

EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 28 November 2000, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: H.E. Mr. J. E. VEGA (Chile)

<u>Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
General debate: (continued)	1
(b) Statements by delegations (continued)	1

Summary records of meetings of the governing bodies are subject to correction.

Participants wishing to make corrections should submit them in writing to the Meetings Secretariat, IOM, P.O. Box 71, CH-1211 Geneva 19, within one week of receiving the records in their working language; these will then be consolidated in a single corrigendum.

Agenda item 7

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

(b) Statements by delegations (continued)

1. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) expressed his appreciation for the informative and thought-provoking IOM “World Migration Report 2000”, suggesting that such publications could be intellectually more stimulating if they were arranged by topic.
2. Although the human tendency to move from one country to another had helped to enrich societies and benefit economies in the contemporary world, migration in the past three decades had not witnessed the same level of growth as trade, services and capital flows and therefore seemed to have become an exception in the process of economic globalization. Restrictive migration policies adopted by some countries had discouraged positive movement of people across borders. The vision of economic globalization without an orderly regime for migration had raised questions about the long-term sustainability of global development strategies and policies.
3. Existing migration policies were being reshaped by three factors: the emergence of the new economy, demographic changes in the developed countries and the nascence of diasporas. The new economy required increasing numbers of highly qualified “knowledge workers” and in order to meet the rising demand for skilled labour an orderly migration regime needed to be established. Furthermore, decreasing fertility in most developed countries was leading to population decline as well as ageing, which would have a major impact on the economy, society and the labour market over the next 50 years and which could be counter-balanced by a process of orderly “replacement migration”. Marginalized and alienated migrants were forming themselves into diasporas by regrouping in foreign countries, emerging as a dominant force in the host as well as the home countries, thereby influencing mutual economic and trade relations. Those forces needed to be creatively and productively integrated into the societies and economies involved.
4. IOM should provide intellectual leadership in establishing a comprehensive migration strategy based on such objectives as: the development of an orderly migration regime, reflecting the changing demographic profile of countries of origin and destination; the forming of a nexus between migration, trade and development; assistance to Member States in understanding labour migration, designing national policy and improving migration management; promotion of bilateral or multilateral migration arrangements; encouraging the development of “codes of conduct” for the protection of migrant workers; realization of the economic and cultural potential of international diasporas; and joint action with United Nations agencies and international and regional organizations to foster orderly migration.
5. The uncertainties and asymmetries prevalent in the international migration regime threatened to render migration non-beneficial and even counter-productive. Urgent action was required to achieve international consensus for establishing an effective regime for orderly movement of people. His delegation proposed that a working group be set up in IOM to examine the complex issue of migration in an era of globalization. He assured the Organization of his country’s continued cooperation and support.
6. Mr. BUTIME (Uganda) commended IOM on its efforts to adapt to the constantly changing migration situation and to provide relevant responses. He welcomed in particular the IOM policy framework for sub-Saharan Africa, which took into account national and regional activities, and noted with satisfaction IOM’s promotion of increased cooperation with other international organizations dealing with humanitarian issues, such as UNHCR, ICRC, UNOCHA, UNAIDS and with relevant non-governmental organizations.

7. His delegation appreciated the continued support given by IOM in returning Ugandan professionals from the diaspora to his country under the Return and Reintegration of Qualified African Nationals programme, which had so far brought home about 115 professionals, who were crucial to both the public and private sectors of the economy. There was evidence that the option of returning professionals was more cost-effective and sustainable than other alternatives, such as importing expatriates. He proposed therefore that that programme should be extended to other African countries with critical manpower shortages.

8. He outlined IOM's other activities in Uganda, which included: facilitating the resettlement of refugees in third countries; the return and reintegration of Ugandan ex-combatants, following the Amnesty Act; facilitating, in association with UNICEF, the return of Ugandan abducted children. He commended IOM on its demonstrated resilience in continuing to work in the most insecure areas of the country, stressing the fact that it was one of the few organizations that had continued to assist internally displaced people in northern Uganda.

9. IOM had a major role to play in encouraging the general free movement of labour and services and should therefore be seen to promote that principle by addressing factors giving rise to racism and xenophobia. In so doing, it would help the South to benefit by exporting its surplus labour to the North. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by IOM in Uganda and the Great Lakes region.

10. Ms. DIALLO (Senegal) recalled that IOM had been highly commended on its competence and efficiency by the authorities of her country at the Interregional Meeting on the Participation of Migrants in the Development of their Country of Origin, held in Dakar in October 2000, at which the important Dakar Declaration had been adopted.

11. The process of globalization had profoundly marked the last few decades by giving rise to an unprecedented expansion of commercial and financial movements. However, it was under-laid by a much more disturbing, though less publicized, phenomenon - that of migratory flows. Approximately 120 to 130 million people were now living outside their country of origin, for many reasons such as political persecution, internal or international conflicts, economic difficulties and deterioration of the environment. The international community was consequently duty bound to understand the global problems involved and seek solutions which transcended national differences. Every human being had an inalienable right to a peaceful and secure existence, which had to be defended against the assaults of xenophobia, intolerance and rejection. IOM, with its increasing membership, had played a vital role over the past half century in defending such noble ideals. In that context, she expressed her appreciation for IOM's migration policy framework for sub-Saharan Africa, which constituted a significant contribution to meeting

the challenges of migration management in that part of the continent and which, she suggested, might form the basis for a plan of action aimed at eliminating the social, economic and political causes of migration problems.

12. Regarding administrative matters, she supported the recommendation by the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance for a 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget and at the same time urged the Organization to continue to be rigorous in its financial management. Senegal, as a country of emigration and immigration, would continue to support IOM fully in its future action.

13. Mr. PETIT (France) expressed his appreciation for IOM's efforts to stimulate awareness of migrants' problems and urged that public relations initiatives to make the Organization better known should be widely supported. France particularly appreciated IOM's efforts to encourage multilingualism within the Organization and he thanked the Secretariat for the many documents produced in French. IOM's approach was exemplary, and he hoped that other international organizations in Geneva would follow suit.

14. The considerable increase in IOM's operational budget (30 per cent more than the previous year's estimate) had primarily benefited Europe, whereas there were other parts of the world, in particular Africa, where it would be appropriate for IOM to further develop its activities.

15. He expressed his support for an increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget. Five years of zero nominal growth had enabled the Organization to improve its management, but further savings might impair its programme implementation. The proposed 5 per cent increase represented a balanced compromise. Furthermore, if part of the Discretionary Income were used for migration projects in developing Member States and Member States in transition, those funds should be focused on the regions with the severest migratory problems. He stressed, however, that IOM's growth should be supported by the payment of outstanding contributions, rather than by increases in the Administrative Part of the Budget.

16. He had noted with interest IOM's migration policy framework for sub-Saharan Africa and its counter-trafficking proposals. IOM's initiative in compiling statistics and disseminating information to potential migrants and to their governments was extremely significant. In that context, it was essential that a French version of IOM's publications be made available to French-speaking countries.

17. He considered that counter-trafficking should constitute a priority for 2001, for which substantial funds had already been earmarked. The European Union was increasingly exposed to flows of irregular migrants, to which projects which improved the dissemination of information to possible victims or increased the capacities of countries of origin to control irregular movements across their borders, constituted concrete responses.

18. In the past year, IOM had developed its partnerships with other organizations of the United Nations system, such as UNHCR and UNAIDS, as well as its relations with the European Union, thereby demonstrating its further integration in the international system with a view to establishing a common approach to migration issues.

19. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) said that the process of globalization encompassed not only trade, communication and the Internet but was, above all, a human phenomenon, involving both upwardly mobile and marginalized people, all of whom were on the move. Such trends significantly enhanced the present and future role of IOM, whose responsibilities had visibly expanded over the past decade, so that the Organization had acquired the status of the lead agency for migration issues. It had been obliged, however, to undertake its responsibilities under conditions of budgetary constraint. He noted that in the

discussions in the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance many of the developing countries had been willing to support a 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001, in the expectation that their regions would receive funded projects. He trusted that that expectation would be fulfilled and expressed some disappointment that no project relating to Pakistan had been included in the funding appeal, although he was confident that that would soon be rectified.

20. Irrespective of formal agreements, IOM should advocate the case of developing countries forcefully and in collaboration with other international agencies, including UNDP, ensure better protection of migrant workers and displaced persons, especially in the developed countries. He hoped that IOM and donor countries would agree to contribute an additional USD 1 million for project development in developing countries - an allocation which, he suggested, might become a permanent part of IOM's operational budget.

21. He urged donor countries to sponsor not only highly visible emergency programmes in non-member States, but also fully funded projects in IOM Member States. The developing countries, Members of IOM, should not be allowed to become disenchanted by being obliged to pay for a share of activities elsewhere, while they themselves did not benefit from IOM projects funded by donor support.

22. He welcomed the "World Migration Report 2000" - long awaited in view of the increasing importance of migration issues. It underscored the seriousness and scope of migration problems, which today involved over 150 million people. He hoped that in future it would be updated and refined by the incorporation of further relevant data.

23. Mr. KATSURA (Japan) said that, as had been pointed out in the "World Migration Report 2000", migration had become a global phenomenon and its management required increased cooperation between States. IOM had consequently been expanding its activities which ranged from organizing the orderly movement of migrants to assisting people in emergency situations and included migration-related programmes, such as technical cooperation or capacity building in developing countries and countries in transition.

24. Unfortunately, more and more people had been forcibly uprooted from their homes as a result of armed conflicts and he expressed his appreciation for IOM's expertise in the transportation of mass populations recently demonstrated in Kosovo and Timor. Naturally, such operations had to be undertaken in close cooperation with other international organizations and, in that context, he welcomed the guidance note of May 2000 on cooperation between IOM and UNHCR in the transportation sector, which renewed the Memorandum of Understanding of 1997 on cooperation between the two organizations.

25. The Asia-Pacific region had enormous problems with irregular migration and human trafficking, which threatened not only the safety and dignity of human beings, but also the security of the States concerned. Japan had participated actively in regional migration management dialogues, such as the Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC) or the Manila Process, which provided opportunities for establishing a cooperative approach among Member States.

26. He found it intolerable that humanitarian personnel were increasingly targeted in the field by violence. Hence Japan, as one of the original States parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, was actively contributing to the ongoing discussion on reinforcing the security of humanitarian field workers. He welcomed IOM's collaboration with the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, where a coordinated approach to security measures was one of the most important topics. The maintaining of a close

relationship with organizations in the United Nations system was important for ensuring coherence in international humanitarian assistance.

27. His country considered the principle of zero nominal growth as a useful management tool for encouraging international organizations to reform their structures. He therefore welcomed the reaffirmation of that principle, which he hoped would be implemented for as long as was feasible. However, in view of the efforts made by the Administration to maintain the same levels over the past five years and attaching importance to the rational redistribution of posts between the Administrative and Operational Parts of the Budget, Japan supported the proposed 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001.

28. As IOM's membership expanded and its field of activities broadened, the time had come to review its priorities, strategies and future direction, in order to strengthen its universality and leadership role in the field of migration. He therefore proposed that a policy paper should be prepared for submission to the Executive Committee at its next session.

29. He stressed the importance of addressing migration-related problems such as human rights violations, poverty, infectious diseases, crime and environmental destruction which were a threat to human existence. The concept of human security, to which his Government was committed, should be central to international action in the twenty-first century.

30. Mr. LEGGERI (Italy) said that the increased workload of the Organization and the rise in administrative costs had induced Italy to support IOM's request for an adjustment in the Administrative Part of its Budget, departing from the general principle of zero nominal growth. He expected that that adjustment would solve at least some of the Organization's budgetary problems, thereby releasing financial resources for the implementation of a more balanced regional distribution of its activities.

31. He encouraged IOM to further develop some new initiatives, in particular the psycho-social programmes devised for the Balkans and the Mediterranean area which, after the two-year implementational phase, had obtained encouraging results. In future, IOM should contemplate extending the psychosocial approach to other regional areas. For instance, IOM's report on sub-Saharan Africa, which he hoped might become the basis of a new strategy for Africa, had shown the links between sanitary and migration emergencies, to which psycho-social needs might be

added as a third component. In that connection, he expressed his appreciation for the decision taken by IOM to dedicate part of the Rome Office's capacities to the development of psycho-social projects.

32. He strongly encouraged the IOM Secretariat to sustain its focus on gender issues, both from an internal and external point of view. On the external side, it was already involved in a project concerning women trafficking in the Balkan area. With regard to policy issues, gender implications would be one of the aspects of evaluation of IOM's programmes, in which women deserved support as primary actors in development policies.

33. Italy supported any initiative to strengthen dialogue with other international organizations, both inside and outside the United Nations system. Recent coordinated activities with UNHCR, ILO, the Bretton Woods institutions and the regional development banks were to be commended.

34. To be effective, migration policies had to be considered as part of a wider framework of multilateral governmental and non-governmental activities, calling for a comprehensive approach using all available policy means. Such an approach should be an integral part of every initiative in the field of institution building, in which migration issues and their governmental policy implications should be regarded as dynamic matters requiring dynamic responses. In that process, the direct involvement of the communities created by migrants in countries of destination was often a valuable source of information and assistance in transforming migration problems into opportunities for development, as highlighted at the Interregional Meeting in Dakar.

35. Ms. POSADA-CORRALES (Colombia), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, welcomed the fact that IOM had widened its activities and presence in all regions of the world. The steady increase of migration was becoming one of the most important global issues. IOM's fiftieth anniversary would mark the starting point for a new approach to world migration management. Although IOM had made great progress, there was still a long way to go in the process of becoming an even more forward-looking organization capable of developing an overall strategy covering all the social aspects of migration. In view of the interrelationship between migration and other areas, she welcomed the links established between IOM and other international bodies such as ILO and UNHCR. The strengthening of existing multilateral mechanisms in the field of migration was of fundamental importance for the countries of the Latin American and the Caribbean region. The various changes in the nature of migration had therefore to be taken into account if appropriate solutions and alternatives were to be found in the economic and social development programmes of those countries.

36. She expressed appreciation of the recent meeting held between the Director General of IOM and the ambassadors of GRULAC countries, which she felt sure would serve as a basis for developing a new approach to migration programmes in the region. She also welcomed the ongoing dialogue between IOM officials and the permanent missions in Geneva, with a view to making existing relations even closer and discussing ways in which technical cooperation might be improved in the region. Another interesting proposal at the GRULAC meeting had been to set up a "think-tank", with the specific aim of redesigning the approach to migration in the region through discussion of themes such as research, training, labour migration, migrant trafficking, the return and reintegration of migrants, and measures to prevent xenophobia and "brain-drain".

37. She welcomed the Director General's support, which was to lead to a plan of action to replace obsolete programmes, propose strategies and policies and develop new projects in the region. Such commitment on the part of governments and of IOM would enable great progress to be made towards appropriate management of migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, which might perhaps serve as a model for other regions.

38. GRULAC also appreciated the organization of the regional seminar on migration in the Caribbean, currently being held in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, and covering such key topics as globalization of migration, Central American migratory trends, labour migration, integration and management policies for migration, the "brain-drain" and the return of qualified personnel, irregular migration and migrant trafficking.

39. Mr. HU (Republic of Korea) said that since IOM's establishment almost fifty years previously, the scale and nature of migration had changed substantially. Globalization and international economic integration had led to a freer flow of services and labour but had made migration more complex, with additional economic, political, social and cultural aspects. Frequent refugee crises, such as those in Kosovo and East Timor, had also triggered off large waves of forced migration. IOM's excellent work over the past year in assisting governments in the fields of transportation, technical cooperation and capacity-building was to be commended and the publication of the "World Migration Report 2000" covering trends and policy issues in international migration was to be welcomed.

40. Irregular migration continued to be a major threat to orderly migration. Migrant trafficking and smuggling had become a global business and trafficked migrants were often subject to exploitation and violation of their fundamental human rights. Women were especially vulnerable to discrimination and physical abuse. He expressed appreciation of IOM's Counter-Trafficking Programme and welcomed the comprehensive discussion at the recent fourth regional seminar of the Manila Process on irregular migration and migrant trafficking in East and South East Asia. He also welcomed IOM's institutional relations with other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in particular its joint activities with UNHCR, which were essential to its effective performance in addressing global migration issues. He stressed that international migration did not only create problems but also provided positive economic and social opportunities for countries of origin and destination alike.

41. Regarding budgetary matters, his delegation considered that the proposed increase of 5 per cent in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001 would be the most realistic way of reconciling the expansion of IOM's activities with the necessary financial constraint recommended by Member States. It also considered that a larger proportion of Discretionary Income should be allocated to migration projects in developing Member States and Member States in transition.

42. Mr. IVERSEN (Denmark), speaking also on behalf of Finland, Norway and Sweden, welcomed recent developments which included IOM's sustained efforts to promote cooperation on migration management at regional level and on migration infrastructures at national level; the signing of a new memorandum of understanding with UNHCR which covered the establishment of a rapid response transportation fund; IOM's counter-trafficking activities; cooperation with international institutions for the dissemination of comprehensive migration data; and the recent publishing of the "World Migration Report 2000".

43. The identification of IOM's core functions within the six service areas had improved overview and priority-setting. He therefore expressed concern regarding the German Forced Labour Compensation Programme which was accompanied by a very substantial budget compared to that of the six service areas. Since there was no general agreement among Member States as to the inclusion of a new service area, he considered that programme to be an exceptional activity with a limited time-span. He wished to be assured that that activity would not place an additional burden on the Administration and the senior management of IOM, thereby taking their attention away from IOM core functions; the administrative costs of that function must therefore be financed by overhead costs from the project itself and not from the Administrative Part of the Budget.

44. He stressed the importance of internal and external evaluation as an integral part of IOM's core functions and an essential management tool, which should be reflected in the budget. The mainstreaming of evaluation results was of key importance and the Nordic countries would like to receive relevant evaluation reports on a regular basis.

45. Regarding budgetary matters, the Nordic countries supported an increase of not more than 5 per cent in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001. Administrative budgets tended to grow largely as a result of difficulties in prioritizing operational activities and the Nordic countries believed that zero real growth should be the basis for budgets in both national and international organizations. Zero nominal growth, on the other hand, could mean a decrease in real terms and could run the risk of harming essential activities. The Nordic countries would, however, be willing to go along with the consensus regarding the budget for 2001, provided that the 2002 budget was based on the principle of zero nominal growth. The Nordic countries would also support the proposal to allocate a specific part of the budget for the development of migration projects, such as technical assistance for countries in development and in transition, with special emphasis on the needs of the less-developed countries.

46. Expressing concern over the total amount of outstanding contributions (approximately CHF 4.2 million, representing 10 per cent of the total Administrative Part of the Budget) he appealed to all Member States in arrears to either pay their dues without delay or to agree to a satisfactory repayment plan. Unless the situation improved there would be a need to apply Article 4 of the Constitution and to give serious consideration to other sanctions such as suspending on-going or postponing planned activities in the States in question.

47. The Nordic countries attached considerable importance to gender issues being fully integrated into IOM's activities as a cross-cutting priority. As the 2001 budget allocation of USD 50,000 for such activities was very modest, adequate funding should be provided from the Organization's core budget. He welcomed the conference room paper which had been distributed on IOM's global strategy for gender issues.

48. Regarding the allocation of funds from the Administrative Part of the Budget to Missions with Regional Functions in the field, the Nordic countries requested IOM to develop clear and comparable criteria for the decision-making process. He expressed concern, however, regarding the allocation of considerable amounts of funds from the Administrative Part of the Budget to

offices located in countries that had not paid their assessed contributions. In conclusion, he emphasized the importance attached by the Nordic countries to open and frank dialogue between IOM and its Member States.

49. Mr. BEN SALEM (Tunisia) expressed appreciation of IOM's achievements in 2000, especially the strengthening of its presence in the Maghreb and other parts of Africa. He supported the Director General's suggestion that IOM's fiftieth anniversary in 2001 should provide an opportunity to increase the Organization's visibility and strengthen its action in Member States through public opinion campaigns. He also supported the emphasis on the need to strengthen migration management and administration capacities in developing countries, in connection with which his country was prepared to contribute its experience and human resources in order to implement IOM cooperation programmes in Africa.

50. Cooperation between IOM and Tunisia had increased considerably, notably through: the meeting between the President of Tunisia and the Director General in June 2000; the recent cooperation agreement between the Government of Tunisia and IOM for a dynamic and sustainable partnership in migration matters; the status agreement concerning the forthcoming opening of an IOM office in Tunis; and the holding of a seminar in Tunis on migration in the Euro-Maghreb context. New challenges in migration in the Mediterranean region, particularly the links between migration and development and the protection of the rights of emigrants from the countries of the South in host countries of the North should be highlighted. In the Mediterranean and in Africa only economic development with increased direct foreign investment and job creation could dissuade potential emigrants. That could only be achieved through greater cooperation between the countries in the region and improved North-South relations such as the recent positive cooperation between Tunisia and Italy to control migration flows and prevent illegal migration between those two countries.

51. Regarding the protection of emigrants, he stressed the importance of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and described measures taken in his country to protect the rights of Tunisian workers abroad, especially those of women and children, who formed an increasingly large part of the emigrant population. His delegation would like to see IOM focus more attention on its strategy of action for Africa in that context, initiating more projects and encouraging sponsors to invest therein.

52. In a spirit of solidarity towards the Palestinian people in its fight against the occupying Israeli forces, his delegation wished to emphasize the dramatic humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people, despite all international instruments such as the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. The Council had a moral obligation to give consideration to the conditions in which the Palestinian people were living and take a clear position thereon in accordance with its founding principles and ideals.

53. Mr. PETÖCZ (Slovakia) said that Slovakia attached great importance to effective, pragmatic and target-oriented cooperation with IOM. IOM's recent activities in his country had been focused on practical assistance to unsuccessful asylum seekers and returnees, and transport and counselling assistance for groups of Slovakian Roma returnees from European countries. An excellent research study had been produced on the initiative of the IOM Office in Bratislava on the social and economic situation of potential asylum seekers from the Slovak Republic. With regard to IOM's efforts to strengthen the cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary character of its activities, his delegation particularly appreciated the project-oriented partnership with the ILO and the further strengthening of IOM's long-standing cooperation with UNHCR, especially the new agreement signed in May 2000 on the use of IOM's transport services, which would significantly improve the response capacity of both agencies in emergency situations. Cooperation between IOM and other international agencies could do much to alleviate the problem of

Roma migration from Central Europe, which was not a one-dimensional problem. The recent government strategy in his country concerning Roma-related issues was now reflected in concrete measures at national, regional and local levels.

54. He expressed support for the draft resolution on IOM involvement in the follow-up to the CIS Conference and also supported the proposed 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001, with the principle of zero nominal growth being maintained for the year 2002.

55. Mr. GIUCA (Australia), referring to cooperation between IOM and UNHCR, said that while certain aspects of migration such as the resolution of refugees crises clearly came within the field of competence of UNHCR, other aspects such as irregular migration, protection of migrants' rights, effective return and reintegration programme, came within IOM's mandate. Australia strongly urged IOM to take an active part in UNHCR global consultations to improve the workings of the international refugee protection system and to evaluate its own role in relation to UNHCR and other international organizations, in order to readjust its priorities and provide a more strategic approach to international migration issues. One of the central requirements for promoting the orderly and lawful migration of people on an international scale was the need for States to be able to return migrants in an irregular situation who did not engage their protection obligations or meet managed migration requirements. The cooperation of all States in facilitating those returns was vital to effective international refugee protection and migration in general. IOM advocacy and its role in facilitating returns were therefore of key importance.

56. The interception of migrants in an irregular situation, the disruption of smuggling routes wherever possible, assistance in identifying those who raised protection concerns and the return of those not in need of protection were important counter-trafficking measures which his country was putting into practice, for example, through cooperation arrangements with Indonesia, supported by IOM. He welcomed the proposed increase in operational funding for counter-trafficking measures. The need for effective migration management to combat irregular migration was of particular concern to Member States in the Asia-Pacific region, as reflected in Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC). It was to be hoped that IOM support to the APC together with the associated Manila Process would continue in future. The success of the APC expert working groups would also depend on IOM's facilitation and expertise. IOM had a role to play as a catalyst in building up cooperative coalitions between Member States in order to achieve an integrated international approach to such problems as people smuggling and trafficking. International information campaigns should be developed to discourage would-be irregular migrants from using smugglers. Protocols such as the recently finalized trafficking and smuggling protocols of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime were an important step forward. His country was also looking to IOM as the key strategic organization for international policy development on migration issues and to assist States to manage the conflicting relationship between asylum and migration which, he stressed, were not two separate divisible issues but rather an integral part of a complex whole. Although IOM's technical cooperation programmes were one of its strengths, he questioned whether the Organization should continue to consider itself purely as a "service" organization or whether it should not build on its expertise and capacity to broker international cooperation and move towards a more strategic and leading role in that area.

57. Ms. BURUSAPATANA (Thailand) said that her Government and IOM had a long-standing and fruitful working relationship, through which hundreds of thousands of Indo-chinese and Vietnamese refugees had been moved to resettlement countries. Thousands had also been returned home from Thailand under the voluntary or orderly repatriation programmes, for which her Government wished to express its profound appreciation to IOM and its staff. Her delegation also welcomed the pilot projects to return and reintegrate trafficked women and children from Thailand to their countries of origin. Through the IOM representative in Thailand it would be possible to develop further comprehensive programmes to

assist victims of trafficking and prevent potential migrants from falling victims to traffickers. She supported IOM's initiative, in collaboration with ILO, to maintain dialogue with the governments of both labour-sending and labour-receiving countries to ensure orderly labour migration and protection of migrant workers. Her Government expressed its sincere thanks to IOM for its campaign for the protection of Thai migrant workers abroad.

58. Thailand was currently suffering from massive illegal migration, hosting more than 700,000 migrant workers in an irregular situation from neighbouring countries. Crimes committed by those migrants had been on the rise – a situation which it was urgent to resolve through dialogue with the migrants' country of origin so as to effect orderly return. Thailand would welcome IOM's more active participation in the question of irregular migration, in order to address the problem on an international level, particularly in the areas of return and exchange and dissemination of information on trafficking involving countries of origin, transit and destination. A comprehensive solution to the problem was essential. It was also important to establish a preventive strategy involving development aspects such as raising the standard of living and levels of income in countries of origin in order to prevent unnecessary irregular migratory movements. Cooperation with national health services was also important in order to provide basic health services for migrants in an irregular situation. She expressed support for the ongoing management review in IOM aimed at decentralizing decision-making to the Field Offices in order to gear responses to the specific needs of individual Member States in a cost-effective manner. She also supported the appeal to the donor community to make generous contributions to assist IOM in achieving the strategic plan to resolve the illegal migration problem. The IOM Administration should be given sufficient flexibility in managing or reallocating resources to offset the operational underfunding in some areas.

59. Mr. BETANCOURT (Ecuador) said that international migration had become a complex, many-faceted matter involving an increasing number of countries, especially developing countries, which made the provision of technical assistance to those countries even more important than before. As new forms of migration emerged, new problems arose relating to: irregular migration; illegal employment of migrants; increased workforce mobility; protection of migrants; the growth of seasonal migration; and unemployment among migrants. In order to resolve those problems IOM must build up a global strategy with other international

organizations such as ILO and UNHCR. The “think tank” to be set up in the Latin American and the Caribbean region would give consideration to those issues, with special reference to the needs of the developing countries.

60. He hoped that IOM would provide support in the implementation of two preliminary projects relating to cooperation in relation to the issuing of passports and assistance for legal reform concerning migration and aliens.

61. Regarding administrative matters, his delegation wished to stress the importance of ensuring the equitable distribution of budgetary resources between the different regions. His country had made a major effort to go along with the emerging consensus in favour of a 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001, but considered that the principle of zero nominal growth should continue to be applied to future budgets.

62. He informed the Council that the Government of Ecuador had settled all its arrears in contributions to the Organization, which reflected his country’s intention to pursue positive cooperation with IOM.

63. Mr. JURKOVICH (Canada) said that IOM’s involvement in the Kosovo crisis had highlighted one of its most useful roles and had greatly facilitated the orderly reinsertion of displaced Kosovars in their community. His country, for its part, had appreciated IOM’s assistance in helping the Kosovars who, after evacuation to Canada, had chosen to return home. IOM had made a valuable contribution to the ongoing delivery of Canada’s humanitarian resettlement programme. As his country shifted its resettlement targets to areas most in need, particularly to Africa, it would be counting on IOM’s expertise in ensuring timely transportation for selected refugees to Canada.

64. A regional approach to migration problems was gaining increased support and offered encouraging prospects for a better understanding of people movements. In that respect, IOM had played a useful role in the past, for example in the Puebla Process, and would doubtless continue to increase its technical support in that region through its San José Office. He appreciated IOM’s regional migration management achievements in the context of the OAU and in the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa.

65. IOM’s expanding membership reflected the fact that migration issues were increasingly preoccupying members of the international community, who relied on its assistance and advice. At the same time, however, growing concern had been expressed by certain Members who considered that the Organization was not sufficiently attentive to their needs. He accordingly encouraged the Director General and the Secretariat to engage in a more intensive dialogue and strongly supported the proposal to finance certain programmes for developing Member States from Discretionary Income.

66. The principle of zero nominal growth had imposed management reforms which had given rise to considerable difficulties. His delegation therefore favoured the proposed 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001, which reflected genuine expectations

as to the Organization's performance. He drew attention to the fact that, despite its support for that increase, Canada continued to uphold the principle of zero nominal growth as a budgeting basis.

67. The complexity of migration issues was reflected by the IOM "World Migration Report 2000" and by the UNHCR publication on refugees in the world and humanitarian action. IOM played an essential role in encouraging greater understanding of people movements and in contributing to realistic solutions for managing migratory movements.

68. Mr. NAZARIAN (Armenia) welcomed the Director General's successful mission to his country in October 2000. Appreciating that his region would be the object of special focus, he stressed that the three republics of the South Caucasus region urgently required the continuation of a number of important projects already launched by IOM, since that area still suffered from economic difficulties in its transition to a market economy. His delegation was highly appreciative of IOM's competence in defining the scope and volume of necessary tasks to be undertaken in its region, with a view to the comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh issue. He looked forward to joint preparation of potential IOM post-conflict programmes in the context of an internationally-agreed solution.

69. The high-level dialogue between the Government of Armenia and the Director General during the latter's recent visit had yielded a number of important decisions and conclusions, including the launching of an IOM cluster proposal initiative to devise migration assistance programmes between the Caucasus and Western European host countries, with a view to preventing irregular migration and facilitating the return and reintegration of migrants in an irregular situation. Capacity-building in migration management in Armenia was also important. In addition to reviewing and updating existing programmes, IOM had assisted in coordinating capacity-building programmes in Azerbaijan and Georgia, with a view to promoting a regional approach. With regard to the expansion of new programmes, he believed that the involvement of migration-related non-governmental organizations in Armenia could make a valuable contribution to subregional networking in South Caucasus countries. Furthermore, the micro-enterprise development project might further strengthen the institutional capacity for partnering educational and financial institutions, as the Director General had been able to ascertain in two major cities in Armenia which were receiving assistance in recovering from the 1988 earthquake.

70. The Government of Armenia intended to cooperate with IOM to consider measures for preventing irregular migration and migrant trafficking, possibly including an information campaign. IOM was also to provide assistance in establishing reliable data on migration flows in Armenia and had already made recommendations to the Government on an expanded border management information system in line with international practices. Given the specific demographic distribution of the Armenian population in the world, IOM's expertise would provide assistance in establishing relevant services to migrants in the diaspora.

71. Mr. KREID (Austria) congratulated IOM on the "World Migration Report 2000", which demonstrated in an impressive manner the enormous challenges that current migration trends posed for governments. He hoped that that report would be published annually.

72. The sheer numbers of people living outside their countries (an estimated 150 million) proved that increased cooperation between States was imperative and that IOM was operating in an environment of supply and demand. As reliable data was important to promote understanding of migration issues and policy developments, IOM should further develop its capabilities in that respect, in cooperation with other institutions active in the field, such as the International Migration Policy Programme and the International Centre for Migration Policy and Development, thereby guaranteeing an efficient division of labour, a constant flow of information and the avoidance of duplication.

73. With regard to budgetary questions, he said that although the Austrian Government was currently applying an austerity programme, it had found compelling arguments in favour of increasing the Administrative Part of IOM's Budget after five years of zero nominal growth. He felt that IOM had reached a remarkable level of cost-efficiency in its management despite expanding its membership. Austria had originally decided to support IOM's proposal for an increase in the order of 9.5 to 12.5 per cent, but was now willing to go along with the compromise of a 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget, together with the proposed allocation of USD 1 million for developing countries and countries in transition, to be financed out of Discretionary Income. He hoped that that compromise would also prove beneficial to the work of IOM's Regional Offices, including the Vienna Office, on whose expertise the Austrian authorities depended in shaping national policies and contributing to the formulation of European Union policies on migration.

74. Commenting on headway made in cooperation between IOM and the OSCE under the current Austrian chairmanship, he recalled that the concept of human contacts had been one of the political recommendations contained in the Helsinki Final Act, in relation to the solution of the so-called humanitarian problems caused by the cold war. That powerful idea had in fact played a prominent role in overcoming the artificial divisions of Europe. In line with the recently adopted Platform for Security Cooperation, the OSCE did not aim to specialize in migration but intended to cooperate with other relevant international organizations, while at the same time providing a forum for political dialogue among participating States. For example, recent contacts between the OSCE and UNHCR, IOM and the Council of Europe had developed into a growing strategic partnership, which had culminated in a Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and UNHCR. Such a memorandum was also under consideration between the OSCE and IOM. At the initiative of the Austrian presidency, cooperation in the context of the recently revitalized CIS Conference Process would shortly be strengthened and would increasingly involve both IOM's Headquarters and Field Missions.

75. Mr. HUNTER (United States of America), commending IOM management and staff on their accomplishments in all IOM's programmes, said that his delegation wished to recognize IOM's responsiveness to the needs of displaced persons in emergencies, such as Kosovo and East Timor. At the same time as that work had stretched IOM to the maximum, its membership had increased. It was important, therefore, that the Council should exercise appropriate oversight so as to ensure that the Organization's central management and administrative control system were commensurate with its responsibilities. The United States therefore supported the proposed one-time adjustment of a 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget, and also endorsed the proposal to use part of IOM's Discretionary Income for migration projects in developing Member States and Member States in transition. A possible use for those funds in 2001 might be to support the follow-up to the Dakar Declaration, for example by strengthening the migration management capacities of ECOWAS countries. It was his understanding that those funds would enable IOM Members to benefit directly from core service activities, in particular in the field of technical cooperation, migration management and capacity building.

76. Regarding IOM's mandate, he noted that the Director General had kept to his commitment that IOM's first priority would be to provide quality performance in its six core service areas. Such focus was essential and IOM should take care not to broaden its programmes too widely.

77. The international community continued to look to IOM for migrant processing, medical matters and transportation. In 2000, IOM had efficiently organized and carried out the movement of an estimated 400,000 migrants.

78. Regarding refugees, he welcomed IOM's enhanced collaborative efforts with UNHCR on cooperation in the field of transportation, involving strengthening the capability of both organizations to respond to situations that might involve massive movements of persons at risk. Referring to migrants' rights, he supported IOM's direct involvement in the two-year global consultations on international protection led by UNHCR, focusing on the interrelationship between asylum and migration. In his view, those consultations should not be dominated by developed countries debating procedural issues, but should also emphasize efforts to improve protection of the world's most vulnerable persons, the majority of whom were in the developing world.

79. The United States' position on international migration issues was straightforward: his Government advocated orderly, legal migration, which was beneficial both to the sending, transit and receiving countries, as well as to the migrants themselves.

80. At the practical level, the picture was more complex. Increasingly, flows of migrants in an irregular situation were a challenge to all governments and also undermined public support for the admission and integration of legal immigrants, resulting in exploitation, abuse and human suffering. Illegal immigration led to political tension between friendly neighbours in every region of the world. To advance the multilateral interest in deterring illegal and promoting legal migration, the United States strongly endorsed regional migration dialogues, which offered the most promising and concrete opportunities for developing coordinated responses on a regional basis. The United States valued IOM's experience in facilitating regional cooperation; it also welcomed its technical assistance programmes for strengthening national migration management capacities, including through the provision of model legislation and training.

81. During the past year, the United States had chaired the Regional Conference on Migration, bringing together Central and North American countries, as well as the Dominican Republic. The Puebla Process had consolidated its future action along three major themes - migration policies and migration management, human rights of migrants, and migration and development. His country was also working in partnership with Mexico and El Salvador in the Summit of the Americas process on promoting the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families. A further example of an effective comprehensive regional approach to migration had been the programme of action for the CIS Conference, where IOM had done innovative work

in developing technical assistance in migration management for governments in that region. The United States endorsed the proposed resolution on IOM involvement in the follow-up to the CIS Conference. It also supported IOM's activities to combat trafficking.

82. He had been pleased to note the recent publication of the "World Migration Report 2000", a valuable source of information on the complex global phenomenon of migration. As IOM would face many challenges in relating to international policy issues, the United States was supporting the enhancement of IOM's policy work, both through regional dialogues and through research, so that it would have the expertise to advise governments on how best to address their needs.

83. The formal adoption of the Programme and Budget for 2001 was only one aspect of the Council's work. As financial and human resources would always be limited, there had to be an ongoing dialogue between Member States and IOM's leadership, to which Members had to contribute time and ideas in providing policy guidance and setting priorities.

84. Ms. FILIP (Romania) said that her country, situated at the crossroads of East-West and South-North migration, was a country of origin, transit and destination. Migration was a matter of national, bilateral and multilateral concern in which IOM was one of the most relevant institutions.

85. She outlined recent migration-related activities in Romania which included: the development of an institutional and legislative framework to meet the demands of migration control; legislative, administrative and organizational measures compatible with international standards to achieve greater protection of aliens temporarily on Romanian territory; measures to combat the causes of irregular immigration, prevent irregular migration and curb the negative effects of migration. A national mechanism relating to asylum and migration had been established covering: the harmonization of Romanian and European Union legislation and practices, including visa policies; improved checking systems to curb illegal immigration; temporary accommodation for aliens in an irregular situation awaiting return to countries of departure; a voluntary return system for such migrants; and training of staff in asylum procedures and refugee and human rights matters, with the help of IOM and European Union expertise. IOM had provided valuable technical assistance in the planning and the development of national strategies, project design and programme implementation and evaluation. The Organization had also worked on projects in Romania concerning assistance to women who were victims of trafficking, the voluntary return of asylum seekers from Romania and the protection of vulnerable categories of immigrants in an irregular situation in Romania such as single mothers and unaccompanied minors.

86. As migration control called for a cross-regional, cross-sector and cross-institutional approach, her country welcomed IOM's move towards decentralization and the establishment of the new Missions with Regional Functions and regional projects such as those conducted under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The countries in her region had undertaken to improve their cooperation through reinforced measures to fight illegal migration, which included: an agreement within the framework of the South East European cooperation initiative regarding cooperation on preventing and combating cross-border crime; the establishment of a regional centre in Bucharest to share information and develop an integrated system of communication and cooperation to combat cross-border crime. During its tenure as Chair-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2001, Romania would seek to enhance cooperation between IOM and OSCE on issues of mutual interest and concern.

87. Ms. CEK (Croatia) said that the total number of legal immigrants in the world totalled approximately 150 million, i.e. 2.5 per cent of the world population, and that the number of immigrants in an irregular situation was estimated at about 3 million in Europe, a significant increase compared with 1 million in 1991. As a transit country, Croatia had recorded a strong increase of illegal migration on its territory, mostly

from neighbouring countries and from Asia. The increase in illegal migration in Croatia was due largely to the reactivation of the so-called "Balkan road" which ran from Istanbul through Bulgaria and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia overland, and through Bosnia and Herzegovina to Croatia by air. Urgent measures would have to be taken to rectify that situation in Croatia and its immediate neighbourhood. The first of those measures would be to adopt a comprehensive migration strategy at country level and to initiate the signing of readmission treaties with the countries from which the majority of migrants in an irregular situation came (as had been done recently between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina); it was also urgent to improve the substructure on State borders and to open new migration centres for accommodating migrants awaiting return. All those measures could never be successful in the long term without the international collaboration of the countries concerned and the support of IOM.

88. Her country welcomed the regional migration management assessment and improvement project, jointly undertaken by IOM and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia in order to strengthen the Government's capacity to reduce the flow of migrants in an irregular situation and address other key areas of migration management in accordance with international standards. In addition, IOM would focus its efforts on the immediate shelter and voluntary return assistance which was one of the crucial components of a comprehensive strategy for combating irregular migration. Finally, it was not possible to approach the problem of illegal migration without reference to the trafficking of migrants for which Croatia continued to be used as a transit country.

89. Her delegation supported the proposed increase of 5 per cent in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001, with a return to zero nominal growth in 2002, and also supported the proposal to request the Director General of IOM to allocate USD 1 million from Discretionary Income for the development of migration projects in favour of developing Member States and Member States in transition, on the basis of equitable regional distribution.

90. Mr. LAGOS (El Salvador) welcomed the improved and sustained collaboration with the countries of Central America to implement migration projects in that region and the regional meeting that had recently been held with the Director General. Discussions had also been held between the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country and the Director General concerning possible new areas of cooperation between IOM and El Salvador. He stressed the importance of the meeting between the Director General and ambassadors of the GRULAC countries concerning IOM's activities in the Latin American region, which faced problems such as violation of human rights, trafficking of minors and ill-treatment of migrants as well as inadequate return conditions.

91. His delegation was willing to support the proposed 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget with a return to zero nominal growth as the budget basis in 2002 in order to enable IOM to meet its new challenges.

92. Mr. GUILLEN (Peru) supported the statement made by the delegate of Colombia on behalf of GRULAC and highlighted a number of additional points. Although globalization had led to increased trade, foreign investment, communication media and economic and human development, which represented an immense potential for poverty alleviation in the twenty-first century, it was also a source of considerable imbalances and tensions. There was, for example, a contradiction between the increasing tendency to limit the mobility of individuals on the one hand and to increase the circulation of goods and capital on the other, under the influence of the transnational corporations. He stressed that the right to emigrate was a fundamental human right but that did not necessarily imply the right to immigrate in any country of one's choice – a topic which required further substantial debate. A recent ILO study showed that globalization, far from reducing the flow of international migration, would tend to increase migratory pressures in the next few years, but that the flow of goods and capital between rich and poor countries

would not be sufficient to meet the employment needs in the poorer countries. On the one hand, there had been a 40 per cent rise in the number of migrants throughout the world since 1965; on the other hand, globalization meant the increasing complication of migratory phenomena accompanied by a greater awareness of the interdependency between countries and of the links between migration and economic and social development, and consequently of “shared responsibility”. In that context IOM’s mandate, as set out in Article 1 of its Constitution to provide a forum for States and international and other organizations for the exchange of views and experience and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts of international migration issues, was as relevant as ever. Mechanisms such as the Puebla Process or the similar process established in Peru in July 2000 were essential for coordination and consultation among Latin American countries in the field of migration.

93. The problem of trafficking called for special attention, as it brought in USD 5 to 7 billion per year, making it the second most profitable illicit trade in the world after that of drugs. Regional and subregional strategies established in cooperation with the national and regional authorities were essential in order to combat the problem. An integrated global response was also required to solve the question of the displaced persons, particularly women and children – an area in which technical cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination was essential.

94. He expressed appreciation of the Director General’s emphasis on dialogue with Member States in order to improve the migration situation throughout the world and attain the Organization’s objectives.

95. Mr. JAKUBOWSKI (Poland) said that IOM’s growth in membership and scope was accompanied by an increasingly strong operational base and more and more experienced professional staff. His delegation commended the consistency with which IOM implemented its restructured programme of activities, following the priorities approved by the Council, not only with regard to sphere of activity but also to geographical scope. The Director General’s opening statement had placed emphasis on Africa and Asia in which the political and social processes required additional efforts from IOM. There was a need to contribute to the solution of the migration problems on the spot and at the same time to ease migration pressures in the “receiving” countries. He welcomed the Director General’s reference to the fact that IOM was pleased to support the steps taken by some western governments to facilitate regular labour migration and to support integration. It was obvious that orderly migration could benefit both migrants and their new environments.

96. He noted with satisfaction that IOM intended to continue capacity-building efforts in South East Europe and in the former Soviet Union. He also welcomed the publication of IOM’s “World Migration Report 2000” which would be of value to those concerned with migration issues.

97. In Poland special attention was being paid to developing IOM’s services to people living in the diaspora. The participation of IOM in the German Forced Labour Compensation programme was particularly important for many Poles, victims of the Second World War, and was a significant reflection of the international confidence placed in IOM.

98. Regarding administrative matters, his delegation, although stressing the importance of maintaining zero nominal growth in the Administrative Part of the Budget so as to keep within strict budgetary limits and increase cost-effectiveness, nevertheless supported the proposed increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001, as a means of avoiding prejudice to the Organization’s management, expansion and sustainable development. He stressed, however, that the new budget should bring about an increase in activities and efficiency which should be reflected in a more efficient solution of the matter of outstanding contributions.

99. He welcomed the regular information meetings with the Missions on structural changes at Headquarters and at regional level – a commendable practice which should be further developed. Although IOM management had improved considerably, further adjustments would be needed as IOM's programme developed. His country had full confidence in IOM's leadership and would continue to give its sustained support to the Organization.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.