National Security Strategy

Government Offices of Sweden
Prime Minister's Office

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Foreword

There has been a strong focus on security issues ever since I became Prime Minister. This has been due to dramatic events around the world, as well as what has taken place in Sweden. Technological developments have created strong interdependencies. Susceptibility to the disruption of essential services has increased. Information technology has improved life for most people, but the way in which it can also be used for hostile purposes by both states and individuals is also becoming increasingly apparent.

Security issues now need to be viewed from a much broader perspective than in the past. Security for people in Sweden does not just mean equipping ourselves to deal with military threats and armed attacks, although this remains one of central government's core duties. Wider security measures must also now encompass protection against epidemics and infectious diseases, combating terrorism and organised crime, ensuring safe transport and reliable food supplies, protecting against energy supply interruptions, countering devastating climate change, initiatives for peace and global development, and much more.

This broad concept of security has formed the basis for the work of the Government's security policy council, which I established shortly after taking office. It also provides the basis for the national security strategy established today by the Government.

This strategy sets out for the first time our overall approach to security in a broad sense. It establishes the focus and also provides the framework for the measures required to collectively safeguard Sweden's security. These broader threats, and a new security policy landscape, impose new demands for a strategic approach over extended periods. We need a better understanding of security developments, both internationally and in Sweden. This requires us to pose new questions about our security, and our national interests, so we can deploy collective resources where they will have the greatest benefit.

A separate section of the strategy defines those national interests that should guide our approach to security and our broader security efforts. The strategy also sets out a number of primary threats in key areas that challenge our ability to protect our people and our country. These descriptions are then followed by measures to strengthen our preparedness.

This security strategy encompasses many different policy areas, with relevant actors in both the public and private sectors. The Government has overall responsibility, and following the establishment of this strategy all ministries are to adopt this approach as the next steps are taken and work on various initiatives is carried out. But security efforts are a task for the whole of society. Active involvement is required by central, regional and local authorities, as well as by individuals, businesses and civil society.

There is broad agreement in the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) on most issues concerning Swedish security. I hope and believe it will also be possible to achieve such broad consensus on the work in realising the content of this strategy.

Stockholm, 4 January 2017
Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister

Introduction

The efforts to protect the people of Sweden are based on strong foundations.

There is broad political consensus about most strategic decisions relating to our country's peace and security. The innovation, openness and cohesion that characterise our society provide good conditions for safeguarding our security.

Sweden is more dependent on the outside world than ever before. Over the long term, increasing globalisation has clearly positive effects, both on our standard of living and our security. The diversity reflected in today's Swedish society is linked to both economic growth and our openness. It provides us with opportunities to develop our prosperity, safety, peace and security together.

The conditions for safeguarding Sweden's security are changing rapidly. The people of Sweden are increasingly affected by what happens both within and beyond our borders. Many of the factors that have made our society successful also create vulnerabilities. Developments in Sweden and the world are increasing requirements on our ability to safeguard our security. This is so closely correlated with global security that it is necessary for Sweden to build peace and security together with others. More than ever, we need to create shared security in a broad sense, including through trade, contact between people and cooperation in international organisations in order to create trust.

The internal and external threats faced by society today are more complex than in the past. They are occurring and evolving faster than before. This is due to a changing world in which there are new types of threat from new combinations of actors. We also face a situation in which our fundamental values and our way of life are being increasingly challenged. This is happening both in our immediate region and further away, inspired by currents of ideas that risk also gaining a foothold in Sweden.

In a world that many view as increasingly turbulent, Sweden is still widely regarded as a relatively secure country. Overall, its people trust in the State's ability to safeguard their freedom and security. But this is not something that can be taken for granted permanently in the future. Developments in our country, both social and technological, are resulting in increasing requirements for coherent security efforts.

This national security strategy sets out the focus and establishes a framework for the work required to collectively safeguard Sweden's security, within and between different policy areas. This strategy aims to strengthen our ability to effectively and concertedly prevent and tackle immediate and long-term threats and challenges.

The strategy is based on a number of broadly defined objectives for our security and the values on which these objectives are based. It provides an overview of recent security developments, both in Sweden and internationally. The strategy identifies a number of areas in which Sweden has specific interests to defend and in which security efforts need to be strengthened. Together, this forms the core of Sweden's national security strategy.

Of course, it is not possible to predict precisely what new threats are most likely to arise or what strategic decisions Sweden may need to make to avert these. But by focussing our combined security efforts on the areas of priority and national interests set out by the strategy, Sweden will be better equipped to prevent, counter and address the security challenges we face both now and in the future.

Our approach to security

Sweden's freedom, peace and security must be safeguarded. No duty of the State is more important.

The objectives for our security are to safeguard the life and health of the population, as well as the functionality of society, along with the ability to maintain fundamental values such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights and fundamental freedoms. In order to achieve these objectives our country's political independence and autonomy must be secured and our territorial integrity must be able to be maintained. This is the basis on which this strategy is founded.

Our security is linked to our fundamental values. We will defend and support our democracy and our rule of law and uphold respect for each inhabitant's freedoms and rights against all domestic and external actors that may seek to undermine them. These values are of inalienable intrinsic value. They constitute the foundation of our society's prosperity and resilience.

This national security strategy is based on a broad approach and uses a broad concept of security. The challenges to our security are complex and can change rapidly. In addition, the conditions for protecting the population and maintaining the most essential services have changed fundamentally. There are now not only more actors that are of significance to society's security, but they are also more diverse. Influence over key areas and essential services, which previously was to a greater extent exerted by the State, may now be shared by numerous parties. As a result of globalisation, the link between domestic and external security is more direct than in the past.

Every day extensive work is carried out in Sweden to ensure the protection and security of the population and provide for adequate civil contingency planning. This constitutes a solid basis for a secure and well-functioning society. However, our security imposes ever increasing requirements for an all-hazards approach and cooperation between different actors and policy areas. The vast range of pressures that we may face must be addressed with all the tools we have at our disposal. The combined ability of our country to prevent, counter and tackle crises and war must be strengthened. This applies to both short-term challenges and more long-term threats.

The international dimension of our security is becoming increasingly important. Sweden endeavours to achieve collective security and wants to develop security in solidarity and cooperation with others. Fundamental to this collective security is cooperation, exchange and close contacts. Threats to peace and security are best countered together in cooperation with other countries and organisations. Our interests are particularly closely connected to those of our Nordic and Baltic neighbours, the EU and the rest of Europe. A strong transatlantic link is vital for Europe's security. Sweden aims to be a credible and sought-after partner in international cooperation. Diplomacy and development cooperation play a key role in preventing conflict, building trust and safeguarding peace and freedom.

Our approach to security also reflects the strong links between peace, security, sustainable development and international law, including human rights. There is a connection between internal oppression and external aggression. Peace and security are necessary preconditions for development. Democracy, human rights and economic and social development provide the best foundation for both human security and international security. Sweden aims to be a leading force for gender equality and the full participation of women in all endeavours to promote peace and security.

Security in Sweden

Sweden aims to be an open and secure society for all.

Our country is well equipped for the changes that are currently taking place. A high standard of living, a strong rule of law, an advanced welfare system, advanced education, research and innovation, in addition to strong international partnerships are key success factors in Sweden's prosperity. Our open and dynamic society, with a high level of trust between people, shall continue to form the basis for security in Sweden. The vulnerabilities that can be seen in our society should not result in us compromising our fundamental values, but rather in us better ensuring their protection.

All actors in society collectively, and within their respective areas, have a significant responsibility for contingency and security. Public-sector actors have a designated responsibility for Sweden's security. The business sector is also a key actor as a large proportion of the resources that are essential to the functionality of society are privately owned or operated. Every day, civil society makes important contributions to the security of society. Sweden's security is ultimately dependent on each inhabitant's desire and ability to take responsibility for their own and our society's safety and contingency.

Society's dependence on functioning supply flows has increased, whether this be for food, medicines, information technology or energy. Meanwhile, a large percentage of the main operators in these sectors are now private-sector businesses. A high-tech society results in greater vulnerability to cyber threats and greater opportunities to spread disinformation. But this modern technology is also necessary for the continued development of our prosperity and our management of increasingly complex systems that form the basis of the way society operates today.

Sweden's population is increasingly diverse. This is an asset for a small, open country like Sweden. It also leads to a greater need to build a society that is cohesive and to combat segregation to prevent social tensions and economic inequalities. A lack of opportunity for people to become established and integrate can lead to fertile conditions for social unrest and various forms of extremism.

Today we see that transnational organised crime that threatens systems is challenging society and its institutions. This could lead in some parts of the population to declining confidence in society's ability to maintain law and order.

Access to information and different means of communication is increasing, although it is unequally distributed. Digitalisation is leading to growth, innovation and development and is creating new channels of contact between people. This increases individuals' opportunities to gain knowledge and actively participate, and strengthens opportunities to freely form opinions, participate and think critically.

However, digitalisation also provides hostile actors with the opportunity to spread their message that challenges our fundamental values and the security of society. Managing these issues, while also safeguarding shared values and norms that form the basis of our society, is vital to promoting safety and security in the long term. Confidence in authorities and the media must be safeguarded, along with trust among citizens.

We must have a strong ability to prevent, withstand and manage crises and situations under heightened contingency. Day-to-day responsibility for different types of essential services is now spread among lots of different actors. This means all of these actors need to take active responsibility for maintaining a good level of contingency. Thorough

protective security efforts are a requirement for this. Crises and threats can arise quickly, but they can also involve a slow sequence of events. Whatever the time frame, society needs to have a fundamental ability to take action to address such crises and threats. Effective cooperation is particularly important in efforts to strengthen this ability.

The increasingly complex nature of security threats increases demands for robust management functions. Serious crises whose links and causes are unclear challenge society and different interpretations can quickly spread. Security-related events in which the factual and legal status is unclear places significant demands on decision-making abilities amid uncertainty. Well-coordinated management processes and advanced societal communications are fundamental to quickly providing society's view of a sequence of events and supporting national decision-making processes.

The deterioration in the security situation in our neighbourhood imposes greater requirements on Sweden's total defence capability. A credible total defence capability promotes continued peaceful development and political freedom of action. Modern and comprehensive national defence planning is being developed. Strong intelligence capabilities in both the police and defence and well-equipped psychological defence are essential components in Sweden's security. The continued development of civil contingency planning and the rebuilding of civil defence reinforce each other. Civil defence is fundamentally synonymous with society's inherent robustness, resilience and ability to manage heightened contingency, threat of war and war itself.

Sweden and the world

Global developments have never had such significance for Sweden as they do today.

Our country is closely interlinked with the rest of the world – economically, politically and culturally. Cross-border trade is a foundation of our strong economy. Sweden is an open, competitive and high-tech country that is fully integrated into the global economy, and as such is well equipped to continue fully taking advantage of the opportunities offered by globalisation.

However, globalisation also results in increased vulnerability to direct and indirect effects of global changes. This may involve threats related to climate, the environment and resource shortages, or armed conflict, violent extremism, terrorism, threats to health, uncontrolled migration, climate change, cyber threats, economic crises and organised crime. Our society's prosperity and functionality require secure and free flows of goods, services and communication.

As a result, an effective rules-based international order is now even more important for Sweden's security and prosperity. This has always been particularly important for smaller states.

The basis for the current international order consists of the political and economic institutions that were established after the Second World War, with the UN Charter at their core. Parts of this order are currently subject to strong demands for change. One example of such a demand for change is to strengthen the way these international institutions operate. Recently, these institutions have been able to make important decisions about development funding, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and a global climate agreement. Success was also achieved when the Ebola epidemic was stopped before becoming more catastrophically widespread. However, it has become increasingly difficult to reach international consensus on other challenges. This primarily concerns security policy issues such as the war in Syria, Russia's aggression against Ukraine and tensions in the South China Sea. Rivalry between major powers has increased.

There is now a global redistribution of power – both between states and regions and from states to non-state actors and individuals. A key trend is the shift in political, economic and military power towards Asia – particularly China, but also India. Several African and Latin American countries are gaining more prominent roles.

The development towards a more multi-polar world order is continuing. The United States will remain the most important international actor for the foreseeable future, but it will expect Europe to do more for its own security. Europe's percentage of the global population is declining, as is Europe's percentage of total global GDP. The EU must work strategically and concertedly to remain one of the world's leading economic actors and a sought-after global partner. Technological advances are increasing the influence of non-state actors, which are often transnational. In general, the international system is becoming increasingly complex, resulting in a risk of fragmentation.

Another factor is that globalisation is affecting people's social living conditions, which also has implications for global security. The percentage of people living in extreme poverty has more than halved in 25 years, representing outstanding progress in a relatively short space of time. Global health is improving. More children are being educated. Access to information and technology is increasing for private individuals.

Other trends, however, are not as unequivocally positive. Today we are seeing global declines in human rights, democracy and the rule of law. This can also be seen in international fora, where international undertakings on human rights are increasingly being called into question. The undermining of an international order based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law is a foreign and security policy objective in itself for certain states.

Urbanisation is accelerating. Almost half of the world's population is under the age of 25 and most of these young people live in developing countries, with increasing numbers in cities, putting resources and sustainable solutions under severe pressure. For better or worse, the pace of social change is faster than ever before.

The global economic integration of recent decades is now being challenged by protectionism, renationalisation and isolationism. A number of European countries are experiencing political fragmentation with subsequent social polarisation and lack of confidence in the rule of law and democracy as the basis for the

political order. This is a serious challenge, particularly for democratic societies and their cohesion.

European integration is of indispensable value, particularly as a means of maintaining peace on our continent following two devastating world wars. Sweden's membership of the European Union has strengthened both our prosperity and our security. However, the EU is facing fundamental challenges: insufficient economic recovery following the financial crisis, continued high unemployment, instability in the EU's neighbouring regions resulting in large flows of refugees, the UK's decision to leave the EU, and the strengthening of nationalistic tendencies in other Member States. EU cooperation in its current form is being called into question in a number of countries. At the same time, the need for European cooperation is increasing in order to manage shared security challenges. The EU Global Strategy offers a sound basis for progress. No Member State has the resources to address these challenges on their own. The EU's internal cohesion therefore needs to be strengthened.

Large areas near the EU's southern borders are experiencing instability, armed conflict, a lack of democracy, terrorist elements and a lack of human security and respect for human rights, with huge humanitarian needs and large flows of refugees as a consequence. The conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya show how weak states and a lack of inclusive political structures can have devastating consequences for people, societies and entire regions. Developments in Syria show the far-reaching consequences that a regional conflict can have for international peace and security, particularly as the UN Security Council has been unable to take responsibility for the situation as required under the UN Charter. The situation may also affect Europe and Sweden's security for a long time to come.

In the East, Russia has breached key parts of the European security order, in which the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and Paris Charter (1990) are key pillars. At the heart of this order is the right of all participating states to territorial integrity, the right to their sovereignty and the right to be free to make their own security policy choices.

Another fundamental principle is that security between states is closely linked to security within states, which includes states' respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Russia is now openly questioning this order and can seem to be seeking a return to those times when the great powers were left to create privileged spheres of interest. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and aggression against Ukraine are in breach of the UN's principle of non-aggression and fundamentally challenge the European security order and the principle of non-intervention. In Syria, the Russian leadership has also shown that it is prepared to use military force and the threat of military measures to achieve its political objectives. Russia seems to still prioritise extensive military rearmament, despite the weak economic development in the country. Influence operations are being directed against Western countries, including Sweden, to sow discord, create uncertainty and influence political decision-making processes and choices, while domestically Russia is moving in an increasingly authoritarian and repressive direction.

As a result of Russia's actions, the security situation in our neighbourhood has deteriorated over time. Opportunities for a reduction in tensions and cooperation in the near future have decreased. In the West, both NATO and the US have increased their military presence in the Baltic region, particularly in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Territorial defence is being mentioned once again as one of NATO's key tasks. Unlike the Cold War period, the Baltic region is now one of the primary points of friction between Russia and NATO. The development of military technology has contributed to the Baltic region now, more than in the past, being a strategic whole.

Sweden is participating actively in efforts to influence developments in our region. Swedish-Finnish cooperation on security and defence policy issues has been intensified. Both of our countries have developed our partnership with NATO, and this now includes a strategic dialogue on the Baltic Sea Security with the 28 NATO members. Cooperation with other Nordic countries and the Baltic states has been strengthened and is increasingly focussed on regional security. More intensive bilateral cooperation with Denmark, Finland, Norway, Poland, the UK, Germany and the US is also aimed at strengthening security in our part of Europe. A strong transatlantic link is vital for Europe's security. Within the scope of the OSCE, Sweden supports a number of initiatives to help reduce tensions and create trust in the region. Civilian cooperation within organisations such as the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Council of the Baltic Sea States also plays an important role in building security.

Sweden's disarmament and non-proliferation policy is an integral part of our security policy and is of clear relevance to both regional and global security. A particularly concerning aspect of the deterioration in the security situation is the more prominent role that nuclear weapons are in the process of regaining, including in Northern Europe. This is reflected in both political statements and in plans for the extensive modernisation of nuclear arsenals. The devastating effects that the use of nuclear weapons would have on people and the environment give Sweden reason to continue to engage with this issue. We have a distinct security interest in breaking the deadlock that has long characterised multilateral cooperation on nuclear disarmament.

Our national interests

Our national interests guide both our approach to security and our broader security efforts. Sweden must actively safeguard these interests and defend them whenever they are at risk of being undermined.

Ensuring the safety, security and health of the Swedish people

A fundamental objective of Sweden's security efforts is to safeguard the lives and health of the country's inhabitants. Ensuring the safety and security of Sweden's inhabitants is closely correlated with protecting essential services and fundamental values. The lives and health of people can be threatened by a raft of different factors today. Efforts concerning Sweden's security therefore need to be based on a broad perspective of threats, risks and capabilities. Women, men, girls and boys can be affected differently by the threats to safety, security and health. The essential services that are most important to maintain are those that meet fundamental human needs and ensure the perpetuation of society.

Ensuring supplies and the protection of essential services

The robust provision and protection of essential services is vital to the survival of the population and for our society to function. Access to drinking water and food is of national interest. Functioning health care and supply of pharmaceuticals is essential for safeguarding people's lives and health, both day to day and during a crisis. All parts of society are dependent on secure energy supplies. Transportation and means of communication are vital services. Maintaining functioning infrastructure and flows for supplies, trade and the economy is also a national interest.

Maintaining the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, human freedoms and human rights

The equal value of all people and equal opportunities for all inhabitants to have a say and actively participate in society are a national interest. Freedom of expression, freedom of information, the right to education, freedom of assembly, the right to protest, freedom of association and freedom of religion and belief are some of the human rights that need to be protected through efforts concerning Sweden's security. Democracy, human rights and freedoms, and Sweden's security are strengthened by a free, independent media.

Robust social communications, particularly between authorities, are vital. How authorities, the general public and the media communicate can also be vital in how a crisis or event develops. The ability of inhabitants to obtain knowledge and evaluate information is important to Sweden's ability to cope with both large and small strains. These capabilities can be developed through school, training and non-formal adult education, which consequently play an important role in our security.

Democracy and the rule of law are strengthened by people's active participation and the experience of participating in society. Social trust and cohesion are therefore also important to security efforts. Inhabitants' trust in each other and in public institutions strengthens the collective ability to prevent and manage major crises and disasters. The administration of justice and other exercise of authority should be predictable, cohesive and according to the rule of law. Individuals should be protected against arbitrary intervention. The rule of law and legal rights are fundamental to inhabitants having confidence in laws, authorities and courts of law. Judicial authorities, military and civil defence, emergency services, the alerting service and the coastguard are vital resources for Sweden's security.

Defending, under all circumstances, Sweden's freedom, security and right to self-determination

The assertion of our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity is a necessary precondition for Sweden's ability to achieve its security objectives. Significant importance must be placed on our ability to deter any party who wishes to attack or exert pressure on Sweden, individually or together with others. Citizens' will to defend the country and society's civil contingency planning are a national interest and a fundamental part of Sweden's total defence and the combined resilience required to tackle threats to Sweden.

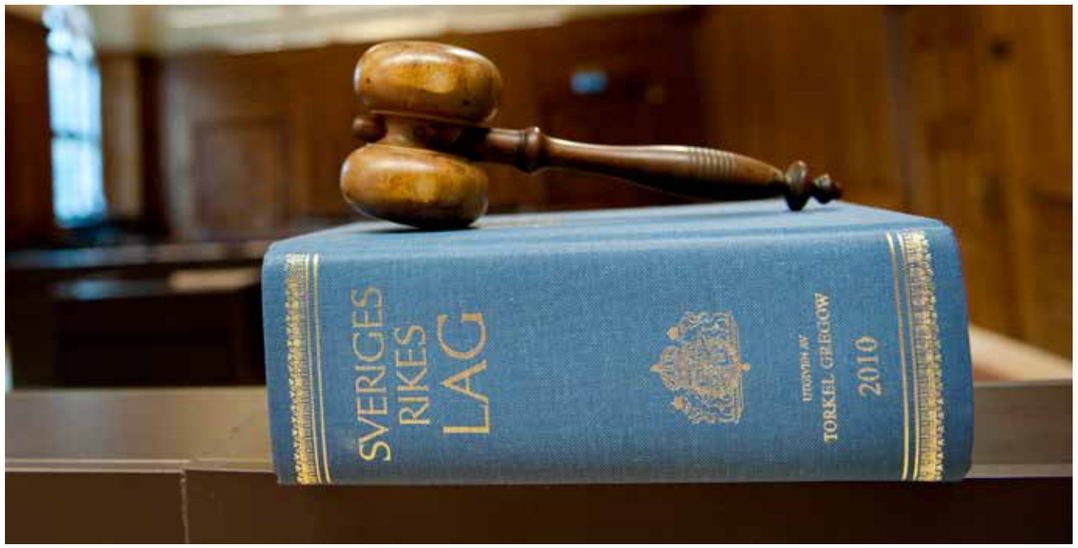
Society's civil contingency planning is important for everyone and needs to be designed to manage accidents, disruptions, crises and war. The basis is for all actors in society to take responsibility for and develop civil contingency planning within their area of responsibility and to cooperate with the relevant actors. The total defence prepares Sweden for heightened contingency and comprises civil and military defence. Civil defence is based on society's contingency planning and society's combined resilience. Civil defence aims to safeguard the civilian population, secure the most essential services and contribute to the Swedish Armed Forces' capabilities in the event of an armed attack or war in our region. Our armed forces will, on their own and together with others, defend Sweden and promote our security, and have a special responsibility for protecting the country's sovereignty.

Ensuring that Sweden can be governed and led, even under significant strains that may arise in the event of crisis or war, is a national interest. Strong protection is required to ensure the State's ability to take decisions and communicate, even in difficult circumstances. Cooperation between authorities, the business sector and civil society is of vital importance. The security of society, total defence and civil contingency planning are everyone's concern.

Promoting stability and security in our region

Sweden has a strong interest in our neighbouring countries also being free, democratic, safe and prosperous. Norms-based cooperation and deeper integration – political, economic, cultural and interpersonal – strengthens stability and security in the region. Sweden will actively participate in the shaping of such cooperation. The fact that many of our neighbouring countries are EU members, or as in the case of Norway have a close relationship with the EU, both facilitates and promotes integration. With Russia we seek practical cooperation if and when our interests coincide, such as in the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

Our part of Europe should be firmly embedded in the European and Euro-Atlantic security cooperation structures. The Baltic Sea should be an open sea. A strong transatlantic link is fundamental to the security of our region. The OSCE offers a framework for dialogue and the creation of trust that can contribute to stability and a reduction in tensions. Sweden's military non-alignment serves us well and contributes to the stability and security of Northern Europe. In addition, our cooperation on defence and security policy is increasing. Our partnership with NATO is important



to our security and our military capability. Our bilateral cooperation with Finland and several other countries is developing.

Maintaining and strengthening cooperation, solidarity and integration within the EU

Sweden has a strong security interest in the European Union continuing to make vital contributions to peace, democracy and reconciliation in Europe. The outbreak of war between any of the EU Member States is unthinkable. The appeal of the EU has contributed to positive change in countries that have sought or are seeking EU membership.

EU cohesion is of clear intrinsic value to Sweden. It contributes to us being able to achieve our security objectives, including in relation to the world outside the EU. A united and strong EU that pursues a principled and active foreign policy is also important to Sweden's security. No European State can meet today's security policy challenges on its own. Sweden therefore wants to further strengthen the EU as a foreign and security policy actor. This includes a greater ability for civilian and military crisis management.

Our country regards the EU as a community of solidarity across a range of areas and works to make it stronger

Promoting a rules-based multilateral world order

The United Nations is the hub of the multilateral world order that must be developed to manage growing global challenges concerning security and development at a time of change. Sweden aims to contribute actively to defending, adapting and strengthening this world order. This is also of significance to our national security. There are six priority areas.

Norms and international law: Maintaining and promoting respect for human rights, democracy and the principles of the rule of law are of vital importance to Sweden. We stand up for the European security order and international law, with the UN Charter as the basis. Undermining of these norms, rules and undertakings has a negative impact on our security. It is in our interests for serious breaches to result in clear consequences, such as through peace enforcement under Chapter VII of the UN Charter or through prosecution at the International Criminal Court.

Trade: Long-term security requires healthy economic development. This is largely dependent on trade with the rest of the world, particularly for a country like Sweden whose exports account for around 50 percent of its GDP. Economic interdependence also encourages long-term security. History shows the risks to which a vicious circle of protectionist and isolationist measures can lead, including for international peace and security. Sweden has a strong interest in the EU pursuing a free trade policy agenda. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) provides the basis for international cooperation on trade.

Climate: Climate change is one of the greatest long-term challenges for humanity. It has direct and rapidly growing security consequences. The 2015 Paris Agreement was an important step in starting to curb global warming. Sweden should continue being a leading country with regard to reducing fossil fuel emissions and conducting strong climate diplomacy that builds effective alliances.

Development cooperation: Sweden is among those countries that provide the most development assistance in relation to GDP. We are a world leader in humanitarian aid that alleviates the effects of war, conflict and crises. Sweden also conducts important initiatives to eliminate the underlying causes of conflicts. Sweden aims to increase the percentage of development assistance that goes to failing states and to protect human rights and democratic institutions.

Civilian and military peace promotion: It is in Sweden's interest to be a credible and supportive partner in international missions and to collectively contribute to the promotion of peace internationally and initiatives to encourage stability, principally through the UN and the EU. Sweden wishes to be one of the world's leading contributors to civilian crisis management operations.

The 2030 Agenda: The global Sustainable Development Goals are to enhance security and prevention by creating the conditions for developing peaceful and democratic societies. Our country should set a good example in terms of the implementation of the goals and should also play a leading role in international implementation.

Threats to our security and actions to deal with them

Sweden's security, and consequently our national interests, are currently impacted by a large number of factors. These involve both new and more traditional threats, and immediate and long-term risks. The careful examination of these factors and strengthening our abilities to prevent, warn of, withstand and tackle the challenges that they generate form an important part of our security efforts. Without claiming to be comprehensive, the following section analyses a number of primary threats which in both the short and long term challenge our ability to protect our population and our country. The description of each threat is followed by a number of measures to strengthen our contingency planning.

Military threats

The security situation in Europe and our own region has deteriorated. It is inconceivable that military conflicts in our region would affect only one country. A separate armed military attack directly targeting Sweden remains unlikely. However, crises or incidents – including those involving military force – may occur, and the threat of military attack can never be ruled out. Russia's aggression towards Ukraine demonstrates that the risk of this has increased, including in our neighbourhood.

Military means, or the threat of their use, are tools that a State or other actor may use in combination with influence operations and information warfare, cyber-related threats to the total defence and certain forms of sabotage and terrorism. A number of threats may be combined in what is sometimes called hybrid warfare or non-linear warfare.

Measures

The objective for Sweden's military defence is to individually and together with others, within and outside our national borders, defend Sweden and promote our security. This is achieved by upholding Sweden's sovereignty, and by safeguarding sovereign rights and national interests. In addition, military defence aims to prevent and tackle conflicts and war. Sweden's freedom of action shall be protected in the event of political, military or other pressure and, if required, Sweden shall be defended against incidents and armed attack. Sweden's military defence shall also protect society and its functionality by providing support to civil authorities.

Threats to peace and security can best be averted collectively and in cooperation with other countries. Sweden is not a member of any military alliance but will continue to intensify its bilateral and multilateral defence and security policy cooperation. The Swedish unilateral declaration of solidarity encompasses EU Member States, Norway and Iceland. Sweden will not remain passive if another EU Member State or Nordic country suffers a disaster or an attack. We expect these countries to take similar action if Sweden is affected. Sweden therefore needs to be in a position to both provide and receive civil and military support.

The deteriorating security situation places increased demands on Sweden's defence capability. This principally involves increasing the warfighting capability of the military units and the overall operational capability of Sweden's total defence. A credible military defence capability promotes continued peaceful development and political freedom of action.

Ultimately, the aim of military defence is to have the ability to repel an armed attack. Together with political, diplomatic and economic means, the Armed Forces create a threshold for any party who would wish to attack Sweden or apply pressure through military force.

Civil defence aims to safeguard the civilian population, ensure essential services and contribute to the Swedish Armed Forces' capabilities in the event of an armed attack or war in our region.

Modern and comprehensive total defence planning needs to be in place. Based on the Government's planning directives and guidelines, the relevant authorities will resume their planning for heightened preparedness and ultimately also for war. The continued development of civil contingency planning and the rebuilding of civil defence are mutually reinforcing. The same applies to the development of government authorities' ability to coordinate, prioritise and distribute resources at central and regional level.

A good foreign intelligence capability is essential both for Sweden's defence capability and for its ability to conduct independent and active security, foreign and defence policy. The same applies to the identification of external threats to the country, such as terrorism and cyber-related threats. The foreign intelligence capability should enable sufficiently high contingency in order to provide the necessary warning.

The deterioration in the security situation internationally is highlighting the need for psychological defence adapted to current circumstances. Influence operations have become increasingly sophisticated, can be used in both peacetime and wartime and relate to a number of Swedish authorities' responsibility and roles. Swedish authorities need to be able to identify and address influence operations and neutralise propaganda campaigns.

It is an essential security interest to our country to have our own military capabilities in terms of combat aircraft and submarine capabilities. It is important for Sweden's defence capability that these essential security interests, and the associated industrial and technical skills, are retained and developed rationally in relation to the requirements for war capability and what may be deemed appropriate use of State resources.

Sweden will continue its active involvement and participation in international missions, both civilian and military. This may take place within the scope of the UN, the EU, NATO and the OSCE. In these organisations we contribute to increased security, conflict prevention and create conditions for sustainable poverty reduction and development. Participation in missions is a way of showing solidarity and increasing cooperation with countries and organisations that are important to security in our region.

Information and cyber security, digital risks

Digitalisation impacts all aspects of our society. It accounts for more than one-third of the increase in production in recent years.

While the benefits of digitalisation are welcome, it is clear that the risks and threats with which it is associated are some of the most complex security challenges that we face. Such challenges include hostile threats such as information operations and electronic attacks on sensitive information and communication systems, such as in the form of computer hacking, sabotage or espionage, including against Sweden's total defence. They also include IT attacks to evaluate, affect or disrupt essential services as a precursor to armed conflict. IT attacks could also improperly influence the outcome of democratic elections.

Data management in electronic communication networks and IT systems, including in industrial and other control systems, is constantly growing. Social media, 'big data', cloud services, artificial intelligence and what is starting to be termed 'the internet of things' are other areas in which large amounts of data are handled. The scope is increasing across all sectors of society. Where deficiencies arise in the handling of data, and particularly regarding its security, this could have extensive consequences both for society at large and for the privacy of individual inhabitants. Confidence in digitalisation could be jeopardised.

Virtually all of our society is now dependent on functioning IT systems. This applies to everything from food supplies, transport and energy supplies to health care, emergency services and police and military activities.

IT services in modern organisations are often complex and dispersed – physically and organisationally, nationally and globally. Information about ourselves and about our technological solutions is becoming increasingly publicly available. This results in threats being more difficult to detect, in the risks becoming harder to assess and in dependence becoming harder to determine.

Measures

The objective of our IT policy is for Sweden to be the best in the world at using the opportunities provided by digitalisation. A strategy for the combined digitalisation policy is currently being drawn up. This includes addressing the vulnerability that inevitably arises from digitalisation. IT systems with high reliability and strong protection against external attack are extremely important for the security of society and for the ability to manage various crisis situations. Good information and cyber security are characterised by all actors having confidence in information and its management at all levels of society. The best possible conditions should be created for everyone to use, have responsibility for and have confidence in the digital society.

To address these challenges in the field of cyber security, it is important to work continually to reduce vulnerabilities. This is the task of all actors in society. The ability to prevent, identify and manage IT incidents and hostile attacks therefore needs to be improved in all essential services. The activities that are most worthy of protection for the nation should also meet the requirements stipulated in

protective security legislation. Efforts to reduce vulnerabilities are based on a risk and vulnerability analysis and/or security analysis of the relevant operations. It is essential that these efforts include effective coordination and cooperation between authorities and other parties to identify what needs to be protected and what further security measures need to be put in place. In this regard, the implementation of the EU Directive concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union (the NIS Directive) will play an important role. Moreover, a robust cyber defence capability is an important part of our overall approach to resist targeted attacks and attempts to influence.

A national cyber security strategy based in part on the NIS Directive is currently being drafted. Its purpose is to create the necessary conditions for capacity building, effective cooperation and efforts to establish a collective strategic objective to protect our open society from the vulnerabilities arising as a result of digitalisation. The proposed new protective security act reflects the changed requirements concerning protective security, including developments in the area of information technology, increased international cooperation and increased vulnerability of vital public services.

The challenges that Sweden faces are shared with most other countries. International cooperation in the field of cyber security, particularly in EU-related bodies, is an important part of Sweden's ability to promote security. In addition to this, work regarding the global dimensions of information and cyber security issues should be intensified.

Terrorism and violent extremism

Terrorism and violent extremism threaten international peace and security, our national security and our fundamental values, freedoms and rights. Violent extremism and terrorism also create unrest in society, which contributes to polarisation, alienation and a harsher climate of debate.

Every year a large number of terrorist attacks are carried out around the world. In recent years, violent Islamist extremist movements have threatened security and development in an increasing number of countries, often those that are affected by conflict and weak government. Most terrorist attacks are carried out outside Europe's borders, but in recent years both Sweden and several countries in our region have been affected. Future attacks against Sweden and neighbouring countries cannot be ruled out.

Violent extremism in Sweden mainly consists of three identified groups: far-right extremism, Islamist extremism and far-left extremism. These different extremist groups' activities undermine, challenge and threaten democracy in different ways. Our society aims to be characterised by openness and respect for human rights and for democracy's fundamental values. People should be able to move freely, participate in gatherings, express their views and wear religious symbols without fear of being exposed to threats or violence. Terrorists will not be allowed to restrict this openness, respect and freedom.

Measures

Terrorism is an extreme form of violent extremism. In order to prevent and combat terrorism, efforts to safeguard democracy against violent extremism must go hand in hand with security-enhancing measures and stricter legislation. This applies both internationally and in Sweden. Sweden's counter-terrorism strategy forms the basis for the country's long-term efforts in this area, both nationally and internationally.

The objective for all counter-terrorism activities is to prevent terrorist attacks being carried out. Efforts to combat terrorism break down into three areas: prevent, preempt and protect. Preventive efforts involve all of society having to work against the underlying causes of terrorism, combating their driving forces and appeal and identifying vulnerable individuals in order to reduce terrorism's recruitment base. Society also needs to be more resilient against radicalisation to violent extremism. These preventive measures involve authorities, municipalities and civil society organisations, including faith communities, contributing and working effectively and in coordination to safeguard democracy against violent extremism. Promoting democracy, gender equality, tolerance and participation enables us to strengthen our ability to resist those who wish to utilise and fuel intolerance, discrimination and exclusion. A fundamental requirement for all counter-terrorism work is that human freedoms and human rights and the principles of the rule of law must be respected. This also applies to the protection of personal privacy.

Preventive measures to reduce violent radicalisation and recruitment by terrorist groups are essential but are often more long-term. Also, more restrictive and repressive measures are necessary to counter urgent terrorist threats. Effective counter-terrorism work therefore requires both preventive and repressive measures that complement each other.

As well as working at different levels to develop the ability to prevent, counter and disrupt terrorist attacks, there also need to be contingency plans in place to handle the situation if such attacks occur. This includes both the ability to quickly and effectively intervene against and stop an ongoing terrorist attack and to limit the consequences to society of such an attack. The focus for this ability is on effective procedures for cooperation between authorities on crisis management and crisis communication. Health care functionality also needs to be ensured. Cooperation with countries in our region is also important in order to secure access to critical equipment.

Efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism require stronger and greater cross-border cooperation. Sweden should work both within the EU and the UN to encourage an overall global approach for more effective measures against terrorism and extremism.

Initiatives to resolve and prevent conflicts and create the conditions for sustainable development with democracy and a working rule of law are particularly important in international cooperation. In this respect, the UN's initiatives would need to be strengthened and developed with regard to the prevention of armed conflicts, conflict resolution and peace building.

Organised crime

Organised crime is a threat to democratic society. In Sweden, organised crime has developed to encompass more serious and more organised elements, sometimes with links to international criminality of significant scope. It may involve trafficking people, arms or drugs. In certain networks there is both an intent and an ability to harm and disrupt fundamental democratic processes. This may involve preventing the implementation of political decisions or seeking to shut down open debate. Criminal networks' capacity for violence and improper influence, as well as the large sums of money that criminal individuals accumulate, can in the long term lead to power shifts that affect society and its democratic structures.

The increased use of weapons in public places and in criminal conflicts leads to greater fear and insecurity among people who are present or live

in places where such violent crime takes place. Repeated violent crime involving the use of firearms or explosives could reduce confidence in the legal system and trust in society as a whole.

Measures
Sweden should be a secure country to live in for everyone and this should apply to all areas. To ensure this, targeted measures are required, not only against ongoing criminality in prioritised residential areas, but also against the causes of such criminality. The preventive work requires municipalities, municipal managements, County Administrative Boards, schools, the business sector, voluntary organisations and non-profit organisations to cooperate with each other and with government authorities.

The challenges in those particularly vulnerable areas that experience shootings and criminal networks more than others are such that they require particularly sustained initiatives from various actors in society. Key aspects in this respect are preventive measures at an early age, an increased police presence and intensified work on combating the occurrence of illegal weapons and explosives.

Cooperation between many different actors is necessary in order to tackle the problem of criminal groups in Sweden and the crime that these perpetrate. A combined initiative to combat this crime and its networks is currently being undertaken. This includes increased opportunities for the exchange of information between authorities and an instruction for 12 authorities to work together against organised crime in vulnerable areas. In addition to this, there will be improved penal measures against organised crime and action to improve order and security in courts of law.

In addition, the Swedish Police Authority will strengthen its efforts against illegal arms and explosives in the country. Effective working methods should be disseminated and statistics produced about the extent to which violent crime is carried out using firearms or explosives. Efforts to combat organised crime require stronger and more intensive cross-border cooperation.

Threats to energy supplies

Modern society is strongly dependent on well-functioning energy supplies. Disruptions and outages in the supply of electricity, fuel, gas and heating could lead to serious consequences, both for the lives and health of people and for the functioning of society. Energy supplies can be affected by a range of factors, in the short and long term – weather conditions, accidents, technical faults, changes in market conditions, political decisions, climate change or direct attacks.

Our society is based on integrated systems of vital infrastructure, which poses complex challenges in a number of areas. The supply of electricity is a key component in society and disruptions can lead to rapid consequences for other activities such as information and communication technology, as well as the transport system.

Robust supply systems for energy with a good ability to handle any disruptions that might arise contribute to activities in areas such as food supply, information technology, telecoms, radio and television being able to function. In most cases, dependence is mutual as disruptions in these operations can affect energy supplies.

Measures
The basis for high security of supply is a robust energy system based on a diversified energy mix, secure and diversified transportation and well-functioning energy markets. Reduced dependence on fossil fuels is improving security of supply. As well as measures that strengthen security of supply, contingency measures are also required to cope with disruptions that are anticipated or that have already occurred.

There is functioning cooperation within energy supply at Nordic, European and global level. Electrical links to neighbouring countries result, for example, in good opportunities to balance temporary national electricity deficits and surpluses. This leads to greater robustness and security.

The ability to rapidly restore electricity supply is of great importance. A robust energy system is needed to prevent, withstand and cope with such disruptions in electricity supply that can place substantial strain on society, as well as satisfy electricity supply in the event of heightened contingency. The electricity sector has functional requirements meaning that unplanned interruptions in the transmission of electricity may not exceed 24 hours if the event is within the inspection responsibility of electricity grid operators. Electricity consumers that provide essential services require knowledge and need to prepare how they handle outages in order to mitigate the effects.

Sweden's security is also affected by the energy situation in other countries. A well-functioning and well-integrated energy market is essential in the EU. It is also important for Sweden that Member States as well as countries on the EU's borders reduce their unilateral dependence on a third country, such as through energy efficiency measures and a switch to renewable energy sources.

Threats to transport and infrastructure

Threats and risks involving transport and associated infrastructure could cause disruptions and outages that affect travellers, the business sector and the general public. If critical infrastructure and related information and communication systems are damaged, this can have serious consequences for the whole of society's functionality.

Specific threats and risks include disruptions to and loss of resources such as fuel, electricity supply, vehicle supply and IT/telecommunications; disruptions and the loss of important support systems such as information and communication systems and control centres; major accidents and accidents involving hazardous goods; hostile threats in the form of sabotage and attacks against vital infrastructure, nodes or other facilities. There are several challenges within the transport sector that need to be managed in order to prevent, and to ensure contingencies and capabilities to cope with, possible events. The overall coordination and control of activities in the transport sector is complex from a contingency perspective, as in addition to a number of authorities there are many private operators and state-owned companies that also have key tasks.

Increasing traffic in different areas of transport means that the risks of more extensive consequences of known threats, risks and challenges are increasing. Major events and extensive disruptions that affect vital infrastructure and essential transport could also have consequences for other types of essential services.

Measures
The overall objective in the area of transport is to ensure economically effective transport provision for

citizens and businesses throughout Sweden that is sustainable in the long term. Good, reliable transport systems and transportation for trade and travel between countries and within Sweden are prerequisites for today's globalised society to function.

Robustness and replaceability of critical infrastructure and essential transport services must be ensured. This is particularly relevant in terms of the transport sector's importance for our food supplies, the functionality of which is vitally important to society.

The ability to cope with situations in which threats and risks are realised needs to be improved. This may be achieved, for example, through measures that provide better perimeter protection of vital parts of the transport infrastructure. It is also important to continue initiatives to bring about greater security in information and communication systems. The ability to improve redundancy and to use replacement systems should be reviewed.

At regulatory authority level, the work of analysing, planning and practising for various incident scenarios needs to be further developed, from accidents to possible events outside Sweden that occasion heightened contingency. Where relevant, issues regarding threats, risks and challenges should be evaluated as part of infrastructure planning processes. Cooperation between the private and public sectors needs to be analysed and appropriate measures taken, particularly in light of rebuilding civil defence.

International cooperation on contingency and security issues in the transport sector is important for the ability to manage various types of crisis. Sweden aims to actively participate in various organisations and other forums that draw up international transportation rules (aviation, shipping, road and rail) and carry out initiatives to safeguard the security of global flows.

Health threats

Infectious diseases and other types of biological, chemical and also radionuclear threats come under the category of health threats. Threats may be in the form of bacteria, viruses and other microorganisms, as well as radioactive, chemical and biological weapons. These may be used unintentionally through deficient handling or intentionally through different types of hostile actions targeting facilities or the general public directly. Threats that affect people's health may also have an environmental origin, such as pollution of watercourses in the event of flooding and similar events.

The cross-border aspect and the constantly changing microbiological world are central to health threats. The nature of the threats is consequently largely unpredictable. Global travel and international transport are resulting in the spread of an increased number of diseases. These diseases can adapt to local conditions and new, previously unknown infections can emerge. Some 60 per cent of existing infectious diseases and 75 per cent of new diseases are 'zoonoses', i.e. diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. Humans, animals and the environment are therefore closely linked in a cycle without any clear boundaries.

Increasing antibiotic resistance poses a threat to modern health care. The problem has increased as a result of greater, often uncontrolled, use of antibiotics internationally. An important aspect is the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, particularly in health care. Increased mobility of people, animals and foodstuffs is leading to the more rapid spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Moreover, there has been a reduction in the development of new antibiotics.

Outbreaks of infectious diseases in Sweden, including flu epidemics, will lead to an increased burden on health care. Demans may be made regarding capacity to handle illnesses that require access to special high level isolation units. If a large number of people become ill simultaneously, this could be expected to lead to disruptions in other essential services, with subsequent major economic consequences.

Measures

Ensuring adequate Swedish contingencies against health threats will continue to require our own capacity to prevent, detect and respond to these threats, along with effective international cooperation within the EU and globally. Sweden will work to ensure a robust global capacity to detect and respond to health threats through the implementation of the International Health Regulations, and the Swedish crisis management system must continue to meet the requirements of these regulations. Sweden requires necessary and tested contingency plans and resources for managing different types of health threats, such as flu pandemics. Coordination and cooperation structures need to be in place and be tested. Authorities' ability to detect hazardous substances and be able to operate in such environments needs to be practised. Medicines need to be available in sufficient quantities to cope with a sudden crisis (such as antiviral medicines, antibiotics and vaccines). Protection against sabotage for food production and drinking water facilities needs to be robust, as these supply systems are particularly sensitive to hostile attack.

Climate change and its effects

Climate change is a serious and growing threat to global security. It is already threatening the existence of some states and populations. Without decisive action by the international community, these changes will threaten the survival of humanity in the long term. In no other area is the need for prevention greater or more obvious.

Climate change impacts security in Sweden both directly and indirectly. The international implications will be just as significant as those directly affecting our country.

Climate change can increase the risk of war, conflict and poverty. It can exacerbate the lack of water and food in regions that are already vulnerable. The combination of a lack of resources and population growth destabilises societies and breeds or exacerbates conflict. This often results in people being forced to flee. Higher sea levels and severe storms threaten lives, property and infrastructure in coastal regions throughout the world.

Today's Swedish society has been developed and adapted to a particular climate. A change in climate has implications for many key services in society. These include physical planning, buildings, communications and transport infrastructure, technical supply systems and, of course, agriculture, hunting and fishing.

Sweden's climate has already become warmer, with more precipitation. Changes are expected to continue, even if the global average increase in temperature is limited to less than 2 °C. Deluges and heavy rain are expected to increase in intensity, raising the risk of flooding and high river levels. This will have implications for areas such as Mälardalen, Vänern, Göta älvdalen and Gothenburg. Flooding and saltwater intrusion could also increase as a result of rising sea levels, particularly in low-lying coastal areas in southern Sweden. Skåne is particularly vulnerable to erosion and a rise in sea level, but these factors would also have implications for Mälardalen and Gothenburg. Over a horizon of 100 years, saltwater intrusion would threaten the drinking water supply from Lake Mälaren.

Measures

Sweden will strengthen its leading role in international cooperation to curb climate change and promote sustainable development based on the 2030 Agenda. This role is strengthened by our own national policy to reduce emissions and to achieve the target of Sweden becoming one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations. Our contribution to international development cooperation aims to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable countries. Sweden will continue its efforts to ensure that climate and security are high on the agenda in international organisations, particularly the UN and the EU. Strengthening cooperation between development assistance and humanitarian aid could enable the risks and consequences of natural disasters to be reduced. Following extreme weather events and natural disasters, humanitarian aid should be used as effectively as possible and be preventive in nature.

Sweden's focus for the adaptation of society to a change in climate is to develop a long-term sustainable and robust society that actively addresses climate change by reducing vulnerabilities and leveraging opportunities. A national strategy needs to be developed to strengthen climate adaptation efforts and the national coordination of such work in the long term. This will make it easier to adapt ongoing and planned land use and the built environment to a gradual change in climate.

Conclusion

The Government has overall responsibility for Sweden's security. This responsibility includes encouraging a broad approach to the concept of security and giving security issues adequate organisational and political support. There is also significant value in having a continued broad consensus in the Riksdag that promotes a long-term approach and continuity in Sweden's national security efforts.

A number of changes have been made over the past ten years to strengthen society's contingency planning and the ability to prevent, withstand and manage crises. This includes the establishment of a crisis organisation in the Government Offices of Sweden, as well as a stronger crisis and consular organisation in the Foreign Service and the establishment of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency. Since 2014, the Government has included a Minister for Home Affairs, with express responsibility for civil contingency planning, civil defence and combating terrorism. A specific counter-terrorism strategy has been adopted and a cyber security strategy is being prepared. A specific strategy on antibiotic resistance has also been determined.

There is wide support in the Riksdag for the Government bill 'Defence policy orientation – Sweden's defence for 2016–2020'. Work on comprehensive total defence planning, both military and civil, has commenced. Foreign policy and diplomacy are key instruments of coordination and to counter and prevent crises and conflict. Work on peace, security and development demands a coordinated and consensus-based approach. The Government's Policy for Global Development (PGD) plays a key role in this regard.

Experience of events that have occurred in Sweden has demonstrated the importance of the relevant actors cooperating with each other to ensure adequate coordination and effective use of resources. Experience has also shown that the relevant actors need to be proactive and prepared to take the necessary measures, even in uncertain situations where there is a lack of information. Exercises and training strengthen the ability to adopt a combined approach to tackling crises, make it easier to cooperate in a real crisis and provide important experience. Continued long-term knowledge accrual, research and technological development must be ensured in order to strengthen society.

The conditions for safeguarding Sweden's security are changing rapidly. Internal and external threats are changing and are more complex than before. Consequently, our country is constantly facing new challenges in which efforts to improve security must continually be developed. The Government will conduct a review of what constitutional changes may need to be made to better meet central government's needs to safeguard the interests of the total defence in different areas of society.

Swedish business now operates globally and depends on an international market to source its workforce, develop technology and for growth. In addition to the work that is already taking place regarding key security interests in the field of defence, there is also reason to consider how the protective security efforts of the business sector with regard to essential technology and operations that are of strategic interest to Sweden, can best be implemented.

The national security strategy describes the objectives for our security and the interests that are at the heart of Sweden's national security efforts. The security strategy encompasses different aspects across a number of policy areas, and the relevant actors are in both the public and private sectors. Public-private partnership is particularly important. For the Government's part, all ministries must base their preparation of relevant initiatives in their respective areas of responsibility on the strategy.

Implementation of this strategy, along with wider efforts to prepare Sweden for crisis and war, is the collective responsibility of Swedish society. Active participation from central, regional and local authorities, and from private individuals, the business sector and civil society, are of vital importance to the success of its implementation.

The Government's security policy council will have specific responsibility for following up on this strategy. The council is not a decision-making body, but it is an appropriate forum for ongoing reporting on how the strategy is being implemented.

The aim is to conduct a review of this national security strategy every five years. It is also of value if broad consensus in the Riksdag can be reached on such reviews.

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