

Dear audience,

I am pleased to have been invited as a speaker for the Forum and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for giving me the opportunity to present Sweden and our work in the field of promoting business respect for human rights.

Business and human rights should go hand in hand. The importance for countries to develop, implement and follow-up their **National Action Plans** for Business and Human Rights must be **underlined**. The **UN guiding principles** for Business and Human Rights and the **Global Compact** should serve as the **basis** for this work.

To complement the 10 UN guiding principles, Sweden has added further four principles, amongst those **gender**, supported by the Swedish **Feminist Foreign Policy** (2014), underlining the importance of equality between women and men. The policy should strengthen girls' and women' **Rights, Representations, Resources** in their **Reality**. It aims at changing **Structures** and **Systems**. Newly launched **Handbook**.

Sweden will incorporate the UN Convention on the **Right of the Child** into Swedish Law, entering into force January **2020**.

Sweden also promotes the **OECD** guidelines for **multinational enterprises** which provide a unique access to remedy, where complaints can be filed to the so called **National Contact Point**. The **Swedish NCP** is based on a **tripartite** model; **government, trade unions** and **business** organizations.

We developed the so called **Global Deal for Decent work and Inclusive Growth**, which drives the positive development in the **social pillar**, through **social dialogue**. Global Deal is now placed within the **OECD**. Since long Sweden has a tradition that builds on **trust**. Trust between parties. Therefore, the **employer organizations** sit together with the **unions** in the process of **collective bargaining**. Together the

parties, without the involvement of Government, find a solution through discussion, seldom through strikes. This is the **Swedish model**.

Sweden has **strong institutions** and we have strengthened the same through a **collaboration** between **Governmental Agencies – Team Sweden**, such as the **Agency for Export Credits** and the **Swedish International Development Agency**. Together with the Agencies, the Swedish Government put forward **clear demands** on, but also **supports**, the private sector in their work with sustainable business.

We have **100** missions in the field, working together with the **55 offices** of the **Export Promotion Agency** (Business Sweden), through **MoU on sustainable business** with **Chile** and **China** and through the Swedish **CSR-centre in Beijing**. This year we launched a **training** module in sustainable business for the missions in the field, while the Swedish Export Promotion Agency is also investing in training. **Increase awareness and building skills.**

The **Swedish State Owned Enterprises** is yet another example where Sweden has moved forward and strengthened its efforts in the field of sustainable business. **Gender balance** is one component that is well reflected in the SOEs, where in their Boards, 49 percentage were women and 51 percentage men. Overall the State has **strengthened the focus on Human Rights**, with clearer requirements on the same.

**Sustainable Reporting** is crucial yet complex. The limit is set at 250 employees, meaning that all companies having 250 employees or more have to provide a sustainable development report, **higher** than the EU directive demands.

The Swedish National Action Plan, launched 2015, was **follow-up** in February this year with a report on deliverables to the NAP. The same report was then **evaluated** and **scrutinized** by the Swedish Governmental **Agency for Public Procurement**. Recommendations

have been given which the Swedish Government at this moment is looking in to.

**Society** is developing faster than ever. An increased demand for new **technology** and **information** of products and their **origin** is a fact. We must understand and we must include concepts such as **Big Data**, **Artificial Intelligence**, **Green Economy and Finance**, **Circular Economy** and the **Millennials**. We are talking about **future generations**. The millennials will bring their values into **investments** and they will be looking for sustainable businesses. One concrete figure from Morgan Stanley is that millennials would be **twice as interested** investing in companies that **incorporate Environmental Social and Governance** dimensions in practice.

This is a positive trend. We welcome these positive driving forces.

International companies, and the **private sector** as a whole, must have an **important** role in the implementation of the **UNGP** and of **Agenda 2030**. This concerns both **investments** as stated in the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, but indeed also in **innovation** and in **elaborating business models** to meet the **global challenges**. Businesses have a responsibility to be sustainable and to **analyze** how their activities impact in the markets where they work. Such analysis should be carried out **in dialogue with host countries**, including the **civil society**.

The fight against **corruption and bribery** is key. Building strong institutions, supporting the rule of law, and implementing legislation on anti-corruption must be prioritized. This is off course closely related to **UNGP** and **Agenda 2030** and development goal **16**, highly prioritized by **Sweden**. Both States and Businesses should take responsibility in the implementation process. Engagement in the **UN Convention** against Bribery and in the **OECD convention** on combatting bribery on Foreign Public Officials in International Business transactions is therefore crucial. [In fact Sweden will be scrutinize next year under the

OECD convention on bribery, dialogue and report with recommendations to Sweden will be presented.]

To conclude. There are major **challenges** ahead, in the field of Business and Human Rights, not the least **corruption** but off course also **climate change** and its impact on human rights. However, we do see **positive trends** and there are a lot more that could be done, **together**. And the key word to proceed is **trust**.

Thank you.