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EIGHTIETH SESSION

**DRAFT REPORT ON THE
EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

Geneva

28-29 November 2000

Rapporteur: Mr. Borisovas (Lithuania)

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DRAFT REPORT ON THE EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1019 (LXXVIII) of 1 December 1999, the Council convened for its Eightieth Session on Tuesday, 28 November 2000, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. H.E. Mr. Molander (Sweden), Chairman elected at the Seventy-eighth Session, opened the session. Four meetings were held and the session ended on Wednesday, 29 November 2000.¹

ATTENDANCE ²

2. The following Member States were represented:

Albania	Czech Republic	Kenya	Slovakia
Algeria	Denmark	Kyrgyzstan ³	Slovenia ³
Angola	Dominican Republic	Latvia	South Africa
Argentina	Ecuador	Lithuania	Sri Lanka
Armenia	Egypt	Luxembourg	Sudan
Australia	El Salvador	Morocco	Sweden
Austria	Finland	Netherlands	Switzerland
Bangladesh	France	Nicaragua	Thailand
Belgium	Germany	Norway	Tunisia
Benin ³	Greece	Pakistan	Uganda
Bolivia	Guatemala	Panama	United Republic
Bulgaria	Guinea	Paraguay	of Tanzania
Canada	Haiti	Peru	United States
Chile	Honduras	Philippines	of America
Colombia	Hungary	Poland	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Israel	Portugal	Venezuela
Côte d'Ivoire	Italy	Republic of Korea	Yemen
Croatia	Japan	Romania	Zambia
Cyprus	Jordan	Senegal	

3. Afghanistan, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia ³, the Holy See, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were represented by observers, as well as the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of Malta.

¹ The discussions are reported in greater detail in the summary records of the meetings (MC/C/CR/429 to 432).

² See List of Participants (MC/2020).

³ See paragraphs 9 and 14.

4. The United Nations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Labour Organization, World Health Organization, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee¹, Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, Organization of African Unity and the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* were represented by observers.

5. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the following international non-governmental organizations were represented by observers: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Catholic Relief Services, HIAS, International Catholic Migration Commission, World Council of Churches and Migrants Rights International.

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS

6. 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 non-member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations listed in paragraphs 3 to 5.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

7. The Council elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr. J. E. Vega (Chile)
First Vice-Chairman:	Mr. I. A. Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Mr. M. E. Abbas (Egypt)
Rapporteur:	Mr. E. Borisovas (Lithuania)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The Council adopted the agenda subsequently issued as document MC/2004/Rev.3.

MEMBERSHIP:

- (a) Application by the the Republic of Benin for membership in the Organization
- (b) Application by the Republic of Slovenia for membership in the Organization
- (c) Application by the Kyrgyz Republic for membership in the Organization

9. At its 429th meeting, the Council adopted Resolutions Nos. 1027, 1028 and 1029 (LXXX) admitting the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Slovenia and the Kyrgyz Republic as Members of IOM.

¹ See paragraph 14.

10. The representatives of the above new Member States made their statements to the Council, which are reported in detail in MC/C/SR/429.

11. The representative of Benin thanked the Member States for having admitted Benin to IOM, thereby formalizing the relationship already enjoyed between the two parties. Because of its geographical location, Benin was faced with many migration challenges and had great need for the Organization's services. He therefore trusted that membership of IOM would provide the basis for fruitful cooperation.

12. The representative of Slovenia said that his country's cooperation with IOM, which dated from 1992, had been particularly intensive in 2000, on account of IOM's assistance in organizing and financing the transportation of Kosovar refugees to Slovenia and their subsequent return to Kosovo. He was convinced that Slovenia's membership would strengthen and expand such cooperation and contribute to the exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of migration.

13. The representative of Kyrgyzstan said that since the 1996 CIS Conference, an institutional framework for migration management accompanied by closer collaboration with IOM had been established in his country, along with appropriate policy, legislative and operational measures. The setting up of the Bishkek migration management centre in 1997 had further strengthened cooperation with IOM which he hoped would focus on institutional and human resources capacity building in future.

OBSERVERSHIP:

(a) Application by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for representation by an observer

(b) Application by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee for representation by an observer

14. At its 429th meeting, the Council adopted Resolutions Nos. 1030 and 1031 (LXXX) granting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) observer status at its meetings.

15. The representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia thanked the Members of the Council for having granted observer status to his country within IOM, to which his Government pledged its full support for the future.

16. The delegate of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC), assured the Council of the AALCC's determination to work closely with IOM in order to explore areas that would be beneficial to the movement and protection of migrants and migrant workers in sending and receiving countries that were members of AALCC.

GENERAL DEBATE

(a) Opening statements by the Director General and the Deputy Director General

17. The Director General made his opening statement (annexed to document MC/C/SR/429) at the Council's 429th meeting. With IOM's continued expansion in 2000, membership, operational funding levels, numbers of offices and projects were all on the increase, reflecting governments' clearer recognition of migration as a key policy issue and IOM as an essential element in migration management. In outlining IOM's accomplishments in 2000, he gave a brief regional overview.

18. In Africa, IOM's efforts to promote regional migration management were beginning to bear fruit and there was growing realization within the continent that migration, especially forced migration, put enormous strains on developing countries and required vigorous responses, as reflected in, for example, the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa and the Interregional Meeting on the Participation of Migrants in the Development of their Country of Origin, which had led to the Dakar Declaration containing an ambitious agenda of training, technical assistance, counter-trafficking, health and post-conflict measures. IOM had supported the development efforts of African States through programmes such as the Return of Qualified African Nationals and through the services of post-conflict specialists who had been present in Guinea-Bissau, Angola and other war-torn countries.

19. In Asia, where IOM was still relatively less prominent than the need for migration management would dictate, good progress was being made, as reflected in the 1999 Bangkok Declaration and the Asia-Pacific Consultations, in the areas of coordination of migration management and refugee questions throughout the region. IOM had stepped up its contacts with countries in the region, including Indonesia which had hosted the Manila Process, the People's Republic of China regarding the control of smuggling of Chinese migrants, the Republic of Korea concerning labour migration policy and Japan on management issues. Cooperation had increased with Pakistan and India and new contacts were being discussed in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal. At the operational level, IOM staff in Indonesia had played a key role in providing swift and effective emergency response in Timor.

20. In the Western Hemisphere, the regional approach to migration management had been highlighted through such mechanisms as the Puebla Process. Similar consultative processes were expected to be set up in South America and the Caribbean. Activities had focused mainly on capacity building, training and policy advice in the region, although in Colombia major programmes on behalf of displaced persons had been carried out as the violence in that country continued. Cooperation between the Maghreb and countries on the opposite shore of the Mediterranean was being explored.

21. In South East Europe, substantial programmes in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continued and IOM looked forward to cooperation with the Stability Pact. Capacity building would continue in the former Soviet Union with special focus on the three countries of the South Caucasus. Steps to facilitate regular labour immigration in European Union countries continued and IOM support was being directed increasingly towards migrant integration and public information campaigns to combat xenophobia. The Middle East, despite the new outbreaks of violence in Palestine, remained a major potential growth area for IOM: a cooperation agreement would be signed shortly with the Secretary General of the Arab League and new programme activities were planned in Syria and Egypt.

22. Each of IOM's six core services had supported IOM's growth in 2000. A new set of activities had been included under the heading "Services to migrants in a diaspora" and IOM would assist the German Government in the challenging German Forced Labour Compensation Programme.

23. Regarding management questions, the debate over the question of zero nominal growth in the Administrative Part of the Budget had dominated the year's debates and the Administration was grateful for Member States' willingness to acknowledge IOM's need to strengthen its core administrative services on account of its expanded membership and activities. As the proposed 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001 would, however, be insufficient to meet those needs, new cost-saving measures would have to be implemented. The Administration shared Member States' desire to see more Discretionary Income used as seed money for programme activities in developing Member States and Member States in transition.

24. IOM maintained close relations with a broad range of international organizations: with the International Labour Office regarding labour migration, migrants' rights, training programmes, capacity building, prevention of trafficking and protection of abused migrants; with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC), now an IOM observer, in the area of treatment of migrant workers; and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, IOM's partner in most emergency humanitarian operations.

25. IOM's World Migration Report, published for the first time in 2000, was expected to become a point of reference for public and policy debate on migration. Regarding the celebration of the 50th anniversary of IOM in 2001 a special event was being planned in Brussels; this and other events would focus attention on IOM's changing areas of emphasis, highlight its new growth areas – Asia and Africa – and draw public attention to its programmes and activities.

26. The Deputy Director General made her opening statement (appended to document MC/C/SR/429) at the Council's 429th meeting.

27. She thanked all Member States for the sustained interest which they had shown in IOM's work throughout the past year. Since the previous Council session in November 1999, substantial progress had been achieved in four specific areas of strategic importance for the Organization. The first of those concerned gender issues, both inside and outside the Organization. In order to take account of the growing feminization of migratory flows, specific projects for migrant women had been included in IOM's programmes. Within the Organization, gender issues had been emphasized and a more equitable balance had been achieved in recruitment policy, the percentage of women on the staff having increased to 31 per cent. She reiterated her previous year's appeal for allocation of resources for gender issues.

28. Secondly, relations with the United Nations and other international organizations had been strengthened, in particular with UNHCR, UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, non-governmental organizations and the Bretton Woods institutions. Regarding financial matters, new partnerships had been established with the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank.

29. The third area related to the promotion of fuller integration of French-speaking countries in the Organization, through increased dialogue with the authorities of those countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. However, the increased use of the French language in the Organization called for a corresponding increase in staff for translation from French into English. The fourth area concerned the African continent, a key region for IOM. Through visits to African countries and attendance at meetings she had sought to strengthen IOM's presence in the continent. Partnerships with governments and subregional and international institutions should be strengthened, particularly with the OAU, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the South African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (EUMWA) as well as regional offices of UNICEF and FAO. Important programmes to be developed covered topics such as the return of qualified African nationals, post-conflict situations, capacity building and HIV/AIDS.

30. Efforts had been made to promote subregional coordination, reflected for example in the Dakar Declaration, and also to mobilize the diaspora, particularly in the developed countries where qualified Africans could acquire new skills which would be of benefit to their countries of origin.

31. Working closely with the Director General, she had broadened her areas of concern throughout the year, internally through close involvement in the preparation of budget proposals, and externally through increased contacts with countries and regional institutions of other continents, particularly Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

32. Outlining some areas of importance for IOM's future programme, she drew attention to the strategy document that had been prepared on IOM's migration policies in sub-Saharan Africa, which might form the basis for short-, medium- and long-term plans of action for the continent.

33. Efforts to strengthen capacity building in developing Member States as a whole would continue, so as to establish information networks on population movements and to support training for migration officials. Only if such structures existed and were operational would those countries be able to define and apply valid migration policies.

34. The Return of Qualified African Nationals (RQAN) programme should be extended to cover new migration concepts in Africa, on the basis of clear agreements involving not only the governments of countries of origin and of host countries, but also the diaspora in host countries and former migrants in return countries. Factors affecting employment in Africa, particularly in the private sector with its investment and employment potential, should also be taken into account. The RQAN programme should be of interest to both nationals of countries of origin and former nationals who had obtained a new nationality, and emphasis should be placed on French-speaking countries, which had been somewhat neglected in the preceding phases.

35. Regarding Asia and Latin America, IOM should focus on the major problems of the countries and institutions of those regions including the settlement of post-conflict situations, trafficking in persons, the special situation of women and children, and the pandemic diseases accompanying migration. In that context the Puebla Process had been, and would remain, exemplary.

36. Steps should be taken to ensure that IOM's expertise, wherever relevant, be given greater consideration by the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other key international bodies, and that IOM's involvement in major world fora was increased.

(b) Statements by delegations

37. The general statements took up the last part of the 429th meeting, all of the 430th meeting and the beginning of the 431st meeting (see MC/C/SR/429, MC/C/SR/430 and MC/C/SR/431).

38. All delegates who took the floor welcomed the new Members and the new observers, and commended the Director General and the Deputy Director General on their opening statement.

39. Delegations recognized that, as the world situation changed and developed, certain aspects of migration, as highlighted by the Director General and the Deputy Director General in their opening statements, came into sharper focus and called for stronger responses from IOM. Economic globalization had led to a freer flow of services and labour but had made migration more complex, with additional economic, political, social and cultural aspects. Globalization must be accompanied by an orderly migration regime, otherwise the long-term sustainability of global development strategies and policies would be impaired. Existing policies reflected three trends: the emergence of the new economy, demographic changes in developed countries (including declining fertility rates) and the nascence of diasporas formed by the regrouping in foreign countries of marginalized and alienated migrants and then emerging as a dominant force in host countries where their integration became a matter of importance.

40. It was also noted that, with the ending of the Cold War and the rise of the market economy, developing countries in particular had witnessed an increase in political and military conflicts as well as serious economic crises resulting from structural adjustment programmes to meet market requirements. Those two trends had led to rising poverty and unemployment which, when combined with trafficking and enforced labour, had produced a sharp rise in migration. An understanding of the underlying causes of migration was essential if appropriate solutions were to be found in countries of origin, transit and destination.

41. Against that economic and social background, new migration-related problems were emerging, particularly those of irregular migration, illegal employment of migrants, trafficking in persons linked with organized transnational crime, violations of human rights, and health issues including the HIV/AIDS pandemic. IOM was therefore faced with the new challenge of finding appropriate solutions to such problems, some of which might appear to go beyond its core mandate.

42. Several delegates stressed the importance of IOM adhering to its core mandate. The six service areas which formed the Migration Management Services Department had considerably improved oversight and priority-setting, but some of the planned programmes for 2001 appeared to be outside the core mandate, such as some aspects of migration and health and parts of the General Support Programme, with the exception of Humanitarian Emergency Operations Assistance. Concern was expressed over the relevance of the German Forced Labour Compensation Programme (GFLCP) which should be regarded as an exceptional activity with a limited time-span and should be financed by overhead costs from the project itself and not from the Administrative Part of the Budget. Other delegates, however, welcomed IOM's involvement in the GFLCP as a reflection of the international confidence placed in the Organization. It was suggested that an internal and external evaluation component should be included in IOM's core functions as an essential management tool, and reflected in the budget.

43. Many delegates considered that regional and interregional approaches based on existing mechanisms

such as the Puebla Process or the follow-up to the CIS Conference were most likely to lead to durable solutions to migration problems. The “cluster approach” enabling countries from different regions to come together to discuss long-term solutions was also of value.

44. Delegates from the GRULAC countries expressed appreciation of the recent meeting between the Director General and ambassadors of the GRULAC countries to lay the basis for a new approach to migration programmes in the region.

45. One speaker stressed that international migration was not solely a source of problems but also provided positive economic and social opportunities for countries of origin and destination alike. Through public information campaigns, IOM could help to combat racism and xenophobia in attitudes towards migrants in host countries.

46. Many delegates welcomed the new focus on Africa, commending in particular IOM’s policy framework for sub-Saharan Africa and the Return of Qualified African Nationals programme. Several speakers emphasized the relevance of the conclusions of the recent Interregional Meeting on the Participation of Migrants in the Development of their Countries of Origin, which had led to the Dakar Declaration.

47. Emphasis was also laid on the Asia-Pacific region, which was facing major problems of irregular migration and human trafficking which threatened not only the safety and dignity of human beings but also the security of the States concerned. Several delegates stressed the need for more effective migration management programmes and more extensive IOM-funded projects in the region in order to combat irregular migration, a concern reflected in the Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC), which IOM should continue to support, in addition to the Manila Process. Interception of migrants in an irregular situation and disruption of smuggling routes in the region could be improved through increased cooperation between the countries concerned – an area in which IOM could play a catalytic role, including support for international information campaigns to discourage potential migrants from engaging in irregular migration. Comprehensive preventive strategies were of prime importance in that respect.

48. The return of migrants in an irregular situation, however, was an increasing problem and several speakers stressed that one of the requirements for promoting orderly and lawful migration was that States should, if necessary, be able to return such migrants to their countries of origin. Furthermore, the return of migrants who were no longer in need of protection or whose asylum claim had been rejected often gave rise to problems for the host countries. The cooperation of countries of origin, transit and destination was therefore vital in facilitating returns – an area in which IOM’s advocacy and expertise was of key importance, as had been demonstrated by the sterling work which the Organization had accomplished for the return of refugees from Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina to their countries.

49. Considerable emphasis was laid on IOM's counter-trafficking programme which was receiving greater focus (see document MC/INF/245). Migrant trafficking and people smuggling were major threats to orderly migration and particularly affected women and children who formed vulnerable groups. There again, regional and subregional strategies involving technical cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination were essential. A holistic approach was required covering prevention, protection, prosecution of traffickers and rehabilitation of victims.

50. Many delegates emphasized the importance of sustained and increased cooperation between IOM and the United Nations and other international bodies as well as relevant non-governmental organizations. IOM had already demonstrated the usefulness of its cooperation with UNHCR, UNDP, ILO, ICRC, UNOCHA and UNAIDS, for example. IOM's involvement or participation in forthcoming relevant world fora was also important, such as the OAU Summit or the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (South Africa). Attention was drawn to the situation regarding security measures to protect humanitarian personnel in the field – for which a coordinated approach was required with assistance from the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD). Several delegations underlined the need for intensified links with the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

51. Some delegates expressed deep concern over the current situation of the Palestinian people and called upon the international community to come to their assistance.

52. Strong support was expressed by several speakers for the focus on gender issues both inside and outside IOM, for which they considered more funding should be sought. Gender issues should also be fully integrated into IOM's activities as a cross-cutting priority and gender implications should be taken into account in the evaluation of IOM's programmes.

53. Many delegates expressed appreciation of the "World Migration Report 2000" which contained much valuable information and statistics. It was suggested that the report should be updated and published annually, possibly in a format arranged by topic.

54. Many delegates asked IOM to take a broader and stronger leadership role in the intellectual debate and provision of policy guidance on migration issues. There was a need for policy models for comprehensive, integrated, humane and orderly migration management, and IOM was well placed to provide such guidance, drawing from its operational expertise and programmes.

55. With respect to budgetary matters, consensus was achieved regarding the proposed 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001, which had given rise to lengthy discussion throughout the year and particularly in the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance. The large majority of delegates considered that although zero nominal growth should remain the guiding principle for budgeting, IOM's increased membership and range of activities had made some additional funding essential for 2001, although there should be a return to zero nominal growth in 2002 and thereafter. One delegate expressed the hope that the 5 per cent increase would be reflected in an increase in funded projects for the different regions, and several speakers stressed the importance of equitable distribution of budgetary resources between the regions. One group of countries considered that zero real growth should be the basis of international budgets, as zero nominal growth could mean a decrease in real terms and a risk of harming essential activities.

56. Wide support was also expressed for the proposal to allocate funds from Discretionary Income to migration projects in developing Member States and Member States in transition, on the basis of equitable regional distribution.

57. One delegate considered that the planned programmes for 2001 could be implemented at lower cost, thereby reducing the estimated level of the 2001 budget, if sufficient account had been taken of exchange rate fluctuations when establishing the budget estimates.

58. Many delegates expressed concern over the problem of outstanding assessed contributions, which had a serious impact on IOM's efficiency and obliged Member States to compensate for the resulting shortfalls. The Administration was requested to continue its efforts to negotiate repayment plans with Member States in arrears and Member States were urged to meet their obligations. One group of countries said that unless the situation improved, Article 4 of the Constitution might have to be applied and other sanctions considered such as the suspending of programmes or the postponing of planned activities in the Member States in question. The allocation of administrative funds for offices in countries that had not paid their contributions also gave rise to concern.

59. The Council heard statements from observers for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPSC), Migrants Rights International (MRI) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) (reported on in detail in document MC/C/SR/431).

60. Several delegates supported the Director General's suggestion that the 50th anniversary of IOM in 2001 should provide an opportunity to focus public attention on IOM's programmes and work and to mark a starting point for a new approach to migration management.

61. The Director General, referring to a number of points raised in the general statements, assured the Council that, although IOM's activities partly covered emergency and post-conflict operations carried out in cooperation with other international organizations, it continued to be primarily a service organization focusing firmly on its core mandate.

62. Delegates' statements had stressed migration policy and strategy and IOM's role in the intellectual debate on migration and migration management. With its experience in field operations and services and direct contact with migration problems and their solution, IOM was in a position to assist Member States with the conceptual side of migration management, notably with regard to research and dissemination of information, of which the "World Migration Report 2000" was an example.

63. With respect to the effects of globalization on migration and, in particular, on regional processes and services, IOM intended to adopt a more targeted strategic approach already reflected in its migration policy framework for sub-Saharan Africa, which would be followed by similar work covering the GRULAC countries. The question of finding models and principles for labour migration policies would become increasingly important, and existing standards and practices in that area needed to be codified with respect not only to migrants' rights but also to governments' responsibilities at all stages of migration management.

64. IOM would continue to work closely with UNHCR in global consultations on asylum and migration and also with the States of the European Union in their efforts to develop standards for multidimensional migration management.

65. At its 431st meeting the Council adopted Resolution No. 1032 (LXXX) on IOM involvement in the follow-up to the CIS Conference.

DRAFT REPORTS OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH AND THE SEVENTY-NINTH (SPECIAL) SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

66. As there had been no proposal to amend the draft reports on its Seventy-eighth Session (MC/1989) and its Seventh-ninth (Special) Session (MC/2000) the Council, at its 431st meeting, adopted Resolution No. 1033 (LXXX) approving those reports.

REPORT ON THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

67. By Resolution No. 1034 (LXXX) adopted at the 431st meeting, the Council took note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Committee (MC/2007) and the Report of the Director General on the work of the Organization for the year 1999 (MC/2006), and approved the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 1999 (MC/2005 and MC/2005/Corr.1).

SUMMARY UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2000

68. The Council heard the report by the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance on the relevant discussions and recommendations of the Subcommittee and examined the Summary Update on the Programme and Budget for 1999 (MC/2009).

69. One delegate drew attention to the large differences between the approved and the revised operational budgets for the past four years, quoting figures which showed that the average additional percentage over the approved budget for that period stood at approximately 28 per cent. While unexpected emergency situations made it difficult for IOM to forecast operational expenditure from one year to the next, Member States also had to plan ahead and were not always in a position to allocate additional credit of 30 per cent every year. The Administration should therefore be requested to enhance IOM's credibility by avoiding such budgetary increases.

70. At its 431st meeting the Council took note of the Summary Update for the Programme and Budget for 2000 (MC/2009).

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2001

71. The Council examined in detail the Programme and Budget for 2001 (MC/2010 and MC/2010/Amdt.1) at its 431st meeting, after the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance had given a summary of the Subcommittee's discussions and recommendations. A

separate document "Migration Initiatives 2001" (MC/INF/243) contained project proposals which did not have sufficient funding but were of priority interest to Member States.

72. One of the main topics of discussion, which had given rise to lengthy debate in the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, was the proposed 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001 to enable IOM to carry out its expanding programme effectively after several years of strict budgeting based on the principle of zero nominal growth.

73. The delegate of Paraguay said that his country was experiencing severe budgetary constraints and could not accept the increase of 5 per cent in its assessed contribution.

74. Another delegate said that he was prepared to support the proposed 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget as an exceptional measure, but that his country's national budget for 2001, including its assessed contribution to IOM at the original rate, had been approved by the national legislative assembly, so that it would be technically difficult to effect the 5 per cent increase.

75. Consensus was finally reached on the 5 per cent increase in 2001 (with one reservation), with a return to zero nominal growth in 2002 and thereafter. A large number of speakers also supported the proposal to allocate USD 1 million from Discretionary Income for the development of migration projects in favour of developing countries and countries in transition, on the basis of equitable regional distribution.

76. At its 432nd meeting the Council took note of document MC/INF/243 "Migration Initiatives 2001" and adopted Resolution No. 1035 (LXXX) approving the Programme and Budget for 2001.

77. One delegate raised the matter of the effects of currency fluctuations and exchange rates on field activities in the Operational Part of the Budget for 2001, requesting further information as to whether sufficient account was being taken of those aspects in order to ensure that the budget estimates were as low as possible. He requested a review of the matter by the External Auditor. Another delegate suggested that it might be advisable simply to request the Administration to be vigilant regarding such matters and to report clearly on the subject each year. The Director General said that the External Auditor would be requested to examine the matter.

78. At its 432nd meeting the Council took note of document MC/INF/243 "Migration Initiatives 2001" and adopted Resolution No. 1035 (LXXX) approving the Programme and Budget for 2001.

IOM MIGRATION POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

79. The Deputy Director General introduced document MC/INF/244 outlining IOM's strategic policy for sub-Saharan Africa. Throughout Africa, political, economic and cultural changes were giving rise to new migratory flows which were increasingly difficult to manage, especially as donor interest in the region had declined in recent years. Common features of such migration flows included: the movement of large groups of displaced persons as a result of conflicts or for reasons of employment; the rehabilitation of migrant populations and reconstruction of countries to establish conditions favourable to development; health problems connected with migrants and their families including pandemics such as HIV/AIDS; migrant trafficking, which particularly affected women and children. Document MC/INF/244 should be regarded as a working document for the possible preparation of a plan of action to face the major challenges of African migration.

80. On the understanding that the Administration would review document MC/INF/244 in the light of any comments received from Member States, with a view to its use as a basis for elaborating a plan of action to achieve realistic and satisfactory migration management in Africa, the Council, at its 432nd meeting, took note of document MC/INF/244.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: UPDATE AND PERSPECTIVES

81. The Council examined document MC/INF/245 which provided an update of IOM's current work in the field of counter-trafficking. Most delegations expressed appreciation of IOM's counter-trafficking measures, particularly in the Balkans and South East Europe. Irregular migration was harmful to all parties concerned – sending and receiving countries and the migrants themselves - but became even more serious when linked with trafficking in persons. Several speakers underlined the importance of signing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. One delegate stressed the need to attack the root causes of the problem, which included unfavourable social and economic conditions and lack of education, training and employment, which particularly affected vulnerable groups such as women and children.

82. The Council heard a statement from the Chairperson of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings (reported on in summary record MC/C/SR/432), confirming the importance of a coordinated approach to counter-trafficking problems between IOM, OSCE and the Stability Pact.

83. Most speakers highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to the problem involving governments, the international community, non-governmental organizations and civil society, and in particular a regional approach based on closer cooperation between national public authorities in legal and social fields, information campaigns and programmes for reinsertion and support for victims of trafficking. One delegate recommended cooperation between IOM and Interpol in connection with the criminal aspects of such problems.

84. The Administration confirmed that Member States' suggestions would be taken into account in the preparation of IOM's future counter-trafficking programmes. The speakers agreed that particular emphasis should be placed on IOM's counter-trafficking programmes as a priority area of activity.

85. At its 432nd session the Council took note of the document MC/INF/245.

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR THE PERIOD 2001-2003

86. The Council proceeded to consider the appointment of the External Auditors on the basis of the background information provided in document MC/2013, bearing in mind the procedure recommended by the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance (document MC/2016). On the basis of that procedure and of Article 29 of the Constitution and Rules 45 and 38 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, an informal secret ballot was first held, as a result of which the two candidates having obtained the largest number of votes were retained, namely the Auditor General of Norway and the Commission on Audit of the Republic of the Philippines. The Council then held a formal secret ballot to select one of those two candidates.

87. At its 432nd meeting the Council adopted Resolution No. 1036 (LXXX) electing the Auditor General of Norway as External Auditors of IOM for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003.

OTHER ITEMS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE

88. Concerning the outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance said that the Subcommittee had noted with appreciation the efforts made by some Member States to pay their arrears, but had noted with concern that the current situation showed no improvement over the previous year and that the large amount of contributions outstanding had an impact on the capacity of the Administration to manage the programmes for which it was responsible. It had urged all Member States, particularly those with contributions outstanding for two or more consecutive years, to pay their contributions in full or to agree to a repayment plan, making a first payment as soon as possible.

89. The Administration reported on payments received since the previous session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance. Ecuador had paid CHF 215,872, which represented full payment of all its prior years' contributions. Tajikistan had paid CHF 16,200 and Uganda CHF 5,052. Outstanding contributions for previous years now amounted to close to CHF 4 million, which showed a reduction in comparison with the previous year.

90. The Council endorsed the view of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance.

91. Regarding Human Resources Policy in IOM, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance said that the Director of Human Resources had provided the Subcommittee with an overview of IOM's human resources policy pointing to the various initiatives that the Administration had taken to address issues that were of interest and concern to the staff and to Member States. The Administration had provided clarifications to specific questions raised by some delegations. The Subcommittee had taken note of document MC/INF/242 on Human Resources Policy in IOM and had invited the Administration to continue to update the information contained therein and to keep Member States informed on a regular basis, taking into account the comments made by Member States regarding the document.

92. The Subcommittee had also heard a statement by the representative of the Staff Association which it had noted with appreciation.

93. The Council took note of the conclusions of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance on the human resources policy in IOM and on the statement by the representative of the Staff Association, stressing the importance of dialogue with the staff.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

94. By Resolution No. 1037 (LXXX), adopted at its 432nd meeting, the Council decided to hold the next regular session of the Council from 27 to 29 November 2001 and invited the Executive Committee to hold its Ninety-eighth Session on 6 and 7 June 2001 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Eighty-fifth Session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance was scheduled to be held on 9 and 10 May 2001 and the Eighty-sixth Session on 30 and 31 October 2001 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva .