



# **Toward functioning international cooperation for sustainable cities**

Swedish experience with  
international city networks

# Agenda

- Lessons learned from the government mission Global Sustainable Cities Network – Albin Carlén
- Lessons learned from Alliance for urban sustainability – Karin Fant
- Lessons learned successful networking – Karin Fant
- Challenges ahead – Albin Carlén

# The Swedish cities



# GSCN: Lessons learned

The GSCN provided a platform for cities around the globe to share knowledge and experience, collaborating with the aim of making major strides toward achieving sustainable cities.

## Participants



China



Denmark



Finland



Sweden



United Arab  
Emirates

# Alliance for urban sustainability – lessons learned

- ***Concept notes developed on***
  - *Engaging citizens*
  - *Innovation gateways*
  - *Equity and environmental justice*
  - *Scaling up energy efficiency retrofits*
- ***Cities develop and lead sessions***
  - *Freedom and responsibility*
- ***Alliance must help cities solve their regular tasks***

# Successful networking

- ✓ Consult target audience early on – engage cities at idea stage
- ✓ Make sure that all stakeholders have the same idea about where things are going
- ✓ City-driven and city-defined network, but national coordination is a must.
- ✓ Allocate resources and give it time
- ✓ Long-term effort.

# Challenges ahead

- ✓ Cities drive agenda, ownership
- ✓ Relevant, regular meet-ups
- ✓ Continuity in representation from the cities
- ✓ Financing for projects and international meetings
- ✓ Contexts: Making examples relevant
- ✓ Consultant driven

# Questions

- What are your experiences with running city networks?
- What are your experiences when engaging public and private stakeholders in learning/collaboration?