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**Permanent Delegation of Sweden**  
to the OSCE

Vienna, 15 April 2024

The Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE presents its compliments to all OSCE Missions and Delegations and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and has the honour to convey the Kingdom of Sweden's response to the questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for 2023, valid as of 15 April 2024.

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

TO ALL OSCE MISSIONS AND DELEGATIONS  
TO THE CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTRE

VIENNA





## **OSCE Code of Conduct**

### **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 Euro Atlantic Partnership for peace Council, Partnership for Peace etc.

### 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 a matter for the Police and the Swedish Security Service. New legislation entered into force on 1 July 2006 regulating support from the Swedish Armed Forces to the police in the fight

against terrorism. According to the legislation, the National Police Board may request support from the Swedish Armed Forces, which implies the use of violence, to prevent or in other ways intervene against terrorist crime. Support from the Swedish Armed Forces may be requested only if the police lacks such specific resources that is needed to master the situation. Support by the Swedish Armed Forces under the act, requires permission by the Government, unless there is an immediate urgency. A military unit that supports the police shall be under the command of military personnel but the police have the overall authority and command of the mission. Personnel fulfilling their basic training or conducting refresher training should not be used for these kinds of support missions. Personnel of the Home Guard may be used.

The Swedish Armed Forces is participating in the Joint-action Council against Terrorism. The Swedish Armed Forces is also a party to the National Centre for Terrorism Threat Assessment.

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

Since the autumn of 2001, the issue of combating terrorism has been high on the political agenda, in Sweden as in most other states. In March 2008, the Swedish Government presented a national strategy in which it describes the measures that will be implemented during this electoral period and the principles that will guide efforts to combat terrorism. In this strategy, the Government describes its view of the principles guiding Swedish counter-terrorism and presents important proposals to be implemented under four main headings: pursue, prevent, protect and manage.

The reinforcement of the Swedish law enforcement bodies' counter-terrorism abilities has in part been dealt with through redeployment of resources within these bodies, in order to enhance their operational and analytical capacities linked to counter-terrorism. To further raise the level of ambition in this field and to intensify international cooperation in particular, the Government has in 2007 provided the Swedish Security Service with significant extra resources. To a limited extent the Swedish Security Service has liaison officers assigned to Swedish Embassies abroad, whose duties include co-operation in the counter-terrorism field. On the operational level, co-operation with other EU member states has increased markedly, on the bilateral as well as the multilateral level.

To further enhance co-ordination between national authorities dealing with terrorism a coordination mechanism has been set up on the governmental agency level in the form of a National-Counter-Terrorism Co-operation Council. The Council is chaired by the Director-General of the Security Service (SÄPO) and had its first meeting in February 2005. The Council consists of members from the National Police Board, the Military Intelligence and Security Service, the National Defence Radio Institute, the Defence Research Institute, the Board of Customs, the Swedish Migration Agency, the Emergency Management Agency, the Office of the Prosecutor-General, the National Economic Crimes Bureau

and the Coast Guard. The directors of these agencies take part in the executive-level meetings. Measures undertaken to combat organised crime and other serious crime also contributes and reinforces the fight against terrorism.

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)

Sweden has adopted enhanced legislation to counteract money laundering and terrorism financing through administrative measures, namely the *Act (2009:62) on Measures against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing* which entered into force on 15 March 2009. The act implements EU Directive 2005/60/EC and the accompanying Commission Directive 2006/70/EC. Further enhancement to the Act was provided by *Act (2017:630) on Amendment to Act (2009:62) on Measures against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing* which entered into force on 1 July 2019 regarding Chapter 3 of the Act and on 1 January 2020 when it comes to the additional chapters.

In December 2010, the Act (2010:299) on Criminal Responsibility for Public Provocation, Recruitment and Training concerning Terrorist Offences and other Particularly Serious Crime entered into force. The new act contains provisions regarding the implementation of the EU Framework Decision amending Framework Decision on combating terrorism and the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism.

As a member of the European Union, Sweden has taken active part in elaborating antiterrorist policies at the European level. The measures underway and foreseen are all listed in the EU Strategy and Action Plan on combating terrorism and form the framework for the processes taking place at the national 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.*

Sweden does neither have any armed forces permanently stationed on the territory of another participating State, nor are there any foreign armed forces stationed on Swedish territory. 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 and the Other States Participating in the Partnership for Peace Regarding the Status of Their Forces" (PfP SOFA) regulating the status of forces during military cooperation within NATO and PfP.

### **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

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*

Together with Finland, Sweden has taken an initiative to further the arms control and the confidence- and security-building measures in the Baltic Sea region. The initiative was introduced in 1998. During 2008, Sweden and Germany agreed on a, one time specific, bilateral exchange concerning additional evaluation visits to military units not notified within the *Annual Exchange of Military Information*.

Sweden has taken an active part in the Open Skies treaty (OS) since 2002 and is an active partner in the OSCC and its working groups.

## 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 only a relatively small number of people will be required to do conscript service each year, only those who responded positively during the review are drafted. 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



# **OSCE Code of Conduct**

## **Annex 1.**

### **“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 2004. 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 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 actor. 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 match the basic principles of UNSCR 1325. The NAP was adopted in November 2023 and is Sweden’s fourth NAP. In addition to the NAP, the Swedish Armed Forces is also instructed by the government to implement the UNSCR 1325 in the planning, execution and follow-up of all operations and a gender equality perspective to be integrated in all activities.

The systematic work related to gender equality within the Swedish Armed Forces, focuses on equal opportunities in terms of work conditions, salaries, 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. The Swedish Armed Forces is one among 60 governmental agencies specifically tasked by the Government to work with gender mainstreaming.

Externally, the Swedish Armed Forces’ approach is to focus on how the civilian population is effected by military operations, while also ensuring that gender perspectives are considered. The rationale of integrating a gender perspective in the Swedish Armed Forces operations is primarily the commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Considering the different needs, security situations, experiences and preconditions between women and men, contributes to an increased situational

awareness of the context and human terrain in which military operations take place. The Swedish Armed Forces aim to strengthen women's human rights and to combat conflict-related sexual violence as a crime according to international humanitarian law. In recent years, effort has been put into a conceptualization of how UNSCR 1325 should be interpreted and implemented in the context of Sweden's national defence; in contrast to international peacekeeping missions, which has been the primary focus in the past.

Focusing on the three pillars of the WPS Agenda of most relevance to the Swedish Armed Forces<sup>1</sup>, the priority areas are the following:

*Participation - The Swedish Armed Forces has for many years actively worked to both recruit and retain women.<sup>2</sup> 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 centre has been established in order to handle and prevent 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 concept of a gender perspective is, when possible and relevant, to integrate the different experiences of women and men, their varied needs and potential vulnerability into the operational planning process, doctrine, concepts of operations, etc. By analysing and planning for operations, it is important to have a population-centric approach. If possible, differing security needs in regards to risks and the overall security situation for the population should be included. The gender perspective or a population-centric approach are integrated in all principal documents. This includes strategic guidance, doctrine, annual activity plan, operational planning guide (Swedish version of NATO COPD) as well as orders, plans etc.*

*Prevention - Implementation of UNSCR 1820 (conflict-related sexual violence) is integrated in the conduct of operations. Violence against civilians shall be reported in the chain of command. In addition to the regular reporting*

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<sup>1</sup> The pillar related to relief and recovery falls outside of the Armed Forces' main responsibilities.

<sup>2</sup> For statistics on women in the organisation, reference is made to the Swedish Armed Forces Annual Report.

*mechanisms, the Swedish Armed 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 implementing the women, peace and security agenda. The current Supreme Commander took the initiative to host an international high-level conference on women, peace and security in 2018 and in 2023 he took over the chairpersonship of the Women, Peace and Security Chief of Defense (CHOD) Network.

The Swedish Armed Forces has for several years conducted gender training for senior leadership through the Gender Coach Program, aiming to develop their knowledge of, and ability to enforce, gender equality and the Women, Peace and Security 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, concrete actions as well as motivation within the senior leadership to accomplish change.

### Gender expertise

There are currently two fulltime employed gender advisors within the Swedish Armed Forces headquarters, supporting commanders and staff at strategic level and at the Joint Forces Command. The main focus of the gender advisors are to implement UNSCR 1325 and a gender perspective 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.

Sweden has previously appointed Gender Advisors in larger international operations, such as RSM Afghanistan. It is mandatory to appoint a GFP in international operations, depending on the size of the troop contribution. Currently, Sweden does not currently have any large troop contributions, as such there are currently not any deployed Gender Advisors or GFPs. However, the 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 and civilians 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 NORDEF framework and the Department Head for Gender for NATO. The main purpose of the NCGM is to train, educate and coordinate on all issues related to gender in military operations, support and provide subject matter experts (SMEs) to staff exercises and Joint Actions on behalf of the centre's participants.<sup>3</sup> NCGM offers support to the operational branches, both in multilateral organisations (such as NATO, EU and UN), and in various national military organisations, through training, education, pool of Subject matter experts, material to staff exercises, support of development of concepts and doctrines, compile Lessons Learned and updated information on gender relations and cultural context 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 mentioned 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 Gender Coach Program, aimed at senior leadership, the Military Academy Karlberg has a course in gender analysis aimed at staff members. While senior leadership is responsible for leading the work with gender mainstreaming, staff members are through the course equipped with concrete experience in conducting gender analyses in order to operationalize the strategy.

### **4. Cooperation and Lessons Learned**

The Swedish Armed Forces is eager to share information and best practices on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. One part of this is the inter-agency cooperation

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

in which the Armed Forces take part. It is a forum where agencies share information 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 national action plan on women, peace and security. The 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 the Supreme Commander's chairpersonship of the WPS CHOD Network, the Swedish Armed Forces have also organized online discussions within the network where the WPS Agenda has been discussed among the CHODs, which has allowed for an exchange of experiences at the highest military level. Sweden also organised a side event dedicated to WPS at the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial 2023 in the capacity of the Supreme Commander's chairpersonship of the Network.

In 2021, studies have been delivered to the Swedish Armed Forces regarding women, peace and security in international operations in the past decade and on the implementation of a gender perspective in a national context. These studies have provided a foundation for the strategic direction related UNSCR 1325 that the Swedish Armed Forces have decided. Other relevant studies are under way.

