

INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON SCPF MATTERS

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**POTENTIAL DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH AND TWENTY-FIFTH
SESSIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE**

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Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to present Member States with potential topics on which to exchange views at the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (SCPF), scheduled to take place on 19 and 20 June and 31 October and 1 November 2019, respectively.

Background

2. In June 2007, Member States decided to introduce a regular item on the SCPF agenda entitled “Exchange of views on items proposed by the membership” in order to review policy, programme, administrative and financial issues holistically, and agreed that the items for discussion would be chosen in advance through the informal consultation process. Two topics are usually selected for discussion for each session of the SCPF.

3. The Administration suggests that, as in recent years, Member States choose at the informal consultation the topics for the two sessions of the SCPF in 2019. Based on its analysis of current developments and ongoing dialogue with a range of stakeholders, the Administration proposes that the topics to be discussed at the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Sessions of the SCPF be chosen from those suggested below.

Suggested topics for the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (June and October/November 2019)

(a) Update on policies and practices related to migration, the environment and climate change

4. IOM has engaged in regular dialogue with Member States to present progress in addressing migration in the context of environmental degradation, slow- and sudden-onset natural hazards and climate change. If this topic is selected, the Administration will provide an update on the progress made in carrying out the Organization’s 2015–2020 programme of work on migration, the environment and climate change in the areas of policy, advocacy, partnerships, capacity-building and operational activities. Information will also be provided on the steps taken to develop the environmental sustainability policy of the Organization.

5. The Administration will also brief Member States on the Organization’s activities concerning implementation of the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change and related follow-up through the Platform on Disaster Displacement. A discussion on this topic would also provide insights into policy processes and events of relevance to this thematic area in 2019, in particular efforts to address environmental migration as part of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the work of the Task Force on Displacement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Climate Summit called for by the United Nations Secretary-General and taking place in September, other significant environmental processes and relevant environmental dimensions contained in international agreements.

(b) The humanitarian and development nexus: new perspectives on breaking the cycle of displacement and dependence

6. Humanitarian needs are growing globally and the number and scale of protracted crises and displacement are on the rise. This, coupled with the simultaneous need to ensure progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while leaving no one behind – despite persisting funding gaps – implies that there is an urgent need to intensify efforts to resolve displacement and ultimately reduce the number of people in humanitarian need. As highlighted in the Agenda for Humanity, humanitarian tools alone are insufficient to resolve protracted crises. To do so also requires improved collaboration between humanitarian and development actors and a “new way of working” to reduce needs, risk and vulnerability through more transformative programming over multiple years. Also, as emphasized in the twin United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on sustaining peace (resolution 2282 (2016) and resolution 70/262, adopted on 27 April 2016), working in an integrated fashion to prioritize prevention, address root causes of conflict and support institutions for sustainable peace and development is essential to address the insecurity that results in vulnerability. This has come to be known as the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, or the triple nexus.

7. If this topic is selected, the Administration will outline how IOM engages with actors in the humanitarian, development and peace sectors as a framework for bringing people out of displacement and addressing the needs of host populations. Key lessons from IOM’s work in this area will be shared, building on findings from a five-country study looking at IOM programmes in Colombia, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and Turkey. The Administration will brief Member States on how the Organization’s presence and transition, recovery and stabilization interventions help generate partnerships with Member States and other development actors and contribute to conditions that are more conducive to development efforts.

(c) Developing policies and practices on sustainable reintegration

8. Building upon its Framework for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration and its integrated approach to reintegration, IOM is developing a reintegration handbook. The aim of the handbook is to provide practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance. It is aimed not only at IOM staff but also policymakers and other reintegration practitioners, recognizing that sustainable reintegration requires the adoption of coordinated measures, policies and practices by stakeholders responsible for migration management and development at the international, national and local levels.

9. If this topic is selected, the Administration will outline the key components of the handbook, which focuses on assistance provided at the individual, community and structural levels and contains concrete illustrations from existing reintegration initiatives. Results of the initial piloting of the training related to the handbook will also be presented as an example of how the handbook can be used to enhance reintegration programming. The Administration will also present an update on the establishment of a knowledge management hub to support the implementation of joint EU–IOM actions for migrant protection and reintegration, with the aim of sharing good practices and lessons learned on return and reintegration in the context of development cooperation.

(d) Protection in humanitarian contexts

10. IOM acts with its partners to uphold the human rights, human dignity and well-being of migrants. Furthermore, the Organization has a mandate and responsibility to support States in protecting the rights of migrants on their soil and under their jurisdiction who might be facing risks, regardless of their status.

11. In view of IOM's unique operational capacities and presence in the field, the Organization has a particular responsibility to ensure that its humanitarian response is comprehensive and effective, and has protection at the core. This requires a more systematized approach and further capacity-building for IOM staff. Work in this area would include supporting non-protection technical staff to ensure that programmes mainstream or integrate protection throughout all the Migration Crisis Operational Framework sectors of assistance, and ensuring that stand-alone protection activities are carried out and monitored by specialized staff.

12. The Administration would like to brief Member States on the Organization's efforts to ensure more effective protection for people in humanitarian crises. A discussion on this topic would consider aspects such as IOM's current protection portfolio in crisis contexts; what it means in practical terms for IOM to place protection at the centre of humanitarian action and which strategic direction should be taken; the Organization's contribution to collective protection outcomes; and the growing technical expertise and role of IOM in the Global Protection Cluster and related inter-agency forums.

(e) How IOM can assist States in implementing migrant protection and assistance measures

13. IOM can provide valuable assistance to Member States in meeting their commitments on protecting and assisting migrants in situations of vulnerability. Meeting these commitments requires practical measures to identify migrants in a situation of vulnerability, such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied and separated migrant children, and migrants vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. It also requires the capacity to design individualized solutions for such migrants, and to work with a range of local and international partners to provide the necessary services – such as emergency food and shelter and medical care – and sustainable solutions, including return and reintegration and regular onward migration.

14. The Organization's global funding mechanisms for migrants in situations of vulnerability have been used to develop such practical measures, including standardized identification and assessment protocols, standard operating procedures, and minimum standards for protecting and assisting migrants in need, all of which have been implemented by IOM's global migrant protection and assistance network. If this topic is selected, the Administration will provide an overview of IOM's funding mechanisms for migrants in situations of vulnerability and information on how States can request IOM support in protecting and assisting such migrants, adapt IOM procedures and processes for their own use, and/or contribute to the funds and their global implementation.

(f) Cooperation on skills and partnerships to foster pathways for regular migration

15. Labour mobility based on effective skills-matching and labour market situations in countries of origin and destination is a key factor contributing to overall safe, orderly and regular migration. It should also be a cornerstone of labour mobility schemes and mechanisms. The linkage between migration and skills strengthens the case for close cooperation and partnerships between countries of origin and destination, the private sector, training and qualification institutions, professional boards and associations and other institutions. Investment in skills development and facilitating mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences at all skills levels are vital and will be achieved, among other things, by building global skills partnerships and developing relevant policies based on a multi-stakeholder approach. The latter will also ensure holistic and innovative solutions and approaches.

16. Discussion on this topic will aim to encourage dialogue on aspects such as how States and other stakeholders can strengthen cooperation; what skills partnerships are and how they can benefit migrants, States, origin and destination communities and the private sector; existing good practices and approaches; and how innovative solutions for the development, transfer and recognition of skills enhance regular migration pathways and foster sustainable development.

(g) Migrant orientation and social inclusion

17. With 258 million migrants currently living outside their country of origin, diversity, inclusion and social cohesion are receiving growing attention. Such attention is prominent in both the global discourse on migration and public debates within individual countries, and between those which span migration corridors. As more countries in developing regions emerge as net migrant-receiving countries – outnumbering developed countries in the last decade – promoting inclusion and social cohesion has become a shared global concern.

18. If this topic is selected, the Administration will present IOM's programmatic approaches at the pre-departure and post-arrival stages to support a two-way process of social inclusion and the higher-level outcome of social cohesion.

(h) IOM's work with the private sector to address human trafficking in business operations and supply chains

19. The global workforce has never been more mobile. When it takes place in a safe and orderly manner, mobility yields enormous collective benefits for migrants and societies. Many migrant workers, however, continue to be exposed to exploitation and abuse when looking for better employment opportunities away from home. The demand for cheaper products and services ultimately drives exploitation, including human trafficking. Multiple layers of subcontractors in supply chains can conceal abusive practices, such as predatory recruitment processes, as well as overt violence, psychological manipulation and harm. Many governments are developing new policies and regulations to promote greater business accountability. As a result, the expectation that businesses carry out due diligence has grown considerably. An increasing number of companies are taking action to prevent and mitigate the risks of human trafficking in their operations and supply chains, usually in partnership with business peers, civil society and organizations such as IOM.

20. If this topic is selected, the Administration will present the work carried out by IOM with the private sector and other partners to prevent and address human trafficking and associated forms of abuse and exploitation in business operations and supply chains, and to ensure that migrant workers who have been affected by exploitative business practices, such as victims of trafficking, are provided with protection and assistance and access to remedy.

(i) IOM role in addressing recruitment and reintegration in the context of next generation disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

21. Conflicts are responsible for the displacement of millions of people each year, many across international borders. Addressing conflict-induced displacement requires addressing drivers and providing solutions, as reaffirmed in the sustaining peace agenda of the United Nations.

22. For over 25 years, IOM has contributed significantly to resolving conflict and building peace through its support to governments and affected communities, with particular focus on successful reinsertion and reintegration. However, the complexity of contemporary conflicts has challenged many of the principles underpinning traditional peacebuilding generally, and the reintegration component of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration more specifically. Reintegration efforts must now be undertaken in contexts of ongoing or protracted conflict, where recruitment by non-State armed groups and sanctioned terrorist groups threatens peace efforts, increases vulnerability – especially of youth – and delays the resolution of conflict-related displacement.

23. As one of the leading implementers of the reintegration element of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes worldwide, IOM works closely with United Nations

inter-agency partners and relevant governments to adapt and develop practices for more effective reintegration and prevention efforts. The new United Nations Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards will be finalized and launched in 2019. IOM has been an active participant in this drafting process, contributing best practice on key aspects of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and pioneering new approaches to conflict transition. A discussion on this topic would look at the importance of addressing drivers of conflict and finding solutions through integrated prevention and reintegration programming. The Administration would also present key lessons from new areas of IOM's work and partnerships with inter-agency actors and Member States.

(j) Addressing migration at the local level

24. Engagement with cities and other local and regional actors has become a growing area of work for IOM. The Organization has contributed to the creation of key knowledge products and capacity-building material for local actors and played a key role in stressing the importance of addressing migration at the local level during the negotiation processes that led to the adoption of the New Urban Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Indeed, involvement of actors at the local level – where the development impact of migration is most profoundly felt – is crucial for comprehensively addressing the challenges and opportunities related to migration, including in situations of forced displacement.

25. Nevertheless, the impact of migration on development continues to be mostly looked at through the lens of country-to-country dynamics, including within IOM. A more refined approach is needed that considers the subnational level to ensure that sound policies and partnerships can be established within and between territories connected by migration corridors, with the aim of achieving better migration governance.

26. Building on its expertise working at the local and community levels, IOM is currently developing a road map for addressing migration at local level that will analyse and bring together the Organization's experience and provide guidance on key priorities. If this topic is chosen, the session will be used to present the road map to Member States and explore further areas for partnerships and cooperation in this crucial area of work.