

**EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING**

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 27 November 2001, at 10.05 a.m.

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

Chairman: H.E. Mr. P. KARIYAWASAM (Sri Lanka)

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Agenda item 1

OPENING OF THE SESSION AND  
CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS

1. The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared open the Eighty-second Session of the Council.
2. He said that the Eighty-second Session was especially important because it was taking place on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Organization. It was, however, also taking place after the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America, which were leading to a reordering of international relations. It was important that countries work together in harmony without raising barriers against migration and he urged the Council to maintain the progress made so far in the promotion of international cooperation in migration, avoiding any loss of the important momentum achieved.
3. The ACTING CHAIRMAN informed the Council that the credentials of the representatives of Member States and observers were in order.

Agenda item 2

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4. The ACTING CHAIRMAN invited the Council to nominate candidates for the office of Chairman.
5. Mr. FUTRAKUL (Thailand), seconded by Mr. NOIRFALISSE (Belgium), nominated Mr. P. Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka) as Chairman.
6. Mr. P. Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka) was unanimously elected Chairman and took the chair.
7. He invited the Council to proceed to the election of a First and a Second Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.
8. Mr. ABBAS (Egypt), seconded by Mr. BETANCOURT RUALES (Ecuador), nominated Mr. R. J. Menga (Congo) as First Vice-Chairman.
9. Mr. R. J. Menga (Congo) was unanimously elected First Vice-Chairman.
10. Mr. ABBAS (Egypt), seconded by Mr. BETANCOURT RUALES (Ecuador), nominated Mrs. M. Pranchère-Tomassini (Luxembourg) as Second Vice-Chairwoman.
11. Mrs. M. Pranchère-Tomassini (Luxembourg) was unanimously elected Second Vice-Chairwoman.
12. Mr. ABBAS (Egypt), seconded by Mr. BETANCOURT RUALES (Ecuador), nominated Ms. M. Posada-Corrales (Colombia) as Rapporteur.

13. Ms. M. Posada-Corrales (Colombia) was unanimously elected Rapporteur.

14. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Council for electing him Chairman and for their support, congratulated the newly elected officers and praised the work of the outgoing Chairman. He stressed that IOM's fiftieth anniversary was an occasion for reflection and preparation for future challenges at the start of the twenty-first century when IOM's activities were being reviewed and expanded and the unstructured nature of migration called for increased activities by IOM in creating a policy framework and implementing projects to fulfil its objectives. Unprecedented regular and irregular movement of people was taking place, mostly on account of the search for work and prosperity, posing new challenges for civil society and governments. He had had personal experience in observing the effective and rapid work of IOM at the time of the return of Sri Lankan displaced workers during the Gulf conflict. It was especially important that the work of the session had been focused round the theme of international dialogue on migration. He thanked the Director General for his effective leadership and looked forward to cooperating with the Member States of IOM and the Secretariat.

Agenda item 3

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA  
(MC/2040/Rev.1)

15. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the revised provisional agenda (MC/2040/Rev.1).

16. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 4

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

17. The CHAIRMAN invited the Director General to address the Council.

18. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that the Eighty-second Session of the Council was different because it marked IOM's fiftieth anniversary and because of the intention to enhance the policy content of the debates, making the Council a major forum for discussion of the worldwide migration management agenda. The previous day the Swiss Government had made possible a round table discussion on labour migration – a successful event which had highlighted the new importance of migration for work in the global economy. He outlined the Council session's programme, which included keynote speeches by distinguished representatives of IOM Member States, who would be sharing their views and approaches to the challenges of migration management in the twenty-first century and reflecting the different approaches that characterized the policies of different countries with different interests, but would also indicate a growing migration policy convergence that united the interests of all countries whether they were countries of origin, transit or destination. A panel of acknowledged world experts had been organized around the topics of demography, trade and globalization, and integration of migrants.

He looked forward to hearing reactions from delegations and discussion of migration policy. He drew attention to two publications commemorating IOM's 50-year history, copies of which had been distributed to delegations. IOM looked forward to the new challenges of the years ahead, serving old and new Member States in a growing range of programmes and projects to address the increasing demand for migration policy responses throughout the world.

Agenda item 5

MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVERSHIP

5.1 Membership:

- (a) Application by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for membership in the Organization  
(MC/2044, MC/L/1011)
- (b) Application by the Republic of Cape Verde for membership in the Organization  
(MC/2045, MC/L/1012)
- (c) Application by the Republic of Madagascar for membership in the Organization  
(MC/2046, MC/L/1013)
- (d) Application by the Islamic Republic of Iran for membership in the Organization  
(MC/2052, MC/L/1014)
- (e) Application by Ukraine for membership in the Organization  
(MC/2056, MC/L/1015)

19. The CHAIRMAN invited the Council to consider the draft resolutions concerning applications for membership, contained in documents MC/L/1011, MC/L/1012, MC/L/1013, MC/L/1014 and MC/L/1015.

20. The draft resolutions on the admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (MC/L/1011), the Republic of Cape Verde (MC/L/1012), the Republic of Madagascar (MC/L/1013), the Islamic Republic of Iran (MC/L/1014) and Ukraine (MC/L/1015) as Members of the Organization were adopted by acclamation.

21. The CHAIRMAN, noting that the Secretariat had informed him that the credentials of the representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Madagascar, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine had been received and found to be in order, invited them to take their places among the Member States of the Organization.

5.2 Observership:

(a) Application by the Kingdom of Nepal for representation by an observer  
(MC/2047, MC/L/1016)

(b) Application by the *Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)*  
for representation by an observer  
(MC/2053, MC/L/1017)

(c) Application by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO)  
for representation by an observer  
(MC/2054, MC/L/1018)

22. The CHAIRMAN invited the Council to consider the draft resolutions concerning the applications for representation by an observer, contained in documents MC/L/1016, MC/L/1017, and MC/L/1018.

23. The draft resolutions on granting the Kingdom of Nepal (MC/L/1016), the *Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)* (MC/L/1017) and the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) (MC/L/1018) observer status at meetings of the Council were adopted by acclamation.

24. The CHAIRMAN, noting that the Secretariat had informed him that the credentials of the observers for the Kingdom of Nepal, the *Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)* and the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) had been received and found to be in order, invited them to take their places at the observers' table.

25. The CHAIRMAN informed the Council that there would be an opportunity for further comments under item 8 during the general debate on Wednesday.

Agenda item 6

REFLECTIONS ON IOM'S 50th ANNIVERSARY  
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

(a) Mrs. Ruth Metzler-Arnold, Minister of Justice and Police, Switzerland

(b) Mr. Antoine Duquesne, Minister of the Interior, Belgium

(c) Mrs. Maria Eugenia Brizuela de Avila, Minister of External Relations, El Salvador

(d) Mr. Abdullah Al Noman, Minister for Labour and Employment, Bangladesh

(e) Mr. Arturo D. Brion, Under Secretary of Labour and Employment, Philippines

(f) Dr. Essop G. Pahad, Minister in the Presidency, South Africa

26. Mrs. METZLER-ARNOLD (Minister of Justice and Police, Switzerland) said that the international dialogue on migration provided an opportunity to open a window on the cultural, demographic and ethnic prospects of the future. She expressed appreciation that IOM's Headquarters was in Switzerland and thanked the Secretariat for the quality of its work. She noted that IOM had assisted 11 million migrants since its inception, which was a demonstration of the usefulness of the Organization. Switzerland had had an opportunity to cooperate with IOM for the repatriation of some 40,000 refugees from Kosovo, during which IOM had demonstrated the effectiveness of its logistic support.

27. During the past half century, the nature of migration had evolved, moving from a regional framework to become a much more complex interdisciplinary and international phenomenon. Although some countries had resisted immigration, the reality of demographic considerations, the malfunctioning of a complex labour market and a lack of skilled manpower were forcing them to face new realities. In addition, illegal migration had been growing, leading to an increase in unlawful labour which escaped administrative regulation, with resulting social imbalances. The problem of migrants who were increasingly using asylum claims as a pretext for entering a country in search of better economic conditions must also be resolved.

28. Sending countries were faced with problems which included brain drain, fluctuations in remittances by nationals living abroad, voluntary and involuntary return of nationals and the precarious situation of nationals living unlawfully in other countries. All countries had had to face increased controversy regarding migration, especially since the events of 11 September in the United States of America. A realistic attitude had to be adopted, however, stressing the positive aspects of migration. Switzerland, at the crossroads of migration routes, had made considerable efforts to integrate foreigners, providing greater access to the labour market, which was the best means of ensuring social and cultural integration at national level.

29. International cooperation, however, was also important on account of the broadening scope of migration problems. Questions had to be addressed such as the management of migration from East and South; the absorption of immigrants to compensate for changing demographic trends without creating social problems; the carrying out of return, whether voluntary or involuntary; and the possible advantages for countries in the South of better-managed migration. Only a coherent and realistic international policy could permit adequate, humane and efficient migration management, taking into account the interests of countries of origin, transit and destination.

30. Although it was not easy to develop effective international migration management procedures, progress had been made through, for example, the establishment of IOM's Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP) and the Berne Initiative aimed at developing international guidelines for migration. Minimum social standards for migrants had been developed through international instruments and national legislation. If the differences between such policies in the various host countries were too great, however, migrants would be channelled only towards some countries to the exclusion of others. In that area, dialogue between host countries would be valuable. International cooperation was also required regarding return and reintegration in countries of origin whose involvement in the process was an essential prerequisite for successful strategies.

31. IOM should act as a laboratory for reflection and action. The Organization had the capacity to combine the past, the present and the future, in other words, IOM had the experience, the ability to synthesize and the perspective. IOM should become a specialized centre of reference in the migration field and take on the role of coordinating the knowledge which was still lacking. IOM should have the resources, with the support of its Member States, to play the role of leader in this field. The Organization should be able, based on its experience, to promote a responsible migratory policy on the part of States, open to new solutions.

32. Mr. DUQUESNE (Minister of the Interior, Belgium) commended IOM on its excellent work in a field as sensitive as migration and recalled that an international conference organized by the Government of Belgium 50 years previously had led to the creation of ICEM, later IOM. Collaboration had increased between IOM and Belgium, especially with the establishment of the IOM Office in Brussels, and a joint conference had been organized recently on ways of combating trafficking in human beings and organized crime. IOM's experience gave it a leading role in the implementation of migration policies. Its mandate covered a broad range of aspects of migration including voluntary return, counter-trafficking, migration and health, population flows, mass information, technical cooperation, humanitarian assistance and the establishment of partnerships with countries of origin. The IOM Regional Offices also played a key coordinating role.

33. The treaty of Amsterdam had established a European Union policy on immigration and asylum, setting four areas of priority action: a partnership with countries of origin; a common European asylum policy; fair treatment of nations of third countries; and improved management of migration flows. In response to the need to achieve joint European policies, Belgium had organized, in collaboration with the European Union and the European Parliament, a European conference on migration in which IOM had participated. It had emerged from that conference that Europe was aware that efficient management of migration depended on better cooperation regarding policies in various fields such as management of migratory flows, cooperation for development, preventive diplomacy and integration policies for migrants settled legally abroad. A legislative framework with common standards and flexible regulations was required, taking into account the development needs of the countries of origin. Clear and well-defined regulations were essential in the management of migratory flows, one important aspect of which was the prevention of trafficking in human beings. Other aspects included cooperation and partnership with the countries of origin.

34. He welcomed IOM's activities under the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme, in particular the programme for the Great Lakes region which was innovative and created a positive image of migration. New types of partnership had been established, for example under the Cotonou agreements enabling countries of origin, transit and destination and the migrants themselves to find solutions to their problems.

35. Regarding countries of origin, further attention should be given to the problem of remittances from nationals in the diaspora, the annual amount of which far exceeded development assistance. Countries of destination should take into account the effects of migration of skilled migrant workers on countries of origin, which should be managed through partnerships. Greater attention should also be given to the causes of forced migration through the prevention of conflict and the promotion of an equitable social, political and economic



environment. Integration must be promoted through measures to foster mutual respect, tolerance and understanding between local and immigrant populations.

36. With regard to asylum policy, Europe must receive victims of persecution without exception, although in 90 per cent of the cases, asylum procedures were misused to the detriment of those in real need. In 2000, Belgium had taken in more than 46,000 asylum seekers, in accordance with its international commitments. Europe was not a fortress, a fact confirmed by ongoing dialogue and debate on legal migration and the concern of all European countries for wider discussion on the problem of irregular migration.

37. Mrs. BRIZUELA DE AVILA (Minister of External Relations, El Salvador) congratulated IOM on its fifty years of exchange of experience and cooperation in international migration. At a time when globalization was reducing the distances between countries and abolishing economic frontiers, IOM's work took on a special importance in promoting understanding of migratory flows and their repercussion on the development of countries of origin and destination. With regard to migration and development, she described two contrasting viewpoints: on the one hand, that of the new economics of labour migration influenced by the desire of families to migrate towards a better life and the amount of the remittances they sent home which supported the economic development of the country of origin; on the other hand, and at the other extreme, the impoverishment of the countries of origin which saw their social capital decrease and, with it, their development prospects. Reality lay somewhere between those two extremes. One immediate macro-economic impact of major international emigration was the flow of remittances. For example, in 1994 remittances by migrants equalled the total for exports in the Dominican Republic and corresponded to 75 per cent of exports in Egypt, El Salvador and Jordan, 50 per cent in Yemen and Greece, 25 per cent in Bangladesh, Philippines and Pakistan, 14 per cent in Turkey and 12 per cent in Mexico.

38. Individuals' decision to migrate was often motivated by a desire for progress and to provide a better life for their families. Migration and development went hand in hand. In El Salvador, an understanding of migration was essential to understanding that country's reality because almost 25 per cent of the population had emigrated. The Government of El Salvador had made a priority of strengthening ties with its nationals abroad so as to involve them in national development, while facilitating their insertion in the countries of destination and ensuring that their human rights as migrants were respected. Measures were also being taken to facilitate investment and trade in El Salvador through the utilization of migrants' remittances which represented 13 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. Remittances also had a multiplier effect in the economy and were used for education. They had also been an important factor in economic development in the difficult post-war period, and had helped to provide assistance following the two major earthquakes in her country. Remittances had often provided subsidiary benefits to local communities in the form of building of schools, health centres, churches, roads, sports facilities and the provision of medicines, ambulances and educational materials.

39. The other side of the coin was migrants' contribution to society in their country of destination. Her Government encouraged friendly countries to recognize Salvadorans' contribution to their societies. She commended IOM on its role during the 1980s in implementing programmes for secure and orderly migration of Salvadorans to countries such as

Canada and the United States of America. Migrants often put every effort into adapting to their new environment and entering into the life of the receiving country, thus acquiring greater added value - to use the economic term.

40. According to a recent study by the University of California at Los Angeles, Salvadoran Americans were the most active sub-group in the Latin American population employed in the Californian workforce. That had led to some transcultural exchange, which had had both positive and negative aspects. For example, an Emergency Care Fund for the Return of Salvadoran Migrants in Mexico and Guatemala had been established with a view to funding the repatriation of those who had died or were seriously ill or injured in their attempt to reach the United States. The Welcome Home Programme had been set up to help reintegration into Salvadoran society.

41. Over the years, many receiving countries had not only developed procedures for migrants' integration but also recognized their economic and social contribution. Paradoxically, however, much suffering was caused by intolerance and a lack of that solidarity which was particularly needed after the events of 11 September.

42. There should be continued efforts to ensure that trafficking in human beings was punished. Treaties and agreements guaranteeing the recognition and protection of human rights for migrants should be concluded and facilities should be provided for deportees. Her Government already had legislation in place to punish the trafficking of migrants and, together with IOM, it would work to improve migration laws and policies, as part of the country's development process.

43. Mr. AL NOMAN (Minister for Labour and Employment, Bangladesh) said that human history had many examples of nations that had benefited immensely from immigrants. Antipathy towards migrants was also not new, however, although its intensity had assumed alarming proportions. Moreover, despite the widespread commitment to free trade and the free movement of factors of production, labour was subject to severe restrictions. Wherever economies were compelled to accept aliens, mainly on account of acute shortage of domestic manpower, migrant workers seldom received fair or equitable treatment.

44. Among the major challenges posed by current migratory realities was the need to understand the reasons and complexity of the asylum/migration nexus in a globalized world; the perception of migrant workers as a threat to a society's cultural fabric; the need for solutions to migration management problems through migration control, which had economic, social and human rights dimensions; the need to ensure the mobility of the workforce to keep pace with the increased mobility of goods and capital; and the absence of genuine dialogue among countries of origin, transit and destination to facilitate orderly migration.

45. There were other misconceptions. For example, more than half of the world's migrants lived in the developing world, yet migration was depicted as a North-South phenomenon. Migrants not only helped reduce labour shortages but saved destination economies huge investments in human capital by relieving them of the need to train a competent workforce. Yet permitting the entry of migrants was seen as a favour to the country of origin.

46. As a consequence of such misconceptions, migrants often faced adverse situations in countries of transit or destination, for example, detention while in transit or arbitrary arrest and detention in the host country; wages below national standards and other discriminatory and degrading treatment; confinement and forced labour on the grounds of their failure to fulfil contractual obligations; the confiscation or destruction of identity documents; and the creation of obstacles to the repatriation of earnings and savings. Undocumented migrant workers, or those who had been smuggled in or trafficked, were in particular danger of being subjected to such treatment.

47. Whether the countries of origin – such as his own – admitted it or not, the truth was that their weak economies, unemployment and crises compelled emigration. On the other hand, they benefited from remittances sent by their nationals abroad who, when they finally returned, also brought back invaluable experience, knowledge and know-how. For Bangladesh, expatriates were the second highest source of foreign exchange earnings, providing about a third of the country's export earnings. One fifth of the import bill was also financed by workers' remittances. Nearly 3 million Bangladeshis worked abroad and in 2000 they had remitted about USD 2 billion. Their contribution to the country's poverty alleviation and economic development therefore spoke for itself. Bangladeshis had also earned a considerable reputation abroad for their dedication and hard work. It was thus incumbent on his Government to promote orderly migration, in partnership with others. The question was how that should be done. It was frequently impossible to develop coherent policies, on account of a lack of a clear understanding of the issues involved. International and intergovernmental organizations like the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme had important roles to play in forging effective partnerships, negotiating satisfactory labour migration agreements and reducing the incidence of irregular migration. Dialogue at the subregional level was vital. The Manila Process, the Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, the Bangkok Declaration and the interregional conferences in Latin America had prepared the ground for cooperation on irregular migration and trafficking.

48. The dialogue on migration challenges for the twenty-first century clearly demonstrated IOM's commitment to helping countries of origin negotiate better agreements with countries of destination, evolve regional mechanisms to protect the interests of migrant workers and channel the benefits of overseas labour. He commended the recent Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) initiative, the proposed Labour Migration service area, the Rapid Response Transportation Fund and new ventures like health assessments for former combatants, HIV/AIDS prevention for migrant workers, a law enforcers' course on trafficking, regional remittance management and the pilot project on assistance to the victims of trafficking. IOM could become a global forum for dialogue if it gave as much priority to emigration as it did to the evacuation, transfer and return of migrants. It was an important constitutional mandate, in which IOM should take a more proactive role.

49. The Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization at Doha had opened the door to discussion on services, and particularly on the movement of natural persons. While progress was made on highly-trained professionals and corporate service providers, unskilled and semi-skilled workers should not be left behind. IOM, as the leading voice on migration matters, had a unique opportunity to contribute to the consensus-building process in the global labour movement.

50. Mr. BRION (Under Secretary of Labour and Employment, Philippines) said that his Government had started its overseas employment programme in 1974 as a stopgap measure to deal with its high unemployment problem and to generate foreign exchange that would ease its foreign debt burden and the increasing balance-of-payments deficit. The programme still existed but was no longer regarded as a stopgap measure; having realized how overseas employment had helped the country's development over the years, the Government was concentrating on efficient management of the programme rather than on short-term measures. The programme, however, had not yet been made a permanent fixture in the Government's economic plans or its human resource development programme, despite the possible material benefits for economic, social and political development.

51. The Philippines had high labour-force growth, but job creation had been unable to keep pace. Some 7 million Filipinos – out of a total of 78 million – lived and worked abroad. Every day some 2,300 workers were deployed for employment overseas; no other sector in the domestic economy matched that rate of employment generation. In 1998, for example, more than 800,000 workers had been deployed overseas, while fewer than 200,000 jobs had been generated in the local labour market. In 2000, while 800,000 workers had again been deployed to overseas jobs, employment in the domestic economy had decreased by almost 300,000. Thus, without overseas employment, the unemployment rate would have been around 14 per cent instead of the actual 11 per cent.

52. The most striking economic effect of overseas employment lay in the generation of foreign exchange that had helped support and sustain the Philippine economy. Dollar remittances had grown from a mere USD 100 million in 1975 to USD 1.5 billion in 1991 and almost USD 7 billion in 2000. Such remittances had helped to alleviate the country's foreign debt burden and balance-of-payments problems and was a source of investment and capital for economic growth. Even during crisis years those funds had enabled the country to experience consumption-led growth. In the latter year, the gross national product (GNP) had grown slightly owing to the dollar inflows from remittances by migrant workers, even though the amount of those remittances had fallen by some 14 per cent. Remittances had represented about 7 per cent of GNP and about 16 per cent of total export earnings.

53. At local level, the favourable effects of remittances on an overseas worker's family income and savings could not be over-emphasized. Remittances had been used for investment, schooling, medical treatment, housing and amenities. Moreover, overseas workers acquired specialized skills and were in contact with superior forms of organization and state-of-the-art technology which served the nation well when they returned home. It should also be remembered that the outflow of talent took place at the expense of the country's own needs; the best and most experienced were sometimes lost for ever to the receiving countries.

54. Socially, overseas employment had a profound effect, since it reduced the income disparity that had long plagued Philippine society. In many areas, the migrant worker and his family even became part of an emerging middle class owing to their new level of affluence and the status of having worked and lived abroad. There were, however, also social costs. Families had sometimes broken up because of the long separation of spouses; and the children in such families could suffer from underdevelopment or trauma that could later result in drug dependence or criminality.

55. The economic and social gains from migration – particularly its effect on employment – inevitably produced a stabilizing effect on the labour-sending country, as in the Philippines, where studies showed that overseas employment had deprived a number of anti-governmental extremist movements of many recruits who would otherwise have taken up arms against the Government. The possibility of a high-earning job abroad had had a politically calming effect, acting as a safety valve. He expressed gratitude to the labour-receiving countries which had shared their job opportunities with Filipino workers. Much remained to be done both at the sending and receiving ends. It was to be hoped that in the future more cooperative efforts could be shared so that every nation could benefit to the full from the exchange of labour and services.

56. Dr. PAHAD (Minister in the Presidency, South Africa) welcomed the opportunity to discuss the broad issues relating to migration worldwide.

57. Migration was on the rise throughout the world and migrants were often subjected to racism and xenophobia. South Africa was a recipient of migrants, in both regular and irregular situations, especially from its neighbours. The basic human rights and dignity of the migrants must be protected. As the President of South Africa had observed, it was fundamentally wrong for those who came to South Africa as friends to be treated as enemies. In 1998, the South African Human Rights Commission had launched a public and media education programme known as the Roll Back Xenophobia Campaign. Despite such efforts, six South African policemen had recently set dogs on three defenceless black male migrants and subjected them to racist abuse. Three of the policemen had recently been convicted of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, while the cases against the others would be decided in the near future.

58. The Government had recently hosted the Third World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, in Durban. Migrants continued to suffer shameful discrimination, harassment and violence daily in many countries, often made worse by the media. Migrants from the developing world, especially women and children, were particularly easy prey for traffickers in human beings who subjected them to physical and sexual abuse and to slave-like working conditions. They had little chance of escape from the vicious cycle of poverty that had made them become migrants in the first place. The Durban Plan of Action urged States, international organizations, civil society and the media to take steps to address the wide-scale abuse of migrants.

59. Many people in South Africa were descendants of migrants and many of the countries' leaders had spent long periods in exile. Yet troubling instances of xenophobia and discrimination against migrants continued to occur, which could seriously destabilize society. Such incidents took place in a context of a region with high levels of unemployment and low levels of development. The problems were compounded by the conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa that had devastated the economies of some countries, forcing people to flee to South Africa to seek either asylum or a better economic future.

60. The Government was working towards a comprehensive labour migration policy that would ensure that standards and the rights of migrant workers were not undermined and that conditions of employment and collective bargaining agreements were as applicable to foreign workers as to nationals.

61. It was an accepted norm that regional integration could create the basis for economic developments in his region. Central to regional integration was the free movement of capital, goods and services. Having achieved the free movement of goods, capital and services, the issue of the free movement of labour would have to be addressed in South Africa.

62. His Government considered that IOM's future work should emphasize: the organization, in collaboration with governments, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, of training workshops on migrants and human rights, at both national and regional level, for the benefit of border managers, other law enforcement communities, businesses and educational institutions (such as the launching of the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa); the launching of information campaigns to curb xenophobia directed against migrant workers and foreigners in general; action to provide return assistance to migrant victims of xenophobia and racism who could not otherwise return home; investigation of the feasibility of assisting qualified African nationals either to return home or to help their countries of origin through temporary return or virtual mentorship; and the conducting of integration programmes for population stabilization in all areas that accepted migrants, displaced persons or returnees in order to help convince host communities both of the contribution that migrants could make to their adoptive societies and of the need to preserve migrants' dignity.

63. All States, meanwhile, should: accede to or sign the major conventions and protocols relating to refugees, migrant workers, trafficked and smuggled migrants, and women and children; review immigration laws, to ensure conformity with international principles on the treatment of migrants; donate generously to IOM activities; conduct intensive campaigns to make government service providers more aware of the special needs of migrants; speak out strongly and regularly against the harm caused by xenophobia and discrimination against migrants; and adopt a regional approach to the formulation and implementation of migration policy, so as to create an environment that facilitated the movement of skilled and professional economically active persons.

64. On the African continent, with the adoption of the new partnership for African development NEPAD, there was a common and firmly shared conviction for the pressing duty to eradicate poverty and place Africa on a path of sustainable growth and development, in order to overcome the development chasms of unequal relations, slavery and colonialism. The following were the necessary conditions identified by NEPAD for development: peace, security, democracy, political governance, economic and cooperative governance focused on public finance management and regional cooperation and integration. Key areas of focus included infrastructure development, information and communications technology, human development, agriculture and promotion of the diversification of production and exports.

65. The realization of NEPAD's objectives would eliminate many of the causes of suffering in Africa and the principal reasons for migration could become a thing of the past. In that endeavour, IOM played a crucial role.

66. The DIRECTOR GENERAL thanked the keynote speakers for their presence and the insight which their statements had provided. Before opening the floor to those speakers who wished to comment on the above presentation, he gave the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, Mr. Sousa.

67. Mr. SOUSA (Cape Verde) said that the admission of several new Members, including his own Government, reflected the Organization's dynamism and its movement towards universality, which were essential if its aims were to be fully met. The admission of Cape Verde was the natural corollary to over a decade of constructive relations between IOM and his Government, during which, although only an observer, Cape Verde had enjoyed some of the privileges of Members. His delegation looked forward to ever-closer relations with IOM, following the implementation of the Return and Reintegration of Qualified African Nationals programme (RQAN) between 1996 and 1999.

68. The international community would have to rethink its future migration strategies, as migration was closely linked with many other major questions facing humanity, such as globalization, human rights, scientific and technical development, trade and investment, human development and the war against poverty. Globalization had raised new challenges in every sphere, including human rights, migratory flows, relations between civilizations, peoples and cultures, social development, trade, finance, environmental issues, terrorism, transnational crime and the spread of disease. Those challenges had grown immeasurably as a result of the events of 11 September in the United States of America, which would require even more dedication from IOM and its Member States.

69. In his country, in which migration had traditionally played a major role, it seemed appropriate to give emigration due importance, both because it could assist the country's development and because it was recognized that emigrants should enjoy the same rights as their fellow citizens and indeed could help preserve, disseminate and enrich the country's cultural heritage. The Government therefore aimed to promote the integration of Cape Verdean communities abroad and at home, in particular through programmes organized by the Communities Institute covering: increased knowledge of Cape Verdean communities abroad, especially among the younger generation; the creation of a database of Cape Verdean business and professional people, together with information on the expectations of Cape Verdeans with regard to emigration; the training of emigrants in various fields including information on relevant international conventions and on countries of destination; and the establishment of a network of contacts between the authorities and Cape Verdeans abroad. Cooperation agreements would be concluded between the Communities Institute and immigration institutions in countries of destination in order to promote the exercise of citizenship by the emigrants. Enterprise initiatives would also be promoted by setting up a file on investment and the promotion of a forum of Cape Verdean businessmen abroad.

70. Such action was essential if Cape Verdean communities in countries of destination were to achieve integration in social life, either through stronger political representation or through the benefits that its members could receive by investing in the country's development and progress. The Government's aims would be greatly assisted by its membership in IOM. In that context, he welcomed the IOM initiative in launching the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme, which would be of great importance in enabling his Government to carry out its migration policy.

71. Mr. BUSBY (United States of America) said that one important theme that had emerged from the statements by the keynote speakers was the positive benefits of migration for all

countries involved and the ways in which they could be maximized so as to face future migration challenges more effectively.

72. He expressed appreciation of the condolences offered to his delegation following the events of 11 September and for the collaboration in seeking to address the causes of terrorism. While those events had offered new challenges on the migration front – the question of who should be allowed into a country – they should not deter the international community from realizing the positive benefits of migration.

73. As other speakers had said, international cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination was crucial. In that spirit, his Government was currently in discussion with the Government of Mexico. Cooperation could also be critical in vetting would-be migrants and, conversely, in facilitating the return of migrants who did not deserve or qualify to benefit from migration opportunities. Members of IOM had a duty to receive back migrants who had been found undeserving of residence in other countries. Cooperation between sending and receiving countries was also a way of realizing the full benefits of remittances, which, if handled properly, were very important for the development of countries of origin.

74. Another theme – mentioned by the Minister from Belgium – was the challenge faced by receiving countries, which should recognize how much they depended on migration. Every effort should be made to facilitate the regular and legal flow of migrants so that they were not forced into illegal channels. It was also important to address the problem of trafficking in migrants.

75. Ms. PARKER (Australia) said that delegations had been provided with much food for thought by the keynote speakers, who had covered a number of important themes, including migration management, the protection of migrants and migration seen from the point of view of the migrants themselves. Her delegation supported IOM's efforts to enhance policy development and policy dialogue.

76. Ms. CALLANGAN-RUECA (Philippines), noting that there had been little reference in the statements to the health aspects of migration, stressed that the link between migration and health was crucial, as healthy migrants, particularly among vulnerable groups like women and children, benefited both sending and receiving countries. She also underlined the important role played by regional processes and mechanisms in achieving orderly management of labour migration.

77. IOM should be commended for organizing the present dialogue on migration, which constituted an important first step towards bringing together all those involved in migration issues and continuing open and candid discussions between countries of origin, transit and destination.

78. Mr. OYMAN (Observer for Turkey) said that, whereas in the past his country had been considered a country of origin, over the past decade it had begun to receive migrant workers, although they were largely in an irregular situation owing to events in neighbouring countries that had prompted their migration to Turkey. The situation of being both a sending and a receiving country over the past decade was not unique to Turkey but was shared by a number of other Mediterranean countries.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.