



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Finance

Speech by Ardalan Shekarabi at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 18 July 2017

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Your Excellences, ladies and gentlemen. Dear friends.

As seen in this short film, it has been a long journey for Sweden to reach the society of today. I'm proud to present here, Sweden's first National Voluntary Review.

I am also proud to note that several international analyses have concluded that Sweden has a favourable starting position. According to Statistics Sweden, we already fulfil 49 of the agenda indicators. Poverty, gender equality, education, health, water and infrastructure are example of areas showing positive results.

What have we learnt from our work with sustainable development?

An essential factor behind the positive development and the implementation of the agenda is the peaceful and democratic conditions that characterise our country. This has fostered the development of a culture of cooperation. For Sweden building transparent and accountable institutions has been key. We have a dynamic, innovative private sector and a strong economic growth. The social partners are well organised and have a focus on finding solutions through negotiations. This Swedish societal model is built on a long tradition of cooperation. A focus on cooperation and partnerships is also crucial for the Agenda.

Through the democratic and political path, we have been able to develop a welfare model with the ambition to provide access to health care, school and education, housing, employment and social protection for all citizens.

Many of these fundamental services are managed by our municipalities. The fundamental principle of local self-governance provides freedom to adapt services to local priorities and a changing world.

The local and regional levels also have a significant role in cooperation with local business and civil society. The business sector has a key role in the implementation of the Agenda. Companies are encouraged to use their creativity and innovation capacity to make their contribution.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since the Agenda was adopted several initiatives have been taken by the Swedish government. A multi-stakeholder National Committee for the 2030 Agenda was appointed in 2016 with the task to promote the implementation and to propose an overarching action plan.

86 agencies have reported on how their activities relate to the 2030 Agenda. Statistics Sweden has published a statistics-based state-of-the-art of Sweden's implementation of the Agenda.

These reports and analyses, together with valuable contributions from a broad range of stakeholders have provided a basis for the report presented by Sweden today. Our ambition has been to present a factual analysis of all goals, based on the targets and indicators of the Agenda.

However, Sweden also has challenges. A major challenge is our unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

In a long perspective, Sweden has, over the years taken steps towards an equal society. But still, challenges related to inequality remain, between people and between different geographic parts of our country – and have actually risen over time.

We need to work hard to provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities, LGBTI - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex - persons, other minorities and immigrants. We need to reduce income gaps. Sweden has an explicit feminist government, but we still have challenges

related to gender equality. For example, women and men are still not equally paid for the same work. We must also eliminate disparities in employment rates between women and men and increase the disposable incomes of certain vulnerable groups.

Differences in health, well-being and access to healthcare need to be reduced.

Furthermore, regarding education, we need to ensure that all students have the same opportunities for learning, regardless of differences in preconditions and background.

Climate change affects each and every one of us. We need to find methods for quick and efficient contribution to prevent climate change both in Sweden and in other parts of the world. The situation for our oceans and seas pose global and national challenges.

Clearly, we still have a lot of work to do.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sweden has high ambitions for the further implementation of the 2030 Agenda – both nationally and by contributing to its global implementation.

For Sweden the implementation of the Agenda involves a process of successive transformation and further development of Sweden's societal model as a modern and sustainable welfare state.

A number of stakeholder platforms and partnerships with a bearing on the 2030 Agenda have been created and are becoming increasingly important.

Solidarity is a cornerstone of our work. I am proud to say that the Swedish Government has strengthened policy coherence that gives a central place to the rights perspective and the perspective of poor people. The rights of women and girls are key. In accordance with our feminist foreign policy we bring all our foreign policy tools into play for gender equality including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

Sweden is fully committed to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development. I am happy to note the broad engagement among the Swedish private sector and civil society to engage in enhanced partnerships to this end.

Development cooperation will continue to play a part in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For the last decade Sweden's aid has amounted to about 1 per cent of GNI annually. In December 2016, the Government presented a new policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian aid, based on the 2030 Agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The need to continue the work for sustainable development and poverty reduction is something we must do this together, learning from each other. Dialogue on urgent issues is of utmost importance, such as addressing challenges to our seas and marine resources and climate change. Sweden recently co-hosted together with Fiji the Ocean Conference in New York. Last month a new climate law was adopted by the Parliament promising zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. In Sweden we have a set of Environmental Quality Objectives since 1999. Now we all need to step up to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. For this we need leadership. Sweden has the ambition to be one of the leading countries in the implementation of the Agenda.

Our leadership is about standing up for rights, sharing the burden, tackling challenges and working together in building innovative partnerships.

The 2030 Agenda is about transforming our world to the better. A world we can enjoy but also hand over to our children and grandchildren. The Swedish government must work hard and take its full responsibility. But the government is not alone. We have the local engagement and a broad engagement in all sectors of the Swedish society to be partner for fulfilment of the Agenda. Young people's perspective is crucial.

To conclude, I would like to take you on a time travel into the future and listen to what the young people hopefully will say about our progress in 2030.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Finance

Speech by Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi at the seminar about Disaster Risk Prevention and Mitigation

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Speech by Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi about Sweden's contributions to Disaster Risk Prevention and Mitigation, Mexico, 13 February, 2017. Checked against delivery.

Sweden's contributions to Disaster Risk Prevention and Mitigation

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests,

Let me begin by thanking the Swedish Ambassador Annika Thunborg and Business Sweden for hosting and arranging this important meeting.

I am happy to be here today to discuss these very important topics – sustainability, implementation of Agenda 2030 and disaster relief and resilience. I think we have much to learn from each other when it comes to sustainability, Agenda 2030 and building capacity for disaster risk reduction.

I look forward to continuing the dialogue with you. Sweden is firmly committed to living up to the commitments of the Paris Agreement and I am happy to see that governments in Latin America are equally committed. Combatting climate change and building climate resilient societies is a task that is common to us all.

The 2030 Agenda is about transforming our world for the better – a holistic plan for action on all fronts: socially, economically and environmentally. We need to build a world where each one of us embraces the challenge of pursuing a sustainable development.

Sustainable development constitutes one main thematic priority for Swedish development cooperation. The reasoning behind this is obvious: to eradicate poverty, we must build resilience and reduce environmental degradation.

An increasing number of people around the world are being affected by various kinds of disasters. Over 70 000 people on average are killed by disasters every year and at least a quarter of a billion people are affected. There are many sad examples of countries being thrown back up to 20 years in their economic development as a consequence of the dramatic effects of disasters.

Needless to say, disasters pose a significant threat to development. They challenge the prospects for achieving Agenda 2030, and absolute levels of disaster risk are increasing due to various pressures, including climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is nothing we can do to stop hurricanes, tsunamis and earthquakes from striking. But what we can do is to enhance the use of preventive measures. We need programs of action that include not just early warning systems but above all, more long-term measures.

An important strength of Agenda 2030 in resilience building is the focus on national capacity building for disaster risk reduction, primarily by mainstreaming disaster reduction and climate change adaptation in poverty reduction strategies.

In May, the meeting of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held here in Mexico. It will be an important event for the successful implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Joint efforts with more energy and determination at all levels – including cooperation between countries like ours – are needed to succeed in building resilience globally. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mexico for hosting the Global Platform, and congratulate you on your engagement in this crucial factor for achieving sustainable development.

Disaster risk reduction remains high on the Swedish development agenda. It needs to be a key part of development, environmental and humanitarian policies. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, integrates a risk reduction component into all relevant parts of our development cooperation. We also support disaster preparedness and risk reduction through the UN secretariat for disaster risk reduction. Sweden is the biggest bilateral donor to the organization and we also chairs the organizations group of friends in Geneva. This is, and will continue to be a priority for the Swedish Government.

Before concluding, I would like to address to a dimension that deserves increased attention: the fact that, in many respects, disasters affect men and women in different ways. Women are often more vulnerable as a result of the social structure of which they are part. The earthquake in Haiti last year and its consequences was a clear example.

We need to promote gender-sensitive approaches to disaster risk reduction including in early warning systems. More research and awareness-raising is needed about different vulnerabilities of men and women but also girls and boys. More analysis is also needed on how disaster risk reduction strategies can address these dimensions in a much more focused way.

Dear Friends,

A more integrated approach between climate change, disaster risk and poverty reduction will help us reach our common goals. Sweden is committed to continue to be an active partner with you within the disaster risk reduction system, helping to build resilience in the years to come. I hope that this meeting can make an important contribution to resilience building for both our countries. I look forward to continued cooperation with you.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Finance

Speech by Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi at the Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action

Published 30 May 2016 Updated 30 May 2016

Antalya, 27 May 2016. Check against delivery.

Distinguished Delegates,

Last year was a remarkable year for international development and cooperation. The agreements in Addis Ababa on financing; in New York on sustainable development; and in Paris on climate change, together constitute a new paradigm for global development.

A paradigm of solidarity and promise – where the particular concerns and legitimate aspirations of Least Developed Countries are recognised.

That is why the mid-term review on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action is of such importance. We must focus our minds and efforts on the special situation of LDCs.

This meeting is about addressing their needs. Your needs.

Sweden stands firmly by LDCs. We are reliable.

We consistently contribute 1 % of Gross National Income to development cooperation, well above the UN target. This is Swedish Government Policy since the 1960s.

We are also a top donor to LDCs, allocating 0,3 per cent of our Gross National Income.

We call on other developed countries to deliver on agreed global commitments on financing. That is fundamental.

But there is more we must agree and act upon.

Firstly: fair trade – not only free trade.

Sweden has worked and will continue to work for the integration of the LDCs into the multilateral trading system. We champion duty-free and quota-free market access,

and reduced trade obstacles, for LDCs. The Swedish government actively encourages imports to Sweden and Europe from developing countries.

Secondly: climate action.

Climate change affects all countries. But the consequences are most severe for the poorest and most vulnerable. Sweden is doing and will continue to do its share.

On mitigation, we have set ourselves a bold target: to become the first fossil-fuel free welfare nation in the world.

And we are taking a leading role on climate finance. Sweden is the largest donor per capita to the Green Climate Fund, and one of the largest donors to the Least Developed Countries Fund.

This year, we are doubling our multilateral climate support to developing countries, with special focus on LDCs.

Importantly: those most in need, should be the first in line. Sweden is making a particular effort to secure the access to financing for developing countries.

We challenge others to follow on climate financing. Live up to the promises.

Thirdly: combat inequality.

I am upset by the rising inequality between and within nations. Inequality is bad politics and economics. It reduces trust and prospects for growth. It affects social cohesion.

We need a global commitment to reverse this trend. And we can do it.

By practicing solidarity among nations, such as through international

cooperation, development aid, technology transfer and more. The Technology Bank, hosted by the government of Turkey, can make an important contribution.

And domestically through social dialogue, decent work for all, and ensuring equal access to education, health and other services.

It remains particularly important to work for gender equality. Investing in the education of girls is not only right, but smart.

Fourthly: sensible policies.

The universality of the new development agenda must not divert our focus.

There are special development needs of LDCs: eradication of poverty, capacity-building, promotion of diversified productive capacities, and strengthening social protection. These needs must be addressed.

And we must also commit to smooth transition arrangements for countries graduating from LDC status.

Distinguished Delegates,

Leave no one behind. That is our promise.

Sweden is ready to do its part in fulfilling that promise – and to work with others in solidarity. For those most in need.

Thank you.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Prime Minister's Office

Speech by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven at the launch of Sweden's action towards the Global Goals

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Your Royal Highness,
Dr Nabarro,
Friends,

A very warm welcome to this launch of Sweden's action to implement the 2030 Agenda. It is particularly exciting to see so many here from so many sectors of society.

Because if there's one thing I know, it is that we get results when we work together – the business sector, trade unions, civil society, researchers, politicians and civil servants at all levels.

One of the success factors for the Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda is that so many have been involved in developing them.

This gives us strength as we move forward and begin to implement the goals.

Thank you for being here ready to take on this task. I very much look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas about the work that lies ahead of us.

Friends,

"A quiet life on the peak of a volcano is illusory. In today's world everything concerns everyone."

These were the words of Václav Havel, formulated when the Berlin Wall fell and the world was in upheaval. Gone was the stalemate of the Cold War and a new era of global cooperation began. It was a time when world leaders and countries came face to face with the completely new challenges and new opportunities that globalisation presented.

The decade that followed was a time when the major future global issues were discussed at a string of world conferences, not least the Earth Summit in Rio, the Conference on Women in Beijing, the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

And it was those efforts that resulted in the Millennium Development Goals.

And I know that at the turn of the millennium, there weren't many who believed that those goals could be achieved.

We were used to the United Nations setting important goals and visions but we were also used to careless implementation of the decisions that were taken.

But the prophets of doom were wrong. We have proved that it is possible to change and improve the world. When there is willingness, when global leadership is strong and when the opportunities globalisation offers are seized.

At the end of last year, the American magazine The Atlantic wrote that 2015 was "the best year in history for the average human being".

And much of what was reported there relates to the UN Millennium Development Goals. Poverty was halved – five years ahead of the deadline. Today, nine out of ten girls and boys around the world go to school. Maternal mortality has fallen. Child mortality has fallen.

Billions of people have gained access to clean water. A global middle class is emerging where every second person has access to a mobile phone.

Friends, the world is not worse. It's better.

But we live in paradoxical times.

Alongside positive developments we see deepening wars and conflicts, terrorist attacks, an ongoing refugee crisis and serious environmental and

climate threats. This adds to our unease.

And despite the huge progress that has been made 800 million people are still living in extreme poverty. Ninety million children around the world are still suffering from malnutrition. Women across the globe still have less power, and poorer access to the labour market and education.

A lot of work remains to be done.

It was with this perspective – of challenges and opportunities – that the world's leaders gathered in New York in September last year and adopted the 2030 Agenda and its 17 global goals.

And it was recognising our common destiny that we gathered in December and agreed on a new binding climate agreement.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed it well. "We are the first generation that can eradicate poverty. And the last that can put an end to climate change."

And the work is not to be done by someone else, somewhere else. It has to be done by all of us together. The goals make great demands on all countries and all actors. It is my ambition to see Sweden take the lead.

And there are two reasons for this.

1. It is morally right.

We have a responsibility towards others, and not just ourselves here and now. We have a responsibility towards people all over the world, but also towards future generations.

2. But it is also economically smart.

I want Swedish companies to be the ones to develop the new technology and solutions that the world is crying out for to reduce carbon emissions. Our country will benefit from being at the forefront of climate adaptation.

Sweden's strength lies in being an egalitarian and gender equal society, which not despite, but because of its solidarity and tolerance, is rich, modern and a world development leader. This is the Sweden we are striving to build. This is the Sweden we believe in.

And I know that there are plenty of ideas and solutions in Sweden.

Just over a year ago, I met Mehrdad Mahdjoubi when he was named

Technologist of the Year. I'm sure you have heard of him. He has developed the world's most advanced and efficient shower system, saving 90 per cent water and 80 per cent energy, and the shower water is cleaner than ordinary hot tap water. In addition, he has succeeded in turning his innovation into a business idea and set up a company called Orbital Systems. It is now ready for a global launch.

Many Swedish companies are well ahead. Scania and Volvo, working tenaciously for a low-emission green transport sector. H&M, one of the world's largest users of organic cotton and working for workers' rights.

There are more examples: Ericsson's digital solutions, ABB's development of smart grids and IKEA's goal to produce its own renewable energy and make it easy for us ordinary people to live greener lives with LED lights and solar panels.

I could go on because this is what I think is really exciting – when jobs are created through innovations that are turned into business ideas and reach new markets.

Sustainable business models give Swedish companies a competitive edge. This is Sweden's future. This makes a difference – in Sweden and in the world. And this creates jobs and growth.

Let me give you another example of leadership. Malmö – a municipality that has made the global goals its own. You are showing the way both on innovative environmental efforts and proposals to reduce health inequalities. And there are many more municipalities making important investments in sustainable development – Karlstad, Örebro, Lomma, Östersund and Borås to name but a few.

We have to take advantage of all the available knowledge and experience.

Three government ministers have particular responsibility for implementation. Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin and Minister for Strategic Development Kristina Persson.

The Government will soon appoint a national delegation to facilitate and stimulate implementation. It will be tasked with producing a national action plan.

We will be assisted by a large number of government agencies that will

contribute their knowledge, such as SCB, which will help to develop indicators for the follow-up. This will make our work and the results concrete.

But what is most important is all of you here today, the breadth that you represent and the engagement you bring. Your knowledge is essential. Your work is crucial. We will do this together.

And what a historic opportunity to be a part of this process and make a difference.

We have a long to-do list. Let's get started.

Once again, a warm welcome to you all.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Finance

Speech at the Jordanian-Swedish Business Forum

Published 28 October 2015 Updated 28 October 2015

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Your Excellency Maha Ali, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply

Distinguished Representatives of the Jordanian Business Community,

Dear participants in the Swedish Business Delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to this Swedish-Jordanian High-level Business Seminar!

Let me first of all again thank the Jordanian Government, in particular the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Jordanian Chambers of Industry and Trade as well as the Investment Commission for their warm hospitality and for good co-operation in preparing this seminar.

It brings me great pleasure to be here in Jordan as the Head of a business delegation comprising 16 Swedish companies. In fact, it is the first officially organised trade mission to Jordan since 2009.

Why now? Why Jordan?

Firstly, the new Swedish government puts great emphasis on an export-driven growth of the Swedish economy. A new Export Strategy has recently been launched and increasing trade relations with the Middle East remains a high priority. Our export to Jordan is on average 100 mUSD annually and covers industrial equipment, medical & pharmaceuticals, pulp and wood products. A number of Swedish companies are already present in Jordan,

such as ABB, Ericsson, Tetra Pak and Astra. More than 20 have various forms of partnerships with Jordanian partners. Also, we see some Jordanian investments in Sweden.

Secondly, the Syria crisis and its profound consequences for this region is also of great importance to Sweden. Over 90 000 asylum seekers from Syria have arrived in Sweden since the conflict started. Sweden remains one of the largest humanitarian donors to alleviate the suffering of affected populations. Jordan and other neighbouring countries have been carrying a heavy burden ever since the conflict started, for which you deserve our utmost respect and support. In fact, in a few weeks time, my government will decide on a new Syria-crisis strategy - allocating development funds to vulnerable populations inside Syria and neighbouring countries, including Jordan.

Against this background, I would like to stress two objectives of this on-going trade mission. The first objective is to understand better the process of supplying the UN organisations working here in Jordan. In fact, yesterday we visited Azraq Camp hosting 24 000 Syrian refugees. We got a good overview of the situation in the camp and on the needs and challenges facing its inhabitants. But as I open this Swedish – Jordanian business forum, I would like to put emphasis on the second objective: Seeking partnerships with the Jordanian business community, both in terms of accessing the Jordanian, as well as the UN market, here in Jordan. Also, as a regional hub for goods and services – understanding the Jordanian market will give Swedish business a competitive advantage when we move into a phase of reconstruction of Syria and Iraq. This underlines the need for a long-term perspective on our efforts to promote Swedish-Jordanian trade relations and the need for comprehensive follow-up of our joint efforts.

What has struck me during my brief visit to Jordan is the rapidly growing needs and challenges that the Jordanian national and local institutions as well as international organisations are facing following the humanitarian crisis in this region. Here I feel the private sector can make important contributions by bringing innovative solutions to the table. I see it as an opportunity that several new, innovative companies are present here today as part of the Swedish business delegation. And in this context I would like to emphasize again the opportunity for win-win partnerships with Jordanian suppliers where Swedish innovation and technology can partner with Jordanian knowledge and expertise to deliver best possible solutions. We will hear more about a Swedish-Jordanian success story in the context of UN procurement later this afternoon.

Before I conclude, let me once again thank all Jordanians and Your Excellency Minister Maha Ali for the warm welcome to your country. I look forward to this business seminar and I hope for active discussions and networking opportunities.

Thank you for your attention!



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Finance

Speech at the UN-symposium: Supplying the United Nations in the Middle East

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Your Excellency, The UN Resident Representative and Humanitarian Co-ordinator to Jordan, Mr Edward Kallon,

Dear Representatives of UN organisations in Jordan and the region,

Dear participants in the Swedish company delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by extending a warm welcome to all of you who have gathered here for today's symposium. It brings me great pleasure to be here as the Head of a delegation of sixteen Swedish companies which represent the best of Swedish innovation. It is indeed quite a milestone. This is the first Swedish trade delegation to Jordan since 2009 and a testament to the growing interest of the Swedish private sector for the UNs activities in the region. We had a very interesting day yesterday together with the UNHCR, including a visit to Azraq Camp. It was, to my knowledge, the first time ever an official Swedish trade mission visited a refugee camp.

Sweden is a longstanding and committed partner to the United Nations. Sweden is one of the UN's top contributors when it comes to voluntary contributions. We contribute personnel to peace operations and give un-earmarked core support to most of the UN organizations. Since the new government took office last year, we have paid special attention to climate financing and the future of humanitarian assistance. Our contributions also include engagement, resources and ideas.

Sweden's UN policy seeks to contribute to peace, security, sustainable development and gender equality. It is part of a solidarity-based foreign policy and a means for responding to crises that affect us.

Sweden is also one of the largest humanitarian donors in the world, the Syria crisis being no exception. In a few weeks' time, my government will announce a specific Syria Crisis Strategy and allocate development funds to vulnerable populations inside Syria and neighbouring countries, including Jordan. Resilience is a key component to this strategy; livelihoods and access to basic social services will feature prominently.

In its commitment to the UN, Sweden also sets clear requirements for a modern, effective, transparent and legitimate United Nations that is equipped to meet future challenges and take advantage of future opportunities. Needless to say, one of those dimensions is procurement.

Sweden is an export driven economy and as such, the government places high importance on promoting and assisting Swedish companies to expand into international markets. Our newly adopted Export Strategy emphasises the need to look more closely at, amongst other areas, supplying the UN. We have an ambition of increasing our level of procurement to the UN which currently stands at around 0.16 percent of total UN procurement. We can do better.

Against this backdrop we are gathered here today with the objective to better understand the process of supplying the UN organisations working here in Jordan. Yesterday we visited Azraq Camp hosting 24 000 Syrian refugees. We got a good overview of the situation in the camp and on the needs and challenges facing its inhabitants. We were also briefed by UNHCR on the overall situation of Syrian refugees in Jordan. We saw at first-hand how the UNHCR uses innovative technologies to increase efficiency, security and dignity for its end users.

What has struck me during my brief visit to Jordan is the rapidly growing needs and challenges that the international organisations are facing following the humanitarian crisis in this region. Here, I feel the private sector can make important contributions by bringing innovative solutions to the table.

Sweden is one of the most innovative nations in the world and the delegation here today reflects that fact. We have companies that are active in the fields of energy, water, sanitation and health. As you will also see, many of them are distinguished by their emphasis on sustainability. Some of these

companies have worked with the UN or its implementing partners before and some are new to the field of UN procurement. The companies represented are both our large blue chip companies as well as small to medium sized enterprises. What unites them is their interest in better understanding current needs of the UN and whether their products can have an added value and create win-win partnerships.

From a Swedish donor perspective, we would like to emphasize the need to think of procurement in terms of sustainability. How procurement is geared and carried out will impact on how we succeed to fulfil the new Global Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainability has for long been an key value and quality of Swedish goods, services and systems. Here, the UN has an important responsibility to further streamline these newly adopted milestones.

Swedish companies and the government also need to do our homework. That is why my Government has launched a national action plan for business and human rights, which has been drawn up in dialogue with businesses, trade union organisations, government agencies and civil society. Our belief is that business and respect for human rights go hand in hand and must be part of an active corporate social responsibility policy.

Once again, I would like to thank all of you for being here today. I hope that this will serve as a platform and a starting point for future co-operation. Sweden stands firm in its commitment and support to the UN and we hope that you are as delighted as we are to open this new chapter of dialogue with you.

Thank you.