



***Anförande vid sidoevenetet *Inclusion of Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Global Partnerships, Targets & Indicators*, tisdag 10 dec, kl 8.15-9.30, Conference Room 7, North Lawn Building, FN New York***

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Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We know that **migration contributes to development and it reduces poverty for migrant households** on an extraordinary scale. Indeed, in his report to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Secretary-General of the United Nations clarifies that **migration has been instrumental in achieving a number of the Millennium Development Goals**. Most directly, this happens through higher earning potentials and the hundreds of billions of dollars remitted each year, which are often invested in education, health and housing, but also through filling needs on the labour market, encouraging trade and investment between countries as well as transferring knowledge, skills and ideas between urban and rural areas and across countries as transnational networks are formed.

At the same time, the **current state of governance and policy development on migration exposes migrants to vulnerabilities**.

Together with their families, migrants bear a heavy burden, including exorbitant fees paid to recruitment middlemen to secure a job; discrimination, rights violations, debt bondage, and trafficking; and long separations or break-ups of families. In the absence of legal migration

opportunities, too many migrants risk their lives and well-being attempting dangerous border crossings.

In order to realize the full potential of mobility and avoid the pitfalls, for migrants as well as states, there is a **growing need for governments and development actors to fully incorporate migration in their analysis, planning and programming**. Yet as highlighted in the Secretary General's report for the High-level Dialogue, only a few national development plans include migration.

As a result, **many potential gains are left on the table, due to poor policies**. The inadequacy of mechanisms to match supply and demand for labour across borders, and the problem of non-recognition of foreign qualifications, deprive migrants of opportunities and inhibit development in countries of origin and destination. Non-portability of pension rights prevents mobility and deprives migrants who choose to return to their countries of origin after retirement of their earned entitlements. Last year migrants and members of the diaspora remitted over USD 400 billion to developing countries. Yet with transaction costs averaging approximately 9 per cent, large sums are lost. If this cost could be reduced by five percentage points as per the commitment of the G20, this could release another USD 20 billion to migrants' families in developing countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the list is long and I could go on, but I believe the message is clear. **By improving the *quality* of mobility, we can profoundly improve human development outcomes for migrants, their families, local communities, and countries.** *How* migration is governed—the conditions under which migrants move, live, and work—will determine what kind of outcomes can be achieved, and thus our ability to achieve a number of the goals that we set ourselves in the agenda to come. **As no country can manage international migration alone, this calls for international cooperation and policy**

**coordination.** Migration thus belongs in the next Global Partnership for Development.

**Sweden therefore believes that migration and mobility should be included in the elaboration of a post-2015 global partnership** with the aim of improving the *quality* of mobility. In short, what we are looking for is a cooperative international migration system that is less costly and more productive for all stakeholders. I would welcome your views on how migration can be included in the post 2015 development framework; such as on enhancing the portability of skills and earned social security benefits, reducing the costs of remittances and of recruitment, and combatting discrimination.

Ladies and gentlemen, in closing, I would like to make reference to **Sweden's Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.** By including migration in the elaboration of a new global partnership post-2015, we can unlock the potential that migration holds for inclusive development. This is the over-arching theme of our Chairmanship and we have dedicated a roundtable specifically to the issue of including migration in the post-2015 development agenda. A Government Team is currently preparing the ground for this discussion and we are hopeful that it will result in a strong recommendation to include migration in our future development agenda.

With these words, I hand over to our Moderator, Mr Michael Doyle and the distinguished panel, which, I am sure will make a strong case for the Open Working Group to give migration the attention it deserves in the continued deliberations.

Thank you!