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Talking points – Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

It has been very interesting to listen to what you – the Pathfinders – have done and, even more, what you want to do in the future.

I especially like that the Roadmap is built on the idea that the targets will only be reached if countries design and implement evidence-based approaches that bring together actors from all parts of society.

As mentioned in the roadmap, Sweden has a feminist government.

This means that gender equality is crucial for government priorities - in decision making and allocation of resources. Women and men should have the same power to shape society and their own lives. Equality is also part of the solution to the challenges facing society, for justice and economic development.

Being a feminist government makes a difference both in words and action.

But I have to highlight another important issue, because it affects the situation for women and children in a broader way.

I truly believe that the only way to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies is through decent jobs.

That's why I think that SDG 8 and 9 are the keys to success.

At the end of the day, we have to bake the cake before we can divide it.

I don't believe that economic growth and globalization is a zero-sum game. Quite the contrary, I believe that it enables us to make the world both richer and better.

To give you an example: Swedish companies manufacture more things in Sao Paulo – Brazil – than in any Swedish city. It has been good for Sweden, Brazil and especially for the workers in both countries.

Economic growth doesn't automatically create just and inclusive societies. For that you need redistribution.

Here, the trade unions have an important role to play.

It's extremely hard, or even illegal, to form trade unions or bargain collectively in many parts of the world. Workers are still being harassed, fired and even killed for trying to form or join a trade union.

This has to change if we want to build more just and inclusive societies.

Thank you for listening.