



Statements by Sweden – HLPF 2020 Thematic Review

1. Statement by State Secretary Eva Svedling during the session “Protecting the Planet and Building Resilience”

Thank you

The ongoing pandemic crisis shows the significance of fulfilling the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Ensuring economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development, mitigating and adapting to climate change and safeguarding biodiversity will be vital to improve the resilience of our societies and safeguard the future of both people and planet.

Humankind's unsustainable use of natural resources lead to the deterioration of ecosystem services that deliver clean water, pollination and fertile soil. If these services disappear, we will destroy people's living conditions, their livelihoods and opportunities to leave poverty. Children and young people's future will be challenged.

To protect these services and nature itself, a whole-of-society approach is needed along with strengthened ambitions in nature protection. Consideration of biodiversity needs to be integrated in all sectors at all levels.

Nature-based solutions and sustainable management of water resources, can play an important role in securing vital ecosystem services while providing benefits for society and nature.

The process to develop a new global framework for biodiversity is currently ongoing and is planned to be adopted next year. It is of utmost importance that we all step up the efforts to address and take action for biodiversity.

Climate change is a direct and existential threat that spares no country. We need to take ambitious and concrete steps towards a fossil free future.

Countries need to enhance their nationally determined contributions.

It is crucial that the climate transition is not deprioritized in the current situation. In opposite, it should be a starting point for the recovery. We must remember the promises we have made in the Paris Agreement.

Integration of climate action in national budget and planning processes facilitates policy development and resource mobilisation.

We are determined to protect the planet. This must be done by managing its natural resources and services sustainably, by switching to green, nontoxic and circular economies and by taking immediate action against climate change, including climate adaptation, mitigation and protecting green areas. To succeed, we need to strengthen international cooperation.

2022 will mark the 50th anniversary since the first UN conference on the human environment – the 1972 Stockholm Conference. We invite all interested partners to work with us and use this unique opportunity to accelerate a green recovery and transition. Together we can take action towards a healthy and prosperous planet for all.

Thank you.

2. Statement by Sweden for the session: Protecting and advancing human wellbeing and ending poverty

Thank you Chair for giving the floor/screen to Sweden. Sweden is a member of the EU and aligns itself with EU's key messages on protecting and advancing human wellbeing and ending poverty.

Some hundred years ago, Sweden was a poor country and severely hit by the Spanish flu pandemic. Our journey to end poverty was made possible by peaceful and democratic conditions, our openness to collaboration and cooperation with others, and a dynamic business climate ready to invest in sustainable development and welfare systems.

Today the world is faced with yet another pandemic, COVID 19, and it is more urgent than ever to deliver on the SDGs but in particular on the principle of **Leaving no one behind**.

Our efforts to build back better need to respond to what women and men, girls and boys living in poverty tell us about their needs, priorities and preconditions. We need to understand the multidimensional face of poverty that differs according to age, gender, ethnicity, sexual identity, and other aspects of life. If we don't, we risk investing in solutions that are missing the goals.

For our joint efforts to be efficient we must ensure that humanitarian, peace and development actors and interventions work together in partnerships. Each according to its own mandate. But with the common goal of ending poverty, increasing resilience, ending humanitarian needs and addressing the root causes of conflicts and inequalities.

A lesson from previous recessions is that countries with solid **social protection systems** are more resilient to crises. This has certainly been true for the Swedish journey. We therefore strongly encourage governments to engage in social protection initiatives to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis, reducing acute needs and building resilience of vulnerable groups and societies. Sustainable health systems that offer everyone equal access to good services should be a global priority. The outbreak of COVID-19 has illustrated the importance of a gender and rights-based approach to health services, where access for everyone, regardless of ability to pay, is fundamental.

Sweden stands firm in its commitment to protecting and advancing human wellbeing and ending poverty in all its forms.

Thank you

3. Statement by Sweden for the session: Ending hunger and achieving food security for all - strengthening the livelihoods of the poor, ensuring sustainable and healthy food production systems and improving the lives of all

Thank you Chair for giving the floor/screen to Sweden. Sweden is a member of the EU and align itself with EU's key messages on ending hunger and achieving food security for all.

- A food system transformation based on three dimensions of sustainability is necessary. What we eat and how food is produced affects health and well-being, the environment, the climate and economic development for all. [It is directly linked to biodiversity loss and overuse of increasingly limited natural resources – including water, forests, fish and land - as well as climate change through its significant part of the global greenhouse gas emissions.] This while hunger, obesity and malnutrition continue to rise.
- The rural economy accounts for more than two in five of the world's workers and are prone to large decent work deficits. (Achieving decent work requires making sure that workers, women and men, and their families have access to quality education, strengthening land tenure rights, empowering women, improving access to credit and insurance and establishing measures for fair and stable agricultural prices for food security.) Workers should be able to access social protection in order to ensure effective access to essential health care and basic income security throughout the life cycle, this is not least important for women who are often outside or benefit less from these systems.
- An open world where democracy, good governance, gender equality, transparency, cooperation and dialogue are ensured for the benefit of all is the very essence of leaving no one behind. The sharing of knowledge and good practices can maximise the effects of Agenda-2030 measures and help overcome trade-offs and conflicts of interests between the SDG's, such as growth in agricultural production and biodiversity. (To achieve long lasting results there must be coordination and collaboration between different actors, sectors and levels of governance. In addition, skills-enhancing efforts and national follow-up and monitoring systems are needed.)
- Gender equality and equitable distribution of resources is key to long term improvement in livelihoods and food security. The diet related risk factors leading to pre-mature deaths are also gender related. Policies and measures that ensure a level playing field and that secure rights to adequate recourses must be implemented. (Access to infrastructure, markets, finance, technology, education and research, innovation and other forms of capacity building must be ensured to enable progress, sustainable development and decent livelihoods. Secure tenure rights

increase the willingness to invest in, and protect, agriculture, forestry and fisheries providing better and more long-term livelihoods and improved nutrition.)

– Thank you!

4. Statement by Sweden for the Session: Transformative pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda: a whole of society approach taking into account the impact of COVID19

Thank you Chair for giving the floor/screen to Sweden. Sweden, along with EU and its member states, are committed to ensure that the voices of stakeholders are heard in this forum. This is true every HLPF but in particular this year as HLPF is all virtual. Sweden has joined HLPF 2020 Voluntary Pledge to support stakeholder participation.

2030 Agenda asks us to be transformative, collaborative, and have a whole society perspective in all strategies, programs and policies that we design and implement, even in times of crisis. To be able to do that we need all stakeholders involved in meaningful way.

Ensuring meaningful participation is a joint responsibility. Power structures, rights violations, and restricted resources are common challenges that impede meaningful participation. For the meaningful participation to happen, we need to ensure: protection of life and physical integrity, access to information, liberty and security, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of religion and belief, right to equality and non-discrimination. We also need information to be accessible for all, user friendly and disseminated in multiple ways. We know that when civic space is closing in a country, inequality becomes less visible. Unequal and exclusionary development policies and practices are more common, which risk leaving the most vulnerable behind.

Allow me to highlight the Swedish initiative Drive for Democracy, launched in 2019, which focuses on strengthen civil society, human rights, the rule of law, free and independent media, democratic processes as well as women's and young people's democratic engagement. Sweden is willing to join hand with partners around the world that share our concerns about the threats and challenges to democracy.

Sweden along with EU and its member states have been a driving force in safeguarding the participation of Major Groups and other Stakeholders in the review of the HLPF and advocates for higher degrees of accountability and peer-learning in countries' VNRs. Major Groups and Other Stakeholders in all their diversity are crucial partners in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. They are paving the way through their own efforts and by pushing decision-makers to act.

Thank you.

5. Statement by Sweden for the Session: Responding to the economic shocks, relaunching growth, sharing economic benefits and addressing developing countries' financing challenges

Thank you Chair for giving the floor to Sweden and to the business community, which I represent as Head of Sustainability for a major design and engineering company with sustainable solutions at its core.

In order to respond to this global humanitarian crisis and economic shock, we must adjust our priorities and increase our ambition. We need to build back better and greener and the principle of leaving no one behind needs to guide us.

We need to ensure that health services are accessible for all. We need to secure the creation of decent jobs, inclusive growth, social safety, gender equality and youth engagement as the core of our socio-economic crisis response. The Covid-19 outbreak has shown how social dialogue through Global Deal can help us not only mitigate the impact of a crisis, but how it can also help us shape the solutions.

We must continue to build new innovative partnerships between development actors and the private sector to contribute to the financing for development through the Addis Ababa Agenda.

We are proud that our network of Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development - formed in 2016 as a partnership of 18 institutional investors and Sida - has played a role in inspiring the formation of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance.

Together with our Nordic neighbours, Sweden must jointly find ways to scale up local pilot projects to also be useful on a broad front globally. We also support the EU green deal and an inclusive recovery through the multilateral institutions and development banks, in order to reach the most vulnerable people. We need further collaboration with the business community where many of the technical

solutions are already available, this is knowledge that should be translated into concrete action when accelerating energy transition and sustainable development elsewhere.

Thank you!

6. Statement by Sweden for the session: Sustaining efforts to ensure access to sustainable energy

Thank you Chair for giving the floor/screen to Sweden.

- In this critical time, it is so very important that we continue to further pursue global ambitions, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- The principle of leaving no one behind needs to guide our decisions. We must intensify our efforts to improve access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for everyone – by policy actions and by using energy systems based on a combination of renewable energy sources, increased grid capacity, smart technologies and energy efficiency measures.
- We need to significantly increase public and private investments in these areas while accelerating research and technology innovation in marketable solutions. We must also phase out fossil-fuel subsidies. These investments are key to significantly reduce global emissions, enable electrification of energy intensive sectors and ensure economic growth, job creation and energy security.
- However, the historic drop in global energy investments triggered by the Covid-19 outbreak risks putting the necessary development of energy systems on halt.
- Together, we must ensure that every step in the transition to sustainable energy entails a move towards gender equality and equal access to energy. We must strengthen women’s voices and active participation in decision making – securing skills supply and long-term development in the energy sector.
- Sweden supports the European Green Deal and we will continue the ambitious work for reaching national and international climate and energy

targets. This challenge represents an opportunity for progress, and we must make the best use of it.

- We need to build better energy systems that are secure as well as socially, economically and environmentally sustainable in close co-operation, nationally and internationally.
- Supporting the industrial transition towards carbon neutrality, for example through industry owned roadmaps towards carbon neutrality as showcased by Fossil Free Sweden, is a good example of a national cooperation between governments and businesses.
- Internationally, we will continue to support the most vulnerable countries, for example by continuing our support through Sida to the Power Africa initiative for increasing electricity access from renewable sources and energy efficiency in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Thank you!

7. Statement by Sweden for the session: Bolstering local action to control the pandemic and accelerate implementation

Thank you Chair for giving Sweden the floor.

As a representative for the Swedish delegation but also the city of Uppsala, I want to start by the Swedish definition of sustainable cities. It is inclusive and accessible urban environments that offer everyone an attractive and green living environment, with sustainable transport alternatives, such as walking and cycling.

Cities and local authorities play key roles for social, economic and ecological sustainability, and they need access to adequate tools. The role of national governments is to provide these tools and guidelines as well as the necessary support.

For sustainable urban development, it is crucial to use the tools for democracy and co-creation to engage citizens and other local stakeholders. Inclusion contributes to reducing segregation and ensuring leaving no one behind.

Climate change brings drastic consequences for communities all over the world. Most of CO₂ emissions and pollution originate from cities, but the city also comprises many of the solutions needed to counteract the climate crisis.

Infrastructure for transportation must be developed as carefully as buildings. We urge that the national governments support sustainable infrastructure investments on the local level. For example, the Swedish government has introduced a government grant for co-financing such measures, such as biking lanes.

Sweden is already part of many international city networks and remain committed to work together with partners to further bolster local action and accelerated implementation of the SDGs at the local level.

Thank you!

8. Statement by Sweden during the session: Are we leaving no one behind in eradicating poverty and working towards the 2030 Agenda?

Thank you for giving Sweden the floor,

I am part of the Swedish delegation, but I also speak on behalf of the Swedish Youth

Today's proportion of young people is the largest in history, and we are deeply concerned about the readiness of our societies to tackle the risks that the world faces – including this pandemic. Young people are not a homogenous group and we are not facing the same risks of being left behind.

We need to build back better. But how do we ensure that we move from goals to action?

Part of the answer is improving the meaningful participation of young people as partners in decision-making.

All youths are agents of change.

During the pandemic youths globally have contributed to sustaining societal functions - proving that we keep making positive contributions, even when

dealing with loss of jobs, education and shrinking civic space. Imagine what we could do together with increased support from governments and the international community!

We call for more cooperation and intergenerational dialogue.

We need to open up more doors to decision-making for those who have been left out of the conversation for too long.

I also encourage you all to read a short report, shared by the Swedish government, highlighting seven key areas for operationalizing the principle of leaving no one behind. These are:

- 1) Strengthen human rights and gender equality
- 2) Improving meaningful participation
- 3) A Green Transition
- 4) Reducing multidimensional poverty
- 5) Promoting social dialogue and decent work
- 6) Advancing universal social protection systems
- 7) And improving data and monitoring systems

Thank you!

9. Statement by Sweden for the session: Mobilizing well-directed financing

Thank you Mr/Madame Moderator for giving the floor to Sweden. [Thank you to the Norwegian ECOSOC Presidency and the hard working UN staff for making this years' HLPF possible.]

Sweden joins, loud and clear, the choir that has been singing the tune this week - building back better and greener.

[What concerns us are those who sing out of tune and those voices that are not being heard.] Everyone needs to be on board in the implementation of the **2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.**

We need a **strong multilateral system** to tackle cross-border and global challenges.

And we all need to **respond at an unprecedented scale.**

The challenges will look different in every context and the responsibility to respond to them lies with each government to ensure a just transition leaving no one behind.

Sweden has stepped up its efforts in mobilizing international financing during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our strategy is simple - to contribute with non-earmarked multilateral core support. This allows for flexibility and acting fast. In total, so far this year, we have contributed just under 2,06 billion USD [19 miljarder SEK]. We have also contributed with an additional 127 million USD [1,167 miljarder SEK] for Covid-19 specific initiatives.

Sweden's commitment to ODA remains firm at 1% of GNI, but ODA is not enough. Sweden, along with our Nordic countries and fellow EU members, have good experiences from working together with the private sector, providing green bonds, guarantees and blended finance. It is time to scale up these and other innovative solutions to sustainable development finance.

Thank you!