

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

CLOSING SPEECH

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Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by **thanking you** for having made this GFMD Forum Meeting a success.

I have not had the luxury of attending all discussions in detail, but I have heard from my staff and other colleagues that you have **had very fruitful discussions** on critical areas of migration and development.

At the High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development, it was clear that **a lot of progress had been in terms of the common understanding of the importance of migration for development**. This was reflected not least through the adoption of a declaration which acknowledged the important contribution of migration in realizing the Millennium Development Goals and recognized that human mobility should be adequately considered in the post-2015 development agenda.

Throughout these days, and indeed **the 18 months of the Swedish Chairmanship of the GFMD, we have shared experiences of policies, practices and lessons learnt in the area of migration and development**.

These discussions have **further built the understanding of the essential role that migration plays for core aspects of economic and social development:**

- How policy-makers can enhance the contribution of migration to **inclusive economic development** by facilitating labour market matching and skills

recognition as well as encouraging diaspora engagement for trade, investment and skills transfers.

- With regards to **skills recognition, we heard for example of a regional initiative to facilitate this in the gulf region.**

- States and other stakeholders have also shared what they have done to **empower migrants and protect their human rights.** Similarly, we have explored how the voluntary contributions of migrants to health and education can bring about more positive outcomes in these critical areas of **social development.**

For example have heard very practical examples for Zambia on how they have worked with evidence based policies to retain and attract back skilled health professionals which is critical for the country's health system.

Through crafting **coherent policies in the area of migration and development, it is indeed clear that we can release the capabilities of migrants** to become even stronger agents of development. This is how we unlock the potential of migration!

To promote policy coherence in this area, these exchanges of experiences have examined **how we can mainstream migration in national development planning.** As highlighted by the UN Secretary General at the High-level Dialogue, there is a need for national development strategies and plans to include migration to a greater degree. This will allow governments and other development stakeholder to analyse, plan for and act upon the opportunities and challenges that migration brings for development.

In his opening speech here two days ago, **the UN Secretary General again stressed the importance of including migration in the post-2015 development agenda.**

This is indeed one clear way of encouraging policy coherence in the fields of migration and development. I am therefore glad that we have had constructive

discussions on this issue over the course of the GFMD Meeting and I am happy to hear that the incoming Turkish Chair of the GFMD is committed to taking this issue forward.

In closing, I would like to thank all those that have made this meeting a success, in particular Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje and her Secretariat, the volunteers and all others who have assisted with the meeting. Last, but not least, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank all of you, delegates, who have engaged so openly in the discussions, and for your efforts and strong support during our Chairmanship!

Thank you!