



Sweden - Summit for Democracy – Written Statement

17 Jan 2021

Domestically

Sweden will:

Engage in activities serving to achieve a high and equal turnout in the upcoming 2022 elections, including through organizing mock elections in schools nationwide; providing funding to CSOs to do voting-turnout-activities; allocate funds to parties in parliament for information initiatives on voting; and fund the dispersion of “easy to read” news information in the run-up to the election.

Establish a new national Human Rights Institute in 2022, with a broad mandate to act independently to promote and protect human rights in Sweden.

Establish a new government agency by 2022 for psychological defence, which will be tasked with promoting knowledge and resilience among the Swedish population, thereby strengthening Sweden’s capabilities against antagonistic actors spreading disinformation, fuelling social conflicts, and/or undermining faith in democracy.

Task the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) to conduct a survey, mapping the extent and the consequences of

harassment, threats and violence targeting elected political representatives.

Present action programmes, under the national plan to counter racism, targeting different forms of racism.

- Assign the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) to continuously monitor antisemitism and other forms of racism, hate speech and violent extremism in digital environments.
- Open a new state museum for providing a framework of permanence for the testimonies of Holocaust survivors in 2022.

Fighting Corruption

Sweden will:

- Prepare a new law to screen foreign investments and allow Sweden to better control/prevent acquisition by foreign actors of companies involved in sensitive technologies or linked to critical infrastructure.
- Roll-out and implement an Anti-corruption Action Plan and a Guidance in 2022, serving to highlight the role of corruption as an obstacle to sustainable development. Strive to horizontally integrate anti-corruption in our development cooperation strategies to ensure that Swedish development cooperation is approaching corruption holistically.
- Implement a new Anticorruption Partnership Pilot Program in a partnership between Sweden's development agency Sida and the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, to develop anti-corruption best-practice principles across several pilot countries. So far, Zambia and Moldova have been selected. Sweden would welcome further collaboration with i. a. USAID regarding this new and innovative program.

- Provide substantive core-funding to Transparency International and Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project.
- Continue ongoing consultations between Sida and USAID to share best practices in how to combat corruption in development aid, in line with the findings from the Summit.

Defending against Authoritarianism

Sweden will:

- Continue to actively promote our foreign policy initiative “Drive for Democracy” and connect it to the themes of the Summit. The Drive for Democracy was launched in 2019 to counter authoritarianism and democratic backsliding. In this work, Sweden will also make use of ideas and recommendations presented at the approximately 100 Democracy Talks already organized around the world and the Stockholm International Democracy Talks on October 28-29th 2021, which brought together human rights and democracy defenders from all over the world together with Swedish Government representatives.
- Carry out Democracy Talks in 2022 related to the three themes of the Summit priorities, alone or in partnership with one or several Summit countries. A process exploring appropriate countries, themes and regions will be initiated. We stand ready to explore potential Democracy talks together with the US, for example in collaboration with International IDEA and the research institute Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem), and to arrange a specific event focussing on the Eastern Partnership countries.
- Continue our extensive support to democracy, human rights and the rule of law world-wide. In real terms, Sweden through Sida is one of the largest donors of development assistance to

democracy and human rights globally – more than a quarter of our international assistance goes to democracy and human rights support. In addition to this, we have multi-annual core funding agreements with multilateral organisations such as UNDP and annual core-funding agreements with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We also provide support to democracy institutions such as International IDEA, the European Endowment for Democracy, the Prague Civil Society Centre and V-Dem, and we will continue our support for global political party development.

- Continue the process to prepare for support in 2022 to The International Fund for Public Interest Media, in addition to our already very large support to media and free flow of information worldwide, as well as encourage other smaller donors to come on board.
- Host a digital High-Level Meeting in 2022 on environmental human rights defenders, back to back with the Human Rights Council's 49th session. If the U.S. would be interested, we would be happy to discuss this as a joint project.

Advancing Human Rights

Sweden will:

- Aim to advance the democracy, human rights and rule of law agenda during the Swedish EU Presidency in the first half of 2023, and take forward the conclusions from the Summit for Democracy 2022.
- Make use of its 2022 Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance to follow up on the commitments made at the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism October 13th 2021 and to further

the national and international human rights agenda, in line with the purpose of the Summit.

- Use our membership in the OSCE Troika in 2022 to energetically follow up on human rights and the agenda of the third dimension, in line with the outcomes of the Summit.
- Continue to pursue our work on Digital Technology as a means for human rights, in collaboration with partners such as Access Now, Article 19, Digital Defenders Partnership, Civil Rights Defenders, Defend Defenders and Frontline Defenders. We will also continue to be an active and engaged member of the Freedom Online Coalition and view it as an important platform to discuss protection and promotion of human rights online.
- Provide extensive support to the human rights normative work through the UN Development Group's Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi Donor Trust Fund (UND-HRM).
- Maintain strong political as well as financial support to the protection and promotion of human rights defenders.
- Consider joining the Coalition for Securing Electoral Integrity and participate in initial discussions in early 2022 through our Development Cooperation Agency, Sida.
- Continue to publish country reports about human rights, democracy and rule of law in all countries with Swedish diplomatic presence.
- Support the Export Controls and Human Rights Initiative in line with the recently strengthened EU framework regulating exports of dual use technologies.
- Support members of the Lifeline Consortium such as the Swedish International Liberal Center (SILC), Front Line

Defenders, CIVICUS and The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) and participate in the Lifeline Donor Steering Committee.

Gender equality

Sweden will:

- To strengthen our work on gender equality, Sweden will launch a new global strategy for gender equality and women and girl's rights during 2022. This development cooperation strategy works specifically on supporting women's rights organizations and the development of gender equal statistics and research. This strategy is in addition to the gender equality work already carried out by Sida, where 87 % of all funds go to projects that have a gender equality component.
- Strengthen support to civil society women's right organizations (current level of ODA is USD 50 million per year).
- Further women's economic empowerment in line with our commitments at the Generation Equality Forum and within its Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights (Sweden co-lead). In this context, Sweden is committed to work on gender-responsive public and private quality care services, decent work for women in the formal as well as informal economy, expand women's access to productive resources, products and services as well as design and implement gender-responsive macroeconomic plans, including budget reforms.
- Participate in the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse.