

Strategy for selective cooperation with

Namibia

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Cooperation strategy for selective cooperation with Namibia until the end of 2013

Summary

This cooperation strategy sets out the direction of Sweden's selective cooperation with Namibia for the period up until the end of 2013.

Namibia is a democracy characterised by an independent legal system and extensive constitutional protection of civil rights and freedoms. The SWAPO party has been in government since the country became independent in 1990. Some divisions have arisen and new parties have been formed. There is scope for civil society organisations to take on a greater role in proposing ideas and scrutinising those in power. Although they are relatively strong, only a few organisations are active in the area of democracy and human rights. The media are relatively free and the Namibian press vouches for the free, independent scrutiny of society.

Sweden has a long history of cooperation with Namibia, and good relations between the countries have grown from this cooperation. The phase-out of traditional development cooperation began during the strategy period 2004–2008. For a transitional period, Sweden is supporting development assistance within the framework of broader cooperation. During this period, Swedish support has declined from SEK 66 million in 2004 to SEK 18 million in 2007.

The overall objective of all Sweden's cooperation with Namibia is to further develop long-term bilateral relations, based on mutual interests. Cooperation is to help strengthen, expand and deepen relations between the two countries. The objective of Sweden's selective cooperation with Namibia is enhanced socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth and reduced poverty.

The strategy for Sweden's selective cooperation with Namibia is to promote new forms of cooperation and strengthen support for multifaceted relations between Sweden and Namibia. Selective cooperation is to be dominated by partner driven cooperation based on common interests and mutual benefits. Within the framework of implementing the strategy, Sida is responsible for encouraging partner driven cooperation. Partner driven cooperation is driven by demand and the strategy is therefore to be open to initiatives for partner driven cooperation in

a number of areas identified during the strategy period, in addition to those specified in advance in this strategy.

Sweden will continue to contribute to promoting human rights and democracy. Targeted development assistance contributions in the area of human rights and democracy will be phased out during the strategy period, and support for human rights and democracy may be implemented in the context of partner driven cooperation, if possible. The objective of support for human rights and democracy is increased democracy and respect for the freedoms and rights of the individual.

Sweden's overall cooperation with Namibia

The overall objective of Sweden's cooperation with Namibia is to further develop long-term bilateral relations, based on mutual interests. The cooperation shall contribute to strengthen, expand and deepen the relations between the two countries.

Sweden's Africa policy, *Sweden and Africa – a policy to address common challenges and opportunities* (Government Communication 2007/08:67), is a key starting point for Sweden's overall relations with Namibia. Sweden's policy for global development¹ serves as guideline and its objective of contributing to equitable and sustainable global development forms an important starting point for Swedish cooperation with Namibia.

Use is to be made of cooperation experiences to date and of Sweden's comparative advantages, expertise and experiences of previous cooperation so as to strengthen and consolidate bilateral relations with Namibia in general. Sweden, together with Namibia, will act to promote mutual interests through close and extensive cooperation.

Selective cooperation

1. Starting points and objectives

Swedish development cooperation with Namibia has been phased out as a result of the positive economic developments in the country. This phase-out is being carried out by changing over to selective cooperation based on partnership, shared values, mutual benefits and interests, shared responsibilities and non-aid funded activities. The following priority areas remain: pro-poor economic growth,

¹ *Shared responsibility – Sweden's policy for global development* (Govt. Bill 2002/03:122) and *Global challenges – our responsibility, Communication on Sweden's policy for global development* (Govt. Communication 2007/08:89).

environment and climate, and democracy and human rights. Swedish selective cooperation with Namibia will continue to be based on partnerships, shared values, mutual benefits and interests, shared responsibilities and non-development assistance-funded activities. As far as possible, future cooperation will be based on the knowledge and experiences gained from previous cooperation and developed in close dialogue between the two countries.

The Government's policy for partner driven cooperation in development cooperation (UD2007/46452/UP) is of key importance. The Swedish Government's three thematic priorities in development cooperation (democracy and human rights, environment and climate, and the promotion of gender equality and the role of women in development) are particularly important for achieving these objectives. Together with the rights perspective and the perspective of poor people on development, they are to be taken into account both when analysing the current situation and considering new opportunities for cooperation.

A major starting point for selective cooperation with Namibia is the country's long-term development vision, defined in '*Vision 2030 – a prosperous and industrialised Namibia, developed by her human resources, enjoying peace, harmony and political stability*'. Vision 2030 is being put into operation via five-year national development plans (NDP's). This cooperation strategy is linked to the NDP3, which has 'accelerating economic growth and deepening rural development' as its overall theme.

Where relevant, Sweden's selective cooperation is to take account of EU cooperation with Namibia, and Sweden is to be an active participant in these contexts.

As far as possible, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the EU Code of Conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour are to guide selective cooperation.

Sida's overall responsibility to stimulate partner driven cooperation includes supporting the Swedish Trade Council in its work of identifying and establishing focal points between Namibia and Sweden within the framework of the Meeting Point programme. The Swedish Trade Council's role as facilitator with a local presence and network in Namibia is of key importance to Sweden's cooperation with Namibia. Sida will continue to work to strengthen this platform and encourage other partners to do the same. Sida is to draw attention to the fact that the Swedish Trade Council's role as facilitator should be taken into account in sectors such as energy, environment, telecommunications/IT, the mining industry, civil security, tourism, agriculture/foodstuffs, transport and logistics and trade capacity.

The objective of Sweden's selective cooperation with Namibia is enhanced socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth and reduced poverty.

Selective cooperation is to be dominated by partner driven cooperation and in the initial phase of the strategy, also include targeted development assistance contributions to the area of human rights and democracy. The latter contributions will primarily take the form of direct support to the activities of more important civil society organisations. Targeted development assistance contributions in the area of human rights and democracy will be concluded during the strategy period. If possible, contributions in the area of human rights and democracy can be implemented within the framework of partner driven cooperation.

Partner driven cooperation and targeted development assistance contributions are the forms of development assistance that will contribute to achieving the overall objective. Partner driven cooperation is to focus on (i) pro-poor economic development, and (ii) environment and climate.

When implementing the strategy, account is to be taken of the fact that Namibia is open to guarantees and development loans.

The strategy's overall process objectives are as follows:

- At the mid-term review, the percentage of support directed towards partner driven cooperation is to account for most of the annual country allocation.
- The targeted development assistance contributions in the area of democracy and human rights are to be phased out by the end of the strategy period.
- Support to civil society organisations is to be coordinated with other donors in the Nordic Plus group.

The political dialogue between Sweden and Namibia is to be primarily held at the annual high-level meetings of the Namibia-Sweden Working Group and through Swedish participation in the political dialogue conducted by the EU with Namibia, in line with Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement.

The main platform for the bilateral dialogue is to be the annual high-level meetings of the Namibia-Sweden Working Group which are to guide the future direction and monitoring of cooperation. Sida is also to hold an ongoing dialogue with facilitators and partners in order to ensure that the principles of development assistance-funded, partner driven cooperation are fulfilled. This dialogue is to particularly focus on the purposes of development assistance-funded, partner driven cooperation and the principles that facilitators and partners must adopt in order for partner driven cooperation to be financed with development assistance funds.

The dialogue with partners in civil society is to be held within the framework of the Nordic Plus group on issues concerning pluralism, freedom of expression and assembly and gender equality, aimed at promoting democracy and human rights.

2. Partner driven cooperation

The objective of partner driven cooperation with Namibia is to encourage and strengthen the growth of self-supporting relationships of mutual interests between Swedish and Namibian partners in order to contribute to the objective of selective cooperation. In this way, partner driven cooperation will contribute to strengthening the overall contribution to poverty reduction and equitable and sustainable global development.

Partner driven cooperation is to facilitate broader cooperation between representatives, organisations and individuals and in this way, contribute to strengthening, broadening and deepening Sweden's overall relations with Namibia and including many partners, in accordance with the policy for partner driven cooperation. Contributions are to be based on the initiatives and interests of the partners themselves and their joint ownership, and on the needs and priorities of Namibia. Opportunities to emphasise Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) must be exploited within the framework of partner driven cooperation.

Partner driven cooperation is to be used to support joint activities and projects, aimed at achieving deeper cooperation that can be self-supporting in the long term in each cooperation area. Partner driven cooperation is to contribute to generating further self-supporting relationships between Sweden and Namibia. Self-supporting relationships means relationships that have the potential to continue in the longer term with financing other than funding from the development assistance budget. Cooperation is to be focused on areas where the overall political ambition to promote deeper cooperation coincides with the objective of the policy for global development and Swedish development cooperation, and with concrete ideas and interests on the part of relevant institutions, organisations and companies in each country.

The following cooperation areas for partner driven cooperation are important, in line with the overall objective of Sweden's cooperation with Namibia: economic growth, and environment and climate. Partner driven cooperation within democracy and human rights is also to be seen as an opportunity and developed during the strategy period. The choice of cooperation areas has been made together with existing and potential partners in Namibia and Sweden and in dialogue with the Government of Namibia. Sweden will use the results achieved and the knowledge and experiences gained from previous cooperation as the basis for future cooperation. Cooperation areas have been selected on the basis of analyses of poverty in the country, other donors' commitments, Swedish

comparative advantages and using Namibia's priorities as expressed in Vision 2030 and NDP3 as a starting point. The interests and comparative advantages of existing and potential Swedish partners in cooperation with Namibia, and the scope of current cooperation have been key components.

However, one cannot assume in advance that partner driven cooperation will only take place within the areas chosen, since partner driven cooperation is cooperation driven by demand and may therefore also be considered in other areas identified during the strategy period. Sweden's primary role will be to act as a catalyst and partner for Namibia in areas where Swedish partners enjoy comparative advantages. Cooperation is to be based on reciprocity consisting of a mutual interest in deeper cooperation and an explicit division of responsibilities between the partners. The distinctive feature of partner driven cooperation is that the cooperation is defined in a dialogue between partners in each country.

By the mid-term review, most of the annual country allocation to Namibia is to be directed towards partner driven cooperation. After this, Sida is to promote a further increase in the proportion of partner driven cooperation during the strategy period. The following criteria are to apply to cooperation with Namibia, in accordance with the fundamental principles of partner driven cooperation.

- Swedish development assistance funding is to act as a catalyst and be limited in time.
- Contributions are to be designed to stimulate self-supporting relationships with joint ownership and a clear division of roles and responsibilities through such means as cost-sharing.
- Contributions are to help ensure that relationships are established that can continue without development assistance funding.
- Contributions are to be based on Namibian and Swedish partners' interests, needs and experiences.

Sida is to identify relevant partners in Sweden and Namibia who could be interested in contributing to cooperative projects via partner driven cooperation, and to specify suitable forms of cooperation with them.

2.1 Economic growth

Objective: Strengthened capacity to expand trade and for increased economic diversification.

Strengthened trade capacity, increased trade and economic diversification are important prerequisites for deepening Namibia's economic integration regionally and globally, thus increasing economic growth and reducing poverty in the country. The sustainable use of natural resources, infrastructure development and increased access to regional and foreign markets are important conditions for a more diversified economy.

In order to strengthen the country's trade capacity, the Namibian government has expressed an interest in cooperation with Swedish partners in the form of institutional and business cooperation.

Sida is to encourage partner driven cooperation in these areas in order to strengthen trade, which is one of several important conditions for achieving economic growth, which in turn, is a condition for reducing poverty. This will require identification of Swedish trade policy skills and strengths and compliance with international commitments and norms in the area of trade, among other things.

With the establishment of the Swedish Trade Council in Namibia, opportunities will increase for further broadening the interface between Swedish and Namibian partners. Sida is urged to cooperate with the Swedish Trade Council in this area.

A well developed infrastructure is required for a country's economic development and competitiveness. Partner driven cooperation in infrastructure development and sustainable urban development will therefore be encouraged.

Sida is to place particular emphasis on opportunities for cooperating with the Swedish Trade Council on issues concerning transport and road safety, primarily in the form of institutional and business cooperation. Similarly, particular importance is to be given to contributions that strengthen rural development, in accordance with Namibia's national development plan.

2.2 Environment and climate

Objective: Strengthened capacity to manage and combat environmental and climate change.

Climate change risks increasing the strain on Namibia's environment with consequences that include water shortages, increased soil degradation and drought. Contributions for long-term sustainable urban development, aimed at helping to reduce resource consumption and to increase cost-efficiency, are therefore important. Sida is to stimulate continued cooperation and new opportunities for cooperation, primarily in the form of institutional and business

cooperation, between partners in Sweden and Namibia in areas such as sustainable water resource management, sustainable use of energy and sustainable management of mineral resources.

3. Democracy and human rights

Objective: A strong civil society in the areas of democracy, gender equality and human rights.

In the initial phase of the strategy, support to human rights/democracy is to be provided via targeted development assistance contributions. During the strategy period, targeted development assistance contributions will be phased out in the area. Sida is to actively work towards creating the conditions for partner driven cooperation in the framework of human rights and democracy during the strategy period.

Where partner driven cooperation is established in this area, Sida is to encourage projects that lead to cooperation promoting the development of democratic institutions and a robust, democratic civil society. It should be emphasised in this context that administrative reforms are important to strengthen democracy, increase transparency within the administration and curb corruption. Sida is also encouraged to establish partner driven cooperation with agencies in other priority areas, such as the Swedish National Audit Office.

4. Forms of development assistance

Support to the economic growth and environment and climate cooperation areas is only to be given in the form of partner driven cooperation. Targeted development assistance contributions in the field of democracy and human rights will be phased out during the strategy period and Sida is to promote the transfer of cooperation in this area to partner driven cooperation.

Apart from donor funded development cooperation, Namibia is open to guarantees and untied development loans.

Support to contributions within partner driven cooperation can be funded via various appropriation items within international development cooperation and can be combined with funding from other expenditure areas.

5. Scope, implementation and monitoring

Sida's country allocation to Namibia is to amount to approximately SEK 20 million per annum for the period 2009–2013, which is an increase from SEK 15 million in 2008.

The fact that the proportion of support directed towards partner driven cooperation will make up most of the annual country allocation at the end of the strategy period and that the targeted development assistance contributions are to be phased out are two of the strategy's process objectives. This is to be achieved by Sida working proactively with communication and the promotion of meetings between Namibian and Swedish partners in the areas of economic growth, environment and climate, and democracy and human rights. For this reason, Sida is to develop a communications plan that is to support work on partner driven cooperation, inform the parties about different forms of funding, work with meeting places and hold an ongoing dialogue with Namibia's embassy and parties in each country. In addition, active facilitators need to be in place in Namibia. A structure for consultation between Sida and the National Planning Commission (NPC) concerning development assistance funded partner driven cooperation will be developed by the two parties during the strategy period. The point of departure is that contributions within partner driven cooperation will be co-financed by Namibia or other local partner and Sweden.

Where funding via Sida lies at the basis of other agencies' activities, Sida is responsible for annual monitoring and governance vis-à-vis the agencies in question. Sida is to hold an ongoing dialogue with facilitators and partners in order to ensure that the principles of development assistance-funded, partner driven cooperation are fulfilled. This dialogue is to particularly focus on the purposes of development assistance-funded, partner driven cooperation and the principles that facilitators and partners must adopt in order for partner driven cooperation to be financed with development assistance funds. Reporting and operational planning within the framework of partner driven cooperation is to take place in consultation between Sida and the partners or facilitators involved.

Monitoring of targeted development cooperation is conducted annually. Sida's annual reports and operational planning are the main mechanisms for monitoring in this area.

A mid-term review of the cooperation will be carried out in 2011 which will provide recommendations on its future direction and scope. If the conditions for Swedish cooperation with Namibia change, its volume may be reconsidered. In the event of any change, consultation is to take place between the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida. Sida is responsible for maintaining the

dialogue, in accordance with the forthcoming communication plan, with other facilitators and partners involved in partner driven cooperation.

The principles on aid effectiveness and the commitments made in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action are to govern the implementation of all targeted development assistance contributions. These are also to be the guiding principles in efforts to implement partner driven cooperation. It is particularly important to ensure that contributions provided via partner driven cooperation are governed by demand and that they have clear Namibian ownership. In line with the Accra Agenda for Action, partner driven cooperation should also help to strengthen democratic ownership of Namibia's development policy, by allowing partner other than central government to take part in the development dialogue and development measures.

All contributions are to be designed so as to combat corruption. Measures to prevent the emergence and spread of corruption are to be an actively integrated component of the cooperation. Performance monitoring will take place annually in consultation with Namibia. In connection with the annual performance reports, particular account must be taken of the Government's three thematic priorities. The mid-term review is to evaluate how development cooperation via selective cooperation has worked out, with particular focus on partner driven cooperation, and to give recommendations on the future direction and on whether cooperation is to be phased out later. The latter is in view of decisions previously made on phasing out.

Background

1. Summary performance assessment

The total volume of development assistance during the previous strategy period 2004–2008 amounted to a total of some SEK 180 million. The task was to phase out Swedish bilateral development cooperation with Namibia in a sustainable manner and to examine the possibilities of switching over to broader cooperation. As a result, Swedish support has declined from approximately SEK 66 million in 2004 to approximately SEK 18 million in 2007. The six cooperation areas given priority have been: (i) democratic governance, (ii) education, (iii) HIV/AIDS, (iv) management of natural resources, (v) business sector development, and (vi) transport.

Support to democratic governance has contributed to the process of enabling the Office of the Auditor General to achieve international standards in implementing financial auditing, to successfully providing more than 300 schools and educational units with IT and to improving civil society's monitoring of human rights issues. Civil society organisations active in the area of democracy and

human rights are small and weak, and although support has been successful, sustainability cannot be guaranteed.

Swedish sectoral support to the educational sector has not generated the expected results, primarily because of the lack of capacity on the part of the recipients. It can also be noted that Sweden's decision to initiate sectoral support to the educational sector together with the EU was somewhat premature, and that there were a number of shortcomings in the analysis on which the decision was based.

Support to HIV/AIDS has contributed to the development of 240 grassroots organisations in this area and to enabling a total of 80 per cent of the country's upper secondary schools to offer the Life Skills programme 'My Future – My Choice'. It is considered that the limited volume allocated to development cooperation with Namibia means that Sweden will not be able to play a strategic role in this area. The inadequate national ownership of the 'My Future – My Choice' programme and other donors' extensive support further strengthen this assessment.

Support to the management of natural resources has helped to build up a division for environmental economics at the Ministry of the Environment, to train eleven environmental economists, to support 28 local environmental projects, to undertake training programmes to combat desertification and to develop an accounting system for national water supply. Support to business sector development has aimed at achieving bilateral cooperation between Namibia and Zambia via the Trans Caprivi Corridor. This support has resulted in the foundation being laid for an agreement promoting trade between the countries concerned. Support to the transport sector has contributed to the construction of some 145 km of road using labour-intensive methods since the mid-1990s and to 24 of the 30 students receiving support being able to obtain academic qualifications. Support to labour-intensive methods in areas other than the road sector and to road safety has not been implemented as planned because of changes in priorities made by the Namibian Ministry of Transport.

An assessment of Swedish support is that it has been implemented in line with the strategy's priorities and has thereby contributed to the overall objectives of the strategy.

Preparatory work for a transition to broader cooperation has shown that Namibia is keen to continue cooperation with Sweden. Based on the conclusions of the performance assessment, the analysis finds that the areas that are interesting for broader cooperation in the future strategy period are environment and climate, transport and road safety, and international trade. Of particular interest in the environment and climate sector are waste management, the development and

implementation of strategies to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change and the development of renewable energy. Another conclusion is that sustainability cannot be guaranteed as regards support to civil society organisations in the area of democracy and human rights. Sweden should therefore continue to support this area via operational support.

To achieve the expected results of partner driven cooperation during the future strategy period, presence and extensive communications efforts will be of vital importance.

2. Summary analysis of Sweden's role in the country

2.1 Conclusions from Swedish and EU political decisions and processes that are relevant to the cooperation

EU political, economic and development cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States has been regulated since 2000 in the Cotonou Agreement. Negotiations on an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and the ACP, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC), of which Namibia is a member, were initiated in 2003.

In December 2007, the European Commission and Namibia signed a new country strategy for the period 2008–2013, with a budget allocation of EUR 103 million. The strategy focuses on the rural development and social development sectors. For this reason, rural development will not be a priority cooperation area in this strategy.

In 2008, the EU introduced restrictions with regard to its allocation for direct support to organisations working on issues involving democracy and human rights, which means that support is now only paid to a limited number of countries in this area. Namibia does not belong to this group. In order to create complementarity to EU support, Sweden will continue to support civil society in this area. It will not be possible to achieve a formal division of labour with the EU because partner driven cooperation is to be based on the mutual interests of the partners in their cooperation.

2.2 Coherence for development

For a number of areas, the strategy is expected to lead to a positive level of impact although no direct synergies. In other respects, synergy effects are expected with other Swedish commitments at sub-regional, regional and international levels. Sweden plays a prominent role internationally with regard to trade related development cooperation and supports several trade related initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa, through such organisations as the National Board of Trade, the

National Food Administration and the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC).

2.3 Swedish actors and Sweden's comparative advantages

Swedish actors are well-skilled in the areas of economic development and environment and climate. Long experience of cooperation with, and support to, civil society in the area of democracy and human rights in Namibia has meant that Sweden has good knowledge of these partners. Several Swedish framework organisations have been active in Namibia for many years. They have built up a considerable fund of goodwill among their national and local partners.

Sweden's comparative advantages are also based on its long, trusting cooperation as a development partner with Namibia. Sweden is regarded as a credible partner without colonial ties, and through its support to the liberation movements in southern Africa, enjoys a strong position in the region as a whole.

A number of Swedish partners have been engaged in Namibia, such as the Swedish National Audit Office, Statistics Sweden, Lantmäteriet (the National Land Survey) and the Africa Groups of Sweden. Sida has entered into agreements with the Swedish Trade Council and will be seeking cooperation with other facilitators in order to identify and establish focal points between Namibia and Sweden, thus contributing to projects in the context of partner driven cooperation.

To summarise, Sweden is in a good position to help improve the conditions of life for people living in poverty in Namibia through selective cooperation, with particular focus on partner driven cooperation.

2.4 Conclusions about Sweden's role

Sweden has been an appreciated partner of Namibia, both during the liberation struggle and after the country's independence in 1990. The fund of goodwill that has been built up provides a very sound basis for continued relations, where Namibia has shown an interest in further work together within the framework of partner driven cooperation. An important forum for the future direction of cooperation is the Namibia-Sweden Working Group, which meets annually.

3. Considerations concerning objectives and direction of future cooperation

Namibia faces the challenge of reconciling economic growth with extensive reforms that curb the unequal distribution of income and negative social developments. The key development problems are the high incidence of

HIV/AIDS, high unemployment rates, lack of capacity in public administration, climate change, unequal distribution of land and an insufficiently diversified economy.

In view of the analyses that have provided the basis for this strategy, the conclusion is that the objective of Sweden's development cooperation should be to reduce poverty within the framework of socially and environmentally sustainable economic development, where democracy and the rights and freedoms of individuals are respected. It is considered that Swedish support will have the greatest added value for poverty reduction if it is provided in the form of development assistance-funded partner driven cooperation in the areas of economic development and environment and climate, and as targeted development assistance contributions to organisations representing civil society in the areas of democracy, gender equality and human rights.

To achieve poverty-oriented economic growth, Namibia must diversify its economy and strengthen its trade capacity. At the same time, the current financial crisis may have far-reaching effects on Namibia's economic growth. Efficient systems for regulating rights of ownership and use are one of the points of departure for social and pro-poor economic development. Support to cooperation between partners in these areas should therefore be given priority.

Namibia is one of the world's most arid countries. Sustainable development related to the environment and climate is therefore of vital importance for economic growth and poverty reduction. Opportunities for cooperation in the area of environment and climate should therefore be developed, particularly in sectors relating to sustainable water resource management, the sustainable use of energy and sustainable management of mineral resources.

Support to civil society is strategically important to promote a pluralistic and democratic society with a large, diversified number of partners that are capable of promoting collective interests based on a rights perspective, and that can act as independent monitors of government conduct and actions and as a means of influencing various processes. Through support to its activities, Sweden will therefore strengthen civil society in the areas of democracy, gender equality and human rights.

HIV/AIDS is not a priority cooperation area in this cooperation strategy. It is considered that the limited volume allocated to development cooperation with Namibia means that Sweden will not be able to play a strategic role in this area. The extensive support provided by other donors further underscores this assessment. To achieve the expected results in development assistance-funded partner driven cooperation, communications measures that are extensive and

strategically targeted are of vital importance. Sida lacks a permanent presence in the country. New working methods and systems must therefore be developed together with facilitators.

Sweden has identified a number of risks facing development cooperation in Namibia. These will be dealt with within the framework of the Namibia-Sweden Working Group and Nordic Plus. The overall risks are closely linked with the development of the democratic system, including the further development of the multiparty system, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and gender equality.



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