18.00 Edit-a-thon

18.00 Conclusion and mingling, with light refreshments

Ms Wallström is available for interviews between 14.30 and 15.00.

More information on the #WikiGap initiative can be found at www.swemfa.se/wikigap

Registration: No later than 16.00 on Thursday 7 March, by email to ud.pressjour@gov.se



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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

Published 03 March 2018 Updated 03 March 2018

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

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

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

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

Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

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

Background

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

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



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden to increase gender equality on the internet through #WikiGap

Published 14 February 2018

On 8 March, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Wikimedia will take joint global action to help make the internet more gender equal. Edit-a-thons aimed at increasing the number of women on Wikipedia will be organised in parallel in some 50 countries. Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will host #WikiGapSthlm at KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

Wikipedia is the world's largest online and user-generated encyclopaedia. Its content influences and colours users' knowledge about the world. But there is great imbalance on the website. Ninety per cent of the content is created by men, and there are four times more articles about men than there are about women.

To contribute to a more accurate picture, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Wikimedia have taken the initiative for the #WikiGap event. On 8 March – International Women's Day – parallel events will be organised in more than 50 countries, from Sweden to Indonesia, Egypt and Colombia, together with local actors and partners.

"Sweden is the first country in the world with a feminist foreign policy. It emanates from a moral conviction based on justice and human rights, and because gender equality is also a basic condition for peace, security and sustainable development," says Margot Wallström.

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. During the day-long event, the invited participants will write and edit articles on Wikipedia using information on women profiles, experts and role models in different fields.

In Stockholm, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is collaborating with Wikimedia Sverige and KTH Royal Institute of Technology. The theme is women in technology and science.

The Ministry and Sweden's embassies will co-host #WikiGap with Wikimedia. WikiGap aims to provide a platform for volunteers who want to contribute to a more gender-equal internet. The theme was determined by the organisers, but the texts produced will be the work of the participants themselves. During the event, the articles will not be written or edited by the missions abroad or the Ministry; instead, this will be done by the those taking part in the edit-a-thons.

See a list of all events here: www.swemfa.se/wikigap



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden to host global gender equality conference 15–17 April

Published 14 February 2018

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

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

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

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

Affairs

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

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

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

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

Date: 15–17 April

Location: Stockholm City Conference Centre, Stockholm, Sweden

For further information and media accreditation, please visit:

genderequalworld.com

#GenderEqualWorld

#StockholmGenderForum

Contact person at the Swedish Institute:

Anna Knutsson

Press Secretary at the Swedish Institute

+46 73-336 89 47

Anna.knutsson@si.se



Press release from Ministry of Defence, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government of Sweden tasks the Armed Forces to support the United Nations with gender competence

Published 25 January 2018

On 25 January the Swedish government decided to task the Armed Forces to support the United Nations with gender competence. Sweden is responding to a sought after need within the UN and will thereby continue to be an active partner for gender equality and its development within the UN system.

Sweden will support the UN with gender competence by offering training opportunities at the centre for implementation of gender perspectives in military operations - the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, NCGM. Since 22 February 2013, this centre of Nordic defence cooperation has been tasked with leading the gender area within NATO.

NCGM was established five years ago in part responding to Security Council resolution 1325. Adopted 17 years ago, the resolution aims at including women to a much greater extent in the work for peace and security and to take into consideration the perspectives of both men and women in this work.

Sweden is a strong advocate and has been working hard for increased implementation, understanding, education and competence in the gender field. This is in line with the government's feminist foreign policy and Sweden's work on the already existing Security Council agenda for women, peace and security.

- Gender in military operations is a priority for Sweden. We have unique skills in which NCGM has developed the only certified Gender Advisor course that exists for military personnel. Increased skills in and understanding of gender issues also increases the operational effects of a military operation, says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

- Sweden is actively working on the issue of women, peace and security in the EU, the UN and in our cooperation with other countries and organisations, such as NATO. Knowledge and education are important and we contribute to this through the NCGM, says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs to take part in UN Security Council meeting on North Korea

Published 13 December 2017

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will be in New York on 15–16 December to take part in a ministerial meeting of the Security Council on North Korea. UN Secretary-General António Guterres and foreign ministers from a number of Security Council members will be participating. Ms Wallström will also attend an informal meeting of the Security Council on the link between climate change and security.

In addition, Ms Wallström will be taking part in several bilateral meetings with visiting ministers and talks with UN representatives. She will also meet with representatives of organisations working in feminist foreign policy areas.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström to visit Bangladesh, Myanmar and Vietnam on 19–23 November

Published 14 November 2017

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will begin her journey by visiting refugee camps in Bangladesh, to which more than 620 000 Rohingya have fled from violence and abuse in Myanmar since August. In addition to refugees, Ms Wallström will meet representatives of the Government of Bangladesh, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organisation for Migration and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The visit is being made together with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Sigmar Gabriel.

"There is a serious humanitarian situation in the camps near Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. Reports show how Rohingya have fled from horrendous abuse and sexual and gender-based violence. By visiting the camps and speaking to representatives who are dealing with the situation there, I can form an opinion regarding the needs, and bring my impressions to the talks I will have with regional representatives and ahead of further international efforts concerning this very difficult situation," says Ms Wallström.

Peace, sustainable development and increased cooperation between Europe and Asia are among the issues on the agenda when Ms Wallström then meets

with her European and Asian counterparts in Myanmar's capital, Naypyidaw, for an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). This gathering of 51 European and Asian countries meets every second year at foreign minister level.

"The ASEM Summit is an opportunity to conduct a dialogue with my Asian counterparts on important global challenges, such as the participation of women in conflict prevention. It is also a good opportunity to discuss current issues in the region, in particular the situation in Rakhine State in Myanmar, but also other current issues such as North Korea, troubling political developments in Cambodia and tensions in the South China Sea," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The trip will conclude with a visit to Hanoi, Vietnam, for political discussions and meetings with civil society.

"Sweden and Vietnam enjoy long-standing bilateral relations. It is important that we have a political dialogue with government representatives of Vietnam concerning issues of mutual interest, as well as human rights. I will also meet young Vietnamese and civil society actors," says Ms Wallström.



Press release from Ministry of Defence, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

EU's ministers for defence and foreign affairs discussed permanent structured cooperation

Published 14 November 2017

On 13 November, EU's ministers for foreign affairs and defence met at the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) in Brussels. At the meeting, Sweden was represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström, and the Minister for Defence, Peter Hultqvist.

In conjunction with the meeting, Sweden and the other EU countries that intend to participate in EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation (Pesco) signed a joint declaration of intent to the Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The government will soon submit a proposition to gain Riksdag's approval for Sweden to join the cooperation.

The cooperation is to develop the EU's operational capacity for military crisis management tasks, which can also be at the disposal of UN missions, for example. Pesco offers a framework for cooperation on the development of military capabilities but also the potential for tangible security and defence policy projects.

The Permanent Structured Cooperation is a phase in the implementation of EU's global strategy, for which Sweden has been a driving force and places major emphasis. The Union's collective capability to prevent conflicts and manage external crises with various instruments is to increase within the framework of the follow-up.

The government believes that Pesco will fulfil two strategic objectives: to

strengthen the joint security and defence policy and to contribute to strengthening European solidarity. The Swedish participation will enable Sweden to better influence EU's joint foreign, security and defence policy. The cooperation is inter-governmental and fully in line with Sweden's military policy of non-alignment.

At the Council meeting, the ministers of foreign affairs held a separate discussion on the relationship between the EU and Africa, and how the Union's strategic communication is to be strengthened.

In a separate session, EU's ministers for defence also discussed the cooperation that exists between the EU and Nato in order to strengthen European security and international crisis management capability. In conjunction with the meeting, the European Defence Agency (EDA) held a board meeting in a Defence Ministers format.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven presented the Swedish programme for the 2018 Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers

Published 01 November 2017

The 69th Session of the Nordic Council is taking place in Helsinki between 31 October and 2 November. Sweden is represented by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Nordic Cooperation Margot Wallström, Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog and Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke.

At the opening of the Nordic Council's session in Helsinki on 31 October, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven presented the priorities of the 2018 Swedish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Sweden's Presidency programme, entitled 'An inclusive, innovative and secure Nordic region' is based on three themes.

The first theme, 'An inclusive Nordic region', focuses on the Nordic social model whose hallmarks are trust, equality, gender equality and openness. The starting point is a number of challenges that the Nordic countries share in these areas.

The second theme, 'A sustainable and innovative Nordic region', focuses on Nordic innovation as a driving force for sustainable social transformation. Engagement in environmental issues is, and historically has been, strong in

the Nordic countries, but considerable efforts are needed if we are to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda both in the Nordic region and globally.

The third theme is 'A secure and open Nordic region'. Here, the focus is on cooperation on broad security issues, with security and openness as the watchwords.

In 2018, Sweden will also lead the work of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, and coordinate informal Nordic and Nordic-Baltic foreign and security policy cooperation (N5 and NB8). The ambition is to find points of contact between these forms of cooperation and all countries in the Baltic Sea region to strengthen regional cooperation horizontally.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Three years with a feminist foreign policy – The Ministry for Foreign Affairs presents collected examples of what the policy has achieved

Published 31 October 2017 Updated 31 October 2017

Sweden is the first country in the world to pursue a feminist foreign policy. The aim is to contribute to gender equality and the full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls.

The policy was introduced by Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström in October 2014, and a follow-up conducted by the Swedish Foreign Service shows an intensive implementation process that in only three years has led to concrete results and progress.

The Ministry is now presenting collected examples of how the policy has been pursued and what it has accomplished, both internationally and at country level.

"When I took up the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs, the first thing I did was to announce that Sweden would pursue a feminist foreign policy. The journey has not always been smooth, but these collected examples truly show that the policy has succeeded in making a difference for women and girls around the world. This is more important than ever, given the negative trend we see in the area today," says Ms Wallström.

The feminist foreign policy is being pursued by the Swedish Foreign Service integrating a gender perspective in all its activities. The collected examples

give evidence of impact in all policy areas.

"I meet enormous interest in and curiosity about the concept of a 'feminist foreign policy' both at home and out in the world. Many people wonder what a feminist foreign policy involves and what it can achieve. This paper provides concrete examples of how the policy becomes reality, how different environments require different types of measures and initiatives, and how the Swedish Foreign Service is always finding new ways to reach out and make a difference. Sweden's voice is heard around the world."

UN Women recently awarded Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström a prize for her work with the feminist foreign policy.

Link: [Sweden's feminist foreign policy – examples from three years of implementation](#)



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Government ministers at the United Nations General Assembly

Published 15 September 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Global treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons adopted

Published 07 July 2017

A global treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons was adopted today, as the negotiations at United Nations Headquarters in New York were concluded.

"This is a highly significant process that has now come to a successful conclusion; the first multilateral negotiation on nuclear weapons in more than 20 years," notes Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

"Efforts for a nuclear weapon-free world are more important than ever, and a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons is an important step along the way. As far as Sweden is concerned, it has been natural to take an active part. As expected, the negotiations have not been easy - it is in the nature of things when the views of more than one hundred countries have to be reconciled."

Other weapons of mass destruction – chemical weapons and biological weapons – are already banned under separate conventions. Nuclear weapons are not subject to any such ban, however.

"We live in an increasingly troubled world. Instead of disarmament we are seeing investments being made in modernising nuclear arsenals. We need to break this trend, including through a stronger global norm against nuclear weapons. A prohibition treaty can contribute to this," says Ms Wallström.

The treaty text will now be processed in the Government Offices before the Government takes a position on it. Ultimately, it is up to the Riksdag to decide whether Sweden will ratify the treaty.



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

Prime Minister to welcome Aung San Suu Kyi to Stockholm

Published 09 June 2017

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

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

Programme points

Monday 12 June

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

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

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

Tuesday 13 June

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

Advance registration

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

Advance registration/application for place in photo pool



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Wallström and Lövin open SIPRI Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

Published 03 May 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ms Stephanie Blenckner, Communications Director, SIPRI

Telephone: +46 8 655 97 47

Mobile: +46 708 655 360

Email: blenckner@sipri.org



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström to receive French foreign minister Jean-Marc Ayrault

Published 13 March 2017

On Monday 13 March, French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Jean-Marc Ayrault will visit Sweden for bilateral discussions with Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. The agenda will include a number of current issues linked to EU cooperation, our immediate region and the UN Security Council agenda, including Syria and the Middle East peace process.

Invitation to press conference

Time: Monday 13 March at 13.45

Place: Bella Venezia, Rosenbad 1

Admittance via Kopparporten 13.00–13.40

The press conference will be webcast on www.regeringen.se/

Languages: English and French

Please bring your press credentials



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Invitation: #DigitalDiplomacy – the first public digital meeting between women foreign ministers

Published 07 March 2017

On International Women's Day on 8 March, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will gather women foreign ministers from different parts of the world for a video conference to discuss women, peace and security. The countries taking part are Colombia, Panama, Kenya and Liechtenstein. During the meeting, each minister will have the opportunity to share her experiences and priorities, and give her view of peacebuilding and gender equality in a foreign policy context.

The meeting will be broadcast live on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Facebook page and Twitter account, and on YouTube.

Date: 8 March

Time: 15.00–15.45 (GMT +1)

Links:

[SweMFA Facebook account](#)

[SweMFA Twitter account](#)

[SweMFA YouTube page](#)



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström met Sergei Lavrov in Moscow

Published 22 February 2017 Updated 22 February 2017

Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström had talks on 21 February with Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov in Moscow. Bilateral and regional affairs, European security, Ukraine and issues related to the United Nations Security Council were on the agenda.

"We had a straightforward, frank and constructive discussion, touching on both issues where we profoundly disagree and on areas where Sweden and Russia have a mutual interest in cooperation, such as in the regional organisations in our neighbourhood and issues on the UN Security Council agenda," says Ms Wallström.

Sweden and Russia are both members of the UN Security Council in 2017 and 2018. Ms Wallström today conveyed directly to her Russian counterpart Sweden's view of the situation in Syria, and emphasised the need for a ceasefire, humanitarian access and a political solution to the conflict. The two foreign ministers also discussed the wider situation in the Middle East, including the peace process.

Ms Wallström confirmed that Sweden's non-participation in military alliances remains in place, that Sweden determines its own security policy, and that Sweden considers it essential that international law and the principles of the European security order are respected.

"Sweden takes a serious view of the challenge to the European security order and the principles of international law posed by Russia's aggression towards Ukraine. I note that we are in agreement with Russia on the need for

full compliance with the Minsk agreements. I have reiterated that Sweden does not recognise Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol," says Ms Wallström.

With respect to bilateral relations, Ms Wallström emphasised the importance of people-to-people contacts, and stressed that cooperation between Swedish and Russian organisations should be facilitated. The foreign ministers also discussed violence against women and the situation of journalists and media freedom, including the need for the 2016 attack on Maria Persson Löfgren and other journalists to be fully investigated. Ms Wallström recalled that more than 350 Swedish companies operate in the Russian market, and that their investments have created tens of thousands of jobs. The two ministers also discussed regional cooperation in the Arctic, in the Barents region – with Sweden due to take over the Chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council from Russia later this year – and in the Council of the Baltic Sea States.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Foreign minister discusses nuclear test ban

Published 10 February 2017 Updated 10 February 2017

On 13 February, Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO), will visit Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Ms Wallström and Mr Zerbo will subsequently visit the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) in Kista for a tour and demonstration of detection technology for nuclear tests developed by the Agency.

A press conference will be held at the Agency in Kista on Monday at 12.30, followed by a special tour for interested journalists.

Please send advance notice of participation to Pezhman Fivrin (see contact information below).



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs to visit New York as Sweden assumes presidency of UN Security Council

Published 04 January 2017 Updated 04 January 2017

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will visit New York on 8–11 January in connection with Sweden's presidency and membership of the UN Security Council. During her visit, Ms Wallström will meet the new Secretary-General of the UN, António Guterres, and representatives of the other countries on the Security Council.

On 10 January, Sweden will host a ministerial-level open debate in the Security Council on conflict prevention. The debate will be the Secretary-General's first formal meeting with the Security Council. The aim is to give him and the Member States a basis for strengthening the UN's efforts to prevent the lapse and relapse into conflict. The debate will be led by Ms Wallström.

- Sweden in the UN Security Council
- Programme for Sweden's membership of the United Nations Security Council
- Opinion piece: Sweden takes its seat on the UN Security Council



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

UN Security Council adopts resolution on Israeli settlements

Published 23 December 2016 Updated 23 December 2016

On 23 December the UN Security Council adopted a resolution on the Middle East peace process. The Security Council notes that Israeli settlements on occupied land are illegal and represent a major obstacle to achieving a two-State solution.

The Government welcomes the Security Council's decision, which confirms the EU's and Sweden's view of the settlements.

The Security Council resolution, together with other international initiatives in the area – the French initiative, the recommendations of the Quartet (UN, EU, US and Russia), the Arab Peace Initiative – can help create the conditions for resuming a meaningful peace process. The resolution should be seen against the background of the rapidly deteriorating situation on the ground, with settlement expansion and demolitions, violence against civilians and a very worrying Israeli draft bill on the retroactive legalisation of 'outposts'.

"I welcome the Security Council's decision. It is very positive that the Council for the first time in eight years has agreed on a resolution on the peace process. The resolution provides important clarification under international law of the international community's view of the settlements and is a basis for Sweden's coming work on the Security Council. It can also help instil hope among young people in the region of a future two-State solution in which Israel and Palestine can live side by side in peace and security," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs to visit Palestine

Published 12 December 2016 Updated 12 December 2016

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will visit Palestine on 15–17 December for bilateral talks with President Mahmoud Abbas and Foreign Minister Riad Malki.

The talks will focus on how Sweden and Palestine can deepen their relations following Sweden's recognition of Palestine, the importance of democratic development, respect for human rights and gender equality, and what can be done to strengthen hopes of a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security.

During her visit, Ms Wallström will also meet representatives of civil society. The visit to Palestine is important for Sweden's efforts within the French initiative for the peace process in the Middle East.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Foreign Minister Margot Wallström inaugurates new Embassy in Tunisia

Published 24 October 2016 Updated 24 October 2016

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will visit Tunisia on 25–26 October for the official inauguration of Sweden's Embassy in Tunisia. During her visit Ms Wallström will meet with President Beji Caid Essebsi, Minister of Foreign Affairs Khemaies Jhinaoui, and representatives of civil society and Swedish businesses in Tunisia. The Embassy is also accredited for Libya and Ms Wallström will meet with Libyan representatives.

Swedish–Tunisian bilateral relations have been strengthened since the State Visit by Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi to Sweden in November 2015 and the Swedish Government's subsequent decision to re-establish an embassy in Tunis. The first meeting of the Ministerial Forum, as envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding signed during the State Visit, will take place during the visit and will include bilateral cooperation on political and trade matters. Ms Wallström will also voice Sweden's support for Tunisia's democratic consolidation in the face of the broad challenges that remain.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström to address UN General Assembly in New York

Published 16 September 2016 Updated 16 September 2016

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will visit New York from 18 to 23 September in connection with the opening of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The theme of the general debate in the General Assembly this year is 'The Sustainable Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world'. Ms Wallström will deliver Sweden's address.

During her week in New York, Ms Wallström will attend a range of meetings and debates on topics including migration and refugees, peacebuilding, disarmament and gender-based violence in conflicts. She will also have preparatory talks ahead of Sweden's membership of the UN Security Council 2017–2018.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs to take part in informal OSCE ministerial meeting

Published 30 August 2016 Updated 30 August 2016

On 1 September, foreign ministers from the participating States of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) will gather for an informal ministerial meeting in Potsdam.

At the meeting, the ministers will discuss current security policy challenges in the OSCE region, and the preparations ahead of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Hamburg in December. The meeting is being held at the invitation of Germany, which holds the 2016 chairmanship of the OSCE.

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.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström to welcome Baltic foreign ministers

Published 23 August 2016 Updated 23 August 2016

On 27 August it will be 25 years since Sweden re-established diplomatic relations with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania after the countries regained their independence. To celebrate this anniversary, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström has invited her three Baltic counterparts to Stockholm on 30 August for talks, followed by dinner.

Tid: 30 augusti 2016 at 15.00

Plats: Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Gustav Adolfs torg 1

A press conference will be held at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs following the meeting.

Press credentials are required.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden to open embassy in Lebanon

Published 14 July 2016 Updated 14 July 2016

The Government has today decided to open an embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. The embassy will be fully operational next year.

The embassy's activities will mainly involve political reporting and development cooperation, with a special focus on the Syria crisis and its repercussions in Lebanon. The opening of an embassy will strengthen relations with Lebanon and create better conditions for the implementation and follow-up of Sweden's five-year regional development cooperation strategy for the Syria crisis. The strategy encompasses SEK 1.7 billion until 2020. In addition, Sweden has contributed more than SEK 2.2 billion in humanitarian aid to the region since the outbreak of the conflict. There is currently an honorary consulate in Beirut.

"With an embassy in Lebanon we will have the opportunity to improve the prospects of an active role for Sweden in the region, with a focus on the Syria crisis. Lebanon and Sweden are affected by the Syria conflict in different ways, and it is therefore very good news that we can now strengthen our bilateral relations," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

State Visit to Germany

Published 22 June 2016 Updated 30 June 2016

King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia will pay a State Visit to Germany on 5–8 October 2016 at the invitation of Federal President Joachim Gauck. The Government will be represented by Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The State Visit is an opportunity to further strengthen the close political, cultural and economic ties between Sweden and Germany. Innovation, sustainability and openness are the main themes of the visit.

Germany is Sweden's most important trading partner, and a Swedish business delegation will accompany the State Visit, which will offer Swedish companies the opportunity to further build on already strong trade relations.

The four-day visit will take place in the cities of Berlin, Hamburg, Wittenberg and Leipzig.

Further information about the programme and participants will be published nearer the time of the visit.

To editorial offices

Swedish media representatives need special accreditation from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to cover the State Visit. The deadline for accreditation applications is Friday 23 September 2016.

Accreditation application for State Visit to Germany

For German and international media representatives, accreditation will be

dealt with by the German Federal Press Office.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Government reshuffle, 25 May 2016

Published 25 May 2016 Updated 01 June 2016

Newly appointed ministers

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

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

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

Changes by ministry

Prime Minister's Office

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

Ministry of Employment

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

Integration.

Ministry of Finance

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

Ministry of Justice

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

Ministry of the Environment and Energy

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

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

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

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

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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

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

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

Press contacts for the Prime Minister and newly

appointed ministers

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Anne Ekberg, Press Secretary tel: +46 72 542 69 40 

Erik Nises, Press Secretary tel: +46 72 542 03 74 

Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde

Darina Agha, Press Secretary tel: +46 72 708 16 27 

Minister for the Environment Karolina Skog

Jesper Liveröd, Press Secretary tel: +46 73 052 92 32 

Minister for Housing and Digital Development Peter Eriksson

Agneta Boström, Press Secretary tel: +46 70 260 24 84 



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Wallström and Lövin to attend global summit in Istanbul

Published 23 May 2016 Updated 23 May 2016

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

The Summit is taking place at a time in which there are more, and more extensive, humanitarian crises than the world has seen for some time. If all of the 125 million people around the globe in urgent need of humanitarian assistance were gathered in a single country, that country would be the eleventh largest in the world. At the same time, UN appeals are underfunded and there is inadequate respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

At the Summit, Ms Wallström will lead a round-table discussion on the situation of women and girls in humanitarian crises. She will also take part in discussions on humanitarian financing. Ms Lövin will take part in discussions on political leadership and how war and conflict can be prevented. The ministers will also take part in a number of side events on topics including international humanitarian law, sexual and gender-based violence, and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

Sweden has produced around 50 specific actions, encompassing all seven round-table subject areas, which will be presented at the Summit. Sweden's main priorities at the WHS are strengthening international humanitarian law, ensuring the influence of women and girls, promoting new forms of financing, and generating hope and a future for all women, men and children

trapped in protracted crises.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government has appointed two special ambassadors – one Ambassador for Human Rights and one Ambassador for Disarmament

Published 23 May 2016 Updated 23 May 2016

To give greater focus to human rights and disarmament issues, the Government has today appointed two special ambassadors – one Ambassador for Human Rights and one Ambassador for Disarmament. Raising Sweden's profile in the area of human rights and democracy and Sweden's work on international disarmament is in line with the Government's foreign policy.

Annika Ben David has been appointed Ambassador for Human Rights. She is currently Sweden's Ambassador in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has previously worked on human rights issues at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The Ambassador for Human Rights is to represent Swedish policy in international organisations and in contacts with other countries. Ms Ben David will have a close dialogue with civil society organisations that are active in this area.

Eva Walder has been appointed Ambassador for Disarmament. She is currently Director-General for Trade Policy and has previously been Sweden's Ambassador in both Finland and Singapore. Ms Walder will represent Sweden in various multilateral and international negotiation

processes within the framework of the broad disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. As Ambassador she will also advance and develop Swedish disarmament policy in other international and national contexts.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström to take part in NATO foreign ministers meeting

Published 18 May 2016 Updated 18 May 2016

On 20 May, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will take part in the NATO foreign ministers meeting in Brussels for discussions on European security and the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

On 19–20 May, the NATO foreign ministers will come together for one of their regular meetings. As part of this meeting, talks will be held for the first time between partner countries Sweden and Finland, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and NATO. Issues related to European security will be raised, with a focus on cooperation between the EU and NATO, and developments in the Baltic Sea region. In addition, Ms Wallström will take part in the meeting on NATO's training and advisory mission in Afghanistan – the Resolute Support Mission – in the light of Sweden's contribution to this mission.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström to address UN General Assembly and Security Council

Published 09 May 2016 Updated 09 May 2016

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will visit New York on 10–12 May to speak at the high-level thematic debate in the General Assembly on peace and security, and to address the Security Council concerning terrorism.

During her visit, Ms Wallström will also host a meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen peace and security efforts. In addition, the Minister for Foreign Affairs will speak at a number of other meetings and debates on humanitarian financing, mediation and women's participation in peace processes, the election of a new Secretary-General, and other issues.

After the visit to New York, Ms Wallström will travel to Washington DC to take part in President Obama's US-Nordic Leaders Summit.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

New Swedish ambassador to combat trafficking in human beings

Published 04 May 2016 Updated 04 May 2016

The Government has decided to create a new position for an ambassador to combat trafficking in human beings. This decision will strengthen Sweden's international role as a leading human rights defender. Per-Anders Sunesson, currently head of department at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, will assume this new position on 16 May.

Through contact with other governments, the Swedish ambassador will be a driving force in efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, strengthen the EU's work and identify future partners.

"Sweden is a strong voice on the international stage for gender equality and human rights. Women and men must have the same power to shape society and their own lives. Creating a new position for an ambassador to combat human trafficking is a step in this direction," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The ambassador will contribute to the achievement of Global Goal 16, target 2: "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children".

"Through the ambassador's work, Sweden will help to ensure that the vulnerable situation of girls and women will be given particular attention in international efforts to combat human trafficking. The ambassador will also

have the important task of ensuring that our knowledge about human trafficking is continually updated so that the vulnerable receive the protection and support they need from the Swedish authorities," says Åsa Regnér, Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality.

Sunesson has coordinated action against human trafficking

The new Ambassador, Per-Anders Sunesson, has a legal background and in recent years has held various positions at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, including head of social services, disability issues and child rights. Sunesson has also previously worked at the Ministry of Justice, where his area was the standing of victims in criminal proceedings, and at the National Board of Health and Welfare, where he was responsible for supervision of health and medical care, and social services.

Per-Anders Sunesson has also been the Government Offices coordinator for issues related to vulnerable EU citizens and human trafficking. Until today he has led the work on developing the Government's new action plan to combat human trafficking. Sunesson has extensive experience of collaboration with a wide range of parties and organisations.

Human trafficking affects millions of people every year

Trafficking in human beings is one of the most serious forms of organised crime and a modern form of slavery. It is estimated that more than two million people are trafficked into slavery each year. Almost four fifths of the victims – mostly women and underage girls – are sold into the sex industry. Between 2012 and 2015, several hundred unaccompanied children who came to Sweden may have been victims of trafficking, according to data from the Stockholm County Administrative Board, which is responsible for coordinating national efforts.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden supports project to involve more women in peace processes

Published 31 March 2016 Updated 31 March 2016

When peace processes also include women, the resulting peace is more sustainable. Sweden is now entering a partnership with Georgetown University's Institute for Women, Peace and Security in Washington DC, by financially supporting a project that will study women's roles in peace processes in Ukraine and Myanmar. The cooperation will be announced today by Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström when she visits the Institute.

Support to the Institute for Women, Peace and Security's project amounts to SEK 1 million. Ms Wallström will also meet students and researchers at the university and deliver a speech about the connection between security and development, and women's participation in social processes.

Ms Wallström will continue her visit in Washington DC by taking part in the Nuclear Security Summit, which will continue until 1 April.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs to take part in Nuclear Security Summit in Washington

Published 29 March 2016 Updated 29 March 2016

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will lead the Swedish delegation to the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS), which will take place on 31 March–1 April in Washington DC. President Obama will host the meeting, which will gather political leaders from 52 countries. The aim is to strengthen international cooperation to secure and protect nuclear material and nuclear installations and prevent nuclear terrorism.

"The idea of terrorists getting their hands on sensitive materials that can be used for nuclear weapons or dirty bombs is horrifying. Such a scenario must of course be prevented and deterred, and this is best done in cooperation with others," says Ms Wallström.

The past week's tragic events in Brussels show how important this summit is. Belgian police suspect that the terrorists behind the attacks at the airport and underground station also had plans to attack one of the country's two nuclear power plants and have increased security around them.

The NSS process, which began with President Obama's key policy speech in Prague in 2009 on disarmament and non-proliferation, has meant that important issues concerning nuclear security have been highlighted at the highest political level and measures have been taken regarding legislation and other practical steps.

In February 2016, Sweden hosted the final preparatory meeting ahead of the coming summit and a number of plans for negotiation were concluded.

Ms Wallström will arrive in Washington DC on 30 March, partly for bilateral talks with representatives of the US administration.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs to Berlin

Published 11 February 2016 Updated 11 February 2016

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will meet Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Berlin on 17 February.

Ms Wallström will discuss issues including the bilateral relations between Sweden and Germany, migration, the situation in Russia and Ukraine, and the situation in the Middle East.

A press conference will be held in connection with the meeting at the Federal Foreign Office media centre at 17.00.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Margot Wallström to participate in African Union summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27–28 January

Published 26 January 2016 Updated 26 January 2016

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström is visiting Addis Ababa on 27–28 January to take part in the foreign ministers' session of the African Union summit, in which heads of state and foreign ministers from 53 countries will participate.

The theme of this year's summit is 'the Africa Year of Human Rights, in particular, with focus on the Rights of Women'.

In connection with the foreign ministers' meeting, Ms Wallström will hold bilateral talks with the leaders of several countries. During her trip, Ms Wallström will have an opportunity to discuss security policy developments in Europe and Africa, migration, gender equality and human rights, and the multilateral system in a changing world.

More information about the summit can be found on the African Union website.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Examen de la politique suédoise au Sahara occidental

Published 15 January 2016 Updated 15 January 2016

Le ministère des Affaires étrangères a reçu aujourd'hui le rapport de l'examen de la politique suédoise concernant le Sahara occidental effectué par l'ambassadeur Fredrik Florén. Ce rapport fait un certain nombre de recommandations, notamment le soutien au processus engagé sous l'égide de l'ONU pour lequel le Secrétaire général a annoncé de nouvelles initiatives, et constate qu'au regard du droit international, les exigences pour la reconnaissance du Sahara occidental / de la République Arabe Sahraouie Démocratique ne sont pas remplies.

- La question du Sahara occidental relève pour l'ONU d'un processus de décolonisation et est à l'ordre du jour du Conseil de sécurité, a déclaré le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Margot Wallström. Le gouvernement soutient les efforts de l'ONU pour trouver une solution négociée juste et mutuellement acceptable qui satisfasse le droit des Sahraouis à l'autodétermination. Nous nous félicitons de voir le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies prendre maintenant de nouvelles initiatives dans le but de trouver une solution au conflit et nous apportons notre soutien le plus entier au travail effectué par l'envoyé spécial de l'ONU pour le Sahara occidental, Christopher Ross.

- Le gouvernement va maintenant intensifier son soutien au processus engagé par l'ONU pour trouver une solution au conflit qui soit juste et mutuellement acceptable, a ajouté Margot Wallström.

Pour soutenir ce processus, plusieurs initiatives visant à accroître l'engagement de la Suède sur la question du Sahara occidental sont envisagées, comme par exemple:

- un renforcement, dans le cadre de l'ONU, du travail effectué pour faciliter une solution négociée.
- la poursuite de notre engagement pour le respect du droit international.
- une aide humanitaire accrue.
- un engagement pour établir des contacts de haut niveau avec les parties.
- un engagement pour promouvoir le dialogue entre les parties.

- Nous voulons consacrer toute notre énergie au soutien du processus de l'ONU qui semble maintenant avoir un nouveau souffle, a déclaré Margot Wallström. Ce processus ne tirerait aucun bénéfice d'une reconnaissance. La situation au Sahara occidental diffère en outre de celle qui prévalait dans les états que la Suède a auparavant reconnus. Le gouvernement n'a donc pas l'intention de reconnaître le Sahara occidental et adhère, en conséquence, à l'appréciation de la question faite par les précédents gouvernements.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Review of Western Sahara policy

Published 15 January 2016 Updated 15 January 2016

Today, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs received the review of Western Sahara policy conducted by Ambassador Fredrik Florén. The review provides a number of recommendations, including that support should be given to the UN process for which the Secretary-General has announced new initiatives; the review also notes that the criteria required by international law for recognising the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic/Western Sahara are not met.

"The matter of Western Sahara is a decolonisation issue at the UN and is on the Security Council agenda," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. "The Government supports the UN's efforts aimed at finding a fair, mutually acceptable, negotiated solution where the right of the Western Saharan people to self-determination is satisfied. We welcome that the UN Secretary-General is now taking new initiatives to find a solution to the conflict and fully support efforts by Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Christopher Ross," she continues.

"The Government will now intensify support to the UN process to find a fair, mutually accepted solution to the conflict," adds Ms Wallström.

In support of this process, several initiatives are being considered to increase Swedish involvement in the Western Sahara issue in the future, such as:

- strengthened UN efforts to facilitate a negotiated solution;
- continued commitment to compliance with international law;
- increased humanitarian aid;
- commitment to high-level contacts with the parties; and

- commitment to promote dialogue between the parties.

"There will be full focus on supporting the UN process that may now gain new initiatives," says Ms Wallström. "Recognition would not benefit this process. Furthermore, the situation in Western Sahara differs from that of states which Sweden has recognised in the past. Therefore, the Government does not intend to recognise Western Sahara and concurs with previous governments' assessments in the matter."



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Government re-establishes an international law and disarmament delegation

Published 18 December 2015 Updated 18 December 2015

On Thursday 17 December, the Government decided to establish an international law and disarmament delegation, tasked with following and analysing developments in the areas of humanitarian law and disarmament.

The purpose of the delegation will be to develop proposals for Swedish positions and initiatives on issues concerning humanitarian law and disarmament, including when these encompass or touch upon other areas of international law, such as human rights.

Re-establishment of the delegation is in line with the Government's declaration that human rights, international law, international disarmament and work to combat terrorism and weapons of mass destruction must be cornerstones of Swedish foreign policy.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs will chair the delegation. It is expected to meet two to three times a year. Between meetings, work will be conducted in working groups that will provide analyses and serve as think-tanks. The next step will be to appoint the delegation's members, who are to be experts in international law and disarmament issues, from the Riksdag, the Government Offices, government agencies, civil society and the research community.



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

Government decides to open new embassies

Published 11 December 2015 Updated 11 December 2015

The Government has decided to open embassies in Lima, Manila and Tunis. The new missions abroad will be inaugurated in 2016.

The main focus of the new embassies will be to strengthen trade and investment promotion and the political dialogue.

"We see these embassies as a way to also create jobs in Sweden. It is important to improve opportunities in these markets which are somewhat farther away and somewhat harder to enter. In this, the embassies play a very important role," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The Government announced its intention to open an embassy in Tunis in connection with the State Visit by the Tunisian President back in November. The formal decision has now been taken by the Government.

"This signals that we want to take part in consolidating peaceful developments in the country and an inclusive democratic process," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Tunis

Tunisia is the country where the Arab Spring began in 2010. The country's president recently conducted a State Visit to Sweden. Swedish companies have long experience of the Tunisian market. Exports are worth some SEK 750 million per year, with considerable potential to grow when Tunisia's economy becomes more stable. The aim of establishing an embassy in Tunis

is to strengthen promotion, and in particular trade promotion, and to further develop the political dialogue and follow-up of efforts for human rights and democratic development.

Lima

With 30 million inhabitants, Peru is the fourth largest country in South America in terms of population. Its economic growth is among the highest in the region. At the same time, substantial investments are needed in infrastructure, education and welfare services. The positive economic and political developments in recent years have led to increased interest in trade and investment in the Peruvian market. Last year, Swedish exports to Peru amounted to just over SEK 1.3 billion. Initially, the promotion activities in Peru will mainly focus on sectors such as infrastructure, health and medical care, mining and corporate social responsibility (CSR). The embassy's tasks will also include political monitoring.

Manila

The Philippines has a population of more than 100 million and is one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. Swedish exports to the Philippines amount to nearly SEK 1 billion. Almost 22 000 Swedes visited the country last year and this number is expected to increase as the national tourism industry grows. The embassy's main task will be to promote trade and investment exchange with the Philippines. It will also conduct political monitoring.

Each of the new missions abroad will be staffed by two staff members posted abroad from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and a number of locally employed staff.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

New initiative to protect women and girls against violence in Myanmar

Published 10 December 2015 Updated 10 December 2015

Today, in connection with International Human Rights Day, Sweden is launching a new initiative to safeguard the rights of women and girls in Myanmar. The project will be conducted jointly with Finland and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and will encompass SEK 100 million over a three-year period. Sweden's contribution will amount to SEK 20 million.

The 'Women and Girls First' project will be implemented in cooperation with local and international partners and focus on the most vulnerable women and girls in the remote and conflict-affected provinces of Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan. The aim of the initiative is to prevent and respond to the violence committed against women and girls in Myanmar, and to improve their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The initiative covers preventive measures in the areas of reproductive health and emergency medical care, as well as care, support and treatment for women subjected to violence and rape. Another aim is to increase women's and girls' knowledge about their rights, and also to mobilise men and boys in gender equality work. Improved health for women and children, with a special focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, is also one of three focus areas in Sweden's bilateral cooperation strategy for the country.

"I welcome the launch of this initiative together with our cooperation partners, UNFPA and Finland, to address violence against women and girls. This is particularly important in areas of conflict and where certain ethnic

groups, such as the Rohingya, experience discrimination and lack protection and care in the event of abuse," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. "The recent elections show that the people of Myanmar voted for a change towards democracy, and we look forward to working closely with the new government," she adds.

One important step in the democratisation process is to increase respect for the human rights of all people in Myanmar, regardless of ethnicity, religion or sex. This is why it is important to change men's attitudes, increase women's knowledge about their rights and contribute to the building of a state under the rule of law, where everyone is given protection.

"This initiative is an important part of Sweden's support to Myanmar. Promoting gender equality and women's and girls' enhanced possibilities is a prerequisite for Myanmar being able to move towards a more democratic society. 'Women and Girls First' aims to enable just this kind of development," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven received President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan in Stockholm

Published 30 November 2015 Updated 30 November 2015

On Friday 4 December, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven received the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, in Stockholm. They met to discuss topics including developments in Afghanistan, Swedish support and the international refugee crisis. A cooperation agreement between the two countries was also signed.

Invitation to press conference

Mr Löfven will receive President Ghani in the entrance to Rosenbad.
Photo opportunity.

Discussions.
Photo pool.

Signing of cooperation agreement.
Photo pool.

Joint press conference with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and President Ashraf Ghani in Bella Venezia Language: English.

The press conference will be webcast live on www.regeringen.se

To editorial offices

Special media accreditation obtained via the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is

required to follow the programme. Please apply to the International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no later than 18.00 on 2 December.

Apply for accreditation

The assembly place and time for each programme point will be announced to the media representatives concerned.

Programme points, 4 December

During his visit to Sweden, President Ghani will also hold bilateral talks with Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist, and meet Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin. He will also meet Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin, and have a meeting with Crown Princess Victoria at the Royal Palace. He will also undertake a visit to the KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

Morning

Visit to the KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

Meeting with Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin.

Late morning

Bilateral talks between President Ghani and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Photo pool.

Afternoon

Bilateral talks between President Ghani and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Photo pool.

Crown Princess Victoria receives President Ghani at the Royal Palace.

Photo pool.

Mr Löfven receives President Ghani in the entrance to Rosenbad as above.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden increasing aid to Iraq and Syria

Published 26 November 2015 Updated 26 November 2015

Today, Sweden is taking a decision on support to the areas in Iraq that have been liberated from ISIL, as well as to areas in Syria controlled by the opposition and in affected neighbouring countries. The increased support totals SEK 79 million.

“This support to Iraq and Syria is important to enable a long-term solution to the conflicts. Sweden continues to work on both the political and the military track, as well as through aid measures,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

“These decisions must be seen as part of Sweden’s broad commitment in the Iraq and Syria crisis. This support to Iraq confirms Sweden’s intention to step up and take responsibility to meet the serious threat that ISIL represents today. Through the Syria fund we can help to ensure that more people in the areas of Syria seriously affected by war gain increased access to water and electricity, and we can contribute to food security,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The UN’s stabilisation measures in Iraq will receive a contribution of almost SEK 35 million. This money will go to a fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the civilian population in the areas liberated from ISIL, thus making it easier for internally displaced persons to return to their homes.

Sweden is providing a new contribution of SEK 16 million to the **Syria Recovery Trust Fund**, which finances rebuilding and the provision of basic social services in the areas of Syria controlled by the opposition.

Syria's neighbouring countries are being subjected to major strains as a result of the very large number of refugees from Syria who have sought protection in these countries. The Government has therefore decided to contribute SEK 28 million to **the Madad Fund**. This fund collects contributions from the EU budget and the Member States for support to refugees and host communities in Syria's neighbouring countries, primarily Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt. Certain countries in the Western Balkans will probably also receive support. In addition, aid can be given to activities within Syria.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Press release: Minister for Foreign Affairs to visit Ukraine together with Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs

Published 13 November 2015 Updated 13 November 2015

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas Linkevičius will visit Ukraine on 17–18 November. The joint visit demonstrates Sweden's and Lithuania's support to Ukraine, both politically and of its reforms.

The ministers will visit Kyiv and Kharkiv. During their visit, the ministers will visit various official representatives, including President Poroshenko, Prime Minister Yatsenyuk and Minister of Foreign Affairs Klimkin, and representatives of the region and the city of Kharkiv.

The ministers will also meet civil society organisations and students.

The trip reflects the great importance Sweden and Lithuania attach to Ukraine.



Press release from Ministry of Defence, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden's contribution to the military training mission in northern Iraq

Published 05 November 2015 Updated 06 November 2015

The Government will present a bill to the Riksdag today on continued Swedish participation in the military training mission in northern Iraq. In the bill, the Government proposes that the Riksdag approve the participation of a Swedish armed force consisting of 35 persons in a military training mission within the framework of the coalition against ISIL in northern Iraq in 2016. The Swedish force is to help train the Iraqi armed forces so as to strengthen their capability to withstand ISIL's advances.

The planned Swedish military contribution should be seen as part of Sweden's broad support to Iraq, which also includes development cooperation and extensive humanitarian support to those affected by ISIL. The contribution is an expression of Sweden's intention to step up and take responsibility to meet the serious threat that ISIL represents today. Sweden also supports the coalition's civilian stabilisation efforts in areas liberated from ISIL.

The basis in international law is comprised of Iraq's request to the international community to provide assistance in fighting ISIL and the bilateral agreements that Iraq enters into with the states that contribute to the mission.

The decision also specifies that the Swedish force can, if necessary, be

reinforced by up to 85 persons (for evacuation and reinforcement operations).



Press release from Ministry of Defence, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Continued Swedish presence in Afghanistan

Published 05 November 2015 Updated 06 November 2015

The Government will present a bill to the Riksdag today on continued Swedish participation in NATO's Resolute Support Mission (RSM), which provides training, advice and assistance in Afghanistan. Together with the 40 or so other troop-contributing countries, Sweden is taking part in the NATO-led mission at the request of the Afghan government. At present, the Resolute Support mission consists of just over 13 000 personnel.

The Government expects that the Swedish military contribution of no more than 50 persons on the ground in Afghanistan will continue until the end of December 2016, with focus remaining on northern Afghanistan. The Afghan security forces have been responsible for maintaining security in the country since summer 2014. The Resolute Support mission is a step in the gradual phasing out of an international military presence in the country. However, the last year has seen an increased level of violence, with the Taliban expanding their attacks against the Afghan government. Consequently, the Afghan government has requested continued support at current levels, which NATO is expected to offer in 2016. The mission is a non-combat mission aimed at providing continued training and advice to the Afghan security forces and relevant institutions in Afghanistan to help continue to build and develop society.

The bill also describes the extensive civilian involvement that Sweden has with Afghanistan, particularly in the area of development cooperation. Sweden has announced long-term support with a total indicative volume range of SEK 8–8.5 billion for the period 2015–2024 within the framework

of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) of July 2012. The TMAF affirms the mutual commitments of the international community and the Afghan government regarding development cooperation in Afghanistan.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government decides to open a Consulate General in New York

Published 29 October 2015 Updated 29 October 2015

The Government decided today to upgrade the Swedish presence in New York by opening a salaried Consulate General. The Consulate General will open in December and replace the honorary consulate currently there.

The focus of the Consulate General in New York will be to promote the image of the innovative, creative and competitive Sweden of today. Trade and investment promotion at the Consulate General is expected to largely focus on conveying knowledge and offering a network and platform for promotion activities for Swedish companies.

“In light of Sweden’s new export strategy, we see a need of a Consulate General in New York, one of the world’s most important cities for promoting Sweden as a brand. The business sector would like to see an official Swedish presence on the ground to promote contacts, trade and investments with the United States,” says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The Consulate General will also work with cultural promotion and contribute to increased cooperation between Sweden and the United States in the area of culture, and also strengthen opportunities for Swedish cultural practitioners to work in New York. It will also conduct consular activities.

“Having a Consulate General in one of the world’s most important cities means that we can create greater knowledge about, and confidence in, Sweden and Swedish solutions. New York is a priority city for Sweden with a large number of Swedes and numerous Swedish companies there”, says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

For a time, the Consulate General will use the premises that currently house

the honorary consulate. Next year, the Consulate General plans to move to new offices. The new mission abroad will be staffed by two people from the MFA and a number of locally employed staff. The Government has not yet decided who will be appointed Consul General.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Binational Commission Sweden-South Africa

Published 16 October 2015 Updated 16 October 2015

This weekend, Deputy President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa will arrive in Stockholm with a ministerial delegation and a number of business representatives. The reason for the visit is the Binational Commission (BNC) between Sweden and South Africa, which is meeting in Stockholm on 19–20 October 2015.

During his visit Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa will meet with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, Deputy Prime Minister Åsa Romson, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for Strategy, Future Issues and Nordic cooperation Kristina Persson.

The Binational Commission meets every other year and is a platform for regular dialogue between the countries, intended to develop our relations in a broad sense. This year's meeting is the ninth.

The meeting will be hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Åsa Romson. The South African delegation will be led by Deputy President Ramaphosa, who will also meet several other Swedish government representatives and business leaders in the course of his visit.

“The Binational Commission is an important platform for Sweden's cooperation with South Africa and I look forward to constructive discussions with my South African colleagues,” says Ms Romson.

A new committee on environmental, water and energy issues is expected to be established at this year's meeting. This will create a space for cooperation

between Swedish agencies such as the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Chemicals Agency and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and their South African counterparts. The intended purpose of the committee is to have constructive discussions on shared social challenges, where exchanges of knowledge and closer cooperation in the area can contribute to finding new solutions.

A special business delegation from South Africa is also on the trip to Stockholm. Its programme has been organised by Business Sweden and will offer opportunities for discussions with Swedish business representatives.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to receive President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil in Stockholm

Published 16 October 2015 Updated 16 October 2015

On Monday 19 October, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will receive the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, in Stockholm. They are meeting to discuss economic exchanges between Sweden and Brazil, climate and sustainability, and defence.

During her visit to Sweden, President Rousseff will also participate with Mr Löfven in a business forum and a meeting with representatives of the City of Stockholm. She will also go to see Norra Djurgårdsstaden and visit companies in Kista and Linköping.

Programme points, 19 October

09.30 Business Forum

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff address a business forum at Grand Hôtel.

10.00 Reception by the Prime Minister at Rosenbad

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff arrive at Rosenbad.

Photo opportunity at the entrance.

Discussions.

Photo pool – meeting room.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll and Minister for Housing, Urban Development

and Information Technology Mehmet Kaplan will also take part in the discussions.

11.15 Press conference at Rosenbad

Mr Löfven and Ms Rouseff hold a joint press conference in Bella Venezia.

The press conference will be webcast live on www.regeringen.se.

Lunch at City Hall

The City of Stockholm hosts a lunch for Mr Löfven and Ms Rouseff at City Hall.

Photo pool.

15.50 Visit to Saab in Linköping

Ms Rouseff and Mr Löfven visit Saab in Linköping.

Advance registration

Advance registration and/or application for a place in the photo pool is required. Please register/apply via the International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no later than 16.00 on 16 October. More detailed information about times and venues of meetings will be sent to media representatives concerned.

Advance registration/application for place in photo pool



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Swedish Government initiates High-Level Group in UN

Published 25 September 2015 Updated 25 September 2015

World leaders are meeting in New York today to adopt 17 global Sustainable Development Goals, which are to be achieved by 2030.

The true test of the entire 2030 Agenda and the global goals is not the adoption of the goals, but that they are implemented throughout the world. The importance of maintaining strong political momentum to realise the new goals cannot be overstated.

The Swedish Government has therefore taken the initiative to start a High-Level Group consisting of nine leaders from various parts of the world to ensure that the 17 global goals and the 2030 Agenda are implemented at all levels of society.

The High-Level Group will work in various ways to promote exchange of experience and discussions on challenges and solutions between governments, civil society, the private sector and international organisations.

Through personal discussions with other world leaders, the High-Level Group will contribute to far-reaching and genuine commitment to implementing the global goals and the 2030 Agenda.

The following are members of the High-Level Group:

- Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff
- Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos
- Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
- Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

- South Africa's President Jacob Zuma
- Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete
- Germany's Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel
- Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi
- Timor-Leste's Prime Minister Rui Maria de Araújo



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden contributing to the IAEA's verification of Iran's nuclear technology programme

Published 11 September 2015 Updated 11 September 2015

In connection with the board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday, Sweden's Ambassador Helen Eduards announced that Sweden is to contribute SEK 1 million to the IAEA for its verification mission in Iran.

The IAEA has a key role to play in verifying that Iran fulfils its commitments under the agreement on the country's nuclear technology programme. The agreement was reached on 14 July between Germany, France, the United Kingdom, China, Russia, the United States (EU3+3) and Iran, and it was hailed by Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström as a diplomatic victory.

“Sweden has been working for a long time to protect and strengthen the IAEA's important mandate for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. I am therefore pleased that Sweden is now able to contribute in this way to the verification mission in Iran,” says Ms Wallström.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

The Government to take part in global summit and UN General Assembly

Published 02 September 2015 Updated 10 September 2015

Reminder. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin and Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson will take part in the opening of the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in late September.

This year, the week will begin with the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit. On 25–26 September, the new global Sustainable Development Goals, that are to replace the Millennium Development Goals, will be adopted by all UN Member States in the presence of representatives of civil society organisations and enterprises. Mr Löfven will give an address at the Summit, take part in seminars and roundtable discussions and hold bilateral meetings with other heads of government. Directly following the Summit, the General Assembly will open the General Debate of the 70th session since the United Nations was founded. Mr Löfven will deliver a speech on Swedish priorities in the UN and participate in panel debates on UN peacebuilding operations.

President Barack Obama, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and Pope Francis will also take part during the week.

Mr Löfven and Ms Lövin will be at the UN on 25–30 September. Ms Wallström will be in New York between 25 September and 3 October. Ms

Romson will take part in the Summit on 25–27 September.

Press briefing

Ahead of the Swedish delegation's trip to the Summit and the UN General Assembly, we will hold a press briefing, where State Secretary Hans Dahlgren and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Annika Söder and others will describe the Government's objective for the trip and the programme.

Time: Thursday 17 September at 16.00.

Venue: Rosenbad

Registration (required) to the press briefing via Dan Lundqvist Dahlin:
dan.lundqvist.dahlin@regeringskansliet.se

Accreditation

Accreditation for the Summit closes on 9 September.

Information on accreditation is available on the following web page:
<http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/UNGA70.shtml>

For questions about accreditation, please contact Jeanette Mattsson, Press and Communication Officer at Sweden's Permanent Representation at the UN: jeanette.mattsson@gov.se, tel: 001 212 583 2591.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Foreign minister takes part in meeting of UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing

Published 28 August 2015 Updated 28 August 2015

On 28–29 August, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström is in Alpbach, Austria. Ms Wallström and the other members of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing will discuss proposals on how the humanitarian financing system can be reformed. This is the third meeting of the High-Level Panel.

The agenda includes discussions on the alternative solutions to humanitarian financing that are available from UN Member States, the private sector, individuals and regional organisations to bridge the growing gap between global humanitarian needs and available financial resources. In addition to the High-Level Panel discussions, the programme also includes presentations from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Bank. The High-Level Panel will also discuss which reform proposals should be presented to the UN Secretary-General at next year's World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

Apart from the High-Level Panel's work, Ms Wallström will also take part in an open panel debate together with the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and others during her visit. The theme of the discussion is humanitarian effectiveness.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Stefan Löfven to receive Marshall Islands President Christopher J. Loeak

Published 21 August 2015 Updated 21 August 2015

On Tuesday 25 August, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will receive Marshall Islands President Christopher J. Loeak for bilateral talks on issues including the challenges of climate change and what is needed for sustainable development.

A photo opportunity for the media will be arranged during the visit.

President Loeak will visit Sweden on 23–27 August to take part in *World Water Week*, which is being organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

In connection with his visit, President Loeak will have discussions with Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström in addition to the bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Löfven.

Press programme 25 August

10.30 Prime Minister Löfven receives President Loeak on his arrival at Rosenbad. Photo opportunity.

10.35 Bilateral talks. Rosenbad Dining Room.

Photo pool

Enter via Kopparporten, Rosenbad, from 09.45. Photographers must arrive

by 10.15.

Please bring your press credentials.

Registration required via email to Dan Lundqvist Dahlin



Press release

Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete to visit Sweden

Published 29 May 2015 Updated 29 May 2015

On Wednesday 3 June, Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete will arrive in Stockholm for a visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

Programme points include an audience with HM The King and talks with the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Information Technology. President Kikwete will also have lunch talks with the Speaker of the Riksdag and will visit Karolinska Institutet, Sida and Business Sweden.

The programme will have a special focus on promoting trade relations between Tanzania and Sweden, especially in the areas of ICT, energy, and infrastructure. The agenda for the visit also includes development cooperation, and domestic policy and regional development in Tanzania's neighbourhood.

Photo opportunity

17.15: Prime Minister Löfven receives President Kikwete at the entrance to Rosenbad. Photo opportunity.

17.20: Bilateral talks. Rosenbad Dining Room. Photo pool.

Photographers enter via Kopparporten between 16.45 and 17.00. Please bring your press credentials.

Please notify Dan Lundqvist Dahlin if you wish to attend.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Prime Minister invites Mahmoud Abbas

Published 04 February 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven has invited Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to Sweden.

On 10 February, Mr Löfven and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will meet President Abbas to discuss bilateral relations, the peace process in the Middle East and how Sweden can contribute following its recognition of the State of Palestine.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Foreign minister to UN Headquarters and Washington DC

Published 21 January 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will visit New York and Washington DC on 25–29 January. During her trip, Ms Wallström will visit the UN in New York and meet with representatives of the US government in Washington DC.

Among those Ms Wallström will meet in New York on 25–27 January are UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson. In addition, her programme includes a number of events related to peace, security, development and human rights. Ms Wallström will present an international report on how UN peacekeeping operations can be improved. She will also host a high-level panel on tolerance and dialogue in the fight against radical extremism, take part in a seminar on how to limit trade in conventional weapons, and discuss feminist foreign policy with women UN ambassadors.

“The trip is a way of showing the Government’s strong commitment to the UN. I look forward to the meetings with leading representatives of the UN and other Member States to discuss what we can do together to meet the great challenges facing the world. The trip is also an important part of Sweden’s candidacy for a seat on the UN Security Council in 2017–2018,” says Ms Wallström ahead of her trip.

The foreign minister’s trip will continue in Washington DC on 28–29 January. She will meet representatives of the US government and think tanks for discussions on current foreign policy issues. The discussions will also focus on cooperation opportunities with the US in the areas of gender equality, disarmament and climate.

“The US is a key global actor with whom Sweden has very good relations. I very much look forward to meeting my counterparts in Washington to discuss how Sweden and the US can further strengthen their cooperation,” says Ms Wallström ahead of her trip.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs to visit Maputo

Published 14 January 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will visit Maputo on 15 January to attend the inauguration of Mozambique's new president, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi.

Sweden and Mozambique have historically enjoyed good relations that go back to the time of Sweden's support for the liberation movements in Southern Africa before independence. As our second largest recipient of bilateral aid, Mozambique has long been a close partner of Sweden.

This visit will provide Ms Wallström with the opportunity to meet many leading representatives of other countries, especially in this important region.

“Sweden and Mozambique have long-standing and excellent relations. My visit will be an opportunity to consolidate these, but also to look ahead to how we can broaden and develop our relations. Mozambique has a great deal of potential as a growth market in Africa, but it also faces many challenges,” says Ms Wallström.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office

Stefan Löfven to meet Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi

Published 09 December 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

On Friday 12 December, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will meet Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi for lunch at Rosenbad. Ministers Margot Wallström, Ylva Johansson and Åsa Regnér will also be present.

Kailash Satyarthi was awarded the prize jointly with Malala Yousafzai for his struggle against the suppression of children and young people, against child labour and for the right of all children to education.

Date and time: Friday 12 December at 12.00.

Venue: Bella Venezia, Rosenbad.

Photo opportunity. Assembly for photographers at Bella Venezia at 11.30. Prior notification of attendance is obligatory.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden recognises Palestine and increases aid

Published 30 October 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

Sweden has today recognised the State of Palestine. The Government considers that the international law criteria for the recognition of Palestine have been satisfied.

Sweden hopes that its decision will facilitate a peace agreement by making the parties less unequal, supporting the moderate Palestinian forces and contributing to hope at a time when tensions are increasing and no peace talks are taking place.

“The purpose of Sweden’s recognition is to contribute to a future in which Israel and Palestine can live side by side in peace and security. We want to contribute to creating more hope and belief in the future among young Palestinians and Israelis who might otherwise run the risk of believing that there is no alternative to the current situation,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström (Social Democratic Party).

The Government also adopted a five-year aid strategy including substantially increased support to Palestinian state-building. Bilateral aid to Palestine will increase by SEK 500 million to SEK 1.5 billion over the next five-year period, in addition to Sweden’s substantial humanitarian assistance.

“Sweden’s contribution aims among other things to make it easier for Palestinians to support themselves and to continue living where they are, to strengthen women’s empowerment and strengthen resilience to environmental and climate changes. This increased assistance means support to all moderate and non-violent forces in Palestine promoting democracy, human rights and gender equality,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin (Green Party).



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Nordic energy efficiency and humanitarian support initiative in eastern and southern Ukraine

Published 29 October 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

The Nordic foreign ministers today decided to provide early assistance to Ukraine in the field of humanitarian reconstruction and energy efficiency. The aid is to be made available for the affected and vulnerable regions of eastern and southern Ukraine.

- It is vital to assist the local population and internally displaced people, and thus to start a normalisation process in these parts of Ukraine, the foreign ministers of the Nordic countries said.

The assistance will be provided through the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), which has a well established and effective presence in Ukraine.

In the first instance, the Nordic initiative will address key social infrastructure such as schools, kindergartens and health centers, and possibly also damaged housing in certain cases.

Some projects already in the NEFCO pipeline will be accelerated to the extent possible, while other new projects will be identified and agreed with the Ukrainian authorities. Funding of EUR 2 million will be available for this purpose in 2014, with further allocations in 2015.

Under this initiative, NEFCO will be able to provide matching funding for other suitable projects. Projects will be implemented in districts in Eastern and Southern Ukraine, including in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

This Nordic initiative will cover only a small part of Ukraine's reconstruction and energy efficiency needs. The intention is to start a process that may expand during implementation and that could be linked to Ukraine's national programmes and other international assistance.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Wallström to take part in international donor conference on Gaza

Published 10 October 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

On Sunday 12 October, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will take part in an international donor conference in Cairo on the reconstruction of Gaza.

The conference will be attended by ministers and representatives from around 70 countries, including Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini and US Secretary of State John Kerry.