

Sweden's national commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit



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Human suffering has reached unprecedented levels due to conflicts and disasters, resulting in more than 125 million people in need of support worldwide. With increasing costs and limited funding, there is an urgent need for fundamental change and the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul on 23–24 May 2016, offers a possibility to reinforce the international community's humanitarian response.

Sweden – the 5th largest bilateral humanitarian donor in the world is an engaged humanitarian actor. Our work before the Summit shows our deep engagement in current humanitarian matters and covers many of the topics to be discussed in Istanbul. It is our firm belief that the Summit in Istanbul will help to raise awareness, bolster commitment and create new incentives to work even harder and more focused afterwards. The main Swedish priorities at the World Humanitarian Summit consist of:

- Ensuring that the fundamental question of the respect for humanitarian principles and IHL is adequately addressed.
- Closing the funding gap and making humanitarian financing more effective through better cooperation and enhanced partnerships within the humanitarian eco-system.
- Including women and girls in all phases of humanitarian work, building a coordinated global approach with ambitious commitments to prevent and respond to Gender-based violence in crisis context.
- Strengthening affected populations by empowering and including local actors in decision-making processes.

Sweden is committed to contributing to a successful Summit and would like to align itself with all the Core Commitments presented by the UN Secretary-General. In addition, Sweden commits to a number of national commitments presented in this document.

Political leadership to prevent and end conflict

Core Commitment 1: Commit to acting early upon potential conflict situations based on early warning findings and shared conflict analysis, in accordance with international law.

Core Commitment 2: Commit to improving prevention and peaceful resolution capacities at the national, regional and international level improving the ability to work on multiple crises simultaneously.

Core Commitment 3: Commit to sustaining political leadership and engagement through all stages of a crisis to prevent the emergence or relapse into conflict.

Core Commitment 4: Commit to addressing root causes of conflict and work to reduce fragility by investing in the development of inclusive, peaceful societies.

Core Commitment 5: Commit to making successful conflict prevention visible by capturing, consolidating and sharing good practices and lessons learnt.

Sweden commits to:

1. Implementing the “Stockholm Declaration on Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World”, on addressing the root causes of vulnerability and using the New Deal principles to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in fragile and conflict-affected countries.
2. Supporting the implementation of the new UN peacebuilding agenda and the new concept “sustaining peace” in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2282 and UN General Assembly Resolution 70/262, including increased focus on conflict prevention, an enhanced role for the UN Peacebuilding commission, and helping to mobilize resources for the UN Peacebuilding Fund.
3. Continuing to support the conflict prevention capacity of national governments, the UN, civil society, regional and sub-regional organizations.
4. Strengthening the influence and meaningful participation of women and young people in peace-building according to UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, as well as UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.
5. Strengthening conflict prevention and sustainable peace by supporting local, regional and international networks of women mediators.
6. Supporting and reacting to early warning systems and emerging crises analysis.
7. Ensuring an integrated conflict perspective on all aid and strengthening our internal conflict analysis capacity.

Changing people's lives: from delivering aid to ending needs

Core Commitment 1: Commit to a new way of working that meets people's immediate humanitarian needs, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years through the achievement of collective outcomes.

Core Commitment 2: Commit to enabling coherent financing that avoids fragmentation by supporting collective outcomes over multiple years, supporting those with demonstrated comparative advantage to deliver in context.

Sweden commits to:

8. Increasing synergies between the humanitarian and development sectors through a joint and systematic approach to risk, resilience and protracted needs at local, national and global levels.
9. Supporting the UN RC/HC's leadership on the coordination of international engagement and mobilising resources to support the delivery of collective outcomes.
10. Actively exploring ways to transcend the humanitarian-development divide, by supporting information sharing, common needs analysis and the achievement of collective outcomes over multiple years.
11. Investing in developing capacity for analysis of risk and vulnerability in national systems.
12. Expanding from development budgets preventative and risk-driven public-private partnerships such as through risk insurance and social protection.

Leaving no one behind: a commitment to address forced displacement

Core Commitment 1: Commit to a new approach to addressing forced displacement that not only meets immediate humanitarian needs but also reduces vulnerability and improves the resilience, self-reliance and protection of refugees and IDPs. Commit to implementing this new approach through coherent international, regional and national efforts that recognize both the humanitarian and development challenges of displacement. Commit to taking the necessary political, policy, legal and financial steps required to address these challenges for the specific context.

Core Commitment 2: Commit to promoting and supporting safe, dignified and durable solutions for internally displaced persons and refugees. Commit to doing so in a coherent and measurable manner through international, regional and national programmes and by taking the necessary policy, legal and financial steps required for the specific contexts and in order to work towards a target of 50 percent reduction in internal displacement by 2030.

Core Commitment 3: Acknowledge the global public good provided by countries and communities which are hosting large numbers of refugees. Commit to providing communities with large numbers of displaced people or receiving large number of returnees with the necessary political, policy and financial, support to address the humanitarian and socio-economic impact. To this end, commit to strengthening multilateral financing instruments. Commit to fostering host communities' self-reliance and resilience, as part of the comprehensive and integrated approach outlined in Core Commitment 1.

Core Commitment 4: Commit to collectively working towards a Global Compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees to safeguard the rights of refugees, while also effectively and predictably supporting States affected by such movements.

Core Commitment 5: Commit to actively working to uphold the institution of asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. Commit to supporting further accession to and strengthened implementation of national, regional and international laws and policy frameworks that ensure and improve the protection of refugees and IDPs, such as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol or the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala convention) or the Guiding Principles on internal displacement.

Sweden commits to:

13. Continuing substantial financial support to UNHCR, WFP, UNRWA, OCHA, ICRC and non-governmental organisations meeting the needs of the forcibly displaced.
14. Supporting data collection and assessment of needs of urban IDPs/refugees and the impact of displacement on host communities.
15. Continuing to support durable solutions for refugees, including through a gradual increase of our yearly resettlement quota through UNHCR, from the current level of 1 900 people a year to 5 000 people by the end of 2018.
16. Supporting longer-term and durable solutions that benefit the displaced and their host communities, including in urban areas.
17. Supporting innovative approaches for self-reliance of refugees and IDPs through job creation, vocational training and income-generating schemes.

Humanitarian financing: investing in humanity

Core Commitment 1: Commit to substantially increasing and diversifying global support and share of resources for humanitarian assistance aimed at addressing the differentiated needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises in fragile situations and complex emergencies, including increasing cash-based programming in situations where relevant.

Core Commitment 2: Commit to empowering national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing accessible to local and national humanitarian actors and supporting the enhancement of their national delivery systems, capacities and preparedness planning.

Core Commitment 3: Commit to promoting and increasing predictable, multi-year, unearmarked, collaborative and flexible humanitarian funding towards greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people.

Core Commitment 4: Commit to investing in risk management, preparedness and crisis prevention capacity to build the resilience of vulnerable and affected people.

Core Commitment 5: Commit to broadening and adapting the global instruments and approaches to meet urgent needs, reduce risk and vulnerability and increase resilience, without adverse impact on humanitarian principles and overall action (as also proposed in Round Table 6 on “Changing Lives”).

Sweden commits to:

18. Consistently meeting the target of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing to provide at least 30 percent of funding to humanitarian UN agencies in the form of non-earmarked, core contributions.
19. Continuing to provide significant support to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and advocating for CERF vis-à-vis other donors, to help meet the target of the UN Secretary-General to expand CERF to USD1 billion by 2018.
20. Aiming to provide at least 15 percent of Swedish funding for humanitarian response plans through country-based pooled funds, where such funds exist and function efficiently, in line with the target of the UN Secretary-General.
21. Increasing the multi-year humanitarian financing based on multiyear plans.
22. Encouraging humanitarian partners by 2017 to equally consider cash along with other modalities throughout humanitarian response, particularly multi-purpose cash wherever relevant and appropriate.
23. Increasing the share of Sida's humanitarian support which is channeled to local organizations and first responders, including through support to the UN country-based pooled funds.
24. Actively supporting initiatives to increase the transparency of humanitarian financing flows at all levels.
25. Strengthening the humanitarian system's capacity to plan and allocate resources based on coordinated and impartial multi-sector needs assessments and analysis.
26. Working with other donors and partners to simplify and harmonise donor reporting requirements.
27. Supporting durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced populations.

Upholding the norms that safeguard humanity

Core Commitment 1: Commit to promoting and enhancing respect for international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and refugee law, where applicable.

Core Commitment 2: Commit to promoting and enhancing the protection of civilians and civilian objects, especially in the conduct of hostilities, for instance by working to prevent civilian harm resulting from the use of wide-area explosive weapons in populated areas, and by sparing civilian infrastructure from military use in the conduct of military operations.

Core Commitment 3: Commit to ensuring all populations in need receive rapid and unimpeded humanitarian assistance.

Core Commitment 4: Commit to promoting and enhancing efforts to respect and protect medical personnel, transports and facilities, as well as humanitarian relief personnel and assets against attacks, threats or other violent acts.

Core Commitment 5: Commit to speaking out and systematically condemning serious violations of international humanitarian law and serious violations and abuses of international human rights law and to taking concrete steps to ensure accountability of perpetrators when these acts amount to crimes under international law.

Sweden commits to:

28. Promoting improved compliance with IHL in all contexts through support to organizations and professionals in the field working with strengthening respect for IHL and the humanitarian principles and increased focus on developing technical capacity, methods, practical tools and training for local use.
29. Putting protection at the centre of humanitarian action and providing protection for all according to need and without discrimination.
30. Supporting international efforts that aim to track and collect data and report violations of IHL.
31. Actively promoting compliance of IHL through dialogue with State Parties and experts and supporting the intergovernmental process as set out in Resolution 2 of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2015.
32. Continuing to support joint efforts with international and national actors to strengthen responses at national level to investigate and prosecute sexual and gender-based crimes and to enhance access to justice for victims.
33. Continuing cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) e.g. through financial support to the ICC Trust Fund for Victims.
34. Continuing to raise awareness on IHL and gender in order to improve dissemination and implementation of IHL and international human rights law.
35. Supporting impartial humanitarian actors' efforts to engage in dialogue with, and operate according to the humanitarian principles in areas controlled by non-state armed groups.

Natural disasters and climate change: managing risks and crises differently

Core Commitment 1: Commit to accelerating the reduction of disaster and climate-related risks through the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as other relevant strategies and programmes of action, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

Core Commitment 2: Commit to reinforcing national and local leadership and capacities in managing disaster and climate-related risks through strengthened preparedness and predictable response and recovery arrangements.

Core Commitment 3: Commit to improving the understanding and anticipation of and preparedness for, disaster and climate-related risks by investing in data, analysis and early warning, and developing evidence-based decision-making processes that result in early action.

Core Commitment 4: Commit to increasing investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of women.

Core Commitment 5: Commit to ensuring that regional and global humanitarian assistance for natural disasters complements national and local efforts.

Sweden commits to:

36. Supporting global actors such as the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) as key actors for implementing the Sendai Framework.
37. Supporting risk reduction and resilience-building efforts at national and local levels from development budgets with support from the humanitarian side.
38. Taking a more joint and systematic approach to risk and resilience through joint analysis, common planning and more flexible development support towards reducing risks and building resilience at local, national and global levels, including risk-sensitive social protection systems and risk insurance.

Women and girls: catalyzing action to achieve gender equality

Core Commitment 1: Commit to empowering women and girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women's groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.

Core Commitment 2: Commit to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences for all women and adolescent girls in crisis settings.

Core Commitment 3: Commit to implementing a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts, including through the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.

Core Commitment 4: Commit to ensuring that humanitarian programming is gender-responsive.

Core Commitment 5: Commit to fully complying with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights.

Sweden commits to:

39. Only funding humanitarian interventions that explicitly include a gender analysis with sex and age disaggregated data by 2018, and supporting the humanitarian system's capacity to ensure that women's and girls' human rights and empowerment are integrated in the humanitarian response.
40. Demanding that partners apply the IASC, ECHO or other gender and age markers in all humanitarian operations by 2018 and only funding operations that include a gender perspective.
41. Promoting the involvement of men and boys in violence prevention work.
42. Encouraging humanitarian and development organisations to partner and strengthening the capacity of local women's organisations and groups, e.g. through capacity-building and mentoring.
43. Providing significant humanitarian support to organisations with protection mandate, including to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and to promote integration of protection in all humanitarian sectors.
44. Increasing the number of targeted interventions carried out by partners to meet women's and girls' immediate humanitarian needs by 2018.
45. Continuing the implementation of the targets for the 2030 Agenda on maternal and new-born health and making sure that partners provide maternity care for women in emergencies.
46. Encouraging the UN to include gender mainstreaming and measure against gender-based violence in the mandate of UN humanitarian coordinators by 2018.
47. Building a truly coordinated global approach with ambitious commitments to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis context through the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. As Chair of the Call to Action in 2016, Sweden commits to increasing the number of governments and civil society agencies by the end of its leadership term.

