

2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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National report pursuant to action 20 of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Sweden

1. Pursuant to action 20 of the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Sweden hereby submits a report on national activities carried out since the 2015 Review Conference. Action 20 encourages States parties to submit regular reports on the implementation of the 2010 action plan, as well as of article VI, paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision entitled “Principles and objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament”, and the 13 practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, and recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of justice of 8 July 1996. The present report follows the categories in the action plan, which also correspond to the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. Sweden underlines the importance of the object and purpose of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in achieving a world without nuclear weapons and supports universal adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Sweden is committed to the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of Treaty obligations.
3. The importance that Sweden attaches to matters related to disarmament and non-proliferation is also underlined by the creation in 2016 of an Ambassador for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in Stockholm, working exclusively on disarmament and non-proliferation.
4. As a Government with a feminist foreign policy, it is Sweden’s strong conviction that applying a gender equality perspective, using a gender lens and by promoting diverse and meaningful participation by women and men in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control affairs works to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In this regard, Sweden is an active supporter of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament and a Gender Champion, promoting the Agenda’s goal of ensuring the equal, full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes.



5. Sweden pursues a regular dialogue with civil society, mainly non-governmental organizations, on matters pertaining to disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The participation and engagement of civil society is vital and contributes to strengthening and broadening the dialogue, adding transparency and ultimately benefiting the Non-Proliferation Treaty itself.
6. Sweden has established a national research-based knowledge centre on nuclear disarmament, the Alva Myrdal Centre, at Uppsala University, with the aim of strengthening domestic knowledge about nuclear disarmament in all its aspects, as well as to ensure multifaceted and long-term domestic expertise in the field.
7. Sweden was a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2017–2018 and, as such, active and seized on all matters before the Council, including those that related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
8. Sweden served on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors from September 2018 to September 2021. As Chair from September 2019 to September 2020, Sweden was deeply and actively involved in the Board's deliberations of relevance to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including the Iran nuclear issue.

Nuclear disarmament

9. In view of the need to unlock nuclear disarmament diplomacy, Sweden launched the Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament on 11 June 2019. The Initiative gathers 16¹ non-nuclear-weapon States of diverse geographic and security policy contexts and offers a way to implement agreed commitments in the context of the Non-Proliferation Treaty through short-term, practical and mutually reinforcing stepping stones – achievable also in the current security context – as well as to build political support for further progress. At the ministerial meeting of 11 June 2019, the participating countries adopted the Stockholm Declaration, an expression of the strong political engagement of the group. Work among the 16 countries has been undertaken since 2019 to concretize the steps that can be taken to inject trust and momentum into the international negotiations in the realm of nuclear disarmament, including in relation to the implementation of commitments made at the Review Conferences of 1995, 2000 and 2010. An international experts meeting, hosted by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in September 2019, offered independent input to the process. Senior officials of the 16 participating States then met in November to discuss ways of translating the Stockholm Declaration into tangible action in view of the tenth Review Conference and to prepare the next ministerial meeting of the initiative. At the Berlin ministerial meeting on 25 February 2020, the participating States adopted a political declaration and an annex with a non-exhaustive list of “stepping stones”, covering issues related to, inter alia, habits of cooperation, risk reduction, transparency, reducing the role of nuclear weapons in doctrines, youth engagement and disarmament education and gender. The annex was turned into a working paper entitled “Stepping stones for advancing nuclear disarmament” and submitted to the Review Conference. In 2021, the initiative submitted a second working paper entitled “A nuclear risk reduction package” to the Review Conference. The ministers of the initiative met on three occasions in 2021: in Amman in January, in Madrid in July and in Stockholm in December. Several outreach activities were carried out in the months leading up to the Review Conference, with an invitation to States Parties of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to align with the proposals of the initiative. The Stockholm Initiative is also a manifestation of Sweden's commitment

¹ Argentina, Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

and support to the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, for which Sweden is a Champion for action 1, facilitating dialogue on nuclear disarmament.

10. Sweden fully supports the Conference on Disarmament as the only permanent multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. Sweden has underlined, and continues to underline, the importance of progress in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. As such, Sweden fully supports endeavours leading to breaking the deadlock that will enable the Conference to agree on a programme of work allowing the Conference to continue the meaningful work that it has undertaken throughout the years. Sweden also supports the technical update of the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament so as to reflect the equality of women and men. Sweden regrets that no consensus has yet to be reached on this topic. During its chairmanship of the Conference on Disarmament in 2018, Sweden succeeded in the aim of securing a principled agreement on coordinators for the then recently established subsidiary bodies.

11. Sweden participates actively and engages in good faith in the work of the General Assembly First Committee, both in a national capacity, as a Member of the European Union and in other constellations. Sweden is a staunch supporter of multilateralism and a rules-based international order, convinced that international cooperation remains the best way to advance national as well as collective interests. Sweden works to protect and improve the disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control architecture and opposes attempts to undermine the relevance and integrity of international bodies.

12. In furthering nuclear disarmament verification and the collaboration between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and Sweden are engaged in the Quad Nuclear Verification Partnership. The Quad initiative was formed out of a shared belief in the necessity of an effective and credible verification regime in which all States have confidence for achieving nuclear disarmament and a world without nuclear weapons. It aims to contribute with solutions to the challenges associated with verifying that nuclear disarmament has occurred and provide the international community with a realistic testbed for exercising and evaluating monitoring technologies that all States could use in support of their work on verification issues, as well as model verification strategies that could contribute to future discussions on how treaty monitoring activities could be implemented in the real world. Further information on the Quad initiative is available in the joint working paper submitted to the tenth Review Conference.

13. Sweden continues to actively engage in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, including by co-chairing the technical working group. The work of the Partnership is of relevance in the effort to reach and uphold a world free of nuclear weapons. Progress in verification issues benefits from close collaboration between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. Sweden is participating, through a nominated expert, in the new Group of Governmental Experts to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues, which will convene in 2022.

14. The full implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its related commitments would ensure a world free from nuclear weapons. Until that goal is reached, Sweden has been engaged in raising awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Sweden has been an active participant in the international conferences on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and has co-sponsored the resolution pertaining to this matter at the General Assembly in 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

15. Sweden was an active participant in the discussion and ensuing negotiations, including by submitting two working papers, in what became the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. At the conclusion of negotiations in July 2017, Sweden voted in favour of adopting the Treaty, complemented with an explanation of vote that outlined Sweden's position on several aspects of the Treaty, including the concerns regarding certain key shortcomings in the draft. Later in 2017, Sweden decided to appoint an inquiry with the aim of analysing the consequences of a possible Swedish accession to the Treaty. The inquiry, which was referred to public and non-public stakeholders for consultations and delivered to the Government in January 2019, recommended that Sweden neither sign nor ratify the Treaty in its current state. The Government subsequently followed that recommendation. In order to actively follow the further development of the Treaty, Sweden will participate as an observer at the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

16. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [71/259](#), the Secretary-General established a high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group with the membership of 25 States, including Sweden. At the group's meetings in 2017 and 2018, it considered and made recommendations on substantial elements of a future non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The final report of the group was discussed with all United Nations Member States at an open-ended informal consultative meeting in 2018.

17. In addition to participation in the high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group, Sweden has continued to consistently express its support for the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Sweden believes that a fissile material cut-off treaty would be integral to any framework of mutually reinforcing building blocks for the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons. Furthermore, Sweden has also consistently called on all States possessing nuclear weapons that have not yet done so to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on their production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

18. Sweden is a staunch supporter of reducing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons. Step 9 of the 13 practical steps agreed at the 2000 Review Conference called for concrete agreed measures to further reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons systems. The 2010 Review Conference action plan further recognized the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in this issue. As a member of the de-alerting group,² Sweden is consistently calling on the nuclear-weapon States to address the significant number of nuclear weapons that remain on high alert – both as a risk reduction measure and as a concrete step towards nuclear disarmament. At the 2018 General Assembly, 175 States voted in favour of our group's biennial resolution (resolution [73/60](#)) on decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems, with a significant number of States also co-sponsoring it. The resolution sent a clear message about the need to renew efforts to ensure that the commitments to take nuclear weapons from high alert are fulfilled.

19. Sweden, like the rest of the European Union, works to support and to promote the urgent entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including by calling for those States that have not yet done so, especially the remaining Annex 2 States, to ratify the Treaty. Sweden participated in the Article XIV conferences of 2015, 2017 and 2019, and in the ministerial meeting held in Vienna in 2016 on the twentieth anniversary of the negotiation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, also delivering national statements on those occasions. Sweden

² Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, Switzerland.

fully supports the work of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization by inter alia providing technical expertise and equipment for detecting noble gases that are emitted as a result of nuclear explosions. This work increases the effectiveness and efficiency of the verification regime and its work to monitor the compliance with the comprehensive ban on nuclear explosions.

20. Sweden participates in working group meetings of the Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament initiative, with the aim of fostering an open and realistic dialogue on improving the security environment and advancing further progress on nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear non-proliferation

21. The work of IAEA is of utmost importance in furthering the work of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Sweden works actively in Vienna and elsewhere to strengthen and render more efficient the work of IAEA. Sweden was a member of the IAEA Board of Governors for the period 2018–2021 and was for the period 2019–2020 chairing the work of the Board. In particular in its capacity as Chair of the Board, Sweden worked very closely with other Board members and the IAEA Secretariat to address matters on the Board's agenda of significance for pillars II and III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

22. Sweden supports IAEA and its work, including the work undertaken by IAEA to verify Iran's implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is an essential part of the global non-proliferation architecture and crucial for regional and global security. On 22 September 2020, Sweden joined the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges, a European special-purpose vehicle established in January 2019 to facilitate legitimate trade with Iran focusing on humanitarian purposes. Furthermore, over the past few years Sweden has made substantial contributions through voluntary funding in support of IAEA verification of Iran's Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action commitments.

23. It is now more than 10 years since IAEA inspectors were forced to leave the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. However, the Agency continues to monitor the Democratic People's Republic of Korea nuclear programme, including through satellite imagery. To help prepare IAEA for possible future verification in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sweden has been one of the leading contributors of voluntary funding to the IAEA verification team for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. To further promote a peaceful solution to the situation on the Korean Peninsula, Sweden has continued to encourage dialogue and diplomacy among the parties involved.

24. Through the Swedish Support Programme to IAEA Safeguards, established in 1986, Sweden annually contributes with expertise and inspector training to IAEA, with the aim of improving international safeguards. Despite the restrictions due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Sweden was able to host several training courses for IAEA inspectors and imagery analysts during 2020–2021, but at much lower volumes than usual. Sweden recognizes the continued need for access to Swedish nuclear facilities for training support to IAEA and has the ambition to re-establish the support programme to a pre-pandemic level. Sweden has also supported IAEA with methods development at the Swedish Museum of Natural History with the aim of strengthening the capacity of IAEA to draw conclusions based on environmental sampling.

25. Sweden has had a comprehensive safeguards agreement in force since 1995 and an additional protocol since 2004 and views these two as the current verification standard pursuant to article III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

26. Sweden participated in the Nuclear Security Summit process from its inception in 2009 and over its four Summits held from 2010 to 2016. From a Swedish perspective, the process was able to table, develop and strengthen the international resolve behind nuclear security matters at the highest political levels, as well as strengthening the practical work that has been and is being done in this domain. Sweden is supportive of all efforts that nationally and internationally ascertain that there is a continuation of the character and spirit from the Nuclear Security Summits. To this end, Sweden participates actively in the Nuclear Security Contact Group and the nuclear and radiological security sub-working group of the Global Partnership and contributes regularly with extrabudgetary funding to the work of IAEA to promote global nuclear security.

27. Sweden participated at the ministerial level at the International Conference on Nuclear Security held in Vienna in February 2020, and at the vice-ministerial level at the International Conference on Nuclear Security held in Vienna in December 2016. In both instances a national statement was delivered. At the 2020 Conference, Sweden stressed that international cooperation and sharing of best practices are essential in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally.

28. Sweden is a strong proponent of peer review missions. In 2016, IAEA conducted a two-week International Physical Protection Advisory Service follow-up mission to Sweden to assess the implementation of recommendations and suggestions that IAEA had made on an earlier mission in 2011. The mission found that many of the recommendations from the previous Advisory Service mission in 2011 have led to tangible improvements to the Swedish system of physical protection. Examples include better collaboration between public authorities, the development of more clearly defined requirements and security measures taken at nuclear power plants. Sweden believes that transparency fosters trust and best practice among countries and nuclear regulators and has in this vein published the IAEA report on the website of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority.

29. The secure handling of nuclear material and other radioactive material is of utmost importance for stemming proliferation and for public safety. Sweden has committed to reporting to the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database as a means to map when nuclear material or other radioactive material is out of regulatory control. Sweden actively participates in the meetings of legal and technical experts in preparation for the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, following the parties agreed provisional road map from December 2018 to facilitate a review of the implementation of the Convention and its adequacy. The Swedish Government is committed to promoting the full implementation and universal take-up of this and other legal instruments that strengthen global nuclear security.

30. Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) is viewed by Sweden as an important legally binding instrument to complement the multilateral regimes. It sets high standards for States to achieve, maintain and share information on practical, legal and operational structures and authorities in the nuclear and radiological fields. Sweden has provided voluntary funding to the Office for Disarmament Affairs to support the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and was Vice-Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) during its tenure on the Security Council from 2017 to 2018.

31. Cooperation in the international export control regimes is grounded in a shared political will to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Sweden is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee and the Missile Technology Control Regime, which are all relevant to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Adherence to the guidelines issued by these regimes makes it easier to meet

the legally binding international commitments in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, as well as Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Sweden is an active participant in all major regimes and chaired, between 2013 and 2021, the Technical Experts Group of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which is the expert body in charge of updating the Nuclear Suppliers Group guidelines for nuclear transfers for peaceful purposes. As a European Union Member State, Sweden applies a legally binding European Union regulation in the implementation of Sweden's export control. A recast of this regulation was published in 2021 with the aim of modernizing and improving the effective export control, including exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items. The Dual Use Regulation will be updated by the European Union annually and in full conformity with the changes determined the previous year by the export control regimes. Sweden has in place a strict, effective and modern export control system which is founded on regularly updated European Union legislation and well-resourced domestic export control agencies.

32. Sweden chaired the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation during the period 2018/2019 and focused its chairmanship on further strengthening both implementation and universalization of the Code. During Sweden's tenure as Chair, one more State (the Togolese Republic) subscribed to the Code, and the biennial General Assembly resolution in support of the Hague Code of Conduct was approved with the largest support it had received up to that point (171 in favour to 1 against with 12 abstentions) since the resolution was first adopted in 2004.

33. In accordance with article VII of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Sweden fully supports the establishment of regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories. In this regard Sweden fully supports the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between all States of the region.

34. Sweden is an active member in the Vienna Group of Ten.³ The Group submits a yearly working paper to the Preparatory Committees and to the Review Conference outlining recommendations in several key areas: the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; compliance and verification; export controls; cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; nuclear safety; nuclear security; and discouraging withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty. An updated working paper will be submitted to the tenth Review Conference.

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

35. Sweden fully supports IAEA and the role that nuclear technology can play in addressing current and emerging development challenges and in assisting developing States parties in engaging in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and nuclear techniques, in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

36. As a strong testament of the priority that Sweden attaches to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden participated as keynote speaker at the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges, held in Vienna in November 2018. The Swedish statement was delivered by Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs, further underlining the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and the work that IAEA performs in implementing them. Crown Princess Victoria also visited the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratory

³ Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden.

during Monaco Ocean Week in March 2021 to show support for the work conducted there in support of the Goals.

37. Sweden annually pays its share of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund in full. Since 2015, Sweden has contributed with additional funding for various projects in the realm of peaceful uses that aim to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, through the Peaceful Uses Initiative. Sweden's priorities when assessing additional voluntary funding have been the marine environment, more specifically efforts to trace and combat marine plastics, and women's health, focusing on the prevention and treatment of cervical cancer.

38. In line with its feminist foreign policy, Sweden is a strong supporter of the work of IAEA to help developing countries combat women's cancer. Sweden participated in the launch of the International Atomic Energy Agency-Islamic Development Bank Partnership Initiative to Increase Access to Diagnostics and Treatment of Women's Cancers in Low- and Middle-income Countries (women's cancer initiative). In connection with World Cancer Day 2020, Sweden participated in the IAEA panel discussion on women's cancer and hosted its own event in partnership with IAEA, private industry and non-governmental organizations.

39. In Eastern Europe, Sweden continues to cooperate bilaterally with Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and the Russian Federation in the areas of nuclear safety, nuclear waste management, decommissioning techniques, radiation protection, nuclear non-proliferation education, nuclear security and regulatory supervision. Sweden is also initiating bilateral cooperation with Armenia in the same areas.

40. Sweden actively takes part in conventions relevant to nuclear safety, with the preparation of national reports, review of other parties' reports and presentations and with officials taking part in the running of review meetings. Sweden's eighth national report under the Convention on Nuclear Safety was submitted to the IAEA secretariat in August 2019. The report accounts for developments from March 2016 to April 2019 with regard to the objectives of the Convention. Safety challenges addressed cover the decommissioning of reactors and preparations for continued safe operation of remaining reactors, including ageing management issues, the availability of competence and maintained safety culture. Due to the pandemic, the 2020 review meeting was postponed. A decision was later taken to combine the eighth and ninth review cycles. The next review meeting will be held in March 2023. Sweden participates in IAEA, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency and European Commission working groups on nuclear safety and on legislative, technical and regulatory aspects.

41. Sweden's seventh national report under the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was submitted to the IAEA secretariat in October 2021. The report will be presented and discussed at the review meeting of the contracting parties in June/July 2022. Sweden participates in IAEA, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency and European Commission working groups on the management of nuclear waste and spent fuel and the decommissioning of nuclear reactors and on legislative, technical and regulatory aspects.

42. Sweden is an active participant in a wide range of IAEA activities aimed at the improvement and harmonization of nuclear safety and security, as well as of radiation protection. This includes engagements in the IAEA Safety Standards Commission and Committees, but also by making available to IAEA a large number of experts for participation in various IAEA peer review services.

43. A full-scope IAEA-Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission to Sweden was performed in 2012. The Government subsequently requested a follow-up, which

was performed in 2016. The Swedish Government has officially requested IAEA to carry out a new international peer review mission to Sweden, i.e. an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (safety) in 2022 followed by an Artemis (waste management implementation) review in 2023.

44. Sweden attaches great importance to the use and development of international peer review mechanisms and the sharing of best practices among States in the various relevant domains. Swedish experts participate in several IAEA peer review missions annually in order to collect and spread experience of relevance and in order to retain a stock of trained experts in the relevant fields.
