

Mats Karlsson

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Mats Karlsson has worked for international development cooperation, the management of global issues and regional integration over thirty years. Since 1999 he has been in the senior leadership of the World Bank, as Vice President External Affairs contributing also to the UN system, and has had twelve years in country and regional operations in Africa and the Middle East. He was Swedish state secretary for development in the ministry for foreign affairs, also working with European integration, as well as previously its chief economist.

In *development cooperation*, he promoted the major shift from 'aid' and 'adjustment' to partnership-based approaches, empowerment practices, as well as results-focused management. His experience as WB country director spans working for fragile states, strong low-income countries, and diverse middle income and emerging economies, with a focus on economic growth, jobs creation, social equity, and sustainability challenges in climate change and energy. He also draws on economic policy experience in responding to Sweden's and Europe's economic challenges in the 1990s.

In *managing global issues*, he has promoted new approaches to global governance at political level, cross-institutional co-ordination at inter-agency level, and operational partnerships at country level. He has held leadership roles in promoting *regional cooperation* within Europe, in West Africa, and in the Mediterranean region.

He seeks to span the gap between the *economic and political* perspectives, in analysis, dialogue and decision-making, working for conflict prevention, post-conflict engagement, human rights and democracy, as well as economic governance.

Throughout, he promotes the *role of knowledge*, its generation and accessibility, its use in dialogue and deliberation, and its practical applications in public policy choice.

2014 Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI)

Director of the Swedish Institute of International Affairs since September 2014.

2007-14 World Bank, Middle East and North Africa Region

Country Director Maghreb (2007-10), Director, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI, 2010-13), and currently Senior Adviser to the VP MENA, he has worked with financing and advisory services in the context of the upheavals in the region and its current transitions and future prospects. The CMI – a collaboration between Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, EIB and France, with others (GIZ, ISESCO, EBRD, IsDB, UNDP, UfM, Cities Alliance and others) – facilitates communities of practice (knowledge and innovation based economies, jobs creation and trade, higher education, labor mobility, urban policy and

decentralisation, climate change). Current work is focused on constraints to Euro-Mediterranean integration economic and social aspirations.

2002-7 World Bank, Africa Region

As Country Director for Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Liberia and Sierra Leone, based in Accra, he led the World Bank programs and development partners in as different environments as democratic Ghana and post-conflict Sierra Leone and Liberia. This West Africa country grouping had a total IDA portfolio of well over \$2bn, with annual new credits and grants of about \$500m. The Ghana partnership was showcased as best practice in harmonisation and results-focus, following the 'Paris Declaration' on to the Busan Summit. The Liberia work brought innovative approaches to post-conflict management, with hard economic governance measures which for the first time was backed by a UN Security Council.

1999-02 World Bank, Vice President External and United Nations Affairs

Under Jim Wolfensohn, he participated in the strategic reorientation of the World Bank, the most significant change in its history. He led the World Bank's policy dialogue up to the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 and the Financing for Development Summit in 2002, and was co-lead to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. He particularly contributed to the World Bank's opening to the public, through more access to information, open debate and inclusive policy process.

2000-9 United Nations System coordination

Appointed by UN SG Kofi Annan, he was Vice Chairman of the UN High-Level Committee on Programs for ten years, leading an extraordinary attempt by the UN System to coordinate and focus its vast array of system-internal multilateral tasks, from security to service delivery. He chaired the UN system institutional response to climate change ahead of the Copenhagen summit. He created and was 2004-7 first chair of UN-Energy, a new collaborative mechanism following the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

1994-99 Swedish State Secretary for International Development

Under the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Anna Lindh) and of Development (Pierre Schori), he provided overall leadership to formulate and implement Sweden's then annual \$1.5-2bn development cooperation program (including support through Sida, the EU, the UN, the World Bank and as Governor of the regional development banks), also including support to Central and Eastern Europe. The job included participation in the general policy orientation of the Swedish government.

1992-94 Commission on Global Governance

This independent commission, in the tradition of the Pearson, Brandt, Palme and Brundtland Commissions, set the earliest formulated agenda on global governance in the report 'Our Global Neighbourhood'. He was secretary to its co-chair, Ingvar Carlsson, who together with Sir Shridath Ramphal led this seminal report.

1991-94 Foreign policy advisor, Swedish Parliament

As advisor to opposition leader, later Prime Minister, Ingvar Carlsson, and the foreign and finance policy spokespersons, he worked on the national agenda in these areas, including also the preparation for Swedish membership in the EU, post-Cold War security policy and the transformation of Central and Eastern Europe.

1983-91 Economist, Swedish Foreign Ministry , and Sida

MK started working with development in support of the ANC in African and Swedish exile in 1984. He worked with economic reforms in Eastern and Southern Africa in the mid-1980s, including promoting 'Adjustment with a Human Face'. He joined the planning secretariat in Sida and later became chief economist at the foreign ministry, focusing on the debt crisis, programmatic approaches to development and the strategy and budget policies of Swedish cooperation.

MK studied economics and philosophy at the University of Stockholm. He studied music at the Academies in Vienna and Prague 1977-79, playing in the Stockholm Philharmonic and Radio Orchestras 1980-83.

MK works in English, French, German and Czech, and has studied Russian and Portuguese.

Publications:

Economic Survey of the Baltic States, Pinter, London, 1991, co-editor and writer

Transformation and Integration, Institute of Public Policy Research, London 1994, co-editor and writer

Not 'Just Another Transition', IPPR, London, 1997

Hard Budgets, Soft States, IPPR, London 2000

Contact:

mats.karlsson@ui.se

mobile: +46 70 612 11 86

office: +46 8 511 768 02