

Government Communication

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Johannesburg – the UN World Summit on
Sustainable Development

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The Government presents this Communication to Parliament.

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Brief summary of the Communication^{*}

The World Summit on Sustainable Development that was held in Johannesburg between August 26 and September 4 2002 was attended by 20,000 participants from 189 member states and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. A Political Declaration and a Plan of Implementation were adopted. The results represent a political and moral commitment. It was agreed that all development should be sustainable, with integrated treatment of the economic, social and environmental pillars.

This Communication consists of a presentation and evaluation of the decisions taken at the World Summit. The Government describes the measures that are being taken in order to achieve the objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation and indicates some of the challenges we face. These relate both to the situation in Sweden and to the framework of cooperation with the EU, UN and other international cooperation organizations.

Globalization, on fair terms that promote sustainable development, represents one of the major challenges to achievement of the objectives of the Plan of Implementation. Good governance is necessary at all levels – national, regional and global – and this also applies to institutions whose task is to promote sustainable development.

Sweden regards the Plan's objectives that relate to changes in consumption and production patterns and to poverty eradication as the most urgent tasks during the implementation phase. Achieving economic growth parallel with social welfare, and without harmful environmental impacts, will make new demands on policymaking and call for

^{*} This abbreviated English version of the Communication contains two of the original six chapters. The annexed documents adopted at Johannesburg are not included.

collaboration between various players. Support for the fight against poverty around the world will increase the opportunities and resources available to disadvantaged groups and individuals.

Prior to the World Summit the UN Secretary-General identified five areas of crucial importance to sustainable development: water, energy, health, agriculture and biological diversity. Sweden is already taking action in these areas, as reported in the Communication, although a great deal remains to be done. More knowledge and information about sustainable development are likely to promote effective measures.

The Government Offices co-sponsored Envisions, a national follow-up conference to the World Summit that was held at the end of November 2002. The Communication summarizes the conclusions of this conference. The Communication concludes with a selection of the objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation, ongoing Swedish action to achieve these objectives and challenges that the Government intends to address.

The purpose of the Communication is to keep Parliament informed of the measures being taken to implement the results of the World Summit. The Swedish National Committee on Agenda 21 and Habitat is expected to present its proposals on future action soon. In 2003 the Government intends to present a Bill to Parliament with proposals for a new development policy. These matters will also be addressed, inter alia, in a revision of Sweden's national strategy for sustainable development.

Evaluation of the results of the World Summit

The agreements reached at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg are politically and morally binding. One important conclusion of the summit in Johannesburg is that all development, whether economic, social or environmental, must be sustainable. The same priority is now given to investment in people and the environment as to trade, economic growth and territorial security.

Sweden's aim in the negotiations was to focus on concrete action, since the general approach had been agreed at previous conferences. The Millennium Declaration, Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration and other agreements reached at UN conferences are still in force. The Political Declaration and the Plan of Implementation adopted at Johannesburg complement and spell out the action that needs to be taken to promote sustainable development.

The world conferences of the 1990s, the Millennium Development Goals adopted at the UN General Assembly summit in 2000 and the three subsequent key conferences – the WTO conference in Doha, the international conference Financing for Development in Monterrey ('the Monterrey Consensus') and the World Summit in Johannesburg – established a global agenda for sustainable development with concrete objectives that have implications for both local, regional and global development. The Johannesburg World Summit will presumably be the last for some time in the series of summits that started with Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and political energy should now be focused on national, regional and global implementation.

For months the preparations for the summit were held back by profound differences. The developing countries expressed their lack of confidence in the industrialized countries due to the failure of the latter to honour their commitment at the Rio Conference in 1992 to raise their levels of development assistance to 0.7% of GDP. The USA declared that it was not prepared to adopt any concrete objectives in Johannesburg and few countries were prepared to rank poverty eradication together with environmental protection at the top of the political agenda. However, with the help, inter alia, of the results of the Monterrey Consensus in March 2002 and the leadership of the South African hosts, negotiations were gradually conducted in a more constructive spirit. Considering the political climate, the progress made at the summit was gratifying, although they are not sufficient to effectively address the challenges we face with respect to the conservation of natural resources, the solution of global environmental problems and the eradication of poverty.

The Government aimed for well-defined, time-bound objectives and concrete action plans for implementation. A large measure of agreement was achieved. Sweden played a significant role in defining both the general focus and several of the agreed objectives. We would, however, have preferred more far-reaching agreements, particularly with respect to the phase-out of environmentally harmful and trade-distorting subsidies. As regards energy, the countries were not able to agree on measurable targets for the introduction of renewable energy sources, and therefore the EU declared that it would work together with a group of other countries to further develop and promote renewable energy technologies by setting and achieving clearly defined, ambitious, time-bound targets at the national, regional and hopefully also global levels. The importance of strengthening the social dimension is also mentioned several times in the Plan of Implementation, although the Government would have preferred even clearer objectives in this area.

The need for a gender perspective was acknowledged, but in Sweden's opinion it could have been more strongly expressed. Despite Sweden's efforts in the course of the negotiations to pursue an active policy of gender mainstreaming in the various sectors, concrete and binding formulations in the Plan of Implementation are conspicuous by their absence in several areas. Energy, water and biological diversity are examples of such areas. The agreements that were reached on reproductive health and women's right to ownership and control of land were not satisfactory either. Paragraph 54, which relates to health, was a stumbling-block in the negotiations; together with other countries, Sweden urged that health services should be provided in the context of human rights and freedoms rather than exclusively in accordance with "national laws and cultural and religious values". A major setback for the women of the world appeared imminent, but the issue was solved in an acceptable manner under the last agreement reached in the negotiations on the Plan of Implementation.

The concept of sustainable development was discussed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, but at that time the negotiations were about integrating the environment into development efforts. In the preamble to both the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Political Declaration it is specifically declared

that the objective is to promote the integration of the three components of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection – as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars. For the first time, the linkage between poverty eradication, sustainable consumption and production patterns and the preservation and sustainable use of the natural resource base is clarified.

The possibility of reducing world poverty is closely linked to empowering the poor. To a great extent, this is about increasing access to productive resources such as land, water, employment opportunities, loans, education and health care. Sustainable development must be created by global cooperation on the basis of equitable distribution of resources. The situation of women, children, the elderly and disabled people is, generally speaking, much worse than that of men and this fact must always be taken into account.

In the chapter on institutional frameworks the Plan of Implementation applies a concerted approach to integrating these three pillars of sustainable development at all levels from local to global. Hopefully, this will lead to a more clearly defined division of responsibilities in the UN system and to a more visible connection between cross-sectoral policymaking on sustainable development at the global level and UN programmes in developing countries.

Globalization is a new item that was absent from the agenda of the Rio Conference. On the EU's initiative, the Plan of Implementation includes a chapter on what must be done to achieve sustainable development in a globalized world. One of the salient achievements was the clear ambition to strengthen political influence over the development of globalization, for instance by promoting corporate responsibility and accountability.

The 500 or so seminars and round tables that were held during the summit proved to be dynamic meeting-places, although their impact is difficult to predict. Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were critical of the fact that the international agreements did not go further. Their participation in the summit was a positive contribution to the results of the negotiations and may well improve the chances of effective implementation and follow-up.

The private sector demonstrated much greater commitment, both before and during the summit, than was the case at the Rio Conference. This is very gratifying, and resulted, among other things, in a number of partnership initiatives. The term 'partnership' has acquired a new, wider meaning in the UN context. Collaboration is now advocated not only between the governments of the North and South, but also between governments on the one hand and the private sector and civil society on the other. The summit agreed that such partnerships are a significant complement to states' efforts on behalf of sustainable development in a globalized world. However, Sweden and several other countries pointed to the need to develop clearly defined criteria for partnerships, in particular as regards the monitoring and evaluation of the objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation.

The international partnership initiatives that were prepared ahead of the summit met with general approval in Johannesburg. These initiatives consisted of projects for completing Agenda 21 and implementing the Plan's recommendations in partnerships between three or more parties –

governments, the private sector and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Sweden launched a number of partnership initiatives at the summit and also participated in the EU's common initiatives. It presented the Lake Victoria programme, a long-term regional partnership aimed at promoting sustainable development in the Lake Victoria region.

The fact that the summit was conducted in a spirit of consensus and resulted in useful agreements is likely to strengthen the credibility of the United Nations. South Africa is to be congratulated on the efficient practical arrangements for what was the largest UN conference ever.

The World Summit made significant progress in action to promote sustainable development in several areas. This progress must be sustained and maintained. Nevertheless, it must be said that in many areas, the results of the summit were insufficient to solve growing global environmental problems and eradicate widespread poverty. The Government therefore considers it necessary for countries, either individually or in collaboration with other countries, to initiate action that goes far beyond the goals set by the summit. Sweden should continue to play a leading role in these efforts.

Summary of future activities

The World Summit on Sustainable Development will have a lasting effect on Sweden's global development policy, its domestic policy and Swedish society as a whole. All development should be sustainable. We have come a long way since the age of industrialization, when people and natural resources were regarded as expendable, towards a system under which all development takes place within the limits determined by the carrying capacity of ecosystems and social development is the main priority. At the same time, the commitments embodied in the Plan of Implementation, i.e. to promoting the three interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, open up new opportunities.

In response to the results of the summit the Government needs to analyse ways and means of coordinating efforts towards sustainable development at the national level. Sweden has made a great deal of progress since the Stockholm Conference of 1972. Nevertheless, far-reaching changes in lifestyles and societal organization will be necessary in order to achieve the objectives agreed in Johannesburg. The Swedish National Committee on Agenda 21 and Habitat is expected to present proposals to the Government in its forthcoming final report as to what should be done to build on the results of Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the national strategy is also part of the long-term process of change towards sustainable development.

Objectives, measures and challenges

The Communication reports on measures towards achievement of the objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation that Sweden considers especially important and that have already been implemented by the

Government or are under way (the references in brackets are to the relevant paragraphs in the Plan). Some future challenges are also outlined. The summary is not intended to be exhaustive.

Objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation	Implemented or ongoing measures by Sweden	The challenges we face
<p>1. Globalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable (47). ▪ Open trade that promotes sustainable development and social justice (47). ▪ Develop and implement international agreements on corporate responsibility and accountability (49). ▪ Increase foreign direct investment in developing countries (84). ▪ Reform the international financial architecture and stabilize short-term capital flows (86). ▪ Lower and eventually abolish duties on non-agricultural products and export subsidies (92). ▪ Encourage the voluntary use of environmental impact assessments (97). ▪ Promote mutual supportiveness between the multilateral trading system and environmental agreements (98). 	<p>The Working Group on Globalization has written two reports so far.</p> <p>Sweden seeks to amend EC Regulation 2092/91 on organic production and to set up an EU Ombudsman's office for exporting developing countries.</p> <p>Initiatives proposing sustainability assessments of trade and cooperation agreements.</p> <p>Swedish support for the European Commission's Green Paper on Corporate Social Responsibility.</p> <p>The Global Responsibility Project encourages enterprises to comply with the OECD's and UN's ethical guidelines.</p> <p>Financial support for chambers of commerce, diversification of exports etc. in developing countries.</p> <p>Joint Swedish-French initiative on an international Task Force for Global Public Goods, with a secretariat in Stockholm.</p>	<p>Make full use of immigrants' knowledge and skills, combat health problems, increase gender equality, provide in-service training.</p> <p>Promote openness to trade on fair terms, investment and knowledge-sharing.</p> <p>Promote gender equality in all aspects of development policy.</p> <p>Ensure that importance is attached to good governance in the context of international cooperation.</p> <p>A mutually supportive relationship between WTO agreements and environmental regimes. Internationally agreed environmental rules must not be undermined by trade agreements.</p> <p>Shape globalization on fair terms and develop WTO rules to ensure a level playing field for all countries.</p> <p>Develop general welfare and adapt it to globalization.</p>

Objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation	Implemented or ongoing measures by Sweden	The challenges we face
<p>2. Institutional framework for sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Balance and strengthen environmental, social and economic concerns (2). ▪ Ensure domestic economic conditions that promote saving, productive investments and human capacity (83). ▪ Increase human and institutional capacity-building (127). ▪ Promote the rule of law, strengthen government institutions and deepen international cooperation (139). ▪ Adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for UN activities (143). ▪ Implement Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation at the regional level (158). ▪ Implement national sustainable development strategies by 2005 (162). 	<p>A national strategy for sustainable development was presented in 2002 and will be revised in 2003 following a consultation process.</p> <p>The aim of the Climate Investment Programme is, during the period 2002-2004, to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and save energy by means of appropriate structural changes.</p> <p>Review of the EU's sustainable development strategy adopted at the 2001 spring summit of the European Council in Gothenburg.</p> <p>Sweden participates in strategic efforts towards sustainable development in the OECD, Nordic cooperation structures and the Arctic Council.</p> <p>Preparations commenced in autumn 2002 for the OECD's review of Sweden's environmental policies.</p> <p>Conference of environment ministers from the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Council of the Baltic Sea States in Luleå in autumn 2003.</p> <p>Sweden has participated in the drafting of a UN General Assembly resolution on follow-up to the World Summit in Johannesburg.</p>	<p>Strengthen coordination of sustainable development efforts at the national level.</p> <p>Apply an approach based on dialogue with stakeholders at the local and regional levels.</p> <p>Support intensified efforts among local players based on an integrated approach and innovation.</p> <p>Strengthen the EU's Cardiff process, whose aim is to mainstream environmental concerns into all policies, and the Lisbon process to promote sustainable development both in the Union and in its external relations.</p> <p>Further develop the UNECE's work on sustainable development and strengthen exchanges of experience with other regions.</p> <p>Contribute to improved coordination between the UN Functional Commissions and in international environmental governance.</p>

Objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation	Implemented or ongoing measures by Sweden	The challenges we face
<p>3. Changed consumption and production patterns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10-year framework of action programmes for sustainable consumption and production patterns (15). ▪ Implement transport strategies that help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions (20). ▪ Prevent and minimize waste (22). ▪ Chemicals are produced and used in such a way as to minimize the adverse effects on humans and the environment by 2020 (23). ▪ Develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management by 2005 (23). ▪ Apply a global system for classification and labelling of chemicals by 2008 (23). ▪ Increase international cooperation on protection of the ozone layer (39). ▪ Promote sustainable tourism (43). ▪ Enhance the contribution of mining, minerals and metals to sustainable development (46). ▪ Promote the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies (105). 	<p>A strategy for a non-toxic and resource-efficient society will be presented in 2003.</p> <p>Support for the European Commission's White Paper on Integrated Product Policy.</p> <p>The Government supports the creation of an international chemicals secretariat.</p> <p>EC Directives on the landfilling and incineration of waste are being followed up by reception criteria.</p> <p>The possibility of a Swedish ban on the use of brominated flame retardants and HA oils in vehicle tyres is being considered.</p> <p>A national centre is being set up for development and exports of environmental technology.</p> <p>An EU agreement with vehicle manufacturers on reduced fuel consumption is expected by 2007.</p> <p>The tax rate on carbon-neutral fuels will be reduced as of 2003.</p> <p>Quality labelling of Swedish ecotourism.</p> <p>Cooperation with China on sustainable cities.</p>	<p>Study what is already being done in Sweden and the EU and what further measures are needed to comply with the Plan of Implementation.</p> <p>Create a sustainable transport system by means of public transport facilities, intermodal freight transportation etc.</p> <p>Apply a lifecycle perspective to products and waste.</p> <p>Increase the distribution of ethically labelled products.</p> <p>Prices of goods and services must internalize costs, including the social and environmental costs.</p> <p>The EU's chemicals legislation needs to be expanded and industry must be aware of the chemical composition of goods that are marketed. New legislative proposals are expected from the Commission in 2003.</p> <p>Encourage innovation and the introduction of products and services that promote sustainable development in the EU.</p> <p>New ozone-depleting substances need to be added to the Montreal Protocol and illicit trade must be suppressed.</p>

Objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation	Implemented or ongoing measures by Sweden	The challenges we face
<p>4. Support for poverty eradication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Halve the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than 1 dollar a day and of people who suffer from hunger (7). ▪ Develop national programmes for sustainable development that help to empower the poor (7). ▪ Promote women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making at all levels, mainstreaming gender perspectives in all policies (7). ▪ Improve development opportunities for indigenous peoples (7). ▪ By 2020, achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. (11). ▪ Reduce the risks of flooding and drought in vulnerable countries (37). ▪ Provide a framework for sustained economic growth and sustainable development in Africa (62). ▪ Facilitate greater foreign direct investment so as to support sustainable development activities (84). ▪ Explore innovative sources of finance (88). ▪ Reduce unsustainable debt burdens (89). 	<p>Development activities and methodological work aimed at preventing homelessness are being conducted by the National Board of Health and Welfare.</p> <p>Action plans to combat poverty and social exclusion in EU Member States to be analysed and developed in 2003-2005.</p> <p>A Government Bill proposing a coherent Swedish global development policy will be presented to Parliament in spring 2003.</p> <p>Sida has prepared a guide to mainstreaming a multidimensional poverty perspective into all its activities.</p> <p>The objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation will be integrated into Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) within the framework of Sweden's development cooperation.</p> <p>The mandate of the Global Environmental Fund will be extended and Sweden's contribution increased.</p>	<p>Halve welfare benefit dependence in Sweden during the period 1999-2004.</p> <p>Change attitudes that permit prostitution and trafficking in women.</p> <p>The National Board of Health and Welfare to conduct methodological activities to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>Special efforts are required of the international community to enable Africa and South Asia to attain the Millennium Development Goals.</p> <p>Promote opportunities for developing countries to protect their genetic resources in ecosystems.</p> <p>Support the most highly indebted developing countries to address the causes of debt and achieve a manageable debt burden.</p> <p>Improve the situation of disabled people in developing countries, possibly by means of a convention.</p>

Objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation	Implemented or ongoing measures by Sweden	The challenges we face
<p>5. Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (25). ▪ Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005 (26). ▪ Promote effective coordination among international bodies and processes working on water-related issues, inter alia in connection with the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 (29). ▪ Application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach to sustainable development of the oceans (30). ▪ Develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity (32). ▪ Establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment (36). 	<p>The Marine Environment Commission was appointed in 2002 and will present its proposals by June 2003.</p> <p>Preparations are in progress for the International North Sea Ministerial Conference in 2006 on the environmental impact of shipping and its consequences for fisheries.</p> <p>According to the EC Framework Water Directive, management plans for water districts must be prepared by 2009.</p> <p>The EU initiative Water for Life will be implemented following the World Water Forum III in Japan, March 2003.</p> <p>Swedish Water House was set up to strengthen Sweden's capacity for meeting international commitments in the water sector.</p> <p>The Global Water Partnership Organization was set up in Stockholm on the initiative of Sweden and other countries.</p> <p>Sida has prepared a marine initiative relating to agriculture, fisheries, shipping and rural development etc.</p>	<p>A study needs to be made on the most appropriate design of a national plan for integrated water management.</p> <p>Work is in progress in the EU on a strategy for marine issues, to be presented in 2005.</p> <p>The Baltic Sea, or parts of it, should be classified as a specially sensitive area.</p> <p>The EU should manage fishery resources in accordance with the precautionary principle and apply an ecosystem approach without subsidies.</p> <p>Cross-border cooperation on the management and planning of international water resources needs to be improved, even though this is not mentioned in the Plan of Implementation.</p> <p>Achievement of the objectives relating to water and sanitation should be combined with hygiene education in order to ensure better health.</p> <p>Attention should be drawn to ecological sanitation as an alternative sanitation system.</p>

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<p>6. Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development (9). ▪ Substantially increase the global contribution of renewable energy sources to total energy supply (20). ▪ Phase out subsidies to energy sources that are harmful to sustainable development, especially in developed countries (20). ▪ Mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies (20). ▪ Establish domestic programmes for energy efficiency (20). ▪ Promote networking between centres of excellence on energy for sustainable development (20). ▪ Promote increased research and development in the field of various energy technologies (20). ▪ Stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere (38). 	<p>The 2001 Energy Policy Resolution envisages major investment in renewable electricity production.</p> <p>It is proposed that a quota-based electricity certificate system should enter into force in May 2003 in order to promote renewable electricity.</p> <p>‘Green’ tax switching will increase the importance of carbon dioxide tax.</p> <p>The European Commission has proposed that about SEK 2 million should be invested in 2003-2006 to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.</p> <p>In Johannesburg the EU initiated a partnership on access to sustainable energy services based largely on cooperation with Africa.</p> <p>Sida is contributing to implementation of the Framework Climate Convention in developing countries, and joint implementation has started in the Baltic states.</p>	<p>Stimulate the use of existing efficient energy technologies and promoting the introduction of new efficient technologies.</p> <p>Deregulation and an integrated electricity market beyond Sweden’s borders must be developed in order to use the available resources efficiently.</p> <p>The Government is studying the possibility of introducing a programme for long-term agreements with energy-intensive industries.</p> <p>Major science and research programmes are required to make it possible to take informed decisions on climate issues.</p> <p>Increase renewable electricity production by 10 TWh up to 2010.</p> <p>An international coalition for renewable resources was formed by the EU in Johannesburg and will set and achieve concrete targets.</p> <p>International cooperation is necessary to deal with health problems caused by energy production.</p>

Objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation	Implemented or ongoing measures by Sweden	The challenges we face
<p>7. Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is an urgent need to address the causes of ill health, with particular emphasis on women and children, as well as vulnerable groups (53). ▪ Reduce mortality rates for children under 5 by two thirds and maternal mortality rates by three quarters during the period 2000-2015 (54). ▪ Promote access to affordable and efficient health-care services, including prevention and safe drugs (54). ▪ Target research efforts and apply research results to priority public health issues (54). ▪ Build capacity with a view to assessing linkages between health and environment (54). ▪ Strengthen programmes to address non-communicable diseases and associated risk factors, including alcohol, tobacco, unhealthy diets and lack of physical activity (54). ▪ Implement, within the agreed time frames, all commitments agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its 26th special session (55). ▪ Interpret and implement the TRIPS Agreement in a manner that promotes access to medicines for all (100). 	<p>SEK 9 billion will be allocated by county councils and local authorities during the period 2001-2004 for development of the health service.</p> <p>An 11-point programme for healthy working life will be implemented in 2003-2004.</p> <p>The sports movement will be granted SEK 1 billion in various programmes in 2003-2006.</p> <p>The Government is considering measures designed to prevent undesired pregnancies.</p> <p>SEK 325 million will be allocated in 2002-2005 for measures to combat drug abuse among youth.</p> <p>Sweden will increase its support for measures to combat HIV/AIDS, in particular via UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria.</p> <p>About 11% of Sweden's development cooperation budget is spent on health programmes.</p> <p>Children's right to health is included in the 10-point programme for integrating a children's rights perspective into international development cooperation.</p>	<p>Create the conditions for good health on equal terms for the entire population, as set forth in the 2003 Government Bill Public Health Objectives.</p> <p>The support provided for children with mental problems needs to be improved and the risk and wellness factors that affect the mental health of young people described.</p> <p>Programmes are needed to combat allergies, asthma and hypersensitivity among children.</p> <p>Increased physical activity needs to be encouraged by a forthcoming Swedish strategy – Keep Sweden Moving.</p> <p>Strengthen preventive and other measures to combat the diseases of poverty, especially HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, including continuing research cooperation on the development of partner countries' capacity, for example as regards TRIPS, IT-PGR, water, sanitation, tropical diseases, sexual and reproductive health and mother and child health care.</p> <p>Complete the drafting of the WHO's Tobacco Convention.</p> <p>Strengthen cross-sectoral work to ensure access to clean water and sanitation, clean air and a clean indoor, working and urban environment.</p>

Objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation	Implemented or ongoing measures by Sweden	The challenges we face
<p>8. Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Halve the proportion of the world's people who suffer from hunger by 2015 (40). ▪ Enhance the role of women at all levels of rural development, agriculture, nutrition and food security (40). ▪ Strengthen the capacity of government and public authorities for monitoring and managing land and water resources (40). ▪ Guarantee land and water use rights and promote legal security of tenure (40). ▪ Improve access to markets for agricultural products (40). ▪ Enhance international cooperation to combat the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants (40). ▪ Promote programmes for environmentally sound agricultural practices (40). 	<p>The agri-environmental programme compensates farmers for pro-environment activities.</p> <p>The training and advisory project Focus on Nutrients will be extended beyond Sweden's three most southerly counties.</p> <p>The Government is considering a proposal for a fourth action programme to reduce risks associated with the use of pesticides.</p> <p>The Nordic Council of Ministers is preparing a gender equality plan for agriculture and forestry.</p> <p>The European Commission has been assigned more responsibility for promoting gender equality in agriculture.</p> <p>Swedish support for a pilot scheme for food safety in developing countries is being evaluated and improved.</p>	<p>Involve farmers in issues relating to sustainable development, inter alia, by various environmental campaigns such as Safe Plant Protection, Focus on Nutrients etc.</p> <p>The EU's Common Agricultural Policy needs to be reformed in order to contribute to achieving sustainable development.</p> <p>A strategy for sustainable use of pesticides is being drafted in the EU.</p> <p>The EU's proposals in the ongoing WTO negotiations as regards duty levels for agricultural products should be adjusted in accordance with the Plan of Implementation.</p> <p>The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources must enter into force to simplify access to and benefit-sharing in connection with the use of important genetic resources.</p> <p>Increase the proportion of organically cultivated land to 20% by 2005 as a step towards conversion to ecologically sustainable agriculture.</p>

Objectives set out in the Plan of Implementation	Implemented or ongoing measures by Sweden	The challenges we face
<p>9. Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain or restore fish stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015 (31). ▪ Prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by 2004 (31). ▪ Develop and implement national and regional plans of action for fisheries management by 2005 (31). ▪ Combat deforestation, erosion, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, disruption of water flows and retreat of glaciers in mountain ecosystems (42). ▪ Achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010 (44). ▪ Encourage effective synergies between the conventions that protect biodiversity (44). ▪ Promote the wide implementation and further development of the ecosystem approach (44). ▪ Share the benefits of traditional knowledge and practices with indigenous peoples (44). ▪ Establish international arrangements for equitable utilization of genetic resources (44). ▪ Achieve sustainable forest management, nationally and globally (45). 	<p>A sixteenth national environmental quality objective on biological diversity will be formulated on the basis of the Plan of Implementation.</p> <p>A long-term effort is being made to increase our understanding of biological diversity by means of a taxonomy project conducted by the Swedish Threatened Species Unit.</p> <p>Sweden is supporting the Global Taxonomy Initiative.</p> <p>The integrated Swedish nature conservation policy that was approved by Parliament in 2002 emphasizes cooperation with local stakeholders.</p> <p>A further 900,000 hectares of forest land that is worth protecting will be taken out of forest production in Sweden by 2010.</p> <p>The possibility of eventually banning fishing in protected marine areas is being investigated.</p> <p>A Government Bill on coastal and lake fisheries is planned for the spring of 2003.</p>	<p>The linkages between biological diversity, natural resource management, biosafety and development need to be studied in greater detail.</p> <p>Sweden's forestry policy for sustainable development should be strengthened and developed.</p> <p>Sustainable fisheries need to be developed everywhere.</p> <p>The developing countries must be assured of a share of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.</p> <p>Integrate and increase responsibility for biological diversity in all sectors with a view to attaining the objective of reducing species loss by 2010.</p> <p>Increase knowledge about biological diversity, e.g. through global taxonomy projects, in order to identify the significance and roles of species in ecosystems.</p>

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<p>10. Knowledge and information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve cooperation between researchers in different disciplines and between researchers and decision-makers (109). ▪ Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling (116). ▪ Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 (120). ▪ Integrate sustainable development into education systems at all levels (121). ▪ Ensure access to information, participation and judicial and administrative proceedings in connection with decision-making on environmental matters (128). ▪ Promote further work on indicators (130-131). ▪ Promote wider application of environmental impact assessments (135). ▪ Develop methodologies for sustainable development decision-making (136). ▪ Establish sustainable development councils and/or coordination structures with multi-stakeholder participation (165). ▪ Enhance partnerships between governmental and non-governmental actors for the achievement of sustainable development (168). 	<p>A popular movement forum will be arranged for the purposes of dialogue between the Government and popular movements.</p> <p>Support is being given to the National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations for information about sustainable development in schools.</p> <p>The Global Responsibility Initiative is being further developed together with the private sector.</p> <p>The EU's Sixth Framework Programme on Research, which will integrate and strengthen European research, was adopted in autumn 2002. Sustainable development is a key element.</p> <p>Sweden plays a leading role in the UNECE's formulation of a strategy for education for sustainable development.</p> <p>Sweden has offered to host an international seminar in 2003 on education for sustainable development.</p> <p>National indicators for sustainable development are being evaluated and developed.</p> <p>The effectiveness of environmental impact assessments will be investigated by end of 2003.</p>	<p>Collaborative initiatives should be encouraged in sustainable development policy.</p> <p>Sustainable development will be a component of all forms and levels of education in Sweden.</p> <p>Teachers must be given advanced training and measures must be taken to encourage didactic research on sustainable development.</p> <p>Adult and higher education must be able to offer education for the changeover to a sustainable society.</p> <p>Research as a key factor for sustainable development must be taken into account in future research strategies.</p> <p>Ratification of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters is now being prepared.</p>

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