

High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development 2021

REINVENTING SOCIAL WELFARE – GLOBAL EXAMPLES TO COMBAT INEQUALITIES AND EXCLUSION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Sweden's Side-event | 8 July | 07:30-09:00 NY-time – 13:30-15:00 CET



Sweden through Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), Swedish Local 2030 Hub for localizing SDGs and the cities of Helsingborg, Uppsala and Malmö.

Localizing SDG:s: fighting inequalities and leaving no one behind

This webinar aims at exploring experiences from a few different countries of policies to bridge social gaps through welfare institutions and programs at the local level. What are the positive city examples and what can be said about success factors and how do they vary depending on context? What are the challenges and what lessons can be learned? What methods can be applied to ensure effective service delivery, heal the cracks in the welfare systems and reduce the gaps – effectively making sure that No One is Left Behind?

Together we will explore practical and politically viable policy recommendations for dealing with the growing challenges of inequality and exclusion in our societies.

The webinar is moderated by the Director General of Sida, Carin Jämtin, who will lead the audience through a discussion that uses experiences and examples on social welfare actions and reforms from various cities. Can similarities be identified? Key factors?

A keynote speech to kick off the webinar will be held by the Executive Director of UN Habitat, Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif. Panellists include politicians and officials from cities from around the world and concluding remarks will be made by Ms Sarah Cliffe of New York University.

Date: Thursday, 8 July, 2021

Time: 07:30-09:00 NY-time – 13:30-15:00 CET

Venue: You are most welcome to join the webinar via: <https://youtu.be/4Pq1N1EfLKc>



Sweden is well ahead in achieving the SDGs – but some challenges remain

Sweden is in a favourable position in its implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Peaceful and democratic conditions, ambitious national targets for a sustainable transition, openness to collaboration with others at home and abroad, and a dynamic business climate have together created a strong foundation for sustainable development and welfare. Sweden ranks highly in many international comparisons on SDG implementation. However, consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are hampering progress and exacerbating existing challenges. Economic and social inequalities in Sweden are increasing. Young people are exposed to more mental health challenges, violence and bullying. Sweden also has challenges relating to sustainable consumption and production, and the transition towards a circular economy.

SDG delivery and accelerated actions require:

- Delivery on leaving no one behind

Sweden is committed to delivering on the principle of leaving no one behind. This is a commitment to realising human rights, gender equality, addressing inequalities within and between countries, universal social protection, strengthening empowerment and participation, and the transition towards resource-efficient, resilient and climate neutral economies. Moreover, Sweden views promoting multidimensional poverty reduction, social dialogue and decent work as critical elements, as well as improving data to monitor progress on compliance with the principle.

- Going global

Sweden will remain a strong voice for the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda and be a trusted partner worldwide. Sweden will work to build back better and greener in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mitigating and adapting to climate change, and halting biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems, are necessary to achieve all SDGs. Sweden has increased funding to tackle climate change and has stepped up efforts to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems. Sweden will continue to focus on global health, including the fair distribution of vaccines. Sweden will always stand up for democracy, the rule of law and equality, including gender equality.

- Going local

Municipalities and regions play an important role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs are put in practice and innovations are developed and tested at the local level, which in turn contributes to implementation nationally and globally. In conjunction with Sweden's VNR, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions has conducted a voluntary regional review. Helsingborg, Malmö, Stockholm and Uppsala have also carried out voluntary local reviews for the first time.

The Swedish reports can be found at:

[Sweden: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/knowledgeplatform/sweden)

The presentation of the Swedish VNR will take place on Thursday, July 15th at 3.00 PM (New York-time)