**Sweden**

Mid-term Self-Assessment Report

Open Government Partnership

National Action Plan 2013-2015

December 2015

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***Introduction***

Sweden has centred its work around five commitments 1) Putting citizens at the centre (eGovernment) of government administration reforms, 2) A step further on the re-use of public administration documents, 3) Increased access to Swedish aid information, 4) Improved opportunities for dialogue and transparency in aid management and implementation and 5) Increased aid transparency at global level. Progress on implementation of the five commitments has been generally good. Completion level is substantial in all five commitments. Commitments 3-5 are directly related to development cooperation. As such, it has to be noted that 2015 has been a special year with three important global processes (Post 2015 declaration on SDGs, Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for Development (FfD) and the Paris Climate Conference) that together will make up a substantial framework for the international work on achieving global sustainability. Transparency will be central in the work to fulfil the commitments made in these processes.

***Background***

The fulfilment of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals requires strong and broad public engagement, participation and ownership. A high degree of transparency and accountability will be central for the success of its implementation. The Swedish Government is a strong advocate of budget transparency, participation, collaboration, local ownership and accountability. This since, transparency promotes accountability, enables participation and provides information for citizens about the use of public resources. On a global scale, there are still substantial improvements to be made as regards transparency issues. The Open Budget Survey 2015 showed that even though improvements are being made a vast majority of the 102 countries assessed — where more than 68 percent of the world’s population live — provide insufficient budget information.

Sweden is committed to be a leading aid donor with a strong focus on transparency and will continue its long tradition of support to Public Finance Management (PFM) reforms. Since 2014, Sweden has a feminist government. In this context, Swedish foreign and development policy relates to three indispensable and interdependent concepts; Rights, Representation and Resources. The work on women’s empowerment requires political commitment, which includes specific budgeting and budgetary methods that support the aim. In this regard access to high quality and transparent information of the situation of women and girls and gender power structures is vital.

In the beginning of this year, the Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation was appointed as Co-Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State building, in which the implementation of the so called New Deal for fragile states is a main priority. Among the key elements of the New Deal Principles are an emphasis on national ownership and commitments to achieve better results that include transparency and timely and predictable aid. The aim is to build mutual trust, strengthen the capacity of institutions and promote inclusivity.  Equally important is that donors are transparent and report the content of their contributions. This is why the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), has established the website Openaid.se – in order to strengthen people’s insight and engagement in the implementation process of the development cooperation. Sweden also emphasis that one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals makes clear the critical need of legitimate institutions as the basis of a sustainable global society. Connecting different transparency initiatives and ensuring compatibility will contribute to an emerging global picture of resources available, which is of essential importance in tackling global poverty and promote sustainable development.

***Implementation of National Action Plan Commitments***

In the implementation of the National Action Plan 2013-2015 Sweden has, in accord with Busan commitments of aid transparency, worked toward improving both the amount and quality of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) data. To share experiences and inspire more donor agencies to start publishing their data, Sida has issued a white paper in which stakeholders can get information on how to start publishing data as a bilateral donor, challenges in collecting and publishing data and suggestions on how to successfully go ahead with the construction of a data base. The Open Aid initiative as a web based platform is free to use by all. An improved version of Open Aid was launched in September 2014.

In developing the second National Action Plan (NAP), Sweden has continued to have close dialogues with various government agencies and representatives of various professional organizations. The Government has also encouraged input from civil society, citizens and other actors. A continuous dialogue with civil society has been maintained throughout the implementation of the aid transparency guarantee. The Government has also made praxis to include the civil society in policy processes relating to the development cooperation, making. The civil society has been invited to more than 20 meetings within the frame of various policy processes, such as bilateral and thematic strategies and the work with a new policy framework for the Swedish development cooperation. The feedback from these consultations supports continuous efforts on aid transparency and the suggested scope of the commitments. The need for further development of the Openaid.se platform and improved dialogue mechanisms have also been pointed out in more fora than just the OGP consultations.

In preparation for the self-assessment report, the Swedish Government has consulted with representatives of the civil society, mainly with CONCORD Sweden.

Achievements in each commitment are reported in detail in the following matrixes.

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| **Commitment 1. To put citizens at the centre of the eGovernment reform agenda. The objectives are to make everyday life easier, open up administration in order to support innovation and participation, and increase operational quality and effectiveness.**  |
| **Lead implementing agency** | Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.  |
| **Name of responsible person from implementing agency** | Magnus Enzell, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation |
| **Title, Department** | Senior adviser, Department for e-government. |
| **Email** | magnus.enzell@gov.se |
| **Phone** | +46702886258 |
| **Other actors involved** | **Government agencies** | * The Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation has created a new unit for e-government focusing on promoting e-government.
* The government has formed a new board for digital government with a representation by director generals from central government agencies, municipalities and with the it-minister as chair.
* The Swedish National Financial Management Authority has been tasked to be the staff agency for e-government.
* The Swedish E-identification Board consists of both public and private sector representatives.
* A number of government agencies are collaborating in a joint programme for Digital Collaboration –*E-samverkansprogrammet*.
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| **CSO, private sector** | 167 actors (municipalities, regions, businesses, civil society organizations) have signed the Swedish digital agenda in order to become ‘associated partners’ in the digitization of Sweden. The board for digital government shall arrange an “open council” once a year in order to get advice from a broader set of actors, including the private sector. The Swedish e-Identification Board holds an annual conference on electronic identification, inviting stakeholders from both the public and private sector. VINNOVA (see above) promotes users of open data and gives grants to open data projects. Users of open data and different open data projects. |
| **Main Objective** | The objective of the current eGovernment strategy is to put citizens at the centre of government administration reform. The objectives are to make everyday life easier, open up administration in order to support innovation and participation, and increase operational quality and effectiveness. The main direction is “Digital first!” which means that digital channels should be the prime alternative for communication with citizens and businesses.  |
| **1. Brief Description of****Commitment** | 1. Better services to citizens to a lower cost.2. Better governance of common digital services and data. 3. Life-cycle management of common digital solutions4. Strengthened follow-up of it-cost and it-maturity5. Increased ability to govern a digitally collaborating government administration |
| **2. Relevance:**  | This program will increase the effective management of public resources as well as create a more digitally open government. |
| **3. Ambition**  | While Sweden is globally ranked as number 1 in the 2015 WJP Open Government Index, it still faces challenges when it comes to being digitally open due to legacy problems. By implementing a shared and open digital infrastructure as well as by promoting open innovation the end result should be a more open government that supports innovations and participation. |
| **4. Completion level** | Not started  | Limited  | Substantial | Completed |
|  |  | X |  |
| **5. Description of the results**  | The Government has issued an overall Digital Agenda for Sweden and a subsidiary eGovernment strategy: ‘Bringing the citizen to the heart of government’. In 2015 the government decided on a four-year implementation program leading to the objectives decided in the strategy: Digital first!A special initiative called My Sweden was launched in 2015 to promote the active participation of citizens and businesses in the development of mobile e-services. This initiative intends to create a platform for open and data-driven innovation by involving citizens and business in an ecosystem in defining and co-creating digital social innovations. |
| **6. End date**  | 2018 |  |  |
| **7. Next steps** |  |  |  |
| **8. Additional information**  |

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| **Commitment 2. A step further on the re-use of public administration documents**  |
| **Lead implementing agency** | Swedish Ministry of Finance |
| **Name of responsible person from implementing agency** | Karina Aldén at the Government Offices  |
| **Title, Department** | Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance |
| **Email** | Karina.alden@regeringskansliet.se |
| **Phone** | +46 8 405 40 46 |
| **Other actors involved** | **Government agencies** | All Swedish authorities and municipalities are covered by the law of reuse of public information. Some authorities, such as the National Archives, the Swedish National Financial Management Authority and, the Swedish Competition Authority have responsibility for regulations other for coordinating measures.  |
| **CSO, private sector** | Companies, businesses and individuals  |
| **Main Objective** | **Transparency, legitimacy and participation:** A more open government increases its legitimacy among citizens and increases their willingness to participate in the development of the service level, efficiency and quality of public services. In addition, combining different kinds of information and the use of information technology enables the creation of entirely new products and services that are in demand in the market. This in turn contributes to the growth of new industries and businesses which leads to increased employment. |
| **1. Brief Description of****Commitment** | In order to promote the re-use of public information the Swedish Act has been strengthened. The amendments aimed for example to achieve lower and clearer pricing practices when the charging information is necessary. Also culture institutions such as museums, archives and libraries are from now on covered by the law. |
| **2. Relevance:**  | Better possibilities to reuse public information are an important factor in innovative solutions and companies to grow and provide jobs and tax revenue. Action in this area is therefore considered to be good investments for the future. |
| **3. Ambition**  | In addition to the PSI Act implies certain demands on the authorities, the law is also an important control signal to drive the development of the area. Many agencies and municipalities themselves have taken initiatives for activities and actions in the area. A good example of this is the National Land Survey; which on 1 July released some map databases free to developers and the public. Another example is the municipality of Gävle, which recently announced a major investment in open data. |
| **4. Completion level** | Not started  | Limited  | Substantial | Completed |
|  | X |  |  |
| **5. Description of the results**  | There has not yet been any measure of results. The Agency for Public Management has the governments mandate (S2014/3536/SFÖ) to monitor the effects of how the national and local authorities are working to make information available. The result will be presented in January 2018. |
| **6. End date**  |  | 2018 |  |
| **7. Next steps** | Additional assignments to the authorities. Follow the Commission's work on the PSI-directive |
| **8. Additional information**  |

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| **Commitment 3. Increased access to Swedish aid information**  |
| **Lead implementing agency** | Ministry for Foreign Affairs  |
| **Name of responsible person from implementing agency** | Måns Fellesson  |
| **Title, Department** | Deputy Director, Department for aid management  |
| **Email** | mans.fellesson@gov.se |
| **Phone** | +46 8 405 49 01 |
| **Other actors involved** | **Government agencies** | The Swedish aid transparency guarantee applies to all public actors who have been allocated development assistance funds. These are primarily the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida, but also include other government agencies and civil society organizations. Sida is responsible for the Openaid.se platform and for coordination and support to other agencies’ activities regarding the transparency guarantee.  |
| **CSO, private sector** | National and international CSOs. Private sector actors.  |
| **Main Objective** | Increased access to aid information is an important contribution to the overarching objective for Sweden’s international aid: To create preconditions for better living conditions for people living in poverty and under oppression.  |
| **1. Brief Description of****Commitment** | The commitment could be sorted in four subareas:1. Full implementation of the Swedish aid transparency guarantee2. Full implementation of the Common Standard on the Swedish development cooperation3. Substantial improvements made in the Openaid.se platform4. Anti-corruption reports are published in an AITI format at Openaid.se  |
| **2. Relevance:** | This commitment aims to increase access to aid information which is relevant to furthering OGP values, especially of access to information and public accountability. The way it is being implemented, mainly through Openaid.se, also contributions to technology development for openness and accountability. |
| **3. Ambition**  | The efforts made within the frame of the commitment contribute to making government more open and accessible, which will lead to increased efficiency in various government processes.  |
| **4. Completion level** | Not started  | Limited  | Substantial | Completed |
|  |  | X | X |
| **5. Description of the results**  | 1. Reporting (Sida) of the government assignment on transparency guarantee August 2015 2. In April 2014 a preview version of the new generation of Openaid.se was published and in September 2014 a further developed version of the site replaced the old Openaid.se. Openaid.se only uses IATI data and is available as open source. 3. Final reporting (Sida) of the government assignment on improved openness in aid implementation, January 20154. A number of reports have been published at Openaid.se (see link) http://www.openaid.se/sv/corruption-reports/  |
| **6. End date**  | 2016 |  |  |
| **7. Next steps** | Continue to support the development of Openaid.se |
| **8. Additional information** |

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| **Commitment 4.Improved opportunities for dialogue and transparency in aid management and implementation**  |
| **Lead implementing agency** | Ministry for Foreign Affairs  |
| **Name of responsible person from implementing agency** | Måns Fellesson |
| **Title, Department** | Deputy Director, Department for aid management |
| **Email** | Mans.fellesson@gov.se |
| **Phone** | +46 8 405 49 01 |
| **Other actors involved** | **Government agencies** | Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) |
| **CSO, private sector** | National CSOs and private sector actors.  |
| **Main Objective** | Increase mutual knowledge and participation to create better conditions for accountability and innovative thinking  |
| **1. Brief Description of****Commitment** | - Develop and implement an updated government strategy for aid information and communication activities. - Negotiate and implement a compact between the Government and Swedish civil society organisations that enhances dialogue and outlines these organisations’ role in Swedish aid. - Support initiatives related to ICT that create opportunities for increased participation from a broader spectrum of the population. - Further develop procedures for management of reports by the public, organisations and employees of misuse, suspected corruption and other complaints with an impact on Swedish aid funds.  |
| **2. Relevance:**  | This commitment relates to the importance of information, public accountability and civic participation in policy processes.  |
| **3. Ambition**  | Efforts made within the frame of this commitment will contribute to more efficient managing of public resources and increase corporate accountability.  |
| **4. Completion level** | Not started  | Limited  | Substantial | Completed |
|  |  | X |  |
| **5. Description of the results**  | 1. A government strategy for aid information and communication, info/comm is ready for decision. 2. An agreement between the Government and the Swedish civil society has been reached in July 20153. The user-friendliness of Openaid.se has been further enhanced 4. Sida has organised courses in anticorruption work. Anti-corruption is also an integrated part of the Swedish strategies for multilateral organizations. This includes yearly work plans for delivery and follow-up.  |
| **6. End date**  | 2016 |  |  |
| **7. Next steps** | - Further modifications of Openaid.se- Modifying Sweden’s methodology for assessing multilateral development organizations, and being part of developing an improved MOPAN (Multilateral Organizations Performance Assessment Network) methodology. - Continue to promote transparency in dialogue with multilateral development organizations where deemed relevant. |
| **8. Additional information** |

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| **Commitment 5. Increased aid transparency at global level**  |
| **Lead implementing agency** | Ministry for Foreign Affairs  |
| **Name of responsible person from implementing agency** | Måns Fellesson |
| **Title, Department** | Deputy Director, Department for aid management |
| **Email** | mans.fellesson@gov.se |
| **Phone** | +46 8 405 49 01 |
| **Other actors involved** | **Government agencies** | Sida, multilateral development organisations, the EU, likeminded countries, partner countries  |
| **CSO, private sector** | All providers and recipients of aid, including CSOs and private sector. IATI: a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to improve aid transparency in order to increase its effectiveness in tackling poverty. Other international initiatives for enhanced transparency.  |
| **Main Objective** | Accelerate international efforts on publishing aid information in accordance with the Busan commitment on a Common Standard  |
| **1. Brief Description of****Commitment** |

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| * Promote IATI reporting among other development actors and the use of IATI data at country level, through dialogue and development of methodology and capacity.
* Promote transparency and anti-corruption work in the EU and multilateral development organisations, including IATI reporting.
* Support initiatives related to ICT that facilitate aid transparency.
* Promote transparency including budget transparency in partner countries as a part of Swedish development cooperation.
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| **2. Relevance:**  | Contribute to public openness and accountability.  |
| **3. Ambition**  | Increased number of multilateral development organizations with Swedish development assistance funds that publish aid data to IATI. Provide support to other bilateral donors aiming to start publishing to IATI or to improve their publication.Encouraging multilateral development organisations to publish aid data to IATI contributes to the openness of Swedish foreign aid. Share experiences and tools to make it easier for other bilateral donors to publish to IATI.  |
| **4. Completion level** | Not started  | Limited  | Substantial | Completed |
|  |  | X |  |
| **5. Description of the results**  | 1. A series of white papers on the Swedish experience of implementing IATI was published on Openaid.se and spread to the IATI community at the IATI Technical Advisory Group and Steering Committee in June 2015. 2. Since the establishment of this commitment, 22 multilateral development organisations funded by Sweden have published data to IATI.3. Openaid.se was made available as open source for other IATI publishers to use in whole or parts. Support has been given to several organisations trying out the software or parts of it.4. Requirements of organizational setups for anticorruption and transparency in negotiations with countries subject for budget support.  |
| **6. End date**  | 2016 |  |  |
| **7. Next steps** | Continue encouraging multilateral development organisations to publish data to IATI. |
| **8. Additional information**Some of the major recipients of Swedish multilateral aid do not yet publish data to IATI. Among these are FAO and CERF. |