

EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 29 November 2001, at 3.10 p.m.

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

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GENERAL DEBATE: MIGRATION CHALLENGES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (continued)

(c) Statements by Members and observers (continued)

1. Mr. MUTOMB MUJING (Democratic Republic of the Congo) speaking on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Bahombwa Songambe, Vice Minister of Employment and Social Systems, said that subsequent to his country's recent admission to IOM and the high-level visit to Kinshasa led by the Deputy Director General, it was clear that IOM was set to become a driving force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It would have been beneficial for his country to join at a much earlier stage, but every effort would now be made to pursue quality programmes in close cooperation with IOM.
2. IOM's assistance was particularly important for socio-economic development in his country, in particular for solving demographic problems, as well as those in the field of worldwide and regional trade and economic integration. Demography was a highly significant factor in his country, as the tragic civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had profoundly affected its demographic configuration and had provoked dramatic migratory movements. Migration from rural to urban areas had also taken place, causing a decrease in food crops, more poverty and higher unemployment. Other causes of migration included inadequate governance, a decline in living conditions and brain drain. A return programme was therefore urgently required, which might well include nationals from other countries to contribute to reconstruction. It was to be hoped that the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme would promote an exchange of skills and expertise between African countries, thus encouraging peaceful co-existence in the region. The world was rapidly becoming a global village, a challenge which all countries would have to face, and he was optimistic that with adequate financial backing, the overall migratory situation would improve. In that connection, he welcomed the initiative taken by Belgium to mobilize human and other resources in the African diaspora to encourage development in the three Great Lakes countries, including his own.
3. His Government would work closely with IOM on projects to revive the economy of the war-ravaged regions, to stabilize areas of potential migration and to move basic food supplies by river to the major urban centres. An alarming degree of insecurity still existed and it was therefore essential to establish peace as the basis for sustainable development. Congratulating IOM on its fiftieth anniversary, he hoped that its Council would become a forum for dialogue on migration.
4. Mr. NDIAYE (Senegal) welcomed the organization of an international dialogue on migration within the framework of the Council session, as an appropriate way of celebrating IOM's fiftieth anniversary and underscoring its leading role in migration management. He expressed his appreciation for the choice of the topics for the panel discussion which underlined the need for moral solidarity and respect for the legal obligations embodied in the international instruments for the protection of migrants.

5. Globalization of the economy and the immense progress in science and technology had led to large-scale intermingling of people and cultures. Unfortunately, the disastrous social, ecological and human effects of conflicts, poverty and certain pandemics were still increasing in many regions of the world. It was essential to achieve greater solidarity and respect for human dignity and to avoid any tendency to move towards xenophobia and racism. It was gratifying to note that the declaration and programme of action of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance had included the rights of migrants.

6. Better awareness of the interdependence between migration and development was also essential if the effects of the difficult economic situation in the countries of the South were to be overcome. International economic relations, including trade, investment and establishment of infrastructures should be improved in order to consolidate the progress of democracy and respect for human rights and rights of migrants. The New Partnership for the Development of Africa (NPDA) reflected the new awareness of Africa's specific handicap and its determination to face the challenges of development. He reiterated his country's support for IOM's Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme which he hoped would receive adequate donor funding. Senegal would host a seminar on migration policies in West Africa in December 2001, which would contribute to the strengthening of capacities in Africa within the MIDA programme. Senegal also supported the 1035 facility regarding migration-related projects in developing countries or countries in transition. He endorsed the statement made on behalf of the African group by its coordinator, the representative of Egypt, at the last session of IOM's Subcommittee on Budget and Finance.

7. Mr. NAZARIAN (Armenia) said that the Council offered States an opportunity to engage in an open and global exchange of information which would help to identify possible common ground on migration issues. IOM's mandate itself closely related to Armenia's past and present, since his country had faced migratory situations from ancient history up to the present time. It was expected that profound changes in the demographic distribution of the world's population would have equally significant consequences on the economies of many countries, including those in transition. He therefore appreciated the major role played by IOM in further developing a migration policy dialogue.

8. His Government was at present working towards meeting the proposed objectives defined during the Director General's recent visit to Armenia. Armenia highly appreciated the so-called "cluster" initiative launched by IOM two years ago as a result of interest shown by countries of origin and the readiness on the part of host countries in Western Europe to facilitate voluntary return programmes. Steps were also being taken to prevent irregular migratory flows from the South Caucasus region. It was important to improve and develop regional networking on migration issues.

9. While it was generally recognized that migrants made a valuable contribution to their host countries by introducing cultural diversity and sometimes economic prosperity, irregular migration could lead to social instability and insecurity, in both the sending and the receiving countries. Hence the cluster initiative might also lead to the establishment of a regional network for other migration issues, including the harmonization of existing procedures for migration management, legislation, micro-enterprise development projects, border management and issues related to trafficking in human beings.

10. His Government was ready to support IOM's humanitarian mandate worldwide. Despite socio-economic difficulties, Armenia had now been able to pay two years of its outstanding contributions to the IOM budget. He welcomed the fact that membership was increasing and looked forward to cooperating closely both with regional partners and with the other IOM Member States.

11. Ms. WHELAN (Observer for Ireland), commenting on recent significant activities within the European Union concerning migration issues, noted the important contribution made by IOM at the European Union Migration Conference held in October 2001 in Brussels. In terms of inter-organization cooperation, she welcomed IOM's collaboration with UNHCR on initiatives such as the rapid transportation network.

12. Ireland had worked closely with IOM over the years and had been active in many areas of concern, such as assisting refugees returning from West Timor and the evacuation of thousands of Kosovars, operations in which the skill, professionalism and sensitivity of IOM staff had been demonstrated. Ireland was currently supporting IOM humanitarian activities in the Balkans and had entered into a number of funding agreements with the Organization, covering the return of legal professionals to minority areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, counter-trafficking, assistance to internally displaced persons and refugee returns in the Balkans. She thanked the Director General for his useful briefing on IOM's work in Afghanistan which Ireland Aid was also supporting.

13. IOM had opened an office in Dublin the previous week, which marked the beginning of closer cooperation, as Ireland addressed new issues in the migration field, such as the Government's voluntary return pilot programme and comprehensive new legislation for migration to Ireland. Ireland intended to become a full member of IOM in the near future and considered that the recent broadening of the membership base was a sign of the increasing significance of IOM's work.

14. Mr. SIMONIN (Observer for the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta), after congratulating IOM on its fiftieth anniversary, said that in a fast-changing and turbulent world, migration had become a major policy issue for the international community. Migrants in an irregular situation, whose numbers were increasing alarmingly, were particularly vulnerable as they had no protection, suffered from isolation and had a negative impact on their host societies. Hence IOM had an increasingly important role to play as a forum for facilitating the solution to such problems. The Order of Malta had been following IOM's work on migration since its establishment and was willing to make its expertise available to the Organization if so required.

15. The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta, which had enjoyed observer status at the United Nations since 1994, provided assistance in more than 100 countries, primarily responding to emergencies such as natural catastrophes, armed conflicts or famines giving rise to refugee movements or displacement of persons. With a 900-year tradition of service to others the Order accomplished its mission with flexibility, rapidity and efficiency.

16. It specialized in health and medical fields and ran hundreds of hospitals, dispensaries and medical centres, with thousands of volunteers providing emergency relief, ambulance services and home help. Its specialized programmes included prevention of the transmission of the HIV/AIDS virus from mothers to infants, as well as measures to eliminate leprosy and supply

medicines in accordance with the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO). The Order had been present at most of the humanitarian operations in recent years, and a mission was currently examining ways of assisting victims of the conflict in Afghanistan. The Order of Malta would continue to make an active contribution to meeting the needs of migrant and displaced populations.

17. Mgr. MARCHETTO (Observer for the Holy See) read out a message from Pope John Paul II to the Director General on the occasion of IOM's fiftieth anniversary. The Pope expressed his appreciation for the work of IOM, which although it had been founded to deal with the problems of migration in one part of the world and only for a limited time, had gradually adapted its structures and activities to deal with the challenges of migration throughout the world in an enduring way. The growing number of nations and institutions which had sought membership of the Organization testified to the esteem in which it was held internationally. Among those had been the Holy See which, as an observer, had followed with great interest IOM's broadening commitment throughout the last half century and had, through its institutions and Catholic organizations, actively cooperated with IOM.

18. At present, emigration was taking place in all kinds of ways and the intermingling of people from different cultures meant that great efforts had to be made to help immigrants to become positively integrated in their new environment. It was encouraging that IOM, through its many programmes, was already working to that end. He wished to recall the Organization's invaluable contribution to the battle against trafficking in human beings by helping the victims of that reprehensible trade to be restored to their freedom and dignity.

19. In such troubled times, challenges ahead were greater than ever, not least the need to supplement national legislation with the introduction of international norms capable of preventing unilateral decisions which did particular harm to the weakest countries. The church stood with IOM in spreading awareness of the fundamental truth that, beyond all differences, all men and women were brothers and sisters in one human family.

20. Mr. DEMIDOV (Observer for the Russian Federation) expressed appreciation of IOM's role in promoting Russian priorities in matters relating to migratory problems during the Regional Conference in Geneva in 1996 on problems of refugees and other migrants in the CIS countries. The work begun in 1996 should continue, in order to align migration policies in the CIS region with international law, to turn migration into a factor which would facilitate sustainable economic development and to find solutions to the remaining problems. Despite dynamic efforts, the migration situation was still acute in the Russian Federation, and without adequate international support, the situation in the whole CIS region, especially with reference to recent developments in Afghanistan, could escape control and have negative consequences. So far the extent of the assistance provided by IOM to the Russian Federation in solving migratory problems had been somewhat limited.

21. The 1.5 million migrants in an irregular situation currently in the Russian Federation included asylum seekers, but also foreigners with unlawful activities such as trafficking in weapons or drugs and promoting illegal labour migration to western Europe via the Russian Federation. In order to combat irregular migration in all its forms the Russian Federation was endeavouring to maintain bilateral cooperation with the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organizations. In particular,

work was continuing on a draft readmission agreement transmitted to the Russian Federation by the representatives of the European Union – a useful instrument for preventing irregular migration. He hoped that the new draft agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and IOM, currently under preparation, would facilitate his country's interaction with the Organization.

22. Mr. NEGRÍN (Observer for Mexico), welcoming IOM's major contribution to migration management in the world, said that Mexico hoped to become a full member of IOM in the near future. His Government placed high priority on migration matters, in particular migration management. Migration was a worldwide phenomenon and its economic impact was immense – it should be borne in mind that migrants' remittances represented the second source of foreign exchange earnings in the world.

23. He outlined a number of concerns and specific proposals concerning migration. First, approaches by governments should be more flexible, using instruments such as temporary labour programmes and migration regularization programmes in order to make use of the positive aspects of migration. The micro-regions from which migrants tended to emigrate should be developed on the basis of shared responsibility. Further consideration should be given to the question of remittances in order to increase the impact of the resources generated by migrants through improved banking arrangements. Stronger measures should be taken to combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination against migrants, particularly after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Urgent national and international measures should be taken to combat smuggling and trafficking in human beings. There was also a need for new international cooperation models. At international level priority should be given to the entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and IOM's role should be strengthened in the existing regional mechanisms such as the Puebla Process. The importance of renewed dialogue between Mexico and the United States of America concerning migration problems had been recognized. Every effort should be made to build up a balanced comprehensive approach based on shared responsibility, which would benefit both the countries concerned and the migrants themselves.

24. Mr. PEREZ DEL CASTILLO (Uruguay), stressing the increasing complexity of the global migration process, supported the views expressed by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of GRULAC regarding the importance of further dialogue and reflexion on migration within the IOM Council. Welcoming the statement by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants, he said that Uruguay considered the human rights aspect was essential for a comprehensive analysis of migratory flows, and had consequently ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which it was to be hoped would soon enter into force.

25. Action at regional level was of particular importance in Latin America, as reflected, for example, in the work on migratory matters being conducted by Bolivia and Chile, and supported by his Government, at the level of MERCOSUR. He also welcomed the support provided by the IOM Mission with Regional Functions in Buenos Aires for the subregional conferences on migration, which were growing in importance.

26. His Government expressed satisfaction with IOM's cooperation in national projects, which would undoubtedly be increased as a result of the strengthening of the IOM Office in Uruguay in 2002. The recent visit by the Deputy Director General to Uruguay had provided an opportunity to reaffirm his Government's support for IOM's action at all levels.

27. Mr. TARAN (Observer for the International Labour Organization, ILO), said that in response to the increasing international concern with migration matters, ILO and other international agencies were strengthening their migration-related activities. It had been agreed at the ILO Governing Body meeting that migrant workers should be one of the main topics for discussion at the International Labour Conference in 2004. ILO's long-standing involvement with labour migration had led to the conclusion that migration matters could only be effectively approached through multidisciplinary, inter-ministerial and inter-agency cooperation at national and international levels. Concerted action to set up international frameworks, mechanisms and policies had, however, only emerged clearly in the last few years, beginning with the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994. Some of the major components of comprehensive migration management had only been acknowledged recently, for example the human rights of migrants, or comparative and international research on discrimination against migrant workers.

28. ILO's current research was focused on measures by governments, employers and workers' organizations to combat discrimination effectively and promote equal opportunities. ILO's cooperation with IOM had expanded considerably, particularly through the joint inter-agency International Migration Policy Programme, co-sponsored by IOM, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Cooperation was now focusing on migration training and capacity-building in Asia, Central Asia, southern Africa and southern Europe and an ongoing training programme for government officials on migrant management was due to be established at the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy. Cooperation had also increased through the IGO Contact Group on Trafficking – a multi-agency initiative in which ILO and IOM participated along with UNHCR, IMP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). IOM, ILO, OHCHR and UNHCR had worked closely to prepare a common analysis and shared policy perspective on xenophobia and discrimination against migrants and refugees in preparation for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which had yielded an important body of international knowledge and practical policy guidance. ILO was now committed to helping governments and social partners implement common approaches to combat discrimination and xenophobia and uphold the dignity of all migrants as a fundamental component of national policy, legislation and practice in migration management.

29. Ms. CONINSX (Observer for the European Commission) welcomed IOM's key role in the field of migration and the opportunity provided by the Council session for in-depth reflection on migration policy. Migration and displacement had been a fact of life throughout the history of Europe, but the European Union was now a recipient rather than a sender, with migratory flows now totalling about 700,000 migrants per year. In 2000, some 381,000 asylum seekers had sought refuge in the European Union because of its prosperity and stability. The demographics of the European Union, a decline in population growth and the ageing of the population, meant that the demand for manpower would be likely to increase, continuing to provide opportunities for both skilled and unskilled migrants. The members of the European Union were engaged in

developing new strategies and clear policies related to migration, taking into account the interests of countries of destination and countries of origin. One key issue was the management of orderly migration.

30. In the field of asylum and migration, the European Union policy as set out in the conclusions of the European Council in Tampere in 1999 was to create a secure yet open European Union through a common asylum and immigration policy based on a comprehensive approach to the management of migratory flows, fair treatment for third-country nationals and partnerships with the countries of origin. A common asylum policy must fully respect the terms of the 1951 Geneva Convention and existing international treaty obligations. Several proposals for a normative framework had been under discussion within the Union, and there was an awareness that any successful common immigration policy depended on the effectiveness of accompanying integration policies.

31. The problems of racism and xenophobia were major challenges to societies in the European Union. The admission of migrants for employment must go hand in hand with efforts to reduce irregular immigration and non-declared work. The European Commission had adopted a communication on illegal migration with proposals for developing a coherent framework for action. A broad debate on return policy would soon be launched. A common European policy was being developed on asylum and immigration – an area in which IOM's active support and experience would be invaluable.

32. Ms. BELLAMY (Observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, ICFTU), said that the ICFTU, with 157 million members in 148 countries, welcomed the fact that in 2000, IOM's financing of technical cooperation projects in migration had more than doubled since 1999 and represented nearly 17 per cent of the Operational Part of the Budget.

33. Greater attention should be focused on organized labour migration as a mechanism for aligning the economic and demographic needs of the sending and the receiving countries and IOM should continue to expand its technical cooperation programmes so as to improve management of migration flows for which integrated comprehensive and national policies were essential.

34. The World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance had drawn attention to the often deplorable situation of migrant workers who were victims of racism and discrimination. The trade unions had appealed to governments to respect the international conventions on the right to respect and tolerance and had stressed the need for urgent reform in asylum and immigration policies in western countries.

35. Migration of workers, linked to the globalization of the economy, could not be considered positively while the living and working conditions of the workers were so bad. IOM should be encouraged to continue its action for integration of migrants through vocational training, language training and promotion of dialogue. All too often migrant workers, although essential both to the sending and receiving countries, were hardly tolerated in the host country or else were blamed when the economy went less well. In the richest countries of Eastern Asia, economic development was accompanied by a decrease in the birth rate which had led to the need for foreign labour, yet the migrant workers were not always well accepted.

36. There were increasing numbers of undocumented migrants and child trafficking had risen sharply – an estimated 200,000 children were victims of trafficking in West Africa alone. Furthermore, certain forms of economic exploitation amounted to new forms of slavery.

37. In managing migratory flows, account should also be taken of the increasing movements of highly-qualified manpower, especially in the field of new information technologies. Consideration should be given to the possibility of enabling those workers to join trade unions or create new forms of trade unionism linked to the net economy.

38. It was important that all IOM's Member States be encouraged to ratify the international instruments for the protection of the rights of migrant workers. It was gratifying that the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was on the point of entering into force.

39. Mr. PATTERSON (Observer for the International Catholic Migration Commission, ICMC) welcomed the fact that IOM provided a forum for the exchange of views and experiences and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues. It was important that the individual and the family, as the fundamental unit of society, be placed at the centre of the migration debate. He also welcomed the recent creation of the Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP) and the establishment of the joint UNHCR/IOM Action Group on Asylum and Migration (AGAMI) and recommended that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights participate in that group and that non-governmental organizations be allowed to provide input. He advocated prompt ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as assistance to governments in drafting new immigration legislation which would reflect less harsh national immigration policies. He stressed the importance of continuing to promote the inclusion of civil society in the development of new migration laws. He would like to see more Asian States joining IOM in order to achieve better regional balance.

40. The ICMC appreciated IOM's participation in the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the implementation of which should help to remove discriminatory practices and measures from immigration law and protect abused migrant women and children through appropriate immigration status. He hoped that IOM would continue to sustain partnerships with non-governmental organizations especially in emergency and humanitarian operations, where some streamlining of IOM's activities might be beneficial. One important area of future activity was migration research which could be considerably developed. He urged IOM Member States to review their approach to funding in order to enable IOM to manage its programmes coherently, maximize expertise and channel funding to other partners such as national and international non-governmental organizations or government ministries which were sometimes better positioned to provide specific operational services and programmes. He stressed the importance of solidarity and reciprocity when considering contemporary migration flows. It was also important to take into account the culture, spirituality and religious beliefs of newcomers in societies and the migration debate should not neglect the religious dimensions of migration, as stressed by Pope John Paul II in his message to the Director General.

41. Ms. LOIACONO (Observer for the International Social Service, ISS) outlined the concerns of the ISS which was in contact with individuals and families facing difficulties linked with migration or international displacement of persons. Its aim was to safeguard the unity of the family and re-establish links between family members. The work of the ISS was, however, often hindered by ambiguities in the interpretation of laws on migration and failure to respect them, as well as lack of coordination between the services applying such legislation.

42. She particularly stressed the problem of unaccompanied minors or minors separated from their families, an area on which the ISS had focused its attention for the past 15 years. Children were sent elsewhere on their own for a number of reasons. In cases of war, they were sent to other countries to protect them or to prevent their being enrolled in the army or liberation movements. Middle class children were sometimes sent abroad for schooling and training. Minors were also sent away for economic reasons, as they might be regarded as a source of revenue, particularly in rural areas, where 14 to 15 year olds were expected to support the family.

43. In general, families often concurred with the displacement of minors, being unaware of the social and psychological pressures to which they would be subjected, for example: the feeling of rejection and isolation; loss of identity; frequent school failure; problems associated with crime and prostitution; exposure to drug abuse, begging and theft; loss of the language of communication with parents; refusal to accept the parental authority exercised by members of the host family; placement in an institution alien to their culture and language; lengthy delays in decision-taking by the authorities in the host country, thereby creating instability and stress; and the risk that they would be forced into clandestinity.

44. She consequently appealed to the representatives of countries of origin for their collaboration in finding long-term solutions to such problems in the interests of the children, including the evaluation of the living conditions of parents in the country of origin and the possibility of minors returning to their homes.

45. Mr. APPAVE (Administration), outlined some of the points which had been most frequently stressed in the debate. Firstly, there was unanimous acknowledgement that migration was a policy concern needing priority attention. Migration involved a question of scale, in view of the magnitude of migratory flows, and of nature, because of their complexity, which covered a broad spectrum, including history and social circumstances, as well as economic, health, political and security matters. It was obvious that migration had both positive and negative impacts, being not only a source of economic prosperity, but also of social instability; it could be a force for social construction, but could also bring about concerns and fears.

46. Many speakers had mentioned that their countries were going through a time of change and adjustment in searching for a more coherent approach across a wide range of policies. It had not proved possible to deal with such problems at the national level, so a number of smaller regional consultative processes had emerged in various parts of the world in order to exchange information and to find better ways to manage migration. IOM had frequently been invited to contribute to and enhance these processes. Cross-regional and even global dialogues were needed. It had been recalled that IOM was the only organization which brought together States from all over the world, representing countries of origin, transit and destination, to focus attention on present and future migration challenges. Moreover, IOM's increased membership reflected the significance of the Organization.

47. IOM was thus seen as a space for global conversation and there was almost unanimous agreement that the fiftieth anniversary Council has been very useful in inviting keynote speakers and panellists to open up policy discussion. Such a global conversation could identify commonly accepted elements of policy and practice conducive to more effective migration management.

48. Some of these policy areas on which IOM had been asked to focus included: the need for labour migration to address, *inter alia*, the industrial needs of a globalized world but also demographic and development imbalances; the need to combat irregular migration and particularly the trafficking of women and children; the need to channel migration to the benefit of the development of countries of origin and reverse the negative effect of the brain drain - in this connection, the endorsement of MIDA and the importance of the 1035 project initiatives was emphasized; the need for a new perspective on migrants and migration which recognized the positive contribution of migrants to society and worked towards the elimination of xenophobia and racism, as well as the importance for the international community to look carefully at the challenge of managing social diversity in a changing world; the need to ensure the protection of the rights of all migrants including migrant workers, as well as refugees and asylum seekers; and the need for more understanding and cooperative action with partner organizations and institutions and between States in addressing migration challenges.

49. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of delegates to draft resolution MC/L/1024/Rev.1 on the role of the Council as a forum for migration policy dialogue, an amended version of the original draft which had been distributed to delegations that morning. An additional preambular paragraph had been inserted as a result of informal discussion with representatives of each regional group, reflecting the desire to ensure that the addition of policy deliberations at the Council would not detract from its other responsibilities. He understood that the Administration had undertaken to provide IOM's Members with a plan for addressing the Council's programme and budget responsibilities.

50. Mr. LUNDY (Canada) supported the draft resolution which reflected the importance of the ongoing dialogue on migration within the Council. He further welcomed the statement concerning the Administration's commitment to bring forward plans dealing specifically with management and budget issues for which the Council was responsible. He recommended that work should begin early in 2002 on planning for the Council session, both on identifying topics for discussion and ensuring the allocation of space.

51. Mr. VAN DEN BOSSCHE (Belgium) supported the comments made by the previous speaker and welcomed the fact that the Council now had a forum in which to discuss urgent migration problems, a need of which the European Union was fully aware. He further stressed that the role of the Council was to monitor the functioning of the Organization and that sufficient time and space should be allocated to discussion of IOM's management.

52. The draft resolution on the role of the Council as a forum for migration policy dialogue (MC/L/1024/Rev.1) was adopted.

Agenda item 9

DRAFT REPORTS ON THE EIGHTIETH SESSION AND THE
EIGHTY-FIRST (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
(MC/2021, MC/2033, MC/L/1019)

53. The CHAIRMAN said that there had been no proposal to amend the draft reports on its Eightieth Session (MC/2021) and its Eighty-first (Special) Session (MC/2033).

54. The draft resolution on the reports on the Eightieth Session and the Eighty-first (Special) Session of the Council (MC/L/1019) was adopted.

Agenda item 10

REPORT ON THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(MC/2041, MC/2042, MC/2043, MC/L/1020)

55. The CHAIRMAN invited the Council to consider draft resolution MC/L/1020 endorsing the decisions taken by the Executive Committee at its spring session and taking note of the Report on the Ninety-eighth Session of the Executive Committee (MC/2043) and of the Report of the Director General on the work of the Organization for the year 2000 (MC/2042) and approving the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2000 (MC/2041).

56. The draft resolution on the report on the Ninety-eighth Session of the Executive Committee (MC/L/1020) was adopted.

Agenda item 11

SUMMARY UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2001
(MC/2048, MC/2010, MC/2010/Amdt.1, MC/2055)

57. The CHAIRMAN invited the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance to report to the Council on the Subcommittee's discussions and recommendations.

58. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that the Summary update of the Programme and Budget for 2001 had been presented to the Subcommittee by the Administration to inform Member States on the level of activities implemented by the Organization since the Programme and Budget for 2001 document and the subsequent revision were produced. While the Administrative Part of the Budget remained unchanged at CHF 35,763,000, the Operational Part of the Budget had increased by 6 per cent from approximately USD 337.6 million to USD 358.6 million.

59. The Council took note of the Summary Update on the Programme and Budget for 2001 (MC/2048).

Agenda item 12

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2002
(MC/2049, MC/INF/246, MC/2055, MC/L/1021)

60. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance had examined the Programme and Budget for 2002 (MC/2049). In accordance with Resolution No. 1035 which had been adopted in 2000 when the Programme and Budget for 2001 had been adopted, the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2002 remained unchanged at CHF 35,763,000. In order to rationalize the allocation of staff positions among the 19 Missions with Regional Functions (MRFs), the Director General had proposed that a maximum of three staff positions per MRF be funded from the Administrative Part of the Budget in 2002.

61. Certain Latin American Member States had expressed concern about the reduction of staff positions in their region at a time when attempts were being vigorously pursued to mitigate migration-related problems which were high on the agenda of governments from the region. The Administration had clarified that the reductions reflected the decision that no more than three positions from each Mission with Regional Functions would be funded out of the Administrative Part of the Budget to accommodate budget limitations imposed by zero nominal growth.

62. In response to growing demands for support in encouraging regional labour migration and providing advice to governments on the regulation of labour movements, the Administration had proposed the establishment of a new "Labour Migration" service area, bringing the total number of service areas under which the Organization categorized its activities to seven. Furthermore, a new subcategory had been established within the Technical Cooperation Service for Migration and Development.

63. Regarding the Operational Part of the Budget, only those activities for which funding could be reasonably anticipated had been included, and projects for which funding was still required before implementation could commence were listed in a separate document: Migration Initiatives 2002. The budget level included under the Operational Part of the Budget in 2002 was established at USD 338.4 million. To achieve greater transparency and in response to specific requests from certain delegations, additional information had been included under that part of the budget on project-related overhead, projectization and the impact of foreign exchange fluctuations.

64. Mr. CASTRILLÓN JARAMILLO (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said that already in connection with the Summary Update on the Programme and Budget for 2001 concern had been expressed over the reductions in the staff and budget for the Missions with Regional Functions in Buenos Aires and San José, which had been discussed at informal consultations. GRULAC again expressed concern that those reductions would be repeated in 2002 while migration in the Latin American region was increasing rather than decreasing. It would be very difficult to implement any decision concerning migration problems with reduced human and financial resources. GRULAC did not oppose the approval of the Programme and Budget for 2002 but wished its concerns to be noted.

65. Mr. NORDMANN (Switzerland) said that the Organization should be given the necessary capacities to accomplish its mandate in the Field and at Headquarters. The Executive Committee and the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance had made considerable efforts to establish the new scale of assessed contributions and to decide upon the use of the surplus from contributions from new Members in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001. The establishment of the Operational Part of the Budget for 2002, now before the Council, should be based on a common view of the issues at stake and the migration challenges facing IOM.

66. His Government had noted the Programme and Budget for 2002. It had already expressed reservations at previous Council sessions concerning the by no means negligible adjustments to the Operational Part of the Budget in the course of the year. In 2001 that part of the budget had risen from USD 303 to USD 358 million, partly due to the implementation of two compensation programmes co-managed by IOM. Furthermore, the uneven development of the Organization's service sectors was a cause for concern. He noted with satisfaction the Administration's efforts in the field of human resources: the increase in the number of international and national staff members in IOM made it all the more essential to respect the principles of transparency and equity. He expressed concern at the level of arrears in payment of assessed contributions which was as high as ever and now amounted to over 10 per cent of the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001. He urged Member States, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of IOM, to strengthen IOM's capacities by payment of arrears. The distinction between the Administrative and Operational Parts of the Budget should be maintained, with full transparency in the financing, programming and accounting mechanisms. Member States for their part should clearly evaluate the functions conferred on IOM's Headquarters on the one hand and the Missions with Regional Functions and Field Missions, on the other, before placing further responsibilities and specific tasks upon any of those structures. IOM could only fulfil its mandate if the Administration and the Member States continued to take their full share of responsibility, in full transparency.

67. The CHAIRMAN invited the Council to adopt the Programme and Budget for 2002, as proposed in document MC/2049, and to take note of the document Migration Initiatives 2002, by adopting draft resolution MC/L/1021.

68. The Council adopted draft resolution MC/L/1021 on the Programme and Budget for 2002.

Agenda item 13

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

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

69. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that a lively discussion had been held on the use of additional assessed contributions resulting from the admission of ten new Member States subsequent to the approval of the Programme and Budget for 2001. The Administration had presented proposals and different options on the possible use of these additional contributions for review and decision by Member States.

70. Having examined the proposal submitted by the Administration on the use of these additional assessed contributions for an amount representing CHF 1 million, the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance had: recalled that any decision on the use of surpluses was within the exclusive competence of the Member States; stressed the extraordinary circumstances which had led to these additional contributions and the subsequent specific nature of the decision that would be taken in this regard, which should not constitute a precedent; noted the administrative nature of the additional amount of resources and stressed the formal distinction to be maintained between the Administrative and the Operational Parts of the Budget; recalled Council Resolution No. 1035 (LXXX) of November 2000 concerning the level of the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001 and 2002; welcomed the proposal put forward by the Administration in document MC/2051, as modified by document MC/2051/Add.1, option 1, and had recommended that it be approved by the Council; further recommended that the Director General be asked by the Council to implement it in the course of 2002 and to submit a report on its implementation at the 2003 spring sessions of the IOM governing bodies; recommended that the question of the balance of these additional assessed contributions in excess of CHF 1 million be, if necessary, examined subsequently in order to decide whether the balance should be placed at the disposal of Member States for a possible strengthening of IOM's services or for possible reimbursement; and invited the Administration to review the matter of a systemic solution for the use of surplus in the Administrative Part of the Budget and to submit a report to it at its next session.

71. The Council endorsed the recommendations and conclusions of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance on the use of the additional assessed contributions from new Member States in 2001.

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

72. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that the Subcommittee had reviewed the situation of outstanding assessed contributions which totalled some CHF 4.23 million. Although some Member States had paid their outstanding assessed contributions, that still represented a significant number of payments outstanding. The Subcommittee had noted with appreciation the efforts made by some Member States to pay their outstanding contributions, had taken note of the current situation with serious concern and had urged all Member States in arrears to make every effort to pay their outstanding contributions as soon as possible. The Member States whose contributions had been outstanding for two or more consecutive years were particularly urged to pay their contributions in full, or to agree to a repayment plan with the Administration and make payment of a first instalment as soon as possible.

73. The Council endorsed the views and recommendations of the Subcommittee, adding that the large amount of contributions outstanding had an impact on the capacity of the Administration to manage the programmes for which it was responsible.

(c) Report on Human Resources

Statement by a representative of the Staff Association

74. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that the Director of Human Resources had introduced the Report on Human Resources (MC/INF/247) and had provided the Subcommittee with an overview of IOM's human resources policy, pointing to the various initiatives the Administration had taken to address issues that were of interest and concern to the staff and to Member States. The Administration had provided clarifications on specific questions raised by delegations. The Subcommittee had taken note of the Report on Human Resources and of the statement made by the Chairperson of the Staff Association.

75. The Council took note of the Report on Human Resources and invited the Administration to continue to update the information on human resources and to keep the governing bodies of IOM informed on a regular basis, taking into account the relevant comments made by Member States and the statement by the Chairperson of the Staff Association.

(d) Office space

76. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that the Administration had briefed the Subcommittee on current problems relating to office space at the Organization's Headquarters and various options which had been discussed with the Swiss authorities. The Subcommittee had taken note of the information provided by the Administration concerning office space and expressed the view that more detailed information be provided before any discussion on this important issue could take place in governing body sessions.

77. The Council endorsed the views expressed by the Subcommittee.

Agenda item 14

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(MC/L/1022)

78. The CHAIRMAN said that, on the basis of consultations, the following sixteen Member States had been proposed as members of the Executive Committee for 2002 and 2003: Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Germany, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Tunisia, United States of America and Yemen. He invited the Council to consider the draft resolution in document MC/L/1022, completed with the names of the sixteen Member States proposed.

79. The draft resolution concerning the election of the Executive Committee (MC/L/1022) was adopted.

Agenda item 15

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

80. There was no other business.

Agenda item 16

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION
(MC/L/1023)

81. The CHAIRMAN said that for the Eighty-seventh Session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance a room had been reserved at the Palais des Nations on Tuesday, 7 and Wednesday, 8 May 2002, and for the Ninety-ninth Session of the Executive Committee, Tuesday, 4 and Wednesday, 5 June 2002. For the Eighty-eighth Session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, a room had also been reserved at the Palais des Nations from 5 to 6 November 2002. For the next regular session of the Council, a room had been reserved at the Palais des Nations from 3 to 5 December 2002 (subsequently the date was changed as follows: 2 to 4 December 2002).

82. He invited the Council to consider draft resolution MC/L/1023 on the convening of its next regular session.

83. The draft resolution on the convening of the next regular session of the Council (MC/L/1023) was adopted.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

84. The CHAIRMAN expressed his appreciation to all the Members of the Council on having successfully completed the work of the session and thanked the Administration, the Secretariat and the interpreters for their valuable contributions.

85. It had been significant that almost all speakers, including keynote speakers, panellists and commentators, had stressed not only IOM's past achievements but also the challenges ahead, thus reflecting their confidence in IOM's key role in the field of migration. It had been an honour for him to chair the Council at a time when IOM was celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.

86. The Eighty-second Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration was closed on Thursday, 29 November 2001, at 5.50 p.m.