

EXTRACT FROM “DIRECTIVE FOR SPECIAL DEMOCRACY SUPPORT DIRECTED TOWARDS POLITICAL PARTIES AND MULTIPARTY SYSTEMS THROUGH SWEDISH POLITICAL PARTY-AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS (PAO)”, 1 OF JULY 2011

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to summarize the parts that are relevant to the Cooperation organisations of OPC from the “Directive for Special Democracy Support Directed towards Political Parties and Multiparty Systems through Swedish Political Party-affiliated Organisations (PAOs)”, 1 July 2011.

This directive, which was adopted by Sida in July 2011, is based on the *Strategy for Special Democracy Support through Swedish Political Party-affiliated Organisations*, which applies to activities with funding from the appropriation during the 2012-2015 periods.

Objective and Role of the Support

The objective of all publicly financed development cooperation is **to help create conditions that will enable people who are poor to improve their lives**. Thus, the aid is to promote respect for human rights, democracy and good governance. The Parliament unanimously adopted the objective in 2003. The special objective of reform cooperation in Europe with development financing is **strengthened democracy, equitable and sustainable development, and closer ties to the EU and its basic values**.

Development cooperation is to be shaped by **the perspectives and development of people who are poor**. Sweden takes a multidimensional approach to poverty that includes the lack of choice, freedom, rights and political power. The goal of Swedish Development cooperation is democratic development and increased respect for human rights (non-discrimination/equality in dignity and rights, participation, openness and transparency, and responsibility and accountability), two factors that stimulate the driving forces of development and creating better living conditions. This Democracy in turn requires well-functioning democratic political parties and a multiparty system.

The Government gives priority to three focus areas in democracy support: **civil and political rights, the institutions and procedures of democracy and the rule of law, and actors of democratisation**.

Special democracy support through political party-affiliated organisations (PAOs) is to carry out activities to encourage moves towards democratic governance, equal opportunity for women and men, full respect for human rights, and tolerance of dissidents and minorities, as well as, where applicable, bridge religious and ethnic conflicts.

The strategy specifies that Sweden is to help ensure that all individuals in developing countries have a genuine opportunity and the freedom to organise in political parties and civil society organisations and thereby exercise an influence in political processes and decision-making. One goal of the support is to broaden political participation such that it fully represents the composition of the population.

To achieve the overall objective, activities are to focus on two interdependent areas:

1. Support for sister parties and affiliated political movements and organisations, with the **goal of ensuring well-functioning democratic political parties.**
2. Support for multiparty systems, with the goal of ensuring **well-functioning, democratically based multiparty systems.**

Cooperation Partners and Focus of Activities

When planning and prioritising support for sister parties, a determination must be made as to where democratisation is most badly needed and where the PAO is particularly qualified to help meet the objective of the area of activity. Among partner organisations are political parties or affiliated movements and associations, as well as civil society organisations that assume political responsibility and may evolve into political parties.

With respect to support for multiparty systems the strategy specifies that the activity is to focus on support for and cooperation with as broad a political spectrum of political parties or affiliated political movements, organisations and associations as possible. Support for political party systems is particularly important in fragile democracies where democratisation processes have begun and democracy is being consolidated.

Promoting platforms for dialogue and alliance building in fragmented political party systems, strengthening groups of hard-pressed opposition parties in difficult political settings is essential. Regional exchanges, peaceful conflict management between political parties and affiliated political movements, strategic initiatives for the purpose of developing the political party system, or reform of relevant legislation may be worthy areas to support.

While not a general requirement, cooperation with both government and opposition parties is often highly relevant. A common approach is to cooperate with youth, student and women's associations to indirectly move the political parties and culture in a long-term democratic direction.

Tasks and Responsibilities of PAOs

Capacity development and methods development are to remain the responsibility of the PAO. PAOs are to identify initiatives in collaboration with cooperation partners to secure the ownership and relevant priorities, based on conditions in the country concerned, of the partners. The PAO is to ensure that the cooperation partners have sufficient capacity, resources and control mechanisms to assume responsibility for the initiatives.

All PAOs are responsible vis-à-vis their downstream cooperation partners for ensuring that

- Governance and control systems are in place. Initiatives are planned, implemented, reported, revised and evaluated on the basis of appropriate documentation, such as project documents.
- The cooperation partner receives the requisite information about the policies, principles and rules that govern the appropriation.
- The capacity development of cooperation partners is supported on the basis of their own needs.
- Good communication is maintained to support the cooperation partners and successful implementation of the programme. Transparency and openness are to be sought.

The activities of the PAO are to be assessed by means of follow-up and reporting, including an annual external audit.

Countries and Cooperation Partners

According to the strategy, democracy support through PAOs can be provided on a global, regional and national level. The support must meet the criteria of the OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) classification system unless the Government has decided that Sida may grant exemptions, and then only in special cases.

Different Actions in Different Country Situations

The Government's policy for democratic development and human rights specifies approaches in five different country situations, from authoritarian states and conflict and post-conflict situations to fragile democracies in the early stages of democratisation, new democracies in the process of consolidation and stagnating democratisation processes.

Interaction with the International Activities of the Parties

A PAO's activities under the appropriation must be separated from the mother party's international cooperation, given **that the assignee** is the Government and Parliament and funds has been made available subject to special conditions. However, synergies between political parties and their PAOs should not only be permitted but sought whenever possible and appropriate.

Political Influence of Women and Young People

The goal of gender equality is a basic premise of special democracy support. Young people's democratic influence, which is neglected in many new democracies, must also be made the most of.

Openness and Transparency

The prospects for accountability at various levels are strengthened while the scope for corruption, waste and negligence narrows. As a result, better cooperation and coordination between PAOs, CSOs and other aid initiatives are possible. For that reason, information about activities is to be made public and available to the extent possible, particularly in relation to cooperation partners and other actors who are directly affected. Project documents are to be prepared and shared among the parties involved; in order for that to happen, there must be relevant documents in languages that the cooperation partners master.

Combating Corruption

Calling attention to and combating the risk of corruption, both in political parties and society in general and the activities of PAOs in particular, are important. Sweden's clear, proactive attitude is to be put into practice by never accepting, always acting and always informing whenever corruption is suspected. Any suspicion is to be investigated and attended to. Frequent approaches are audits, suspension of payment during the course of the investigation and – when there is sufficient evidence – legal measures and demands for funds that have been erroneously used.