

**Statement by Jan O. Karlsson  
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Thank you Chair. When you were told that no scripts were handed over to the panellists, I just have to confirm that puts me in this very awkward position that I have to tell you from my own sources what I think about this. And I will listen with great interest to what is said. My background to address this issue – Migration in a Globalized World – is my former station in life, which was to be member of the Swedish Government as Minister for Migration and Development, a combination that is astonishingly enough, you might say, not very common. I did not meet any colleague in fact who was the same, had the same combination. And this is interesting because I think that the linkage between migration and development, which is in fact what I was dealing with for 21 months in the Swedish Government, is something that lies very close to the subject of this discussion. When we were preparing in the Swedish Foreign Office for a new bill to Parliament on development cooperation, we came across the figures that have also been published since then about the size of remittances from the diasporas sent back to the home country from people working abroad, from migrants and we made a comparison with – and this was right after the Monterrey Conference and the Monterrey Consensus, where this was not mentioned by the way, although it should have been. We found that the sum of ODA (the Official Development Assistance) at that time was between 50 and 55 billion dollars a year. While remittances, according to the latest, informed guesses by the United Nations, was somewhere between 80 and 100 billion dollars. That is remittances, the sweat money that people working abroad are sending home to their families or firms, and it is twice as big as the official development aid. This is a figure of dramatic importance and it was for us, as we were at that time prepared to go to our Parliament and propose a new development policy. In that policy we did not so much talk about how higher of a percentage of the GDP that we were going to give to official development aid, but rather how to link this aid to other parts of public policy and we found that it was of absolutely decisive importance also to bring into the bill of development cooperation the aspect of migration.

Last week I participated in this room in fact, in a conference arranged by the IOM, the OECD and the World Bank on Trade and Migration. What we were specifically discussing at that conference, was the impact of the general agreement on the transfer of service and trade of services, which in itself also means a component of migration, that is the movement of the service provided. And it was of course in many ways a cultural shock, where those people who are spending their lives bargaining about customs duties and other elements of trade policy, were to see those people who are regulating migration. And they looked at each as people from different planets. But after three days it seems that they were coming across that these linkages between trade and migration are extremely important. These linkages, I think, is one of the reasons why, if you ask about what the most important, most burning issue when you discuss questions of globalization today in the western world, in the rich world, in the developing world notwithstanding, I would say that many people would say it is migration. Migration not only in itself but also as a key to development issues, as a key to trade, as a key to security, not the least after September 11<sup>th</sup>. And these linkages is what makes migration today such a burning issue, and such an important element in the analysis and the managing of a world that is becoming more and more globalized. Also, the demand by different parts of the world for the full effects of globalization, so as not to be marginalized rather than globalized.

Last May, as Minister for Migration and Development, representatives of the Secretary General of the United Nations approached me. Michael Doyle and his collaborators were presenting to us the preliminary findings of what is now known as the Doyle Report, that is the report by collaborators to the Secretary General on migration issues. The perspective offered there was dramatic and I must confess that many of the things that were put to me then, I could also recognize from being, for instance, a member of the Justice and Home Affairs Council of the European Union. That is a situation of increased frustration in developing countries because of the brain drain, when people are searching for jobs in the rich world and at the same time, frustration in the developed world because of the problems created by the failures of asylum policies and also the almost dramatic contradiction between the present political situation in, especially I would say western Europe, of the increase xenophobia which is being scared of more migration and the politically based demands to limit migration on one hand and the knowledge that for pure demographic reasons, it is obvious that the need for importation of foreign labour will be enormous in say 5 to 10 years. So it means that, both from the point of view of balanced growth in the already developed world, where politically migration is based on demands to limit migration on one hand, but on the other hand it is based on the knowledge that for pure demographic reasons, the need in five to ten years for the implementation of foreign labour will be enormous.

It means both from the point of view of balanced growth in the already developed world and the possibility to arrange for a reasonable share of the benefits of globalization in the developing world, migration offers can be a key issue. And that was also the message of the Doha Report and that was the conclusion made by a few governments, of which mine was one. The invitation from the Secretary General to take an initiative to bring these issues forward, in an independent way, and these signals would have to be responded to in a positive way. Now, we are about, and I personally as you know, are closely involved in the efforts to form an independent Commission, a Global Commission on international migration, and I hope that in a month's time we will be able to present the results of the first work that is to form this commission.

The only things that I think is really worrying, are not the perspectives that I have right now talked about, that is of course dramatically, important issues and difficult tasks to address, challenges to respond to, but what fills me with anxiety is the expectations that might be directed towards this initiative. I have to underline that what we are up against is perhaps one of the most important paradigm shifts that our time will see, and we have seen many important changes, the downfall of communism in Eastern Europe, the dismantling of the apartheid system in South Africa. Many dramatic and important things have come about in our time. We have also seen a shift of paradigm in the view of how environmental issues should be addressed by mankind. This has also taken place in the last 20 – 30 years, and I also think that migration, as an element in human development, the growth of mankind and in the continuation of the economic and social development of this world, will be seen as one of the most strategic and important elements. This Commission will be a very small step, but also an interesting sign of the increased interest that people in general and people in public office as well as in business life, and NGOs everywhere, will attach to this area. But of course, this change will be much more far reaching and much more thorough than could be advanced only by an independent commission of 15 persons during a period of 18 months. However, I think that this year the Council of IOM takes place at a very interesting moment, that I am looking forward to very interesting work in this independent Commission, together with all interest to stakeholders, who we will of course consult very thoroughly with this organization and with the member states, hoping rather to open doors to new thinking and new initiatives, to link the development of migration along the tracks that would correspond to a reasonable and happy development of this work. Some people talk about a win-win strategy, a win-win opportunity, which might be true. It should not however, be exaggerated

from the point of view of expectations, it is a win-win strategy, there is one, but it takes enormous strains, a lot of new think, a lot of initiatives in order to make that development possible, but I am grateful that we in this Commission that is now to be formed, will take part in this work. And with that, I will thank you very much for your attention.