

FINAL REPORT

The Chile-Sweden Task Force on Enhanced Partnership

The Chile-Sweden Task Force was launched in January 2003, by Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson and Chilean President Ricardo Lagos. This initiative was taken in order to develop and expand the bilateral partnership, taking full advantage of the new opportunities opened up by the EU-Chile Association Agreement and the Sweden-Chile Development Fund. The Chile-Sweden Task Force was to be headed jointly by Chilean State Secretary of External Relations, Ambassador Cristián Barros, and Swedish State Secretary for Trade, Mr Sven-Eric Söder, who was later succeeded by Mr Lars-Olof Lindgren.

Earlier, in 1998, Swedish and Chilean bilateral cooperation had entered a new phase when the two countries signed an Agreement for economic and technological cooperation. The Sweden-Chile Development Fund, which came into force in November 2002, was created to finance projects implemented within the Agreement. The fund aims at fostering technology transfer and development, creating technological capabilities and encouraging long-term business relations and alliances to benefit both Swedish and Chilean ventures.

State Secretary Barros visited Sweden in April 2003 for a first Task Force meeting. A Road Map was then elaborated, identifying areas for possible enhanced collaboration in the political, commercial and development cooperation fields. Culture was also identified as an area of interest. A second Task Force meeting was held in Santiago in December 2003. A CD-rom and web page introducing completed, ongoing and possible future economic cooperation was then launched by Sweden ([Annex I](#)). Chile later presented a Chilean-Swedish Task Force Draft Agenda ([Annex II](#)). In March 2005, Ambassador Carlos Portales, Director-General for Political Affairs at the Chilean Ministry for Foreign Affairs visited Stockholm to agree on this Final Report of the Chile-Sweden Task Force.

Within the framework of the Task Force and financed by the Fund, a great number of visits, fact-finding missions, joint projects and other events and

contacts have taken place between authorities, agencies, organisations and companies.

The exchange of delegations and activities within different areas are listed separately (Annex III). A progress report is also enclosed on the Sweden-Chile Development Fund (included in Annex II).

As from March 2005, Corfo has a permanent representation in Stockholm for the development of Chilean-Swedish cooperation in the field of technological innovation.

The work of the Task Force has resulted in the following mutual agreement on the priorities for our bilateral collaboration, to be translated into activities in both short- and long-term perspectives. Possible participants in different cooperation areas have been identified, actively involved in the process and encouraged to initiate collaboration in the spirit of this Report.

We hereby declare the mission of the Task Force completed. We encourage all the relevant bodies of our respective governments to engage in the follow-up of this Report and to facilitate and support activities, initiatives and contacts between agencies, organisations and companies in Chile and Sweden. The relevant Ministries shall continuously engage in initiating, supporting and following track of exchanges of delegations, study visits, joint reports, projects and other activities as per the Chile-Sweden Task Force priorities. We foresee joint follow-up discussions at political level, taking place on a regular basis.

Chile – Sweden Task Force Priorities

1. The Sweden-Chile Development Fund

In light of the positive evaluation of the implementation of the Fund, and of the interest of both governments in the further promotion of economic and technological cooperation between the two countries, both Sweden and Chile regard the Fund as a valuable instrument in furthering bilateral relations between Chile and Sweden. Both countries agree to the replenishment of the Fund on similar terms to those currently applying.

2. Scientific and Technological Cooperation, Innovation and Education

Both parties agree on the importance of cooperation in the fields of science, technology, innovation and education. The proposals include a project for training Chilean managerial staff at Swedish companies with a high profile in technological innovation, and cooperation between VINNOVA and Corfo regarding advisory service and consultancy, workshops and seminars, and institutional practice. A collaboration agreement will be signed between VINNOVA and Corfo.

Furthermore, the Research Policy Institute (RPI) at Lund University invites collaboration with Chilean institutions in two areas:

1. involving a Chilean partner in the project "Developing Universities - The Evolving Role of Academic Institutions in Economic Growth"; and
2. training Chilean entrepreneurs at tailor-made courses on Innovation Strategies and Enterprise, in collaboration with e.g. Corfo.

In the field of education, an exploratory Chilean visit has already been made to Sweden and further collaboration is planned in the areas of school management and leadership, English learning and adult education. Chile is interested in following up a special student programme in English education where there is considerable experience. A collaboration agreement will be signed between Folkuniversitet in Sweden and the Ministry of Education of Chile.

The Stockholm Institute of Education (LHS) is developing direct contacts with Chilean universities, such as Universidad de Concepción, to facilitate exchanges between scientists, university teachers and students. Both the LHS and the Swedish National Agency for School Improvement (MSU) have expertise in education in the above-mentioned areas. Chilean educational specialists have also expressed an interest in Swedish experiences from ITiS ("IT in School"), which is an area that can also be pursued.

A number of collaborative projects are currently underway between universities in both countries. Examples of these are an exchange project for student nurses, midwives and teachers at Universidad de Chile and the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, a continuous exchange programme between the University of Bío Bío and Linköping University, and between

Sweden's KTH and the Chilean universities Universidad de Chile, Universidad Católica and Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María.

3. Trade and Investments

Sweden and Chile have a mutual interest in promoting trade and investment in both directions. Efforts to this effect will be reinforced by joint promotional activities in both countries such as: the celebration of annual "Chilean-Swedish Trade and Investment Days", which will include workshops, events and seminars in Chile and Sweden addressed to exporters, importers and chambers of commerce (including the dissemination of agreements); project studies; missions of Swedish importers to Chile; the provision of Swedish expert consulting services in Chile, etc.

3.1. Public Transport, Road Technology and Safety

We agree on the potential for strengthening the close collaboration already existing between both countries in the field of public transport, road technology, transport and logistics, and safety. The participation of Swedish companies in the programme to modernise the public transport systems of Valparaíso and Concepción should be promoted as is already the case with participation in the Transantiago project, phase 1, where Swedish industry is playing an important role.

3.2. Mining

In light of the long tradition and expertise of both countries in the mining sector, the Task Force proposes to further bilateral cooperation in this area by promoting the use of Swedish technology in the upcoming phase of modernising and converting underground mining in Chile and promoting trade and investment in the development of the mining cluster, both in Sweden and Chile. Two Swedish mining delegations travelled to Chile in 2004 and a Chilean delegation visited Sweden in the spring of 2005. The Task Force considers it important to continue to develop contacts within this sector. Collaboration agreements between organisations and companies in the two countries are underway.

3.3. Forestry Sector, Woodworking and Pulp and Paper Industry

Based on long and successful joint experiences in the forestry, woodworking, and pulp and paper industries, the Task Force has identified a mutual interest for further networking and exchanges in these areas. This will be accomplished, for example, through missions of Swedish and Chilean investors in the areas previously identified and exchanges of university/study groups or interested organisations.

3.4. Agriculture

The Task Force has identified several areas of cooperation to strengthen trade and investment in agriculture, such as: trade in fruit and vegetables, animal welfare; organic and integrated agriculture and animal health. Chilean contacts have been made with the Swedish Animal Welfare Agency and scientists at the Swedish National Veterinary Institute, which may lead to further collaboration.

Moreover, Sweden, being part of the European Union, and Chile will further their efforts in implementing the commitments under the EU-Chile Association Agreement, thereby opening up their respective agricultural markets to trade.

3.5. IT/Telecommunications

Trade and investment in this area have major potential, which will be strengthened through, for example, the promotion of joint ventures, missions of Swedish and Chilean investors and cooperation between the regulatory authorities of both countries. The EU project “América Latina Invest”, which is partially supported by Sida, facilitates the participation of Chilean companies in missions and exhibitions in Sweden. Twelve projects partially financed by the Sweden-Chile Development Fund have so far been carried out within the IT/telecom sector. A major Chilean delegation in this area visited Sweden in April this year.

3.6. Environment

Further cooperation will be promoted in the areas of advanced environmental standards, clean production technologies and sustainable

urban policies at local, regional and national levels. A presentation of the Swedish Sustainable City concept may take place later this year. Nine projects partially financed by the Sweden-Chile Development Fund have so far been carried out within the environmental technology area. A collaboration agreement will be signed between IVL and Fundación de Chile.

4. Triangular Development Cooperation

Both countries are favourable towards continued Sida-AGCI cooperation in triangular projects, provided that it has been established that the "third" country expresses a genuine demand for this aid modality. A number of successful projects have been implemented in this spirit over the years. Examples that can be mentioned are the joint Sida-AGCI wood technology engineering project in Bolivia, the international course in waste management in Peru and the project of exchange of experience within the gender equality field in Guatemala. Opportunities for similar undertakings will also be taken in the future. Concrete suggestions from Chile as to possible new projects are welcomed. Both countries regard the openings for cooperation in the Caribbean as interesting. The current situation in Haiti calls for massive international support.

5. Culture

We recognise our common cultural heritage and the close relations between our peoples.

Cultural activities will be coordinated between the two countries, through the celebration of Chilean-Swedish Cultural Days in order to strengthen our bilateral relations in general and as a complement to trade promotion activities. Music performances, literature and film projects as well as exchanges in architecture and design are some examples of areas for collaboration.

(Ignacio Walker)

(Lars-Olof Lindgren)