

COUNCIL

107th Session

REPORT ON THE

107TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL*

Geneva

Monday, 5 December, to Thursday, 8 December 2016

Rapporteur: Mr C. Staur (Denmark)

* This report was approved by the Council at its 108th Session through the adoption of Resolution No. 1354 of 28 November 2017.

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REPORT ON THE 107TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Introduction

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1313 of 27 November 2015, the Council convened for its 107th Session on Monday, 5 December 2016 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. Eight meetings were held.

Attendance¹

2. The following Member States were represented:

Afghanistan	Costa Rica	Hungary	Nepal	Sudan
Albania	Côte d'Ivoire	India	Netherlands	Swaziland
Algeria	Croatia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	New Zealand	Sweden
Angola	Cyprus	Ireland	Nicaragua	Switzerland
Argentina	Czechia	Israel	Niger	Thailand
Armenia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Italy	Norway	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Australia	Denmark	Jamaica	Pakistan	Togo
Austria	Djibouti	Japan	Panama	Tonga ²
Azerbaijan	Dominican Republic	Jordan	Papua New Guinea	Trinidad and Tobago
Bahamas	Ecuador	Kazakhstan	Paraguay	Tunisia
Bangladesh	Egypt	Kenya	Peru	Turkey
Belarus	El Salvador	Kyrgyzstan	Philippines	Ukraine
Belgium	Eritrea	Latvia	Poland	United Kingdom
Benin	Estonia	Lesotho	Portugal	United Republic of Tanzania
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ethiopia	Libya	Republic of Korea	United States of America
Botswana	Fiji	Lithuania	Republic of Moldova	Uruguay
Brazil	Finland	Luxembourg	Romania	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Bulgaria	France	Madagascar	Rwanda	Viet Nam
Burkina Faso	Gabon	Maldives	Senegal	Zambia
Burundi	Georgia	Mali	Serbia	Zimbabwe
Cabo Verde	Germany	Malta	Sierra Leone	
Cambodia	Ghana	Mauritania	Slovakia	
Canada	Greece	Mauritius	Slovenia	
Central African Republic	Guatemala	Mexico	Somalia	
Chad	Guinea	Mongolia	South Africa	
Chile	Haiti	Montenegro	South Sudan	
China	Honduras	Morocco	Spain	
Colombia		Mozambique	Sri Lanka	
Congo		Myanmar		
		Namibia		

3. Bhutan, Cuba, Indonesia, Qatar, the Russian Federation, San Marino and Saudi Arabia were represented by observers.

¹ See List of participants (C/107/29/Rev.1).

² See paragraph 23.

4. The United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UN Women, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR),³ the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization were represented by observers.

5. The African Union, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the Arab Parliament,³ the Council of Europe, the European Public Law Organization (EPLO),³ the European Union, the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA),³ the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),³ the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, and the Sovereign Order of Malta were represented by observers, as were the following international non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Africa Humanitarian Action, Caritas Internationalis, Child Helpline International, the Community of Sant'Egidio,³ the Federation of Christian Organizations for International Volunteer Service, the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Initiatives of Change International,³ the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the International Air Transport Association (IATA),³ the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the International Islamic Relief Organization, INTERSOS, the Jesuit Refugee Service, the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice,³ Migrant Help, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Qatar Charity, the Refugee Council of Australia, the Refugee Education Trust, Save the Children, Solidar, SOS Children's Villages International,³ the Terre des Hommes International Federation, United Cities and Local Governments, the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (World YMCA),³ World Vision International and the Zoï Environment Network.³

Opening of the session and credentials of representatives and observers

6. The outgoing Chairperson, Mr Geert Muylle (Belgium), opened the session on Monday, 5 December 2016, at 10.15 a.m.

7. The Council noted that the Director General had examined the credentials of the representatives of the Member States listed in paragraph 2 and found them to be in order, and that he had been advised of the names of the observers for the non-member States, international governmental organizations and NGOs listed in paragraphs 3 to 5.

³ See paragraph 28.

Election of officers

8. The Council elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr John Paton Quinn (Australia)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Ms Marta Maurás (Chile)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Mohamed Auajjar (Morocco)
Rapporteur:	Mr Carsten Staur (Denmark)

9. The outgoing Chairperson of the Council said that his term of office had been short, yet intense and constructive. It had been marked by the adoption, on 19 September 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly, of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which had, for the first time in the history of multilateral dialogue, placed migration firmly at the top of the international agenda for years to come. It had also been marked by the signing, on the same day, of the IOM–UN Agreement, under which IOM had become a related organization within the United Nations system.

10. As part of his activities as Chairperson, he had worked with many stakeholders to ensure that IOM took up its rightful place in the process to negotiate a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration pursuant to the New York Declaration. IOM had unique, proven and extensive expertise in migration, and had therefore earned the right to occupy that place.

11. He thanked one and all for their commitment, assistance and constructive engagement in fulfilling IOM's mandate efficiently and effectively, and pledged his continued support to address the multiple challenges and opportunities of migration and human mobility.

12. The incoming Chairperson of the Council said that it was an honour and privilege to be elected as Chairperson, especially at such a critical juncture in the international approach to migration issues.

13. He thanked the outgoing Chairperson for his energetic and productive bridging contribution over the past few months. He joined him in paying special tribute to Mr Bertrand de Crombrugghe, who had contributed so much as Chairperson of the IOM Council, especially leading its deliberations on the IOM–UN Agreement to a successful conclusion.

14. IOM was at a historic crossroads and had a key role to play in future discussions of migration-related issues, as evidenced by the IOM–UN Agreement and at the Summit for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016 in New York. It was encouraging for the Organization that new Members continued to join, particularly from the Asia and Pacific region.

Adoption of the agenda

15. The Council adopted the agenda as set out in document C/107/1/Rev.2.⁴

⁴ Unless otherwise specified, all documents and audiovisual presentations are accessible on the IOM website at www.iom.int.

Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights

16. The Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance said that, at its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions, the Standing Committee had reviewed the status reports (C/107/5 and C/107/5/Rev.1) on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member States' voting rights. It had taken note of the two reports and had urged Member States in arrears to make every effort to pay their contributions as soon as possible. It had in particular urged Member States whose contributions had been outstanding for two or more consecutive years to pay their contributions in full or to agree to a payment plan and to fully respect the payment conditions.

17. The Administration reported that, since document C/107/5/Rev.1 had been issued, Azerbaijan, China, Guatemala, Guinea, Jamaica, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America had made payments. The payments from Guatemala, Guinea and Jamaica had restored the voting rights for those countries, meaning that 19 Member States were currently without voting rights.

18. Referring to the understanding reached by the Council in November 2014 regarding the date of accession of Brazil and the contested arrears amounting to CHF 3,950,185 (referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of document C/107/5/Rev.1), the representative of Brazil introduced a letter from her country that had been distributed to Member States on 2 December 2016. The letter requested that the provisional write-back of CHF 3,950,185 be converted to a permanent write-back and that the reference to Brazil in paragraph 1 and the whole of paragraph 2 be removed from all future versions of the Status report. Brazil appreciated the flexibility that Member States had displayed in the consultations that had resulted in the 2014 understanding, which had allowed it to resume its positive engagement with IOM. However, it was time to declare the question formally closed. She emphasized that a permanent solution would have no financial or budgetary implications for the Organization. Recent informal consultations with Member States on the issue had revealed that some delegations wanted time for further consultations; therefore, Brazil would be willing to defer the decision until the next meeting of the Standing Committee, to be held in June or July 2017.

19. The Administration confirmed that, as the amount had already been written back in the IOM accounts in 2014, the financial impact of moving from a provisional to a permanent status would be zero.

20. The Director General said that the question was not just a financial matter, but a political issue of strategic importance to IOM. The partnership between IOM and Brazil was important and it was critical to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

21. The Council decided that further consultations would be held by the Chairperson, who would report back to the membership at the Twentieth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance.

22. The Council took note of document C/107/5/Rev.1 and of the additional information provided by the Administration.

Admission of new Members and observers

(a) Application for membership of the Organization

23. The Council adopted by acclamation Resolution No. 1319 of 5 December 2016 admitting the Kingdom of Tonga as a Member of IOM.

24. The representative of Tonga thanked Member States for supporting his country's application for membership of the Organization. Tonga received many irregular arrivals by sea and by air, and cooperation on border security would strengthen its efforts to combat irregular migration. At the same time, it was committed to advancing understanding of migration issues, encouraging social and economic development through migration, and upholding the dignity and well-being of migrants.

25. The Director General welcomed Tonga as a new Member State. With the Organization expanding its activities in the Pacific, particularly with small island developing States and low-lying countries, which stood to be particularly affected by natural disasters, climate change and related migration issues, Tonga could play an important role in formulating strategies to respond to such challenges.

(b) Applications for representation by observers

26. The Council had before it applications for representation by observers from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Zoï Environment Network, UNITAR, IATA, Initiatives of Change International, World YMCA, the Arab Parliament, the IACA, Japan Platform, the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, the IPU, the EPLO, SOS Children's Villages International, the International Detention Coalition, and United Cities and Local Governments.

27. The 18 organizations were granted observer status at meetings of the Council in accordance with the terms of Resolutions Nos. 1320 to 1337 of 5 December 2016.

28. Representatives of the Zoï Environment Network, IATA, Initiatives of Change International, World YMCA, the Arab Parliament, the IACA, the Community of Sant'Egidio, the IPU, the EPLO, SOS Children's Villages International and United Cities and Local Governments thanked the Council for accepting their applications for observer status and pledged to strengthen their cooperation with IOM. Each had a particular interest in key elements of the Organization's work, and their observer status would be of mutual benefit. Many of them had been working in informal partnerships with IOM for several years already. Formalizing that relationship would only serve to strengthen it.

29. The Director General welcomed the new observers, whose presence would enrich and broaden the Council's dialogue on migration. Partnership with other associations and bodies remained a top priority for the Organization.

Report of the Director General and the IOM 65th anniversary

30. The Director General complemented his report to the Council (C/107/30) with a slide presentation.

Keynote address: Mr Peter Thomson, President of the United Nations General Assembly

31. Mr Thomson, recalling that IOM had been established at a time of upheaval and mass displacement of people in the aftermath of the Second World War, emphasized that migration was not a new phenomenon. Since long before borders or maps had existed, people had been on the move in search of peace, security, prosperity and opportunity. Migrants had driven economic growth, bolstered the economies of their countries of origin and helped to build social and cultural bonds between nations, though their experience had never been straightforward and had often been marked by exploitation. Rights and protections were frequently overlooked and differences with local populations were politicized to drive fear and xenophobia.

32. Despite the hurdles and disincentives involved, the global movement of people had reached unprecedented levels, with migrants flocking to urban centres in their own and other countries and congregating in “global gateway” cities. The trend towards urbanization was expected to continue. Migration between developing countries was also on the rise. In that broader context, the international community must consider how best to manage migration, address its root causes, protect the rights of migrants and establish global ground rules for the movement of people.

33. The effects of climate change would displace untold millions from traditional habitats. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, together with the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other key multilateral instruments adopted since 2015, carried a message of hope, but urgency and universality were also imperative. Implementing the 2030 Agenda must be central to collective efforts to address the global migration challenge, and every stakeholder had a role to play in ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were achieved and that no one was left behind. He encouraged IOM to assist Member States and partners in that regard.

34. With its adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged the history of human movement and expressed the international community’s political will to save the lives and protect the rights of both groups. The Declaration set out a range of State commitments to protect the safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants. Those commitments should be implemented without delay, with the aim of providing support to migrant communities, increasing educational opportunities for migrant children and addressing the causes of large-scale movement. The Declaration also contained a commitment by States to launch an intergovernmental process leading to the adoption in 2018 of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, in addition to a separate global compact on refugees.

35. Ambitions for the global compact on migration were high but the timeline was tight. Making progress was a key priority for the current session of the General Assembly, and he had accordingly appointed the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Switzerland to the United Nations in New York to facilitate the first stage of consultations on modalities for the negotiations. That first stage was well under way. The Geneva-based agencies must be fully engaged in the process to ensure that their expertise and experience were utilized, along with the expertise and knowledge of other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, diaspora communities and migrant organizations. Support from IOM would be vital, and he encouraged all Member States to engage in the negotiations constructively in order to achieve a robust compact that would provide a comprehensive global framework for safe, orderly and regular migration.

36. Over its 65-year history, IOM had always been dedicated to tackling the challenge of ensuring humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. He expressed appreciation to everyone who had contributed to its work during that time and welcomed the signing of the Agreement formally establishing IOM as a related organization of the United Nations system, which would lead to even greater cooperation between the two organizations in the years ahead.

37. In reply to questions from several representatives, he reiterated the vital importance of all stakeholders, including migrants, being involved in and contributing to the global compact process and the central role of IOM in that regard. The approach followed in formulating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could serve as a useful model, particularly as it had accorded an important position to civil society and NGOs. In the twenty-first century, humanity would have to face the major challenges of climate change and the impacts thereof, especially migration. As a descendant of migrants himself, he felt well placed to tackle the issues involved and was keen to make progress.

Draft reports on the 106th Session of the Council and on the First Special Session of the Council

38. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1338 of 5 December 2016 approving the draft report on its 106th Session (document C/106/54) and the draft report on its First Special Session (document C/Sp/1/14/Rev.1).

Report on matters discussed at the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

(a) Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2016

39. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administrative Part of the Budget had risen to CHF 45,489,362 following the addition of the assessed contributions of the three new Member States that had joined the Organization in June 2016, namely China, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. The Operational Part of the Budget had increased from USD 1.349 billion to almost USD 1.6 billion. The level of Operational Support Income had remained unchanged at USD 74.4 million. The Standing Committee had recommended that the Council take note of the document entitled Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2016 (C/107/15).

40. The Council took note of document C/107/15.

(b) Progress report on the budget-strengthening plan for the core structure

41. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administration had summarized the budget-strengthening measures implemented on the recommendation of the Working Group on Budget Reform and underscored the Organization's rapid growth (expenditure might reach USD 2 billion in 2017, an increase of nearly 70 per cent in only four years). To ensure that growth was well managed, the Administration had proposed that the Working Group on Budget Reform be reactivated. Several representatives had welcomed the outcome of the budget reform process. Some had suggested items to include in future progress reports.

42. The Standing Committee, with the exception of one Member State, had taken note of the document entitled Funding the core structure: Budget-strengthening plan – progress report (September 2016 update) (S/19/3/Rev.2). In the light of the Organization's significant growth, it had requested the Working Group on Budget Reform to reconvene in 2017 and pursue its work.

43. The Council took note of document S/19/3/Rev.2.

(c) Programme and Budget and assessment scale for 2017

44. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administration had proposed an amount of CHF 51,189,766 for the Administrative Part of the Budget. That included an increase of CHF 2,900,000 to finance cost-sharing arrangements with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group under the IOM–UN Agreement, plus two staff positions in Geneva and two in New York and related office support costs; in compliance with Council Resolution No. 1230 of 5 December 2011, it also included an increase of CHF 4,122,566, equivalent to the total assessed contributions of the new Member States that had joined the Organization in June 2016. The Administration had proposed a projected amount of slightly over USD 1.034 billion for the Operational Part of the Budget, which was substantially higher than the amount projected at the same time in the previous budget cycle.

45. Following discussion, the Standing Committee had recommended that the Council approve CHF 50,689,766 for the Administrative Part of the Budget (CHF 51,189,766 minus CHF 500,000, equal to one staff position in New York and one in Geneva), and USD 1.034 billion for the Operational Part of the Budget. In respect of the amount of CHF 500,000 for the positions in New York and Geneva, it had asked the Administration to consult with the Member States that had voiced concern about that amount and to submit a revised budget, based on the outcome of the consultations, directly to the Council.

46. The Administration confirmed that, following the discussion in the Standing Committee, the Administrative Part of the Budget had been revised down to CHF 50,689,766. The proposed CHF 2,900,000 increase had been reduced to CHF 2,400,000, and would be used to finance the above-mentioned cost-sharing arrangements, one staff position in Geneva and one in New York, and related office support costs. As a result, the assessed contributions of all Member States would be slightly lower than originally proposed.

47. The Standing Committee Rapporteur informed the Council that the proposed assessment scale submitted to the Eighteenth Session of the Standing Committee had had to be revised, owing to the admission of three new Member States in June 2016. At its Nineteenth Session, the Standing Committee had examined and endorsed the revised assessment scale, as contained in document C/107/13, subject to the approval of the Council.

48. The Council adopted the Programme and Budget for 2017 (C/107/6/Rev.1) and approved the assessment scale for 2017 (C/107/13). It adopted Resolution No. 1339 on the Programme and Budget and assessment scale for 2017.

(d) Report on the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization by States

49. The Standing Committee Rapporteur, referring to the document entitled Third annual report of the Director General on improvements in the privileges and immunities granted to the

Organization by States (S/19/11), said that the Administration had reported that three new agreements meeting the criteria set out in Council Resolution No. 1266 of 26 November 2013 had entered into force. Agreements had been signed with three other States, but they did not meet the criteria set out in the Resolution. Negotiations with other States were ongoing.

50. The Standing Committee had taken note of document S/19/11. It had recommended that the Council remain seized of the matter and reiterate the call to Member States to grant the Organization privileges and immunities substantially similar to those granted to the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

51. The Council endorsed the Standing Committee recommendation and again called on Member States to grant the Organization privileges and immunities substantially similar to those granted to the specialized agencies of the United Nations, particularly now that IOM was a related organization in the United Nations system.

(e) Report on the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and the IOM Strategy

52. The Standing Committee Rapporteur informed the Council that the Eighteenth Session of the Standing Committee had focused on the ongoing negotiations with the United Nations concerning the draft relationship agreement between the two organizations. IOM Member States had reiterated that the relationship agreement must be fully aligned with the terms of Council Resolution No. 1309 of 25 November 2015, in which IOM's essential characteristics were outlined.

53. At the same session, the Standing Committee had decided that the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and the IOM Strategy would continue its discussions, with a view to submitting a recommendation directly to the Council for consideration at a special session to be held on 30 June 2016. Accordingly, the Working Group had put forward a draft agreement, which IOM Member States had approved at the special session of the Council.

54. The Nineteenth Session of the Standing Committee had taken place after the relationship agreement between IOM and the United Nations had been signed. At that session, the Standing Committee had discussed the future of the Working Group and three other issues: the IOM Strategy and the Migration Governance Framework; the implementation of the IOM–UN Agreement; and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

55. The Standing Committee had requested that the Working Group continue its work on the IOM Strategy and, if that work was completed in time, report directly to the Council at its next regular session, or otherwise to the next session of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee had also requested the Working Group to consider its terms of reference and its future, and to report back to the Standing Committee at its next session.

56. The Working Group had met on 25 November 2016 and had recommended that its work continue in 2017, as outlined in document WG/REL/2016/18.

57. The Council noted the recommendations of the Working Group.

(f) Amendments to the Staff Regulations

58. The Standing Committee Rapporteur informed the Council that, at the Nineteenth Session of the Standing Committee, the Administration had introduced the document on

amendments to the Staff Regulations (C/107/14), which had included a draft Council resolution for the Standing Committee's consideration. The Administration had also provided an update on completed and future activities of the Human Resources Management Division to manage the continuing growth of the Organization.

59. The Standing Committee had taken note of the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations as set out in document C/107/14 and recommended that the Council adopt the draft resolution contained in Annex II of that document.

60. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1340 of 5 December 2016 on amendments to the Staff Regulations.

(g) Other items discussed at the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

61. The Standing Committee Rapporteur reported on a number of other items discussed by the Committee at its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions.

(i) Resolutions and decisions of the Eighteenth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

62. Pursuant to Council Resolution No. 1313 of 27 November 2015, the Standing Committee had adopted the following resolutions on 16 June 2016: Resolution No. 7 taking note of the Annual Report for 2015, Resolution No. 8 taking note of the Organizational Effectiveness Report for 2015, Resolution No. 9 approving the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2015, and Resolution No. 10 approving the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2016.

(ii) Exchange of views on items proposed by the membership

63. At the Standing Committee sessions, the Administration had introduced documents on the following topics selected for discussion by the Member States:

- Migration, environment and climate change: institutional developments and contributions to policy process
- Role of IOM in the cluster system
- Promoting the ethical recruitment of migrant workers
- Social and economic opportunities and challenges relating to remittances.

64. The Standing Committee had taken note of the relevant documents (S/18/8, S/18/7, S/19/5 and S/19/6, respectively) prepared by the Administration and the comments made by the Member States in the ensuing discussions.

(iii) Statement by a representative of the Staff Association Committee

65. The Eighteenth Session of the Standing Committee had heard a statement by a representative of the Staff Association Committee. The Standing Committee had taken note of the statement and the remarks made by the Director General and Member States.

(iv) Other reports and updates

66. The Standing Committee had also examined and taken note of the following reports and updates at its 2016 sessions:

- Statement and report of the External Auditor
- Report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
- Report of the IOM Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee
- Report on the work of the Office of the Inspector General
- Information on plans for the IOM Headquarters building
- Report on human resources management
- Reports relating to the IOM Development Fund
- Summary report on the evaluation of the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (2012–2015)
- IOM management response to the evaluation of the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (2012–2015)
- Report on the IOM response to migration crises
- Update on the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative
- IOM partnerships with the private sector
- IOM global initiatives funding status.

67. The Council took note of the decisions and documents referred to in paragraphs 62 to 66 above.

(h) Reports on the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

68. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1341 of 5 December 2016 approving the reports on the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance.

IOM–UN relations and the global compact on migration

69. The Chairperson said that, at the most recent meeting of the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and the IOM Strategy, held on 25 November 2016, there had been broad agreement that it would be appropriate for the IOM Council to adopt a resolution welcoming the successful conclusion of work to bring IOM into the United Nations system and addressing IOM's role to support the development of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

70. Representatives of Mexico and Canada had subsequently worked together to facilitate the development of a draft resolution. Following consultations with Member States, many delegations had actively participated in efforts to reach consensus on a text, but there had not been enough time to finish that work. The process had nevertheless provided an opportunity for Member States to emphasize their support for IOM in its new relationship with the United Nations and the important contribution IOM could, and must, make to the global compact on migration.

Panel discussion: Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration – from process to substance

Panellists

- **Mary Robinson**, President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, Dublin, Ireland
- **Gregory Maniatis**, Senior Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration
- **Raúl Heredia**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva
- **Yasushi Iguchi**, Professor, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan

Moderator

- **William Lacy Swing**, Director General, IOM

71. The Director General said that, while governments collectively had become arguably better at addressing immediate migration-related needs, they struggled to develop a comprehensive, long-term vision for human mobility. It was nevertheless encouraging that several recently concluded global agreements encompassed migration and human mobility, namely:

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under which Member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies (target 10.7), and to leave no one behind, including migrants, for example in relation to poverty eradication, health, education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, and climate change;
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;
- The 2015 Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- The New Urban Agenda.

72. In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, States had made several bold commitments: to protect the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status; to support countries rescuing, receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants; to integrate migrants – addressing their needs and capacities as well as those of receiving communities – into humanitarian and development assistance frameworks and planning; to combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination towards all migrants; to develop, through a State-led process, non-binding principles and voluntary guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations; and to strengthen global governance of migration, including by bringing IOM into the United Nations family and by developing a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

73. The preliminary steps in the process to develop a global compact on migration were set out in Annex II to the New York Declaration, which framed the global compact consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda. The global compact was intended to:

- Set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among States regarding all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental and human rights-related dimensions;
- Make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration;
- Present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility;
- Be guided by the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
- Be informed by the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

74. The decision to develop a comprehensive framework for international migration embodied the promise that migration would at last be guided by a set of common principles and approaches. IOM fully recognized and respected the sovereign right of governments to determine which non-nationals could enter and stay on their territories, consistent with their obligations under international law. Rather than limiting State sovereignty, the global compact on migration was expected to foster more robust collaboration and cooperation on migration-related issues.

75. IOM's vision was of a world in which migrants moved as a matter of genuine choice and not desperate necessity, the rights of migrants were protected throughout their migratory cycle, and migration was properly governed. Such a high-road policy approach served three major objectives: to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration; to reduce the incidence and impact of forced and irregular migration; and to respond to the mobility impact of natural and human-made disasters.

76. To fulfil those objectives, international efforts would have to focus on migrants and their rights, needs and capacities, and on the relationship of migration to critical adjoining policy domains, including development, humanitarian aid, climate change, and peace and security. As articulated in the IOM Migration Governance Framework, a comprehensive approach to well-managed migration would adhere to international standards, use evidence-based and whole-of-government approaches, and foster strong partnerships.

77. With regard to the global compact process, IOM proposed that open and inclusive consultations take place in 2017 and 2018 to garner the views, expertise and perspectives of all relevant stakeholders. It suggested that regional and thematic consultations be held in tandem with existing global and regional forums, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration and IOM's International Dialogue on Migration.

78. It was important to bear in mind that the process was not starting from scratch. A robust, albeit dispersed, framework for the protection of migrants and for migration governance already existed, comprising inter alia the Migration Governance Framework, the Migration Crisis Operational Framework, the State-led Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative, and the Nansen Initiative's Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change.

79. Ms Robinson said that, while the adoption of the New York Declaration was cause for celebration, the time had come for implementation. To that end, the international community

had started the process of negotiating the global compact on migration. However, if it wanted to ensure that the substance of the global compact respected human rights, delivered action that was responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable and reached the furthest behind first, it would need to make sure such people contributed and were at the centre of the response to migration. The effort to develop the global compact had to be comprehensive, coherent and cooperative. The tools for coherence existed, but it would be up to each country to marshal them at a time of waning faith in multilateralism, widening rifts in global communities and distrust in processes that were proven, if flawed, arbiters of peace and security.

80. The global compact on migration would clearly play a central role in the implementation of target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda. It was incumbent on all countries to ensure that implementation not only addressed the immediate needs of migrants and the impact and drivers of present-day migration, but also built solutions for the future.

81. Climate change would be a significant driver of migration in the years to come. The international community had two responsibilities in that regard. The first was to act on climate change so as to reduce its impact on people and their access to the fundamental building blocks of life and livelihoods, such as water. The second was to ensure pathways for climate migrants to start new lives, with full respect for their rights, if those building blocks were no longer available. The global compact on migration therefore had to recognize that climate displacement had at its core an issue of justice: those moving as a result of climate change were the most vulnerable in society and the least responsible for their dilemma. They represented the “furthest behind” that the international community had committed to reach first under the 2030 Agenda.

82. To ensure cohesion, the global compact on migration had to recognize that climate change and human rights were cross-cutting issues that were inherent in ensuring a fair and just approach to migration in the face of a growing threat. To that end, it had to recognize the intrinsic link between climate change and migration; take into account that, while all migrants were covered by human rights, those displaced by climate change might have different needs when it came to protection of rights; position itself in terms of the 2030 Agenda; and thus recognize that responsible and orderly migration was central to reducing inequality and achieving sustainable development.

83. One sure way of guaranteeing that the global compact would deliver people-centred results was to establish mechanisms enabling those concerned to participate in decision-making. The impact of dictating policy was already being felt, in climate action that did not respect the basic property rights of indigenous peoples and in social policies that failed marginalized and vulnerable groups.

84. Mr Heredia outlined his country’s perspective on the global compact on migration, with a view to contributing to its substance. Mexico was in favour of a pragmatic negotiating process that was people-centred and whose intergovernmental nature did not prevent the voices of other relevant stakeholders, such as civil society, the private sector, academic circles and migrants themselves, from being heard. The multisectoral nature of migration required efforts by all, and the global compact on migration should therefore result in conclusive and coordinated action by the United Nations system, with IOM and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) involved on the basis of their comparative advantages and mandates.

85. The New York Declaration referred to Geneva-based migration expertise, while New York was the political hub of the multilateral system. The strengths of both seats should be combined to ensure that the global compact was truly universal and integrated, and produced concrete results. Moreover, there was no need to reinvent the wheel; rather, the negotiating process should incorporate all existing instruments and mechanisms, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The international community had learned lessons that could benefit the negotiations, which should result in a practical, measurable and flexible instrument grounded in the commitment of States and others to take concrete action.

86. The global compact on migration should encompass, at a minimum, the following thematic areas: a human rights perspective; a vision of the shared responsibility of countries of origin, transit, destination and return; a social inclusion approach, to combat intolerance, prejudice and racism; recognition of the contributions of migrants to the economic and social development of communities; greater international cooperation, in order to strengthen State capacities; and a reference to climate change and disasters as causes of migration.

87. Mr Maniatis said that, in the light of the growing scale of international migration, the United Nations and the broader multilateral system required a strong and experienced partner to tackle migration issues and steer the negotiations on the global compact on migration. Following its entry into the United Nations system, IOM was the ideal organization to assume that role. Migration had become a fiercely contested and divisive political issue in recent times, and the United Nations and IOM would need to work together to combat anti-globalization populism in the months and years to come. International cooperation would be vital to protect migrants' rights and promote the well-being of communities in countries of origin and destination.

88. The two global compacts, one on migration and one on refugees, presented a unique opportunity to lay the ground rules for international cooperation on migration. The global compact on migration should identify common goals for migration management and establish a global framework that included shared principles and minimum standards to guide future interregional, regional and bilateral migration agreements. To take account of the interests of all parties, the global compact would need to combine substantive opportunities for legal movement with cooperation on immigration management and financial support for development and governance capacities in countries of origin.

89. Mr Maniatis said that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and his team had drafted a report that it was hoped would serve as a road map for addressing current migration challenges and inform negotiations on the global compact on migration. The report identified three essential relationships that shaped migration processes, namely the obligations and responsibilities of States vis-à-vis migrants, other States, and other stakeholders. It contained recommendations on five key policy areas: improving protection for migrants, creating opportunities for labour mobility, enhancing orderliness through return and reintegration programmes, promoting inclusion and development, and strengthening governance capacities. The report also focused on what steps should be taken by the United Nations system to strengthen governance capacities, including anticipating and reacting quickly to crisis migration, speaking with one voice to deliver political messages, monitoring the implementation of the SDGs, supporting the formulation of common standards, and concluding new issue-specific treaties.

90. Looking ahead, governments would need to adopt an inclusive approach involving civil society and private sector partners in order to tackle current migration challenges successfully. The international community, for its part, must take immediate action and not wait for universal agreement: measures should be adopted among small coalitions of States and other stakeholders to prevent the current assault on universal ideals and multilateralism.

91. Mr Iguchi said that governments in Asia had long been faced with mixed migration flows and had been paralysed by the complexity of the situation. Some States had been reluctant to accept refugees, for fear of damaging diplomatic or international relations with the respective countries of origin, and had instead adopted nationalist migration policies. Consequently, very few Asian countries had ratified the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. Japan, the Republic of Korea and China were the exceptions to that rule and had received a significant number of asylum seekers. However, more work was required to establish additional legal migration channels to those countries and reduce the burden on their national refugee recognition systems.

92. The bilateral labour agreements adopted by several countries in Asia had met with limited success so far and would require additional work. Moreover, although local measures, such as hotlines for reporting labour abuses, had been introduced in some countries, more awareness-raising campaigns were needed to promote diversity and highlight the positive contributions made by migrants to their host society.

93. In response to the comments of one representative, Ms Robinson agreed that it was a pity that so few countries, and no major receiving country, had ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, which addressed important rights that could be incorporated in the global compact on migration. She also acknowledged that some form of contingency planning was needed in the face of climate migration: roughly 75 million people lived on coastlines 1 metre or less above sea level. In that regard, the global compact on migration should also, for the sake of coherence, reference the measures adopted to combat climate change under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

94. Another representative said that the global compact on migration should focus on the 90 per cent of people on the move who were economic migrants, facilitating their migration through legal channels and protecting their labour rights. Since 48 per cent of migrants were women, the global compact should be gender-sensitive, enshrine equal opportunities and protect women migrants from discrimination and precarious employment. Two representatives said that the global compact should also contain specific provisions on vulnerable people, such as those with disabilities, along with measures for stopping exploitation and abuse, fighting trafficking and smuggling, eliminating xenophobia, and facilitating the return and reintegration of migrants.

95. Mr Iguchi agreed that measures must be adopted to provide better protection for women and low-skilled workers and to reduce the number of migrants working in the informal sector. Additional resources should also be invested in human resources and integration of migrants through education and training.

96. Two representatives and one observer echoed the importance of the inclusive, people-centred approach advocated by Ms Robinson and the local approaches underscored by Mr Iguchi. In that respect, they and two other representatives agreed with the Director General that regional consultations, where national and regional stakeholders could make their voices heard, had a critical role to play in the preparatory work on the global compact on migration.

Those consultations should be purpose-oriented and time- and resource-efficient. The regional consultations held in the run-up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, for example, had proven effective when it came to collecting data and learning lessons from the large number of stakeholders involved.

97. In reply to a question about how to produce a practical and realistic global compact, Mr Heredia said that the best approach would be for all stakeholders to work together to ensure that all expectations were met. The consultations held in Geneva and New York by the co-facilitators working on the draft negotiating modalities were a good first step in that direction. The co-facilitators would endeavour to incorporate the feedback they had received from all sectors into the modalities, drawing on the expertise available in Geneva. The process would also have to reflect the particularities of each region.

98. Another speaker said that the global compact on migration should adopt a balanced approach to countries of origin, transit and destination, all of which should benefit from the positive contributions of migrants. It should take into account the principle of international burden-sharing and address the root causes of migration.

99. One observer remarked that children accounted for a sizeable percentage of those caught up in major migration flows; they had specific protection needs, faced discrimination and suspicion, and were at great risk of abuse and exploitation while en route and in destination countries. The global compact on migration should stipulate that education was an essential and vital service to which migrant children were entitled. It had to be an actionable document that helped operationalize the rights of children under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

100. Mr Maniatis recalled that the New York Declaration covered both refugees and migrants. In his view, the two separate global compact processes that had resulted should be recombined to take advantage of the expertise available in Geneva. For example, protocols and infrastructure were needed to determine people's status closer to the point of initial movement (i.e. closer to conflict). That being said, the process of drafting the global compact on migration should have practical and political goals, chief among them to create a framework that balanced the interests of the various stakeholders involved. It should also identify – and even pilot test – practical ideas for getting things done.

Panel discussion: Opportunities for policy development to address climate migration and cross-border disaster displacement

Panellists

- **Hans-Joachim Daerr**, Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in Geneva, and Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement
- **Walter Kaelin**, Adviser to the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, Professor emeritus of constitutional and international law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern
- **Tord Kjellstrom**, Professor, Consultant on Environment and Occupational Health

Moderator

- **Ms Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, IOM**

101. The Deputy Director General said that climate change, environmental degradation and their impact on migration and disasters had long ranked high on the Organization's agenda.

Institutional and operational action taken included the establishment of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division in 2015, the provision of humanitarian assistance to persons displaced internally as a result of natural disasters, raising awareness and building capacity among national officials on the links between human mobility and climate change, the publication of *Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Training Manual*, and working with governments on how human mobility could be used as a resilience and adaptation measure. The Organization had also actively sought to raise awareness of the issue in other global forums and was strengthening evidence and data collection to inform policy through initiatives such as the *Atlas of Environmental Migration*. It welcomed the creation of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, in which it participated as a standing invitee within the Steering Group.

102. Mr Daerr said that the Platform on Disaster Displacement addressed at least two of the major twenty-first century challenges: climate change and human mobility. The Platform sought to pave the way for migration in the context of climate change. Launched during the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, its main aim was to achieve the deliverables of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda endorsed by 109 countries during a global consultation held in Geneva in October 2015.

103. The Platform was a State-led process working for enhanced cooperation, coordination and action on the protection of disaster-displaced persons. The links between the Platform and other instruments, such as the Sendai Framework, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the SDGs, were obvious. Moreover, the merits and relevance of the Nansen Agenda had been highlighted in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. At national and regional level, many countries had shown an interest in better cooperation, starting with improving the capacities of their own administrations and extending the range of activities across borders.

104. The Platform was working with IOM and UNHCR, building on their institutional experience and supporting their efforts to mainstream the targets of the Nansen Agenda into their operations. High-ranking experts had mentioned the importance of the Platform's work in relation to the planned global compacts on migration and on refugees. Member States should ensure that the content of the Nansen Agenda and the implementation efforts of the Platform were integrated into those compacts. IOM and UNHCR should also continue to promote the inclusion of disaster, environmental and climate change concerns in the preparatory work.

105. The Council viewed a short video produced at the first meeting of the Platform's Advisory Committee, held in Geneva in October 2016.

106. Mr Kaelin said that policies were urgently needed to address disaster- and climate-induced migration and cross-border displacement. IOM's role was crucial, particularly within the framework of the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration and with regard to the global compact on migration. The Nansen Agenda highlighted the need for humanitarian considerations and international solidarity with disaster-affected countries and communities to be key factors in addressing the protection needs of displaced persons. Concerted efforts had to be made, including at policy level, to translate the Nansen Agenda into reality: the Regional Consultative Processes provided an excellent forum for discussion of those efforts at regional and subregional level. In the past, States' admission of persons displaced across borders had been haphazard and unpredictable; the Nansen Agenda identified the need to harmonize approaches to the admission, stay, return and non-return of cross-border disaster-displaced persons. The Regional Conference on Migration (Puebla Process) had taken the lead, developing a guide for its member countries, which should serve as an inspiration to other regions prone to the devastating effects of disasters and climate change.

107. The global compact on migration would provide a unique opportunity to address migration as a mechanism to cope with climate change. In many parts of the world, regular channels for such migration were few or non-existent, which led some of those affected to resort to irregular migration, with all its negative consequences. The global compact on migration would be incomplete and lose considerable relevance if it failed to provide solid guidance on migration as a tool for adapting to and coping with climate change, or to establish a consensus on how best to facilitate and manage such migration.

108. It was important not to miss the opportunity to develop policies to address migration and cross-border displacement in the context of disasters and climate change. IOM's support for and cooperation with the Platform were therefore welcome, and he looked forward to strong IOM leadership at regional and global level, particularly regarding the Regional Consultative Processes and the global compact on migration.

109. Mr Kjellstrom, explaining that he was both a medical doctor and a mechanical engineer, said that knowledge of the relationship between climate change and issues such as human health, plant health and agriculture was lacking in a number of areas. It was important to strengthen links between the scientific community and decision makers. The world was already on a course that would see many places become prohibitively hot and dry for food production, while rising sea levels would leave other areas submerged. The world's hottest areas were currently inhabited by around one million people. As the areas affected by extreme heat expanded, so would the number of people affected, from an optimistic 100 million – based on the pledges made by governments in 2015 under the Paris Agreement – to 400 million and beyond.

110. In the face of such a seemingly hopeless situation, he called for work to be done at national level to assess the likely health impacts of various climate change risks and hazards, including extreme weather events, rising sea levels, lack of water and food, and temperatures increasing to levels at which it was medically impossible to live. Such conditions would create tremendous migration pressures. Certain groups, such as elderly people, who were often less mobile, and working people under pressure not to rest, even in extreme heat, would be particularly affected. Gaps in the application of existing physiological knowledge needed to be addressed. If the impact of climate change on human health could be quantified, including in economic terms, even the largest countries with the highest greenhouse gas emissions might be persuaded to change their approach. The issue should be explored with a view to driving the mitigation agenda.

111. The observer from UNHCR said that climate change could no longer be considered solely an environmental issue: it was a defining challenge of the modern world that interacted with and reinforced other global megatrends, such as population growth, urbanization, and increasing food, water and energy insecurity, with important implications for international peace and security. In addressing that challenge, the international community must collaborate, seizing the political momentum generated by the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the creation of the Platform on Disaster Displacement. UNHCR supported efforts to better prevent and prepare for displacement and to respond to the displacement of people across borders as a result of climate-related events, although such groups were not normally considered refugees under the current legal framework. In developing the proposed global compacts on migration and refugees, it was important to ensure input from civil society, without which responses and solutions would not be sustainable.

Keynote address: Ms Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta

112. Ms Coleiro Preca said that a critical juncture had been reached in international migration. Even in the oldest and most established democracies, the movement of people had become a steadily more polarized and controversial topic, with migrants blamed for a variety of ills in society. Governments and the international community as a whole would need to respond in a united and timely fashion to quell the increasingly aggressive and hostile politics of populist division and address the roots of political extremism. Refugees and migrants would bear the brunt of the growing anger and disillusionment experienced by host communities if they did not. World leaders must not allow migration to become a source of division among peoples: tangible measures should be adopted at the earliest opportunity to nurture inclusive encounters between individuals and communities and to include the direct experiences of refugees and migrants in policymaking. Every person must be given the opportunity to become a valued member of society.

113. Malta was proof of the strength that came from social diversity and the movement of peoples. Migration had positively shaped and moulded the lives of many people in the Mediterranean region. It was therefore devastating that a large number of migrants fleeing the African continent continued to perish while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Over 4,600 people had been reported dead or missing in 2016 alone. No effort must be spared to end the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe and counter the arguments of divisive individuals who fuelled hostile populism. Walls and fences were not valid solutions for the growing numbers of vulnerable people seeking safety and security.

114. A generation of children and young people must not be lost. The international community must increase the support and resources it provided to people living in refugee camps across the world in a bid to prevent exclusion and combat the threat of radicalization. The President's Foundation for the Well-being of Society in Malta, for its part, had established a platform that enabled asylum seekers to raise awareness of their plight and promote their inclusion in society. Concerted efforts were also needed to protect child migrants and create safe and dignified spaces for migrant families, so that they were able to integrate effectively into their host communities. IOM programmes aimed at supporting unaccompanied child migrants and facilitating family reunification would be vital in that regard.

115. It was clear that international migration would only increase in scale and complexity over time. Governments, international organizations and civil society should therefore adopt a far more proactive stance towards addressing the challenges and exploring the opportunities presented by the movement of people. Malta would use its presidency of the Council of the European Union to promote implementation of the outcomes of the 2015 Valetta Summit on migration between European Union and African countries, including by tackling negative public perceptions of migration and increasing investment in countries of origin, transit and destination. The international community must strongly advocate for social inclusion of migrants that encompassed a genuine investment in, and celebration of, their religious, cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds as assets that enriched and strengthened civic life. Global social solidarity in the area of migration would be the key to upholding human dignity and achieving sustainable world peace.

Panel discussion: The Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing

Panellists

- **Androulla Kaminara**, Director for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific, Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Commission
- **Jemilah Mahmood**, Under Secretary General, Partnerships, IFRC
- **Ahmad Faizal Perdaus**, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and President, Mercy Malaysia
- **Nathalie-Lintvelt**, Head, Migration and Development Group, Stabilization and Humanitarian Aid Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
- **Maryam Teschke-Panah**, Deputy Head, Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department, Department for International Development, United Kingdom
- **Beatriz Londoño Soto**, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, Geneva

Moderator

- **Mohammed Abdiker**, Director, Department of Operations and Emergencies, IOM

116. The moderator recalled that the Grand Bargain formally launched at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit set out 51 commitments across 10 key workstreams. Its broad-based commitments offered individual agencies the opportunity to take action aimed at strengthening humanitarian financing and localizing aid that respected their individual structures and institutional mandates. It was hoped that the cumulative efforts of each agency would ultimately lead to system-wide improvements to the way in which humanitarian financing was allocated.

117. IOM had drafted its own set of internal commitments and undertaken the necessary internal improvements to implement the Grand Bargain package of reform measures. While it differed in a number of ways from other international organizations of a similar size that had subscribed to the package (it was present in more than 500 locations in 150 countries and delivered services directly), it remained committed to localizing aid still further and eliminating internal duplication and waste. IOM also intended to adopt new approaches to cash-based programming, build closer partnerships with local responders and join the International Aid Transparency Initiative. The success of those efforts depended heavily on humanitarian donors playing their part in a manner that hewed to the Organization's continued belief in project-based management and costing.

118. Ms Kaminara said that the European Commission, which was a signatory to the Grand Bargain, and more specifically ECHO, was currently playing three different roles with regard to its package of reform measures. First, ECHO was working to ensure that both donors and humanitarian organizations fully implemented their commitments in terms of simplified reporting, flexible and multi-year funding, and localization at all levels of funding, and that the benefits were felt along the entire length of the project implementation chain. For its part, ECHO planned to launch pilot projects for multi-year planning and funding, and engage in multi-stakeholder discussions on harmonized reporting and improved needs assessments. It

would examine how management costs could be reduced and the resulting savings introduced at programming level. It would also work to close the gap between humanitarian aid and development cooperation.

119. Second, ECHO was co-chairing the needs assessment workstream with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Reliable needs assessments were more likely to result in limited earmarking, longer-term funding and reduced reporting requirements. ECHO, together with its partners and experts, would organize a technical workshop enabling all relevant players to reach agreement on the challenges and opportunities of improving needs assessment in practice, as opposed to theory; it would carry out a baseline study to assess whether needs assessments were meeting the criteria set out in the Grand Bargain (i.e. that they be impartial, comprehensive, timely, transparent and useful); and it would directly fund initiatives to strengthen the humanitarian community's capacity to conduct needs assessments.

120. Third, the European Commission was one of the two donors – the other being Switzerland – in the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, which also comprised five “doers”. The Group's role was to ensure that the process did not lose momentum and delivered results. Within the Group, the Commission was in charge of the independent annual progress report and was acting as the interim chair until a permanent secretariat was identified. The Group would be meeting soon to assess the progress made under every workstream and to outline the annual report contents and the self-reporting exercise.

121. Ms Mahmood stressed that more effective and efficient humanitarian responses required a change of mindset with regard to the localization of humanitarian aid. There would always be a need for international humanitarian action, but it was important to build complementarity and strike the right balance between local, national and international humanitarian assistance. The objective was to ensure that local and national responders played an appropriate role and had a commensurate voice in humanitarian response.

122. At present, international humanitarian finance and coordination mechanisms were heavily skewed towards international players, with local civil society agencies receiving on average a mere 0.3 per cent of international humanitarian funding directly from donors. In addition, reviews of United Nations-led humanitarian coordination mechanisms, in particular the cluster system, had shown that they consistently fell short when it came to engaging, empowering and supporting local players.

123. The change of mindset was needed in three important areas. First, local agents had to be treated as equal partners in the humanitarian response, rather than as subcontractors. Support was needed for the organizational development of local and national responders, including in terms of financial management, domestic resource mobilization, project management, accountability and reporting, and good governance. The international humanitarian sector had to invest in the capacities of local players to raise and manage their own funds, targeting local and national responders in high-risk contexts well before disaster or conflict struck or during ongoing operations, so as to enable “learning by doing” and organizational buy-in. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement had made huge progress in that respect, setting up a joint investment mechanism to focus on capacity-building for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in high-risk contexts.

124. Second, risk had to be shared. The international humanitarian sector had to recognize that complex humanitarian environments posed challenges for all: local players were

challenged by their local affiliations, just as international players often failed to gain acceptance because of their perceived alliance with geopolitical interests. If all involved were honest about those challenges, then local and international players would be able to get aid quickly to those who needed it most, and enjoy sufficient security to do their jobs. The Movement's Fundamental Principles held a vital lesson in that respect.

125. Lastly, her experience in the Movement had taught her that localization differed radically depending on the context, the nature of the emergency and the level of existing local and national capacity.

126. Several pilot projects had been launched to consider localization issues. OCHA and a number of NGOs had recently hosted an event to examine coordination with local players during the Nepal earthquake response. A "localization marker" was being developed in a process, chaired by CAFOD, to track how much funding local players were receiving. As experts started work on many of the issues relating to the Grand Bargain, it was critical to use that momentum to create an extensive evidence base about the advantages of local action and what localization could mean in different contexts. As co-champion for the Grand Bargain workstream on localization, the IFRC had already made substantial plans, particularly in terms of defining, researching and implementing localization in a way that led to effective, relevant and principled humanitarian action.

127. Achieving the effectiveness and efficiency to which the Grand Bargain aspired would require trust, and action that was timely and tailored to the needs of those affected – in other words, action by local institutions embedded in the communities concerned. In addition, technology would prove to be a game changer for accelerating local action.

128. Mr Perdaus said that the ICVA had been considering the issues of adequate and accessible financing, reducing burdensome donor conditions and increasing the transparency of aid flows for some time prior to the adoption of the Grand Bargain. The ICVA had assumed responsibility for the reporting workstream during the Grand Bargain negotiations, with a view to harmonizing and streamlining reporting requirements for NGOs and other partners. Its members had advocated the establishment of a system in which reporting requirements were proportional to the size and duration of the project and partner capacity assessments were shared among donors. The Grand Bargain offered an excellent opportunity to implement those principles and to closely monitor the manner in which reporting documentation was used by donors so as to eliminate duplication and redundancy of information. Aside from resulting in an innovative outcome document, the Grand Bargain negotiations had also provided a welcome chance for various stakeholders, including United Nations organizations, donors, NGOs and private partners, to come together and find ways to be more efficient. It would be vital to maintain that close level of cooperation as the package was implemented.

129. Ms Lintvelt said that the commitments set out in the Grand Bargain had the potential to change the humanitarian system because they were specific and direct. Initial implementation of the Bargain had been underwhelming, but recent progress was more encouraging; it was important to maintain momentum and to take implementation seriously, especially as political attention moved to other issues. Partners must be self-critical, calling themselves and one another to account for delays. Cooperation and transparency were key.

130. Transparency was particularly vital to the credibility of humanitarian efforts. Together with the World Bank, the Netherlands was convening the transparency workstream. The use of an open-data standard would enhance the transparency of aid flows and results and enable

reporting requirements to be harmonized and simplified. While the Grand Bargain might appear to be purely technical in nature, its full implementation would be revolutionary for the humanitarian sector, resulting in more money, more multi-year funding, less earmarking, better needs assessments and a reduced reporting burden.

131. Ms Teschke-Panah said that IOM had an important role to play in delivering the commitments made under the Grand Bargain. Addressing the growing gap between humanitarian needs and available resources would require new ways of preparing for, financing and managing crisis response. The Grand Bargain was a crucial part of ensuring that the humanitarian system was better able to meet the needs of people affected by crises, and implementing it fully would shape the way operational agencies interacted with donors and the people they served. Within the package of commitments contained in the Bargain, those relating to transparency, needs assessments and accountability were of particular importance.

132. The United Kingdom Department for International Development had made a number of individual commitments in line with the Grand Bargain and its current operations. They included an ambitious approach to increasing cash-based interventions; increasing multi-year, multi-partner funding in protracted and recurrent crises; maintaining its current level of unearmarked or softly earmarked humanitarian funding, in return for system reform; and streamlining reporting requirements for results, which was recognized as an area in which the Department could improve. Future funding would be linked to Grand Bargain commitments, an approach that had already been taken in responding to Hurricane Matthew. The Department's next steps would be to ensure that bilateral funding arrangements were in line with the Grand Bargain, encourage all relevant United Nations agencies to meet their commitments, and carry out country pilots.

133. Ms Londoño Soto said that, although Colombia had not signed up to the Grand Bargain, it was observing progress made on the 10 commitments set out therein and recognized its positive impact. Coordination mechanisms for humanitarian activities at national level should be viewed as a first step, not a last resort. Colombia had endeavoured to align its procedures and priorities with those of international agencies, taking into account local and national circumstances and different donor preferences. Its multi-year funding plan, developed with IOM, demonstrated an innovative approach to financing outside traditional humanitarian and development funding models. When it came to tackling the challenges that lay ahead in implementing the recently signed peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, IOM would doubtless continue to provide invaluable support.

134. The delegate of Sweden, emphasizing that the Grand Bargain was ultimately about partnerships of various kinds, stressed the need for partnership with local actors and for the voices of the people concerned to be taken into account if it was to be a success. Her country was co-lead for the workstream on flexible financing and earmarking, and work would begin shortly to compile policies and best practices in that area. Flexible financing was key to achieving many other commitments under the Grand Bargain. She echoed Ms Lintvelt's comments concerning the need to be self-critical to ensure that commitments were met.

135. One delegate asked what specific plans had been made to strengthen local and national players.

136. Ms Mahmood replied that the IFRC, together with the ICRC, was ramping up investment in the National Societies at national and local level, as they were usually the first

responders, and helping them access pooled funds wherever possible. As the Sherpa and the co-champion for the localization workstream, the IFRC was also mapping out initiatives, collating best practices, identifying gaps and concerns, and ascertaining the means of addressing them in respect of local NGOs and local governments.

137. Ms Kaminara said that, while the importance of local responders and of host communities could not be overestimated – studies showed that 90 to 95 per cent of those saved in a disaster were rescued by the local community – European Commission financial regulations often barred it from financing local responders directly; it could only do so through an umbrella organization.

138. In reply to a question about the extent to which cash-based interventions would be used in the coming years, Ms Mahmood said that the IFRC was committed to the use of cash. One of its members, the British Red Cross, was in the process of establishing a centre of excellence for cash for the entire IFRC, so that more frequent use could be made of cash with due regard for transparency and the guidelines established by the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

139. Ms Kaminara pointed out that, on average, only about 10 per cent of humanitarian aid was currently cash-based, with the European Commission aiming for 30 to 35 per cent in 2017. The Commission considered cash transfers to be an extremely efficient way of delivering aid. She also pointed to the link between cash-based interventions and traditional development projects, which in many cases focused on creating social safety nets. When disaster struck, humanitarian aid could be channelled much faster if a social safety net was in place.

140. Ms Teschke-Panah agreed that cash transfers, if designed well, contributed to economic recovery and especially to the empowerment of women. Over 60 per cent of her Department's support for Syrian families in Lebanon currently took the form of cash. The Department was also increasingly attentive to the link with traditional development action. The United Kingdom had made a specific commitment at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to more than double the use of cash in crises by 2025 and was in the process of establishing a baseline for that purpose.

141. Ms Londoño Soto added that the humanitarian sector should take advantage of the knowledge and body of evidence about cash transfers acquired by very many countries over decades. The impact of cash transfers, especially on women, had to be carefully gauged.

142. On the issue of technology, Ms Kaminara agreed that the humanitarian sector had tended to underestimate the potential usefulness of technology to aid delivery in terms of registering beneficiaries, avoiding duplicate registrations, big-data analysis, and so on. The humanitarian sector also needed to be more accountable to the taxpayers who ultimately funded its work. It had to adopt commonly accepted results indicators that simplified the reporting process.

143. In reply to a question about potential savings in the wake of the IOM–UN Agreement, the Administration suggested that IOM cost-efficiency measures might serve as a model for the United Nations. The Organization was currently reviewing its own commitments under the Grand Bargain and would report back to the Member States on any cost-efficiencies that resulted.

Presentation of the McKinsey Global Institute report, *People on the move: Global migration's impact and opportunity*

- **Jonathan Woetzel**, Director, McKinsey Global Institute
- **Anu Madgavkar**, Partner, McKinsey Global Institute

144. Mr Woetzel said that the report was based on facts, according to which the current pool of 250 million cross-border migrants – roughly 3 to 3.5 per cent of the global population – generated approximately 9 per cent of global GDP, or about USD 6.7 trillion (4 per cent more than if they had stayed in their countries of origin). Improvements in economic, sociocultural and civic integration had the potential to generate up to USD 1 trillion of additional GDP.

145. Four out of five cross-border migrants originated in developing countries; two out of three ended up in a developed country. Both flows – developing to developed and developing to developing – were therefore substantial, and accounted for the bulk of current migrants. In addition, most cross-border migration occurred between neighbouring countries and regions and involved economic or voluntary migrants, the majority of whom were low- to medium-skilled. Refugees and asylum seekers accounted for 10 to 15 per cent of all migrants and were not categorized in terms of skill.

146. Ms Madgavkar pointed out that migrants constituted between 15 and 30 per cent of the labour force in most key destination economies. They were also a potent force in terms of innovation: roughly half of all new businesses in those economies had been founded or co-founded by migrants. Migrants also played an important role in filling skill gaps and in allowing native workers in destination economies to perform other, higher added-value tasks.

147. An extensive study of all the literature suggested that, when considered over a period of time, migrants had a negligible negative effect on employment or wages in the destination economies. It was only under certain specific conditions (a very large influx in a short period of time of skills that substituted, rather than complementing those of native workers) that they had a strongly negative impact.

148. Countries of origin, for their part, received USD 580 billion in remittances in any given year, accounting for a sizeable proportion of GDP in many. That being said, the amount of remittances might arguably be lower than the amount of output that migrants would have contributed had they not left, and in some regions and countries migrant outflows had hollowed out important pockets of high skills or eroded the labour force.

149. It took time to integrate both refugees and economic migrants into the labour market in the destination country, and migrants from different countries of origin faced different labour market outcomes, pointing to the need for more segmented consideration of migrants and their integration. In addition, many studies had found that migrants tended to earn 20 to 30 per cent less than equivalently skilled native workers, a finding that had implications for their overall economic well-being and longer-term productivity. That gap could be narrowed through better integration of migrants both into the labour market and more broadly into society as a whole in the destination country. In that respect, numerous studies had shown that greater labour market, sociocultural and civic integration resulted in a more productive economy. According to the limited data available, however, very few countries performed well on all three of those aspects. The research had not revealed an easy way to improve migrant integration, but the report did contain a list of about 150 promising interventions being implemented by stakeholders around

the world to that end. Some related to mechanisms for dialogue and conflict resolution, or for incorporating integration into urban planning and urban management processes; others empowered subnational and local authorities and agencies to deliver better integration outcomes on the ground.

150. Another major finding related to the importance of partnerships, and the need for civil society, the private sector and governments to work together. The research had also shown that, for the private sector, migrants represented not just a corporate social responsibility, but an economic opportunity.

151. One delegate asked whether the report encompassed short-term movements for specific assignments and how such movements were viewed in terms of economic migration, given that those looking for temporary jobs faced the same challenges as those migrating in search of permanent employment.

152. Ms Madgavkar said that most of the data in the report had been provided by UN DESA and covered short-term movements as well. That being said, it was difficult to draw a clear line between long- and short-term movements; some migrants arrived in a country on a temporary basis but ended up staying for significant periods, albeit with temporary status. She agreed that all migrants – short- or long-term – faced the same issues when it came to social and cultural cohesion and integration, access to the labour market and education, health care and housing.

153. In reply to a question about data gaps, Ms Madgavkar identified two main areas in which more data were needed. The first was South–South migration, understanding of which was limited by the lack of census and labour market data from the countries concerned. The second related to measures taken to promote integration and their outcomes. Not enough data were available on what really worked.

154. The Chairperson stressed that the narrative on migration clearly benefited from evidence-based policy, and that data were therefore of huge importance. His country's experience confirmed the potential of migration to boost productivity; hence the value of partnerships with the private sector. The Member States had every interest in pooling their collective wisdom in terms of best practices.

155. The Director General said that IOM was endeavouring to do much more in terms of data, in order to deliver the evidence needed to counter the negative public discourse on migration. Indeed, according to a study released at the 2015 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, in Lima, Peru, countries with migrant-friendly policies were likely to do much better economically over the medium to long term than those with migrant-unfriendly policies. In order to obtain the evidence needed to bear out that assertion, IOM was working in association with Gallup Poll in Europe and the Economist Intelligence Unit, and planned to strengthen its relationship with the McKinsey Global Institute.

Migrants' voices

- **Luis Salinas**, producer of the film “The Golden Dream” (2013), United States of America
- **Nhung Tran-Davies**, family physician, Edmonton, Canada
- **Almonzer Eskandar**, student, Tallinn University, Estonia

Moderator

- **Hala Jaber**, Public Information Officer, Spokesperson, Mosul Response, IOM Erbil, Iraq

156. The moderator said that her time as a war journalist – witnessing terrible events but moving on before the outcome was known – contrasted with her IOM role, in which she was able to see more positive results by being present for longer. In many cases, migration was not a choice but a necessity. Migrants often wanted to continue to contribute to their surroundings, however temporary, and needed more support than the international community was currently able to give them.

157. Mr Salinas said that his experience of migration had been gleaned from producing a film about migrants who made the hazardous journey from Central America to the United States via Mexico. Among the migrants he had met and befriended, the overriding aim had not been to reach the United States itself but to find work. The utter lack of opportunity in their countries of origin made the long train ride north appear the better option, whatever its dangers, and he was pleased to have been able to find ways of employing some of them on the film set.

158. He had initially hoped to produce a documentary, but that had proved impracticable; nonetheless, his film sought to present the migrants' story as honestly as possible. He had interviewed children in the slums of Guatemala City to find actors for whom migration and its risks were part of everyday life. Most knew of someone who had set out on the journey and never returned, falling victim to the deserts or drug cartels of Mexico or simply disappearing without trace.

159. His brief time on board a train talking to migrants had hammered home the difficulties they endured to improve their lives and provide for their families. Even those who were not highly educated were far from ignorant. They observed the natural world around them, constantly on the move, and questioned how they as living beings could be called “illegal”. He had shared their story through his film in the hope that those in positions of power would take action to put an end to what was an intolerable situation.

160. The Council viewed a trailer for the film “The Golden Dream”, produced by Mr Salinas.

161. Ms Tran-Davies said that her story of migration had begun nearly 40 years previously, when, as a five-year-old, she had fled the war and poverty of Viet Nam with her mother and five siblings in a wooden fishing boat, with over 300 other desperate refugees. They had been among the lucky ones who had survived, while thousands before and after had drowned. After months in an overcrowded refugee camp in Malaysia, with countries reluctant to take in a widowed mother with little education and six dependent children, Canada had accepted her

family. Her overwhelming memory of her arrival had been the joy she had felt at receiving a doll from her sponsor family: that doll had come to symbolize the kindness and generosity of so many Canadians.

162. Everything her family had – hope, freedom, family and home – and all that they had become was because of their sponsors’ kindness and generosity. As a result, she lived in honour of them: by working hard through school to earn a medical degree; by speaking out to ensure excellence in education for children; by founding a charity to help pass on the hope and opportunities to thousands of impoverished children in Viet Nam; by writing stories to convey the human condition, with proceeds going to charities; and by becoming sponsor to two Syrian refugee families, one similar to her family with a single mother and children. Her story was not unique: many migrants and children of migrants had gone on to great personal achievement and to contribute to their adopted countries.

163. Her overarching message was that a greater force transcended space and time: kindness and generosity. It pained her to see barriers erected, refugees rounded up and their suffering disregarded by so many nations; in the midst of conflicts and politics it was easy to lose sight of the bigger picture. Although her story was of the past, it reflected the dynamics of the present and gave a glimpse of what the future could hold if kindness prevailed. Kindness was not idealism but a practical and achievable solution to the cancerous tendencies of war and conflict.

164. Mr Eskandar recounted his journey as a migrant, which had taken him from the city of Latakia, in the Syrian Arab Republic, to Estonia. When war had broken at home, he had been studying for his bachelor’s degree. To help him deal with the shock of events, he had become involved in the country’s emerging civil society movement, focusing on psychosocial support and peacebuilding. Four years later, he had been offered a 10-month European Union scholarship to study human–computer interaction in Tallinn. His immediate interest in the subject had been closely followed by a growing fascination with the history of a country he knew little about and its technological contribution to modern society.

165. As well as simple things like electricity, warm water and high-speed Internet access, the peaceful environment and people of Estonia had given him a degree of stability, but he knew he would need a means of supporting himself once his scholarship ended. His family members back home could barely support themselves. Despite his Estonian friends’ suggestions, he had been determined to retain his independence rather than claim asylum and become a refugee. The satisfaction of finding a job in a shop that enabled him to finance himself had been tempered with apprehension at the possibility that he might not be granted residency in Estonia at the end of his scholarship and would have to return to his country unable to continue his studies. Fortunately, he had been able to proceed to the second year of his master’s degree.

166. With more Syrian refugees arriving in the country, he had felt drawn to help facilitate contact and understanding between newcomers and local people. Estonia’s history of invasions, coupled with the media portrayal of the situation in his country, had contributed to a somewhat sceptical attitude towards refugees and a perception of them as a potential threat. By visiting local schools to show children that he and other Syrians were ordinary human beings, with the same good and bad qualities as anyone else, he hoped to break down barriers and dispel fears. The response had been very positive. He did not advocate for refugees; rather, he encouraged the students he met to remain open-minded and to form their views based on facts and their own experience, not what they heard.

167. Although he now felt comfortable and safe in Estonia, where he had never encountered overt racism, his experiences when he travelled abroad demonstrated that prejudice persisted in many quarters. He disliked the feeling that presenting a Syrian passport to an official or casually speaking Arabic to a Syrian friend could engender unease and panic in those around him. In the face of the pervasive negative media discourse surrounding migration, it was up to individuals to overcome their natural reactions and embody acceptance through their actions.

168. In reply to a question from the Administration, Mr Salinas explained that the direct translation of the Spanish title of his film was “the golden cage”, reflecting the fact that the experience of migration turned out not to be a dream for many migrants. The hardship of their situation did not end when they crossed the border into the United States: far from it. As irregular migrants, they were in a precarious position and lived in constant fear of deportation. The current political climate in the United States did not augur well for them.

169. The Director General sought the panellists’ views on how to make the public discourse on migration more historically accurate and positive and how to encourage people to embrace diversity as a rich element in society.

170. The moderator recounted her experience of interviewing prospective migrants in Iraq, many of whom wished to leave the country to pursue their education. Raising awareness of that reality might help to undermine negative messages in destination countries.

171. Ms Tran-Davies emphasized that such negativity needed to be countered with real stories of migrants contributing to their host communities. Attempting to engage people in fact-based arguments would not necessarily succeed because some would remain entrenched in their beliefs, but publicizing positive examples of migrants and refugees would eventually make a difference. The Organization’s “I am a migrant” campaign provided an excellent model.

172. Mr Eskandar said that support should be given to local community leaders to start their own initiatives, with the aim of changing the situation from the ground up. Governments also needed support to provide migrants with assistance in finding work, which would help them to integrate.

173. One delegate drew attention to the problem of brain drain. Even when a conflict ended, refugees and migrants might feel reluctant to return to their country of origin if the medium- and long-term future seemed unstable.

174. The delegate of the United States, highlighting her country’s active role in resettling refugees and its full support for IOM, as its top donor, acknowledged that questions had been raised about how well the United States handled undocumented economic migrants approaching its borders. Her Government supported the humane treatment of migrants, whether they were documented or not. Films such as “The Golden Dream” helped to raise awareness of migration issues within the Americas and to prompt discussion of how the dangers of migration, particularly for unaccompanied children, could be avoided. Concerted efforts were needed to stem the conflation of migrants, refugees and terrorists by some commentators.

General debate⁵

175. Statements were made by the following Member States listed in alphabetical order: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia (for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana (for the African Group and in its own name), Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Mexico (for MIKTA and in its own name), Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia (for the Human Security Network and in its own name), Spain, Sri Lanka (for the G-15 and in its own name), Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Permanent Observer for the European Union delivered a statement on behalf of the Union's members.

176. Statements were made by one observer State, the Russian Federation, and by the following observers: African Union, FAO, OIC, PAM, the Sovereign Order of Malta, UNDP and WFP.

177. A warm welcome was extended to the Member States and observers that had joined the Organization in 2016, and tribute was paid to IOM staff for their hard and dedicated work in what were often difficult and dangerous conditions.

178. Congratulations were extended to the Organization on the 65th anniversary of its founding. What had started as an international conference on migration attended by about two dozen governments was today a robust and dynamic organization with 166 Member States.

179. Numerous speakers welcomed the IOM–UN Agreement signed on 19 September 2016 in New York, under which IOM had become a related organization within the United Nations system, and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by the United Nations General Assembly the same day. The Agreement marked a milestone in the international community's collective efforts to better deal with migration issues. It would enable the United Nations to benefit from IOM's accumulated capacity and experience, and allow IOM to expand its horizons and enhance its operational activities in support of migrants, displaced persons and communities affected by migration, and to continue protecting the rights of all those groups. A number of representatives nevertheless underscored the need for IOM to maintain its strong integrity, independence and operational flexibility. Several speakers acknowledged the role played by the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and the IOM Strategy in reaching a consensus on the IOM–UN Agreement and agreed that it should pursue its deliberations with a view to monitoring the Agreement's implementation and providing a forum for dialogue between IOM and its Member States on its role in the negotiations on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration that would be drawn up pursuant to the New York Declaration.

180. A number of Member States commented on the IOM Strategy, and many renewed their commitment to and noted the utility of the Migration Governance Framework, which provided a useful starting point for Member States wishing to achieve the migration-related targets under

⁵ Texts of statements, as and if received from the Members and observers, are accessible on the IOM website at www.iom.int.

the SDGs and helped to address migration challenges through capacity-building, project development, planning and reporting.

181. It was important to develop a comprehensive and integrated understanding of the causes and benefits of migration, one that took full account of the principles of shared responsibilities among States of origin, transit and destination and of the sovereign right of each State to determine whom to admit to its territory. The global compact on migration constituted an important step in that direction. The same practical mindset should apply to negotiation of its terms, taking advantage of IOM's operational expertise to inform deliberations and focusing on concrete actionable areas on which States could reach a consensus. To be successful, the negotiations had to be open, participatory and inclusive, rely on existing mechanisms and institutions to the greatest possible extent, and encompass the views of diaspora communities, civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations such as the African Union, and migrants themselves. Overwhelming support was expressed for IOM to play a lead role in that process, to which it could also contribute through its presence in the field, channelling input from regional and subregional initiatives that were often sources of innovative solutions and ensuring that the discussions were informed by solid data. Many Member States saw great benefit in having the Director General serve as the secretary general of the international conference to be convened in 2018, in line with Annex II, paragraph 12, of the New York Declaration, and suggested that a mechanism be established for ongoing consultations between Geneva- and New York-based offices.

182. Concern was expressed that 2016 had been marked by divisive dialogue on migration and a troubling hardening in attitudes towards migrants; the solution to the sense of marginalization of some could never be to marginalize others, and it was incumbent upon governments to promote acceptance over tolerance, and inclusion over exclusion. Human rights, including the right to migrate, were universal and portable. Migrants were often treated as numbers and commodities and perceived as a threat instead of a resource for the host society; they had to be integrated to prevent marginalization, and the culture of mutual distrust and suspicion replaced with one of dialogue and encounter. The issue was a complex one that could be addressed only by a comprehensive and coherent approach that tackled all elements of the migration flow, was in line with States' international obligations and responsibilities, including respect for human rights, and was based on acceptance that safe and orderly migration was only possible when the concepts of both State security and human rights protection were respected. The positive aspects of migration had to be fully harnessed as part of effective migration management and protecting human rights; the need was noted for a broader evidence base in that crucial area.

183. Two Member States appealed for greater gender equality and better geographical diversity and balance among IOM staff.

184. One Member State exercised its right of reply in response to the statement of an observer State.

185. The Director General stressed that saving lives was central to all IOM activities. He shared the concern expressed about xenophobia and discrimination, and hoped that the worrying public discourse on migration could be changed, given that people and the media took their signals from political leadership. He further noted that the plight of internally displaced persons would be covered by neither the global compact on migration nor that on refugees, and would need to be addressed as well.

186. He pledged to ensure that IOM retained all the characteristics to which the Member States attached such great importance – responsiveness, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and independence – in keeping with Council Resolution No. 1309 of 24 November 2015.

187. It would be vital to incorporate Geneva-based expertise in the global compact on migration. In that respect, he was grateful to the Member States for supporting a lead role for IOM in the negotiating process and his possible appointment as secretary general of the conference to be held in 2018. There would be full consultations on the global compact, during which it would be important to draw on existing tools, such as the Migration Governance Framework, rather than create new instruments, and to collaborate in a process of transparency, inclusiveness and consensus-building. He welcomed the suggestion for a mechanism to link Geneva and New York delegations in the global compact process.

188. Lastly, he agreed that IOM had to focus on gender equality and greater geographical diversity among IOM staff.

Date and place of the next sessions

189. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1342 of 8 December 2016 on its next regular session, which was tentatively scheduled for November or December 2017. The Twentieth and Twenty-first Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance were provisionally scheduled for June or July and November 2017, respectively.

Closure of the session

190. The Chairperson summed up the key messages of the current Council session. Member States had expressed enthusiasm and support for IOM's entry into the United Nations system and shown a keen interest in how to help consolidate that leap forward. IOM should play a key role in the negotiations on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, in a process that should be inclusive, transparent and consultative and reach out to the regions. A strong focus was needed on having more data analysis, on clarifying the definitions of migrants and refugees, and on internally displaced persons and vulnerabilities, including by addressing concerns about trafficking and smuggling. A more balanced narrative was needed on migration and on the significant economic, social and cultural contributions that migrants made to societies.

191. He declared the 107th Session of the Council closed on Thursday, 8 December 2016, at 4.50 p.m.