

Swedish Women **Mediation Network**

Presentations of the network members





Ann Dismorr

Head of Department for Middle East and North Africa,
Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Dismorr is Head of Department for Middle East and North Africa at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs since October 2015. She joined the Ministry in 1981 and has held posts such as Diplomatic Advisor to the Swedish Special Envoy to the Israeli-Palestinian Peace talks 1993-1997, ambassador in Lebanon 1999-2001, ambassador in Turkey 2001-2005 and ambassador in Kenya 2009-2012. From 2012 to 2014 Ann Dismorr was Director of UNRWA in Lebanon. Between 2014 and 2015 she served as Counter-Terrorism Coordinator at the Security Policy Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Ann Dismorr has also been Head of the International department at the Swedish Parliament (2006-2009). Her book "Turkey decoded" was published in London 2008. Ann Dismorr holds a postgraduate degree in political science from the universities of Stockholm, Gothenburg and Yale.

Geographic expertise: Middle East and North Africa.

Language skills: English and French.



Marika Fahlén

Ambassador/Special Envoy (rtd)

Marika Fahlén has a 40 years career as diplomate of the Swedish Foreign Service and UN employment, i.a as Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa and Ambassador for Humanitarian Affairs. She has been closely associated with the peace and mediation processes in Sudan (Darfur and CPA running up to the Independence of South Sudan) and Somalia and held senior positions in UNHCR, UNAIDS and UNDP. Board functions include the UN Central Emergency Fund CERF (Chair), the OECD/DAC Task Force on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (Chair), the Somali Think Tank Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (Chair), the International Crisis Group (ICG), Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) and other Human rights NGOs in Sweden, and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. Marika Fahlén has also served as Special Representative of the Minister for Foreign Affairs on global peace and security and as senior advisor in peacebuilding to the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF). Her profile is regional and global peace-making, peacebuilding and prevention, human rights and humanitarian affairs, women peace and security.

Geographic expertise: Africa, especially the Horn of Africa.

Topical Expertise: Global patterns of violent conflict and state-fragility.

Language skills: English and French.

Birgitta Holst Alani

Ambassador (rtd)



Birgitta Holst Alani has over 40 years' experience from working in the Middle East. In 1975, she moved to Iraq for postgraduate research on an Iraqi dialect of Arabic. After several years in Baghdad, including the first two years of the Iran-Iraq war 1980-82, she returned to Sweden where she was appointed at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 1993-1998, Birgitta Holst Alani worked with disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Between 1998 and 2002, she was the Deputy Director of Stockholm International Peace Institute (SIPRI) and thereafter she was appointed Swedish ambassador to Nigeria. Birgitta Holst Alani served as an advisor to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) between 2008 and 2010, and to the UN Special Envoy to Syria 2015-2016. She has extensive experience in post-conflict reconciliation, reconstruction and development, and has participated in a number of discussions on engendering constitution-making and issues related to UN resolution 1325. Until 2014, Birgitta Holst Alani served as Head of the Swedish Institute in Alexandria. Her knowledge in Arabic has assisted her in better understanding the Arabic culture, values and traditions, and she has a special interest in Islamic feminism and cross-cultural communication.

Geographic expertise: Middle East and North Africa, especially Egypt, Iraq and Syria.

Topical expertise: UN resolution 1325, post-conflict reconciliation (Kurdish regional Government and the Federal Government of Iraq), reconstruction and development (Iraq).

Language skills: English and Arabic.



Marie Jacobsson

Principal Legal Adviser on International Law at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Marie Jacobsson is the Principal Legal Adviser on International Law at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She is also a member of the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC) and Special Rapporteur for the topic 'Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict'. Her work focuses on international peace and security matters. Marie Jacobsson has extensive experience of high-level multilateral and bilateral negotiations on such matters as international humanitarian law, law of the sea, international environmental law, boundary delimitation and regional security affairs. She has a solid academic background and she is Associate Professor of International Law at Lund University. Marie Jacobsson has also worked as Security Policy Analyst at the Swedish Armed Forces.

Topical expertise: international humanitarian law, law of the sea, international environmental law, boundary delimitation and regional security affairs.

Karin Landgren



Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General (rtd)

Karin Landgren is the first woman to have headed three United Nations peace operations. She was until 2015 a UN Under-Secretary-General and head of UNMIL in Liberia, a peacekeeping mission. Prior to this, she led two political missions; BNUB in Burundi and UNMIN in Nepal. Karin Landgren's engagement with human rights-oriented policy and practical responses to crises dates to her work with UNHCR between 1980 and 1998, based in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Eritrea, the Philippines, Singapore and India, among others. She was the UNHCR chief of standards and legal advice for four years before becoming UNICEF's first chief of child protection, in 1998. Karin Landgren earned a Bachelor of Science (Economics) and an LLM from the London School of Economics. She has lectured widely on conflict- and rights-related themes, as well as on leadership and child protection. After previously teaching at Columbia University and the Central European University, Karin Landgren is now a non-resident fellow at the Center on International Cooperation (CIC), New York University.

Geographic expertise: Burundi, the Great Lakes, Liberia, Nepal, Myanmar and the Balkans.

Topical expertise: UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding; peace agreements, ceasefire agreements and monitoring, DDR and security sector reform, human rights protection, leadership and management.

Language skills: English, French, Japanese, basic Farsi/Dari.



Lena Nordström

Swedish Ambassador to Liberia

Lena Nordström has 20 years' experience of international diplomacy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and almost 5 years of service with UNICEF in South America. Her profile is internal armed conflict and post-conflict contexts, human rights and women, peace and security. Lena Nordström has vast management experience at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She has served a total of 11 years as Ambassador of Sweden: to Colombia (including Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama) between 2005 and 2011, to Zambia 2011 to 2015 and presently to Liberia. She was also Deputy Director at the Department of the Americas at the MFA.

Geographic expertise: Latin America (Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Chile and Peru in particular), Zambia and Liberia (Manu River region).

Topical expertise: Human rights; women, peace and security; leadership and management.

Language skills: English, Spanish and basic French



Helena Gröndahl Rietz

Head of Africa department, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Helena Rietz has over 20 years' experience of international diplomacy in general and crisis and conflict management in particular. Between 2001 and 2003, Helena Rietz worked as main coordinator for the Special Representative of the EU Presidency for the Mano River countries i.a. assisting in launching the peace process for Liberia. During 2006/2007, Helena Rietz served as Chef de Cabinet for the UNSG's Special Envoy for Darfur, Mr Jan Eliasson, in undertaking his mandate to revive the peace process for Darfur jointly with the African Union. Helena Rietz has extensive management experience from several positions within the MFA as well as serving as Deputy Head of Sweden's Military Intelligence and Security Directorate 2010-2013. She has also served as Sweden's Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo between 2007 and 2008 and as Sweden's Ambassador to Jordan between 2013 and 2016.

Geographic expertise: Great Lakes Region (Central Africa), Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea (Mano River), Sudan/Darfur, Jordan.

Topical expertise: European security policy and defence cooperation, security and intelligence, peace support operations.

Language skills: English, French and Italian.



Lena Sundh

Swedish Ambassador and Special Envoy to the Great Lakes

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Lena Sundh was the Swedish Ambassador to Angola 1995-2000 and 2012-2016. Between 2002 and 2004, she served as the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for the Democratic Republic of Congo and was thus deputy head of the UN peacekeeping mission MONUC. In that capacity she chaired two cease-fire negotiations and oversaw the work to elaborate a joint declaration between two armed factions. She also worked on issues of sexual violence and political empowerment of women. Between 2006 and 2007, she was head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal and led its work to monitor the human rights aspects of the Nepalese peace agreement. Lena Sundh has worked on issues regarding human rights and refugees in the Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the United Nations in Geneva, and as political counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Sweden in New York. Since 1983, Lena Sundh has represented Sweden in numerous UN conferences, including in the General Assembly, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, ECOSOC and the Commissions on Human Rights, the Status of Women and Human Settlement.

Geographic expertise: Angola, Great Lakes, Cambodia, Namibia, Nepal and Thailand.

Topical expertise: ceasefire negotiations, Security Council resolution 1325.

Language skills: English, Portuguese



Margareta Wahlström

former SRSG for Disaster Risk Reduction

Margareta Wahlström has 35 years of extensive experience in both disaster relief operations and disaster risk management, in development and political work with the United Nations system, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the private sector. Between 2009 and 2015, Margareta Wahlström was the Special Representative of the United Nations' Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and simultaneously Head of the United Nations' Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the focal point within the UN system for the coordination of disaster reduction, ensuring synergies with regional organizations across UN activities in socio-economic, development and humanitarian fields. Under Wahlström's leadership, UNISDR designed and supported the inclusive consultations for, and subsequently the inter-governmental negotiations leading to, the 'Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030', adopted in March 2015 by all UN member states. The Sendai Framework is the first of the 2015 global policy directions for the coming 15 years. Wahlström's broad experience spans conflict and non-conflict emergencies, and addressing long-term issues of sustainable development.

Geographic expertise: Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine, the Philippines, Southern Africa and South America.

Language skills: English, French and Spanish.

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