



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Today, Minister Peter Eriksson announces that he is resigning as Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation.

Published 17 December 2020

– I have worked in a number of different roles in politics for three decades. Now is the time to leave room for new green voices who want to fight for a sustainable world.

Peter Eriksson has worked as a politician for thirty years and has held positions of trust as chairman of the municipal board, as an parliamentarian in the Swedish parliament, as party leader for the Swedish Green Party, as an parliamentarian in the European parliament, as Minister for Housing, Minister for Digitalisation and as Minister for International Development Cooperation.

– Being Minister for International Development Cooperation is perhaps the most meaningful thing I have done. Swedish development assistance makes life worth living for millions of people every day, says Peter Eriksson, Minister for International Development Cooperation.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Central role for environment and climate in this year's Human Development Report

Published 16 December 2020

Today, Sweden will co-host the global launch of the UN flagship project, the Human Development Report. This year's report highlights how economic and human development can occur and be promoted in a way that does not come at the expense of the planet's resources.

In addition, an upgraded version of the widely recognised Human Development Index will be presented, which this year also includes environmental and climate indicators in its calculation of countries' prosperity. Sweden is ranked 6th in the updated index and 7th in the traditional index.

The report will be launched virtually this year, which means everyone will have the opportunity to follow it live at 18.30.

You can register [here](#).

“I am delighted to launch the UN's 30th Human Development Report. The report not only reflects countries' actions to create prosperity for their citizens but also their actions in relation to the strain on our planet. It is right and courageous of the UN and I welcome it,” says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The Prime Minister will participate in the launch ceremony, as will HRH Crown Princess Victoria via a pre-recorded video message.

Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson will speak at the launch.

“The UN is now taking an important step by including the climate and the environment in the report’s index. It is gratifying that Sweden has achieved such a high ranking, but we all have much more to do. A green transition is needed and Sweden is proud to support developing countries in making this transition,” says Mr Eriksson.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

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

Published 01 December 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Employment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden increases its support to combat violence against women and children

Published 25 November 2020

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, men's violence against women and violence in close relationships is increasing. Sweden therefore intends to contribute SEK 122 million to efforts to eliminate men's violence against women and violence in close relationships, combat violence against children and strengthen sexual and reproductive health and rights.

These funds will go to UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), supplementing the recently decided funds to the Global Fund, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and an increased appropriation to Sweden's strategy for sexual and reproductive health and rights in sub-Saharan Africa.

Gender inequality, men's violence against women and violence in close relationships are increasing around the world as a consequence of COVID-19. In addition, human rights are threatened as a result of the pandemic. We cannot accept that development gains are being reversed. Sweden is therefore providing further funding to this important work.

Violence against children is unacceptable, regardless of where in the world it occurs. Combating violence against children is a priority issue for the Government, and the fact that we are now providing operational support to the Global Partnership is part of this effort. The Partnership provides support to projects that combat violence against children, primarily in low- and middle-income countries.

FACTS

- Sweden intends to allocate SEK 51 million to UN Women (Government decision 26 November 2020)
- Sweden intends to allocate SEK 71 million to UNFPA (Government decision 26 November 2020)
- Sweden will allocate SEK 6.75 million to the Global Partnership (decision taken 3 November 2020)
- Sweden's long-term efforts for sexual and reproductive health and rights in sub-Saharan Africa has been increased by SEK 40 million (decision taken 29 October 2020)



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government is investing SEK 140 million to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual and reproductive health, with a focus on Africa

Published 10 November 2020 Updated 10 November 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has had major negative impacts on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) worldwide, and at the same time many donors have reduced their aid. Sweden is therefore providing SEK 40 million to Sida's Strategy for SRHR in sub-Saharan Africa and SEK 100 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The COVID-19 pandemic has already claimed more than one million lives worldwide, and the indirect impacts are very extensive, not least in the case of SRHR. Access to modern contraceptives, safe and legal abortions, and comprehensive sexuality education has deteriorated. Child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence, including genital mutilation, are on the rise. Women, children, and other vulnerable groups are hard hit when prevention and care programmes stop working. The pandemic has also led to human rights restrictions and aggravated the situation of vulnerable groups. The situation in Africa is particularly serious. The Government is therefore providing a total of SEK 140 million to counteract the displacement effects that the pandemic has had on vital activities linked to SRHR.

“Infant and maternal mortality is increasing globally again as a consequence

of COVID-19, not least in Africa. In addition, human rights are threatened as a result of the pandemic. We cannot accept that development gains are being reversed. Sweden is therefore increasing funding to SRHR-related issues by a total of SEK 140 million,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation, Peter Eriksson.

This funding is channelled through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and through Sida’s Strategy for SRHR in sub-Saharan Africa. GFATM is the largest single financier of global health, with major investments and success in the area of SRHR. The organisation provides support to LGBTQI rights advocates, among others, and contributes to health services that have an important impact on women’s and children’s health.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325. Sweden strengthens its support for UN peacebuilding efforts and women's participation

Published 30 October 2020

This month we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Within the global response to the covid-19 pandemic, Sweden has decided to contribute an additional 75 million Swedish kronor to sustaining peace efforts, within which women's meaningful participation is a key component.

- In addition to be an acute health crisis with unprecedented economic and humanitarian consequences, the covid-19 pandemic also risks exacerbating existing and create new conflicts. The Swedish government is committed to strengthening peace efforts as a part of the global covid-19 response in developing countries. This is crucial also to underpin humanitarian efforts, says Peter Eriksson, Minister for International Development Cooperation.

Sweden is already one of the most important donors to the UN Peacebuilding Fund. Active participation of women is an integral part of projects financed by the fund and 30 percent of its activities should be allocated towards projects focusing on advancing gender equality, this goal has been exceeded in the past couple of years.

This month marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325. The resolution recognises the importance of

women's meaningful participation in peace processes as a prerequisite to create sustaining peace. Sweden is committed to advance this agenda and continue the important results yielded during our Security Council tenure, 2017-2018. The anniversary should be used to accelerate the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, rather than slowing down due to the pandemic.

- Much remains to be done to achieve tangible results for people living in conflict. In the occurrence of the 20th anniversary, Sweden has therefore decided to increase its contribution to the UN Peacebuilding Fund with 75 million Swedish kronor, says Peter Eriksson.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Government, Sida and World Food Programme present major investment to combat hunger crisis

Published 21 October 2020

The humanitarian and health situation around the world has worsened considerably as a result of COVID-19. The pandemic is expected to lead to a doubling of the number of people suffering from acute hunger to 265 million this year. Sweden and the World Food Programme (WFP) are now deepening their cooperation to tackle the global hunger crisis.

“The world is facing the worst humanitarian crisis since the United Nations was founded 75 years ago. Conflict, climate change, economic chaos and now COVID-19 have left the hungry hungrier and the poor poorer”, says David Beasley, Executive Director of the WFP.

Today, the Government is presenting a support package worth SEK 170 million in additional support for initiatives to combat the increasing hunger in the world. The Government’s support package, which will be disbursed from the regular aid budget, will be divided between the WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It also includes funds to Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) humanitarian appropriations.

“We are facing the largest hunger catastrophe ever seen. The need for humanitarian relief is increasing as more countries are reducing their aid, right in the midst of the crisis. But Sweden will stand by the 1 per cent goal

and is working actively for more countries to take greater responsibility. The climate crisis, the pandemic and the hunger crisis are linked, and we must all do what we can to tackle this,” says Peter Eriksson, Minister for International Development Cooperation.

In addition to the Government’s support package, Sida has approved SEK 188.7 million in new support to the WFP’s work. SEK 78.7 million will go immediately to three of the world’s poorest countries, where the food shortages are alarming: South Sudan (SEK 33.7 million), Sudan (SEK 15 million) and Yemen (SEK 30 million). The remaining SEK 110 million will form an early pledge to the WFP’s activities for 2021, as food shortages are expected to worsen rather than improve.

“Not having access to food and constantly going hungry is a horrific feeling that many children and adults are forced to endure. According to the UN, 690 million people are currently living in chronic hunger, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to increase this number considerably. But having access to food can also mean more: reducing the risk of being recruited to armed conflict to access food, not having to marry off your daughters so that they will have food, not having to sell sex in exchange for food, or not risking being trafficked for forced labour or criminal activities just to ease your hunger,” says Carin Jämtin, Director General of Sida.

Sida’s current humanitarian agreement with the WFP for 2019–2021 is worth SEK 695 million. The initiatives supported by Sida in 2020 encompass acute food aid and humanitarian air transports/logistics in a total of 13 countries – the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, North Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen – and capacity support in the area of protection.

Sida contributes to the WFP’s longer-term work to combat hunger and food shortages through development cooperation strategies at country level; in Sudan, for example, acute humanitarian support to the WFP is supplemented with a long-term initiative worth SEK 133 million over three years to strengthen social safety nets and reduce crop losses for vulnerable farmers.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Invitation to Anticipate and Act – the Stockholm high-level meeting on addressing the humanitarian impact of climate change

Published 20 October 2020

The Swedish Government, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the Swedish Red Cross, will co-host a high-level meeting on 21 October 2020 in Stockholm, convened by Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson, the Head of UNDRR Mami Mizutori and the Head of WFP David Beasley.

Tid: 21 oktober 2020 at 14:30 to 18:15

Plats: Online. Register here if you are interested in participating:

<https://live.twebcast.com/participant/anticipate-and-act>

The meeting will include two high-level panels. The first panel will focus on ‘Food insecurity as a consequence of climate change – examples from the Horn of Africa’ and the second panel will be on ‘Solutions – How to reduce and anticipate risk’.

Read more here

The event will be broadcast live on:

<https://live.twebcast.com/participant/anticipate-and-act>.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Folke Bernadotte Academy tasked with establishing a scholarship in memory of Zaida Catalán to support UN Security Council resolution 1325

Published 16 March 2020

The Government decided on 12 March to task the Folke Bernadotte Academy with initiating the preparatory work to establish a scholarship aimed at supporting UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in 2021. The scholarship will be established in memory of Zaida Catalán, who had served abroad for the Folke Bernadotte Academy as a gender expert.

UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was adopted in 2000 – twenty years ago this year. Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions state that women’s participation in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict is crucial for durable peace and security. The resolutions also highlight the need to better protect women and girls from violence and the impacts of conflict. The scholarship aims to recognise people who are engaged in issues concerning women’s participation in conflict resolution.

“Zaida Catalán was a dedicated and engaged UN worker when she was murdered. Her mission involved combating violence against children and women. By giving more people an opportunity to work in support of the UN resolution on women, peace and security, we are honouring her efforts and

strengthening Sweden's work on this important issue," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Folke Bernadotte Academy is Sweden's expert agency for the implementation of resolution 1325 and is mandated to undertake initiatives to strengthen implementation of the agenda for women, peace and security. The agency has received a special assignment to highlight the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325 this year.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

Government contributing SEK 40 million to WHO's emergency fund

Published 09 March 2020

In light of the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, which is caused by SARS-CoV-2, the Government has decided to contribute SEK 40 million to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Contingency Fund for Emergencies. The aim of the fund is to strengthen the WHO's ability to act rapidly, without negatively affecting its other activities, when, for example, there is an outbreak of communicable diseases.

“Health-related emergencies, such as the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, must be handled jointly. By contributing to the WHO's emergency fund, Sweden is contributing to the global efforts to counter health threats and strengthen public health. This increases security not only internationally, but also here in Sweden,” says Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

“The WHO must now ensure preparedness across the world to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. Our contribution facilitates these efforts and thereby helps to reduce the risk of a pandemic,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Government's decision to classify COVID-19 as a threat to public health and a danger to society provides a legal basis for certain disease control efforts that may be necessary if there is extensive spread of disease in Sweden. The Public Health Agency of Sweden is monitoring developments with regard to the outbreak and considers that the risk of the disease

spreading in Sweden is very low. The Agency also considers that health checks at airports are not currently a necessary measure.

The WHO's Contingency Fund for Emergencies was set up in response to the Ebola outbreak in 2015, when it was observed that many countries had inadequate capacity and preparedness to handle transnational health threats.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ban Ki-Moon welcomes Peter Eriksson to the Board of the Global Center on Adaptation

Published 06 March 2020 Updated 06 March 2020

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) appointed Minister for International Development Cooperation, Peter Eriksson, as a board member following an invitation from 8th Secretary General of the United Nations and GCA Chair, Ban Ki-moon.

On accepting the appointment, Minister Eriksson said:

“Sweden has extensive experience of climate aid work. Through our collaboration with GCA we hope to be able to do more to help those living on the frontlines of our climate crisis – to protect lives and livelihoods using practical and positive solutions to create and maintain a sustainable existence.”

Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary General of the United Nations and Chair of the Global Center on Adaptation said:

“The world needs a complete pivot and an overhaul in how we do development. Climate change must be central to this, with every decision reflecting climate needs and realities. I am looking forward to working closely with Minister Eriksson to show how adaptation can lead to better growth and development.”

Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation said:

“I am delighted Minister Eriksson has accepted our invitation to join the board of GCA. That poor countries are shouldering the heaviest costs of

climate change, when they have done the least to cause it, is a stain on our collective morals. Our close collaboration with Sweden will help us as we work towards ensuring climate change adaptation and disaster resilience is a constant in all our deliberations and decisions.”

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization which works as a solutions broker to accelerate action and support for adaptation solutions, from the international to the local, in partnership with the public and private sector, to ensure we learn from each other and work together for a climate resilient future. The GCA is the lead partner institution for the Climate Adaptation Summit in the Netherlands on 22nd October 2020 hosted by Prime Minister Mark Rutte - the first major gathering of international leaders dedicated entirely to adaptation. The Climate Adaptation Summit will adopt a “Global Compact on Adaptation” to carry forward visionary efforts to significantly scale up adaptation over the next 5 to 10 years.

The GCA is also the Managing Partner of the Global Commission on Adaptation co-chaired by Ban Ki-moon, Bill Gates and Kristalina Georgieva, formed to mobilize knowledge resources and catalyse political support for urgent action to climate adaptation solutions. The GCA will take forward the work of the Global Commission on Adaptation, which will sunset in October this year.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde presents the 2020 Statement of Foreign Policy

Published 12 February 2020

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

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

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

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



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden increases support to Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Published 03 October 2019 Updated 03 October 2019

The Government today decided on Sweden's contribution for the next three-year replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund). The contribution will be increased to SEK 950 million annually, a total of SEK 2.85 billion for the period 2020–2022. The contribution is Sweden's second-largest in the multilateral context, second only to support to the World Bank. Sweden is the Fund's eighth-largest donor, and has an important role as a partner.

“In recent years, we have seen a tougher climate and dwindling interest in women's rights, and particularly sexual and reproductive rights. For this reason, Sweden's contribution to the Global Fund is particularly important. Through this increased contribution, Sweden will remain a strong donor to global action for health. And with this, we will also have increased expectations and demands that the Global Fund will deliver in Sweden's priority areas, including preventive efforts, equitable health, human rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was established in 2002 to tackle the catastrophic burden posed at the time by these three diseases. The aim is to reduce the spread of the diseases and strengthen health systems to be able to offer care, and thus contribute to poverty

reduction and improved health and survival outcomes. Since its launch, the Global Fund has helped save 32 million lives. In 2018, 18.9 million people received antiretroviral treatment for HIV with support from the Global Fund, 5.3 million people were tested and treated for tuberculosis, and 131 million mosquito nets were distributed to protect families from malaria.

Today, the Global Fund is one of the largest international global health financiers, investing around USD 4 billion annually in programmes implemented by organisations in the countries and communities with the greatest disease burden and need for support. The Global Fund is an important partner in achieving Sweden's development policy objectives on poverty reduction, universal fundamental and equitable health, human rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights. This support has a central role in efforts to realise the 2030 Agenda.

“I am looking forward to the global conference to be hosted by President Macron in Lyon next week, at which I will further highlight our priorities,” says Mr Eriksson.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Continued Swedish leadership for climate action

Published 23 September 2019

On Sunday 22 September, Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson presented new contributions to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). The contribution to the GCF amounts to SEK 8 billion for the period 2020–2023. Contributions to the AF and the LDCF total SEK 1 040 million for the period 2019–2022, amounting to SEK 520 million per fund.

Background

Sweden is the world's largest per capita donor to the climate funds. Swedish public climate finance amounted to SEK 6.2 billion in 2018, of which SEK 4.3 billion was channelled through Sida.

While Sweden is proud to stand by commitments to provide public finance to developing countries' efforts to meet the challenge of climate change, accelerated action is needed to align global financial flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement. As a first step, climate action needs to be firmly anchored in national budget and planning processes – both to ensure financing through national budgets and consistency between climate action and national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, national budgets are simply not big enough to finance the costs of the transition and implementation of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, regulatory frameworks need to facilitate national resource mobilisation for climate action. Financing climate action should be part of resource mobilisation efforts within the

Addis Ababa Action Agenda for development finance. The interlinkages between the SDGs, the AAAA and the Paris Agreement need to be applied both globally and at national level for the multilateral spirit of 2015 to truly live on.

Science gives us ten years to halve the world's emissions. Sweden proudly contributes with policy, financing and innovative technology to support the transition to climate-smart communities and an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

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

Published 20 September 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden a leading actor in development cooperation

Published 12 June 2019 Updated 12 June 2019

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has reviewed Sweden's international development cooperation in a peer review. The official launch will take place on 12 June in Stockholm.

The 2019 Peer Review points out that Sweden is an adept, ambitious and influential actor in global sustainable development. Peace and conflict prevention, environmental sustainability and climate change, and gender equality are highlighted as specific areas of expertise.

“Sweden is a generous and principled donor and a world leader in gender equality, with an impressive 87 per cent of aid supporting gender equality and women's empowerment. To be even more efficient, Sweden should exploit synergies between its strategies better – for example, by continuing to improve coordination of humanitarian aid, long-term development cooperation and conflict prevention,” says Susanna Moorehead, Chair of OECD-DAC.

“This really is an homage to Sweden's international development cooperation. We give the most per capita in the entire world and we are efficient. But there are currently major challenges in terms of natural disasters, climate change and violent conflicts. In this regard, we need to work strategically and take a long-term approach with all of our partner countries,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

DAC Chair Susanna Moorehead will present the review. Speakers include Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson and Director-General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation

Agency (Sida) Carin Jämtin. Representatives of civil society, business and government agencies will also attend.

The Government wishes to highlight the review through an open discussion that can lead to joint resolutions on how Swedish development cooperation can be further improved. The day's programme also includes thematic discussions on the DAC Peer Review recommendations and forward-looking discussions on the future challenges for development cooperation and Sweden as an actor in a changing world.

Background information:

Once every five years, Sweden's international development cooperation is reviewed by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The DAC Peer Review of Sweden was conducted in 2018 and 2019.

[Link to the Peer Review](#)



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden increases support to Mozambique following cyclones

Published 23 May 2019

Mozambique has been severely affected by natural disasters in recent years. Both widespread drought and cyclones have increased the population's vulnerability. The material devastation has been particularly great. Sweden intends to provide support amounting to SEK 150 million to help rebuild the country. Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson has been in the country since Wednesday to gain an overview of the situation.

The visit started in Maputo on Wednesday with talks with the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, focusing on humanitarian efforts following Cyclone Idai and the country's reconstruction. Other priority issues include the climate and environment, and enhanced resilience against natural disasters.

“Mozambique is in acute need of support following the cyclones that have hit the country. It is important that actions are taken to strengthen the country's resilience to future natural disasters. In the wake of the cyclones, large sections of the electricity network are down, which is why we are going to take part in rebuilding the energy sector, and sustainable agriculture, which was hit hard,” says Mr Eriksson.

Sweden has extensive development cooperation with Mozambique, and has been committed to helping the country combat poverty since it gained independence in 1975. Sweden contributes to the UN and other humanitarian actors' efforts through extensive core support, which enabled rapid response

when the cyclone hit.

“We’re seeing an increasing number of natural disasters in the area, and there is a clear link to climate change. This confirms the acute need for efforts to both reduce our emissions and enable our societies to adapt to new extreme weather conditions. The cost of climate change is increasing globally. Sweden prioritises climate action in our international development cooperation,” says Mr Eriksson.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swedish initiative to prevent EU aid budget investing in fossil energy

Published 21 May 2019

During the Foreign Affairs Council meeting on Thursday 16 May in Brussels, Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson announced that Sweden will work to prevent the EU aid budget investing in fossil energy.

At the meeting, Mr Eriksson expressed the need for EU Member States to jointly highlight the acute nature of the climate crisis and increasingly urgent need for measures in the short term, in the form of both reduced emissions and increased adaptation. The Swedish Government proposes that the EU and the World Bank phase out support to fossil energy, and investments financed from such energy, in the aid budget. Mr Eriksson also stated that climate diplomacy is an important component of the EU's joint advocacy efforts targeting other countries. This was raised as an agenda item on the 2030 Agenda and climate issues during 2019, as well as in comments concerning the negotiations on the aid-related/external parts of the next long-term budget.

The EU is Sweden's most important foreign policy arena and central platform for implementation of the Government's development policy. The EU and its Member States are the world's largest aid donor, providing some EUR 74.4 billion in 2018.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Peter Eriksson travels to Tanzania and Mozambique

Published 20 May 2019

Peter Eriksson, Minister for International Development Cooperation, is travelling to Tanzania and Mozambique on 19–24 May.

Sweden has extensive development cooperation with both of these countries, and has been committed to helping them combat poverty since they gained independence. During his visit, Mr Eriksson will meet a range of actors, including government representatives, human rights defenders, civil society organisations and multilateral actors.

In Tanzania, Mr Eriksson will visit a number of cooperation projects targeting issues such as human rights, agricultural development, renewable energy and education. Focus will be on discussing developments in the area of democracy and human rights, the economic outlook, and natural resource management and biodiversity.

In Mozambique, Mr Eriksson will first visit Maputo, then travel to Beira, where focus will be on humanitarian efforts following cyclone Idai and reconstruction of the region. Climate and environmental issues, and enhanced resilience in the event of natural disasters will also be addressed.



Press release from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

SEK 500 million to Green Climate Fund brought forward

Published 28 March 2019

Increased access to renewable energy through development cooperation is crucial, both for reduced climate impact and the transition to a climate-smart society, and also for sustainable economic development. Through an amendment to appropriation directions, the Government is investing in greater speed and quality in climate efforts.

“The world needs major investments for a green transition and faster and larger initiatives to address the climate threat. The Swedish Government is contributing by providing additional funds to the Green Climate Fund, and making investments in renewable energy and flood defences in vulnerable development assistance countries,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

In its initiative in climate efforts, the Government is choosing, among other things, to bring forward outstanding payments to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The fund is crucial for the financing of developing countries’ commitments under the Paris Agreement and of climate change adaptation measures and emission restrictions in developing countries.

The increased climate aid will be used for the following initiatives:

- SEK 500 million in outstanding payments to the GCF will be brought forward. In 2019, a total of SEK 1 060 million will thus be provided to the GCF. Among other things, this means investments in renewable energy projects such as large-scale solar cell plants or investments in geothermal energy, as well as energy efficiency initiatives. Climate change adaptation

measures involve such initiatives as flood defences and investments in meteorological weather and warning systems.

- SEK 340 million will be provided to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) with the aim of strengthening efforts within the environmental and climate change area in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and Turkey. This investment is expected to strengthen the countries' capacity and ability to implement national commitments under the Paris Agreement.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release

The ministers' press contacts

Published 22 January 2019

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

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Government Offices of Sweden

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

New state secretaries at the Government Offices

Published 22 January 2019

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

Prime Minister's Office

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

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

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

Ministry of Employment

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

The Government has appointed Karin Strandås as State Secretary to Minister

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

Ministry of Finance

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

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

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

Ministry of Defence

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

Ministry of Infrastructure

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

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

Ministry of Justice

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

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

Ministry of Culture

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

Ministry of the Environment

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

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

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

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

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

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

Ministry of Education and Research

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

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

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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

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

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



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden will create a leading international environment for collaboration on AI



Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Sweden and India agree to deepen their innovation cooperation

Published 17 April 2018

Sweden and India today signed a joint innovation partnership to deepen the collaboration between the two countries and contribute to sustainable growth and new job opportunities. The partnership was signed in connection with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Stockholm.

"The innovation partnership with India will strengthen our exchange with one of the world's most important emerging economies. It will boost our prospects of developing joint solutions to face global societal challenges, while at the same time strengthening Sweden's competitiveness and innovation capacity," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

The partnership in brief:

- The partnership covers several areas, including smart cities, transportation and eMobility, energy, clean technologies, new materials, space, circular and bio-based economy, and health and life sciences.
- Sweden and India will cooperate to develop and implement joint innovation projects. Indian and Swedish enterprises and other key innovation players will work together to find solutions to common challenges and make use of each other's strengths.
- Sweden and India will cooperate on support to innovative start-ups, for

example through exchanges between incubators. The two countries will also step up their collaboration regarding research infrastructure and test beds.

- The partnership is intended to deepen the bilateral dialogue on innovation issues through increased cross-sectoral, cross-ministerial and cross-agency cooperation, to discuss innovation from a system perspective.

"The partnership will make it easier for Swedish companies to increase their knowledge of India's needs and strengthen the prospects for both new collaborations and new business opportunities," says Mr Damberg.

"Supporting Swedish knowledge-intensive companies to spread sustainable technology and develop green solutions in collaboration with countries such as India could be one of the most effective ways to make the world a better place," says Peter Eriksson, Minister for Housing and Digital Development.

As part of this partnership, on Thursday 19 April the Government will task Vinnova (the government agency for innovation) with strengthening innovation cooperation between Sweden and India in the field of smart cities. The Government intends to allocate up to SEK 50 million to Vinnova for this assignment up to the year 2021.

The Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation is responsible for the development of the partnership, in close cooperation with the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology.



Press release from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Action on digital transformation

Published 05 June 2017

On May 18, the Government presented a strategy for how digital policy will contribute to competitiveness, full employment, and economic, social and environmentally sustainable development. The strategy outlines the focus of the Government's digital policy. The objective is for Sweden to become the world leader in harnessing the opportunities of digital transformation.

– The industrial revolution changed the world. The ongoing digital transformation of society is a contemporary revolution of the same order. Clear political and state leadership will be crucial for creating the necessary pressure for change. This strategy is a whole-of-government commitment to leading the change, says Minister for Digital Development Peter Eriksson.

Digital Strategy – five goals

Digital skills – Everyone in Sweden will be able to develop and use their digital skills.

Digital security – Sweden will provide the best conditions for securely taking part in, taking responsibility for and building trust in the digital society.

Digital innovation – Sweden will provide the best conditions to ensure that digitally driven innovations are developed, disseminated and used.

Digital leadership – In Sweden, the digital transformation will promote relevant, targeted and legally sound efficiency improvements.

Digital infrastructure – All of Sweden should have access to infrastructure that provides high-speed broadband and reliable mobile services, and that

supports the digital transformation.

– Jobs will disappear. But continuing to produce and work as we have done is not realistic and trying to slow down development by introducing an innovation-impeding robot tax is not an option. Instead, we want to be at the forefront of development. This will enable us to influence how technology changes our society. We will see a whole range of new jobs and activities, says Mr Eriksson.

A new digitalisation council and office have been set up at the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority to support the strategy's implementation. In addition, a State Secretary coordination group at the Government Offices has been appointed.



Press release from Prime Minister's Office

Invitation to photo opportunity when Prime Minister Stefan Löfven receives Estonian Prime Minister Taavi Rõivas

Published 07 October 2016 Updated 07 October 2016

On Wednesday 12 October, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will receive Estonian Prime Minister Taavi Rõivas for talks. Discussions are expected to primarily focus on EU issues such as migration, a social Europe and digitalisation. Security and Baltic Sea issues will also be discussed.

Tid: 12 oktober 2016 at 14.00

Plats: Rosenbad

During his visit to Sweden, Prime Minister Rõivas will also meet Minister for Housing and Digital Development Peter Eriksson.

Media programme

14.00 Prime Minister Stefan Löfven receives Prime Minister Taavi Rõivas at the entrance to Rosenbad.

14.05 Talks begin in the Guest Dining Rooms at Rosenbad.

Photo opportunity at the entrance and the Guest Dining Rooms.

Enter via Kopparporten, Rosenbad, from 13.15. Photographers must be in place by 13.45.

Please bring your press credentials.

Registration required.