

MC/2110/Rev.1

**Original: English
3 December 2003**

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION

**REPORT ON THE EIGHTY-FIFTH (SPECIAL)
SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

Geneva

13 June 2003

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REPORT ON THE EIGHTY-FIFTH (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council convened for its Eighty-fifth (Special) Session on Wednesday, 13 June 2003, at 10.30 a.m. in the Palais des Nations. One meeting was held, chaired by H.E. Ms. A. C. Mohamed (Kenya). 1/

ATTENDANCE 2/

2. The following Member States were represented:

Albania	Denmark	Luxembourg	Serbia and
Algeria	Dominican	Madagascar	Montenegro
Angola	Republic	Mali	Slovakia
Argentina	Ecuador	Mauritania <u>3/</u>	Slovenia
Armenia	Egypt	Mexico	South Africa
Australia	El Salvador	Morocco	Sri Lanka
Austria	Finland	Netherlands	Sudan
Azerbaijan	France	New Zealand <u>3/</u>	Sweden
Bangladesh	Germany	Nicaragua	Switzerland
Belgium	Greece	Nigeria	Thailand
Benin	Guatemala	Norway	Tunisia
Bolivia	Haiti	Pakistan	Uganda
Bulgaria	Honduras	Panama	Ukraine
Cambodia	Hungary	Paraguay	United Kingdom
Canada	Iran (Islamic	Peru	of Great Britain
Chile	Republic of)	Philippines	and Northern
Colombia	Ireland	Poland	Ireland
Congo	Israel	Portugal	United States
Costa Rica	Italy	Republic of Korea	of America
Croatia	Japan	Republic of	Uruguay
Cyprus	Kazakhstan	Moldova <u>3/</u>	Venezuela
Czech Republic	Kenya	Romania	Yemen
Democratic	Kyrgyzstan	Rwanda	Zambia
Republic of the	Latvia	Senegal	
Congo	Lithuania		

1/ The discussions are reported in detail in the summary record of the meeting (MC/C/SR/447).

2/ See List of Participants (MC/2109).

3/ See paragraph 8.

3. Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, China, Estonia, Ethiopia, Holy See, Jamaica, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nepal, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey and Viet Nam were represented by observers, as well as the Sovereign Military and Hospitaler Order of Malta.

4. The United Nations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*, and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) – Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime were represented by observers.

5. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the following international non-governmental organizations were represented by observers: World Confederation of Labour, International Council of Voluntary Agencies, Norwegian Refugee Council, Paulino Torras Domenech Foundation, World Council of Churches and Amnesty International.

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS

6. The Council took note that the Director General had examined the credentials of the representatives of the Member States listed in paragraph 2 and found them to be in order, and that he had been advised of the names of the observers for the non-member States and the governmental and non-governmental organizations listed in paragraphs 3 to 5.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Council adopted the agenda set out in document MC/2099/Rev.1.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION

Applications by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, New Zealand and the Republic of Moldova for membership in the Organization

8. The Council adopted Resolutions Nos. 1080, 1081 and 1082 (LXXXV) admitting Mauritania, New Zealand and the Republic of Moldova as Members of IOM.

9. The representative of Mauritania thanked the Council for admitting his country, which had had the opportunity as an observer to appreciate fully the work of IOM. Historically, migration had always resulted in the enrichment of civilizations and should be viewed positively. It was necessary, however, to understand its causes in order to manage it properly. Today, they were principally globalization and the concentration of wealth in one region of the world, and to a lesser extent internal conflicts, essentially sparked off by economic and social tensions due to underdevelopment. IOM provided a platform for dialogue and coordination as well as offering expert advice and technical assistance on the subject. Mauritania welcomed the opportunity to cooperate more closely with IOM and pledged its commitment to the Organization's objectives.

10. The representative of New Zealand said that, in rejoining the Organization, his country acknowledged IOM's relevance in an increasingly globalized world. However, that presented both benefits and challenges for destination countries. Recent world events had highlighted the need for concerted global action against illegal migration and strengthened his Government's commitment to combat the increase in the people smuggling industry. New Zealand looked forward to continuing its successful cooperation with IOM in reducing illegal migration in the Asia-Pacific region and appreciated the Organization's practical assistance in connection with its national refugee resettlement programme. New Zealand's renewed membership of IOM underlined its support for the valuable work of the Organization, particularly under the Bali Process, and would allow for more constructive cooperation on regional and global solutions to the problem of irregular migration.

11. The representative of the Republic of Moldova expressed his country's appreciation of its admission to membership of IOM. In view of developments at the regional level, the Republic of Moldova had prepared an appropriate legal framework for migration as well as undertaking other related measures. As the European Union expanded, the Republic of Moldova became a filter area for migrants *en route* from East to West creating security problems for all the States concerned. The Republic of Moldova was committed to combating trafficking in human beings and supported partnerships with international organizations such as IOM dealing with migration flow management. He requested IOM's continued support for the social rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking and for the return of Moldovan migrants and looked forward to future cooperation and dialogue with the Organization.

12. The Director General welcomed the new Members to the Organization, drawing attention to the fact that they represented three different regions, which highlighted the global nature of migration. Mauritania had played a very important role in the 5 + 5 Dialogue and was active in the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme. He looked forward to constructive cooperation with the country on aspects of migration concerning development and intergovernmental relations, with a view to resolving the serious problems affecting the region. He welcomed New Zealand's decision to rejoin the Organization, thereby becoming its 100th Member – an important milestone. IOM already cooperated closely with New Zealand on programmes and projects relating to migration management, as well as through regional diplomacy, such as the Bali Process. The Republic of Moldova was a relatively new country with the many challenges which that entailed. He pledged the Organization's support to it for capacity-building and assistance in connection with migration flow management. The Republic of Moldova should consider IOM a strong partner which was already active in the country and would expand the scope of its activities to help build a strong future for the nation.

ELECTION OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL

13. The Chairperson informed the Council that Mr. Brunson McKinley (United States of America) had been proposed for a second term of office as Director General and was the sole candidate.

14. She reminded the Council that Article 18 of the Constitution specified that the Director General should be elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council, normally for a five-year term of office, while Rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure for the Council stipulated that a secret ballot should be taken on decisions relating to individuals. However, Rule 45 could be suspended by the Council, provided that that was consistent with the Constitution. She had been informed that an election by consensus or acclamation was consistent with the Constitution, and had been applied in the past in the majority of similar elections held since the creation of the Organization. She understood that there was a consensus in favour of an election by acclamation. She therefore proposed that the Council proceed accordingly.

15. Mr. Brunson McKinley was re-elected Director General by acclamation.

16. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1083 (LXXXV) concerning the Election of a Director General, completed with the name of Mr. Brunson McKinley in the second preambular paragraph and in the operative paragraph.

17. On behalf of the Council, the Chairperson congratulated Mr. McKinley on his re-election for a second term of office.

18. She then invited the Council to approve the contract to be concluded with the Director General, in accordance with Article 18 of the Constitution.

19. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1084 (LXXXV) concerning the contract of the Director General.

20. The Director General expressed his sincere thanks to all Members of the Council for the confidence that they had shown in electing him to a second term of office as Director General of IOM, a challenge that he accepted. He gave credit for the accomplishments of the Organization, and indeed for his re-election, to those who deserved it most – his colleagues in IOM Offices around the world and at Headquarters, whose dedication and hard work had made IOM's reputation and contributed to its success. He also thanked all governments for their strong interest in migration management and their creative support for the work of IOM. The scope of IOM's work would certainly continue to expand in future, as world demographic, economic, political, social and developmental trends led governments and societies to place more emphasis on migration management in all its diverse aspects.

21. The enhancement of IOM's service orientation would be another task in the years ahead. Efforts would be made to retain IOM's responsiveness, flexibility and practical approach, while at the same time accommodating rapid growth, and emphasis would be placed on the design of good programmes, the reinforcement of IOM's decentralization and the identification of the best talent, in IOM and in governments, for capacity-building in migration management.

22. Project development work had made great progress in recent years. In all its areas of specialization IOM now had experts who could design and help to implement programmes to meet Member States' needs. Decentralization, which was proving successful, needed to be extended and consolidated.

23. Service orientation, project development and decentralization, however, were successful only if chiefs of mission and programme managers were creative, energetic and willing to take responsibility. A growing organization like IOM offered opportunities to advance younger officials to positions of responsibility and to bring in talent from outside, to build the IOM of the future – a process in which gender issues and national balance were important. He looked forward to working with and for the Member States in the years ahead.

24. The Chairperson thanked the Director General for accepting a second term of office and pledged the Council's full support and cooperation.

25. All delegates who subsequently took the floor congratulated Mr. McKinley on his re-election to the office of Director General. Under his able and dynamic leadership, IOM had progressed considerably, had increased its membership and its universality, and had expanded the scope of its activities in all its services – a trend which would undoubtedly be sustained during the Director General's second term of office as, with dedication and perseverance, he sought to adapt the Organization to an ever-challenging world environment.

26. All delegates who took the floor welcomed the new Members. It was noted that the steady increase in membership which had characterized the Director General's first term of office substantially enhanced IOM's universality and reflected its effectiveness as a focus for migration-related issues in the world. During the past five years IOM's activities had also spread considerably and diversified to cover a whole range of new fields to which migration was now linked as a result of globalization, political transition, armed conflict or inequalities in economic development.

27. Understanding of the positive and negative aspects of migration had been increased by international dialogue on migration management and through the Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP).

28. Many speakers welcomed IOM's emphasis on regional processes and cooperation, which had been considerably consolidated and should be sustained in future. IOM's role in connection with the Puebla Process, the Bali Process, the Asia-Pacific Consultations, the Manila Process, the Berne Initiative and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was highlighted as well as the MIDA Programme. IOM's support for the 5 + 5 Dialogue had enhanced prospects for the concerted management of migratory flows with a view to consolidating economic and social development and solidarity among the peoples of the Western Mediterranean. The representatives of two groups of countries welcomed IOM's emphasis on the developing countries and its efforts to strengthen the links between migration and development, to stem the increasing flow of skilled citizens from the less developed countries to the more highly-developed countries, and to emphasize the positive aspects of migration which could enhance economic and social development. In that connection several delegates welcomed the inclusion of labour migration in the IOM service areas and stressed the importance of IOM's continuing support for the rights of migrants.

29. Another delegate felt that IOM had an important role to play in combating the forced return of migrants. The forced return of people who had simply sought economic betterment elsewhere gave rise to serious problems of integration and employment opportunities in their countries of origin. He suggested adopting an approach whereby the expertise of forced returnees could be put to use in the Organization's migration and development programmes in the countries of origin, and whereby the sending countries could fund those programmes.

30. IOM was also commended on its counter-trafficking programmes especially in Latin America, Asia and Central Europe.

31. One of the topics highlighted was the question of IOM's future relationship with the United Nations and its strategic alliances with other organizations. One speaker considered that integration in the United Nations system would give IOM deserved recognition as a humanitarian organization. Most speakers who raised the point felt that further careful consideration should be given to all aspects of the question before coming to a final decision. Several delegates stressed the importance of maintaining strategic alliances with other organizations, especially with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and underlined the importance of IOM's humanitarian activities. The consolidation of links with the League of Arab States and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference were also underlined.

32. Many speakers felt that the achievements of IOM during the Director General's first term of office should now be consolidated and looked forward to giving him their full support during his second term of office.

33. Representatives of one observer State, one observer international governmental organization, and one observer international non-governmental organization made statements.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

34. At the request of one delegate, the Administration indicated that the provisional dates for the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council would be changed to 18 to 21 November 2003 and the Ninetieth session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance to 28 and 29 October 2003, in order to avoid coinciding with the dates of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Those dates would be confirmed shortly.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

35. The Chairperson congratulated the Director General on his re-election and thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the Eighty-fifth (Special) Session of the Council.

36. The Eighty-fifth (Special) Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration closed on Friday, 13 June 2003, at 1.30 p.m.