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FSC.EMI/63/25
16 April 2025

ENGLISH only



**Permanent Delegation of Sweden
to the OSCE**

Vienna

The Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Vienna, presents its compliments to the Missions and Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and has the honour to submit Sweden's response to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for the year 2024.

The submission also includes information related to Women, Peace, and Security.

The Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Missions and Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 16 April 2025



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Section I: Inter-State elements

1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

1.1 Agreements and arrangement related to preventing terrorism

Multilateral, Regional Conventions such as:

- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (New York, 15.12.1997)
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (New York, 09.12.1999)
- Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (Warsaw, 16.05.2005 – ETS 196).
- European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (Strasbourg, 27.01.1977)
- European Convention on Extradition (Paris, 13.12.1957)
- European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Strasbourg, 20.04.1959)
- European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (Strasbourg, 15.05.1972)
- EU Framework Decision 2001/500/JHA on money laundering, the identification, tracing, freezing, seizing and confiscation of instrumentalities and the proceeds of crime (26.06.2001)
- EU Framework Decision 2005/212/JHA on confiscation of crime-related proceeds, instrumentalities and property (24.02.2005)
- EU Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism (13.06.2002)
- EU Framework Decision 2008/919/JHA amending Framework Decision on combating terrorism (28.11.2008)
- Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime (Strasbourg, 08.11.1990 – ETS 141)

Sweden cooperates in relevant multilateral fora such as EU, UN, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Global Coalition against Daesh, and NATO.

Bilateral Treaties on the issues related to terrorism:

- Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine concerning co-operation as regards measures to combat crime, Stockholm, 23 March 1999.
- Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on co-operation in combating organized crime, illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism and other forms of serious crime, Budapest, 23 April 1997.
- Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Government of the Russian Federation on co-operation in combating crime, Moscow, 19 April 1995.
- Agreement on police co-operation with France with respect to combating terrorism, illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs and organized crime, Paris, 15 December 1989.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Spain on co-operation in combating terrorism, illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs and serious organized crime, Madrid, 11 May 1989.
- Co-operation agreement between Sweden and Malta on the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and against organised crime, Valletta, 10 May 2001
- Agreement with Romania on cooperation in combating organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, trafficking in human beings, terrorism and other serious crimes, Bucharest, 11 May 2004.
- Agreement with Slovenia on cooperation in the fight against organised crime, illicit trafficking in drugs and precursors, terrorism and other serious crimes, Stockholm, 18 May 2004.
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on co-operation in combating serious crime, Warsaw, 13 April 2005.
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on co-operation in combating crime, Zagreb, 3 October 2005.

1.2 National Legislation

Swedish legislation fulfils the obligations of all criminal law conventions related to the suppression of terrorism to which Sweden is a party.

1.3 Roles and Missions of Military, Paramilitary and Security Forces and the Police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

Preventing and combating terrorism within Sweden is primarily a matter for the Swedish Security Service and the Swedish Police Authority, in cooperation with

other Swedish government agencies. Under certain conditions, the Armed Forces can provide support to the Swedish Police Authority and the Security Service, pursuant to a number of laws and ordinances, such as the Civil Protection Act (2003:778) and the Swedish Armed Forces' Support for Civilian Activities Ordinance (2002:375). The Armed Forces' resources are used to support the police in searches for missing persons and handling of explosives. There is also a possibility for the police to obtain support from the Armed Forces with helicopter transportation in connection with various police actions, under the Swedish Armed Forces' Helicopter Transport Support to Swedish Police Ordinance (2017:113). Under these regulations the Armed Forces' staff may not be deployed in situations where there is a risk that they may use force or violence against individuals. The possibility for the Police Authority and the Security Service to request support from the Armed Forces in the form of interventions that may involve the use of violence or force against individuals is limited to certain situations in the fight against terrorism in accordance with the Swedish Armed Forces' Support to the Police in Combating Terrorism Act (2006:343) (the Support Act). Such a request for assistance requires the support to avert or otherwise intervene against an act that may constitute a terrorist offence, or attempt, preparation or conspiracy to or failure to divulge or avert such an offence. The intervention must also require special resources to which neither the Police Authority nor the Security Service have access, for example access to air and naval forces. The Support Act does not allow the authorities to request the Armed Forces' support based on a general need for staff reinforcements. In addition, as a general rule, support may only be requested if the Government has granted its consent. In October 2023, the Government tasked the Armed Forces and the Police Authority to deepen their cooperation in areas where a positive contribution can be made to combating systemic crime, and where the Armed Forces can provide support to the police under existing regulations (Ju2023/02208).

The Swedish Armed Forces participates in the Counter-Terrorism Cooperative Council, which is a network of 15 authorities aimed at improving coordination and enhancing efficiency in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism at the national level. The Council was established in 2005 on the initiative of the Swedish Security Service. The Council agencies meet regularly and have a good dialogue at the strategic level.

The Swedish Armed Forces is also a party to the National Centre for Terrorist Threat Assessment (NCT), which is a permanent working group with staff from the National Defence Radio Establishment, the Military Intelligence and Security Service and the Swedish Security Service. The NCT's full-year assessment of the terror threat against Sweden and Swedish interests constitutes an important basis for assessing the need for actions and protective measures.

1.4 Additional Measures (Restrictions, Structural Changes, New Creations, Law Amendments)

In January 2024, the Swedish Government presented a new comprehensive national strategy against violent extremism and terrorism (*Government Communication 2023/24:56 National strategy against violent extremism and terrorism- prevent, avert, protect and manage*). The Government has also prioritised measures in the budget that reinforce national security in order to provide a long-term focus for efforts in Sweden locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. The strategy is divided into four areas: Prevent, Avert, Protect and Manage. These areas encompass the actors in society that are engaging to avert crime linked to violent extremism and terrorism and, if such crimes are nevertheless committed, to enable managing their consequences. It is difficult to protect society against all threats, but through all relevant actors in society having a clear role in this work, conditions are created for successful efforts to reduce the threats against Sweden and Swedish interests abroad.

In order to counter the threats posed by violent extremism and terrorism and to counteract the push and pull factors for violent extremism, including in digital environments, intensive cooperation is needed, both nationally and internationally. Preventive measures are needed to reduce polarisation, radicalisation and recruitment into violent extremist and terrorist groups. Effective preventive measures that avert acute threats are also needed. Protecting essential services and the exercise of our rights and freedoms is crucial. In the event of a terrorist attack, swift and resolute intervention is necessary to restore security. Citizens shall be able to trust in society's institutions and that Sweden remains a safe country to live in. Based on previous strategies, Government commissions and action plans, and with account taken of developments in Sweden and abroad, the Government has reinforced and developed this work. In this context, particular mention can be given to: Extensive financial investments in the judicial system, particularly in the Swedish Police Authority and the Swedish Security Service; the establishment of the Swedish Centre for Preventing Violent Extremism (CVE) at the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention; legislative efforts to achieve appropriate and comprehensive criminalisation of terrorist offences; bolstering antiterrorist financing measures; and commissioning competent authorities with training staff, developing guidance and support, intensifying cooperation and exchanging information. The Government's comprehensive strategy is aimed at the challenges associated with both the threat of new terrorist attacks, and the risks associated with the development of violent extremism in Sweden and abroad.

Sweden is not a Party to the following instruments:

- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (New York, 13.04.2005)
- Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (London, 14.10.2005).
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf (London, 14.10.2005)
- Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure, Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (Warsaw, 16.05.2005 – ETS 198)
- *Sweden has signed the instruments above and is now preparing their ratification.*
- Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (Beijing, 10.09.2010)
- Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Beijing, 10.09.2010)

There have long been provisions in the Swedish Criminal Code that criminalise acts that may constitute terrorist offences. Regulation of terrorist offences under Swedish criminal law, which is largely based on international instruments, is an important part of national counterterrorism. Since 1 July 2022, provisions governing terrorist offences are primarily found in the Terrorist Offences Act (2022:666). The Terrorist Offences Act replaces the Act on Criminal Responsibility for Terrorist Offences (2003:148), the Act on Criminal Responsibility for Public Provocation, Recruitment and Training concerning Terrorist Offences and other Particularly Serious Crime (2010:299) and the Act on Criminal Responsibility for the Financing of Particularly Serious Crime in Some Cases (2002:444). The Terrorist Offences Act is essentially a restructure and recast of the provisions in the aforementioned Acts with a view to attaining appropriate, effective and transparent regulation. It contains provisions for the implementation of the UN International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism with additional protocol, Recommendation 5: Terrorist Finance Offence by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the UN Security Council Resolution 2178, and Directive (EU) 2017/541 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Directive) and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA. The Terrorist Offences Act regulates criminal liability for terrorist offences, participation in a terrorist organisation, association with a terrorist organisation, financing of terrorism or particularly serious crime, public provocation to terrorism or particularly serious crime, recruitment for terrorism or particularly serious crime, training for terrorism or particularly serious crime and travel for terrorism or particularly serious crime. The regulation also contains provisions on ancillary offences, on what is meant by particularly serious crime and terrorist organisation under the law, as well as on aggravating circumstances, confiscation and monetary seizure.

International cooperation and the exchange of knowledge and experience are fundamental to the ability to develop efforts in all areas of the national strategy against violent extremism and terrorism. As a member of the European Union, Sweden takes an active part in elaborating counterterrorist policies at the European level.

Sweden has ratified all universal criminal law conventions for the suppression of terrorism that have entered into force, such as:

- Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Tokyo, 14.09.1963)
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (The Hague, 16.12.1970)
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 23.09.1971)
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 23 September 1971 (Montreal, 24.02.1988)
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (New York, 14.12.1973)
- International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (New York, 17.12.1979)
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 03.03.1980)
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (Rome, 10.03.1988)
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf (Rome, 10.03.1988)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) (New York, 15.11.2000)
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, supplementing UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15.11.2000)
- United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) (New York, 13.10.2003)

2. Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory

2.1 Provide information on stationing of your States armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law.

As a member of NATO, and with the consent of the host state, Sweden can temporarily base military forces on the territory of another participating State as part of a NATO-led operation. When the Swedish armed forces participate in international operations and missions, the status of the personnel is defined in general terms by international law and the UN Charter, and by the specific legal foundation of the operations and missions in which they participate, inter alia Status of Forces Agreements between the international organisations through which the troops are deployed, and the countries in which the particular operations missions are carried out.

Sweden has signed the "Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of Their Forces" (NATO SOFA) regulating the status of forces during military cooperation within NATO.

3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct

3.1 Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith.

Sweden has signed and ratified all major multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, such as;

- Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction (CWC)
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC)
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Transfer and Stockpiling of Cluster Munitions.

Sweden implements these treaties as well as other international instruments and initiatives in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, such as the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, the UN Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). Sweden takes active part in the work in

international fora in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, such as the UN General Assembly First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament and the UN Disarmament Commission.

As regards the NPT, Sweden emphasises the need for full implementation of obligations under all three pillars; non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in a balanced manner.

Sweden is an active member of the following export control regimes: the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Zangger Committee (ZC), the Australia Group (AG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA).

The Swedish Armed Forces is a supporting authority to the Government concerning the implementation of Swedish commitments in the area of arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures. The Swedish Armed Forces reports, on a yearly basis, to the Government concerning the Swedish Armed Forces responsibilities within the framework of different arms control, disarmament, confidence- and security-building measures.

On a yearly basis, the Swedish Armed Forces is being provided with a governmental decision regulating the level of ambition for arms control activities during the upcoming year. In addition to the governmental decision, there are recurrent meetings between representatives from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the Swedish Armed Forces.

The Swedish Armed Forces take active part in international arms control negotiations as an effect of yearly governmental decisions. The active participation of specialists from the Swedish Armed Forces assures the implementation of the Swedish commitments in good faith.

3.2 Provide information on how your State pursues arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures with a view to enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area

Sweden takes an active part in the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 and the Open Skies treaty (OS), where Sweden has been an active partner in the OSCC and its working groups since 2002.

Section II: Intra-State elements

1. National planning and decision-making process

1.1 What is the national planning and decision-making process in determining/approving military posture and defence expenditures in your State?

The Swedish constitution is based on the principles of popular sovereignty, representative democracy and a parliamentary system. A parliament elected by the people occupies the pre-eminent position among the branches of government and is the foundation for the democratic exercise of power through the Government. Thus, the Swedish constitution vests the power to appoint and exercise control over the Government, with the Parliament, the *Riksdag*. Legislation and government decisions are to be implemented by the public administration, of which the Swedish Armed Forces and the Police Department of National Operations (NOA) constitute parts. The constitution also vests the Parliament with the authority to decide over the State's finances. The Parliament decides on governmental bills concerning the budgetary and legal pre-requisites for the Swedish Armed Forces.

The governmental control of the Swedish Armed Forces is executed directly through governmental decisions, and through the Government's authority to appoint officers to leading positions within the Armed Forces. The Government has the authority to make decisions concerning the entire organisation of the defence sector, within the framework set up by the Parliament in the defence decisions and in accordance with national laws. Formulation and implementation of the Government's defence policy is primarily carried out by the Ministry of Defence, although the Government as a whole is responsible for all formal decisions-making. In line with the constitutional division of responsibility between the Government and the authorities, the Ministry of Defence is a comparatively small body. A majority of the civil servants have civilian background, although a small number of military officers serve at the Ministry. The Swedish Armed Forces constitute single public authority under the Government.

The Government appoints the Chief of Defence, in Sweden titled the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. The Supreme Commander exercises overall command of the Swedish Armed Forces in the execution of tasks assigned to the Armed Forces by the Government, and in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Government. The Government also has the power to designate the highest-ranking military officers, principally from the rank of Major General or Rear Admiral up to General or Admiral. These officials are appointed on merit and remain on duty when there is a shift of government. The Swedish Government also appoints a (civilian) Director General of the Swedish Armed Forces. The Director General is the deputy head of the public authority.

Work on the budget begins more than a year before the beginning of the fiscal year concerned. In the spring, the Government presents the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill to Parliament, followed by the Government's Budget Bill in the autumn. The two Bills differ in content. The Spring Fiscal Policy Bill contains the Government's proposed guidelines regarding economic policy and budget policy over the next few years. In the Budget Bill these proposals are then turned into a central government budget for the following fiscal year. The Budget Bill presents detailed proposals for distribution of government expenditures between the various expenditure areas. The Parliament adopts formal decisions on these two bills at the beginning of June and at latest mid-December.

1.2 How does your State ensure that its military capabilities take into account the legitimate security concerns of other States as well as the need to contribute to international security and stability?

The Parliament and the Government are responsible for taking other states' security concerns into consideration, as they are also responsible for tasking and controlling the Swedish Armed Forces. The Swedish Armed Forces does not make neither security policy decisions, nor defence policy decisions. The parliament and the Government decide if, how, when and where the Swedish Armed Forces will contribute to international security and stability.

2. Existing structures and processes

2.1 What are the constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police?

The Swedish Parliament adopts governmental bills concerning the budgetary and legal prerequisites of the Swedish Armed Forces. Further control of the Armed Forces is executed directly through governmental decisions, and through the Government's authority to appoint officers to leading positions within the Armed Forces. Sweden has no paramilitary or internal security forces. Specific institutions have been established to ensure the efficiency of the democratic control over the public administration, the latter including the Swedish Armed Forces.

Parliamentary control and the Swedish Armed Forces

The Act containing instructions for the Parliamentary Ombudsmen (1986:765) charges the Parliamentary Ombudsmen with the task of supervising the central government and the municipal authorities, public officials and other officers employed at these authorities, which include the Armed Forces, the police, and the Swedish Security Service. The Act concerning the Supervision exercised by

the Chancellor of Justice (1975:1339) stipulates that the Chancellor of Justice shall exercise supervision in order to ensure that persons and organisations who conduct public sector business observe laws and other statutes, and otherwise fulfil their obligations. Finally, the Chancellor of Justice and the Parliamentary Ombudsmen have full insight into the workings of the Armed Forces, and are responsible for their legal control. Any citizen can file a legal complaint to these two bodies against the Swedish Armed Forces, who also carry out investigations on their own initiative.

2.2 How is the fulfilment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for exercising these procedures?

See above.

2.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?

The tasks of the Swedish Armed Forces, as defined by parliament and government, are to:

- Defend the country and allied states against armed attack,
- Uphold the territorial integrity of Sweden,
- Contribute to upholding the territorial integrity of allied states,
- Contribute to deterrence and defence activities within NATO,
- Contribute to international peace and security, and
- Support the civil society in the event of severe peacetime strains and emergencies.

As a general rule, Swedish authorities are prohibited from taking action within other areas than those set out in laws or other regulations, or decided by a superior body, i.e. the Government. This general rule is applicable also to the Swedish Armed Forces. The constitution, laws, other regulations, and Parliament and Government decisions in individual cases determine what tasks should be assigned to the Armed Forces. The constitution stipulates that only the Government have the authority to activate the Armed Forces in response to an armed attack on Sweden. The deployment of armed military forces abroad is subject to approval by the Parliament. To ensure the lawful behaviour by the Swedish Armed Forces personnel, there are penal and disciplinary regulations. Put in simplified terms, serious violations by Swedish Armed Forces personnel are dealt with according to penal law, while misdemeanours are subject to internal disciplinary measures. On the same penal and disciplinary grounds, superior staff has a similar responsibility for their subordinates. Sweden has no paramilitary or security forces.

3. Procedures related to different forces personnel

3.1 What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?

Recruitment to the defence sector, which includes both military and civilian branches, is based mainly on a voluntary system for all personnel categories. All military positions, including combat positions, are open to both male and female candidates.

The Government decided to re-activate parts of the National Service Act regulating military conscription in order to uphold Swedish security and defence. As of 1 of July 2017 it is mandatory for everyone in the age class of 18 years to participate in a review for conscription service. The first conscripts started at the Swedish Armed Forces at the beginning of 2018. Since 2010 the requirement to do conscript service applies equally to both men and women before that, the requirement applied only to men. Following a governmental decision on 11 December 2014, the National Service Act can also be applied for calling-up of reservists for mandatory rehearsal training.

3.2 What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?

If a person obliged to serve in the military service can be assumed to have such a serious personal conviction concerning the use of a weapon against a fellow human being, that this conviction is irreconcilable with service in the Armed Forces, that person has the right to apply to complete his/her service duty in an unarmed position. However, at present, these individuals are relieved of their duty to serve completely as there are no unarmed positions available for conscripts. Should the Armed Forces resume with unarmed positions, a conscientious objector who has been granted the right to serve in an unarmed position cannot be drafted for a position which would entail the use of a weapon, or be enrolled for service in the Armed Forces, against his/her own will.

3.3 What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel as well as conscripts?

The Swedish Armed Forces are subject to the regulations in Swedish law regarding the right to membership in an employee association, and the right of participation in decision-making in the working life. Employment agreements in the Armed Forces are subject to the same civil law regulations as other civil servant positions. The Swedish Armed Forces are also subject to the regulation of conscript participation (2017:1249) regarding the right for conscripts to affect

the conditions of, and during, their training. If an Armed Forces' employee, volunteer or a person subject to compulsory national service duty in the total defence, has been convicted of a violation under criminal law, or charged with a disciplinary punishment, he or she has the right to appeal. As Sweden has no martial court system, appeals are presented to a civilian court of law.

The Discrimination Act (2008:587) protects employees and conscripts against discrimination associated to the grounds of discrimination; sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.

4. Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law

4.1 How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through military training programmes and regulations?

According to the Government Ordinance (1995:336) the Swedish Armed Forces is required to disseminate the OSCE Code of Conduct, and to ensure that the Armed Forces personnel are instructed on Swedish commitments therein, and their implications. The proficiency level for each personnel category is determined by the Swedish Armed Forces.

The Swedish Armed Forces Internal Regulation (FIB 2019:01) lays down the terms for instruction of international law of all personnel within the Swedish Armed Forces' field of activity. This document reaffirms Sweden's obligation to international rules, conventions and commitments governing armed conflict, included in military training programmes and regulations. It makes reference to the International Law Regulation of the Total Defence (*Totalförsvarets folkrättsförordning* (1990:12), in which it is stated that all personnel within the Armed Forces' field of activity shall receive satisfactory instruction and information about the rules of war and neutrality, as laid down in international law. Furthermore, this regulation stipulates that it is the responsibility of every military commander to ensure that his or her subordinates, both military and civilian, receive instruction on their rights and obligations according to the laws of war. Moreover, the regulation stipulates that a special instructor or teacher of international law shall be stationed at every unit and military academy. Instruction shall include theoretical classes and practical exercises within the fields of international humanitarian law, the law of neutrality and the law of occupation. Furthermore, instruction shall be integrated into other exercises and training within other fields of activity. Instruction shall aim at bestowing the personnel with a satisfactory knowledge of the laws of war. Training shall be adapted to the position and responsibility of the individual employee or serviceman.

4.2 What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?

All service personnel, during their basic training, are informed about their obligations in respect to national and international law in wartime. The information is part of the manual “Swedish Soldier” (“*Svensk soldat*”). Sweden is currently developing a new training aid concerning humanitarian law at the operational and tactical levels.

4.3 How does your State ensure that armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?

Sweden is governed by the rule of law. For details, see the replies above (1.1, 2.1, 2.3, and 3.3).

4.4 What has been done to provide for the individual service member’s exercise of his other civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country’s armed forces are politically neutral?

See the replies above (1.1, 2.1, 2.3, and 3.3).

4.5 How does your State ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?

The respect for international law and human rights is a cornerstone in Swedish politics. Concern for international law and human rights permeates Sweden's actions, both multilaterally in the United Nations, regionally in the EU and other bodies, and bilaterally with individual states.

Section III: Public access and contact information

1. Public access

1.1 How is the public informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct?

The internet website of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs has a link to the website of the OSCE politico-military dimension which includes information on all OSCE arms control-related activities and relevant documentation.

1.2 What additional information related to the Code of Conduct, e.g., replies to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, is made publicly available in your State?

See above.

1.3 How does your State ensure public access to information related to your State's armed forces?

The principle of public access to official documents is firmly established in the Swedish constitution. This principle dates back to the 18th century and contains the right to access most official documents kept by the public authorities, including the Swedish Armed Forces. The right to access official documents is limited only if it is deemed necessary with regard to certain specified vital interests, e. g. national security, or Sweden's relations to other states or international organisations. Nobody is obliged to justify or to reveal his identity to get access to the document. A person that is denied access to an official document can appeal against that decision in an administrative court.

2. Contact information

2.1 Provide information on the national point of contact for the implementation of the Code of Conduct

Security Policy Department, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

“Women, Peace and Security” in the Swedish Armed Forces

1. Background

The Swedish Armed Forces has actively been working with the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 since 2002. At that time, focus was primarily on international military operations and was based on cooperation between the Swedish Armed Forces, other parts of the governmental security sector and civil society – constituting a Comprehensive Approach. In 2006, Sweden adopted its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) that provides strategic direction, guidelines and sets out goals to the different governmental agencies dealing with crisis management and conflict resolution. As its predecessors, the current *National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security 2024-2028* (‘the NAP’) identifies the Swedish Armed Forces as a key actor¹. The NAP has four thematic areas: inclusive peace processes and peacebuilding, conflict prevention, strengthening protection of women and girls, and leadership and expertise. These areas are coherent with the basic principles of UNSCR 1325. The current and fourth NAP was adopted in November 2023. In addition to the NAP, the Swedish Armed Forces is also instructed by the government to implement WPS through the integration of a gender perspective in the analysis, planning, execution and follow-up of all operations and a gender equality perspective to be integrated in all activities.

For the Swedish Armed Forces, gender equality is the foundation for WPS, while aiming also for security and sustainable peace. The systematic work related to gender equality within the Swedish Armed Forces, focuses on gender mainstreaming based on gender analysis. The Swedish Armed Forces is one among 60 governmental agencies specifically tasked by the Government to work with gender mainstreaming. In addition, the work for gender equality focuses on gender balance based on equal opportunities in terms of for example working conditions, equal pay, promotion, education and the possibility to combine work with parenthood. In recognising UNSCR 1325, the Swedish Armed Forces fully commits itself to increase the number of women within its own ranks as well as supporting and furthering women’s participation in different decision-making entities.

In the execution of its mandate, the Swedish Armed Forces for example how men, women, girls and boys are effected by military operations, while also ensuring their agency and that a gender perspective based on gender analysis is included in all activities by the Swedish Armed Forces. Considering the different needs, security situations, experiences and preconditions between women, men, girls and boys contributes to the situational awareness of, and effectiveness in, the context

¹ The Swedish Armed Forces is one of twelve national agencies tasked with implementing WPS.

and human terrain in which military operations take place. The Swedish Armed Forces aim to strengthen women's human rights and to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence as a crime according to international law. In recent years, effort has been put into a conceptualization of how UNSCR 1325 and its follow-up resolutions on WPS should be interpreted and implemented in the context of Sweden's national security and defence; besides international missions and operations, which has previously been the primary.

Focusing on the pillars of the WPS Agenda of most relevance to the Swedish Armed Forces², the priority areas are the following:

Participation - The Swedish Armed Forces has for many years actively worked to both recruit and retain women.³ Since 2017, when the Swedish Government reactivated military service, it is gender neutral and applies for both men and women. Activities including school information, career fairs and youth trainings are taking place to reach more young women and enhance the knowledge about and interest in the Swedish Armed Forces. One example of an activity regarding retaining women is network for women. In recent years, an Armed Forces platform has been established in order to prevent and handle harassment/unwelcome behaviour. The target audience of the centre is both commanders/directors at different levels and employees. The annual employee survey includes integrated questions regarding harassment.

Protection - Part of the Swedish Armed Forces work with integrating a gender perspective is, to include the different experiences of women and men, their varied needs and potential vulnerability into the analysis, operations planning process, doctrine, concepts of operations, etc. By analysing and planning for operations, it is important to have a population-centric approach and to consider differing security needs in regards to risks and the overall security situation for the diverse parts population. Furthermore, the protection pillar of WPS is about protecting women's rights meaning that risks to, and undermining of, already achieved rights must also be safeguarded. The gender perspective is integrated in all principal documents. This includes strategic direction and guidance, doctrine, annual activity plan, operational planning guide (Swedish version of NATO COPD).

Prevention – The prevention of armed conflict is critical and thus the gender-related drivers of conflict are to be identified and analysed in order to counter further relapse. Measures to prevent and address Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) is integrated in the conduct of operations. Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and violence against civilians are to be reported in the chain of command. In addition to the regular reporting mechanisms, the Swedish Armed

² The pillar related to relief and recovery falls outside of the Armed Forces' main responsibilities.

³ For statistics on women in the organisation, reference is made to the Swedish Armed Forces Annual Report.

Forces also has an established whistle-blower function where misconduct can be reported.

2. Leadership and expertise

Leadership

The senior leadership in the Swedish Armed Forces is committed to gender mainstreaming and to achieve gender equality and implementing WPS. The current Supreme Commander decided in 2023 to require a gender analysis in all Defence Staff decision making processes

The Swedish Armed Forces has since 2007 conducted gender training for senior leadership through the Gender-Responsive Leadership (GRL) Program, aiming to develop their knowledge of, and ability to enforce, gender equality and the WPS Agenda. The programmes are conducted on a yearly basis, in order to expedite the number of adepts completing the programme. The programme has resulted in raised awareness, multiple concrete actions as well as motivation within the senior leadership to lead change.

Gender expertise

There are currently two fulltime employed gender advisors within the Swedish Armed Forces headquarters, supporting commanders and staff at military strategic and operational levels. The main focus of the gender advisors is to promote gender equality including the implementation of WPS and the systematic integration of a gender perspective at all levels and in all activities in military operations. Since 2015, the Swedish Armed Forces has appointed Gender Focal Points (GFP) in defence branches, regional commands and in the Joint Forces Command's units.

It is mandatory to appoint a GFP in international operations, depending on the size of the troop contribution. Swedish Armed Forces are supporting the EU with a Primary Augmentee position as Gender and Human Rights Advisor at the MPCC.

In addition to the Gender Advisors, there are several other gender expertise functions within the Swedish Armed Forces. For instance, HR-specialists in gender equality and course directors in gender mainstreaming.

3. Education and training & capability

Two courses have been developed for integration of gender in military operations in a national context. One on-line (ADL) course and one 3-day course on UNSCR 1325 in the area of operations.

An important actor, in the area of information sharing and exchange of knowledge, as well as education and training, is the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM). NCGM, with Sweden as a host nation, is part of the NORDEFCO framework and the Department Head (DH) for Gender in NATO. The main purpose of the NCGM is to educate and train, on all issues related to gender in military operations, support and provide Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to staff exercises and on behalf of the centre's participants.⁴ NCGM offers expertise to the operational branches, both in multilateral organisations (such as NATO, EU and UN), and in various national military organisations, through training, education, a pool of SME:s, contributions to exercises including the evaluation thereof, support of development of concepts and doctrines, and information on gender-related matters when it comes to different Areas of Operations. Some of the courses that NCGM offers are the Gender Advisor course, a Gender Train the Trainer course, as well as Key Leaders Seminar, directed at flag officers and a Commanding Officers seminar on gender in military operations. All the courses are available for staff of the Swedish Armed Forces.

There is a mandatory module during the pre-deployment training for all personnel consisting of both tactical and operational implementations of a gender perspective and UNSCR 1325. In addition, it is mandatory for commanders of large Swedish troop contributions to take part in Commanders Seminar on Gender in Military Operations (COMSEM) at NCGM. Handbook Gender is one of several guiding documents that constitute part of the long-term work of the Swedish Armed Forces in increasing the integration of a gender perspective in its work, both in training and development as well as in operations.

In addition to the previously mentioned GRL Program, aimed at senior leadership, the Military Academy Karlberg offers a course in gender analysis aimed at staff members. While senior leadership is responsible for leading the work on gender mainstreaming, staff members are through the course equipped with skills in conducting gender analyses in order to operationalize the strategy.

4. Cooperation and Lessons Learned

The Swedish Armed Forces is active in sharing information and best practices on the implementation of WPS. One part of this is the inter-agency cooperation in which the Armed Forces take part. It is a forum where agencies share information

⁴ Technical Arrangement between The Swedish Armed Forces, the Finnish Defence Forces, the Norwegian Defence Forces, the Danish Defence Forces on the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, 2014.

on women, peace and security. In addition, the Swedish Armed Forces, together with other government agencies, take an active part in the working group of the Swedish NAP on WPS. The NAP working group is chaired by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Sweden is also working closely with international actors in this area. The SMEs of NCGM's Steering Committee members meet on a regular basis to exchange best practices among the gender advisors of the nations; this includes the Swedish Gender Advisors. During 20024 the Swedish Supreme Commander handed over the chairpersonship on the CHOD WPS Network, to Jamaica while offering continued support and mentorship.