

# Sweden's candidacy

Council of the International  
Telecommunication Union  
for the 2027–2030 term



**Government Offices of Sweden**  
Ministry of Finance



"In an increasingly digitalized world, connectivity, digital tools, and skills are essential in the development of education, healthcare, enterprises, and governmental services. A vote to re-elect Sweden to the ITU Council, is a vote for a commitment to bridge the global digital divide."

**Erik Slottnér**

Minister for Public Administration

Sweden is proud to present its candidacy for re-election to the Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

As one of the founding members of the International Telecommunication Union, Sweden has always been fully committed to the goals and objectives of the organization. In an increasingly digitalized world, the need for connectivity, digital tools and skills are essential in the development of education, healthcare, enterprises and governmental services. The International Telecommunication Union has a central role in bridging the digital divide and supporting connectivity worldwide.

Digital transformation is not only a technical issue, but a fundamental precondition for participating fully in today's society. The potential of

digital technologies is enormous as well as the need for connectivity and basic digital skills. For societies, it creates opportunities for increased growth and prosperity, while giving individuals easier access to information and education – when the right conditions are in place.

Sweden remains convinced that the global digital divide must be bridged to realise the full potential of digital transformation. This is an important step towards global equality. A strong and active ITU is vital to addressing these challenges together. Sweden already contributes to this work in several areas, and we wish to continue our work within the Council.

# Sweden, the UN and ITU

Sweden has a strong commitment to the UN system, which is the central arena for Sweden's action to address global issues, and we work actively with development cooperation and digitalization. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Stockholm University and Sweden's Post and Telecom

Authority support developing countries' efforts to develop regulatory frameworks that promote the emergence of accessible, secure and cost-effective connectivity. Affordable connectivity, including Internet access, enables individuals and businesses to connect to markets, customers, banks, and each other.



ITU Secretary-General, Doreen Bogdan-Martin welcomed H.E. Mr Erik Slottnér, Minister for Public Administration, Sweden, 30 January 2025, Geneva, Switzerland.

# Sweden's objectives within the ITU Council – bridging the digital divide

ITU is an important arena for international cooperation and Sweden will keep pushing for the Union to assume a more central role within the UN system with the aim of contributing to a more inclusive and equitable world through digital transformation.

## Connectivity

Sweden has long supported and been a driving force in the development and expansion of telecommunications networks, broadband and mobile telephony at national, regional and global level. Through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Sweden supports the broad efforts to achieve universal access to information and communications technology and connectivity, with a particular emphasis on reducing the digital gender divide. Everyone must be included in the digital transformation. Swedish businesses support Giga, an ITU and UNICEF

initiative aiming to connect every school in the world to the internet. Sweden is one of the founders and financiers of the Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL), which cooperates with ITU to support a holistic approach to digital transformation. This includes responsible data use, funding and procurement, with a focus on leaving no one behind in strategic digital investments. Swedfund's project accelerator supports the development of projects and frameworks and strengthens the capacity for secure and trusted digital transformation in partner countries. The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority and SPIDER, a project with Stockholm University, has contributed to capacity-building to more than 30 African countries, providing assistance in knowledge-building and advice with the aim of contributing to an effective digital infrastructure for all. In 2023, this training program, iPRIS, was expanded to also include French- and Portuguese speaking countries.

As a member of the ITU Council, Sweden will continue to work to ensure that the organisation invests more effectively to connect the unconnected.

## Transparent, equitable and effective governance

To ensure that digital transformation contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, ITU's limited resources must be used effectively, equitably, and transparently. Sweden has a long tradition of supporting multilateralism and working with the UN. Sweden will continue to combine this tradition with our extensive digital knowledge in the ITU Council, to help steer ITU in a direction that delivers clear results for all its member in a transparent, effective and equitable way.

Sweden promotes the development of global standards that are affordable, effective and developed with respect for fundamental rights so that they can be applied with confidence by all.

## Digital skills

Sweden has extensive knowledge, and practical experience, of how to bridge the digital divide, and we will continue to contribute in these areas in ITU Council. Sweden is actively involved in numerous international cooperation forums aimed at raising the level of digital skills. Sweden strives to enhance digital inclusion at global level by working for greater connectivity and digital skills and know-how. To re-elect Sweden to Council would enable Sweden's know-how to reach even further through the ITU.

## Flexibility and effective use of the radio spectrum

Radio spectrum is a valuable and limited resource that must be used in a way that maximises benefits to society over time, particularly when global needs increase. Sweden will keep pushing to ensure that regulation of the radio spectrum is as inclusive and flexible as possible, enabling technological neutrality and thus an opportunity for development and innovation aimed at a future for all.



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Support Sweden for ITU Council Region B

"A strong and effective ITU  
is vital to address the digital  
transformation together."

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