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EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION

**REPORT ON THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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REPORT ON THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Committee convened for its Ninety-eighth Session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 6 June 2001, under the chairmanship of Mr. M. Leggeri (Italy). Four meetings were held, the last one being held at the end of the special Council session convened on the afternoon of Thursday 7 June. 1/

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Executive Committee 2/: Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Paraguay, Poland, the United States of America and Yemen.

3. In addition, the following Member States were represented by observers: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia. 2/

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS

4. The Executive Committee took note that the Director General had examined the credentials of the representatives of and observers for Member States and found them to be in order.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. Mr. Leggeri (Italy) was unanimously elected Chairman and Mr. Castrillón Jaramillo (Ecuador) was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Executive Committee adopted the agenda set out in document MC/EX/630/Rev.1.

1/ The discussions are reported in greater detail in the summary records of the meetings (MC/EX/SR/432, MC/EX/SR/433, MC/EX/SR/434 and MC/EX/SR/435).

2/ See List of Participants (MC/EX/635).

GENERAL DEBATE

(i) Opening statement by the Director General

7. The Director General gave a brief update of the main developments since the November 2000 session of the Council and reported on plans and activities for IOM's fiftieth anniversary year.

8. Project development in the Migration Management Services had mushroomed in recent months in line with the growth of interest in migration management. The cluster approach to co-management of migration had been particularly successful and would be extended. Regional strategies for stemming irregular migration and combating trafficking were bearing fruit. New service opportunities were emerging in the areas of labour migration and integration, including anti-discrimination and xenophobia. New Members brought new synergies and new opportunities.

9. With regard to regional considerations, excellent progress was under way in the Puebla Process, Southern Africa, the Western Mediterranean, South America, South Eastern Europe, Asia and other regions where migration management fora with IOM participation were well established. China had taken the initiative of organizing in Beijing, with IOM, a technical workshop on capacity-building for countries of East Asia. The signature in December of an agreement between IOM and the League of Arab States laid a good foundation for cooperation in the Middle East. IOM was investigating the possibility of adding a migration dimension to Black Sea Economic Cooperation and enhancing its contacts on migration with the Council of Baltic Sea States. With Swedish funding, a Balkan regional programme of assistance to victims of trafficking had been put in place.

10. IOM's Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP) was well launched, thanks to an enthusiastic response from Member States. Mr. Gervais Appave, who had now taken up his post as Director of the programme, would make a brief initial statement. The MPRP would enhance IOM's ability to address the rapidly expanding concerns of Member States in migration policy.

11. In the past six months, IOM had engaged in several new emergency and post-conflict operations. The closely-linked activities in Guinea and Sierra Leone had provided the occasion for the first formal exercise of the IOM-UNHCR agreement on independent IOM transportation in a crisis. IOM had signed an agreement with the World Bank for demobilization in Guinea-Bissau. In Afghanistan, at the request of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), IOM had begun working with internally displaced drought victims and intended to build a network of assistance points throughout the country. In India, shelters for victims of the Gujarat earthquake, especially migrant salt workers deprived of their homes and livelihoods, were being built. In El Salvador, too, the focus was on the migration aspects of the two recent earthquakes.

12. The year 2001 marked IOM's fiftieth anniversary which was being celebrated in a series of events that also served to map out the main migration issues for the years ahead.

13. In May 2001, a successful Migration Round Table was held at the third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in Brussels, providing an opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion on migration and development, including such topics as the brain drain, strengthened relations with diasporas, remittance management and the return of qualified

nationals. This provided an occasion for IOM to launch its new Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) initiative.

14. In the near future, IOM would participate in a Swiss-sponsored symposium in Bern aimed at describing the existing principles and standards on migration and seeking to identify gaps that required additional work. At the invitation of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, IOM would present a day-long seminar on the rights of migrants at the Committee's annual ministerial conference in New Delhi.

15. At the Durban World Conference Against Racism, IOM planned to hold a round table, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other partners, on the increasingly important and topical subject of the integration of foreigners, migrants and minorities.

16. In Brussels in October 2001, in conjunction with the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, a discussion would be held on European efforts to achieve common migration policies in the European Union, a topic with great long-term significance for migration flows worldwide.

17. The possibility of holding a government-business-civil society forum on prospects for organized labour migration in November 2001, in connection with IOM's fiftieth anniversary Council, was being discussed with the Canton of Geneva.

18. Those events and their preparatory research would lay a solid basis for the rapidly expanding, worldwide migration debate. There was every prospect that IOM would have over 90 Members by the end of 2001. It was intended to invite Member States to send high-level delegations to IOM's fiftieth anniversary Council in order to have an even richer debate on global trends in international migration, on policy challenges and developments, and on directions for the Organization.

19. On behalf of his 2,500 colleagues, he thanked all present for the support and encouragement they had given to the personnel and operations of IOM.

20. The Director of the new IOM Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP) made a statement providing additional information on the programme and its relevance to IOM Member States. The programme had been set up in response to requests from Member States following a number of clearly discernible developments throughout the world. Globalization, with greater exchange of goods, capital and services, had led governments to become increasingly concerned about the policy issues arising from the growth in global mobility. Some of those, such as migration and development and the causes and management of irregular migration flows, were well known but others, such as the relationship between demography and migration and between globalization and labour flows, were new. As a result of initial consultations with Member States, the MPRP would focus on three groups of questions: what data and documentation it could provide to give governments a better understanding of the migratory realities with which they were faced; what resources IOM could offer on the basis of its past experience that might help governments administratively or institutionally; and how the MPRP could capitalize on IOM's unique membership to promote and stimulate policy debates on matters of interest. Those activities would tend towards the development of a set of shared principles which would enable the international community to make maximum use of the constructive potential of migration and reduce its disruptive effect.

(ii) General statements by delegations

21. IOM's expanding membership and geographical coverage was seen by many delegates as a reflection of governments' growing interest in the Organization's work and of its steady move towards greater universality. It was therefore of extreme importance, as stressed by a number of countries, that the Organization's activities should remain very firmly focused on the six core service areas in which IOM could best demonstrate its special expertise. Some speakers said that the membership should be consulted if any projects were undertaken which did not come within those service areas. Certain emergency activities, however, were inevitably unplanned and IOM was to be commended on the emergency operations which it had carried out in 2000.

22. Orderly, legal migration was being increasingly affected by flows of migrants in an irregular situation, which often resulted in exploitation, abuse and human suffering and undermined public support for admission of legal migrants or led to political tensions between neighbouring countries. One way of overcoming that problem was to establish regional dialogue and cooperation and technical assistance programmes which strengthened national migration management capacities. Orderly migration management could be effective only if approached in a comprehensive and integrated manner – a challenging task calling for further reflection and definition. In that area the new Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP), for which several countries expressed support, could make a valuable contribution. Some clarification was requested by one group of countries as to how the benefits of the programme would be made accessible to developing countries which lacked capacity-building potential and it was suggested that the programme should be incorporated in the core activities and corresponding budget of IOM. Another group of countries stressed the importance of taking into account in that new initiative the work of other bodies active in the broad field of migration. As globalization led to increasing population movements with concomitant irregular migration, awareness of the need for a coordinated international approach to migration problems was growing.

23. Many speakers welcomed the focus on regional cooperation in IOM's programmes through the increasing number of regional fora and cooperation mechanisms which were being set up or sustained in all regions of the world. The renewed emphasis on core services had led to the strengthening of regional offices, which was also welcomed. One group of countries expressed appreciation of the new Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme which would focus on capacity-building, transfer of knowledge and expertise for African development. One delegate stressed the need for similar cooperation to enhance capacity-building for counter-trafficking measures with special attention to women and children, and another speaker commended IOM on the progress that had been made in regional cooperation between IOM and Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and also between those two States.

24. The importance of coordination with other organizations and bodies active in the field of migration was stressed by a number of speakers. One delegate welcomed, in particular, the increasing links being forged between IOM and the European Union in the areas of asylum, admission and readmission. One group of countries welcomed IOM's coordination with UNHCR, in particular the recent Memorandum of Understanding on transportation facilities between the two organizations, which had led those countries to provide financial support for the new Rapid Response Transportation Fund. Coordination with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the area of combating trafficking, was also highlighted. One speaker emphasized the collaboration between IOM and certain regional projects and bodies such as the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP), the International Migration Policy (IMP)

programme and the countries of the Southern African Development Community, all of which had led to the development of the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) project. IOM's support to the Regional Conference on Migration, consisting of ten countries of North and Central America and the Dominican Republic, and its stronger focus on the Asia-Pacific region were also welcomed.

25. Regarding budgetary matters, many countries commended IOM on its balanced financial results for 2000, welcoming the fact that the principle of zero nominal growth had been adhered to in the Administrative Part of the Budget and that the deficit in the Operational Part of the Budget had been limited by undertaking only project activities with prior assured funding. Two countries stressed the need for transparency in budgetary matters, requesting clarification concerning the operational phasing out after crises and IOM's activities in the non-movement post-conflict areas, and requested information on the policy, implementation and impact of the 9.5 per cent project overhead charge and on the new Rapid Response Transportation Fund.

26. As membership and activities of the Organization expanded, it was important to tighten up oversight in order to ensure that central management and administrative control systems were commensurate with IOM's task. One group of countries, welcoming the growing attention given to evaluation functions, stressed the need for systematic internal evaluation throughout the Organization.

27. The revision of IOM's assessment scale to reflect the recently revised United Nations assessment scale was mentioned by a number of speakers who expressed support for the proposed revised assessment scale set out in Table 1 of MC/EX/632/Add.2. Several speakers considered that the United Nations assessment scale should continue to form the basis for IOM's assessment scale and that the current system was sound. Linked with that question was the use of the budget surplus that would be produced by the contributions from the new Members which would soon be joining the Organization. Several speakers considered that this surplus should be used to give rebates to existing Member States. One delegate suggested that formal and informal consultations should be held on the subject in order to establish flexible, fair and reliable procedures, and the continuing need to find a systemic solution to the use of surpluses in the Administrative Part of the Budget was emphasized by several speakers.

28. Delegates also welcomed the efforts that had been made to use part of IOM's discretionary income to support migration projects for developing Member States and Member States in transition. Two speakers underlined the importance of maintaining equitable geographical distribution in allocating those funds. One delegate considered that any surplus and available discretionary income should be used to offset the proposed increases in the assessed contributions for the 2002 budget of developing Member States, but another said that discretionary income should be used to give IOM the necessary flexibility to administer its programmes rather than to finance any deficits.

29. Regarding the problem of arrears, many delegations expressed concern that little progress had been made in the payment of outstanding assessed contributions and appealed to Member States to pay their contributions in time and in full or to agree to repayment plans, as the current situation clearly affected IOM's ability to function satisfactorily.

30. Several countries considered that IOM's fiftieth anniversary provided an appropriate opportunity to promote interest in migration matters and in IOM's activities as a whole. One delegate said that, as a result of IOM's links with the European Union, a ceremony would be

organized around the four themes of migration management, labour market policies, partnership with countries of origin in the management of migration flows and the integration of migrants. Such events should bring migration matters to the attention of governments throughout the world at a time of increasing globalization and the consequent rise in migration movements.

31. The Director General welcomed the expressions of support for the Organization's work which the Administration would strive to render even more relevant and representative. IOM's fiftieth anniversary should provide an opportunity to place special emphasis on migration policy issues and draw attention to their significance. Regarding the sum of USD 1.4 million from discretionary income for projects for developing Member States and Member States in transition, IOM was using those funds to start up new projects which, though valuable, might not have attracted donor funding. It was also important to achieve a balance across IOM's different types of services so as to develop the Organization's own skills. The Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP) was now progressing well under its newly-appointed Director and would make a valuable contribution towards enabling the Organization to participate more broadly in international dialogue on migration issues.

32. Regarding staff questions, some significant progress had been made in the work on IOM's Provident Fund by broadening the options therein, but further work still remained to be done together with the Staff Association Committee. The presence of a highly-qualified and experienced ombudsman in the Organization had helped to settle many staff problems which, in the past, might simply have accumulated without solution.

33. Two new key assignments had been made at Headquarters: a new Head had been appointed for the Migration Health service, which dealt with migration-related health problems, in particular communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS, and a new Chief of Training would soon join the Organization so as to enhance staff training facilities. Progress was also being made in the area of personnel relations. The Coordinator for IOM's fiftieth anniversary was giving it special significance, reflecting the major changes taking place in the way migration was being handled by governments throughout the world.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 2000 AND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2000

34. The Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance gave a brief summary of the Subcommittee's review of the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2000. A representative of IOM's external auditors, the Austrian Court of Audit, stating that IOM's accounts for that period gave a true and fair view of the resources and expenditure of the Organization's programme, had commended the Administration on its efforts to maintain transparency and manage its resources efficiently. Attention was drawn, however, to two issues: the misappropriation of funds at the Field Mission in Kosovo, in connection with which a trial was imminent; and the shortcomings in the administration of the FONAPAZ Fiduciary Fund in Guatemala, following which administrative control had been tightened and IOM's activities in Guatemala reduced. The Subcommittee on Budget and Finance had recommended that the Executive Committee approve the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2000.

35. The Executive Committee took note of the Report of the Director General on the work of the Organization for the year 2000 (MC/2042 and MC/2042/Corr.1 (English only)) and the

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2000 (MC/2041) and adopted the resolution on decisions taken by the Executive Committee (Resolution No. 102 (XCVIII)).

STATEMENT BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STAFF ASSOCIATION

36. The Chairman of the Staff Association Committee (SAC) presented to the Executive Committee current issues of importance to IOM's 2,500 staff members, both at Headquarters and in the Field. The SAC had an increasingly important role to play, in order to ensure that equitable conditions of service constituted an integral part of the Organization and that staff regulations and rules were applied consistently.

37. Stressing that the Organization's performance was reliant on the performance of its staff, he drew attention to several specific issues of concern, including contractual arrangements and specifically the increasing number of short-term and temporary contracts which were detrimental to staff status. The rights and interests of the field staff, who represented the great majority of IOM personnel were diverse: the status of local field staff differed from country to country, making the protection of staff rights and conditions difficult. The Staff Association urged the Administration to find fair and lasting solutions to these problems. In discussing contracts and social security, it was essential to focus primarily on salary scales, medical insurance and provision for retirement. In particular, local terms and conditions should provide a fair and transparent framework to safeguard the interests of local field staff. Furthermore, recruitment, selection, rotation and promotion must be carried out in an equitable, transparent and consistent way and increased attention given to staff development and training, which required long-term vision and planning. The Staff Association Committee was engaged in discussions with the Administration concerning the IOM Provident Fund, which continued to pose problems, in that contributions and investment revenues had to be built up for a reasonable retirement income since under the Fund a lump sum, and not a monthly pension, was paid at the time of retirement or separation.

38. Another very important issue was that of security: life-threatening risks were always present. In East Timor, in September 2000, three UNHCR officials were killed and IOM staff was under the same threat. More recently, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) workers were victims of violence, highlighting the vulnerability of staff working in the Field.

39. In 2000, an ombudsman had been selected to mediate on grievances reported within the Organization, including issues such as harassment, on which a new policy document was being developed together with the SAC. The ombudsman worked on a 20 per cent basis, which was not sufficient to ensure proper coverage for all staff in need, particularly those in the Field. The Staff Committee therefore supported an increase in the ombudsman's working hours and was discussing the matter with the Administration in order to find a reasonable solution.

40. Finally, the SAC hoped that all aspects of the Organization's human resources policy, including comprehensive training, as presented to Member States in November 2000, would be implemented by the Administration. A more comprehensive and fully transparent approach to conditions of service was a prerequisite to good cooperation between the Administration and the SAC.

41. One delegate, noting that there seemed to have been an encouraging improvement in relations between the Staff Committee and the Administration, urged both sides to work closely

together in order to solve any problems arising in human resources management. He reiterated a proposal put forward in the past, namely that the SAC's statement should be issued in advance, to allow time for adequate reflection and for Executive Committee members to raise more specific questions.

42. The Executive Committee took note of the statement by the representative of the Staff Association.

REVISION OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2001

43. The Executive Committee heard a summary by the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance of the Subcommittee's discussions on the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2001. It had been noted that the Administrative Part of the Budget had remained unchanged at CHF 35,763,000. The Operational Part of the Budget had increased by USD 34.2 million to USD 337.6 million in total, mainly on account of new and expanded technical cooperation and capacity-building initiatives and movement-related operations in all four regions. In connection with the Movement service of the Operational Part of the Budget, information had been requested concerning the relatively small amount allocated to repatriation assistance in comparison with resettlement assistance and on IOM's efforts to repatriate Afghan refugees. Regarding the Technical Cooperation on Migration service, concern had been expressed over the low levels of funding for capacity-building through transfer of qualified human resources and exchange of experts – areas to which greater priority should be given. Under the Migration Health service it had been suggested that the Operational Part of the Budget for 2002 should contain a new post-conflict services support line. In response to a request for clarification, the Administration had explained that the six criteria and guidelines for the use of resources allocated for projects in developing Member States and Member States in transition, set out in Section VIII.6 of document MC/EX/631, were for internal use for the preparation of field projects and could be modified in the light of Member States' views. To date, resources had been allocated to only four projects through that funding facility, the purpose being to develop projects, not to fund them in full. It had been noted that closer consultation was required among countries, particularly at regional level, in order to select projects that would have the greatest impact. The Subcommittee had recommended that the Executive Committee approve the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2001 contained in document MC/EX/631.

44. The Legal Adviser, recalling that the Deputy Director General had invited Member States to indicate in writing how they considered the funds should be distributed and according to what criteria, said that a communication had been received from the group of Latin American countries (GRULAC) proposing two amendments to those criteria, as follows: "(1) Will fund seed/start-up costs of projects and entire project costs if/when the latter do not exceed USD 50,000; (2) Will not fund conferences or events for which other sources of funding already exist in the programme and budget of the Organization."

45. One delegate, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation concerning Section VIII.6 of document MC/EX/631 and called for the consolidation of this initiative as a permanent and institutional mechanism that would guarantee continuity and viability of programmes. Open-ended, interactive regional consultations with delegations in Geneva, to share ideas, suggestions and information on such funding, would also be useful.

46. With regard to geographical distribution in relation to the Operational Part of the Budget, the same speaker noted with appreciation IOM's increasing involvement in Africa, as reflected in document MC/EX/631. Migration needs in his region required deeper and broader involvement to overcome the migration challenges facing the continent. He appealed to donor States to enhance their support in order to enable IOM to raise its activities in Africa to a realistic level that would match countries' needs and to assist Member States in establishing viable cooperative programmes with action-oriented partnership networks.

47. The Executive Committee adopted the resolution on the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2001 (Resolution No. 103 (XCVIII)).

ASSESSMENT SCALE FOR 2002

48. The Executive Committee took note of the discussions on the assessment scale for 2002, as reflected in the Report of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, Parts I and II, on its Eighty-fifth Session (MC/EX/633). As a result of informal consultations among delegations and with the Administration, the Chairman of the Executive Committee submitted an informal text containing measures for alleviating the burden of increased assessed contributions on developing Member States by giving them a grace period in which to pay the increases. A deadline for payment of 2004 was mentioned in the text which also stipulated that amounts to be paid with a delay would not be considered as contributions in arrears for the purpose of applying Article 4 of the Constitution.

49. During an initial round of discussions in the Executive Committee, most delegations confirmed that the revised United Nations assessment scale could serve as a basis for IOM's assessment scale for 2002. One speaker emphasized that any debate on the fairness of the percentage represented by each country's assessed contribution should take place in the United Nations, not in IOM. Another delegation said that neither document MC/EX/632/Add.1 nor MC/EX/632/Add.2 reflected his country's legitimate concerns on the matter of its assessed contribution, which had suffered a very large increase. Consideration should therefore be given to those IOM Member States whose contributions had increased significantly.

50. A number of delegations were prepared to accept the IOM assessment scale set out in Table 1 of document MC/EX/632/Add.2. Others agreed in principle that the IOM scale be based on the United Nations scale but pointed out that the latter was the result of lengthy negotiations reflecting a delicate political balance and was accompanied by mechanisms for alleviating the burden placed on certain countries by sharp increases in their assessed contributions. The Administration recalled that, in any event, the IOM assessment scale lagged one year behind the United Nations scale. Many delegations welcomed any proposal for alleviating the burden of countries whose contributions had increased, and two speakers agreed that payments should be spread over a period of time.

51. A number of delegations opined that, if the IOM assessment scale was based on the United Nations scale, a case-by-case approach to payments should be applied, and several others advocated the holding of bilateral consultations on the matter between each country affected and the Administration. One delegation said it would have great difficulty in accepting a text that did not include a deadline for payment, another speaker considered that a deadline of 2004 was reasonable, while a third could not accept a text that included an exact deadline. Another delegation pointed out that if a period of grace without penalties was allowed, the impact of the

5 per cent budgetary increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001, decided in 2000, would be lost; furthermore, the issues decided on by the United Nations General Assembly should not be reopened in IOM nor have a negative impact on the IOM budget.

52. Some delegations stressed that consultations with their governments were essential before any compromise solution could be agreed.

53. After some delegations had consulted their governments and further discussions had taken place, one delegate said he trusted that his concerns would be duly addressed in the course of bilateral consultations. Several others also had confidence in the effectiveness of bilateral discussions and urged that a flexible attitude by all could lead to consensus on the matter. A number of delegations stressed the importance of ensuring that IOM did not incur a permanent debt due to any arrangements made for delaying payment of contributions, and one delegation considered that the situation of all Member States subject to significant increases which might experience difficulties in that regard should be examined. Two delegations regretted the lack of international solidarity demonstrated by some interventions which had implied that the increases were not significant and urged that all Member States should make comparable efforts to those made by one regional group in working towards acceptance of a compromise text.

54. Several speakers said that they could accept a balanced compromise text based on the discussions and consultations carried out.

55. The following compromise text, submitted by the Chairman, was approved by consensus:

“In adopting the scale of assessment for 2002 as contained in MC/EX/632/Add.2, Table 1, in accordance with the principles and criteria decided by the Council, the Executive Committee took note of the problem faced by certain developing Member States (see MC/EX/632/Add.2, Table 4).

In this respect, the Executive Committee adopts, exceptionally, the following measure:

Developing Member States whose 2002 assessed contribution will increase as a result of the adoption of the scale of assessment for 2002, fully aware of the urgency to ensure that the Administrative Part of the Budget is fully funded, may opt to define with the Administration the timing for the payment of the corresponding increase in their assessed contribution. Amounts to be paid with a delay would not be considered as contributions in arrears for the purpose of application of Article 4 of the Constitution.

The Administration will report to the governing bodies in November 2001 the final outcome of its bilateral consultations with those concerned Member States, including the time limit for the payment of the corresponding increase.

The Executive Committee also took note of the situation of those Member States with significant increases and asked the Administration to look into the matter with the Member States concerned.

In endorsing this measure, the Executive Committee reaffirms the obligation of Member States to pay in time assessed contributions and to pay all outstanding contributions as soon as possible.”

56. Several delegations expressed their appreciation of the Chairman's skill in achieving consensus on the text approved, while some of them emphasized the importance of the bilateral consultations to be held and one stressed the need to avoid at the November 2001 session of the Council the rigidity which had hitherto characterized debates on the automatic application of the United Nations assessment scale to IOM.

57. In adopting the compromise text, the Executive Committee approved implicitly the assessment scale set out in Table 1 of document MC/EX/632/Add.2.

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

(a) Outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget

58. The Executive Committee noted that the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance had reviewed the situation of outstanding assessed contributions, which totalled CHF 4.6 million at the end of April 2001.

59. The Legal Adviser gave details of the assessed contributions which had been received since publication of the corresponding report (MC/EX/631). Morocco had paid its contribution for the current year in full, as well as its arrears. A partial payment had been received from Tajikistan and payment of contributions for the current year had also been received from Algeria, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Yemen. The contributions in arrears for 2000 and previous years totalled CHF 4,566,824. For the current year, outstanding contributions amounted to approximately CHF 14,100,000, out of an assessed total of CHF 35,800,000. Honduras said that on 5 June 2001 his country had paid its assessed contribution for 2001 and a substantial part of its contribution for 2002.

60. Following the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, the Executive Committee took note of the current situation with serious concern and urged all Member States in arrears to make every effort to pay their outstanding contributions as soon as possible. In particular, Member States whose contributions had been outstanding for two or more consecutive years should be urged to pay those contributions in full or to agree to a repayment plan and payment of a first instalment as soon as possible.

(b) Use of assessed contributions from new Member States in 2001

(c) Level of the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2002

61. The Executive Committee noted that document MC/EX/INF/59, which provided details on possible ways of using the assessed contributions from new Member States in 2001 and on the level of the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2002, had been submitted to the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance for information. The document indicated areas in which the additional contributions from new Member States might be allocated and included a proposal by the Administration that the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2002 be increased by 5 per cent and that part of the additional contributions from new Member States for 2001 be used to offset the corresponding increase in the individual assessed contributions of some Member States. It had

been stressed in the Subcommittee that efforts to find a systemic solution to the recurring problem of surpluses in the Administrative Part of the Budget should continue.

62. The Director General said that there were at least two ways of using the additional funds from contributions from new Member States: first to give all Member States rebates which, however, would amount to only a very modest sum for the minimum-paying countries; secondly to use the surplus to improve services, for example to step up capacity-building in the Missions with Regional Functions or to strengthen information technology facilities. Those specific topics might usefully be discussed at informal meetings with interested governments.

63. One delegate, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that although he understood the legitimacy of IOM's concern to strengthen its administrative and institutional structure, developing or least developed Member States should bear no additional financial burden on account of the implementation of any proposed arrangement in that respect. Another speaker said that it would be constructive to involve any new Members in discussions concerning the use of that surplus. Furthermore, it was important to bear in mind that contributions earmarked for the Administrative Part of the Budget should be used solely for that part of the budget and that efforts should be made to find a systemic solution to the issue of budget surpluses.

64. The Executive Committee invited the Administration to engage in informal consultations with Member States concerning the use of assessed contributions from new Member States in 2001 and a systemic solution, in preparation for the forthcoming meetings of the governing bodies.

OTHER BUSINESS

65. The Executive Committee noted that requests for membership of IOM had been received from the Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Republic of the Gambia and Georgia. The assessments for those new Members were reflected in document MC/EX/632/Add.2. Those applications for membership would be placed on the agenda for the Special Session of the Council to be held on 7 June 2001, as well as requests from the Government of the People's Republic of China and *Assistance pédagogique internationale* for representation by an observer.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

66. Pursuant to Council Resolution No. 972 (LXXIV) of 26 November 1997, no session of the Executive Committee would be held in November 2001; the next session would therefore be held in spring 2002 in Geneva, with the provisional dates of 4 and 5 June 2002.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

67. The Ninety-eighth Session of the Executive Committee closed on Thursday, 7 June 2001, at 6 p.m.