

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SWEDEN AND CLIMATE ACTION

MAIN MESSAGES

- **Far-reaching, rapid and unprecedented transformation of all aspects of society to tackle climate change.** Climate action and inclusive socio-economic progress are mutually supportive - it is the failure to act that will bring huge costs to society. Coherent and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement will strengthen national efforts and maximize co-benefits. In implementing the Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions must be integrated in national policies and processes, including budget processes. Cost-effective carbon pricing measures, such as carbon taxation, can also mobilise domestic resources. Mitigation and adaptation require strong institutions as well as partnerships for investment and technology transfer within and between societies. Sweden stands ready to offer support in relation to policy, financing and technology to accelerate climate action globally.
- **Taking ambitious global action on climate change.** Ambition in addressing climate change should be continuously enhanced, based on and guided by the best science available. Developed countries should continue to take the lead. Commitment to existing undertakings and scaling up mobilization of financial resources from a range of sources will be essential to realize implementation and support those who need it most in their transformation. Resource mobilization for climate action should build on the principles of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Governments have a role in setting the right policies and regulatory frameworks to accelerate climate action. In addition, effective policy responses to combat climate change can address drivers of conflict and mitigate climate-related security risks. Enable climate change initiatives organized by young people and children.
- **Strengthening resilience to climate impacts and extreme weather events.** Climate change will increase the risk for conflict, poverty and inequality - adaptation support and disaster preparedness must therefore include focus on the most vulnerable. Adaptation measures are often cross-border and cross-sectoral, and include all levels of decision making. It is also essential that women and indigenous peoples participate in decision making. Effective policy responses to combat climate change can also address drivers of conflict and mitigate climate-related security risks. Climate change initiatives organized by young people and children should be enabled.

SWEDEN ON TARGET FOR SDG 13: GLOBAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET

It is the responsibility of all governments to implement the Paris Agreement in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda. The Swedish Government has therefore set the objective of making Sweden the world's first fossil-free welfare state. This ambition requires mobilising the whole of society, not least municipalities, cities, business and civil society.

Sweden at work nationally

In 2017, the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) adopted, with a broad majority, a national climate policy framework for Sweden consisting of new national climate targets, a Climate Act, and a climate policy council. By 2045, Sweden is to have zero net emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and should thereafter achieve negative emissions. The reform is a key component of Sweden's efforts to implement the Paris Agreement.

Sweden has introduced a range of policies and measures to lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Of particular significance are investments from

earlier decades in expanding district heating networks, public transport systems and the carbon-free production of electricity. The policy instruments have had a significant effect so far but further mitigation is required.

Since the early 1990s, two key instruments in reducing Swedish emissions have been the energy and carbon dioxide taxes. These taxes have been supplemented with other instruments, such as an electricity certificates system, the procurement of innovative technologies, public information campaigns, a differentiated annual vehicle tax and investment grants. EU-wide policy instruments such as emission standards for new vehicles and the EU emissions trading

scheme (EU ETS) are also important.

A set of other policy instruments are also applied in Sweden, such as grants through climate investment programmes for local actors and new industry ventures, research and development. To further spur emission reductions in the transport sector, an emission reduction requirement for petrol and diesel has been introduced, promoting the use of biofuels.

The Government launched the Fossil-Free Sweden initiative in 2015, which mobilises and supports key actors in their climate efforts. In partnership with this initiative, 13 industrial sectors have presented roadmaps for fossil-free competitiveness. New technologies and innovations are key.

In the summer of 2018, Sweden was affected by water shortages and heat waves resulting in forest fires. These types of events are expected to increase in frequency, requiring civil emergency preparedness and protection of vulnerable groups.

In 2018, the Swedish Government adopted the first National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation. The strategy outlines mechanisms for coordination, monitoring, evaluation and review of adaptation to climate change. A National Expert Council on Climate Change Adaptation has been established. As adaptation work cuts across many different disciplines, it is guided to a large extent by existing legislation, frameworks and targets. Several national authorities are developing adaptation action plans for their areas of responsibility. The Government has adopted an ordinance mandating national authorities and county administrative boards to initiate, support and monitor adaptation within their areas of responsibility. Regional action plans from 2014 contain a total of 800 proposed actions for the entire country. These include flood protection, protection of drinking water, shoreline protection, infrastructure (roads and railways), adaptation of agriculture and forestry, and heatwave and health

care resilience. To spur further progress, the Government has issued amendments to the Planning and Building Act.

Sweden at work globally

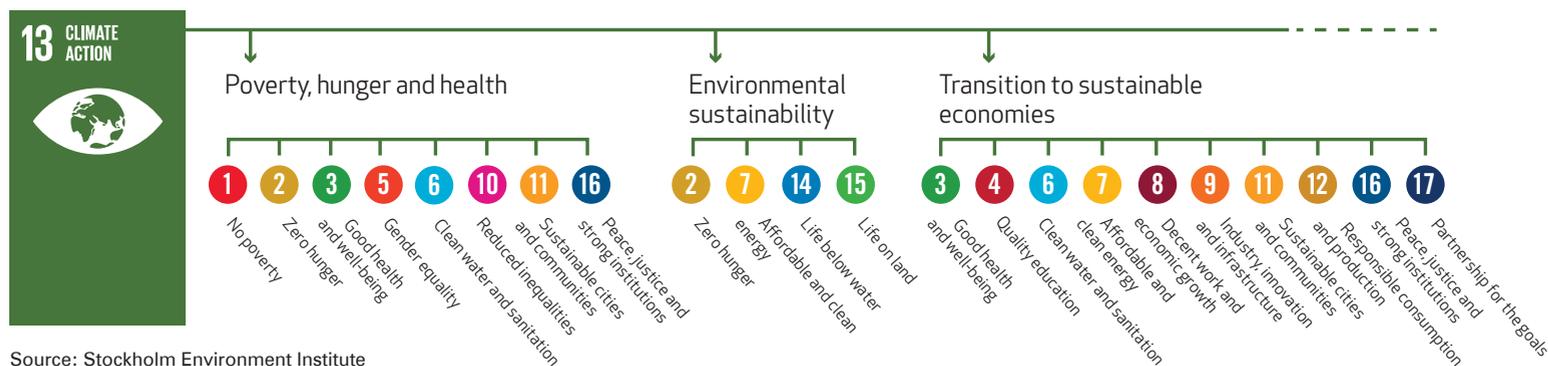
Climate change is the defining issue of our time and a top priority for the Swedish Government. Sweden has a long history of supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation action in developing countries, in an array of sectors and on a long-term basis, and has scaled up its ambitions since the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Many Swedish actors, such as ministries, government agencies, state-owned companies, civil society organisations, universities and the private sector, assist in climate change-related actions and activities, such as providing grants and innovative finance, technology transfer, research and various forms of capacity development. There are several different forms of cooperation, policy instruments and support, including efforts to mobilise additional private finance.

Environment and climate change are among the key policy areas in the framework for Swedish development cooperation, and an environmental and climate perspective is to be integrated into all Swedish development cooperation. The framework highlights that Sweden will support low- and middle-income countries' accession to and implementation of commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. Sweden provides approximately SEK 5 billion annually to support climate action in developing countries. Sweden is the largest per capita donor in the world to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – as well as to other key multilateral climate funds, such as the Adaptation Fund. Sweden's bilateral climate change efforts focus on climate-vulnerable

countries, such as Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Cambodia. Sweden has also played an active role internationally in sharing success stories of cost-effective carbon pricing measures – in particular, carbon taxation – both bilaterally with countries considering such measures and in different international forums, such as the UN, the World Bank and the OECD.

The United Nations Tax Committee and the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action are two of the forums in which Sweden is sharing its long and positive experiences of carbon taxation, hoping more countries will use economic measures to put a price on carbon. Sweden believes that to accelerate results, climate action needs to be integrated into national budget and planning processes. Such an approach facilitates both the climate-proofing of national budgets and national resource mobilisation in line with the principles of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

Connecting the dots¹



Source: Stockholm Environment Institute

Climate change threatens many of the development ambitions expressed in the SDGs. Achieving climate mitigation and adaptation targets will be critical to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Poverty, hunger and health

The impacts of climate change often exacerbate poverty (SDG 1) and inequality (SDGs 5 and 10). It is essential that adaptation support and emergency preparedness give sufficient attention to people whose lives and livelihoods are most vulnerable – such as women and girls, and poor people. The World Health Organization warns that climate change could cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 from factors such as malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.² This underlines the importance of measures to increase food security (SDG 2), promote good health (SDG 3) as well as access to safe drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6).

Investment in water and sanitation infrastructure and water resource management (SDG 6) and urban planning (SDG 11) can mitigate the impacts of drought, flooding and the risk of waterborne

disease. Climate change can exacerbate other causes of conflict (SDG 16). Adaptation measures to increase food and water security may, in societies directly dependent on these natural resources, decrease the risk of conflict.

Environmental sustainability

Mitigating climate change means slowing the increasing risk of drought, flooding, changing precipitation patterns, forest fires and other weather-related phenomena, including the migration of pests and diseases due to rising temperatures. These can all have devastating impacts on terrestrial biodiversity (SDG 15) and pose serious threats to marine life (SDG 14) as a result of ocean warming and acidification. However, human efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change can also pose sustainability risks. It is of paramount importance that interventions aimed at mitigating climate change are also compatible with, for example, the sustainable production of bioenergy in the agricultural and forestry sector (SDGs 2, 7 and 15) and the broader 2030 Agenda.

Transition to sustainable economies

Progress on SDG 13 will require fundamental changes to our energy systems (SDG 7) and to our modes of production and consumption (SDGs 8, 9 and 12) – more specifically, an end to our dependence on fossil fuels. Phasing out fossil fuels will bring major health gains (SDG 3), for example in urban areas through the transport sectors. The phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies (SDG 12) would also free up significant funds that could be invested sustainably.

Investing in more climate-resilient infrastructure and urban planning (SDGs 6, 9 and 11) could also provide major economic and employment opportunities.

Managing such a transition will require strong, capable institutions (SDG 16), partnerships for investment and technology transfer (SDG 17), particularly to help developing regions avoid lock-in of inefficient, fossil fuel-dependent technologies. Quality education (SDG 4) will also be vital, both in raising awareness and understanding about climate change issues.

¹ This section is based on analysis by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). For more information on SEI's SDG work, visit the following website: <https://www.sei.org/sdgs-agenda-2030/>

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>.



Sweden and empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

Sweden is well placed to implement the 2030 Agenda. The peaceful and democratic conditions that have long characterised our country, our openness to collaboration and cooperation with others, at home and abroad, strong local self-governance and a dynamic business climate have combined to create a solid foundation for peace, sustainable development and the welfare of our people.

However, Sweden is also working hard to address existing inequalities; it is committed to reducing income disparities, providing equal opportunities for people with disabilities, LGBTI people, minorities and newly arrived immigrants, achieving equity in health services and providing equal opportunities for lifelong learning throughout the country. Segregation and housing affordability are growing challenges in urban areas. Despite explicit feminist policies, women and men in Sweden are still not paid equally for equal work. Sweden still has a great deal of work to do.

To tackle these challenges, new partnerships are being formed and there is a growing awareness of the urgency to act now. Swedish municipalities and regions are committed to sustainable development. Large parts of the Swedish business community see sustainability as a competitive advantage. Sustainability is increasingly being integrated into the core of business models and is driving new innovations. Trade unions are pushing for social dialogue and decent working conditions. Civil

society is paving the way through its own efforts and by pushing decision-makers to act. More than ever before, young people are recognised as key to transformative change, and the large and growing number of older people are actively contributing to society in many different ways. The Swedish research community contributes cutting-edge research on sustainable development. More than 60 Swedish government agencies have signed a joint declaration of intent to implement the 2030 Agenda and are now finding new ways to collaborate to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sweden's ambition is to be a leader in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Implementation involves a step-by-step approach towards a modern and sustainable welfare state, nationally and as part of the global system. Multilateral cooperation is perhaps more important than ever in the modern era. Sweden's development cooperation focuses specifically on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. Sweden's ODA amounts to 1 per cent of its gross national income (GNI). Sweden is active in many different international organisations and international financial institutions and wholeheartedly supports the ambitions for reform and modernisation of the UN system so that its operations contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



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