

Intervention by Sweden

High-level Forum on legal pathways to protection

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Delivered by

State Secretary for Migration Anders Hall

Ministry of Justice of Sweden

Thank you, Ylva, and thank you Ministers, High Commissioner, Esteemed colleagues, for convening this timely and important meeting, good afternoon. In light of Sweden's incoming EU Presidency headed by a brand new government, which was elected with a clear mandate to change and reform the Swedish migration policy, I am happy to have this opportunity to contribute to the discussions on how we can work together. The efforts made, and the solidarity and unity shown by the Member States and others, during the current situation with people from Ukraine seeking protection are truly impressive. But several humanitarian crises in the world call for our attention. The situation demands making the very best use of our resources.

One way to achieve this is by stronger stressing that there has to be a more clear distinction between those with protection needs and economic migrants and to be credible, those with rejected asylum claims must also be returned. This, in turn, provides for better reception conditions and a more sustainable migration policy.

Resettlement is a way to offer international protection to refugees in the most vulnerable situations that needs to be sustainable, safe,

and organised, as well as an act of solidarity with host countries. Resettlement was one concrete action to protect Afghans at high risk after the Taliban takeover. The swift evacuations of Afghan refugees showed how states could work closely together in a coordinated manner for safe and legal routes for resettlement. But, to receive quota refugees cannot be a task for only a few countries. Last year Sweden received 6,400 quota refugees for resettlement, accounting for 45 % of the total refugee quota in the EU. This year, about 5,000 refugees will be resettled from UNHCR's prioritised regions and next year we plan to continue our engagement for resettlement in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, upholding a refugee quota of 900 refugees.

If more states would contribute and offer annual resettlement quotas, that would be one important contribution to refugee protection globally.

During our EU Presidency, which is now very imminent, we will handle the EU Migration and Asylum Pact proposals.

Labour migration is also an important legal pathway. Labour migration can fill gaps on the labour market and at the same time, it provides opportunities for migrant workers.

The needs on the labour market look different across the member states. From a Swedish perspective, we aim to facilitate high-skilled labour migration as well as conditions for researchers, to make Sweden even more attractive for international talents. I believe that is a need we share with many member states.

The world is facing many crises. We look forward to work together and learn from the actions already taken to provide legal pathways to protection, including the reception of people fleeing from Ukraine and the resettlement of Afghans and others with high protection needs.

Thank you.