

**Address by Her Excellency Jennie Nilsson
Minister for Rural Affairs of Kingdom of Sweden
on the occasion of the
41st Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, Italy (22-29 June 2019)
24 June 2019**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to participate in FAO's 41st Conference.

With a continued increase of hungry in the world, rapid climate change and threats such as AMR, our work is even more important.

We need to honor the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and we need to increase our efforts to reach the SDGs.

I firmly believe that many of the solutions to our global challenges can be found in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

We need to work together – across sectors and in partnership with all relevant stakeholders. I look forward to doing this together with you.

The challenges we are facing will have a great impact on our world. Not the least as causes for involuntary migration. I therefore welcome FAO's report and analysis.

Understanding migration in general, and rural migration in particular, is key when addressing development.

A solid, evidence-based analysis is needed. For example, on the risks and patterns of climate induced migration or on the complexity of factors that enable people to stay or compel them to leave.

I welcome a discussion and an exchange on how we can maximise the positive effects of migration, and how we can harness the potential of migrants to be agents of development.

Migrant groups are often in poor living conditions and exposed to increased risks - climate shocks and protracted crisis add to their vulnerability.

Focus on resilience and links between humanitarian efforts, peace, and development must increase. It will enable people affected by forced migration and displacement, to restore livelihoods and build their lives. We support the FAO in its role to bring vulnerable people out of poverty, and out of humanitarian dependency.

Rural development, better access to education, decent work, productive and income generating activities as well as sustainable livelihoods, are at the core of this work.

"Rural development policies that focus on the economic and social integration of migrants, resulting in outcomes that benefit both displaced people and their host areas" is therefore a particularly valuable recommendation in the report.

Migration is an issue, which needs to be handled in international cooperation among states. Sweden stands firmly behind the goals and aims of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees.

Furthermore, rights perspective, including gender and age mainstreaming, and a focus on those left furthest behind is a key priority for my Government.

Strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment is one of the most important measures that can be taken to improve food security.

Sweden has a longstanding commitment to this issue and we are happy to see the concrete changes in livelihoods that projects such as the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment is making – an example of real UN cooperation that makes a difference in the field. We will follow with interest the implementation recommendation of the evaluation of FAO's work on gender.

Antimicrobial resistance is without a doubt one of the greatest challenges to the 2030 Agenda. Sweden recognizes FAO's dedication in addressing AMR, and we are happy that there is a declaration on AMR presented for decision by the Conference. To combat AMR, collective efforts are needed. We support FAO's commitment to contribute to the joint work of the Tri-par-tite.

In this context, we welcome the establishment of the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund. This initiative promotes the cross-sectoral collaboration we think is needed.

Sweden is firmly committing to the fight against AMR and I am therefore delighted to announce that Sweden is preparing an increased allocation of approximately two million dollars to the fight against AMR.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr José Graziano da Silva, for all of his work and dedication to FAO.

I also want to congratulate Dr QU Dongyu and reaffirm Sweden's commitment to FAO. Sweden will continue being a constructive partner and a friend of the multilateral system.

Thank you.