NOUVELLE PERSPECTIVE SUISSE (NPS)

International Non-Governmental Organization — founded in 1990 — Morges, Switzerland

"JUSTICE — WORK — SOLIDARITY"

INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

General Elections of 13 September 2026

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Stockholm, 14 September 2026

Nouvelle Perspective Suisse (NPS), an international non-governmental organization founded in 1990 and based in Morges, Switzerland, presents its preliminary statement following its international observation mission of the general elections held in the Kingdom of Sweden on 13 September 2026.

At the invitation of the Swedish electoral authority, Valmyndigheten, dated 2 July 2026, and in accordance with the accreditation issued under Certificate No. VAL 484-2026, NPS deployed an international election observation mission to Sweden.

The general elections comprised three ballots held on the same day:

- the legislative elections for the renewal of the Riksdag;
- the regional elections for the renewal of the regional assemblies;
- the municipal elections for the renewal of the municipal councils.

Guided by the motto “Justice – Work – Solidarity,” NPS has worked for more than three decades in support of peace, social justice, democracy and the protection of human rights. It holds special consultative status with the United Nations and conducts electoral and humanitarian expertise missions in accordance with the principles of independence, impartiality, neutrality, transparency and methodological rigour.

The mission to Sweden is led by His Excellency General Sékouba Konaté, with the support of Executive President Dr. Mathias NGUE. It draws on NPS's international experience, having conducted election observation missions in 77 countries and taken part in the observation of various democratic processes.

This statement is based exclusively on observations made in the polling stations visited. It therefore does not constitute a definitive assessment of the Swedish electoral process as a whole.

1. ELECTORAL FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

The general elections of 13 September 2026 took place within the constitutional and legal framework of the Kingdom of Sweden, a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy founded on political pluralism, universal suffrage, equal voting rights and respect for public freedoms.

The ballot combined three separate elections held simultaneously: the legislative elections to renew the Riksdag, Sweden's unicameral parliament, the regional elections to renew the regional assemblies, and the municipal elections to renew the municipal councils.

Practical organization relied on a decentralized arrangement involving Valmyndigheten, regional administrative authorities and municipalities, which were in particular responsible for setting up and operating the polling stations.

The mission took into account the specific features of the Swedish electoral system, including list voting, the possibility of expressing a preferential choice, advance voting arrangements, and the guarantees relating to accessibility, confidentiality and the integrity of the vote.

2. DEPLOYMENT AND PREPARATION OF THE MISSION

Upon its arrival in Stockholm, the NPS mission held discussions with the competent institutions, notably Valmyndigheten, as well as with several officials and stakeholders in the electoral process.

These meetings provided a better understanding of the legal, institutional and organizational framework of the three ballots, the coordination arrangements between the various levels of electoral administration, and the measures taken to guarantee the effective exercise of the right to vote.

The mission also reaffirmed the principles guiding its work: independence, impartiality, neutrality, non-interference, transparency, respect for national legislation, and consideration of international commitments relating to human rights and democratic elections.

3. PRE-ELECTION MISSION

Ahead of election day, a pre-election mission was conducted in several polling stations and voting locations.

It made it possible to examine the organizational conditions of the three elections, the accessibility of the premises, the information provided to voters, the availability of electoral materials, and the arrangements made to ensure the smooth conduct of operations.

Particular attention was paid to the participation conditions of elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with reduced mobility and any voter requiring specific assistance, as well as to the respect of the secrecy of the vote.

This phase also helped to assess the overall preparation of the process and to organize the deployment of observers on election day.

4. ELECTION DAY OBSERVATION

On 13 September 2026, NPS's international election observers and experts were deployed to several polling stations located in different areas of Swedish territory.

The polling stations observed opened at 08:00 and closed at 20:00, in accordance with the schedule set for the three ballots. The teams observed the main stages of the process, including:

- the opening of polling stations;
- the verification and setting up of electoral materials;
- the reception and guidance of voters;
- the identification of voters in accordance with applicable procedures;
- the presentation of ballot papers and lists for each of the three elections;
- the conduct of voting operations;
- respect for the secrecy of the vote;
- the accessibility of polling stations and the facilitation of participation by persons with reduced mobility;
- the presence and role of representatives of the various stakeholders;
- the closing of polling stations;
- and the initial stages of the count, where possible within the scope of the mandate.

In the polling stations observed, voting booths ensured the confidentiality of the choice expressed for the three elections. Measures intended to facilitate access and participation for persons with reduced mobility were also respected.

Observers gathered their information independently, following a methodology designed to ensure the objectivity, consistency and verifiability of findings.

5. INITIAL ASSESSMENTS

Based on the observations made, the NPS mission finds that the operations relating to the legislative, regional and municipal elections took place in an overall calm and orderly atmosphere, in keeping with electoral procedures.

The polling stations observed opened and closed at the scheduled times, at 08:00 and 20:00 respectively. No major obstacle to the access of international observers was noted in the polling stations visited.

The mission also finds that:

- polling stations were set up in appropriate and accessible premises;
- the electoral materials required for the three ballots were available;
- voters were received and guided in an orderly manner;
- the secrecy of the vote was guaranteed by appropriate voting booths;
- persons with reduced mobility benefited from measures facilitating their participation;
- polling staff demonstrated professionalism and a good command of procedures;
- the stakeholder representatives present were able to exercise their role within the applicable framework;
- no undue presence or intervention likely to compromise voters' freedom of choice was observed.

These findings are based solely on the polling stations visited and cannot automatically be generalized to the entire national territory.

The complete assessment will also need to take into account the pre-election period, the campaign, advance voting, election day, the separate counting of the three elections, the centralization of results, the handling of any complaints, and the official proclamation of results.

6. INTEGRITY OF THE PROCESS AND DEMOCRATIC ENVIRONMENT

The mission notes the existence, in Sweden, of an institutional environment characterized by the stability of public administrations, political pluralism, freedom of expression, and the participation of various actors in the three elections.

It highlights the importance of the transparency and oversight mechanisms provided for by the Swedish electoral system, notably the presence of party representatives, the decentralized organization of operations, the availability of advance voting, and the procedures for verifying and centralizing results.

Confidence in the electoral process also depends, however, on the clarity of public information, equal access to procedures, protection against any form of intimidation or undue influence, and the existence of accessible and effective avenues of appeal.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE MISSION

Nouvelle Perspective Suisse recalls that international election observation is not intended to substitute itself for national authorities, to certify results, or to pronounce prematurely on the outcome of the legislative, regional and municipal elections.

Its role is to observe, document and analyze the various stages of the electoral process in a spirit of independence and neutrality.

The mission encourages all political, electoral, institutional and civic actors to contribute to a peaceful, inclusive climate that respects democracy, the rule of law, fundamental freedoms, and the will expressed by voters.

It also invites the competent authorities to maintain clear and accessible public communication on the counting, centralization of results, and any dispute procedures specific to each election.

8. PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on its initial observations, the mission puts forward the following recommendations, grouped by theme.

Accessibility and Participation

- continue efforts to guarantee universal accessibility of polling stations and voting procedures;
- strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities, young people, women and other groups who may face obstacles in exercising their political rights;
- maintain measures facilitating the participation of persons with reduced mobility.

Voter Information

- strengthen information on the various participation arrangements, including voting on election day, advance voting and the rules applicable to preferential choice;

- provide clear information on the differences between the legislative, regional and municipal elections;
- maintain regular and accessible public communication on the electoral calendar.

Electoral Administration

- continue training electoral staff to ensure uniform application of procedures across all municipalities;
- preserve the guarantees relating to the secrecy of the vote and voters' freedom of choice;
- maintain the transparency and oversight mechanisms applicable to the three ballots.

Counting, Results and Appeals

- maintain clear and regular public information on the counting and centralization of the results of each ballot;
- guarantee the accessibility and effectiveness of complaint and appeal mechanisms;
- ensure accessible information on the dispute procedures specific to each election.

Integrity of the Process

- continue measures to prevent and combat any form of intimidation, discrimination, disinformation or interference in the electoral process;
- protect voters' freedom of choice and prevent any undue influence.

9. NEXT STEPS AND POST-ELECTION ENGAGEMENT

The NPS mission will continue to consolidate the reports of its observers and experts deployed in the field.

A final statement and a comprehensive mission report will be prepared following analysis of all the information gathered, in accordance with NPS's election observation methodology.

This report will take into account the entire electoral cycle, including the separate counting operations for the legislative, regional and municipal elections, the centralization of results, the handling of any complaints, and the lessons that can be drawn from each of the three ballots.

Nouvelle Perspective Suisse thanks the Swedish authorities, Valmyndigheten, the regional and municipal administrations, electoral officials, polling station staff, stakeholder representatives, and all the actors it met for their cooperation.

NPS reaffirms its commitment to contributing, in accordance with its mandate and independence, to the promotion of transparent, inclusive, credible elections that are in keeping with democratic principles.

Nouvelle Perspective Suisse (NPS)
International Election Observation Mission – Sweden 2026

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