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Berit Olsson has been the Director of the Department for Research Cooperation, SAREC, at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency since 1999. She was responsible for formulating the Sida policy for university support in the early 90s and directs the current orientation of bilateral support in line with national strategies for research. Before joining SAREC, she taught Endodontics at Lund University and was a visiting professor at the University of Connecticut. She wrote her PhD on Oral Health in Ethiopia and has carried out research in Mozambique and Sudan.