

Sweden's intervention at the Ambassadorial round-table, Friday 26 October

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As one of the main contributors to Unctad's investment divisions, I like to thank James Zahn and his whole team for an excellent job, inspiring week and for showing a global leadership on investments.

I am pleased that the Swedish government has supported UNCTAD's work on investments for many years. From 2004 and onwards, Sweden has funded the Programme on Good Governance in Investment Promotion, the World Investment Report and UNCTAD's Investment Policy Review programme as well as the World Investment Forum

Important Swedish policy goals are:

- to contribute to strengthen developing countries human and institutional capacity, and
- to galvanize the role of business and private investment in achieving the SDGs.
- Added to all - promote gender equality.

Investments for SDGs

This week's World Investment Forum has stated two important facts:

- 1) investments have a great potential for reducing poverty.
- 2) getting financing right is critical to meet the SDGs by 2030.

There are challenges in bridging the gap in investments in SDG sectors. As we all heard throughout the week, collaboration between public and private business will

play a crucial role. And this can take many shapes. One of them is innovative financing supported by development assistance.

Development assistance can open up for, and give leverage to increased private financing and investment in developing markets faced with challenging conditions.

At the same, Sweden emphasizes it must respect guiding principles such as:

- not distorting markets or tying aid,
- ensuring additionality,
- local ownership and
- high sustainability standards.

The Swedish International Development Agency, Sida, has experience in innovative financing and in collaborating with the private sector. Sida's loan guarantee instruments aim to reduce risk and contribute to mobilizing private finance and investment in SDG sectors.

The instruments have proven efficient and catalytic and in 2016 they facilitated a total loan volume which was approximately 30 times larger than the cooperation funds used. One of these instruments was the Sustainable Development Investment Partnership, with the aim to mobilize 100 billion USD in financing over 5 years to infrastructure projects.

Another important policy goal for Sweden's feminist foreign policy is SDG number 5 - Gender equality.

There is a clear link between economic participation and increased growth resulting in increased resources for development. Financing for development should therefore be built on gender equality as a means aiming for development.

Gender equality is smart economics.

Investment in gender equality yield the highest return of all development investments. Women usually invest a higher proportion of their earning in their families and communities than men. The World Bank's Development Report from 2012 showed that women spend up to 90 % of their income on the family's health and education. The same number for men was 30-40 %.

The bank stresses the business case where eliminating barriers that discriminates women in certain occupation could increase labour productivity by as much as 25 % in some countries.

In addition, McKinsley Global Institute (September 2015) has reported that women's equality can add 12 trillion dollars to global growth.

To sum up:

investments have a great potential for reducing poverty.

getting financing right will be critical to meet the SDGs by 2030.

We must put emphasis on gender equality -also when we talk about investments.

I would like to end by stressing important work UNCTAD has done in this filed in contributing to developing countries access to sustainable investments.

Thank you for your attention!