

U.S. Embassy Sweden's Environmental Policy Competition

Dear Foreign Affairs Association members and SSE students,

It is my great honor, as the United States' Ambassador to Sweden, to invite you to participate in U.S. Embassy Sweden's 2016 environmental policy case competition.

Promoting environmental sustainability is a key priority for the Embassy. The world faces a number of environmental challenges that no single country can solve by itself. Thankfully, the U.S. has in Sweden a partner as committed and eager to take on these challenges as we are.

Yet despite our two countries' strategic alignment and shared dedication to sustainability, the very nature of global environmental challenges unfortunately means that there is no easy answer. That is why we are turning to you, the decision-makers of the future. We want to hear your proposed solutions to a problem that you will, I hope, one day help us tackle.

On Friday, April 22, COP21 was signed by representatives from all over the world in New York. Less than a year before that, the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were adopted, aiming to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for both women and men as part of a new sustainable development agenda. In this policy paper competition, we are asking you to answer the following question: "How can the United States and Sweden help ensure that women in developing countries participate equitably in helping their countries meet COP21 commitments?"

Given the great importance of the climate change issue, we at the Embassy are proud to be partnering on this project with two of the leading organizations in their respective fields – Stockholm School of Economics and the Stockholm Environment Institute.

Together, we are asking Utrikespolitiska Förbundet's 13 member associations and the student body of SSE to submit one paper each, written by two students, by May 15. The authors of the three best papers will be invited to present their policy recommendations before a jury of experts at a seminar at Stockholm School of Economics on May 25. The Embassy will send the winning team on a trip to Washington, D.C. to learn more about U.S. environmental efforts.

As President Obama said in at the climate talks in Paris in December last year, "This one trend, climate change, affects all trends." Let's explore together how to make sure women play an appropriate role in solving this existential issue.

Sincerely,

Azita Raji

U.S. Ambassador to Sweden



Instructions

Each foreign policy association and the student body of SSE is allowed to submit one paper. Each paper must be authored by two members, freely chosen by the foreign policy association/student body in question.

The papers should be written in English in the style of a so called policy brief. In this case, this means that the papers should be 2,000-2,500 words in length (excluding footnotes), and contain 1-3 policy recommendations. For more guidance on how to write a policy brief, please see the following link: <http://www.policy.hu/ipf/fel-pubs/samples/PolicyBrief-described.pdf>. In addition, there are plenty of policy briefs/memos available online as inspiration.

The papers should answer the following question:

“How can the United States and Sweden help ensure that women in developing countries participate equitably in helping their countries meet COP21 commitments?”

The papers will be evaluated on how well your recommended policies promote these goals, how practical and feasible they are, and how well you argue for your conclusions (including style). Novel approaches are welcome.

The three best teams will be invited to present their papers before a jury consisting of experts from Stockholm School of Economics and the Stockholm Environment Institute at a seminar on May 25. The seminar will be open to the public, and feature speeches by subject matter-experts and Embassy representatives.

The two members of the winning team will be sent on a trip, funded by the Embassy, to Washington, D.C. this summer to learn more about U.S. environmental policy.

Please send the papers to saga@state.gov no later than May 15.

