

# Sweden and the 2030 Agenda — Collection of examples

The UN High-Level Political  
Forum on Sustainable  
Development 2017



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

A large number of actors in Sweden are contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In January 2017, the Swedish Government invited actors to submit written contributions to Sweden's voluntary national report to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2017. A summary of these contributions is set out below.

**01.** The municipal executive committee in **Piteå Municipality** has adopted *Guidelines for Human Rights and Diversity*, which sets out the direction of and priorities for work within this area. The municipality's operational plan indicates which goals and key performance indicators pertain to the compliance with human rights and the fulfilment of the SDGs in the 2030 Agenda that are relevant to the municipality.

**02. The Swedish National Pensioners' Association (PRO)/PRO Global** challenges age discrimination and discriminatory attitudes in all areas of life and champions the equal opportunities of older people and their place in society through actions such as conveying older people's voices and experiences, developing knowledge about ageing and the conditions of older people, providing information and influencing policy, markets and services, educating the general public and educating older people.

**03. UNICEF Sweden** provides information about and collects money that is used in development and emergency relief work conducted by UNICEF globally, in line with SDG 17, primarily 17.3 concerning the mobilisation of additional financial resources for developing countries. **UNICEF Sweden** also works to ensure compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child through the moulding of public opinion.

**04. The Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV)** works internationally using training programmes and other capacity-building measures within the field of intangible rights for organisations in developing countries. PRV collaborates, conducts exercises with relevant institutions in each country, with the UN body WIPA, which gives it unique opportunities to work directly with departments and ministries in the various countries.

**05. Ätvidaberg Municipality** is currently conducting a project under the auspices of the sustainability factor *An Energy-Efficient and Fossil Fuel-Free Municipality. Sustainable Commuting*, which is based on changing behavioural patterns relating to everyday commuting. During this project, electric bikes, electric cargo bikes and electric cars will be lent out in order to encourage people to leave their fossil fuel-powered car at home and change their everyday travel routines in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**06. The Folksam Group** realises the importance of ensuring that the company – as far as is possible – takes the environment and climate change into consideration in its operations and works actively with these issues. As of the autumn of 2015, the Folksam Group no longer invests in companies that generate more than 30 per cent of their turnover from coal.

**07. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** is an international feminist peace organisation that works to increase women's participation in peace processes. WILPF works to promote conflict prevention, the UN's agenda for women, peace and security and disarmament.

**08. Alecta** manages one of Europe's largest occupational pension portfolios using a unique active investment model with significant shareholdings in around 100 companies. A long-term perspective, sustainability and influence are integrated into its management process, which gives Alecta the opportunity to lead a working group in Sida's investor partnerships for SDG 8 in Agenda 2030 concerning decent working conditions and economic growth. Alecta actively seeks out sustainable investments and now has one of the world's largest portfolios of green bonds.

**09. The UN Association of Sweden** has, for several years, been training young, committed individuals between the ages of 18 and 26 to become ambassadors for the agenda in their local communities. These ambassadors work independently and together with others in order to increase the engagement of Swedish people in Agenda 2030.

**10. SSAB** is working to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all through the use of fuels including natural gas, liquid petroleum gas and fuel oil as additional fuels, recycling and the use of process gases.

**11. Lantmäteriet** has contributed to promoting socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction by supporting the right to land ownership as part of the now completed project LAPCAS (Improvement of Land Administration Procedures, Capacity and Systems) in Botswana.

**12. Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)** is currently leading Sweden's largest public-private partnership, Sweden Textile Water Initiative, which makes a contribution to reducing pollution and increasing resource efficiency in the use of water, energy and chemicals in textile production.

**13. Systembolaget** is tasked with reducing the harmful effects of alcohol. In addition, Systembolaget makes a contribution to the alcoholic drinks industry moving in a sustainable direction. Clear requirements are set out, the supply chain is monitored on the basis of a code of conduct, contributions are made to developing capabilities and there is collaboration with stakeholders on many different levels. Together with the Swedish drinks industry, Systembolaget is also pursuing an environmental plan in accordance with the Paris Agreement, at the same time as it is working to provide customers with the opportunity to make sustainable choices.

**14. Diakonia** is implementing a project concerning entrepreneurship that focuses on innovative business methods. The aim is to improve incomes and livelihoods combined with policy and influence components in order to increase the effect recently started companies have on development. In its initial phase, the project involves around 15 partner organisations from Latin America, Africa and Asia.

**15. Swedish Mariculture Research Centre (SWEMARC)** at the University of Gothenburg has a goal to develop and validate resource-efficient mariculture models, with a focus on 1) reduced environmental load, 2) independence of wild-caught fish for feed production and 3) positive socio-economic development. Aquaculture has the potential to radically reduce the pressure on collective marine resources and to make a powerful contribution to the production of nutritious food for a growing population. SWEMARC collects expertise from economics, law, oceanography, biology and design and works in close collaboration with society's actors in order to contribute to providing solutions to several of the sustainability goals. The methods are being tested locally and globally.

**16. Vinnova** is consciously pursuing a development process to operationalise Agenda 2030 and has appointed a specific working group for this purpose that consists of four people from senior management and four people with important expertise in the relevant areas. The working group's focus is on translating Agenda 2030 and on developing tools and methods that enable future management and monitoring of the organisation's contribution to Agenda 2030 on the basis of Vinnova's remit and vision.

**17. RFSU's (the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education)** operations have contributed to, for example, target 3.3 – From the time that HIV became part of the Swedish Communicable Diseases Act in 1985, people living with HIV have had the right to free care and treatment, which has meant that Sweden is the first country in the world to fulfil UNAIDS goal 90/90/90.

**18. Skandia's foundation** *Ideas for life* has, over the course of 30 years, contributed with research, development and the dissemination of knowledge about social sustainability. The foundation's work focuses on early interventions in order to provide children and adolescents with a secure upbringing and a good start in life. In partnership with civil society and municipalities, the foundation contributes to an increased focus on prevention and thus also a more efficient use of resources in social interventions. More than 130 municipalities in Sweden and Denmark use the foundation's research and tools in order to calculate the efficacy and value of social interventions.

**19. Jernkontoret, the Swedish Association of Industrial Employers and Svemin** have been working actively through partnerships, the development of technology and innovation to contribute to more efficient use of resources and a reduced impact on the climate. Minerals, metals and steel form the basis of such things as the construction infrastructure, energy systems and communications. Stronger steel makes it possible to reduce the weight of the end product or higher pressure in engines, leading to reduced emissions from vehicles, remote-controlled mining equipment and driverless vehicles.

**20.** Since the 1970s, UNESCO has been designating regions around the world as biosphere reserves. **The Biosphere Programme Sweden**, with its five biosphere reserves and two candidate areas, stimulates sustainable development in practice by uniting nature conservation, local enterprise and capacity building with social development. The biosphere reserves demonstrate local examples of how Agenda 2030 can be implemented.

**21.** The Platform for Sustainable Urban Development is a joint commission that the Swedish Government has assigned to **the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and the Swedish Transport Administration**. The aim of the platform is to increase cooperation, coordination, the development and dissemination of knowledge and the sharing of experiences within matters linked to sustainable development.

**22. CONCORD Sweden** actively participated in the global Beyond 2015 campaign that, over a period of just over four years, gathered together over 1500 organisations from over 140 countries in a collective effort to organise civil society organisations' contributions to what became Agenda 2030. This work contributed to a historically broad partnership and to making the content and commitments in the agenda being more ambitious thanks to the pressure put on decision makers by the organisations involved.

**23. Ericsson** has a partnership with the platform REFUNITE – a digital platform that aims to help refugees regain contact with their loved ones. Over 600,000 people have registered on the platform.

**24. Fair Action** pressures companies to improve working conditions and pay a living wage. Fair Action's latest investigation of the situation for hotel workers in Dubai contributed to action that included Swedish sports clubs considering aspects relating to human rights and good working conditions when they choose training destinations.

**25. The Swedish Social Insurance Agency** is working actively to find new ways to reduce absence due to illness and get people back into work. One example is a project the agency has started with the help of financial support from the European Social Fund that intends to reduce absence due to illness in three municipalities in Småland. The aim is to use preventive measures to prevent ill-health among municipal workers and to develop a good infrastructure for detecting the signs of ill-health at an early stage, thus reducing the number of people being signed off work due to illness.

**26.** In the Indian city of Nagpur **Scania** has joined together with **Swedfund** and a local transport operator to establish a partnership and make public transport more environmentally friendly by using biofuel in buses. Five ethanol buses now operate on the city's streets and delivery of an additional 50 buses is planned.

**27. Coop Sweden** has an ambition to become Sweden's most sustainable supermarket chain. Thanks to its sustainability strategy, Coop aims to have a sustainable range of products from sustainable suppliers in sustainable shops. This has contributed to organic products making up eleven per cent of total sales of foodstuffs in Coop's shops.

**28. National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations** (LSU) appoints UN representatives whose job has encompassed preliminary work ahead of and with the SDGs. The UN representatives have, for example, participated in the national tour *We Change*, which is a sustainability tour. These have helped to educate democratic leaders and develop forms of democratic and sustainable engagement.

**29.** Water makes up more than 50 per cent of Malmö. **The City of Malmö** supports a number of marine development projects and marine educational activities. A new marine education centre is being inaugurated in 2017 and in October, the municipality is also organising an international conference – *Life Below Water: Local implementation of Global Goal no. 14*.

**30. The Swedish Forest Agency** is contributing to the work involved in drawing up a national forestry programme for Sweden. This work is dialogue-based and encompasses economic, social and environmental values and its aim is for forests and their values chain to contribute further to the development towards a sustainable society and a growing bio-based economy.

**31. The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)** conducts research and education for a sustainable life, both domestically and globally, focussing on good animal husbandry, sustainable food production, energy and fibre feed-stocks sustainable cities, living landscapes and clean water. Within goal 14, SLU is working together with the fishing industry and national authorities to develop selective fishing methods in order to reduce unwanted by-catch in the sea.

**32. The Swedish Mission Council** gathered together more than 30 of its member organisations in spring 2017 at a conference on the theme of the global goals. Together with **the Christian Council of Sweden**, the project *A Sustainable World for All* has been initiated in order to reinforce the churches' and mass-movement organisations' local work with the global goals in Sweden. The Churches' Global Week, 19–26 November 2017 is a tangible example of this commitment.

**33.** Together with the textile supplier DBL from Bangladesh, **Swedfund** is investing in a new textile factory in Ethiopia. The Development Bank of Ethiopia is also involved in financing the project. H&M is among the partners, guaranteeing to buy clothing from this factory. Swedfund as owner and H&M as buyer are together setting a number of sustainability requirements. This establishment involves the creation of around 4000 jobs, primarily for women without a formal education.

**34. The Swedish Institute** has initiated *She Entrepreneurs (SHE)* – a programme for female entrepreneurs in the MENA region that aims to provide participants with new knowledge, practical tools and inspiration in their work for sustainable change through social entrepreneurship.

**35. Telia** has adopted an active stance with regard to its participation in the battle against material on the internet that depicts the sexual abuse of children. One action that the company has taken is to block access to websites that are known by the police to contain this type of material.

**36. Unionen** is working with the construction unions in the campaign *Decent Work – Fair Play for All Teams*, which focuses on working conditions and the prevention of accidents and deaths in conjunction with sporting events and the construction of stadia around the world.

**37. Uppsala Municipality** has integrated the global goals into the nine directional goals that govern the municipality's work. The goals focus on a good life and a sustainable society. Actions that have been arrived at on this basis include a survey of differences in inhabitants' health and lifestyles that is used in the urban planning process. Uppsala Municipality is the first in the country to draw up a social compass based on a geographical perspective.

**38.** The Swedish forestry industry uses globally established and transparent certification systems for forest raw materials, which ensures that management of forestry takes place sustainably. **The forestry industry** has an industry-wide goal to make the heat energy used in manufacturing processes fossil fuel-free. This goal has almost been achieved, as around 96 per cent of the heating requirement is currently based on biofuels.

**39. Save the Children Sweden** started a support hotline in November 2015 in response to the need for telephone support in languages other than Swedish that arose when a large number of unaccompanied minors arrived as refugees in Sweden that autumn. Calls to the support hotline can be conducted in Swedish, Dari, Arabic, English, Somali, Pashto and Tigrinya. The support hotline is part of the project *Listen to Me*, which also supports the organisation of recently arrived children in partnership with Ensamkommandes Förbund (an association for unaccompanied minors).

**40. Vi-skogen** has established an innovative partnership between civil society and private enterprise in order to mobilise financial resources for developing countries. With an investment of SEK 35 million from Livelihoods Funds, with a range of international companies behind it, **Vi-skogen** is implementing a ten-year project in Mt. Elgon, Kenya together with 15 farmer-owned cooperatives. The project reinforces the cooperatives' technical and administrative capacity and the cooperatives' 30,000 members, the small-scale farmers, gain access to the dairy value chain and are offered training in forest agriculture.

**41. The International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR)**, together with **IF Metall**, is running the programme **Swedish Workplace HIV and AIDS Programme (SWHAP)**. **SWHAP** provides support to workplace programmes in over 370 workplaces in Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The aim is to use the workplace as an agent of change, with the management and employees addressing issues such as HIV, health, gender and work environment through social dialogue.

**42. Stockholm Resilience Centre's (SRC)** programme SwedBio that is financed by Sida is a knowledge interface that contributes to poverty reduction, justice, sustainable livelihoods and social-ecological systems rich in biodiversity. SwedBio enables the generation of knowledge, dialogue and exchanges between practitioners, decision makers, and researchers for the development of appropriate policies and methods.

43. Through the partnership **Sustainable Procurement**, the 21 Swedish local councils and regions have adopted a *national code of conduct for suppliers in order to protect human rights, workers' rights, the environment and counter corruption* in all activities that involve public procurement. Public procurement is thus used as a political and strategic tool to ensure that products and services are manufactured and provided in a responsible and sustainable manner throughout the entire supply chain.

44. As an employers' organisation, **the Swedish Trade Federation** helps the trade and commerce sector's employers take their full responsibility as employers, which includes complying with laws and regulations, having a sound and safe work environment and promoting personal development, diversity and gender equality. **The Swedish Trade Federation** also draws up guidance for sustainability efforts and uses good examples to show that everyone is able to contribute to sustainable development.

45. **The Church of Sweden's** work touches on all the SDGs. For example, goal 1 and goal 10 through social support to people who are vulnerable and in crises, both in Sweden and via partners in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. The climate issue (goals 7 and 13) is woven into its work with sustainable purchasing, investments and management of properties, forestry and land.

46. **The Swedish Women's Lobby** works to disseminate knowledge, methods of implementation and good examples concerning Agenda 2030. **The Swedish Women's Lobby** has organised two large conferences on gender equality that are intended for people who hold elected office, managers and experts in the public sector and parts of the enterprise sector.

47. **Equally Unique** works to promote human rights and conducts advocacy for the disability and rights perspective in social issues.

48. **The Swedish Disability Rights Federation** is participating in the global and European standardisation of sustainable procurement ISO20400, which involves pressing for accessibility requirements in public procurement and universal wording and human rights as an integrated part of management systems. **The Swedish Disability Rights Federation** is active in working groups within the disability rights movement at the European and global level in order to coordinate work with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as part of the work with Agenda 2030.

