

THE WAY FORWARD

Towards a broader cooperation

ISSUES THAT WILL REMAIN PRIORITIES

- Reducing poverty, inequality and vulnerability
- Strengthening democracy and promoting respect for human rights
- Combating the HIV and AIDS epidemic

EXAMPLES OF BROADER COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Institutional cooperation
- Economic cooperation
- Research partnership programmes
- Health forums
- Culture partnership programmes
- Civil society cooperation
- Tripartite cooperation in Africa and elsewhere
- Municipal/regional partnerships
- International Training Programmes

The development cooperation agreement between the governments of Sweden and South Africa is valid until the end of 2008. The two governments have embarked on a transformation process in order to gradually reduce the traditional grant-based cooperation and to increasingly engage in a new, broader development cooperation between South Africa and Sweden – at national, regional and local levels.

The broader cooperation focuses on areas of mutual interest and benefit to both South Africa and Sweden and it is anticipated that it will help to lay the groundwork for long-term partnerships in different fields and involve public sector organisations, companies and civil society organisations. Contract-financed technical cooperation could be designed to increase the exchange of skills and experience between Sweden and South Africa. The new forms of cooperation will be characterised by shared values and political priorities, as well as joint financing and shared responsibility.

The Municipal Partnership North – South Programme

Municipal partnerships change the dynamics of development cooperation from providing-receiving to one of mutual benefit, and create a platform for wider cooperation and positive interaction between different sectors in the participating societies.

In 2005 Sida launched a programme, ‘Municipal Partnership North – South’ to encourage and facilitate partnerships of mutual benefit between local authorities in Sweden and ten selected countries in the South, including South Africa. The overall goal of the programme is to contribute to poverty reduction in the countries selected for municipal partnership cooperation.

The objectives of the programme are to:

- facilitate meetings and value-adding cooperation between local government structures in Sweden and their counterparts in selected countries
- assist in creating long-term relations between society in Sweden and in the cooperating partner countries



Sida has entrusted the administration of the Programme to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) and its subsidiary SALA IDA. Applications for support for a municipal partnership with a Swedish municipality must be submitted to SALAR/SALA IDA by the Swedish partner. At present, ten South African municipalities are cooperating with funding from this facility, including Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City.