

EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIXTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 4 December 2002, at 3.15 p.m.

Chairperson: H.E. Ms. A. MOHAMED (Kenya)

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GENERAL DEBATE, INCLUDING IOM-UNITED NATIONS RELATIONSHIP

(MC/INF/252, MC/INF/254, MC/INF/258, MC/INF/259, MICEM/9/2002,
Conference Room Paper/2, Conference Room Paper/3)

1. Mr. CHUNG (Republic of Korea) expressed his deep appreciation to the Director General and his staff for their excellent work and hoped that Mr. McKinley would continue to lead IOM for a further term of office. He welcomed IOM's international migration policy dialogue, in particular the discussions in the three workshops, which had proved fruitful and informative. The problem of trafficking and smuggling in persons was of particular concern to his Government, as it had become a global business, in which trafficked migrants were often subject to exploitation and violation of their fundamental human rights. His Government had made a considerable effort to curtail and prevent such trafficking and smuggling. It hoped that IOM would continue to expand its counter-trafficking efforts.
2. As migration had become a global issue, the question of IOM's future relationship with the United Nations had arisen. When IOM was established in 1951 its main concern had been European migration. Today IOM had become a global agency assisting some 11 million migrants throughout the world. The possibility that IOM might join the United Nations system should therefore be considered. While IOM had accomplished a great deal as an independent organization and was likely to enjoy sustainable growth in the future, it was nonetheless opportune to review the advantages and disadvantages of United Nations status for IOM. The main aim of such a review should be to explore ways of making the Organization as effective as possible in dealing with complex migration challenges. As that issue was crucial to the future of IOM, he hoped that a solution would be arrived at by consensus, after further studies and consultations.
3. As migration became an increasingly complex issue, with diverse economic, political, social and cultural effects, a more effective and efficient response from the international community was called for. His Government hoped that IOM would continue to maintain its momentum and fulfil its mandate in an efficient and effective manner. The Republic of Korea would make every effort to work with IOM and other members of the international community in migration matters.
4. Mr. SCEPANOVIC (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), after welcoming the new Members and observers, recalled the complex migration problems brought about by years of conflict in his country. As a result, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia now sheltered some 500,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, as well as some 250,000 internally displaced persons from the provinces of Kosovo and Metohija. With a view to resolving that major humanitarian and social problem, his Government had prepared a national strategy concerning refugees and internally displaced persons, which had been presented in Geneva in June 2002 at the session of the Working Group for Humanitarian Issues of the Peace Implementation Council. His country was counting on further assistance from international organizations, first and foremost from IOM, in order to carry out programmes for the repatriation of refugees.

5. The long crisis in his country had resulted in a massive brain drain. In a situation where the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a country in transition, was carrying out major social and economic reforms and establishing modern democratic infrastructures, the departure of young highly qualified people seriously stood in the way of possibilities for long-term development in the country. Bearing that in mind, his delegation expected IOM to assist and support capacity-building efforts. It was to be hoped that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would be rapidly integrated into all European and Euro-Atlantic structures, thereby removing the need for young professional people to migrate. Democratic changes over recent years had paved the way to the strengthening and broadening of ties with the large Yugoslav diaspora, making it possible for those persons to be integrated into reform processes and to join future investment projects, to facilitate return.

6. The South-East European region was facing serious problems as a result of organized crime, including trafficking of people, prostitution, child trafficking and other negative consequences of irregular migration. After the tragic events of 11 September 2001, there was a need for full cooperation between countries in the region, on account of the close links between organized crime and terrorism. Hence his country welcomed the fact that the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) in Bucharest had recently been given observer status in the IOM Council. His delegation considered that a regional approach in preventing all forms of organized crime would help to create an efficient regional mechanism that would allow the unimpeded development of South-East European States. His country also welcomed IOM's forthcoming activities within the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (CARDS) programme, to facilitate the establishment of an efficient system of border controls in countries of the region. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia fully supported the Declaration on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings which had recently been adopted at the European Conference in Brussels. His Government also endorsed fully the conclusions adopted at the First Conference on Organized Crime in Southeast Europe, recently held in London.

7. Expressing his support for the IOM Council as a forum for migration management dialogue, he said that it was particularly important to reach a wide consensus on the institutionalization of international cooperation and the definition of joint policies between governments and IOM to that effect. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia supported strategic partnership with IOM, along with the United Nations and other international organizations.

8. Mr. CAMARA (Senegal), welcoming the new Members and observers, particularly those from the African region, said that IOM was the appropriate forum for debate on international migration on account of its key role which was recognized by States, international organizations, civil society and the media. IOM had gained visibility and credibility as a partner in international forums and dialogues concerned with migration and related awareness-raising activities.

9. His delegation welcomed the strengthening of partnerships between IOM and other organizations, for example: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for matters of asylum, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) for the rights of migrant workers, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for migration and development. Increased partnership with the United Nations should also be

encouraged. IOM's expanding membership was significant in the present times in which globalization, growing tensions and underdevelopment in many countries forced increasing numbers of people throughout the world to a better life elsewhere. Senegal, as a country of origin, transit and destination, was particularly attentive to the question of migratory flows whether forced or voluntary.

10. Migration should be regarded not only as a problem, but also as a positive asset. Since 2001, within the framework of a programme known as TOKTEN, his Authorities had endeavoured to make optimum use of the skills and expertise of Senegalese nationals abroad, in cooperation with partners in development, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IOM. He welcomed IOM's efforts to promote integrated solutions, reflected for example in the IOM subregional workshop in January 2002 in Dakar, attended by most of the West African countries, which had reached positive conclusions regarding migratory flows in the subregion. Cooperation between States, the return and reintegration of migrants and development projects had all been discussed, with a view to reaching a better understanding of migration matters and a more positive approach to them.

11. Ms. GENCIANOS (Observer for Migrants Rights International, MRI), recalling that her organization worked to promote recognition of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their immigration status, expressed deep concern at the current sweeping, worldwide measures to strengthen State security, resulting in greater control, stricter immigration policies and, in some cases, procedures based on unfair racial profiling of migrants, particularly those from developing and least developed countries. In their efforts to protect their citizens, States had neglected the safety, dignity and basic human rights of a whole sector of society - the migrant workers and members of their families. New State security legislation had led to arbitrary arrests and detention of migrants, as well as discriminatory treatment at work and growing racist and xenophobic behaviour among the public in host countries. In that context, she welcomed IOM's continued commitment to working towards effective respect for the dignity and well-being of migrants and called upon IOM and its Member States and observers to reaffirm and fully implement that commitment in all their programmes, policies and activities.

12. The positive contribution of civil society organizations in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of migrants had been recognized by both IOM and other international organizations. Although she welcomed consultations with non-governmental organizations in Geneva, there was an urgent need for those consultations to be institutionalized and extended to other non-governmental organizations working at regional and national levels. In that context, it was noteworthy that IOM had participated actively in the Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for the Ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. She hoped that IOM would actively promote ratification of that Convention, which was shortly to enter into force, among its Member States and observers. She commended IOM on the organization of the migration policy dialogues, which might lead to better recognition of the contribution of migrants to national economies, especially those of the destination countries.

13. IOM had played an active part in the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), at which a substantial number of provisions relating to migration, discrimination and xenophobia had been

adopted. She drew attention to the fact that 18 December had been proclaimed International Migrant's Day by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/93 and invited the IOM Council to observe it by disseminating information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants and promoting policies and action to ensure their protection.

14. Ms. GRANGE (Observer for the International Catholic Migration Commission, ICMC) expressed the view that, as part of civil society, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the field of migration should remind States of the existing relevant body of international and regional humanitarian, refugee and human rights norms and standards. The ICMC advocated globalization of solidarity and of the rule of law.

15. She made a number of comments on the topics dealt with in the information documents issued for the 84th session of the IOM Council. Concerning IOM services in migration and resettlement facilitation, she considered that resettlement was primarily concerned with protection and humanitarian aspects of migration and perhaps should not be elaborated upon within the context of labour migration.

16. With regard to IOM's partnership with NGOs in managing migration (document MC/INF/523), she welcomed the convening by IOM of a consultation with a number of Geneva-based international NGOs and suggested that such consultations might be organized in Geneva at peak times when hundreds of relevant international and national NGOs attended major international meetings. Concerning IOM's objective of enhancing the participation of NGOs in the development of migration policy and its implementation at the national, regional and international levels, she expressed appreciation for the opportunity to provide input for the international migration dialogue and encouraged IOM Member States and observers to maintain transparency and a participatory approach. However, the ability of NGOs to participate in actual implementation of policies should not be over-estimated: States were first and foremost responsible and equipped for implementing policies. As for NGOs, their confirmed expertise lay in the areas of awareness-raising, monitoring, research, advocacy and selected operations.

17. In connection with IOM's policy and activities relating to migrants' rights (document MC/INF/259), she welcomed IOM's recognition of its commitment to ensure that when providing assistance to migrants, its activities must obtain full respect for the rights of the individual, and that its activities must be non-discriminatory and must not diminish the human rights of others. She also welcomed the emphasis on the core principles and standards of the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and recommended that it be reflected in IOM's Programme and Budget for 2003.

18. Concerning IOM's policy and activities regarding internally displaced persons, she expressed appreciation for IOM's commitment to promoting and disseminating the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The vast needs of the estimated 25 million internally displaced persons in the world could best be met today through cooperation by all stakeholders, notably though the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In working with internally displaced persons, protection, transparency, cooperation and accountability should be the foremost concern.

19. Concerning the role of IOM in emergency and post-conflict situations (document MC/INF/260), the ICMC recommended that IOM's engagement in such areas be weighed in terms of humanitarian specificity, comparative advantages, accountability and sustainability. As an intergovernmental body, IOM could select or reject activities, which placed it in a different position from that of United Nations Specialized Agencies or the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In order to ensure operational sustainability, IOM should be encouraged to adopt a cooperative approach with other organizations working in the field of emergency activities, so as to ensure continuity and diminish the suffering and distress of affected populations in cases where insufficient funding forced IOM to pull out of some programmes. She hoped that those concrete contributions, based on ICMC's five decades of experience, would be helpful to IOM's Administration and Member and observer states.

20. Ms. BELLAMY (Observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, ICFTU) said that the problem of migrant workers was often a source of apprehension in public opinion and a repressive approach on the part of many governments. For the trade unions, however, migrant workers were not a problem. They were the consequence of globalization and also, to a certain extent, of new forms of production with increasingly tight deadlines which made work contracts more precarious, required great flexibility and mobility from the work force and increased the demand for ruthless profit-making. Labour migration was also the result of unjust economic policies throughout the world, which created an increasing gap between the few rich countries and the great majority of poor countries. In the last decade, many industrialized countries had seemed to apply a closed-door policy to migrants from poorer regions who had come to seek better opportunities. Government policies to combat irregular immigration had the effect of increasing the profits of those who engaged in smuggling and trafficking of human beings but certainly did not prevent migrants from arriving in Europe where thousands of undocumented workers were living clandestinely at the mercy of unscrupulous employers. It was important to note that, contrary to public opinion in Western countries, the large majority of migrants did not move towards those countries but towards other regions in their own continents.

21. The ICFTU considered that all States should, above all, be vigilant with regard to respect for human rights and should combat any form of discrimination and exploitation or even slavery of immigrants. The ICFTU stressed the need for all States to ratify and apply the ILO conventions relating to migrant workers which stipulated the need for equal treatment of nationals and migrant workers with regard to working conditions, salaries, social security and union rights. One way of preventing exploitation of migrant workers was to enable them to join the trade unions. Unfortunately some countries, despite having ratified the conventions, made it difficult for migrants to do so. The number of women migrants was increasing and women were often victims of another kind of discrimination – hence the importance of ratifying and applying the Convention 100 on equal remuneration for men and women. The ILO conventions and recommendations formed the basis of the United Nations Convention of 1990 on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The ICFTU was convinced of the need for a new international legal instrument to protect the interests of all. Although migration was widely regarded as beneficial to the host countries for economic and cultural reasons in that they were able to increase their workforce, and for the countries of origin which benefited from the transfer of remittances, public opinion unfortunately lagged behind and

people were apprehensive about job loss, insecurity and a possible imbalance in the public health service. The ICFTU considered that the establishment of closer links between the work of IOM, UNHCR, ILO and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, initially through the setting up of a working group, could not fail to have a positive effect on the protection of the human rights of migrants.

22. Ms. OBEROI (Observer for Amnesty International), speaking also on behalf of Human Rights Watch, welcomed the opportunity to attend the IOM Council as observers. She expressed the readiness of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to work constructively with IOM on matters of human rights compliance, transparency and accountability. As organizations committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, however, they expressed concern that certain IOM operations may have an adverse impact on the basic human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, such as the right to be free from arbitrary detention and the fundamental right to seek asylum.

23. Member States had international responsibilities for the protection of the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and a number of IOM Member States were parties to the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. More than half of the IOM Member States were also members of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and all but three IOM Member States were parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Those obligations were of critical importance in ensuring that the work of IOM was based on established international standards and norms, both today and in the context of discussions on the future relationship between IOM and the United Nations.

24. She urged IOM Member States to ensure that those international obligations were reflected in IOM policy and in its work in the field. IOM should refrain from engaging in activities that might have the effect, either directly or indirectly, of obstructing enjoyment of basic human rights by migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

25. IOM was playing an increasingly prominent role in the reception, assistance, and return not only of migrants but also of asylum-seekers, refugees and the forcibly displaced. Given that IOM did not have a formal protection mandate for its work with refugees and displaced persons, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch recommended that IOM refrain from taking a lead role in situations which fell under the protection mandate of other international organizations.

26. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch were also concerned that IOM should not provide an alternative agency for States which avoided their human rights obligations or in which UNHCR had declined engagement in a given situation because of serious problems or dangers. Even with the best of motives, IOM involvement in such situations could end up unwittingly facilitating abuses. IOM's presence should not have the effect of prolonging untenable State policies and practices which did not comply with international human rights standards. Such policies ranged from certain border control and deterrent measures, to arbitrary and unlawful detention, and to the encouragement of premature return to countries of origin. In such circumstances, States should be required to act in their own name and should be held directly

accountable for their actions. Both organizations looked forward to continuing dialogue with IOM concerning the protection of the rights of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and displaced persons.

27. Mr. JOVANOVSKI (Observer for the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime) expressed gratitude and satisfaction on behalf of the Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime for IOM's cooperation in the last two years, especially in the field of assistance for the victims of trafficking in human beings in Southeast Europe. One of the Regional Center's other priorities for 2003 was the direct combating of the activities of the criminal networks in the region which were involved in trafficking. He hoped to receive IOM support for the victims of those criminal activities, with a view to establishing more efficient cooperation with law enforcement agencies in the region.

28. The DIRECTOR GENERAL expressed appreciation of the richness of the contributions by governments and non-governmental bodies during the intense, serious and well-informed debate on the future of migration policy and the role of the Organization. He had heard expressions of strong support for IOM as a unique international organization, characterized by a flexible, responsive and pragmatic approach. On behalf of his colleagues he thanked Members for their vote of confidence. It was important to ensure that IOM did not lose its special character. As the field of migration policy and programmes was growing and changing rapidly, IOM had a duty to meet existing challenges even more effectively, while at the same time adjusting to new ones. He was encouraged to hear from so many delegations that IOM was the organization best equipped to help the world to meet the growing, changing challenges of migration management. The Council had endorsed the continuation of the migration policy dialogue and had agreed to create an informal mechanism to work on migration policy questions between Council sessions. The next steps in that direction would be taken early in 2003. The regional dimension, which was particularly important, would play a role in that process. Simultaneously, IOM's strategic alliances with other agencies dealing with development, globalization, control and humanitarian concerns would be strengthened; he welcomed the reference to the World Trade Organization (WTO) with which IOM had growing ties. The International Labour Organization (ILO) had offered to host a meeting which UNHCR, UNHCHR and IOM would attend which should help to enrich and deepen strategic alliances with other agencies.

29. Following suggestions from many delegations, a working group on institutional arrangements concerning IOM's relations with the United Nations would be established, chaired by Ambassador Mohamed, in which all Member States would have an opportunity to contribute to the debate. The working group would explore the comparative advantages of different options, with their costs and benefits, and report thereon to the Council. For that purpose an in-depth, comprehensive study would be prepared, drawing on independent experts. He thanked all present for a particularly rich and useful general debate.

Agenda item 8

ROLE OF IOM IN EMERGENCY AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

(MC/INF/260)

30. Mr. DE WILDE (Administration) introduced document MC/INF/260 which stemmed from the discussion of an earlier document (MC/INF/249) on IOM post-conflict responses. That

report had outlined in detail the historical development of IOM's specialized responses to population displacement in emergencies and post-conflict situations over the past ten years. Those activities had benefited some 8.2 million people, with programme activity totalling over USD 483 million. IOM's emergency and post-conflict activity now constituted one-third of overall operational expenditure and was supported by a wide and growing donor base (36 in 2001). However, in the discussion following the presentation of the earlier report, many States had requested a slightly more abstract and policy-relevant document on specific aspects of IOM's involvement in emergency and post-conflict development, particularly on the strategy governing IOM interventions, the comparative advantage of such interventions, its coordination with other agencies and, lastly, the sustainability of those interventions. He invited comments and questions on document MC/INF/260.

31. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said that Pakistan, as a country which had hosted the largest refugee population for over two decades, situated in a region overshadowed by conflict, had a particular interest in IOM's post-conflict policy. The events experienced in his region had imparted a deep consciousness of the gravity of the implications on the population. Innocent civilians were those most seriously affected, leading to mass displacement. IOM did, of course, fulfil its mandate to provide services, such as organized transfer of refugees, attention to displaced persons in need of international assistance, and ensuring their movement to safe and secure destinations. However, he believed that that role needed to be strengthened so as to enable the Organization to play a more proactive role in handling emergencies and post-conflict situations.

32. In that context, he proposed a number of steps which might be taken by IOM. Those might include the following: close monitoring by IOM, through its Field Missions or in coordination with United Nations or international agencies, of a situation that could develop into a catastrophe with serious humanitarian implications; preparation of relevant contingency plans beforehand, based on IOM's assessment of the situation as described by its Field Missions; and identification of possible donors to finance the contingency plans, possibly initiating exploratory discussions with donors for timely funding of future relief activities. If the emergency or conflict situation were to materialize on the basis of IOM's initial prognosis, the Organization should be in a position to move into the area expeditiously, with adequate prior arrangements. IOM should allocate a certain amount from Discretionary Income for emergency-related activities. It should also create wide public awareness of the possible consequences of a crisis situation and advocate the need for financial support for the intended humanitarian effort. Instead of waiting for a conflict situation to arise and then approaching Member States for funding, IOM ought to develop a more proactive capability so as to ensure more timely intervention.

33. Mr. SHIRAZI (Islamic Republic of Iran) stressed the importance of continued international assistance in controlling irregular population movements in Afghanistan, where some five million people had been displaced over years of conflict. So far, some 1.5 million Afghan refugees had returned home, mainly from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. That figure included those who were assisted and those who had returned spontaneously. However, indications were now apparent of a backward flow from Afghanistan, which was a matter of serious concern, as well as being an indication that the root causes of population movement in that country were not being addressed adequately and comprehensively. In addition to civil war, insecurity and drought, poor living conditions and unemployment were the main causes of the complex mix of migration and refugee flow from Afghanistan. At present, continued

international assistance was essential to facilitate the smooth and sustainable return of Afghan migrants and to encourage all Afghan displaced persons to return to their homeland on a voluntary basis.

34. IOM played an active part in the voluntary repatriation operation by providing transport for Afghan returnees from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Organization was, moreover, involved in micro-credit rehabilitation projects inside Afghanistan. While fully appreciating IOM's efforts, he felt it could do more in the field of post-conflict activities in Afghanistan, such as carrying out projects for short-term vocational training in host countries at the pre-departure phase and providing returnees with vocational kits containing tools for work, at the post-arrival stage. Such short-term reintegration activities were of critical importance, in terms of the sustainable return of migrants, and would eventually help to control population movement in Afghanistan. He urged Member States to make further contributions to IOM's projects based on a solution-oriented approach.

35. Mr. GHELEW (Switzerland), thanking the Administration for having prepared document MC/INF/260, drew attention to the proposed criteria in emergency and post-conflict situations, as set out in paragraph 5 of the document. He welcomed the Administration's intention to strengthen coordination of IOM's activities with other humanitarian agencies and organizations, in particular within the framework of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). On the other hand, IOM should clarify its strategy for operational withdrawal and lay greater emphasis on strengthening internal follow-up and evaluation capacities.

36. Ms. POLLACK (United States of America) said that she continued to share the concern expressed regarding the sustainability of IOM action in that programme area given IOM's funding structure; its flexibility had often been commended before but had unfortunately sometimes led to suspension of operations before completion. When deciding what projects to respond to in emergency and post-conflict situations, it was essential to ensure that IOM had a comparative advantage. IOM had a long and respected track record in certain areas, especially in the field of transportation assistance. That was much appreciated by her Government, which had funded many of IOM's activities in that area. The projects in Kosovo, East Timor and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were noteworthy examples of IOM's ability to design and implement projects with speed and ability; her Government would therefore continue to contribute to funding for them. She called upon the international community to support IOM's appeals, especially when the Organization played a lead role in the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP).

37. Mr. SMITH (Canada) acknowledged IOM's useful role in certain emergency and post-conflict situations, but felt that its work had evolved in response to situations within certain countries, rather than being the result of conscious policy decisions involving the IOM Administration and Council. He therefore welcomed the reference to IOM strategy in the document MC/INF/260, which highlighted the need for more consultation between the Administration and Member States on IOM's mandate and priorities. Up to the present time, there had been very limited opportunities for input by Member States into that strategy. In future, the Council should be involved in shaping and deciding upon the future of IOM and any changes in its priorities in selecting projects.

38. Canada recognized that IOM had a comparative advantage in some areas. For instance, its traditional resettlement mandate implied that it did census work which might pave the way for increased involvement in election registration, which might also mean that other issues, such as land tenure, became more prominent in IOM's work. However, the expansion of IOM's mandate into non-traditional areas, such as humanitarian action, required clarification. For example, vocational training and micro-enterprise development for ex-combatants to facilitate their reintegration clearly intersected with ILO's traditional mandate - the question was whether IOM was the organization best suited for that type of work. If in fact IOM had the comparative advantage and was filling a gap between the mandates of the United Nations and other agencies, the Administration should submit a proposal to the Council relating to IOM's mandate.

39. Ms. STOIOS-BRAKEN (Netherlands) thanked the IOM Administration for providing a more strategic vision of the Organization's role in emergency and post-conflict situations. Document MC/INF/260 showed that IOM's activities were increasingly becoming an integral part of the United Nations Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), to which her Government attached great importance. She therefore requested clarification on the circumstances under which IOM decided to participate in a Consolidated Appeal Process. She supported the request by the delegate of Canada for further discussion on mandates and priorities in that field.

40. Mr. ROUSSEAU (France) said that IOM clearly had an important role to play in crisis situations, particularly in regard to the organization of voluntary population movement. In that connection, France welcomed the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and IOM, recently updated, on cooperation between the two organizations in joint projects. On the other hand, the field of humanitarian assistance in which IOM had recently participated only seemed to have a distant connection with IOM's mandate. He agreed with other speakers that that area should not be developed, although he obviously did not wish to question the quality of IOM's work. In any event, before IOM embarked on any new assistance activity, it should consider the link between that activity and the objectives contained in the IOM Constitution with respect to its comparative advantage. It was also important to ensure that any new activity contributed to strengthening IOM's mandate.

41. Ms. RIFAI (Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC) said that although her organization always welcomed cooperation with IOM, it should be noted that the ICRC was conducting assistance and protection activities for internally displaced persons in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. The respective mandates of the ICRC and of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) should therefore be borne in mind when reviewing IOM's mandate.

42. The DIRECTOR GENERAL, replying to the debate, welcomed proposals for a more thorough discussion of IOM's role in emergencies and post-conflict situations. The nature of emergency work dictated a certain amount of *ad hoc* improvisation and IOM prided itself on its ability to move very quickly. Hence the Organization sometimes moved in without prior discussion in the Council. He was well aware that the field of emergency humanitarian action was crowded and that there were many players. IOM did not claim to be a lead agency but, on the contrary, tended to be a gap filler. However, IOM was a faithful follower of the Consolidated Appeal Process and participated in most of the combined appeals.

43. Generally speaking, any involvement depended on funding and IOM was unable to operate on a deficit. If funds ran out, operations had to cease. He had listened with great interest to the remarks made in regard to Afghanistan by the delegates of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He had noted the points enumerated by Pakistan concerning preparedness and the mobilization of resources before, during and after a crisis. In fact, IOM was already well ahead with regard to preparedness in connection with a potential crisis in Iraq. The Organization had made contingency plans, costed them, approached possible donors and enhanced its ability to react with discretionary funding of its own.

44. The delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran had outlined various elements of IOM's post-conflict work, mentioning micro-credits, rehabilitation projects to prepare the country for large-scale returns of refugees or displaced persons, the reintegration of displaced persons, including projects at grass-roots level enabling people to survive in an emergency and embark on a new life. In fact, IOM was now receiving at least as much funding for such grass-roots reintegration work as for the traditional activities of transportation and return. There were major projects to foster the reintegration of returnees, not only in Afghanistan, but also in Colombia and Timor-Leste. IOM would continue its dialogue with Member States on adequate funding to enable the Organization to play its proper role.

45. In reply to the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, he expressed his appreciation for the Committee's valuable work for the protection of internally displaced persons. IOM did not pretend to aspire to any such role, but there were incidences where the two organizations might work effectively together.

46. The Council took note of the report on the role of IOM in emergency and post-conflict situations (MC/INF/260).

Agenda item 9

DRAFT REPORTS ON THE EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION AND THE EIGHTY-THIRD (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE COUNCIL (MC/2059, MC/2067, MC/L/1037)

47. The CHAIRPERSON said that there had been no proposal to amend the draft reports on its Eighty-second Session (MC/2059) and its Eighty-third (Special) Session (MC/2067).

48. The draft resolution on the reports on the Eighty-second Session and the Eighty-third (Special) Session of the Council (MC/L/1037) was adopted.

Agenda item 10

REPORT ON THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MC/2079, MC/2080, MC/2081, MC/L/1038)

49. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Council to consider draft resolution MC/L/1038 endorsing the decisions taken by the Executive Committee at its spring session and taking note of

the Report on the Ninety-ninth Session of the Executive Committee (MC/2081) and of the Report of the Director General on the work of the Organization for the year 2001 (MC/2080) and approving the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2001 (MC/2079).

50. The draft resolution on the report on the Ninety-ninth Session of the Executive Committee (MC/L/1038) was adopted.

Agenda item 11

SUMMARY UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2002 (MC/2049, MC/2082, MC/2088)

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

52. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that the Summary Update of the Programme and Budget for 2002 (MC/2082) had been presented to the Subcommittee by the Administration to inform Member States on the revised level of activities implemented by the Organization since the Programme and Budget for 2002 (MC/2049) and the subsequent revision (MC/EX/638) had been approved. While the Administrative Part of the Budget remained unchanged at CHF 35,763,000, the Operational Part of the Budget had increased from USD 385.5 million to USD 420.6 million. Having reviewed document MC/2082, the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance had proposed that the Council take note of the Summary Update on the Programme and Budget for 2002.

53. The Council took note of the Summary Update on the Programme and Budget for 2002 (MC/2082).

Agenda item 12

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2003 (MC/2083, MC/2083/Amdt.1, MC/2088, MC/INF/250, MC/L/1039/Rev.1)

54. 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 2003 (MC/2083). He commented on the main areas that required a decision from the Member States. The Administration had proposed an increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget to cover certain essential needs. The increase requested was 3.1 per cent over the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2002 and the new budget level amounted to CHF 36,873,000. A number of delegations had stressed their continued preference for the principle of zero nominal growth but had acknowledged that the special circumstances of IOM justified an increase under that part of the budget.

55. In reviewing the Administration's proposal, some Member States had objected to the partial coverage of UNSECOORD fees, amounting to CHF 200,000, from the Administrative Part of the

Budget. They had expressed the opinion that UNSECOORD fees were directly linked to the implementation of operational projects and should therefore not be covered from the Administrative Part of the Budget. There had been consensus among Member States to exclude the proposed coverage of UNSECOORD fees from the Administrative Part of the Budget. The Subcommittee had recommended that the Administration present an amendment to the Council, excluding the UNSECOORD fees from the Administrative Part of the Budget. That had been reflected in an amendment to the Programme and Budget for 2003 (MC/2083/Amdt.1) in which the Administrative Part of the Budget now showed a budget level of CHF 36,673,000, representing an increase of CHF 910,000 or 2.54 per cent.

56. Regarding the Operational Part of the Budget, it had been noted that 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 had been listed in a separate document: *Migration Initiatives 2003*. The Operational Part of the Budget for 2003 was estimated at USD 503.2 million, of which a significant proportion related to the payments that would have to be made to beneficiaries in respect to claims under the Compensation Programmes. An important change proposed under the Operational Part of the Budget in 2003 was the increase in the overhead rate, charged on staff and office costs only, from 9.5 per cent to 12 per cent, primarily to cover the increase in UNSECOORD fees. One Member State had suggested the Administration should establish a mechanism to manage the funds from the increase in the overhead rate from 9.5 per cent to 12 per cent and use the resulting income exclusively for the payment of IOM's share of UNSECOORD fees. It had been recognized that the mechanism would allow for negative balances to be carried forward from one period to the next, if the income from the increased overhead was not sufficient to cover the UNSECOORD fees. The Subcommittee had recommended that the Council approve an increase from 9.5 per cent to 12 per cent to the project-related overhead rate, provided that the income so generated was used to pay the increase in UNSECOORD fees and were reported on by the Administration in a transparent manner.

57. Having examined in detail document MC/2083, the Subcommittee had recommended that the Council adopt the Programme and Budget for 2003, on the understanding that the corresponding amendment to that document reflecting the Subcommittee's conclusions on the Administrative Part of the Budget would be submitted to the Council.

58. Mr. HUSSAIN (Pakistan), referring to the projects listed in *Migration Initiatives 2003*, requested clarification concerning the current level of donor interest in those projects and the steps taken to obtain financing after their publication in the list.

59. Ms. HOCHSTETTER (Guatemala), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, highlighted a number of points of particular concern to the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region. GRULAC supported the proposal to increase the Administrative Part of the Budget by 2.54 per cent, on the understanding that the principle of zero nominal growth would be applied in future and that IOM would make every effort to improve its management. While approving the creation of two new staff positions relating to staff security, to be based in Manila, she requested that information be provided in 2003 concerning the work which they had carried out. She wondered whether Manila was the best place to conduct the work efficiently. GRULAC supported the proposed increase in the overhead rate from 9.5 per cent to 12 per cent to cover the increase in

the UNSECOORD fees, and requested a review of the results at the autumn 2003 session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance. She welcomed the proposal to set up a mechanism to manage in a transparent way the income from the 2.54 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget and the payments made to UNSECOORD. GRULAC expressed concern at the decrease in the budget for the Latin American and Caribbean region in comparison with previous years, whereas the level of migration in the region was rising. Resources were insufficient to cover implementation of the necessary activities and programmes, and the regional and country offices required more support and funding. She stressed the importance of the 1035 Facility which she hoped would be strengthened.

60. Mr. GHELEW (Switzerland) said that his delegation encouraged the Administration to review the content and presentation of the main working documents so as to achieve a simplified, standardized and integrated format. His Authorities would welcome further information concerning the internal evaluation of IOM's decentralized structures, scheduled for 2003, in particular concerning the delocalization to Manila of certain administrative and information technology functions. He noted the content of the information note relating to staff security, including the delocalization to Manila of the Staff Security Unit - an arrangement which he hoped would be monitored to ascertain its efficiency. In order to discuss IOM's relations with the United Nations, Member States should have information on the options under consideration and their financial and staff implications over the next three to five years.

61. Mr. LUGRIS (Uruguay), supporting the statement by the representative of GRULAC, emphasized a number of points. His delegation supported the proposed 2.54 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget, despite the fact that his country was experiencing one of the worst economic crises in its history. His Government was concerned, however, over the constant decrease in the IOM budget allocation for the Latin American region and its regional and country missions. His Government appreciated the work accomplished by the IOM Mission in Montevideo. In the last six months, following the Director General's visit to his country, important work had been undertaken, including: technical assistance for the revision of the Uruguayan draft law on migration; joint activities with the World Health Organization (WHO); work on Uruguay/Brazil border areas; work on integration in the MERCOSUR countries; links with skilled Uruguayan workers abroad and the submission of two new projects which he hoped would be approved, one under the 1035 Facility and the other relating to the organization of the next South American Migration Conference in Uruguay.

62. Ms. KAAG (Administration), replying to the delegate of Pakistan, said that the projects set out in *Migration Initiatives 2003* reflected the joint discussions and priorities of IOM's Member States. The next step was to secure the follow-up and financial support required. It was intended to work with Member States through the IOM Field Offices to develop joint plans for funding. Only a few weeks previously, the Regional Offices had been requested to indicate which points of contact, interest and political and financial support they had identified, in order to ensure implementation and transform the listed projects into reality. Headquarters provided coordination and oversight, and the Director General and Deputy Director General were closely involved in securing the political contacts sometimes required to arouse donors' interest in the projects. Regarding the project for Pakistan in particular, the Donor Relations Division had contacted a number of counterparts and was awaiting feedback so as to move on to the next step. The mid-year report published for the first time in the summer of 2002 provided an update on

progress or lack of progress concerning the projects listed. Funding depended on a number of factors including the need to meet certain complex humanitarian emergencies, and also to comply with donor preferences and other restrictions. Efforts would be made to ensure implementation of as many projects as possible.

63. Mr. SARMAD (Administration), replying to comments by the Latin American delegations, said that there was indeed a decrease in the Administrative Part of the Budget and Discretionary Income for the Latin American region in 2002 because of the restrictions in those parts of the budget. An effort would be made to review that part of the budget and perhaps propose different allocations. On the other hand, the Operational Part of the Budget, which was funded through earmarked contributions, showed an increase for the Latin American region of about USD 4.7 million between 2002 and 2003. The shift of certain functions to Manila had been prompted by the fact that the Organization was growing, yet had to remain competitive and efficient. The functions that had already been transferred regarding information technology, accounting and project tracking were working well. The process would continue to be closely monitored to ensure its effectiveness and a report would be submitted thereon to Member States in 2003.

64. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that the main underlying reason for moving core administrative support services to Manila was cost-saving - attempting to do more with the same amount of money. The 2.54 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget did indeed give welcome relief but did not cover all IOM's needs. Staff could be hired at much lower costs in Manila than in Geneva, and Manila had some advantages on account of the time-zone coverage. It had been possible to move to a twenty-four hour IT hotline support service in the Philippines covering the whole world from there, which had never been possible before. Thus money was being saved, services were being improved, and IOM was getting a real bargain in doing business very well out of the Manila Office. Manila was not, of course, the only place to which services could be decentralized and there was no reason why some services could not also be carried out from certain western hemisphere centres. Every effort would be made to secure funding for programmes for the Latin American region in which the 1035 Facility should prove extremely useful.

65. The Council adopted draft resolution MC/L/1039/Rev.1 on the Programme and Budget for 2003.

Agenda item 13

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

(MC/2088, MC/L/1040)

(a) Systemic solution for the use of surplus in the Administrative Part of the Budget

66. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that although the question of a systemic solution for the use of surplus in the Administrative Part of the Budget had been repeatedly examined by the Member States in the past, no consensus arrangement had been reached so far. Following further consultations in the course of 2002, a

draft resolution, prepared under the auspices of the Canadian delegation and reflecting the views of a majority of the Member States, had been discussed by the Subcommittee. That draft resolution (MC/L/1040) reflected a consensus solution which the Subcommittee recommended for approval by the Council. He expressed his particular appreciation to the delegation of Canada, the delegation of Italy and Member States from the African, Latin American and European regions which had all helped to reach consensus on a long-awaited solution to that issue.

67. The Council adopted draft resolution MC/L/1040 on the systemic solution for the use of surplus in the Administrative Part of the Budget was adopted.

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

68. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance had reviewed the situation of outstanding assessed contributions which currently totalled some CHF 5.46 million. Although some Member States had paid their dues, that still represented a significant level of outstanding contributions. 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. In addition, it had been proposed that informal consultations on that subject be held to discuss the application of Article 4 of the Constitution, including possible penalties and incentives.

69. The DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL thanked the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, the delegate of the Netherlands, who had agreed to chair informal consultations on outstanding contributions on the most appropriate method for settling that matter as rapidly as possible.

70. The Council took note with appreciation of the efforts made by some Member States to pay their arrears, but took note with concern 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. The Council urged all Member States, particularly those with contributions outstanding for two or more years, to pay their contributions in full or to agree to a repayment plan, making a first payment as soon as possible. The Council agreed that informal consultations chaired by the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance be held to discuss ways and means of improving the situation.

(c) Human Resources Report

71. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that the Director of Human Resources had provided an overview of IOM's human resources policy, pointing to the various initiatives the Administration had undertaken to address issues that were of interest and concern to the staff and to Member States. She had outlined

improvements which had been achieved in the course of the year, particularly in the areas of selection and recruitment practices, working conditions, staff development and training as well as security. The Administration had provided clarifications to specific questions raised by some delegations. The Subcommittee had taken note of the Human Resources Report.

72. The Council took note of the Human Resources Report (MC/INF/251).

(d) Statement by a representative of the Staff Association Committee (SAC) to the Council

73. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that the Subcommittee had taken note of the announcement by the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance that the Staff Association Committee had been unable to present its statement to the Subcommittee due to unavoidable circumstances and had asked to make a statement instead to the Council.

74. Mr. BOASSO (Chairperson of the Staff Association), speaking at the invitation of the Chairperson, expressed thanks on behalf of the IOM staff for the opportunity to address the Council. He said that the Staff Association Committee (SAC) and the Administration shared many goals. The staff took pride in the Organization and were keen to maintain effectiveness and efficiency. It was therefore imperative for the Organization that the Administration and the Staff Association Committee work in an atmosphere of mutual support, trust and understanding.

75. Representing the newly-elected Staff Association Committee, he highlighted a number of issues upon which, he hoped, more constructive dialogue would be established with the Administration and Member States. As matters of concern to the staff were growing in number, importance and complexity, he proposed that representatives of the SAC be authorized to hold regular consultations with IOM Member States, as part of a sustained dialogue that would not be limited only to formal sessions. The SAC would shortly distribute a position paper on the main issues facing the staff and the proposed follow-up actions. He listed a number of unresolved issues that were a source of concern to the staff.

76. Regarding staff security, the Organization had expanded immensely in terms of membership and operations, while the administrative resources required to meet the new challenges had not grown at the same pace - a point which had been confirmed by the Director General in his correspondence to Member States. IOM had undertaken major operations in several countries where security conditions required considerable investment in order to ensure the safety and well-being of the staff. It was therefore to be regretted that sufficient resources to ensure staff security worldwide were not being made available under the Administrative Part of the Budget. The SAC supported the Administration's request to Member States for an increase in order to cover adequately the security arrangements within UNSECOORD.

77. Stressing the importance of transparency and open dialogue between the Administration and the SAC, he underlined areas in which improvements might be achieved. First, the Department of Human Resources Management in consultation with the SAC had established a performance management system and an occupational profile for chiefs of mission, as a means of responding to the SAC's concern that vacancy notices be issued only after positions had been rated. Those constituted an improvement within the Organization's human resources

management system. Nevertheless, the Human Resources Report had been shared at the last moment with the outgoing SAC. As the new SAC had had no time to analyse the report in depth, some of the matters referred to therein would be addressed in a position paper to be distributed shortly.

78. Second, several recommendations made by the Appointments and Posting Board, on which SAC participated as a member, had been overturned without clarification. It should be recalled that the statutory requirement of competence, experience and expertise for each vacant post must be respected at all times and by all parties, as the only feasible way of ensuring the best interests of the Organization. Furthermore, positions for which qualified internal candidates were available were often filled by external recruits, on the questionable grounds that internal applicants were not suitable - a practice that the SAC deeply regretted and would do its utmost to revert.

79. Third, staff rotation was conceived to be a healthy exercise aimed at exposing staff to different processes and cultures, and to different regional and country-specific situations. Rotation had also to take into account the personal situation of staff, the needs of the Organization, the capacities and skills of the staff subject to rotation, and the career development principles. IOM's rotation exercise had become uneven: some staff had not been subject to rotation, while others had been transferred several times in a short period. The SAC would like to see further efforts from the Administration to ensure the fair and transparent application of the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules in that area.

80. Fourth, in June 2002, the Administration had initiated a process to improve managerial and organizational behaviour through the Improving Organizational Behaviour Committee (IOB). While welcoming the opportunity to provide the IOB with input from the staff, the SAC was aware that many staff worldwide did not fully understand the new process and were concerned regarding potential outputs. As there was a need to improve organizational behaviour at all levels, the SAC had invited the IOB Chairman to a meeting in order to strengthen collaboration aimed at improving organizational behaviour.

81. Within the context of IOM's limited resources, the concepts of streamlining and flexibility were frequently referred to. The SAC believed that creating a culture which favoured adaptability and creativity, with staff that were versatile, multi-skilled and mobile, came with a price tag. While flexibility was one of the outstanding characteristics of IOM, the SAC was concerned that its inadequate use might lead to inequalities of treatment and might result in actual deterioration of the conditions of service and inequalities in the management of staff. To improve human resources management and to establish better personnel practices, it was imperative that appropriate financial and human resources were made available to the Organization, which would certainly enhance the overall working conditions of IOM staff throughout the world and lower the number of staff grievances and appeals.

82. The SAC was working with the Department of Human Resources Management to revise the Staff Rules with a view to adjusting them to the current times and realities and to ensuring their fair application. The SAC looked forward to better dialogue with the Administration and Member States and would report in due course on the progress made in addressing the issues which had been brought to the attention of the Council. One of IOM's greatest strengths was its

staff. Transparency, goodwill and increased dialogue between the Administration and the staff constituted the only way to ensure success for the challenges lying ahead.

83. The DIRECTOR GENERAL commended the new Chairperson of the Staff Association Committee on a comprehensive and sensible statement. The statement identified and helped to clarify important issues such as staff security, performance management, transparency and dialogue, the rotation policy, the price of versatility in terms of training, and more predictable management of the Staff Regulations and Rules. The Administration wanted a thorough and open dialogue with the Staff Association Committee and would make every effort to improve the situation on those important management issues.

84. The Council took note of the statement by the representative of the Staff Association Committee.

(e) Support for developing Member States and Member States in transition (1035 Facility)

85. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, said that some delegates had expressed the view that the 1035 Facility should be presented as a separate agenda item in the Subcommittee meetings, given the interest expressed in it by a majority of delegates. It had also been suggested that broader consultations be held with Member States' national authorities and their Permanent Missions in Geneva in the development of projects which drew on funding from the Facility. There had also been a call to review the criteria for selection of projects and to ensure that the projects funded under the 1035 Facility were closely linked to those criteria.

86. The DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL endorsed the proposal previously expressed to conduct an evaluation of the 1035 Facility.

87. The Council endorsed the proposal that the 1035 Facility should be presented as a separate agenda item at meetings of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance; that broader consultations should be held with Member States' national authorities and their Permanent Missions in Geneva in the development of projects which drew on funding from the 1035 Facility; that an evaluation of the 1035 Facility be made; and that the criteria of the 1035 Facility be reviewed and the projects funded from the 1035 Facility be closely linked to those criteria.

Agenda item 14

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

88. There was no other business.

Agenda item 15

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSIONS

(MC/L/1041, MC/L/1042)

89. The CHAIRPERSON said that for the Eighty-ninth Session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance a room had been tentatively reserved at the Palais des Nations on Tuesday,

6 and Wednesday, 7 May 2003, and for the Hundredth Session of the Executive Committee on Wednesday, 11 and Thursday, 12 June 2003. A room had been tentatively reserved at the Palais des Nations on Friday 13 June 2003 for the Eighty-fifth (Special) Session of the Council for the election of a Director General.

90. For the Ninetieth Session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, a room had also been tentatively reserved at the Palais des Nations on 6 and 7 November 2003. For the next regular session of the Council, a room had been reserved at the Palais des Nations from 2 to 5 December 2003.¹

91. The draft resolution on the convening of the next regular session of the Council (MC/L/1041) was adopted.

92. The draft resolution on the convening of a special session of the Council (MC/L/1042) was adopted.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

93. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that he had been most impressed by the quality of the debates in the Council session. He believed that the Council would become increasingly important to Member States as they engaged more and more in the policy and governance of IOM and that the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur would also play enhanced roles in the future. In conclusion, he thanked all those who had devoted time and attention to the Organization.

94. The CHAIRPERSON expressed her appreciation to all 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 assistance.

The Eighty-fourth Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration was closed on Wednesday, 4 December 2002 at 5.50 p.m.

¹ The date of the next regular session of the Council (2 to 5 December 2003) may have to be changed because of conflict with another conference.