



## CURRICULUM VITAE

FAMILY NAME: **FOERDE**  
FIRST NAME: **Bjoern**  
BIRTH: **19.06.1949**  
PASSPORT: **Denmark**  
EDUCATION: **Political Science**

Institution	Degree/Diploma
University of Copenhagen (09/1969–06/1975)	B.A. in Political Science
UNCTAD – Geneva (Summer 1977)	Certificate
College – Slagelse (1965-69)	Studentereksamen
Tatnall High School-USA (1966-67)	High School diploma

## LANGUAGE SKILLS: (1 - EXCELLENT; 5 - BASIC)

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
English	1	1	1
Danish	1	1	1
Norwegian	1	1	2
Spanish	3	3	4
German	2	2	4
French	3	3	4

## KEY QUALIFICATIONS:

- Over **40 years of general development experience** working in countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and living in some of them.
- Over **25 years of management experience** both at middle and top levels of organisations, managing large budgets and staff, both in Denmark and internationally.
- Personal experience with a large variety of development topics, including poverty reduction, employment creation, empowerment of marginalized communities, gender equality, natural resource management, HIV/AIDS, and

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many aspects of **democratic governance - political parties, parliaments, civil society.**

- More than **10 years of experience with the UN system**, working first as the UN Resident Coordinator and UND Resident Representative in Botswana, and later as the Director of the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre.
- Experience with **managing relationships and negotiations at top government level** including at the level of Presidents and Prime Ministers.
- Over **25 years' experience as a writer and editor** of a large number of books and articles for magazines, both my own and those of others.
- More than **40 years of experience communicating development issues** to a broader public, in schools and local communities.
- For **3 years member of UNDP's Global Society Advisory Committee** (2000-2002), representing 'Eurostep', a European network of NGOs.
- Member of the **Board of Danida** (1998-2002) appointed by the Minister for Development.
- Member of the **Board of Norwegian Refugee Council** (2009-2010), one of the largest NGOs in Norway.

## COUNTRY EXPERIENCE: (COUNTRIES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

**Bangladesh** – as a member of the Board of Danida and later with the UN.

**Bhutan** – visited for work purposes at least twice a year since 2011.

**Bolivia** – visited several times to collect information for publications.

**Botswana** – lived there for several years as RR/RC of the UNDP/UN.

**Central America** – El Salvador and Nicaragua in particular when SG of MS.

**Chile** – visited to gather information for several children's books.

**Indonesia** – visited several times for UNDP and DIPD.

**Kenya** - visited regularly during my years with Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke and UN.

**Mexico** – visited several times to write children's books.

**Mozambique** – several visits with both Danida Board, MS and also the UN.

**Myanmar** – studied and visited as Director of DIPD.

**Nepal** – visited at least two times a year as Director of DIPD.

**Peru** – visited extensively and lived for shorter periods of time to write.

**Tanzania** – visited regularly during my years with Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke.

**Thailand** – visited several times as a staff member of UNDP.

**Senegal** – visited on a study tour on tourism for publication purposes.

**Zambia** - visited regularly during my years with Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke.

**Zimbabwe** – home for 3 years in the 90'ies and visits twice a year since 2011.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

### DANISH INSTITUTE FOR PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY - DIRECTOR

January 2011 – end of 2016

I was the first Director recruited to manage the new Institute, established by law of the Danish Parliament in May 2010. My primary responsibilities have been:

- *Establish an effective administrative structure from scratch with a small staff*
- *Develop the first strategy for the institute*
- *Guide the Danish parties in developing partnerships*
- *Ensure a strong basis for decisions by the Board*
- *Position DIPD as a legitimate and credible institution.*

### UNDP OSLO GOVERNANCE CENTRE (OGC) - DIRECTOR

August 2005 – January 2011

OGC was started in 2002. My major achievements were to:

- *implement new strategies after a difficult period for the centre*
- *recruit new staff for most of the posts, and ensuring that the centre had qualified people*
- *ensure closer integration of OGC into the overall work of UNDP's Democratic Governance work*
- *develop a US\$ 10 million program for governance assessments, funded by DFID, Sweden, Norway and France*
- *introduce the political economy analysis methodology as a central dimension of UNDP's work and thinking.*

### UN AND UNDP IN BOTSWANA

#### UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

January 2002 – August 2005

As RR for the UNDP, I was responsible for implementation of programmes on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, environment and democratic governance. As RC of the UN, I represented the UN system overall in a number of coordinating functions, particularly related to the primary concern of the country - the serious impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Some achievements were:

- *Positioning the UN as well as UNDP as an important and necessary partner.*
- *Played a key role in developing the first MDG status report.*
- *Represented development partners in key meetings with the government.*

**DANISH ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
(MELLEMFOLKELIGT SAMVIRKE)**

**Secretary General**

August 1995 – September 2002

Over the years, MS had developed in many different directions, and when I took over it was one of the major Danish NGOs, with volunteer based programmes [around 300 volunteers annually] and offices in 9 developing countries, a large training centre in Tanzania, a large work camp programme for youth, a programme for ethnic minorities in Denmark, activities in development education and publishing, as well as a large library and a shop. MS had for several decades had a special status with Danida, but this changed during this period, and it was my responsibility to move the organisation into a new position.

**MELLEMFOLKELIGT SAMVIRKE IN ZIMBABWE - DIRECTOR**

Zimbabwe, June 1992 – July 1995

I took over a well functioning but rather traditional volunteer programme, which needed to be transformed into a genuine partnership programme, in line with what MS globally was in the process of developing, and which I had been part of setting up the framework for at HQ in Copenhagen. This involved negotiations with civil society organizations as well as local authorities, in areas of environment, women's rights, small scale production, technical training, and governance. It was also a period when HIV/AIDS came to the forefront of challenges in Zimbabwe, and MS supported the establishment of several new organizations, which still exist despite developments in the country in recent years.

**MELLEMFOLKELIGT SAMVIRKE**

July 1989 – June 1992

Head of Information and responsible for policy development, working on new strategic initiatives, including the focus on 'partnership' as the core value of our approach. I was also responsible for the national and global advocacy work which MS was engaged in on ODA, trade, globalization, ethnic minorities in Denmark, EU issues, etc.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

**POSTCARDS FROM THE GLOBAL VILLAGE.** Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke, 112 pages.(2002) My only publication in English. A collection of articles and excerpts from books written during the period of 1977-2002. It was published by MS when I finished as Secretary General in 2002, and it was distributed to all the partners of MS around the world.

**NICARAGUA OG NABOERNE. PÅ VEJ MOD FRED I MELLEMMAMERIKA? [NICARAGUA AND THE NEIGHBOURS: TOWARDS PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA?].** Munksgaard, 84 pages. (1990) Written in the series 'Modern History', for gymnasium level, about the violent history of Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

**MALAYSIA – EN GRUNDBOG. [MALAYSIA – AN INTRODUCTION].** Munksgaard, 128 pages. (1988)  
Basic presentation about social issues, politics, economy and history for secondary school students, with some emphasis on the unique ethnic dimensions of the development of this country.

**JORDEN ER SMUK. [THE PLANET IS BEAUTIFUL].** Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke, 112 pages. (1988)  
Basic presentation of the global environmental dangers and challenges, based on the *Our Common Future* report of the Brundtland Commission. 50 topics are presented, organized in chapters on: population, land, forests, energy, industry, cities, trade, military.

**JORDEN ER SKÆV. [THE PLANET IS UNEQUAL].** Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke, 72 pages. (1987)  
Basic presentation of global inequalities, for 7-10 grade students. It presents 30 different issues – income distribution, education, health, women, urbanization, food production and hunger, unemployment, land distribution, the global supermarket, dependency on raw materials, debt, transnational companies, ODA, conflicts, etc.

**SLAVERNES BØRN. FORTÆLLINGER OM BØRN I BRASILIEN. [CHILDREN OF THE SLAVES. STORIES ABOUT CHILDREN IN BRAZIL].** Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke, 128 pages. In 1986, Brazil was chosen as the focus for a lot of activities in Denmark, with large exhibitions at the National Museum, television programmes, workshops, etc. MS was involved, and it was decided to publish a book for children in the 10-14 age group.

**HECTOR OG DEN LYSENDE STI. [HECTOR AND THE SHINING PATH].** CDR forlaget, 128 pages. (1986) This novel for the 12-16 year age group can be seen as an independent follow-up to the novels about Carlos mentioned later. It tells about the reasons for the high popularity among some population groups of the maoist movement.

**CENTRALAMERIKA BLØDER. [CENTRAL AMERICA IS BLEEDING].** Danmarks Radio, 96 pages. (1985) Presentation for gymnasium level students about the history and the causes of the bloody conflicts in the region. The book was written as background material for a series of documentary television programmes by Danish TV.

**VI HOLDER SAMMEN. Fortællinger om u-landenes børn. [WE STICK TOGETHER. STORIES ABOUT CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES].** Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke, 148 pages. (1985)  
Drama-documentary presentation about 10 children in 10 countries. The stories are fiction, although based on real experiences. An example is the story about the children working in toy factories in Thailand. Following the short story, the generic aspects of child labour are presented, and separate sections deal with how Danish children can be helpful in contributing to stop the use of child labour.

**LATINAMERIKA – EN GRUNDBOG. [LATIN AMERICA – A BASIC PRESENTATION].** Munksgaard, 128 pages. (1985) This has turned out to be one of the most popular basic presentations used in Danish schools. It tells about the history of conquest and exploitation; how food and minerals are taken out of the continent; the process of urbanization; the dictatorships in the region; the role of the US in the region; conflicts between the giants; etc..

**EL SALVADOR. DAGBROG FRA EN KRIG. [EL SALVADOR. DIARY FROM A WAR].** Med Lars Bonnevie. Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke, 112 pages. (1984) This novel was written with a well known

Danish author, Lars Bonnevie. It tells the story of a girl who is forced to flee from El Salvador with her family, because her brother has joined the guerilla movement. The story is based on an interview with a girl in a refugee camp in Mexico, and it was written as a contribution to a solidarity campaign in Denmark.

**BOLIVIA – EN GRUNDBOG.** [BOLIVIA – A BASIC PRESENTATION]. Munksgaard, 96 pages. (1984) Educational book for students in secondary grades 7-10. It provides a basic introduction to the history, culture, geography, social structures and politics. Although factual in form, the book includes a lot of personal experiences from my visits to different parts of the country, including my personal experience of the military coup no. 191 in 1979.

**MAGTKAMPEN OM U-LANDENE.** [THE STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES]. Munksgaard, 64 pages. (1983) Written for grades 7-10, about issues like: Why they are fighting about and for in Angola? The global struggle between the two super powers. What is the Soviet Union doing in Afghanistan? What is the US doing in El Salvador? The role of the arms producers. And conflicts within and among nations in the South.

**DJÆVELEN I LA TIRANA.** [THE DEVIL IN LA TIRANA]. Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke, 96 pages. (1983) A collection of short stories about how children experience living in Chile under the dictatorship of Pinochet, written for children in the 10-14 year age group. All of the stories are fiction, but based on personal experiences and stories I have been told while traveling around the country, as well as meeting Chilean refugees in Denmark.

**JAVEL FRUE! [YES MADAM!]**. Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke, 64 pages. (1982) In Peru, like in other developing countries, young girls are forced by social circumstances to work as domestic maids in families of the middle and upper class. They are sent from poor rural villages to families in the cities, or they come from the slums. During my visits to Peru I have had the opportunity to observe how this works, and I have talked to many girls.

**CIUDAD MEXICO – VERDENS STØRSTE BY.** [CIUDAD MEXICO – THE LARGEST CITY IN THE WORLD]. Gyldendal, 64 pages. (1981) Urbanization is an important issue and challenge, and I found it important to present this to Danish students, considering that most of them associate poverty with people living in rural areas. I chose Mexico City because it has a fascinating history, and because I had friends there I could live with for a longer period of time.

**RÅVAREKÆDEN.** [THE RAW MATERIAL CHAIN]. Gyldendal. (1980-1989) All books in this series are 48 pages and highly illustrated, and comes with a slide series. A series of educational books for students in secondary schools, telling about the global order and North-South relations from the perspective of how different raw materials are produced, refined, traded and consumed. Each book starts with the Danish perspective – the shirt made of cotton, the cup of coffee or tea, the shot of heroin, the copper used in cables, etc. Then the story moves backwards until it ends with the country and the people actually producing the product: the coffee farmer in

Nicaragua, the copper miner in Chile, the tobacco picker in Brazil, etc. I developed the concept and edited all of the 24 books in the series, and I wrote 7 books myself.

**VI GIVER ALDRIG OP.** Carlos i Lima. [**WE NEVER GIVE UP. Carlos in Lima**]. Nove. Forum, 156 pages. (1982) Second volume of the story about Carlos. We follow him and his family as they are forced to migrate from the mountains down to the capital, because of poverty, but also because of the increasingly violent situation caused by the maoist guerrilla activities. This book is translated into Swedish.

**ER VI STÆRKE NOK?** Carlos og den fremmede. [**ARE WE STRONG ENOUGH? Carlos and the stranger**]. Novel, Forum, 148 pages. (1977) The first volume about Carlos, living with his family in a small village in the Andean mountains, where communities are involved in life and death struggles for land. Translated into Swedish.

**LATINAMERIKA I KORT OG TAL.** [**LATIN AMERICA IN MAPS AND NUMBERS**]. Mellemfølgelig Samvirke, 136 pages. (1977) A comprehensive factual presentation of the Latin American continent, with chapters on history, geography, natural resources, social affairs, political developments – richly illustrated with maps, tables and graphs. Also presentations of each country. The book has been revised five times during the 1980'ies and sold more than 20.000 copies.