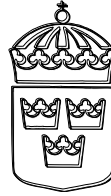


# Committee terms of reference



Expert group for evaluation and analysis  
of Sweden's international development  
cooperation

**ToR**  
**2013:11**

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Decision at a Government meeting on 31 January 2013

## **Summary**

The Government is setting up a committee in the form of an expert group that will continuously evaluate and analyse Sweden's international development cooperation in order to improve development cooperation and build up a long-term, high-quality knowledge-base.

The remit of the expert group is to commission, compile, implement and communicate evaluations, analyses and studies on the implementation, performance and efficiency of development cooperation.

The expert group is to be independent in relation to the subject under review and be autonomously responsible for the relevance and quality of the reports it chooses to publish.

## **Background**

In the Budget Bill for 2013 (Govt Bill 2012/13:1, expenditure area 7), the Government outlines its view of evaluation activities in the area of development cooperation. The Government stresses that it is of great importance that evaluation activities are appropriately organised to ensure the efficient use of resources and that evaluations are of high quality and, overall, cover needs and issues that are relevant to the design of the policy.

### **Supporting data is needed to make well-founded decisions**

The Government places great importance on analysis and research as the basis for the future design of Sweden's international development cooperation.

The Government requires relevant, high-quality supporting data in the form of evaluations, studies, analyses, etc., on the implementation, performance and efficiency of development cooperation in order to make well-founded decisions and improve the governance of development cooperation. Such data may also be of interest to the Riksdag, other stakeholders and the general public.

Not just one type of supporting data is required, but rather a combination of several different types. It may involve different types of evaluations such as process evaluations or impact evaluations. It may also involve short analyses, comprehensive studies or quality-assured statistics. The Government may also need data for a variety of reasons – sometimes to improve governance of a government agency in order to ensure that policy is efficiently implemented, sometimes to review and reform or improve policy direction. The data should highlight the factors that contribute to successful development cooperation efforts, but also the factors that do not contribute.

This data can come from international and Swedish researchers, evaluators, organisations and other actors. It may consist of previously published studies from individual actors or be commissioned. The international character of development

cooperation makes cross-border contacts particularly important, especially with partner countries and other donor countries.

Expertise in development and aid policy issues is often found at universities and among bilateral and multilateral aid institutions, actors and organisations, and in the partner countries. The results from these international analysis and evaluation activities, as well as from the corresponding activities carried out in Sweden, should be made more accessible and available for wider use to support the Government in its governance and improvement of development cooperation.

There is a need for independent data on which to base Government positions. Experience from other policy areas demonstrates the value of having a special forum for meetings between research and policy where a high degree of independence is combined with proximity to decision making.

The Government therefore considers that a committee in the form of an expert group for evaluation and analysis of Sweden's international development cooperation should be established. The expert group's working methods should include building on the experiences of the Expert Group for Public Economics.

The expert group must have an advanced capacity to commission international analyses and to conduct analyses of its own. The expert group must also have thorough procurement expertise and be able to quickly take advantage of externally produced knowledge, assess the quality of this and convert it into supporting data that is relevant to decision-makers when setting policy. This procurement expertise should comprise an understanding of the Government's needs, an ability to formulate relevant questions and knowledge of where relevant and qualified competence can be found.

The expert group must have a high capacity to analyse and bring together knowledge produced by different actors, make syntheses, draw conclusions, and present recommendations. The recommendations may both relate to changes to existing

operations and concern initiatives and innovative solutions for future decisions concerning direction.

### **Remit**

It is imperative that knowledge of the overall implementation, performance and efficiency of development cooperation is increased and refined. Decision-makers and the Swedish public as well actors and individuals in Sweden's partner countries need information about how development cooperation funds are used and the results achieved.

Through its work, the expert group will contribute to broadening and deepening the supporting data to ensure the continuous improvement of development cooperation policy.

The remit of the expert group is to commission, compile, implement and communicate evaluations, analyses and studies on the implementation, performance and efficiency of development cooperation.

The expert group is to be independent in relation to the subject under review and be autonomously responsible for the relevance and quality of the reports it chooses to publish.

The expert group is to:

- order, procure or otherwise obtain evaluations, analyses and studies of the implementation, performance and effectiveness of development cooperation;
- analyse and assess this material;
- compile knowledge reviews based on relevant research;
- carry out its own evaluations, analyses and studies of the implementation, performance and effectiveness of development cooperation;
- establish and maintain contacts, especially with international researchers, institutions, organisations, relevant actors in partner countries, etc.;
- participate in or contribute to joint donor evaluations of a strategic nature;

- present lessons learned, draw conclusions and recommend actions, so that evaluations, analyses and studies can be used to a greater extent to support the Government in its governance and further improvement of development cooperation;
- work actively to disseminate the results of the reports it publishes, and organise open seminars, conferences, etc.

The expert group is to work independently. This means that it should issue guidelines and methods for its activities, prioritise study areas/themes, decide on which evaluations, analyses and studies should be conducted, assess the relevance and quality of the reports and decide on publication. The authors of the various studies should normally be responsible for the content and conclusions of the reports. However, the expert group has the option of conducting studies and publishing its conclusions on its own. Seminars or conferences are to be organised in connection with publishing of the reports.

The work of the expert group will primarily cover activities conducted within the framework of the development cooperation budget, expenditure area 7, International development cooperation. Other issues that are of relevance to Sweden's international development cooperation may also be studied.

#### *Organisation of the expert group*

The expert group is to consist of no more than ten members.

A secretariat is to be assigned to the committee. The secretariat will be responsible for the ongoing work and participate in the work to engage external researchers, evaluators, consultants, etc.

Reference groups composed of persons with relevant factual and methodological knowledge can be associated with the evaluations, analyses and studies the expert group commissions.

*Working methods and reporting*

The expert group and its secretariat is to establish contacts with government agencies and institutions both in Sweden and abroad. The expert group should therefore engage in dialogue with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Statskontoret (the Swedish Agency for Public Management) and other relevant actors in order to secure the strategic use of the state administration's overall evaluation resources in the area of development cooperation. The work of the Swedish National Audit Office in this area should also be considered.

The work of the expert group is to be characterised by the greatest possible transparency. The reports the expert group publishes are to be made available on [www.openaid.se](http://www.openaid.se). Furthermore, in addition to Swedish, the expert group should also publish reports in English in order to create conditions for dialogue and collaboration with actors in other countries.

The expert group is to continuously keep the Government Offices (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) informed about the progress of the work and report twice yearly on the overall direction of ongoing and planned projects. By 31 March each year, the expert group is to submit a report summarising the content and conclusions of the evaluations, analyses and studies published the previous year.

The Government intends to continuously monitor the group's work and no later than spring 2016 will consider the appropriateness of its organisational form. Important aspects to consider include how this type of activity can best be organised to ensure its quality, relevance, effectiveness, usefulness and independence.

(Ministry for Foreign Affairs)

