Statement on Israel’s decision concerning settlement units on occupied territory

The Swedish Government strongly condemns the Israeli announcements made of plans for a total of more than 6 000 settlement units on occupied territory. The settlements constitute a flagrant violation of international law and contravene Security Council resolution 2334 on Israeli settlements, adopted on 23 December 2016.

In the resolution, the Security Council repeated its demand that Israel immediately freeze all settlement activity. The issue was discussed again in the Security Council on 25 January under the Swedish Presidency. The international community is united is its view that the settlements are illegal, and a serious impediment to the two-state solution. The announcements also contravene the express recommendations made to the parties by the Quartet (UN, EU, US and Russia).

The fact that some of the settlement units are planned in East Jerusalem is highly problematic. As long ago as 1947, Jerusalem was given a special legal and political status by the UN, which all countries should respect. It is important not to pre-empt the results of peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine, and to protect Jerusalem's future status as the shared capital of two states.