

## **Strategic Partnership between the United Kingdom and Sweden**

1. The Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden confirm our shared desire to reinforce our strategic bilateral relations. Building on the UK-Sweden Political Declaration of Solidarity signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, and the Joint Leaders Statement of 19th June 2023, our governments have jointly decided on the following as a basis for reinvigorated and deepened cooperation across the bilateral relationship, including on security and defence, innovation, science, energy and climate, people to people and trade and investment.
2. The United Kingdom and Sweden both understand that our cooperation is consistent with, and benefits from, the wider UK-EU relationship and Sweden's EU membership. Both the United Kingdom and Sweden see the positive development of that relationship as supportive of our bilateral efforts. Furthermore, we recognise the importance of Europe jointly addressing pan-European issues, including through the format of the European Political Community (EPC).
3. This strategic partnership will benefit our citizens and businesses and provide new opportunities to assist our economies and societies to become more innovative, resilient, and sustainable. Together we will build on our traditions as close allies in promoting innovative solutions to the challenges of today, excellence in science and research, and free trade and strong bilateral business ties.
4. This partnership will bring together governments, businesses, and institutions, and paves the way for deepened cooperation. This partnership includes the following focus areas:

### **Global Cooperation**

5. The United Kingdom and Sweden have forged a strong partnership, based on shared values and in support of freedom and democracy, multilateralism, an open and stable rules-based international order and the rule of law. We are committed to deepening our ties to tackle global challenges, including working together to tackle Russian malign influence and disinformation campaigns, helping Ukraine recover from Russia's illegal aggression and full scale invasion, and responding to the systemic challenges posed by China, as well as delivering on our shared international development priorities, combatting climate change and addressing non-proliferation and arms control.
6. Russia is the most significant and direct threat to our security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. Its illegal aggression and full-scale invasion of Ukraine is a clear violation of international law and the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty. It underlines the importance of our partnership and the need to deny Russia any benefit from its war of aggression. We share a joint ambition that together our ongoing military, political, humanitarian, economic and legal support will help Ukraine defeat Russia's illegal invasion and rebuild its prosperity and ability to deter Russia from future aggression.
7. The United Kingdom and Sweden will continue to stand together in supporting Ukraine, both multilaterally and bilaterally including through the International Fund for Ukraine, the donation of artillery and the training of Armed Forces of Ukraine personnel through training initiatives such as Operation INTERFLEX. Both countries commit to maintaining

military, economic and legal support which will assist Ukraine's defence capability, defence procurement reform, security sector reform and EU accession.

8. The United Kingdom and Sweden will also continue to provide humanitarian support to address the most acute and severe needs for as long as is necessary. The United Kingdom and Sweden will also enhance our bilateral cooperation to identify lessons learned from Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine.
9. The United Kingdom and Sweden are equally committed to supporting Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction, and development. We will work together to unlock Ukraine's economic growth by helping mobilise private sector investment, and will continue to explore further opportunities for bilateral cooperation to support Ukraine rebuild from Russia's illegal invasion and to continue its reforms.
10. Recognising that the prosperity and security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions are inextricably linked, the United Kingdom and Sweden will work to bolster partnerships between Europe and the Indo-Pacific, including through the implementation of the EU and United Kingdom's Indo-Pacific Strategies. We will continue to cooperate closely on responding to China as a systemic challenge. We will engage constructively with China where it is consistent with our national interests and security. We will continue to call upon China not to provide material assistance to Russia's illegal invasion against Ukraine. Both countries reaffirm the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and wider Asia Pacific. We will continue to cooperate to raise concerns with China on human rights violations and abuses, including in Xinjiang and Tibet, and the continued erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy, rights and freedom.
11. The United Kingdom and Sweden will continue to work together on shared international development priorities and on delivering accelerated progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (FfD), the Paris agreement and encourage alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). We will work to encourage all states to consider signing and ratifying, approving or accepting the recent Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction at the earliest possible date to allow its entry into force. We will also continue to work together through the Nordic Plus grouping and through multilateral fora to foster political dialogue and coordination around key development issues and global challenges.
12. The United Kingdom and Sweden will hold annual bilateral discussions on non-proliferation and arms control. These will include effective co-ordination of multilateral efforts at the International Atomic Energy Agency to address proliferation risks including from Iran and the DPRK, to discuss broader non-proliferation and disarmament challenges, and the safety, security and safeguards implications of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The United Kingdom and Sweden agree to continue closer cooperation on the Quad Nuclear Verification Partnership.
13. Work within this area of the partnership will be coordinated between the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Ministry of Defence and

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence.

## **Security and Defence**

14. The United Kingdom and Sweden will continue to build on the already close and deep partnership in security and defence to forge ever closer ties, both bilaterally and multilaterally. Our joint ambition out to 2035 is for an ever deeper, broader and more effective collaboration, as leading democracies, future NATO allies and defence industrial partners, across all key domains, to make the Euro-Atlantic area and wider world safer.
15. NATO remains the cornerstone of Euro-Atlantic security and the bedrock of collective defence. Sweden, already strongly aligned with NATO principles and values, will greatly enhance European collective security as a member of the alliance. Through our shared commitment to an enduring baseline of 2% of GDP annually on defence for a decade, we will together boost NATO's technological edge and resilience to new and emerging threats. The United Kingdom will support Sweden in its swift transition into NATO while ensuring we and NATO learn from Sweden's proud military tradition and strategic outlook and adapt accordingly.
16. Joint military training and exercising sits at the heart of our defence relationship and we are committed to maintaining a regular drumbeat of multidomain exercises through NATO, the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) and bilaterally to support collective defence and interoperability. The upcoming UK Carrier Strike Group deployment will also include NATO integration exercises to develop operational capability.
17. One way in which we demonstrate our mutual commitment to the defence of Northern Europe is via the operationalisation of the JEF. The United Kingdom and Sweden will continue to work together to strengthen the JEF, building interoperability and military options in response to potential regional crises. This will provide an additional tier of security for Northern Europe and complement NATO Regional Plans.
18. Enhancing strategic stability and strengthening deterrence in Northern Europe is a key priority for both countries. A strategic landscape where we face multiple threats below and above the threshold for armed conflict requires an integrated approach across all relevant policy areas, as necessary, to ensure strongest possible deterrence against aggression and malign activities.
19. The United Kingdom and Sweden also commit to cooperating through the Northern Group to promote more coherent, efficient and effective defence and security cooperation in Northern Europe and contribute towards the maintenance of security and stability in the northern European region.
20. The United Kingdom and Sweden will substantially deepen joint defence industrial collaboration to ensure that NATO and its partners continue to generate strategic advantage in an increasingly contested environment. This includes defence innovation in vital strategic areas like space and underwater technology, cyber and security. To achieve competitive defence innovation, the United Kingdom and Sweden will collaborate on ways to identify and harness new and emerging civilian technologies for defence applications,

through multilateral initiatives such as DIANA, NIF, and European programmes and initiatives. Furthermore, we will forge ever-stronger bilateral cooperation on defence capabilities by refreshing our existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by 2024.

21. Our governments will work closer together on joint defence export opportunities. This will include working together to promote international sales of Gripen E, and the associated weapons package, and maritime and underwater technology to allies in our mutual strategic interest. We will work with our industries to identify, plan and deliver third country export opportunities for UK and Swedish businesses and seek further bilateral opportunities for reciprocal foreign direct investment.
22. Building on the Letter of Intent on procurement of the 6x6 Archer system, the United Kingdom and Sweden reiterate intentions to continue to work together as we integrate this platform into service with our Armed Forces. Building on donations of AS90 (UK) and Archer (Sweden) to Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Sweden will also work together to provide a collaborative in-service support solution for Ukraine. The United Kingdom and Sweden will also look to explore opportunities to collaborate on long term support to Ukraine. Synergies should be sought with the initiatives under the science and innovation cooperation.
23. The United Kingdom and Sweden commit to working closely across the full spectrum of future threats and challenges to Euro-Atlantic security, including through joint work on resilience; sharing capabilities to counter malign covert activity; and to protect critical national infrastructure.
24. The United Kingdom and Sweden will broaden and deepen our political and security dialogues and use their conclusions to inform and direct joint work to counter threats and build societal and institutional resilience.
25. The United Kingdom and Sweden will enhance our collaboration on cyber and in countering disinformation, including collaboration to prevent state backed interference in democratic processes.
26. Building on our strong security relationship, the United Kingdom and Sweden will establish a new UK-Sweden Counter Terrorism Dialogue to discuss how to strengthen cooperation. We will work together to improve our partnership to fight terrorist threats at home and overseas and to stand ready to assist each other in the event of a terrorist incident.
27. The United Kingdom and Sweden will explore opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation in law enforcement and criminal justice, complementing ongoing cooperation between the two countries under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.
28. Work within this area of the partnership will be coordinated between the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Department for Science Innovation and Technology, and Home Office and Sweden's Ministry of Defence, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. We will continue to work closely to ensure a continuous development of the cooperation on all levels through the 2+2 dialogue between MFA and Defence and Joint Staff talks, as well as engagement through multilateral formats like NATO and the JEF.

## **Science and Innovation**

29. The United Kingdom and Sweden recognise that our capacity for innovation is the key to solving the grand challenges of our time and is fundamental for sustainable economic development and job creation. Building on the already close cooperation between British and Swedish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and research communities, the United Kingdom and Sweden will take measures for even deeper cooperation.
30. To sustain the position of the United Kingdom and Sweden as global innovation leaders we will foster cooperation to innovate and commercialise new technology, and promote sustainable and safe development and use of new and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technologies, 6G/Future Telecom technologies, engineering biology, blockchain. We also agree to share experience on the development of trusted research and responsible internationalisation of research and on international leadership and innovation in other areas.
31. Both countries will deepen our collaboration in science and innovation to foster research excellence, commercialisation of research, building and improving capacities and capabilities for innovation, as well as increasing participation and inclusion in STEM disciplines. Both countries will also share knowledge on how to build strong innovation systems, including innovation policy development, an innovative public sector, and support for deep tech start-up and scale-up companies. We encourage collaboration between universities and research institutions, including through the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe.
32. The United Kingdom and Sweden commit to a joint ambition to working together on shared policy priorities. We will strengthen collaboration regarding research infrastructure for science and innovation, ranging from large-scale facilities to environments for testing and demonstration. The United Kingdom reaffirms its commitment to the European Spallation Source project based in Sweden. Furthermore, Sweden affirms its intention to become a full member of the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO).
33. We also commit to enhance sharing of knowledge and expertise between UK and Swedish healthcare systems, including on public health and loneliness. We will build on the MOU on Life Sciences by supporting research exchanges on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), including a 'One Health Approach' and participating in a lessons learned policy summary on running financial modelling pilots.
34. Work within the Science and Innovation area of the partnership will be coordinated by the United Kingdom's Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Department for Health and Social Care and Sweden's Ministry of Education and the Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise and the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

## **Energy, Nature & Climate Change**

35. The United Kingdom and Sweden will work to promote higher international ambitions on climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and target joint cooperation to limit warming to 1.5°C. Together, we will accelerate action in the energy sector to reach Net Zero

greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with our respective national targets, including solutions for security of energy supply, civil nuclear energy, hydrogen in industrial decarbonisation and energy storage, as well as heating and cooling.

36. The United Kingdom and Sweden remain committed to contributing to international climate finance, on mitigation as well as adaptation. Both countries will seek ways to further mobilize additional private capital to this end. The United Kingdom and Sweden will continue to work together at the Green Climate Fund Board to ensure the fund delivers and reforms – generating high climate impact, reaching the most vulnerable as well as larger emitters.
37. The United Kingdom and Sweden will also advance synergies between climate finance and innovation, technical, solutions and trade and showcase the opportunities brought by the green transition.
38. The United Kingdom and Sweden will commit to improving access to climate and nature finance for climate vulnerable developing countries, including LDCs, SIDS, including countries with high humanitarian need, by building on the United Kingdom and Sweden’s role in the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance.
39. Both countries will promote understanding of the intrinsic links between biodiversity and climate, and maintain momentum on efforts to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, by delivering on the newly agreed Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
40. Both countries will also continue to Co-Chair the Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution and work together to tackle air pollution under the UNECE Air Convention.
41. The United Kingdom and Sweden recognise that animals are sentient beings. We also recognise the connection between improved health and welfare of farmed animals and sustainable food production systems. We recognise the benefits of exchanging information, expertise and experience in the field of animal health and welfare.
42. The United Kingdom and Sweden will collaborate on civil nuclear and renewable energy technology and other research areas contributing to the transition to a green economy. Both countries will deepen cooperation with business stakeholders on how to promote green solutions and facilitate environmentally friendly goods and services. We will exchange expertise on sustainable energy solutions and support businesses to facilitate bilateral trade, investment, and cooperation on fossil-free energy sources and security of supply. We welcome the ongoing dialogue on green mobility and our collaboration on green mobility in multilateral fora.
43. Both governments acknowledge the importance of existing and new nuclear energy plants and the potential for new and emerging nuclear energy technologies, including Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to be developed in shaping the future of the civil nuclear sector and achieving net-zero in accordance with our respective national targets. The United Kingdom and Sweden will establish a dialogue on Civil Nuclear cooperation, including Advanced Nuclear Technologies. This dialogue will facilitate sharing of learning, insights and experiences on new nuclear deployment, including regulatory cross assessment,

financing and funding models, siting, plant operation, nuclear skills and supply chains. The United Kingdom and Sweden, welcoming recent exchanges, including at political level, acknowledge that fusion energy could be important for long-term sustainable energy supply. Both countries will explore further opportunities for collaboration on fusion energy

44. Both sides recognise the importance of regulatory exchange in enabling the deployment of Small Modular Reactors. Both governments support the UK Office for Nuclear Regulation (“ONR”) and the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority’s (“SSM”) commitment to cooperate and exchange information on matters of civil nuclear regulation. Both sides will support, where appropriate, sharing of information and best practice in multilateral fora, including the International Atomic Energy Agency and the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency.
45. The United Kingdom and Sweden will explore opportunities to drive divestment from Russian nuclear fuel supply and support other countries to divest. Both countries agree to support resilient nuclear fuel supply chains for the benefit of our respective fleets, including existing reactors and new build projects.
46. The United Kingdom and Sweden will look to collaborate to accelerate industrial decarbonisation through dialogue and exchange of experience, including in multilateral fora. Both countries will exchange knowledge and best practices on policy frameworks to decarbonise buildings along with tackling fuel poverty.
47. The United Kingdom and Sweden welcome dialogue on cross-border energy issues and offshore energy infrastructure. In addition, the United Kingdom and Sweden will explore collaboration on CCUS.
48. Work within this section of the partnership will be coordinated by the United Kingdom’s Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Department for Transport and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Sweden’s Ministry of Climate and Enterprise.

### **People to People**

49. The United Kingdom and Sweden will build on extensive cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries by committing to strengthening people to people links. Recognising the benefits mobility brings to both our societies we will endeavour to support the exchange of young people between our countries. Furthermore, both countries commit to strengthening ties in relation to students and researchers, and cooperation between our universities. Both countries will continue to promote people-to-people links and progress our shared priorities on mobility of labour to encourage the flow of talent and ideas. Recognising the links between our peoples and desire to strengthen these further, we will foster ongoing cooperation in both civil and family matters as an essential underpinning to enabling people to live, study and work in our respective countries.
50. The United Kingdom and Sweden remain committed to tackling irregular migration and strengthening cooperation with European partners. We note the need for closer bilateral and EU-UK cooperation, including on readmissions and returns to countries of origin and, to improve migration management along irregular migration routes into Europe, within Europe and at the EU external borders, taking into account the obligations arising from Sweden’s membership of the European Union. The United Kingdom and Sweden will work together to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking that puts lives at risk. Both countries will share experience of third country partnerships and the global asylum system.

51. The United Kingdom and Sweden commit to share good practice and expertise relating to upstream interventions, to deepen the evidence base on what comprises effective interventions in managing irregular migration flows to and across Europe. In this respect, both countries will explore enhanced technical and operational solutions to tackle irregular migration.
52. Work within this section of the partnership will be coordinated by the United Kingdom's Home Office, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Ministry of Justice and Sweden's Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education and Research.

### **Trade and Investment**

53. By formalising the UK-Sweden Business Forum, inaugurated in 2022, and senior officials trade dialogues, the United Kingdom and Sweden wish to further deepen the bilateral trade and business relations. Using the framework of the Forum, we will seek to increase the volume of our bilateral trade and investment and to identify and address barriers to trade or global challenges which may hinder the development of our economic and trade cooperation, whilst working to strengthen the multilateral trading system and including the WTO.
54. There will be a focus on green trade, deepening cooperation with business stakeholders on how to provide the right regulatory environment and policy to support the promotion of green solutions, and facilitate environmentally friendly goods and services.
55. On energy, we will exchange expertise in sustainable energy solutions and support businesses to facilitate bilateral trade, investment, and cooperation on fossil-free energy sources as well as security of supply.
56. We will exchange on the inclusion of the private sector in development cooperation and strengthening synergies between development cooperation, international trade and trade promotion.
57. On investment, we will work to increase reciprocally beneficial investments within strategic areas, including defence and security, energy and life sciences.
58. Work within this area of the partnership will be coordinated between the United Kingdom's Department for Business and Trade and Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

### **Next Steps**

59. In order to ensure the implementation of this Strategic Partnership and explore further steps to enhance our bilateral cooperation, we will designate high-level officials as focal points tasked with building on the departmental cooperation set out above and reviewing progress across the full range of topics. This work will provide the basis for periodic political consultations between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Sweden.



**Legal**

60. This declaration represents the political will of the Governments of the United Kingdom and Sweden and does not give rise to any rights or obligations under domestic or international law, nor does it preclude future new areas of cooperation that may be identified and agreed by the Governments. The activities set forth in this declaration will be implemented in line with Swedish and UK legislation, as well as applicable international law, including the obligations arising from Sweden’s membership of the European Union.

Signed at Visby on 13 October 2023

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Rishi Sunak  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Ulf Kristersson  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of  
Sweden