

# An integrated policy for global development

Sweden is the first country in the world to present an integrated policy for global development. Government Bill 2002/03:122 *Shared responsibility – Sweden's policy for global development* was presented by the Government to the Swedish Parliament, the Riksdag, on 23 May 2003. It will be debated in the Riksdag during the autumn of 2003.

This Government Bill grasps the new opportunities provided by globalisation and strengthens Sweden's international efforts in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Bill encompasses all areas of policy and proposes a common

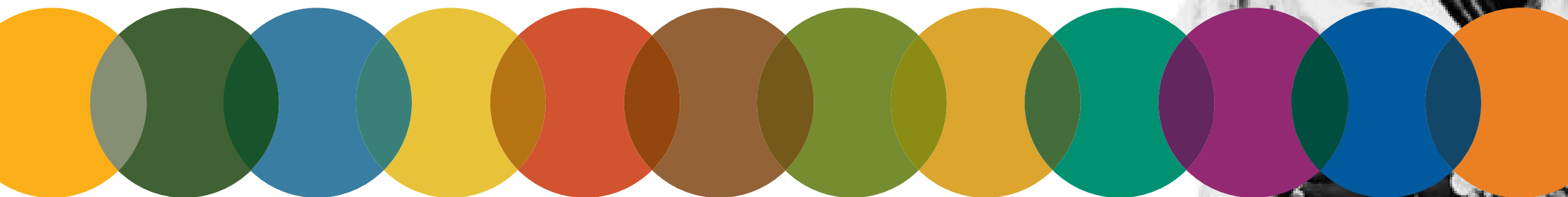
objective: to contribute to an equitable and sustainable global development.

A new focus within Swedish development cooperation is presented, placing a greater emphasis on developing countries' own responsibility for development. At the same time, the Bill underlines the responsibility of the richer countries to increase their transfer of resources and enhance the efficiency of cooperation activities. The proposed new objective for Swedish development cooperation is to help creating conditions that will enable the poor to improve their lives.

The Bill in its entirety can be found at [www.regeringen.utrikes.se](http://www.regeringen.utrikes.se)

## Shared responsibility

– a brief description of Sweden's policy for global development



# Our opportunity

The world is getting smaller. Borders are increasingly transparent and countries more and more interdependent. Environmental degradation, terrorism, HIV/AIDS and poverty – among the greatest challenges of our time – have a common denominator: they do not recognise national boundaries and so new ways must be found to manage them. This is why Sweden is presenting an overall policy for global development with a common objective for all policy areas: an equitable and sustainable global development.

For the first time there is an agreed, common international agenda for global development. In the UN Millennium Declaration, the governments of the world have united behind practical goals.

The overall objective is to eradicate poverty, with one goal along

the way being to halve the amount of poverty in the world by 2015.

The Millennium Declaration states that global development demands a holistic approach. Activities to promote peace, security, poverty alleviation, environmental conservation, human rights and democracy, belong together. To achieve our objectives, the countries of the world must apply policies based on this holistic approach.

The end of the Cold War and increased globalisation mean that progress for everyone is now a real possibility. The world has never been richer. Ever increasing numbers of people are living in democracies. Scientific and technical progress have provided us with the tools for progress, tools we could only dream of a few decades ago.

Yet a large proportion of humanity has not shared in these advances. Every day, more than a billion people struggle for survival. To help bring about equitable and sustainable development, Sweden must make efforts in every area. All of Swedish society must be involved. This is our shared responsibility



# All pull together

Development is about giving people power over their own lives. This empowerment cannot be achieved without democracy and a society which gives its citizens the right to influence decisions about their own future. There must be respect for human rights, equality between women and men, access to education, health care and, not least, peace and security.

Because development is generated by people in their own societies, Sweden aims to help poorer countries implement their own processes. One way to do this is to ensure that what we do in one context agrees with our action in other areas. Trade, agriculture, the environment and security are examples of policies which must all pull in the same direction and reinforce each other.

The first and absolute prerequisite for development is peace. Efforts to establish peace and security are therefore vital to any global development policy. Continued environmental degradation prevents development. Consequently environmental policies are crucial – policies to change consumption and production patterns in the richer countries and policies to promote sustainable environmental development in poorer countries.

Awareness of the role of trade in development has increased. Open markets are an important engine for economic growth but, in the interests of justice, they must benefit all parties concerned. Despite all the talk about free trade, trade is in fact far from free. Rich countries must make good on their promises and open their markets to the poorer countries. At the same time, support must be provided to enhance the ability of poorer countries to export their goods.

The agricultural policies of the rich countries are good examples of a practice that must be changed in order to avoid sabotaging equitable and sustainable global development. The agricultural subsidies of the rich countries are worth seven times as much as total world development assistance.

Sweden will continue to act within both the EU and the WTO to bring about an open world market governed by just, legitimate regulations in which all countries can participate on the same terms.



# Development cooperation must help creating conditions

The goal of Swedish development cooperation is to help creating conditions that will enable the poor to improve their lives. However, funding from outside sources can only function as a complement to a country's own efforts. Development cooperation is important but it is only one instrument among many in the overall Swedish policy for global development.

Sweden's policy must be based more extensively on the experience and priorities of the poor themselves. This will make Sweden a better listener – but will also improve our ability to present our own values and experience of poverty alleviation and development.



This process requires an open dialogue.

Sweden is one of many international actors. If we are to support poorer countries more effectively and efficiently, it is vital that we coordinate our inputs with other countries and international organisations. Preferably, such coordination should be directed by the partner countries themselves.

Many poor countries suffer from a heavy burden of foreign debt. Where the poorest and most debt-burdened countries are concerned, Sweden intends to continue to urge that their debts be written off. However, writing off debt is not enough to create development. The countries must contribute their own policies for growth and poverty alleviation.

The goal that one percent of Sweden's GNI is to be reserved for development cooperation still stands. Sweden will also strive to persuade more countries to increase their financial undertakings for global development. This is the responsibility of the richer countries of the world.