



Ministry for Foreign Affairs Sweden

Remarks by State Secretary Ulrika Modéer on Migration and Development in the context of the 2030 Agenda at the EBA seminar “Migration and Foreign Aid”

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We know that migration is a driver of human progress and development. When people migrate, they improve their own lives, while also bringing benefits to both their host society and their country of origin (the “triple-win”).

At the same time, we face significant challenges. There are 65 million people displaced worldwide. The number of wars and conflicts are increasing, as are the humanitarian needs. Climate change can aggravate existing tensions and divisions within and between communities.

Migration is one of the defining phenomena of our time.

It is therefore suitable that migration is addressed in and cuts across several of the SDGs and the policies of the Addis Abeba Action Agenda.

These commitments can be summarised as three overarching objectives:

- (1) To promote the positive development effects of *safe, orderly, regular, and responsible migration* (SDG 10.7),
- (2) To guarantee migrants’ human rights and to protect vulnerable migrants,

(3) To ensure that people migrate out of choice and not out of necessity, i.e. address the root causes of forced migration.

As you may know, we recently released our new Policy Framework for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid. The Policy Framework is grounded in the SDGs and has a specific chapter on migration and development. Since migration issues cut across many policy areas, we also rely on our Policy for Global Development (PGU), which establishes that all policy areas are together jointly responsible for the overall goal of contributing to fair and sustainable global development.

Similar efforts are underway within the EU, where we are preparing a revised European Consensus for Development.

In terms of positive development effects, we need to promote remittances and other contributions from the diaspora.

Remittances constitute more than three times the volume of official development assistance. However, many countries have a long way to go to reach the SDG of less than 3 percent transfer costs of remittances. Regrettably, Sweden is one of these countries. In order to encourage competition among banks and businesses, the Swedish Government has created a website – Money from Sweden –that allows users to compare transfer costs. As a report by the Swedish Consumer Agency has demonstrated, there are already some positive results.

Members of diaspora communities contribute to skills transfers and transfers of social norms, ideas and behaviors. They also make investments and promote trade between countries of origin and destination. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, supports Forum Syd's work with the Somali diaspora. This work promotes the transfer of business skills and entrepreneurship to Somalia, as well as raises the awareness of women and youth about their rights and prospects.

Human rights and access to the opportunities of their host societies are essential to the empowerment of migrants. In the 2030 Agenda, we have

committed to protecting the rights of all migrants, including migrant workers' rights. We need to promote migrants' access to employment and education, and ensure that they receive humane treatment regardless of migration status.

It is imperative to mainstream gender. The situations and needs of women and girls may look very different from those of their male counterparts. Sweden actively works through humanitarian, development, and political channels to comprehensively address the root causes as well as consequences of forced migration, emphasizing the rights, resources and representation of all women. For instance, Sweden funds the Women's Learning Partnership, which gives regional support to Syrian women. We also support PHAMESA, an IOM project, which provides health services to female migrants.

Likewise, we must consider the needs and rights of children in a migration context. For instance, Sida works with the Partnership for Education to support the education of displaced children and youth. Even if they remain at home, the children of migrant workers suffer from the absence of their parents. Sida collaborates with Save the Children in China, creating spaces and opportunities for migrant workers to see their children.

Addressing what are usually seen as the root causes of displacement is in many ways the *raison d'être* of all international development cooperation. By bolstering the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, and democracy, while also promoting employment and education opportunities, we can support our partners' efforts to ensure that people feel safe and can make a living in their home communities.

Another important component is conflict prevention, as well as peace-building and state-building. The experiences from the international dialogue on peace-building and state-building are important to use in the implementation of the Sustaining Peace resolution and of the 2030 Agenda. Women's involvement is necessary to ensure sustainable and lasting peace. The promotion of gender equality is not only a matter of women's rights, but a matter of ensuring peace and security for all.

We must also make the most of the synergies between humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation. Last year, Sweden launched a USD 200 million development strategy for the Syria crisis, seeking to support both Syrian refugees and host communities by strengthening local capacity, as well as by addressing gender-based violence.

In conclusion, we need to make sure that migration is a choice, not a necessity, and that migrants are allowed to access education, employment, and the services of their host societies. The empowerment of migrants generates enormous potential in terms of remittances and engagement through the diaspora, which in turn contribute to sustainable development.

To deliver on our commitments, we need to fully integrate migration and refugee analyses into the way we think about international development cooperation, but also make sure that different policy areas work together to promote these common goals.