

EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 28 November 2001, at 10.25 a.m.

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

<u>Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
General debate: Migration challenges for the 21 st century	
(a) Statements by the Director General and the Deputy Director General	1
(b) Statements by the newly admitted Members and observers	2
(c) Statements by Members and observers	5
Annex I	
Annex II	

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Agenda item 8GENERAL DEBATE: MIGRATION CHALLENGES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
(MICEM/7/2001, MICEM/8/2001)(a) Statements by the Director General and the Deputy Director General

1. The DIRECTOR GENERAL expressed gratification that the Council session was being attended by a large number of high-level delegations. Many points of convergence had emerged from the previous day's discussion which would throw light on the whole question of migration trends and management. After drawing attention to his Report to the Council (MICEM/7/2001), attached hereto *in extenso* as Annex I, which gave an overview of IOM's work during 2001, he highlighted a few specific points.
2. With regard to Afghanistan, IOM had been present in the country for almost 10 years and had stayed there throughout the recent fighting. IOM's Afghan staff who were to be most highly commended had remained in all the Organization's six offices in the west and the north of the country. Their work had largely involved internally displaced persons (IDPs) – mostly those affected by the severe drought in the north, west and centre of the country but also victims of the recent fighting – who had taken refuge in camps near the big cities where fresh water, food and shelter were obtainable. During his recent visit to the Herat and Maslakh camps he had noted that IOM staff had succeeded in preparing the camps to enable the internally displaced persons to survive the harsh winter. The internally displaced persons had also made a very good contribution to that operation, with the help of IOM and other organizations inside the country.
3. IOM was currently turning its attention to the post-conflict situation phase in Afghanistan, planning the development of programmes of assistance to communities that would enable displaced persons to return. The process of establishing a network of transportation, water and food supplies had already begun on a small scale. A start had also been made in the search for qualified Afghans outside the country who were willing to go back and help their countrymen. With that in view, IOM was in touch with representatives of the Afghan diaspora in the Islamic Republic of Iran. With its background of experience in Kosovo, East Timor and Central America, IOM would work closely with the Islamic Republic of Iran, as its offices were concentrated in the west and north of Afghanistan where Iranian influence was strong. IOM enjoyed good contacts with the Iranian authorities and with the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran. IOM welcomed the generous funding provided by a wide range of governments and expressed satisfaction at the good partnership existing between IOM and the other countries neighbouring Afghanistan.
4. He looked forward to hearing what delegations considered the Organization's future course should be, particularly in the increasingly important area of migration management.
5. The DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL gave her statement (MICEM/8/2001), which is attached hereto *in extenso* as Annex II.

(b) Statements by the newly admitted Members and observers

6. The CHAIRMAN then invited the representatives of the newly admitted Members and observers to make statements.

7. Mr. ZUGIC (Yugoslavia) thanked the Members for the confidence shown in his country by its admission to the Organization as a Member. His Government was ready to support all future IOM activities; even before its accession, it had benefited from IOM participation in the process of registering displaced persons throughout the country for the recent elections in Kosovo and Metohija.

8. His country had long faced problems relating to migration and still had the greatest number of refugees in Europe. Shelter had been provided for more than 390,000, including around 75,000 affected by conflicts and 250,000 locally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija. As a result of the situation in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 10,000 more refugees had entered the country. His Government had advocated the consistent implementation of international agreements regarding the fundamental right of refugees to return. Another problem was the brain drain; many young people were leaving the country just when efforts were under way to strengthen democratic institutions and instil hope for a better future. In addition, like other countries in the region, Yugoslavia was used as a route for illegal migration and trafficking in human beings. It hoped for practical assistance through IOM programmes.

9. His Government wished to harmonize the development of its migration management through programmes to promote operational structures and training and through measures to improve the police force and legislation, in order to combat the negative aspects of the migration processes. Two proposals had been put forward for consideration concerning the assessment of border points and improvements at key border crossing points.

10. His Government was concerned to strengthen ties with Yugoslav workers abroad, to open up opportunities for legal labour migration from the country, to improve mechanisms for diaspora reinvestment in the country, to reintegrate returning migrants into the national economic and social structures and to develop bilateral agreements on labour migration.

11. The Government had taken steps to amend legislation relating to migration management, giving priority to trafficking in human beings, the management of irregular migration and agreements with the most important countries on the readmission of Yugoslav and third country nationals. IOM could help by serving as a partner and a focal point for planning, implementing and assessing the necessary national, bilateral and multilateral action.

12. The migration issue had been negatively affected by the events of 11 September, in that the integration of migrants in their countries of destination had been superseded by security concerns. The fight against terrorism should not be to the detriment of the legitimate needs of migrants for adequate and organized international assistance. On the contrary, tolerance and acceptance of diversity should prevail, although with due regard for the safety and stability of society.

13. Mr. ZAFERA (Madagascar), after expressing his delegation's gratitude for having been admitted as a Member of the Organization, said that at a time when attitudes to migration were changing, it was appropriate that IOM had commemorated its fiftieth anniversary by focusing the Council session on international dialogue for migration. The international community should act together to ensure that migration and related matters were approached through positive dialogue and not through confrontation. The panel discussion had highlighted a number of key points which provided guidelines for IOM's migration management policies and research. In that context, he welcomed the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme and the Return and Reintegration of Qualified African Nationals (RQAN) programme.

14. The complexity of migration with its social, economic, cultural, health and security aspects, was such that national efforts were not enough and regional and international cooperation was required. Madagascar intended not only to make its contribution to IOM but to engage in a fruitful collaboration with the Organization through its advisory services. It was particularly important to respect the human rights of migrants, which included the fundamental right to work, contained in the Declaration adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1998. In that context, he noted that his country had ratified the International Labour Organization Convention No. 97 concerning Migration for Employment.

15. Mr. IBRAHIMI (Islamic Republic of Iran) expressed his appreciation to the Council for the admission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to membership of IOM, which opened up new prospects for cooperation between his Government and the Organization.

16. In keeping with its humanitarian and international commitments, his Government had continued to host millions of migrants, displaced persons and refugees over the past two decades. According to the results of the Comprehensive Registration Plan for Aliens and Foreign Migrants carried out in his country in 2001, approximately 2.5 million migrants, mostly from neighbouring countries, were resident in the Islamic Republic of Iran, about 95 per cent of whom were living freely throughout the country with only 5 per cent still in camps. His country had greatly assisted the international humanitarian relief operations in Afghanistan and he trusted that, when peace and security were gradually restored, conditions would be right for a wide-ranging return of migrants and displaced persons as the best and most lasting solution to the problem. The international community should discharge its responsibilities towards Afghanistan and not leave the country to fend for itself, as in the past. By sending humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and helping in the reconstruction of its economic infrastructures, the international community could prevent future migration and displacement of Afghans. Furthermore, Afghans already living abroad who had acquired various skills during their years of displacement should be encouraged to return home, through voluntary return operations, so as to support the country's political, economic and cultural development.

17. Countries with a low population growth could benefit from the presence of migrants who had left their country to seek better employment and living conditions. One solution to the migration problem might therefore be to establish a clear and appropriate mechanism for identifying economic migrants, registering their abilities and matching them with countries in need of additional labour. Such a mechanism would also reduce trafficking and smuggling in human beings, and illegal migration and abuse of migrants. His country, as host to a large number of migrants, some of whom would be prepared to emigrate to third countries in need of manpower, was ready to cooperate with IOM in that respect.

18. It was also important that the expectations placed on host countries should be commensurate with their capabilities and needs. For example, developing countries might, for reasons such as a shortage of job opportunities or economic difficulties in general, be hard pressed to accept large numbers of migrants, and the presence of migrants in an irregular situation could lead to resentment and xenophobia. To ignore such realities would create difficulties both for the migrants and for the host countries. The best way forward would be to establish a clear mechanism for effective international burden sharing.

19. Mr YURPOLSKYI (Ukraine) expressed appreciation for his country's admission to IOM as a Member. In July 2000 Ukraine had ratified the agreement between Ukraine and IOM on the status of IOM in Ukraine and cooperation in the field of migration. Several pilot projects had now been implemented in Ukraine and he expressed gratitude for IOM's assistance to Ukrainian citizens victims of trafficking. The human right to freedom of movement was fundamental and was now embodied in the Constitution of Ukraine and other relevant legislation. The migration situation in Ukraine was the result firstly of the disintegration of the former USSR and the emergence of newly independent States. It was also determined by Ukraine's involvement in world migration processes, the development of armed conflicts in some post-Soviet States, the economic crisis, growth of unemployment and the decline in living standards. Furthermore there had been a massive repatriation of Ukrainians - more than 1.6 million people - to Ukraine for permanent residence. Ukraine was not only a transit country but had also been selected as a country of destination because of its political and social stability. His Government was making every effort to solve problems arising in that respect through political, legislative and economic means and through international cooperation. Its admission to IOM membership should be seen as a recognition of the validity of those efforts.

20. Mr. SIMKHADA (Observer for Nepal), after thanking the Council for accepting his delegation's request for observership, stressed the importance of IOM's work in migration management, the strengthening of legal channels for migration, and counter-trafficking measures. The special topics which had been selected for discussion during the session – demography, globalization and trade and integration – highlighted some of the most important policy issues.

21. He emphasized the major importance of changing the ways in which individuals, institutions and even States thought and acted. The events of 11 September, tragic as they were, might have ushered in a new era, underlining the urgent need to unite the world in rejection of intolerance and extremism.

22. His country, which was traditionally known for its culture of harmony and tolerance, had suffered from Maoist violence in which over 2,000 Nepalese had already lost their lives. Despite enjoying the freedom to participate in a peaceful process of change, the Maoists chose to engage in violence and terror. The Government had engaged in dialogue with the aim of achieving a negotiated settlement, but, after three rounds of talks, the Maoists had abruptly announced the cancellation of the truce agreed four months earlier. On 23 November 2001, they had staged a massive attack against the District Headquarters Offices including army posts. Army and police personnel and the Chief District Officer had been killed and arms looted from the army depot. The Government had, in response, declared a state of emergency and mobilized the army to deal with the Maoists as terrorists. The King of Nepal had suspended some articles of the Constitution. Great care would, however, be taken to ensure that

any emergency measures were directed only against terrorists. His delegation appreciated the understanding of the international community in his country's hour of need.

23. The real challenge to human wisdom in the new millennium was to find a new paradigm for effective governance of the globalized world, whereby the paradoxical tension between the globalization of economics and the localization of politics could be reconciled.

24. Mr. MERCHAOUÏ (Observer for the *Union du Maghreb Arabe*) expressed gratitude to the Members of IOM for having granted the *Union du Maghreb Arabe* observer status in IOM, which would undoubtedly strengthen the already close links between both organizations and lead to increased cooperation. The *Union du Maghreb Arabe* was engaged in implementing a number of programmes to improve migration management in the Maghreb, with objectives which were consonant with those of IOM. Furthermore, the global changes taking place were having increasing impact on the whole of the Mediterranean region, which called for closer and more multifaceted cooperation between European countries and the Maghreb. A global regional approach was necessary between countries of destination and countries of origin in order to manage migration flows more effectively and ensure respect for the rights of migrants and their security. Partnership with IOM would undoubtedly lead to a better understanding of the dynamics of migration in his region.

(c) Statements by Members and observers

25. The CHAIRMAN then invited the representatives of Members and observers to make statements.

26. Mr. MHENNI (Tunisia) said the need to establish dialogue on migration policies, like that initiated by IOM at the present Council session, in order to create a climate of confidence and cooperation enabling peoples and countries to know and understand each other better, was even more essential since the tragic events of 11 September.

27. It was paradoxical that, at a time of growing economic integration through the liberalization of capital, goods and services, freedom of movement and migration management still seemed unattainable. His Government, for its part, was endeavouring to improve the living conditions of Tunisians living abroad and to protect their rights. It was estimated that, in 2000, 8 per cent of Tunisians, a total of about 700,000 people, lived abroad, 85 per cent of them in Europe and 65 per cent in France. Changing demographic structures since the 1980s meant that children under 16 constituted almost 25 per cent of Tunisians abroad and women almost 23 per cent, many marriages and births having taken place in the country of residence. The number of scientists and researchers working abroad – now approximately 4,800 – had also risen, particularly in the European countries and North America.

28. With a view to protecting the interests of foreign-based Tunisians, preserving their cultural identity, strengthening their links with Tunisia and promoting their participation in national development, the Government had increased its legislation and concluded twelve bilateral social security agreements, including eight with States of the European Union. Specific programmes had also been established to inform Tunisians abroad of investment opportunities and benefits for which they were eligible. Particular

attention was being paid to young Tunisians of the second or third generation of immigration, to help them preserve their cultural identity and to consolidate their integration in the host country.

29. Since 1993, a number of agreements had been concluded between Europe and the southern Mediterranean covering technology transfer, investment, access for products from the southern to the northern Mediterranean countries, and assessment of potential candidates for emigration. An association agreement with the European Union, providing for the establishment of a free exchange area by 2008, but also containing a social dimension, had been signed.

30. Tunisia had concluded a Headquarters Agreement with IOM which had led to the opening of the IOM Office in Tunis. His delegation looked forward to further cooperation with IOM, which would include the joint organization of the forthcoming regional ministerial conference on migration management in the western Mediterranean.

31. Mr. ABBAS (Egypt) noted with appreciation the international interest in migration matters which was reflected in IOM's increased membership, and commended IOM on its timely organization of the international dialogue on migration. Regarding demographic aspects of migration he underlined the effects of high population growth and high population density, which tended to promote high levels of migration and was interrelated with economic and employment considerations. Although it had been established that more than half the world's migrants came from developing countries, African countries were now not only countries of origin but also countries of destination, receiving large numbers of immigrants.

32. It was important to consider the impact of global capital flows on migration movements. It was obvious that no capital was being exported to fund development in countries of the South. In fact, rising debt burdens and shrinking aid budgets meant that capital was actually being drained out of the countries that could least afford it, sparking migration from those countries to more highly-developed countries. The rights of migrants and their integration were at stake in several recipient societies due to improperly addressed trends of xenophobia and intolerance towards immigrants. It was equally important to face the question of clandestine migration and smuggling of human beings, as well as the shortage in adequate and viable legal migration frameworks.

33. His delegation reiterated its strong support for IOM's Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) initiative and called upon donors to consider appropriate financing. The Egyptian Government welcomed IOM's proposal to establish active cooperation with the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa which might be the beginning of a structural partnership that would serve as a model elsewhere. His delegation also reiterated its appreciation for the Resolution 1035 facility to support migration projects in developing countries and countries in transition. It supported the proposal to transform such a facility into a permanent institutionalized organ that would encourage implementation of viable migration projects and enhance national capacities in developing countries and countries in transition. His Government also expressed its full support for the IOM Mission with Regional Functions in Cairo.

34. Mr. McLEOD (Canada), commending IOM on its 50 years of dedicated work to assist the world's refugees and promote orderly migration, expressed appreciation for its assistance to Canada in

delivering his country's humanitarian commitments. Over the past year IOM had continued its tradition of reliable and innovative service, in particular concerning refugee and humanitarian resettlement programmes, especially in Africa where IOM's expertise had facilitated medical screening, orientation and timely transportation of refugees to Canada, which highlighted one of IOM's most useful roles.

35. As the concept of regional approaches to migration problems gained increasing support, IOM's specific contributions, for example to the Puebla Process, and its technical support role through its Mission with Regional Functions in San José, Costa Rica, as well as the International Migration Policy Programme and the Migration Policy Research Programme, were all supported by Canada.

36. He stressed the need to move beyond the North-South patterns which had too often characterized discussions on migration, towards a more global international approach. In particular, much work was still required in the areas of asylum and migration, on which IOM was working with the UNHCR, and especially with reference to the return of failed asylum seekers. Canada valued IOM's commitments to humane and orderly migration, which should be reinforced by a focusing of efforts. His country urged that IOM concentrated efforts and resources on its strength in the field of migration. Canada endorsed the development programmes for the benefit of developing countries and countries in transition, and would continue to support the financing of such projects from Discretionary Income. It did, however, express concern over the inclusion of projects for countries which were not IOM Members. His delegation also urged the structuring by IOM of the handling of governance issues which was essential before further developing dialogue on migration within the Council. Expressing support for IOM's innovative ways of optimizing the use of available funds, Canada strongly urged Member States to pay outstanding membership contributions.

37. Mr. BUGARIC (Slovenia) expressed appreciation of cooperation between his country and IOM since 1992. As population flows increased, globally effective migration management was essential. One weakness in that area was the lack of a serious, systematic academic data analysis of the impact of migration on labour issues, cultural, economic and other indicators in society. Describing the situation in his country, he said that on account of its geographical position, Slovenia was closely linked to the Balkan area, yet was among the countries which expected to join the European Union and was thus living in two different spheres. On the one hand, it was closely connected to the so-called Balkan migration route, towards western Europe or the United States, and on the other was linked to the rules and regulations of the European Union. Broader regional border control and the regulation of migration were therefore of major importance. Slovenia had large numbers of migrant nationals in neighbouring countries and the highest per capita percentage of asylum seekers in Europe. Moreover, it had no background experience for dealing with migration, whereas the more liberal western European democracies had spent several decades in establishing appropriate regulatory frameworks. Migration therefore imposed high responsibilities on national officials, who often lacked reliable migration data. The establishment of partnerships or cooperation agreements between countries of origin, transit and destination was particularly important, calling for not only a regional approach but preferably a global approach. The negative aspects of migration problems such as xenophobia and intolerance had been aggravated by the events after 11 September. He fully supported the IOM Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP) aimed at identifying best practices and defining strategies for orderly migration management, in order to overcome such major problems as irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and exploitation of migrants.

38. Mr. KATIC (Croatia) congratulated IOM on its work to establish an international framework for migration management, particularly the intergovernmental policy dialogue on migration within the Council session. Croatia was not a country of destination but a transit country. The general trend of increased irregular migration towards Europe had not bypassed his country, but had become more acute since 1995 and dramatic very recently. Despite that fact, Croatia had not altered its policies on asylum and migration but had considered each case on its individual merits. Through the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, his Government had implemented a partnership project with other countries for the stabilization of questions of asylum, migration and border control in Croatia. A similar agreement had been signed between the Republic of Croatia and the European Union, in order to align their respective legislations.

39. Mr. AKINDES (Benin) said that migratory movements and the intermingling of populations had been facilitated by a more effective means of communication which reduced the distances between countries. New responsibilities had thus been created, to ensure that migration remained humanized to benefit social economic development and did not become a human disaster. Profound changes in world demographic trends were anticipated which would increase migration problems and would require short- and long-term solutions in order to redress the effects of demographic imbalances. Societies were becoming increasingly multicultural with larger minority groups and higher numbers of migrants in an irregular situation who found themselves marginalized. Clear policies for integration and reintegration were required in order to maintain security and stability and to protect migrants, especially vulnerable groups such as women and children, from trafficking in human beings. The role of governments was also crucial in avoiding the upsurge of racist and intolerant attitudes. The scope and diversity of North-South and East-West migratory flows, both within the African continent and between Africa and Europe, called for the urgent elaboration of a regional framework of data on migratory flows and migration management. Such a regional framework could fit in with a more general policy for African migration established within the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and assisted by cooperation mechanisms such as the ACP-European Union partnership, the Cotonou agreement. He recalled the provisions of the recent Dakar declaration on the participation of migrants in the development of their countries of origin, which could enable the West African subregion to make some progress in the management of migratory flows.

40. Poor countries with a heavy debt burden such as Benin suffered from brain drain to the more advanced countries while at the same time receiving large numbers of displaced persons from neighbouring countries on account of conflicts or political instability. IOM's assistance would therefore be valuable in establishing a viable migration policy. A general register of displaced persons and their subsequent integration or reintegration was urgent, as were measures at regional level to eliminate trafficking in children, one of the main problems confronting his country. Benin welcomed the IOM Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme which promised to make an important contribution to the solution of development problems.

41. Mr. DRAGANOV (Bulgaria) said that IOM's growing membership reflected the effectiveness of its activities and vision. All countries faced different migration problems, reflecting their various levels of development and regional and cultural characteristics, all of which should be taken into account by IOM if the Organization was to become truly universal. With globalization, mobility of population was

increasing and migrants should no longer be perceived as a threat to society. Efforts should therefore be made to prevent young people and highly-skilled professionals from leaving the country and to combat irregular migration and human trafficking. If those measures were sufficiently effective, people in the recipient country would begin to see migrants as an asset rather than a burden on society.

42. The Balkan region had now become a primary transit area for irregular migration towards Western Europe and his Government had taken measures to counter illicit cross-border movements, to improve border policing and control and dissemination of information to vulnerable groups. However, no government could deal with illegal trafficking in human beings on its own and improved regional and international cooperation was necessary, especially as trafficking in human beings was closely linked with organized criminal networks involved in the smuggling of drugs, weapons, stolen or illegal goods. He suggested that IOM give priority to two main fields of action: providing a network for international cooperation and assisting governments in identifying and dealing with the root causes of migration. Concerted action would be useful in specific areas such as: the opening of legal migration channels to meet the needs of the labour markets; information and education campaigns aimed at exposing the dangers of illegal migration and trafficking; and the creation of national reception centres for the accommodation of irregular migrants. He appreciated IOM's studies on trends in migration and suggested that IOM might provide legal advice on migration-related legislation.

43. Mr. BULOVAS (Lithuania) said that his country stood at the East-West crossroads of migration on account of the political and social changes in Central and Eastern Europe. Without the international assistance that it had received over the past ten years it would have been difficult for such a young country to take control of migration processes. Administrative structures and a legal framework had been created and specialists had been trained. Cooperation with IOM, particularly through the IOM Regional Office for the Baltic and Nordic countries, had contributed greatly to achievements in the field of cooperation and the development of common policies in the Baltic area. Special emphasis should be placed on the voluntary return programme: since early 1995 more than 1,500 migrants had voluntarily returned to their countries of origin. IOM was also helping to develop the administrative capacities of Lithuania for preparation for membership in the European Union. Lithuania strongly supported close cooperation with European Union member States so as to improve its capacity to manage migratory movements and prosecute smugglers and traffickers in human beings, especially women and children. IOM played an outstanding role in developing policy guidelines and models for integration, and humane and orderly migration management.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

Annex I

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL 2001

1. This year, IOM's Council meeting is different. Different because it is IOM's 50th anniversary. Different also because this gathering is the launch of what I believe will be a very fruitful dialogue on migration policy issues and challenges.
2. The outline of the Council session, which was already sent to you, lists the topics which are to be addressed by the keynote speakers and the panellists on the first day, before the start of the General Debate. These topics highlight important elements of the broad spectrum of migration challenges and are intended to establish the platform for a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives.
3. In order not to delay the start of this important discussion, I shall not be reading this report, which would normally be a statement, at the opening of the Council meeting. Nonetheless, I wanted to provide an overview of developments in IOM over the past year. These developments, along with the migration policies and ideas discussed on the first day of the Council, will form the backdrop for the General Debate, beginning on the second day, which promises to be both informative to other participants and give broad guidance to IOM on its future paths.
4. The events of September 11 have had a profound effect on the world, both broadly on migration issues, and specifically in Afghanistan, where IOM has been working since the early summer to help people displaced by conflict and drought in the north and west of the country.
5. Afghanistan: Since the evacuation of international staff in September, IOM's local staff, of which there are some 150, have continued working tirelessly to help deliver the essential winterization supplies to the displaced, the stranded and other vulnerable groups. We have international staff stationed in the countries surrounding Afghanistan to provide support and guidance, procure and dispatch the supplies, oversee the operation and prepare for return as soon as conditions permit. I was pleased to see, during my recent visit to Herat, that our colleagues there have made excellent progress in the winterization of the two large IDP camps for which we are responsible. I have no doubt that the hundreds of thousands of drought victims there will survive to return home next spring.
6. With the support of donors and excellent cooperation with sister agencies, such as WFP and UNICEF, and NGO partners, we have managed to achieve a great deal, but winter is already arriving and we need to continue getting supplies in, even while the political and military landscapes are evolving.
7. We are planning for a quick start-up of post-conflict activities the moment we have the access and the means for effective implementation. These activities include many of the types of programmes in which we have gained broad experience, most recently in places like Kosovo and Timor. We are also preparing for a programme to register and assist in the return of qualified

Afghan nationals to try to ensure that the necessary human resources are quickly in place to get reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts off to a flying start.

8. On the broader migration front post-September 11, much has changed and yet much has remained the same. The inequalities in wealth, development and opportunities which motivate people to move in search of a better life, the ease of communication with diasporas, and the demographic trends which will create the need for the import of labour in most of the developed world, as well as a labour supply that exceeds the capacity of economies in many developing countries to absorb; all these remain unchanged.

9. Other things have changed post-September 11 which affect migration policy. Migration movements will henceforth doubtless be the object of increased scrutiny and security measures. Efforts to combat irregular migration, particularly smuggling and trafficking, are receiving new attention and urgency. The slowdown of the world economy will have an impact both on countries of origin - increasing the migratory pressures - and on countries of destination, by reducing their levels of tolerance and absorptive capacity, at least in the short term.

10. But the events of September 11 have also created new opportunities. The need to address migration challenges in a comprehensive and systematic manner is now receiving the attention it deserves at all levels. This should translate also into renewed attention to implementing measures to ensure successful integration of migrants, and to create or strengthen legal channels of migration alongside efforts to curtail illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking. Cooperation and properly functioning partnerships between countries of origin, transit and destination will increase as countries realize the necessity of bilateral, regional, and indeed global cooperation. Efforts in this regard, such as the Berne Initiative, to identify common elements or principles establishing a framework for migration management, warrant our focused attention and support. Renewed attention should also be given to solving conflicts and situations giving rise to population destabilization.

11. Now turning to developments in IOM during 2001. This anniversary year has brought much progress, as is entirely appropriate to an organization – and a policy issue - reaching new levels of maturity.

12. New Members and observers. At this Council session, the application by five new Members will be considered: the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Madagascar, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine. These, together with the seven Members admitted at the June session of the Council, will bring the total number of IOM Members to 91. We are aware of other States engaged in making the necessary arrangements formally to apply for membership. We also have important new observers joining this year: the Kingdom of Nepal, the Maghreb Arab Union and the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office. IOM's membership, relevance, presence and programmes are now truly global.

13. Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP). As a direct result of the discussions at the Council in 2000, IOM launched the Migration Policy and Research Programme in January 2001. The programme has started well and this Council session initiating policy discussion on migration at the global level is a very concrete outcome of the work of the MPRP team. In this connection, under the leadership of MPRP, IOM's second World Migration Report, due out in 2002, is intended to offer a stronger policy analysis angle. IOM's research and analysis capacity

has already been increasingly recognized and in demand in recent years. The core research team has increased the number and depth of IOM publications significantly. The work of the research team is now being complemented by that of the MPRP team, with which a number of collaborative submissions and presentations have been made to a range of institutions, conferences and gatherings. I expect the pace and outreach of research, analysis and synthesis to accelerate and broaden as the MPRP team settles in.

14. Migration diplomacy. Throughout the year there have been a number of important international fora covering key aspects of migration to which IOM has contributed. For example:

- The Second South American Conference on Migration in Santiago, Chile in April which made concrete steps towards the establishment of a permanent regional forum on migration;
- The Conference on Least Developed Countries in Brussels in May focusing on migration and development;
- The Berne Symposium in June examining the feasibility of establishing an international framework for migration management, for which IOM has been asked to provide support to the follow-up;
- The UNHCR Global Consultation on the nexus between asylum and migration for which IOM and UNHCR presented a joint paper, and which has led to the creation of a joint working group on these issues;
- The Asian African Legal Consultative Organization's ministerial meeting in New Delhi in June, at which the rights of migrants were a key focus;
- The OAU Council of Ministers in Lusaka in July discussed and adopted an important decision on migration for the first time;
- The Durban World Conference against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in August, at which the one subject of consensus was migration and a number of important articles on the subject of migrants' rights were adopted in the final document;
- The EU Migration Conference in Brussels in October, on efforts to achieve common migration policies;
- The International Conference in Rome at which different experiences of labour and social integration practices were discussed;
- The Fifth European Conference in Helsinki, aiming to promote a concerted approach to integration in Europe;
- The Round Table Discussion, organized on 26 November 2001, in collaboration with the Geneva authorities, as part of the preparations for the Council, with labour migration specialists and representatives of governments, the business community and civil society.

15. The Deputy Director General, at these and other events, has been tireless in her efforts to gain support for migration and development initiatives, in particular the Migration for Development in Africa Programme (MIDA), which explores new ways of fostering development by strengthening the role and participation of the diaspora.

16. All these initiatives have enriched the level of knowledge and understanding of migration challenges and the measures to address them.

17. IOM services. The demand for our existing services has reached new levels in 2001, both in volume and geographical scope. We have also seen a significant increase in demand for additional services, such as the management of organized labour migration, and we have added this new service area in our programme for 2002. Integration of migrants and combating discrimination and xenophobia in host countries are areas where IOM is working more systematically with a range of countries. Migrant processing is also a service increasingly in demand, and we have had important discussions with a number of governments seeking our help with a wide range of activities related to this. I expect to have much more to say on the subject of migrant processing next year.

18. Cluster. The success story of 2001 in facilitating and cultivating partnerships between groups of countries of origin, transit and destination has been the so-called "Cluster" discussions between certain west European countries and the three countries of the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Real progress in cooperation has been made on a range of issues, with some collaboration being implemented through IOM programmes, and other activities being arranged bilaterally through the nurturing of direct communication channels.

19. Looking now at IOM's activities and achievements by region:

Western Mediterranean: During 2001, IOM has made substantial progress in this region. We have established an IOM Office in Tunisia and programmatic activities have been launched in Morocco and Algeria. In addition, we have initiated and encouraged the development of a framework for a regional cooperation process on common migration issues in the Western Mediterranean. A first ministerial conference related to this regional process is planned for next year in Tunis.

Latin America: This is a region of long-standing technical cooperation between IOM and the governments. We have strengthened our support to such important regional entities as the Puebla Process; and sought to open new areas of cooperation on counter-trafficking, labour migration, migrant health and border management, for example, in the Caribbean.

Africa: Emergency and post-conflict activities continue to be a significant part of IOM's activities in Africa. Another major activity has been the nurturing of dialogue among countries sharing similar problems, or for which the exchange of migration experience is of direct benefit. I am thinking here particularly of the progress made with both the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) - the regional dialogue mechanism for the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and with the countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which adopted the Dakar Declaration. Another significant development in 2001 was the launching of the

Migration for Development in Africa Programme (MIDA) which I have already mentioned.

Asia: In addition to consolidating and expanding on our existing programmes, we have notable events and developments to report on, such as the workshop on illegal migration and trafficking in Beijing, new operations in India to stabilize and assist migrant populations affected by the Gujarat earthquake, the beginning of a dialogue with Myanmar, and a significant increase in our activities to assist smuggled and stranded migrants in the region around Indonesia and Australia.

20. Resolution 1035 facility. In all the regions of developing and transition countries, the funds allocated for project development and support under Council Resolution No. 1035 in 2000 have proven an important tool, strengthening our capacity to foster and develop projects in Member States. Fifty Member States will benefit from the allocations made this year. Clearly the experience during the first year of managing this fund and implementing the projects it supports has taught important lessons which will feed into the management of the fund in 2002. One direct and immediate benefit of the facility has been the increased dialogue between our Missions and Member countries' authorities on priority areas for future activities. We will be reporting on these developments in more detail at a meeting which we will arrange to follow up the discussions held at the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance in October 2001.

21. Regional processes. Progress in the various regional processes has continued in 2001. As the publication on regional processes which IOM issued in 2001 points out, the different regional mechanisms, having been formed in different ways and in response to different challenges, have developed and are evolving in different ways. But one benefit which is common to all is the very existence of a regional forum or mechanism which provides a framework for consultation and networking outside the formal activities or gatherings of the dialogue or mechanism.

22. Conclusion. A fiftieth anniversary is an important time to look back and reflect, but it is also an important time to be looking forward. I am confident that this Council will provide both inspiration and guidance to IOM to face the future, confident that it has a crucial role to play, and ready to find its proper place in the global and globalized system, to continue its work to help governments and migrants seek and find the benefits of properly managed migration.

Annex II

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

1. This year, marking the 50th anniversary of IOM, is of two-fold significance to me in that it also signals the start of the transitional year of the mandate with which you have honoured me.
2. As Deputy Director General, I am both honoured and proud to address a Council that has been strengthened by the entry of new Member States and observers. I convey my thanks to you all for the confidence you have reposed, and I hope will continue to repose in us at a time when current and world affairs call for increased attention and action on our part.
3. My thanks go also to the entire Organization, in particular to the Director-General, Mr. Brunson McKinley, for the quality of the choices made and the work accomplished in a spirit of cooperation and international service.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4. Last year, my first in office, after reviewing accomplishments for the year 2000, that had just ended, I presented to you my programme for 2001, with particular reference to special matters and other activities. They have all recorded the progress expected and which they merited.

Gender issues

5. Outside IOM: of the eight projects announced, six have been completed. To that end, we created a structure to manage and run these projects, the Working Group on Gender Issues (WGGI). As pertains to the projects:
 - support for an information campaign on trafficking in human beings in the Philippines has been concluded;
 - the preparation of a handbook for the use of researchers and practitioners in matters pertaining to trafficking in migrants has been completed;
 - the production of a film to promote the return of Afghan female doctors who had fled to Pakistan has been somewhat delayed owing to filming problems. This project merits our full attention in the light of recent developments in that region;
 - the provision of start-up funding for a project entitled "Health and Migration" for the benefit of migrant women in Europe was completed;

- the contribution to the cost of distributing a film on abandoned migrant children will be effected at the beginning of 2002;
- the information campaign targeting the employers of female domestic workers in Costa Rica has run its course;
- the training programme for Sudanese young people awaiting repatriation in a refugee camp in Kenya was completed;
- the updating and reprinting of the IOM publication on "Trafficking in Women from the Dominican Republic for Sexual Exploitation" was completed.

6. Amongst other activities, the WGGI took part in the Hargeisa Workshop in Somalia, is responsible for information dissemination (web site and newsletter) and a study on gender amongst the staff of IOM, and provides financial support for humanitarian assistance to Afghan women and children.

7. Within IOM: we note with satisfaction an overall 6.1 per cent increase in the number of women in the "Professional" category, although in contrast, a detailed analysis regrettably reveals a decline of approximately 12 per cent in numbers in the middle and higher levels (P3 to D). The overall increase is attributable to the strong growth of numbers in the UG to P2 grades, of some 12.9 per cent. In December 2000, women in IOM accounted for 28.1 per cent (71 persons), whilst in June 2001 the figure was 34.2 per cent (109 persons).

8. For 2001, we have participated in most international conferences on gender and, whenever appropriate, we gave a prominent place to this subject in our statements. I must also inform you that during many discussions and consultations with the authorities of countries visited and with international institutions, issues pertaining to migrant women have been one of our constant concerns, whether from the economic, social or health perspective, at the individual or family level.

International relations

9. Together with the United Nations system and other organizations (Human Rights, International Parliamentary Union, UNCTAD, European Union) IOM has participated in the major conferences, *inter alia*, in Durban, Brussels and Ouagadougou. In parallel with the major conferences, we carried out an extensive series of consultations and meetings with a view to concluding cooperation agreements with institutions, in particular with the World Bank, African Development Bank (ADB), Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Islamic Development Bank, etc.

10. Also in the sphere of external relations, IOM has jointly staged international conferences either with States (in Uruguay, Gabon, Senegal) or with organizations (*la Francophonie* in particular).

11. Moreover, under the MIDA (Migration for the Development of Africa) Programme, which I shall be presenting to you later, a wide range of consultations and working meetings are now under way with funding agencies, including the World Bank, ADB, Islamic Development Bank,

European Union, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF), as well as with donor countries such as France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Now that concrete support is in place, the MIDA in this case, these talks are beginning to bear fruit both multilaterally and bilaterally.

12. Our contacts with associations of migrants in Europe, Africa and America will be situated in that international context. We have consented to participate in their seminars, colloquia and conferences with special honour and interest, and IOM feels duty-bound at this time to pay tribute to them for the role they are playing in the recognition of the diasporas and populations to which they belong. They will always occupy the place they deserve with us and, at the appropriate time, we will be able to ensure them their proper place in law and in fact.

The use of the French language

13. We believe that the entry of several French-speaking countries or organizations as Members or observers will make it possible to advance the use of French as a working language within IOM. The joint organization of international colloquia on migration flows in *la Francophonie* together with *Haut Conseil de la Francophonie* and our participation in conferences organized by the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF) are factors that strongly cement IOM's link with the French language.

Africa

14. In view of the work done and our special interest in this region, I should like to provide you with greater detail in that connection.

- This year, we will have received six African countries as Members, namely the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Madagascar and Cape Verde, as well as one regional organization, the Arab Maghreb Union (Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)), representing five countries, as an observer. We are furthermore gratified that seven Headquarters or Cooperation Agreements will have been signed with the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Benin, Cape Verde and the Gambia.
- Our relations with African continental or regional bodies (OAU, UMA, ADB, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) in particular) have steadily grown stronger and negotiations are in progress for the conclusion of cooperation agreements and/or partnerships in some instances. After our participation in the Lusaka conference in July 2001 we had the honour to be received by President Chiluba of Zambia and be able to discuss four matters of paramount importance to Africa and migration in Africa. These were the freedom of movement of persons and goods, MIDA, reconstruction and development in post-conflict situations and AIDS.

15. Over the past year, the IOM has taken part in numerous conferences and meetings focused on Africa, and the countless bilateral or multilateral contacts that materialized on those occasions have paved the way for significant strides in the sphere of cooperation. I shall refer here only to contacts with the OAU, which were highly instrumental in launching the concept of the MIDA

Programme and in making it one of the concerns of African States through Decision CM/Dec.614 (LXXIV) adopted by the 74th Ordinary Meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers held in Lusaka, Zambia on 5 to 8 July 2001

16. Whilst our ongoing concerns include other projects such as AIDS/migration, regional processes, the training of professionals to manage migration or other problems, post-conflict reconstruction and the like, another meaningful subject has further enriched our action in Africa, namely the MIDA Programme. MIDA is a promising and fruitful programme that will be occupying us for many years to come and which therefore warrants a more detailed than usual presentation.

17. It is an ambitious programme to strengthen capacities by the voluntary mobilization of human and financial resources from diasporas for the development of their countries of origin.

- It should go some way towards meeting the requirements of qualified human resources of these countries, which must and are anxious to boost their technological capabilities in order to take control of their development;
- It entails offering qualified and specialized professionals the possibility to thrive in and develop their own countries, in an appropriate environment. It provides a place, so to speak, for expatriate elites or those in the process of emigrating. It is a check on the brain drain;
- It is reinforcing technical cooperation in that its strategy is based on appropriate training and the generation of expertise and jobs, and hence human resources for those countries most in need of them. It is therefore an exchange between sending and receiving countries;
- It also makes allowances for all institutional and regulatory adjustments that could ease mobility, the transfer and readmission of people and funds, both in sending and receiving countries, while respecting laws, persons and their goods. This entails continuous dialogue amongst all the stakeholders;
- This entire process fits into the framework of voluntarily managed and orderly migration in the sending, receiving and transit countries;
- This may therefore be done bilaterally or preferably at regional level, though always with the freely negotiated consent of all, countries and persons alike, with the utmost respect for the laws, interests and rights of each party.

18. MIDA is being implemented at two levels:

- At country level:
 - For sending countries: through the most exhaustive possible sector-by-sector assessment of specific needs in terms of professionals and specialists;

- For sending, transit and receiving countries: by means of institutional and regulatory adaptations essential to the proper management of the process.
- In the diasporas:
 - For sending countries: through an evaluation of available skills effected by associations and corporate groups;
 - For sending, transit and receiving countries: through the choice of timeframes and forms of action desired.

19. For the diasporas, these forms of action fall into four categories:

- Partial and/or periodic transfer (mobility): creation of activities (enterprises, specialist firms, consultancies, start-ups and subsequent management from the receiving country, and regular or *ad hoc* visits;
- Virtual activities by teleworking: enhancing the technological platforms of countries of origin, university and high school distance learning, health professions, transfer of technology, etc;
- Raising of capital for the creation of enterprises in market niches for which there is demand, and their follow up;
- Definitive return and creation of enterprises under partnership arrangements, co-development and job creation.

20. This programme spans the two-fold subject area of Migration/Development and Migration/Education, which is also one of our core concerns. It is this same two-fold subject area that recurs in the two major framework agreements recently concluded in Africa, namely the Cotonou Agreement signed between the European Union and the ACP countries, and the New African Initiative finally adopted at Lusaka by African Heads of State and of Government.

21. Concerning the other projects falling within the framework of the expanded area of activity of the Deputy Director General, we shall not be returning to the topic of migration and development, considering that the MIDA Programme can be adapted to any country by making allowances for the human, socio-economic and political specificities involved.

22. With regard to the budget, we have maintained our interest in the strengthening and funding of development activities, and in considering the most judicious way of effectively doing much more with a little more. The fund earmarked for supporting developing and transition Member States, which you have been good enough to renew, will enable us to carry out a series of actions to identify, prepare, evaluate, provide training for and launch priority projects in the areas most in need of them. In this way, we hope to respond to the numerous requests from countries that are becoming alive to the significance of migration and the potential roles of their diasporas once stability is restored.

23. To boost our action capabilities and our effectiveness in meeting the new challenges, we still believe that more room for manoeuvre in the utilization of the allotted contributions and surpluses will be the tool needed for undertaking the new tasks being demanded of us.

24. As envisaged, IOM has stepped up its educational activities. We have closely followed certain initiatives, jointly organized and participated in several national or regional conferences and seminars for training human resources to manage migration and migratory flows. Cases in point are MDSA in South Africa, the Mar del Plata Conference in Argentina, and Uruguay, amongst others.

25. As for the development and strengthening of contacts with partners (new, recent or old, countries, or national, regional or international organizations), we have multiplied these contacts, mostly bilateral though multilateral as well, throughout the world where migration issues arise. Accordingly, we have held (often repeated) talks with the authorities of several African, American, European and Asian countries. Many of these contacts have translated either into accessions or cooperation agreements, and all have afforded an opportunity to ventilate and understand the concerns of each one and reinforce the ties between us.

26. Foundations and associations, whether or not arising from diasporas, have also received special attention, since IOM has participated in a number of colloquia and seminars organized in Africa, the Americas and in Europe.

II. FUTURE WORK

27. I shall now turn to our projects for 2002, though before placing them in regional and sectoral perspective, allow me to outline our overview of long-term migration and our intention to play an active part.

28. As this 21st century gets under way, migration constitutes a core variable all across the world and we are all convinced that it will continue to be so for the decades to come.

29. Migration is already one of the concerns of countries and international organizations. The European Union and the ACP countries are addressing the matter officially and some countries have decided to speak openly about it.

30. It is our wish for IOM that all concerned, whether organizations, countries or peoples, may recognize migration and resolve to find realistic, fair and humane solutions to the problems posed by it. At the level of international or regional relations, migration must be approached in global terms and treated as a fact of life, and we would wish for its place to be recognized in all endeavours to manage human, political and socio-economic relations everywhere.

31. As for the goals set for the future, in addition to the new migration/development dynamic, we intend to consolidate what has been accomplished and adapt it to the realities, conditions and circumstances with which we will be confronted.

Gender issues

32. In addition to concluding the two unfinished projects, the following four new projects are envisaged:

- producing a radio programme on disaster relief and on migrant populations in Central America;
- producing brochures as part of information campaigns designed to awaken a new awareness of the dangers of trafficking in the female population groups in Ethiopia;
- a research project on the migration plans of women in the wake of the decommissioning of the Ignalina nuclear plant in Lithuania;
- the proposal to conduct a study on the situation of Africans within the African Union.

33. At the internal level, an effort must be made to correct the decline in the number of women in the P3 to D grades. Our anticipated increase in activities could form the framework in which to remedy this situation.

34. The place of women in migration must be reviewed and recognized. Of necessity, countless migrant women have become heads of families and have taken over the reins in managing the interests of their loved ones, acting as true managers and decision makers. At the other end of the spectrum, trafficking in women is flourishing. This must cease. We must tackle this more keenly and with increased resources so as to help the first group to organize themselves efficiently and to restore to the second the dignity they ought never to have lost. We will see to this.

35. Lastly, we intend to step up the role of IOM in organizing and participating in thematic conferences concerning migrant women in different spheres of activity or in public life.

French

36. Here again, we must consolidate our achievements and rally around French-speaking countries facing migration problems. I am thinking of those countries with large-scale pendular migration where entire regions are abandoned by the menfolk after harvests.

37. As pertains to relations with French-speaking countries, we intend to pursue joint activities through increased mutual consultations and indeed more studies in the framework of migration flows within the French-speaking world, for example, as regards migrants who are vectors of culture in the French-speaking realm, integration, harmonization of migration policies, economic and commercial exchanges within migration movements of French-speaking people, or even migration flows in French-speaking West Africa. This latter topic is in response to requests from several countries.

38. In terms of exchanges, a French-speaking cultural area should be created in a practical manner. Whilst such exchanges do in fact take place, it is no less true that many artists face enormous difficulties when it comes to travelling and transporting their materials and equipment

from one place to another. These artists, indeed all artists in the French-speaking realm, should be accorded facilities in this connection. For example, a special form could be created for use in conjunction with visa applications, as suggested by the *Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie*, in which the IOM is actively involved.

International relations

39. We shall be forging ahead with consultations and negotiations leading to regional agreements. We further intend to enter into partnership agreements with other major organizations so that together we may rapidly and easily mount activities in which each party will have a place and a role.

40. We will also need to foster awareness on the part of the authorities of countries in certain regions as to the problems of migration and obtain their commitment to undertake large-scale actions and to sign the requisite regional agreements for their implementation and proper functioning.

41. In dealing with migration, we will give to associations of migrants and diasporas and to the private sector their rightful place, we will continue to heed and maintain close relations with them.

Africa

42. We will be making a series of approaches to those African countries that are facing migration problems and with which we can cooperate to improve knowledge and management of migration flows. I am thinking specifically of Niger, Chad, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau.

43. Another of our concerns is that of enhancing our knowledge of internal migration flows in West Africa. This will pave the way for the launch of regional consultations that should culminate in agreements on migration, mobility and transit.

44. We will also need to launch a specific and multifaceted action initially to slow down and where possible, eventually to reverse the brain drain that is hampering the development of one part of the world. The implementation of the MIDA Programme, which will enable us to tackle the strengthening of capacities on a large scale, is an integral part of that action.

45. In continuation of the training seminars on migration management and accompaniment already in progress in Latin America, South Africa and soon to be started in Dakar for West Africa, we intend to pursue the same type of action for Central Africa, East Africa and North Africa.

46. In parallel with major efforts to develop new programmes and to undergird those that already exist, we will be striving to win over as many countries and institutions as possible to our vision of international migration.