

Submission IKFF¹ Sweden
Universal Periodic Review Sweden
8th Session May 2010

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1. Summary

During the 8th UPR Session in May 2010 Sweden's first review will take place. For this review the following issues need to be included in the 10-page stakeholder document that OHCHR will prepare:

- Most important Treaty Bodies' Concluding Observations;
- Swedish governmental financial priorities and military expenditure;
- Sweden's role in the women, peace and security discourse;

2. Main Treaty Body Concluding Observations

IKFF would like to list the main Treaty Body recommendations, provided in conclusion to the latest country reviews of Sweden, to advice upon the allocation of adequate financial resources for the advancement of women in Sweden and the fulfilment of women's human rights.

CEDAW [Elimination Discrimination Against Women]²:

- The Committee urges the State party to continue to utilize, in implementing its obligations under the Convention, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, which reinforce the provisions of the Convention, and requests the State party to include information thereon in its next periodic report.
- The Committee emphasizes that full and effective implementation of the Convention is indispensable for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It calls for the integration of a gender perspective and explicit reflection of the provisions of the Convention in all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Goals and requests the State party to include information thereon in its next periodic report.
- The Committee calls upon the State party to introduce effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms at all levels in the context of its system for gender mainstreaming, including in the context of the plan for gender mainstreaming in Government offices 2004-2009, and that such mechanisms includes sanctions for non-compliance.
- The Committee urges the State party to strengthen its efforts to encourage an increase in the number of women in high-ranking posts, particularly in academia. It recommends the adoption of proactive measures to encourage more women to apply for high-ranking posts and encourages the State party to employ and effectively implement temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and with the Committee's general recommendation No. 25, in order to accelerate the realization of women's de facto equality with men in all areas. It also recommends that the State party further include in its gender

¹ Internationella Kvinnoförbundet för Fred och Frihet (www.ikff.se), Swedish Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (www.wilpf.int.ch).

² Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, 40th Session, January 2008, Concluding Observations Sweden: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/298/66/PDF/N0829866.pdf?OpenElement>.

equality legislation provisions to mandate the use of temporary special measures, including goals or quotas, enhanced by a system of incentives, in both the public and private sectors. The Committee recommends that the future strategy on gender mainstreaming in the labour market and business sector should include effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms, including sanctions for non-compliance by employers and other relevant groups. The Committee requests that the State party monitor developments with regard to women's participation in top management positions with a view to further supporting such participation through legislative or policy initiatives and to provide information on results achieved, including relevant disaggregated statistical data.

- In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19, the Committee urges the State party to ensure that comprehensive measures are in place to address all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and crimes committed in the name of honour. The Committee calls upon the State party to allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure the effective implementation of the 2007 action plan on violence, to study and analyse all cases of violence against women, particularly those that result in murders of women, and to implement policies in order to prevent such violence, provide protection, support and services to the victims and punish and rehabilitate offenders. The Committee also calls upon the State party to collect comprehensive statistical data disaggregated by sex, age and type of violence and the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim. The Committee urges the State party to provide statistical information in its next periodic report on the number of women and girls living in Sweden who have been genitally mutilated. The Committee also urges the State party to take the necessary measures to ensure greater cooperation between the central Government, the regional county administrative boards and the municipalities. The Committee further urges the State party to monitor the provision of social services with a view to ensuring the availability of a sufficient number of shelters equipped to accommodate women with disabilities throughout the territory of the State party and making sure that they are adequately financed.
- The Committee urges the State party to take all appropriate measures to suppress all forms of trafficking in women. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next report comprehensive information and data about trafficking in women and girls and information on the impact of measures taken and results achieved, including under the future national action programme for combating trafficking in human beings. It encourages the State party to take proper account of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, following her visit to Sweden (A/HRC/4/34/Add.3), when formulating the national programme. The Committee calls upon the State party to strengthen the legislation allowing the prosecution of Swedish citizens involved in sexual exploitation of girls abroad, including by prohibiting the reissuance of passports for persons freed after posting bail. The Committee recommends that the State party continue its bilateral, regional and international cooperation so as to further curb this phenomenon, including in the context of the State party's strategy on poverty and trafficking in human beings.

CCPR [Civil and Political Rights]³:

- The State party should seek ways to further promote access of women to high-level and managerial positions including, where feasible, through targeted measures. The State party should also strengthen its efforts to narrow the wage gap between men and women and to facilitate full-time employment of women.
- The State party should intensify its efforts towards the elimination of violence against women, inter alia through awareness-raising campaigns and effective implementation of the action

³ Human Rights Committee, 95th Session, Concluding Observations for Sweden, March-April 2009: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G09/422/07/PDF/G0942207.pdf?OpenElement>

plan 2007-2010 and the special package of measures to increase initiatives for the rehabilitation of men convicted of sexual violence and violent offences in close relationships. The State party should also ensure the availability of a fully adequate number of shelters for women and children subjected to domestic violence, including those with special needs, in particular women and children with disabilities.

- The State party should intensify its efforts to prevent and eradicate practices of female genital mutilation, in particular through the strengthening of awareness raising campaigns for the police and prosecutors, the family members who may encourage these practices and for the girls at risk.

CESCR [Economic, Social and Cultural Rights]⁴:

- The Committee recommends that the State party enact specific legislation criminalizing acts of domestic violence. The Committee further recommends that the State party increase its efforts to prosecute diligently acts of domestic violence when a complaint is brought and to include information, in its next periodic report, on the number and the nature of reported cases of domestic violence, on the convictions and the types of sanctions imposed on perpetrators where sentenced, as well as on any assistance and rehabilitation measures provided to victims.

CERD [Elimination racial discrimination]⁵:

- The Committee ... remains concerned that despite such efforts, de facto discrimination against persons of foreign origin persists in a number of areas. It is particularly concerned about the lower employment rate among persons of immigrant origin, especially women.

CAT [Against Torture]⁶:

- The State party should increase its efforts to prevent, combat and punish violence against women and children, including domestic violence and crimes committed against women and children in the name of honour. The State party should also monitor the provision of social services with a view to ensuring the availability of a sufficient number of shelters, equipped to accommodate women with special needs, including women with disabilities, throughout the territory of the State party, and their adequate financing.
- The State party should establish an effective system to gather all statistical data relevant to monitoring of the implementation of the Convention at the national level, including complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions of cases of torture and ill-treatment, violence against women and children, including domestic violence and crimes committed against women and children in the name of honour, as well as on compensation and rehabilitation provided to the victims. The Committee recognizes the sensitive implications of gathering personal data and emphasizes that appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that such data collected is not abused.

Proposed text:

IKFF urges the Swedish government to prioritize the following Treaty Body Concluding Observations for true, timely and effective follow-up:

1. Introduce effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms at all levels in the context of Sweden's system for gender mainstreaming including sanctions for

⁴ Committee on Civil and Political Rights, 41st Session, November 2008, Concluding Observations Sweden: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/docs/E.C.12.SWE.CO.5_EN.doc.

⁵ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 73rd Session, August 2008, Concluding Observations Sweden: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/441/85/PDF/G0844185.pdf?OpenElement>.

⁶ Committee Against Torture, 40th Session, April 2008, Concluding Observations Sweden: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/423/66/PDF/G0842366.pdf?OpenElement>.

- non-compliance (CEDAW);
2. To strengthen its efforts to encourage an increase in the number of women in high-ranking posts. IKFF would especially like to encourage women representation on issues concerning foreign and security policy. (CEDAW)
 3. Implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and adopt proactive measures to encourage more women to apply for high-ranking posts and mandate the use of temporary special measures, including goals or quotas, enhanced by a system of incentives, in both the public and private sectors (CEDAW, CCPR, CESC, CERD);
 4. Allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure the effective implementation of comprehensive measures to address all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and crimes committed in the name of honour. Criminalize acts of domestic violence (CEDAW, CCPR, CESC, CAT);
 5. Raise awareness of the CEDAW Convention and its Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations among judges, prosecutors and lawyers (CEDAW);
 6. Take all appropriate measures to suppress all forms of trafficking in women (CEDAW);
 7. Intensify its efforts to prevent and eradicate practices of female genital mutilation (CCPR).

3. Focus: Military spending and disarmament

Multiple Treaty Bodies advised the Swedish government to allocate sufficient funding for the advancement of women, IKFF strongly supports this request and would like to advise the Swedish government to look upon disarmament and decrease of military spending as a way to ensure sufficient funds for women's advancement. The fact is, that although there has been a steadily decrease in military spending in Sweden, from 2.6% of the Gross Domestic Product in 1988 to 1.4% of GDP in 2007⁷, Sweden still spends 5.2 Million US Dollar on their military.

In the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted in 1995 and up for review in March 2010, Critical Area E addresses women in armed conflict. Strategic Objective E.2 reads as follows: "Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments"⁸. According to the important Beijing Platform for Action Government should increase and hasten the conversion of military resources and related industries to development and peaceful purposes e.g. ranchers, and technology on renewable energy, infrastructure and sustainably environment production.

Sweden was between the years 2000-2007 the 7th largest supplier of arms deliveries to Developing Nations. Swedish arms deliveries these years added up to 2,900 million US\$ positioning Sweden just after US, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, Germany and Israel. Arms deliveries to the World places Sweden at 8th place between the years 2004-2007 with deliveries worth 2,500 million US\$.⁹ One example is that Sweden carried out an extensive arms export deal with Pakistan in June 2006. It included the sale of Saab's military radar system Erieye at the price of 12 times the budget Pakistan dedicates yearly to ensuring water and sanitation¹⁰ for its populations, which is falling short of international standards. In total Sweden has transferred 27 million US Dollars worth of arms to Pakistan in the period from 2004 to 2008.

⁷ SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, Sweden, 1988 – 2007, <http://milexdata.sipri.org/result.php4>

⁸ Beijing Platform for Action, Critical Area E, Strategic Objective E.2,

⁹ CRS Report for Congress, Conventional Arms Transfers to Developing Nations, 2000-2007, Table 2F <http://ftp.fas.org/sfp/crs/weapons/RL34723.pdf>

¹⁰ Politics for Global Weapons Development, p. 35, Rolf Lindahl, Swedish Peace- and Arbitration Society, January 2009

According to the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan Sweden is currently spending twice as much funds on military expenditure as on rebuilding the society and ODA in Afghanistan.¹¹ These examples illustrate how current Swedish budgetary priorities do not support the implementation of the MDG:s in the world nor human rights in Sweden.

Proposed text:

- IKFF urges the Swedish government to consider disarmament and the reallocation of financial resources, from military expenditures to the allocation of sufficient financial resources for the implementation of the recommendations of UN Treaty Bodies to among other things prioritize women's advancement. IKFF also urges the Swedish government to utilize, in implementing its obligations under the Conventions, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, especially focus area E Women and armed conflict.
- IKFF urges the Swedish government to allocate sufficient funds to fully and effectively implement the Convention as it is indispensable for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. IKFF also urges Sweden to integrate a gender perspective in all efforts aimed at, and prioritize the achievement of the Goals.

4. Focus: Women, peace and security

The Security Council adopted the hallmark Resolution 1325 in 2000 by placing women, peace and security on the international security agenda. The Resolution focuses on the three important Ps; participation, prevention and protection.

Sweden has adopted a second National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of SCR 1325, but did not include mechanisms for accountability and instruments to encourage implementation. As any civil servant knows, a specific budget and time line are essential for the implementation of proposed actions.

There are not enough measurable goals in the plan (quantitative or qualitative), or any clear priorities among the numerous proposed actions. Perhaps most important, there are no monitoring or control mechanisms for assessing results and thereby demand accountability. More specifically, there are no specific responsibilities attributed to any particular Ministry, which makes it more difficult to follow up whether action have been taken or not. Focus is given to the use of UNSCR 1325 by military institutions and not on civilian initiatives for peace building and the inclusion of women from civil society into these processes.

Proposed text:

- IKFF urges the Swedish government to strengthen and acknowledge women as relevant actors in all stages of peace processes as "peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and development"¹².

¹¹ http://www.sak.se/arkiv/artiklar/press/2009/bistansdmilitar/Kostnader_f--r_bist--nd_milit--r_090929.pdf

¹² Beijing Plattform for Action <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/armed.htm#diagnosis>