

# Template<sup>i</sup> for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

*To be filled in by submitting country/organization*

---

1. **Country or organization:** Sweden, Ministry of Finance
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)<sup>ii</sup> that the initiative will contribute to):** Council for Sustainable Cities (Focus areas 2, 3, 5, 8, 9)
3. **Description of the action:** The Council for Sustainable Cities is established with a mandate to contribute to the long-term development of sustainable cities and to support implementation of the Government's policy for sustainable urban development. The responsibility for implementing the policy for sustainable urban development lies with several authorities and the council assembles them to drive SDG 11 including promoting sustainable infrastructure. The target group for the council is Swedish municipalities.  
  
The council provides capacity building and collects knowledge and information on financing for sustainable urban development. One of the main activities is to run the website [www.hallbarstad.se](http://www.hallbarstad.se) which strengthens knowledge exchange and is a go to for sustainable city (infrastructure) development. The council organises conferences and is an arena for transport efficient city planning, smart city development and support for socially sustainable cities. The council provides a guideline for municipal green planning.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** The current mission is decided to proceed until 2030.
5. **Type of action<sup>iii</sup>:** Information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.
6. **Economic sectors<sup>iv</sup>:** Cities
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** Continuous follow-up and evaluation made by the council.
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** The government wants to strengthen the cities' conditions for developing into vibrant, green, healthy and safe places where people meet and innovations are created. The work with sustainable cities creates a holistic approach to how the city can and should develop and become socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** SDG 11.1, 11.2, 11.6 and 11.7
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** -
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** -
12. **Partners:**
  - Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning
  - Swedish Energy Agency
  - Public Health Agency of Sweden
  - Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning
  - County Administrative Boards
  - Swedish Agency for Participation
  - Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
  - Swedish National Heritage Board
  - Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design
  - Public Art Agency Sweden
  - Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

- Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth
- Swedish Transport Administration
- Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems

**13. Contact points:** Ministry of Finance, Mr. Ludvig Lundgren  
([ludvig.lundgren@gov.se](mailto:ludvig.lundgren@gov.se))

Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”?**  
- YES
  - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure<sup>v</sup>” does the action contribute: 1 and 10*
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”?** - NO

---

<sup>i</sup> Based on the “Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix).  
Webpage: <https://unece.org/documents-and-materials>

<sup>ii</sup> Nine integrated focus areas were identified in the Strategic Framework are:

- 1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital;
- 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital;
- 3: Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure;
- 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns;
- 5: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
- 6: Promote green and fair trade;
- 7: Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital;
- 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being;
- 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

<sup>iii</sup> In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
- (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

<sup>iv</sup> In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:

- (a) economy-wide;
- (b) cities; and
- (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

<sup>iv</sup> The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>

<sup>v</sup> The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>