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Anförande IDM session 6:

”Meeting funding needs for capacity development on migration”

- With the **Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration**, we have reached a near universal consensus on the need for multilateral cooperation in the area of international migration. The implementation of the GCM requires not only political will, but also a strategic long-term perspective on the question of financing. In other words: **how can we ensure that the GCM is not only a list of objectives and actions on a piece of paper, but that we have both the will and the resources to implement these actions?**
- Focusing on the issue of resources, I would like to highlight a few key factors:
- The UN Secretary General has decided to establish a **UN Migration Network** for the implementation of the GCM. IOM is placed as its secretariat, responsible for coordinating the working groups of the network. To ensure that the network will deliver effective and coherent support for the implementation of the GCM, **IOM, alongside other UN agencies, must have increased capacity in terms of staffing and resources.**
- **Sweden welcomes the decision to establish a capacity building mechanism at the United Nations** that builds on existing initiatives and support efforts of Member States to implement the GCM. In our view, **IOM should serve as the secretariat for the mechanism.**

- Financing of projects will be essential when implementing specific actions of the GCM. But UN agencies, Member States, and other key stakeholders also need to possess long-term financial strength and stability when working towards a sustainable model for safe, regular and orderly migration. This brings me to the key issue of **core funding**.
- Sweden strongly believes that **unearmarked or lightly earmarked core contributions lead to a greater effectiveness** of individual organisations as well as the system at large. This is in line with the commitments made in the **Grand Bargain**.
- Flexible funding facilitates swifter response to urgent needs. It strengthens decision-making bodies. It supports management systems and the use of cost-efficient tools. It also reduces the amount of resources spent on grant-specific administration, notably procurement and reporting.
- It is important to point out that Sweden appreciates and wants to ensure **IOM's continued role as a hands-on organization** with the ability to act swiftly on the ground. That said, IOM is currently **funded almost entirely by project grants**, while a mere 1-2 percent of its budget comes from unearmarked core funding.
- **This is problematic for two reasons.** First, it limits IOM in terms of issues such as **resource management**. Second, and perhaps more importantly, the many IOM projects implemented every year generate a wealth of knowledge that should be used to **develop best practice policy** in migration related areas. However, efforts to harness such know-how from the field are hampered by the organization's lack of stable, foreseeable, and long-term funding.
- With this in mind, **Sweden has provided IOM with core funding during the past few years.** The funding has been lightly earmarked for the purpose of strengthening core features such as administrative functions. With the establishment of the UN Migration Network, this is more important than ever.

- Sweden's aim with the core funding is partly to further strengthen IOM's ability to focus on policy-making. But we cannot do it alone. In order to achieve this goal, I believe the balance between project based and core financing should be more in the vicinity of a **90 vs. 10 percent** ratio.
- In this context, I would also like to highlight another key factor: the need to **get more relevant stakeholders onboard**.
- The GCM has been achieved primarily by getting everyone to the table, by dialogue, and by sharing knowledge. Financial resources will of course be crucial in the implementation of the GCM, but so will continued networking and collaboration. It is therefore important that **we make use of the current momentum** in order to further strengthen the multilateral structure dealing with international migration.
- Collaboration should be further **strengthened with so-called non-traditional actors**. The GCM clearly points out a number of such relevant stakeholders: civil society, diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, trade unions, academia, to name a few. A good example of such engagement has been IOM's **IRIS project** which aims at providing guidelines for ethical recruitment of international labour migrants. IRIS makes a compelling case for why employers should get involve in migration issues, both content wise and in terms of financing.
- To conclude, we now look forward to the high-level meeting in Marrakech. Let us all **make use of that occasion to present our intentions to support the implementation of the GCM**. Be it by pledges to the start-up fund of the capacity building mechanism, or by presenting new innovative forms of collaboration in order to advance capacity development on migration.