

Opening statement by Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden, at the High-level Panel Expert Policy Dialogue on Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda 26 February 2013.

- First let me say that I am very grateful that so many of you could **make it to this important event.**

- The Millennium Declaration and the current MDGs was a **unique achievement** in terms of generating a “compact among nations”. 189 states at the time signed up to the aspirations captured therein.

- Through identifying a limited number of clear, measurable and easily understood goals, **the global community was able to mobilise a strong commitment to the attainment of these goals.**

- As we review the development agenda, one issue that has come up is the **importance of paying attention to *how* the development ambitions can be realized.** In its review of the MDG-framework, the UN Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda highlighted the importance of a number of key *enablers* which could facilitate development.

- **Migration is among these enablers or means towards development.**

- The Secretary-General has also highlighted that **this is a critical time for exploring how migration can be mainstreamed into the future development agenda.**

- **In my role as a member of the High-level Panel, I have therefore called this meeting today, to explore this issue.**

- Sweden feels a **particular responsibility for raising this issue**, not only because of the firm commitment to drawing on migration for an equitable and sustainable development in our own Policy for Global Development, but also because of **our current Chairmanship of the GFMD**, which gives us an important role in the international dialogue on migration and development – this is something that my colleague Minister Billström will address in more detail.

- To be brief, I would just like to say **some words about the importance of migration for development**, particularly the economic and social dimensions.

- **Economically**, migration influences and contributes to a number of structural factors, such as labour markets; levels of, and distribution of income; financial markets; investment and trade as well as balance of payments.
- This happens through **labour market matching, financial remittances** as well as **social networks generated through migration**.
- **Socially**, migration also affects a number of core aspects. These include access to health, education, housing as well as gender relations and social protection.
- Through **circular migration** skills are brought back to sectors that may suffer skills shortages, such as health and education. **Remittances** allow children to be enrolled into school and health bills to be covered and by **entering the global labour market**, women can make advances closed to them at home.
- However, the picture isn't entirely rosy. **Migration can also bring about stress on the migrants, their families and affected societies**. Migrants can end up in vulnerable positions, where they are **exploited** by human smugglers, unscrupulous recruitment agents or employers. They risk facing xenophobia and many families spend years apart. Unsuccessful integration can lead to **tensions in host societies**. Some countries of origin also suffer **skills shortages** in critical sectors such as education and health at certain points in time.
- To me, it is clear, therefore, that in order to effectively work towards the development objectives we set ourselves, we need to consider migration. **How we can maximize the benefits of migration and minimize its negative implications for the goals we want to achieve**.
- I believe that including migration in the post-2015 development agenda would **go a long way towards mainstreaming migration in development analysis and plans of developing countries, donor agencies as well as other development actors** like the UN and other International Organizations.
- If you allow me, let me share some **preliminary thoughts on how migration may be included in the post-2015 development agenda**.
- The current MDG 8 includes some instrumental means towards development (such as trade, debt relief, financing of development etc), which are referred to as "global partnerships". In a future development agenda **migration could be recognized as one such partnership – this could be relevant at a national, regional and global level**.

- For a migration partnership to be effective, it would need to be accompanied by **concrete targets**, for example: **reduction of remittance transfer costs; reduction of costs of migration** (including e.g. recruitment, documentation and travel); **increased portability of assets** accrued by migrants (savings, property, pensions, qualifications, work experience)

- Such a partnership would need to have **explicit links to the development goals**. Perhaps this could provide part of the answer to the broader question of how to integrate enablers in general.

- As mentioned, **migration has been identified as a key enabler of development**. Our understanding is that this would entail, first that **the contribution of migration is recognized in the narrative**, that is, in the equivalence of today's Millennium Declaration. Beyond this, one would expect that such **enablers would be recognized at the level of targets and indicators for any future development goals**.

- This could imply **targets/indicators for the contribution of remittances to levels of income, to school completion rates, to health outcomes, or social protection** etc. It could also imply targets or indicators for the **contribution of labour migration to access to decent work, to empowerment of women** etc.

- In short, a partnership approach to integrating enablers such as migration into the post-2015 development agenda could entail looking at **both linear and cross-cutting targets and indicators**.

- My hope is that today's discussions will **generate more concrete ideas of how migration could be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda**, which we can share with our colleagues in the High-level Panel. Looking across the room and acknowledging the width and depth of the expertise present, I feel quite confident that we will succeed in this regard.

- **Thank you!**