

MC/C/SR/442/Corr.1

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30 April 2003**

EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-SECOND MEETING

Corrigendum

Please replace the text of paragraph 31, by the text on the attached page.

31. Mr. MANSOUR (Tunisia) said that migration represented an increasingly crucial and sensitive, not to say the most sensitive issue in international relations from a point of view of new risks and threats, which had to be addressed in the context of a new approach based on cooperation and solidarity. An enormous demographic imbalance existed between North and South which, combined with the structural crisis in the countries of the South, had led to a strong migratory push towards the North. As long as there was an unequal economic development between North and South, as long as there was no process for economic convergence, as long as people were incited to leave, emigration would continue. Possible measures to ensure that migration matters brought people together rather than dividing them might include: the encouragement of direct, long-term, foreign investment in the countries of the South to develop employment, technology and growth; the establishment of a concerted, organized and coordinated migration policy between countries of origin and destination, taking account of the qualitative and quantitative needs of both countries – an area in which IOM could provide invaluable assistance; measures to combat irregular migration (through the collective efforts of countries of origin and destination in both North and South), while safeguarding the rights of migrants legally established abroad. Besides bilateral agreements and conventions, regional processes were also important. In Tunisia, such measures included: the conclusion of an Association agreement in 1995 between Tunisia and the European Union comprising an important social constituent offering a context of regional dialogue for the protection and strengthening of the rights of Tunisian nationals in Europe; the active participation in the Euro-Mediterranean process launched in Barcelona in 1995, calling for the strengthening of the social and human dimension in the relations between the two shores of the Mediterranean; and the participation in the recent 5+5 Dialogue which had led to the Tunis Declaration. That Declaration was of key importance at regional level in areas such as migration and development, labour and vocational training, migration flows, migration and health, and gender equality. It was important that IOM should be provided with the means to adjust its objectives to those new challenges.