

Circular migration can boost development. Let me take my own country as an example. A hundred years ago more than a million Swedes left my country to go to America. The main reason for people leaving was poverty. Sweden was a poor, rural country at that time. But every fourth person came back home. They made an important contribution to development in both Sweden and America.

More research is needed to determine which conditions can promote voluntary returns and to ensure that their impact on development is positive. The Swedish historical example is interesting because it shows that circular migration can promote development. There are many examples in today's world that merits further attention. We should make it easier for people to move - and move back home.

I am very proud when I meet, or read about, Swedish citizens around the world, working either as ministers, parliamentarians or as entrepreneurs. They came to our country as refugees. They are returning home, building a new future in their country of origin. They are a very important part of a reconstruction and reconciliation.

They have two home countries.

Mr. Chairperson,

Remittances provide relief to poor individuals, families and communities. Also more indirectly, remittances can support a more vibrant economy by expanding job markets. But this is also an area where more coherence is needed. Too much money is lost on the way. Efforts are needed to reduce the transaction costs and facilitate the flows, as well as enhancing the development effects of remittances.

I also believe that remittances should be part of a development strategy. Governments should consider how to reinforce the development impact of remittances. Having said this I would like to underline that remittances are, and should remain, private flows. Remittances – irrespective of volume – must never be an excuse for a reduction in development assistance, nor should they be subject to taxation.

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To achieve this we need orderly migration. It should support and be supported by the international human

Sweden hopes that the outcome of the High Level Dialogue will focus on the positive impacts of migration on poverty reduction and development. By considering migration as an integral part of the development agenda, an important step is taken towards the ultimate goal that migrants should migrate out of choice rather than necessity.

During the High Level Dialogue, I hope that the focus will be on identifying common interests based on the fact that today all countries are countries of