



Press release from Prime Minister's Office

Minister for Strategic Development to celebrate 40 years of Swedish-Angolan relations and visit World Economic Forum on Africa

Published 10 May 2016 Updated 10 May 2016

On 10–11 May, Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson will visit Angola's capital city, Luanda, to take part in celebrations marking 40 years of Swedish-Angolan diplomatic relations.

Ms Persson will also meet Angolan Minister of State and Chief of Civil House Edeltrudes da Costa and Minister of Foreign Affairs Georges Rebelo Chikoti. These meetings will focus on developments in Angola and Sweden, multilateral issues of common interest, and how trade relations between the two countries can be enhanced.

"Sweden was one of the first western countries to recognise Angola's independence when Prime Minister Olof Palme established Swedish-Angolan diplomatic relations four months after the country declared its independence from the Portuguese colonial power in November 1975. The independence of Angola and Mozambique was important for the decolonisation of southern Africa and, by extension, for the fight against apartheid," says Ms Persson, who at that time was engaged in the struggle against apartheid in southern Africa.

"Our good relations with Angola date back to Sweden's support to the liberation movements in southern Africa and 30 years of substantial aid and development cooperation. Today, Angola is one of the largest economies in the region and since 2000, has been the world's fastest-growing economy for

ten years. In the relations between our countries, focus therefore now lies on the trade and investment. Angola is planning major investments in energy, transport and urban development. Sweden has several world-leading companies in these sectors and I hope that the talks during my visit will contribute to increased trade," continues Ms Persson.

World Economic Forum on Africa 2016

On 12–13 May, Ms Persson will take part in the World Economic Forum on Africa (WEF), which this year will be held in Rwanda's capital, Kigali. The main theme for this year is the rapid digital transformation under way in Africa.

"Digital transformation of communications in particular, is extremely rapid in large parts of Africa today. This development, which has had a great impact on growth, and has lifted millions of people out of poverty, continues at a rapid pace. I look forward to taking part in discussions on this issue and on the opportunities it opens up for Sweden and Swedish companies," says Ms Persson.

World Economic Forum on Africa

In addition to taking part in the WEF talks, Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson will hold bilateral meetings with Rwandan government representatives to discuss enhanced bilateral cooperation on environment, strengthened trade and the potential for closer cooperation on gender equality issues in multilateral contexts.

"Sweden and Rwanda share a commitment to action on several global challenges in areas such as gender equality, climate change and poverty reduction. Strategic cooperation in multilateral forums gives us greater opportunities to exert influence," concludes Ms Persson, Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Government appoints delegation for Sweden's implementation of 2030 Agenda

Published 17 March 2016 Updated 17 March 2016

Today, Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin and Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson presents the delegation that has been instructed by the Government to support and stimulate Sweden's implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda and its Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The delegation will produce an overarching action plan for Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda and draw attention to examples of best practice in the area.

"The Government's ambition is for Sweden to be a leader in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda and the 17 Global Goals are largely in line with the objectives set by the Riksdag in various policy areas. In several areas, there are already initiatives, action plans and strategies today that will help achieve the 2030 Agenda goals. Sweden has a strong starting position and our work on the 2030 Agenda will enhance sustainable development in Sweden, as well as in the rest of the world. The delegation will have a very important role to play in this work," says Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi.

The aim of the delegation is to promote, facilitate and stimulate the work of

implementing the 2030 Agenda. The remit includes conducting a survey and assessment of the extent to which Sweden fulfils the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda; submitting proposals for an overarching action plan for Sweden's implementation; and disseminating information on examples of best practice in the area of socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development, and working to ensure these win attention.

"One of the strengths of the Global Goals is that they apply to all countries. This is the world's chance to eradicate poverty and oppression, and transition to sustainable societies. Development aid will play a central role in reaching the most vulnerable people of all, but decisions must come from every policy area to help overcome obstacles and create opportunities for sustainable development. The delegation is essential for advancing this work. We as a Government have a special responsibility, but broad public engagement is needed to ensure the 2030 Agenda becomes reality," says Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin.

The Chair and members of the delegation together have a wide range of skills and experience. Issues they have worked on include human rights, CSR, culture, the environment, local government, public authorities, business, civil society, research and international development work.

The following people will make up the delegation:

Parul Sharma (Chair)

Head of CSR Compliance at Advokatfirman Vinge and Dean of the Academy for Human Rights in Business.

Ida Texell

Director and head of rescue operations at Attunda fire brigade.

Mattias Klum

Photographer, filmmaker and author, specialising in nature, culture and global environmental issues.

Ingrid Petersson

Director General of the Swedish Research Council Formas.

Johan Hassel

CEO of Global Challenge, an independent Swedish think tank.

Johan Rockström

Professor of Environmental Science at Stockholm University and Executive

Director of Stockholm Resilience Centre.

Johanna Sandahl

Chair of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office

Kristina Persson to attend OECD's World Government Summit in Dubai and the launch of the global platform 'Governance for the future'

Published 05 February 2016 Updated 05 February 2016

On Monday 8 February, Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson will take part in the World Government Summit 2016. Ms Persson has been invited to give a keynote address ahead of the launch of the global platform 'Governance for the future', where high-level representatives from around the world will gather to discuss challenges facing governance in the future.

Ms Persson has been invited as one of the keynote speakers at the conference jointly hosted by the OECD and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to speak about the future of state governance, coming social challenges and how we must adapt our systems of government to meet the sustainable development goals. The conference, which offers a unique platform for strategic discussions about the challenges facing the OECD countries, will be opened by World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría and UEA Minister of International Cooperation and Development H.E. Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid bin Sultan Al Qasimi.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson will take part together with

political leaders and other high-level representatives from around the world. In addition to several bilateral meetings, Ms Persson will also take part in a panel discussion that will be opened by the UAE Minister of International Cooperation and Development.

"The theme of the conference, 'Governance for the future', is an important subject and I look forward to a discussion on how we can develop our methods of governance to meet the needs of long-term sustainable development. Efficient and effective political governance is a key issue for the world to be able to cope with the economic, social and ecological challenges of the future," says Ms Persson.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to attend Nordic Council in Reykjavik on 27–28 October

Published 27 October 2015 Updated 27 October 2015

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will be in Reykjavik on 27–28 October for the annual session of the Nordic Council. His schedule includes meetings with the Nordic prime ministers, the Nordic Council Presidium and the three self-governing territories of Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland. Subjects including migration, climate, the environment and Syria will be on the agenda.

On Tuesday 27 October, the Prime Minister will take part in the award ceremony for the Nordic Council prizes.

While in Reykjavik, Mr Löfven will also attend a meeting of the Nordic and Baltic prime ministers, focusing on security policy cooperation in our neighbourhood.

In connection to the Nordic Council session, the Nordic–Baltic heads of government will also meet the Prime Minister of the UK within the Northern Future Forum.

Attending alongside Mr Löfven will be Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson, Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke and Minister for International

Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin. For details of the respective programmes, please contact the relevant press secretaries.

Press briefings

Wednesday 28 October

11.15–11.45 Press conference with the Nordic prime ministers.

Venue: Harpa – Kaldalón

14.00–14.30 Press conference with the Nordic and Baltic prime ministers.

Venue: Harpa – Kaldalón



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office

Kristina Persson in Reykjavik for 67th Session of Nordic Council and Northern Future Forum

Published 27 October 2015 Updated 27 October 2015

On 26–30 October, Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson is in Iceland. She will take part in the session of the Nordic Council, and stand in for the Prime Minister at the Northern Future Forum summit.

The Nordic Council session will look at the possibilities for closer Nordic cooperation and the work on border obstacles.

Northern Future Forum

Ms Persson will also stand in for the Prime Minister at the Northern Future Forum. The aim of the meeting is to share experiences among countries and discuss the creative industries and how new, innovative industries and businesses can emerge. The participants will include heads of governments from the Nordic and Baltic countries and the Prime Minister of the UK.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Environment,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Binational Commission Sweden-South Africa

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This weekend, Deputy President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa will arrive in Stockholm with a ministerial delegation and a number of business representatives. The reason for the visit is the Binational Commission (BNC) between Sweden and South Africa, which is meeting in Stockholm on 19–20 October 2015.

During his visit Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa will meet with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, Deputy Prime Minister Åsa Romson, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for Strategy, Future Issues and Nordic cooperation Kristina Persson.

The Binational Commission meets every other year and is a platform for regular dialogue between the countries, intended to develop our relations in a broad sense. This year's meeting is the ninth.

The meeting will be hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Åsa Romson. The South African delegation will be led by Deputy President Ramaphosa, who will also meet several other Swedish government representatives and business leaders in the course of his visit.

“The Binational Commission is an important platform for Sweden's cooperation with South Africa and I look forward to constructive discussions with my South African colleagues,” says Ms Romson.

A new committee on environmental, water and energy issues is expected to be established at this year's meeting. This will create a space for cooperation

between Swedish agencies such as the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Chemicals Agency and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and their South African counterparts. The intended purpose of the committee is to have constructive discussions on shared social challenges, where exchanges of knowledge and closer cooperation in the area can contribute to finding new solutions.

A special business delegation from South Africa is also on the trip to Stockholm. Its programme has been organised by Business Sweden and will offer opportunities for discussions with Swedish business representatives.