



## Stefan Löfven

### POLITICIAN

Boards are operating inside a security and trade order that no longer behaves as it did. Sanctions regimes, supply exposure, and great-power friction now sit on the executive agenda, yet most leadership teams have no first-hand reference for how governments actually decide under that pressure. The gap between corporate scenario decks and the rooms where these decisions get made has rarely been wider.

Stefan Löfven is a former Prime Minister of Sweden who chairs SIPRI and co-chairs the UN advisory board on multilateral reform, advising boards on geopolitical risk, security and the future of cooperation between states.

## Stefan Löfven's 2026 Biography

### Why organisations work with Stefan Löfven

- Direct head-of-government experience of running a minority coalition through migration shock, terror response, the pandemic, and a vote of no confidence, useful for boards weighing political risk in their own operating geographies.
- Chair of SIPRI, the institute whose annual data on military expenditure, arms transfers and conflict is the reference set used by foreign ministries and defence analysts globally.
- Co-Chair of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, which produced the 2023 report A Breakthrough for People and Planet on reforming global governance.
- Co-led, with Cyril Ramaphosa, the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, the body whose 2019 report shaped the ILO Centenary Declaration on labour standards and social protection.
- Career rooted on the factory floor as a welder and union leader, which gives a credibility on labour, industrial policy and the social contract that very few former heads of state can claim.

### Biography highlights

- Prime Minister of Sweden, 2014 to 2021, across two coalition governments.
- Chair of the Governing Board, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), since 2022.
- Co-Chair, UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, 2022 to 2023.
- Co-Chair, ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, with President Cyril Ramaphosa.
- President, Party of European Socialists, elected 2022.

### AVAILABLE FOR

- Speaking

### STEFAN'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Change Management
- ESG Strategy
- Future of Work
- Geopolitics
- Leadership
- Political Risk & Policy
- Scenario Planning & Strategic Foresight

### LANGUAGES: English

- Resident Fellow, Institute of Politics, Harvard Kennedy School, Fall 2022.

## **Biography**

The seven years of Löfven's premiership covered the European migration crisis, a fatal terror attack on central Stockholm, a vote of no confidence that briefly removed him from office, and the COVID-19 response in a country that diverged from most of its neighbours on lockdown policy. Few European leaders held office continuously across that span. Fewer still did so while running minority governments dependent on votes from across the political spectrum.

That experience is the foundation of the international roles he now holds. As Chair of SIPRI's Governing Board since 2022, he sits over the institute that produces the data foreign ministries rely on for arms transfers, military spending, and conflict trends. As Co-Chair, with Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, of the UN High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, he led the 2023 report *A Breakthrough for People and Planet*, which set out concrete reforms to the global financial architecture and the UN system itself.

The labour and industrial dimension of his work is harder to fake. Trained as a welder at Hagglunds and active in the Swedish Metalworkers' Union from his twenties, he became the first president of IF Metall in 2006 before entering elected politics. That background is why the ILO chose him, with Cyril Ramaphosa, to co-chair its Global Commission on the Future of Work, and why the Global Deal he launched in 2016 with the OECD and ILO is built around social dialogue rather than purely fiscal levers.

For audiences, what travels is the practical weight of having held the line on multilateral cooperation when the politics moved against it, and the clarity that comes from briefing other heads of state, not from observing them.

## **Key speaking topics**

- Geopolitical risk and the rules-based order
- Multilateral cooperation and UN reform
- Crisis leadership in coalition government
- Future of work and the social contract
- European political alignment and the rise of the populist right
- Industrial policy and the labour market
- Peace, security and disarmament

## **Ideal for**

- Boards and executive teams scoping geopolitical exposure, sanctions risk, and operating decisions in a fracturing global order.
- CHRO and policy leaders working on the social contract, labour standards, and the future of work agenda.
- Government affairs, sustainability, and ESG functions tracking multilateral reform and UN-level policy direction.
- Senior leadership audiences at financial institutions, defence and dual-use industries with direct exposure to peace, security and arms-control data.

## Audience outcomes

- A first-hand account of how a head of government weighs political risk, security, and economic exposure inside the same decision.
- A clearer reading of where multilateral institutions are likely to bend, break, or reform over the next cycle.
- A grounded view of the European political map, including the rise of the populist right and its operating consequences.
- An informed perspective on labour, social dialogue and the future of work from a leader who has lived both sides of the table.
- Confidence that the briefing reflects current institutional reality, not commentary from the outside.

## Stefan Löfven's Videos

