**POSITION PAPER**

**Committee – United Nations Environmental Assembly**

**Agenda – Sustainable Consumption and Production**

**Country- Sweden**

**Delegate- Alyssa Jain**

**Sweden** is one of the Scandinavian countries located in northern Europe covering an area of 450,295 sq.km with it’s current population of 10,160,821.
Sweden is a technologically advanced country with good infrastructure, including an efficient transportation and communications system. Timber, hydropower, and iron ore constitute the resource base of an economy heavily oriented toward foreign trade.

The World Economic Forum ranks Sweden among the top TEN most competitive countries in the world. Its one of the easiest countries in the world to do business with, according to the World Bank.

A public -private partnership is at the core of “the Swedish Model” . This unique focus is seen as a key for solving the challenges Sweden faces and is regarded as the major factor behind Sweden’s long and robust annual growth. It has allowed sustainability as an integral part.

Sweden has national plans and strategies in place to promote sustainable consumption and production.

In its 2017 budget bill, the government presented a strategy for sustainable consumption. A special focus was given to food, transport and housing. Swedish businesses and research centers are among the main drivers of increased sustainability. Sweden’s world-leading position on climate transition and electrification benefits its companies, exports, workers, welfare and the country.

Sweden mobilises to electrify regional freight transport. Since the domestic transports accounts for the 1/3 of the Sweden’s greenhouse gas emissions, The government proposes initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2021 to reduce emissions further. The target is net zero emissions by 2045.

The government is drafting the first Swedish action plan on realizing a circular economy.

New rules on single-use plastics will be introduced. A green tax shift will be implemented, meaning taxes on environmentally damaging activities will be increased and taxes on labour and enterprise will be lowered.

Sweden’s first climate action plan is being implemented.

TOXIC -FREE LIFE

The government has given two assignments to the National Food Agency and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to find ways to reduce long term food waste strategy and adopted an action plan for a toxic free everyday environment for the period of 2011-2020, which entails measures to reduce exposure to hazardous substances in everyday environment, with a particular focus on children. Preventive work is cost effective both for chemicals and waste generation, including food waste, for which action needs to be taken throughout the whole value chain from primary to all the way to the consumer.

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

Promote sustainable consumption through innovative incentives, such as tax reduction for repairs, enhance knowledge of behavioral economics and provide education and information.

Promote the efficient use of resources and a supporting infrastructure and sustainable production of products and services.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

In June 2016, the government presented the National Public Procurement Strategy.

Public Procurement can be a strategic tool in Sweden’s transition to a circular, bio-based economy in order to achieve the environmental objectives and meet SDG and the 2030 Agenda.

It encourages increased economic, social and environmental sustainability in public procurement, across all areas of development cooperation.

Sweden shall be at the forefront in green public procurement and continue to lead by example in this area. Even if the price for a particular public procurement becomes higher if subject to environmental criteria, the overall cost to society may be lower in the long term.

It contributes to a socially sustainable society. Equal opportunities should be given to both men and women. Services and products should be available and fit to be used by everyone, of all ages applying the principle of universal design, that is, the product should be used by as many people as possible.

By requiring suppliers to guarantee reasonable working conditions for their employees, the services can be performed and achieved at a high quality. The government is striving to improve the performance of public sector in increasing employment via public procurement.

SWEDEN PRIORITIES IN THE EU’s TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

1. Open and fair International trade policy that supports sustainable global growth, underpins our climate and environment goals, facilitates participation of developing countries.
2. The WTO environmental and climate agenda must be strengthened and international trade policies should be adapted to contribute low emission development and a circular economy.
3. EU Free Trade Agreements provide useful tools for supporting sustainable development.
4. To contribute to the EU Green Deal priority of phasing out all of fossil fuels subsidies.
5. In order to develop a circular economy, Free Trade Agreements should include provisions enabling increased circularity of goods, materials and services.
6. A Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism could provide a tool to reduce CO2 emissions.
7. Social aspects of sustainability are also central.
8. Aid For Trade is a key element of the Building Back Better after COVID-19.
9. The EU’s reduces or removes the import duties from products coming from developing countries.
10. The trade policy should benefit women and men equally.

International trade is a tool to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, The Paris Agreement and to support a green transition and a recovery from COVID-19 crisis that is sustainable in all dimensions – economic, social, and environmental.

In conclusion, Sweden’s goal is to be world’s first fossil-free welfare nation and instead use 100% renewable energy. We will continue to be a world leader in fighting global warming and implementing the 2030 agenda.

The impact of current unsustainable production, consumption, use and waste management patterns can be reduced by changing overall consumption and production, , enhancing innovative ecofriendly products, sound chemicals and waste management, choosing options with lower impacts and sustainable consumer goods with a longer lifetime , improving production technologies and moving towards a circular business models that involve sharing, recycling and reusing materials and products, including upgrade and repair.