



**Ministry of Justice**  
Division for Migration and Asylum Policy

Thematic consultation 4: *Migration and development*

**Panel 1: Contributions of migrants to all dimensions of sustainable development: the linkages between migration and development**

- Sweden aligns itself with the statement by the EU on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
- We place great value on the development effects of migrants and migration.
- Development is an explicit goal of our migration policy and our development cooperation promotes the development effects of migration.
- Through our Policy for Global Development all policy areas are tasked with promoting the overall goal a fair and sustainable global development.
- As we implement the political commitments in the 2030 Agenda, the Global Compact on Migration should help us integrate migration analyses into our international development cooperation, and help us understand how our migration policy affects development.
- In terms of migration policy, Sweden has one of the more open and demand-driven labour migration policies in the OECD.
- We combine this with efforts to prevent social dumping, exploitation and abuse and we have taken measures to facilitate circular migration through legal frameworks that enable people to move in and out of Sweden without losing their residence permits.
- This enables migrants and diasporas to maintain ties with their countries of origin, establish businesses, engage in trade and transfer knowledge and ideas.
- This is good for migrants, it is good for Sweden and it is good for the country of origin.

- Frameworks that facilitate regular movements should therefore be part and parcel of the Global Compact.
- The links between migration and development can be seen at the national, sub-regional, regional, and global levels. It is therefore important to mainstream migration into our development cooperation at these respective levels.
- Sweden mainstreams migration into our development cooperation by considering context-specific challenges and opportunities in relevant bilateral strategies, while also setting up regional objectives linked to migration in our Strategy for regional development cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- We also connect migration issues with other issues of global relevance for our thematic strategies, such as economic development as well as health and education.
- We value and support the work of the IOM Development Fund, which helps countries harness the development potential of migration.
- Moreover, IOM's experience is an important source of policy expertise. Sweden would like to see this enhanced and given a more prominent role in the follow-up to the Global Compact. In view of this, Sweden recently announced an expanded core contribution to IOM for 2017.

**Panel 2: Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development: enabling frameworks for contributions**

- Sweden aligns itself with the statement by the EU on behalf of the EU and its MS.
- When people migrate, they improve their own lives, while also bringing benefits to both their host society and their country of origin.
- The empowerment of migrants generates enormous potential in terms of remittances and engagement through the diaspora, which contribute to sustainable development.
- In order to achieve this, legal frameworks that safeguard the human rights of migrants need to be in place and implemented.
- The inclusion of migrants in their host societies is a pre-requisite for their positive contribution to sustainable development. Promoting this inclusion may require capacity-building of both state actors and NGOs, especially in developing countries.
- Initiatives that promote economic opportunities for migrants and host populations can create a platform for inclusion.

- The World Bank's Global Concessional Financing Facility is a great example of innovative financing which supports and empowers refugees and their host communities to contribute to sustainable development.
- While the Facility is geared towards communities that have received a large number of *refugees*, it is a source of ideas and lessons learnt for other similar mechanisms, possibly also for the Global Compact on Migration.
- Members of the diaspora 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.
- Sweden supports work with the Somali diaspora.
- The objectives are to promote the transfer of business skills and entrepreneurship to Somalia, as well as raise the awareness of women and youth about their rights and prospects.
- The programme has strengthened the role of the diaspora as change agents in the development of Somalia by making use of their knowledge, skills and capacities. An assessment of the programme confirmed the importance of a participatory approach as well as of basing projects on local needs.
- Our experience has shown that collaborating strategically and coherently with a large number of diaspora groups can be challenging. The diaspora groups may also need capacity-building on results-based management, conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm, as well as risk analysis.
- In conclusion, migrants and diasporas can make significant contributions to sustainable development, but enabling frameworks and other support is often required to reap these benefits. We need to see the opportunities but also address these obstacles in the GCM.

### **Panel 3: Remittances and portability of earned benefits**

- Sweden aligns itself with the statement by the EU on behalf of the EU and its MS.
- The hundreds of billions of dollars that migrants send back to their loved ones in countries of origin is the most visible manifestation of the linkages between migration and development.
- These remittance flows raise the levels of income of families in low income countries and contribute to investments in health, education and housing.

- They can also contribute to the macro economic development of the countries to which they are sent.
- Remittances are private funds earned through the efforts of private individuals.
- They are therefore also a manifestation of migrants' labour in the countries of destination.
- A primary concern to raise the levels of remittances is therefore to enable migrants – and members of their families – to work in their host societies.
- It is equally important that this work takes place under decent working conditions, without exploitation or discrimination.
- We must also deliver on the commitments in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to make remittances cheaper and make them more productive.
- Women tend to prioritise investments in the family wellbeing to a greater extent, and remit a greater proportion of their earnings than their male counter-parts.
- At the same time, women tend to face greater challenges to access financial services.
- It is therefore important that efforts to expand financial literacy, access and services – as set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – are designed to meet the needs of women.
- To reduce the costs of remittances, the Swedish Government tasked its Consumer Agency to set up an online service that compares the fees and exchange rates for transfers abroad.
- The mission of this website to find the best and fastest deals for remittance senders.
- The online service is free, independent of all market players and is certified by the World Bank to meet the requirements of a national price database.
- Through this initiative, the Government promotes transparency and fair competition in the transfer market.
- It further promotes greater awareness among migrants about the important role they play in the development in many parts of the world by sending remittances.
- Together we should explore how the Global Compact could facilitate these and other types of initiatives that could reduce the costs of remittances and make them more productive.