

Opening statement by Tobias Billström, Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy of Sweden, at the High-level Panel Expert Policy Dialogue on Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda 26 February 2013.

- As you know, Sweden is currently **chairing the Global Forum on Migration and Development**. We assumed this Chairmanship in January this year and will continue as such until the end of June 2014.

- As we see it, our Chairmanship for the GFMD places a **special responsibility on us to promote policy coherence within these two policy areas**. This is also an overarching theme for our Chairmanship.

- We have the ambition to **strengthen the development focus of the GFMD** during our Chairmanship. To this effect, we have focused our proposed programme on two key development dimensions: inclusive economic development and inclusive social development.

- To promote policy coherence, we have proposed a dedicated overarching roundtable theme on integrating migration in global, regional and national development agendas. A **specific roundtable for the May 2014 Forum meeting has been suggested on “framing migration for the MDGs and the post-2015 UN development agenda”**.

- This **builds on the outcomes from the last forum meeting of the GFMD in Mauritius**, which stressed that it is high time that to act to ensure that migration is integrated in the future development agenda.

- As you know this is also on the agenda of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which has a roundtable dedicated to **migration in the post-2015 development agenda**.

- My belief is that inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda would also **encourage improved coordination among international organizations, especially those in the Global Migration Group**, as they engage with the post-2015 agenda, at a global as well as at a national level through the UN Country Teams.

- Ultimately this could **contribute to an improved multilateral governance of migration**. As you know this is also on the agenda of the High-level Dialogue in October.

- Returning to the substance of our GFMD Chairmanship, **I would like to say a few words on the migration angle**.

- Development is highlighted as an explicit goal of Sweden's migration policy and is closely linked to the migration issues that are of priority for the Swedish government - namely **mobility and development**.

- The **process of globalization and reduced travel and communication costs**, as well as an increasingly globalized labour market have made **temporary and circular migration an increasingly attractive and common option for international migrants**.

- The **traditional perception that migration involves moving from one place to another**, where the migrant intends to stay permanently, **has proven to be increasingly inadequate to describe the migration patterns of our time**.

- At the same time, it has been apparent that **many migrants want to remain active in the development of their countries of origin** and that migrants can contribute with new skills and knowledge, increased trade flows and investments. Therefore - **enabling legislative frameworks that facilitate mobility are important**.

- In Sweden, an **independent Parliamentary Committee on Migration and Development** has examined the link between circular migration and development, with the task to map out circular migration and identify factors that influence migrants' opportunities to circulate. The Committee has made a number of proposals for legislative changes as well as other recommendations. The proposals are currently being reviewed within the Government Offices.

- During our Chairmanship in the GFMD, we aim at **enhancing the development impacts of labour migration and circular mobility through more systematic labour market and skills matching**.

- Let me finally say a few words about the EU-cooperation. Sweden is also an **active participant in EU-cooperation regarding migration and development**.

- **At the EU-level, maximising the development impact of migration is a core element of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility**, which is the overall framework of the EU external migration policy.

- The EU has **gained a lot of experience from the work undertaken on the Global Approach, most notably in the regional dialogues and within the Mobility Partnerships**.

- With these words, I would like to end by saying that it is **with great anticipation that we look forward to today's discussions** on this issue.

- **Thank you!**