



Integrated Country Strategy

Sweden

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

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1. Chief of Mission Priorities

Sweden and the United States have strong ties, built up over hundreds of years. The first Swedish immigrants arrived in the American colonies in 1638 and Sweden was one of the first countries to recognize American independence in 1783. The United States and Sweden continue to enjoy a close relationship, based on shared values and common interests.

Mission Sweden's top strategic priority is to cultivate Swedish support for U.S. foreign and security policy objectives, both bilaterally and as a supportive voice in the European Union, the UN, and other multilateral fora. Global and regional security challenges require the United States to strengthen its security ties with Sweden. Embassy Stockholm will also work with Sweden to promote bilateral economic ties and expand Swedish direct investment in the United States.

Sweden has avoided armed conflict for over two hundred years, believing that its interests are best protected through agreements in international institutions. Accordingly, Sweden has largely focused its foreign policy efforts within the frameworks of the UN, the European Union, and other multilateral fora. But in the face of Russian assertiveness in the Baltic and aggression in Ukraine and Georgia, continued unrest in Afghanistan and a humanitarian crisis in Syria, there is broad consensus among the Swedish political parties to pursue deeper cooperation with the United States and NATO. Sweden is a dynamic bilateral security and NATO Enhanced Opportunities Partner and makes significant contributions on the international stage, including security and development assistance investments in Afghanistan and Iraq, participation in the Defeat-ISIS Coalition, and contributions to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. We will continue to work with Sweden to foster further improvements in its contributions to and interoperability with NATO forces, and we will encourage Sweden to continue its upward trend in defense spending with the goal of reaching two percent of GDP.

The 2015 migration crisis, during which nearly 163,000 asylum seekers arrived in Sweden, combined with the ISIS-inspired terrorist attack in Stockholm in April 2017, shifted the focus of public concerns to border security, counterterrorism, and refugee integration policies. Immigrants face significant challenges in social and economic integration into Swedish society, creating vulnerabilities for recruitment by extremists. Over 300 persons from Sweden are confirmed to have become Foreign Terrorist Fighters that joined ISIS, and a number of them have since returned to live in Sweden. We are working with Sweden as it develops further capacity in the fight against terrorism and other transnational threats, including violent extremism. We are also working closely with Sweden as it faces the challenge of integrating its

new immigrants. We are encouraging Sweden to bolster its anti-terror legislation, increase information sharing with U.S. officials, and to prosecute more terror suspects.

Additionally, disinformation and malign influence campaigns by state actors targeting Sweden create opportunities for the United States to provide capacity building and expertise to develop countermeasures. We will expand our bilateral cooperation, exchanges, and briefings in this area. In addition to a strong law enforcement relationship, which includes the sharing of evidence to combat terrorism and violent extremist, we also maintain strong working relationships with many Swedish government ministries on countering cybercrime and will continue to build on these linkages to expand cooperation. We will support and work with interagency partners to identify and address gaps in Sweden's ability to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cybercrimes, as well as encourage Sweden to become a party to the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention.

The economic relationship between the United States and Sweden is broad and comprehensive, creating jobs and contributing to prosperity in both countries. Promoting further trade and investment cooperation benefits both Sweden and the United States. Sweden is the fifteenth largest source of foreign investment in the United States, directly employing nearly a quarter of a million people across all 50 states. Sweden also imports an estimated \$3.7 billion from the United States in goods. Through direct commercial engagement and by defending and promoting advantageous trade policies, we will work to expand Swedish foreign direct investment in the U.S. even further, while increasing U.S. exports to Sweden and, through Sweden, to the Nordic region and Europe.

Supporting these priorities requires robust public affairs engagement. The Mission's Public Affairs Section will focus on topics that benefit both Sweden and the United States, such as strengthening our security ties and promoting entrepreneurship and innovation. We will continue to reach out to Sweden's newest residents, who face significant challenges in integration and who are potentially vulnerable to radicalization.

Swedes recognize that the United States is the world's leader in research and innovation. Sweden in turn is a leader on energy sustainability; with large contributions from biofuels and hydroelectric plants, the country will get 50 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. Sweden is also a focal point for start-ups of small and medium-sized enterprises, most notably in the sectors of cyber security, eHealth, intelligent transportation, connective technology, and gaming. We will continue to highlight U.S. discoveries and scientific achievements, and work to increase the number of Swedish entrepreneurs, researchers, and students who choose to invest, research, and study in the United States.

2. Mission Strategic Framework

Mission Goal 1: Sweden more actively partners with the United States to address regional and global challenges.

Mission Objective 1.1: Sweden is a more active and effective NATO Enhanced Opportunities and bilateral security partner and has a more robust territorial defense capability.

Mission Objective 1.2: Sweden continues to promote global security via active bilateral, multilateral, and public engagement.

Mission Objective 1.3: Sweden expands its capacity in the fight against terrorism and other transnational threats, including violent extremism.

Mission Objective 1.4: Sweden expands its capacity to counter disinformation and malign influence.

Mission Goal 2: Sweden contributes to greater economic growth in the United States.

Mission Objective 2.1: Create jobs and contribute to prosperity in the United States through promotion of increased U.S. exports and Swedish FDI.

Mission Objective 2.2: Through policy advocacy, ensure U.S. companies have fair and equal access to Swedish markets.

Mission Objective 2.3: Sweden takes a larger role in international fora in leading and lobbying on economic and energy issues of concern to the United States in the EU.

Mission Goal 3: U.S. citizens in Sweden receive first-class service and support from the Embassy.

Mission Objective 3.1: Mission Sweden protects and supports the welfare and interests of U.S. citizens living in or visiting Sweden and collaborates closely with the U.S. citizen community and U.S. companies in Sweden to advance shared interests.

Mission Objective 3.2: Mission Sweden is prepared for and provides effective support to U.S. citizens and businesses in times of national or personal emergencies.

Management Objective 1: Complete urgent Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) upgrades to current Chancery, including improvements to the compound access control building, windows, and water/sewer systems.

Management Objective 2: Move forward with plans for a New Embassy Compound.

Management Objective 3: Identify efficiencies to protect taxpayer dollars while providing effective services to support programmatic activities.

3. Mission Goals and Objectives

Mission Goal 1: Sweden more actively partners with the United States to address regional and global challenges.

Description and Linkages: This Mission Goal implements multiple goals in the 2018-2022 EUR Joint Regional Strategy Framework, including Goal 1 - Strengthening the Western Alliance, Goal 3 – Secure and Stabilize the Eastern and Southern Frontiers, Goal 4 – Preserve Western Democratic Principles, and Goal 5 – Ensure Effectiveness and Accountability.

Mission Objective 1.1: Sweden is a more active and effective NATO Enhanced Opportunities and bilateral security partner and has a more robust territorial defense capability.

Justification: Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and further hostility in Eastern Ukraine and the Baltic Sea forced Sweden to reconsider its defense posture. The government, with support from the opposition, has begun to increase defense spending and rebuild its military. Parliament has approved incremental budget increases in the last two years and will likely agree in 2019 to a significant increase in defense spending for 2021-25. We enjoy productive and cooperative political-military and military-military relationships with Sweden, which we will seek to enhance through increased Swedish participation in joint exercises, mil-mil exchanges, joint training opportunities, and Distinguished Visitor programs. As a core NATO Enhanced Opportunities Partner, Sweden’s interoperability with NATO is crucial to its regional and global effectiveness. We will support increasing the Swedish Armed Forces’ interoperability with U.S., EU, and NATO forces by informing Swedish political and military decision-makers of opportunities for enhanced cooperation and collaboration, including in the areas of development, acquisition, and integration of military systems. While advancing interoperability, we will support Sweden’s focus on homeland defense and regional stability while assisting its continued development and utilization of expeditionary capability so Sweden can be a defense capability contributor in security activities in the Baltic Sea region and shared areas of global concern.

DHS Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) maintains strong bilateral cooperation with Sweden pursuant to Project Arrangement 06-2009 “Information Sharing.”

Mission Objective 1.2: Sweden continues to promote global security via active bilateral, multilateral, and public engagement.

Justification: Though the Swedish Government recently reoriented its Armed Forces towards territorial defense, Sweden has maintained a presence in deployed operations as it believes creating stability abroad will directly impact national security and the domestic situation in Sweden. Not only has the Swedish Government deployed its forces to multilateral missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Mali, and others, but it has also provided substantial development assistance to rebuilding conflict areas. Sweden has begun defense reforms to provide more capability to its Armed Forces for territorial defense while working to maintain its ability to deploy forces where needed for global security and stability. Advancing the bilateral relationship during defense talks will drive tangible security achievements.

Mission Objective 1.3: Sweden expands its capacity in the fight against terrorism and other transnational threats, including violent extremism.

Justification: Sweden is an active member of the coalition of nations working to defeat, degrade, and destroy ISIS, and joined the “small group” of Defeat-ISIS Coalition Members. In addition to being a leader in providing humanitarian support to ISIS-impacted communities in Syria and Iraq, Sweden deployed 70 military trainers to Iraq in support of international Defeat-ISIS efforts.

The 2017 Stockholm terrorist attack, in which a lone-wolf ISIS-inspired perpetrator drove a stolen truck through a crowded pedestrian area, killing five and injuring a dozen more, highlighted for the security services the threat of terrorism on Swedish soil. In 2016, Sweden adopted new legislation targeting Foreign Terrorist Fighters, including measures to clearly criminalize the act of travelling abroad to support a terrorist organization and the financing of such travel. The Swedish government has instructed authorities to ramp up efforts to combat radicalization and has been actively engaged on issues related to violent extremism within the EU. In January 2018 the government established a permanent Office of the National Coordinator for Countering Violent Extremism.

As outlined in Sections 5 and 12 of Executive Order 13768, the U.S. government believes that, under international law, every state is obliged to accept the return of all its nationals that another state seeks to expel, remove, or deport. It is imperative that countries identified by ICE as Uncooperative or ARON make significant efforts to (1)

issue travel documents within the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standard of 30 days; (2) agree to accept the physical return of their nationals by commercial and charter flights, as appropriate (3) agree to conduct interviews to confirm nationality, as appropriate; and (4) develop an enduring and consistent system through which ICE officials can work directly with consular officials in the United States to obtain travel documents expeditiously for nationals subject to orders of removal. Under INA 243(d), DHS may designate a country as delaying or denying the return of their citizens or nationals, resulting in the discontinuation of at least some visa service.

Executive Order 13780 required the Department to “review all nonimmigrant visa reciprocity agreements and arrangements to ensure that they are, with respect to each visa classification, truly reciprocal insofar as practicable with respect to validity period and fee.” INA sections 221(c) and 281 require that the Secretary of State establish visa validity and fees, respectively, according to what foreign governments provide to U.S. citizens. As such, the Department of State must match visa validity and fees to match the visa issuance practices of the government of Sweden.

Presidential Proclamation 9645 states that, “It is the policy of the United States to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks and other public-safety threats,” and “information-sharing and identity-management protocols and practices of foreign governments are important for the effectiveness of the screening and vetting protocols and procedures of the United States.” Under the Proclamation, the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Department of State and other agencies, must report regularly to the President on the status of foreign government performance against baseline information-sharing and identity-management criteria. Nationals of countries deemed deficient in these areas may be subject to entry and visa restrictions under the Proclamation.

Mission Objective 1.4: Sweden expands its capacity to counter disinformation and malign influence.

Justification: The Government of Sweden is concerned that disinformation and malign influence have negatively influenced public debate and democratic institutions. Government legislation in 2017 expanded the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency’s responsibilities to include developing the capability to identify and counter disinformation and malign influence directed against Sweden. Mission capacity building will strengthen Sweden’s resilience against disinformation and promote the integrity of Sweden’s democratic processes.

Mission Goal 2: Sweden contributes to greater economic growth in the United States.

Description and Linkages: Mission Goal implements both the State-USAID Joint Strategic Goal Framework Goal 2 – Renew America’s Competitive Advantage for Sustained Economic Growth and Job Creation, and the 2018-2022 EUR Joint Regional Strategy Framework Goal 2 – Strengthen and Balance the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Relationship.

Mission Objective 2.1: Create jobs and contribute to prosperity in the United States through promotion of increased U.S. Exports and Swedish FDI.

Justification: Expanded exports to Sweden, increased Swedish FDI in the United States, and a welcoming business environment in Sweden for U.S. companies are part of our long-term strategic interest in producing jobs and prosperity for more Americans. Both the United States and Sweden are leaders in innovations related to sustainable energy, connective technology, biotechnology, and other key fields, with tremendous potential for increased commercial exchanges from both sides of the Atlantic.

Mission Objective 2.2: Through policy advocacy, ensure U.S. companies have fair and equal access to Swedish markets.

Justification: A level playing field for U.S. companies is essential to maintaining U.S. business competitiveness in Sweden and throughout the EU. When U.S. companies can compete abroad, free from laws, regulations, and standards that disadvantage them with respect to domestic and other foreign competitors, they can grow and win business in Sweden. When that happens, American prosperity is increased by creating more and stronger transatlantic value chains which create more, higher-quality jobs for U.S. citizens on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mission Objective 2.3: Sweden takes a larger role in international fora in leading and lobbying on economic and energy issues of concern to the United States in the EU.

Justification Sweden shares U.S. views on a number of key strategic interests to the U.S. economy and U.S. security. Sweden is extremely sympathetic to the need to ensure the free flow of data within the EU and across the Atlantic, a key concern to the United States’ IT sector. In addition, it is wary of energy projects like the Russian Nord Stream 2 pipeline that threaten EU energy independence as well as regional security. On these and a number of other issues, Sweden could help the United States by pushing for mutually beneficial policies in Brussels. It is in the United States’ long-term interest for Embassy Stockholm to coordinate with Brussels on working with Sweden to push forward mutually beneficial economic and energy policies in the EU.

Mission Goal 3: U.S. citizens in Sweden receive first-class service and support from the Embassy.

Description and Linkages: Protecting and serving U.S. citizens is our highest priority. Focusing on the welfare of our individual citizens, whether with routine and emergency passport services or crisis intervention, contributes to the security and strength of our people. This is consistent with State-USAID Joint Strategic Framework 1.5 (to strengthen U.S. border security and protect U.S. citizens abroad).

Mission Objective 3.1: Mission Sweden protects and supports the welfare and interests of U.S. citizens living in or visiting Sweden and collaborates closely with the U.S. citizen community and U.S. companies in Sweden to advance shared interests.

Justification: At any given moment, Sweden houses tens of thousands of U.S. citizens within its borders. Many of these Americans, mostly dual nationals with Swedish citizenship, live and work in Sweden and represent a vital part of the strong partnership between the two countries, whether in the tech, knowledge, defense or commercial sectors. Ensuring those U.S. citizens have access to efficient citizenship services strengthens that bond by guaranteeing U.S. citizens can live and operate abroad with ease. It also renews and reinforces their continuing ties to the United States.

Mission Objective 3.2: Mission Sweden is prepared for and provides effective support to U.S. citizens and businesses in times of national or personal emergencies.

Justification: The Regional Security Office (RSO) and Federal Bureau of Investigation Legal Attaché (LEGAT) leverage U.S. Law Enforcement and security efforts in Sweden by directly partnering with multiple Swedish Law Enforcement organizations. Increasing Counter Terrorism (CT) requirements and enhanced partnerships along mutual lines of effort secures U.S. citizens and U.S. interests in Sweden. The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) is the primary vehicle for disseminating vital security information to American based businesses operating in Sweden. This objective directly supports Mission Goals 1 and 3.

4. Management Objectives

Management Objective 1: Complete urgent Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) upgrades to current Chancery, including improvements to the compound access control building, windows, and water/sewer systems.

Justification: Embassy Stockholm's Chancery was constructed in 1958 and is in extremely poor condition. There is a current, approved waiver from the Bureau of Diplomatic Security for the Chancery being located within the minimal required set-back distance. Staff members and all visitors enter the compound through the single compound access control point to a deteriorating building where physical layout segregates productivity and interior air quality is unhealthy. The original sewer pipes have reached the end of their useful life and some have already failed, causing contamination and loss of use. Arctic winter wind whistles through the drafty single-paned windows. A scheduled "selected improvements" project will address only a small handful of the serious deficiencies. This objective links to Goal 4 of the Joint Strategic Plan 2018-2022 to provide modern and secure infrastructure and operational capabilities to support effective diplomacy and strengthen security and safety of workforce and physical assets.

Management Objective 2: Move forward with plans for a New Embassy Compound.

Justification: The selected improvements to the current Chancery outlined in Management Objective 1 will extend the life of the building for the near term but cannot change the fact that there is a current, approved waiver from the Bureau of Diplomatic Security for the Chancery being located within the minimal required set-back distance. Even after project completion, staff members and all visitors will continue to enter the compound through an enlarged, but still single, compound access control point. Additionally, space utilization in the Chancery is nearing 100% and shortly, if Mission Sweden continues to grow in importance and size due to the changing political landscape, space utilization will surpass 100%. Mission Sweden believes strongly that a New Embassy Compound is needed. This objective links to Goal 4 of the Joint Strategic Plan 2018-2022 to provide modern and secure infrastructure and operational capabilities to support effective diplomacy and development and strengthen security and safety of workforce and physical assets.

Management Objective 3: Identify efficiencies to protect taxpayer dollars while providing effective services to support programmatic activities.

Justification: This objective links to Goal 4 of the Joint Strategic Plan 2018-2022 to enhance workforce performance, leadership, engagement, and accountability to execute our mission efficiently and effectively, and Goal 5 of the 2018-22 EUR Joint Regional Strategy Framework to maximize the effectiveness of the workforce to support foreign policy goals.