

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

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Friday, 13 June 2003, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairperson: H. E. Mrs. A. C. MOHAMED (Kenya)

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Agenda item 1

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The CHAIRPERSON declared open the Eighty-fifth (Special) Session of the Council and welcomed participants. She reminded delegates that the Council was meeting in special session to admit three new Members and to elect a Director General.

Agenda item 2

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS

2. The CHAIRPERSON requested the Council to take note that the Director General had examined the credentials of representatives of Member States and found them to be in order and that he had been advised of the names of the observers for non-member States and governmental and non-governmental organizations attending the session.

3. The Council took note.

Agenda item 3

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
(MC/2099/Rev.1)

4. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 4

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION
(MC/2100, MC/2101, MC/2102, MC/L/1043, MC/L/1044, MC/L/1045)

(i) Islamic Republic of Mauritania
(MC/2100, MC/L/1043)

(ii) New Zealand
(MC/2101, MC/L/1044)

(iii) Republic of Moldova
(MC/2102, MC/L/1045)

5. The CHAIRPERSON drew attention to the applications for membership of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, New Zealand and the Republic of Moldova and invited the Council to consider the draft resolutions in documents MC/L/1043, MC/L/1044 and MC/L/1045 respectively.

6. The draft resolutions on the admission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (MC/L/1043), New Zealand (MC/L/1044) and the Republic of Moldova (MC/L/1045) as Members of the Organization were adopted by acclamation.

7. The CHAIRPERSON, noting that the Secretariat had informed her that the credentials for the representatives of Mauritania, New Zealand and the Republic of Moldova had been received and found to be in order, welcomed the new Members to the Organization and gave them the floor.

8. Mr. OULD MOHAMED LEMINE (Mauritania) said that already as an observer, Mauritania had had the opportunity to participate in the 5 + 5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean and to appreciate fully the work of the Organization. On the basis of that experience, it had decided to formalize its relations with IOM by applying for membership. He thanked the Council for admitting Mauritania to the Organization, an important step for his country, which had a long-standing tradition of migration. In that connection, the Government had ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and had adopted legislation prohibiting trafficking in human beings.

9. Historically migration had always resulted in the enrichment of cultures and civilizations; it should thus be viewed positively, not as a problem, particularly as it was likely to increase. However, it was necessary to understand the causes of migration in order to manage it properly. The main causes today were globalization and the concentration of wealth in one region of the world, and to a lesser extent internal conflicts, which were essentially sparked off by economic and social tensions due to underdevelopment. IOM could not resolve those problems alone, but it provided a platform for dialogue and a means of coordinating efforts as well as offering expert advice and technical assistance. Mauritania welcomed the opportunity to cooperate more closely with IOM's staff and pledged its commitment to the Organization's objectives.

10. Mr. SCHUYT (New Zealand) expressed his Government's pleasure at being accepted as a Member of IOM. In rejoining the Organization, New Zealand acknowledged IOM's relevance in assisting countries to manage the migration of a growing number of people in an increasingly globalized world. However, that presented both benefits and challenges for destination countries. The events of 11 September 2001 had highlighted the need for concerted global action against illegal migration and the Tampa crisis of 2001 had 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, an example of which had been the safe return from Timor-Leste of 58 Sri Lankan migrants in July 2002. New Zealand also appreciated IOM's practical assistance in connection with its national refugee resettlement programme.

11. His Government had undertaken a number of measures at national, regional and international levels to address migration and refugee issues in general. They included: the introduction in 2002 of strong legislation to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols; sustained efforts to eliminate the backlog of refugee status claims; the leading role played by New Zealand at the two Bali Regional Ministerial Conferences, including coordination of an Expert Group on cooperation against people smuggling; the acceptance of refugees previously housed in Indonesia, Malaysia and

Thailand and others from processing centres in the region; the enhancement of New Zealand's migration management capacities; and membership in 2001 of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

12. 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 problems of irregular migration.

13. Mr. MUNTEANU (Republic of Moldova) expressed his country's appreciation of its admission to membership of IOM – another step towards integration with the European Union. In view of developments at regional level and to cope better with national migration problems, the Republic of Moldova had prepared an appropriate legal framework. It included the adoption of a new migration policy as well as legislation on migration, the ratification of the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and the establishment of a national migration department.

14. As the European Union expanded, the Republic of Moldova became a filter area for migrants *en route* from East to West, which created security problems for all the States concerned. The Republic of Moldova was committed to combating trafficking in human beings for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation. It supported partnerships with international organizations such as IOM dealing with migration flow management. His Government intended to prevent and control illegal migration, ensure the social safety of migrant workers and address the refugee issue, taking into account national interests.

15. He requested IOM's continued support for the social rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking and for the return of Moldovan migrants. IOM assistance was also required in monitoring the institutional reorganization of migration-related matters and in the drafting of a national policy on asylum, refugees and migration, as well as for capacity-building and the training of national staff on migration matters.

16. He thanked IOM for its support to the Moldovan Migration Department and looked forward to future cooperation and dialogue with the Organization.

17. 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 already active in the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme. In that connection 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 and a good friend which was already quite active in the country and would expand the scope of its activities to help build a strong future for the nation.

18. The CHAIRPERSON welcomed the new Members, as did all delegates who took the floor subsequently during the Special Session of the Council.

Agenda item 5

ELECTION OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL

(MC/L/1046, MC/L/1047)

19. The CHAIRPERSON said she understood that there was only one candidate for election to the office of Director General – Mr. Brunson McKinley (United States of America), who had been proposed for a second term of office. She gave a brief outline of Mr. McKinley's career. He had come to IOM in 1998 from the diplomatic service of the United States of America, having held posts in Italy, China, Viet Nam, the United Kingdom and Germany. He had been the first American ambassador to Haiti in the post-Duvalier period. Having focused specifically on migration issues since 1990, he had served as the United States Humanitarian Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the past four years had been Director General of IOM.

20. She had been informed that an election by consensus or acclamation was consistent with the Constitution and that that procedure had been applied in the majority of similar elections held since the establishment of the Organization. From discussions she had had with delegations, she understood that there was a consensus in favour of holding an election by acclamation and invited the Council to proceed accordingly.

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

22. The CHAIRPERSON then invited the Council to consider the draft resolution on Election of a Director General contained in document MC/L/1046.

23. The draft resolution on Election of a Director General (MC/L/1046), completed with the name of Mr. Brunson McKinley in the second preambular paragraph and in the operative paragraph, was adopted.

24. The CHAIRPERSON recalled that Article 18 of the Constitution also required the Council's approval of the contract to be concluded with the Director General (draft resolution MC/L/1047). She noted that the draft contract had been available for examination by delegates of Member States in the Secretariat's office during the Hundredth Session of the Executive Committee.

25. She invited the Council to approve the contract and to empower the Chairperson to sign it on behalf of the Organization, as set out in the draft resolution.

26. The Council adopted draft resolution MC/L/1047.

27. The CHAIRPERSON expressed warm congratulations to Mr. McKinley on behalf of the Council on his well-deserved, unanimous re-election, which was a clear testimony to his distinguished contribution in the field of migration. Migration was a key concern for a growing number of countries of origin, transit and destination. Under the Director General's able

stewardship, IOM had enhanced its reputation in all its core services, in which, she was pleased to note, labour migration had now been included. It was her firm belief that migration management benefited both migrants and society and contributed significantly to economic development. She welcomed the expansion of IOM's membership and activities and its increasing universalization, all of which had led Member States to give further thought to IOM's position with regard to migration management and its status in the future.

28. 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.

29. 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. Key concerns were: 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.

30. 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. Project by project, IOM was building up reliable programme expertise.

31. Decentralization, which was proving successful, needed to be extended and consolidated. The creation of the Manila administrative service centre had increased efficiency and provided possibilities for expansion, while keeping costs down. A comprehensive review of IOM's Missions with Regional Functions (MRFs) would be conducted after completion of the report thereon by the External Auditors. 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.

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

33. Mr. FOLEY (United States of America) conveyed his Government's congratulations to Mr. McKinley on his re-election. After a long and successful diplomatic career Mr. McKinley had served IOM and its Member States with commitment, dedication and vision.

34. IOM was to be commended on its rapid and effective response to humanitarian needs in Iraq and West Africa and its commitment to serving the African continent and the developing world as a whole. He was also grateful for IOM's sustained medical and logistical support to refugees worldwide under the United States Resettlement Programme. IOM had succeeded in maintaining its level of efficiency in its core services, in emergency situations and in the evolving Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP) while remaining within the confines of zero nominal growth in the budget, partly through innovative approaches such as the Manila delocalization process. He welcomed the Director General's willingness to work with Member States on management reform, urged consultations with the Staff Association and further discussion on the IOM-United Nations relationship. His authorities would carefully study additional information on that issue before reaching a final decision. His Government appreciated the Director General's major accomplishments during his first term of office and reiterated its confidence in his leadership during the second term.

35. Mr. KESSEDJIAN (France) highlighted three major changes which had taken place during the Director General's first term of office. First, the diversification of IOM's activities, which had given IOM a role as a forum for dialogue and cooperation in migration matters and had strengthened the links between migration and development. That approach should be sustained and consolidated in future. Secondly, cooperation with other organizations, especially with UNHCR, and with regional organizations and the European Union, had increased, and IOM's policy of exchange of views and collaboration with the relevant national authorities, particularly in the field of counter-trafficking, had been consolidated. Thirdly, the steady increase in membership, which had reached 101, substantially enhanced IOM's universality. As IOM's activities had spread outwards in the past five years, its status as a focal point for migration-related questions had increased. In that context his country considered that integration in the United Nations system would give IOM deserved recognition as a humanitarian organization. He paid tribute to the IOM staff who were often obliged to work in difficult conditions and had shown great commitment and dedication.

36. Mr. KRIEKOUKIS (Greece) endorsed the views expressed by the previous speaker concerning the outward spread of IOM's activities in the past five years, during which certain important initiatives had been taken under the able leadership of the Director General. He wished the Director General adequate funding, an appropriate status for the Organization while guaranteeing its efficiency, flexibility and independence, and a dedicated staff, during his second term of office.

37. Mr. HUHTANIEMI (Finland), speaking also on behalf of the other Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, welcomed the flexibility and responsiveness which had characterized IOM's action during the Director General's first term of office, during which migration issues had grown more complex in an increasingly globalized world. In that context it was important to strengthen cooperation with all other relevant organizations and actors in the field of migration, particularly with UNHCR. The Nordic countries looked forward to continuing the current discussions concerning the future status of IOM, so as to ensure that the Organization was well placed to face its challenges in the coming years.

38. On behalf of the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Bertrand Ramcharan, he conveyed congratulations to the Director General on his re-election for a second term of office.

39. Mr. BADESCU (Romania) said that IOM, one of the most dynamic and high-profile international organizations in the world today, would undoubtedly face new challenges stemming from globalization, armed conflicts, inequalities in economic development, democratic change and increased ease of travel, all powerful factors which acted as catalysts for migration. The volume and complexity of migration, to which it was increasingly difficult to find lasting responses, had a powerful impact on governments and society. His Government was sure, however, that IOM would face up to those challenges through cooperation at regional and world level.

40. Mr. CHARLES (Haiti), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC), said that frontiers no longer constituted barriers between States or peoples. Everyday, and everywhere, forced by economic and social needs, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children found themselves caught up in migration, a movement that was accompanied by economic, social and, frequently, political problems. That was the complex situation confronting IOM which had to attempt to seek solutions within the limits of its resources. During the Director General's first term of office, emphasis had been placed on many aspects of migration relating to the rights of migrants, migration and development and the establishment of strategic alliances with international partners to support and encourage regional processes. At a recent meeting between the Director General and GRULAC representatives, various questions had been broached, including clandestine migration networks, the difficulties of integration, defence or protection of emigrants in receiving countries, assistance for returns and transfer of remittances. In that context, he welcomed the fact that the Director General had made some remarks about remittances at the annual vice-ministerial conference of the Puebla Process in Cancun. IOM had a wide-ranging mandate which complemented the efforts by national communities and the international community to alleviate social, economic and political tensions and he therefore hoped that the Organization would have available all the necessary resources to implement its programme of action. The members of GRULAC were ready to give their wholehearted support for the greater good of IOM and the people of Latin America and the Caribbean as well as other regions.

41. Mr. METSCHER (Germany) said that IOM now had over 100 members and had established a truly global network of offices and representations. His country looked back on 50 years of cooperation with the Organization, beginning almost immediately after the Second World War, and which had become very close, specifically in the implementation of the German Forced Labour Compensation Programme (GFLCP) which covered almost 40 per cent of the Operational Part of the IOM Budget. He looked forward to further programmes and projects in cooperation with IOM to which he pledged the full support of his Government.

42. Mr. BUSIEGA (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that he welcomed the continued expansion of IOM, which now numbered 101 Member States, and had realized substantial projects in all service areas. He noted with appreciation in particular the introduction of measures to stem the increasing outflow of skilled citizens from less developed to developed countries and noted that, paradoxically, Africa, the continent most affected by disease, was losing thousands of health professionals. The successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) would depend largely on the return and integration of qualified workers to Africa for which the revival of the economic and political situation would provide an impetus. IOM's work in conjunction with NEPAD was complementary to the aims and objectives of that programme and the African Group was ready to participate in programmes and

workshops initiated by the Organization to study complex migration issues. The increasing recognition of migration as an issue of importance had encouraged IOM Member States to reflect on the Organization's position in the international framework and the African Group believed that IOM must retain its trademark qualities of flexibility, responsiveness, independence and efficiency to ensure that all countries reaped benefits. Stronger international cooperation on migration was warranted not only to protect the basic human rights of all people but to share fairly the burdens of providing assistance for migrants and ensuring that the positive potential of international migration was fully realized now that the subject, which had long been a sensitive matter of national sovereignty, was progressively developing regional and international dimensions. He was convinced that IOM would continue to play its part, providing a forum for Member States to address common concerns and to work towards the effective management of migration.

43. Mr. MANSOUR (Tunisia) said that relations between his country and IOM had developed in a remarkable manner in recent years, as shown by the opening of an IOM Office in Tunis and the establishment of a lasting and targeted partnership on matters of common interest, especially through the 5 + 5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean which offered prospects for establishing the basis for concerted management of migratory flows as a vector not only of economic and social development but also of solidarity among the peoples of the Western Mediterranean area.

44. Mr. ALBIN (Mexico) urged the Director General during his second term of office to strengthen the initiatives he had taken during his first term in regard to policy and services. In that context it was specially important to continue to promote programmes on the enhancement of human rights of migrants and to define more specifically IOM's relations of cooperation and coordination with other international agencies and bodies dealing with migration, as well as to consolidate its role in the international context. Mexico would continue to support the strengthening of international dialogue on migration policies in IOM, as well as greater cooperation and intergovernmental dialogue on a regional scale with a view to finding mutually beneficial solutions for migrants' countries of origin, transit and destination. It must be borne in mind that the ultimate objective of IOM was to deal with problems that were intimately linked with the dignity and fundamental rights of people.

45. Mr. DEMBRI (Algeria) said that the membership of IOM continued to increase, which was undoubted proof of its reputation and effectiveness in a world where migration issues were of growing importance in an international context of interdependence. Migration today was the result of economic inequality and of tension and conflict in several regions of the world, which often led to total destitution. Natural catastrophes which affected various parts of the world with increasing frequency were a further cause and he thanked the delegations, as well as the Director General of IOM, who had offered their sympathy on the recent earthquake that had devastated part of his country. In facing such challenges, IOM had shown imagination and innovation in providing the necessary response in accordance with specific situations and contexts, leading to its recognition as an essential partner which had adapted to the new challenges posed by migration on a worldwide scale. Such issues could be dealt with only in a multilateral framework open to dialogue and consultation as well as independent action and he appreciated particularly the effort the Organization was making to link the problems of development and migration. On the question of future relations between IOM and the United Nations system, IOM's contribution and know-how should be emphasized and its status preserved, while any statutory changes should be made over time and as a result of positive aspects of the relationship. The fruitful relationship

between Algeria and IOM had led to the opening of an IOM Office in Algeria and given fresh impetus to cooperation between his country and the Organization as well as with other countries in Africa. Similarly, the 5 + 5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean was a result of the Director General's acute political awareness, as the Organization's universality prepared it for universalization of its action. Algeria was prepared to give its full support to that process and the Final Declaration of the First Ministerial Conference held in Tunis in October 2002 included a number of measures enabling the countries concerned to deal better with migration issues in the region.

46. Mr. CUTILLO (Italy) welcomed the very positive development in relations between his country and IOM that had taken place over the past five years and, particularly, the transformation of the Rome Office into a Mission with Regional Functions which was working very effectively and enjoyed the full confidence of the Italian Government. He hoped that the Director General would pursue his way as effectively during his second term of office as he had during the first, since the importance of migration in the economic, political and social fields would undoubtedly increase in coming years and great hopes and expectations were vested in IOM. Italy offered its full cooperation, while hoping that IOM would maintain its flexibility and pragmatism.

47. Ms. PORTOCARRERO (Venezuela) said that migration was undoubtedly one of the most important issues of the present century and was closely linked with respect for human rights, social solidarity, economic growth, harmonious relations between States and peace and security in the international community. She also thought that world migratory flows forced countries to rethink their policies and make greater efforts to coordinate that activity. In Latin America particularly, the changing economic situation had produced an inversion of traditional migratory flows and the suspension of some subregional initiatives designed to provide greater freedom and synergy in migrant movements. The vast numbers of migrants in the world, as reported in the World Migration Report 2003, meant that a multidimensional migration management strategy was needed to face up to the problem, benefiting not only individuals but also countries of migration and receiving countries, as well as cutting down irregular flows, particularly in regard to trafficking. In that context, her Government reiterated its commitment to the objectives of IOM and its support for the significant and innovatory tasks to be carried out. It was encouraging to observe IOM's increasing membership which contributed to its universality, creating the necessary link between migration and the sustainability of economic, social and cultural development.

48. Mr. LEITZELAR VIDAURRETA (Honduras) expressed appreciation for the assistance Honduras had received to date from IOM and for any support it would receive for future migration programmes, including a subregional programme for migrant workers in Central America and the Dominican Republic. He attached great importance to IOM cooperation, the results of which had been very effective, and encouraged the Organization to maintain close ties with all projects in Honduras, so as not to miss any of the opportunities afforded by migration from many points of view.

49. Mr. CAMARA (Senegal) fully endorsed the statement made by Kenya as coordinator of the African Group. Under the Director General's strong, pragmatic leadership, IOM had consolidated its role in promoting international cooperation and development in the key area of migration.

50. Mr. KULLAVANIJAYA (Thailand) said that giving IOM a more universal character and support for regional processes had been the hallmarks of the Director General's first term of office. He was confident that IOM would continue to strengthen its role, including in the Asia region, while retaining the special character so highly valued by the membership. As a Member State from Asia and Oceania, which had no regional coordinator, he welcomed the three new Members, remarking on Thailand's fruitful bilateral cooperation with New Zealand in the Bali Process and other regional frameworks.

51. Mr. MEJIA SOLIS (Nicaragua) said that under the Director General's pragmatic and professional leadership, IOM had become a strong and dynamic organization that paid close heed to the requests of all countries, in particular developing countries. He trusted that the Organization would be able to continue meeting the fresh challenges raised by issues of migration, human rights and international security. Nicaragua welcomed the Director General's vision for his second term of office and the specific steps he intended to take.

52. Mr. RAMBELOSON (Madagascar) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the African Group. Although Madagascar had not joined the Organization until November 2001, it had had ample opportunity, in particular during the Deputy Director General's recent official visit, to appreciate the efforts made to enhance IOM's role in respect of migration. Understanding of migration, in particular in the present context of globalization with its positive and negative aspects, had been greatly heightened by activities such as the international dialogue on migration policy and the MPRP. IOM had given fresh impetus to migration, making it an aid to development in the service of the countries of the South in particular, by means, for example, of programmes funded by the 1035 Facility and the Migration for Development in Africa Programme (MIDA). Madagascar hoped to benefit from programmes aimed at promoting participation by its diaspora in the country's development and thereby to strengthen its institutional capacity to manage migration.

53. Mr. KARIWAYASAM (Sri Lanka) said that during the Director General's first term of office, membership of IOM had grown exponentially and had passed the 100 mark at the current meeting. In addition, numerous policy and action-oriented initiatives had been taken that were of great benefit, in particular to migrant worker communities. In that respect, he applauded the successful meeting organized in Colombo recently for the Ministers of Labour from ten Asian countries with a large number of citizens working abroad. He was confident that during the Director General's second term of office, IOM would continue on the path towards becoming a more relevant, broad-based and inclusive organization that served all countries and all migrant communities worldwide.

54. Mr. ALI (Bangladesh) said that his country admired the Director General's endeavours to revitalize IOM through innovative changes and an active policy of constructive engagement with Member States in facilitating greater understanding of migration. IOM's diversification had made it more relevant in the present world and the Organization should play a central role in providing services and advice on migration to the international community. That role could be expected to grow in the 21st century as people moved more and more, whether in search of temporary employment or to migrate.

55. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said that IOM had an important role to play at a time when the enormous contribution made by migrants to the reconstruction of post-war Europe was being overshadowed by the negative connotations ascribed to migration in the current situation of

economic stagnation in the West and following the events of 11 September 2001. In particular, the forced return to their countries of origin of people with no criminal record, who had simply sought economic betterment elsewhere, gave rise to serious problems of integration, as forced returnees found it difficult to find employment opportunities commensurate with the level of skills they had acquired abroad. 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 the sending countries could fund those programmes, might have considerable advantages, such as: facilitating the reintegration of forced returnees in their countries of origin; minimizing the adverse economic and social impact on the receiving States; preventing public opinion in the receiving States from turning against the sending States; and providing an incentive for voluntary return migration.

56. Mr. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran), pointing out that his country was host to the largest population of refugees and irregular migrants in the world, assured the Director General of his Government's full support and cooperation during his second term of office.

57. Mr. BOULGARIS (Switzerland), conveying congratulations to the Director General on behalf of the Swiss authorities, said that he looked forward to working with him during his second term of office, which he was sure would be as dynamic as the first.

58. Mr. DE JONG (Netherlands) remarked on the positive changes that had taken place at IOM under the Director General's stewardship, including the introduction of a policy dialogue in the regular session of the Council and a debate on the relationship between the Organization and the United Nations system. Membership in IOM now stood at over 100. Given the nature of migration, it was important to have as many countries as possible actively involved in the search for effective and durable approaches to migration management. Membership involved obligations as well as rights and, as the representative of the country currently chairing the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, he called on all Members to pay their contributions and settle their arrears in a timely manner.

59. Mr. LUNDY (Canada) said that his country looked forward to continuing its long, cooperative and constructive relationship with IOM in operational matters. The Organization had become an important service provider for Canada which also welcomed the IOM Council's additional role as a forum for dialogue on migration. The continuation of that dialogue and the enhancement of regional dialogues were important and necessary steps in the process of reaching a more common understanding of global migration phenomena. Canada looked forward to pursuing efforts to improve IOM institutional arrangements so as to ensure the full engagement of Member States and policy formulation related to IOM's governance, mandate and relations with other institutions.

60. Mr. COSTA PERREIRA (Portugal), said that, until recently, many citizens had emigrated from his country which had, however, received hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the four corners of the globe. He welcomed the Director General's efforts to enhance coordination and liaison between IOM and other international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system. He was sure that IOM would enjoy a new impetus and growing dynamism during the Director General's second term of office.

61. Mr. SELIM LABIB (Egypt) associated himself with the statement made by the delegate of Kenya on behalf of the African Group. He said the IOM's growing membership showed that it was an efficient organization dealing with issues of crucial concern to the international community and serving the humanitarian cause. Among IOM's more notable recent achievements was progress on the migration management dialogue. Under the Director General's stimulating leadership the Organization had flourished significantly. He expressed particular appreciation of the Director General's efforts to strengthen and develop relations with the League of Arab States and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. He was confident of further positive developments during the Director General's second term of office, which would be aimed at fairer and more humane international migration practices, taking into account the needs of the developing countries in general and African countries in particular.

62. Ms. PARKER (Australia) said that under the Director General's guidance the Organization had grown stronger, with greater emphasis on broad migration policy through the establishment of the MPRP and the forum for dialogue held during regular sessions of the Council. Australia had been pleased to provide financial support to the MPRP for the publication of World Migration Report 2003. It also welcomed IOM's role in broader initiatives such as the Berne Initiative, the Bali Process, the Asia-Pacific Consultations and the Manila Process. Australia was confident that IOM would rise to the many challenges that lay ahead and looked forward to further cooperation with it.

63. Mr. TOMITA (Japan) expressed his confidence that the Director General would continue his excellent service in the coming years and looked forward to working with him in seeking solutions to the many future migration challenges, including the enhancement of migration management through regional processes such as the Bali Process.

64. Mr. THUNUS (Belgium) said that during the Director General's first term of office IOM had celebrated its 50th anniversary, had moved into the second millenium and had seen its membership and universality increase steadily, which was a clear reflection of the relevance and broadening scope of its activities. He also welcomed IOM's firm commitment, particularly in the developing countries and countries in transition, which had been given special emphasis through the Deputy Director General. He urged the Director General to continue along the path he had already taken, with a view to consolidating and streamlining IOM's activities, as migration was unlikely to decline in the years to come and would certainly continue to pose many challenges for governments and the international community as a whole.

65. Mr. MNATSAKIAN (Armenia) said that under the Director General's dynamic leadership, IOM had become one of the most respected and recognizable organizations working in his country. He expressed appreciation of the high level of partnership between the IOM Administration and Armenia, particularly in identifying and reflecting on new challenges in the field of migration. He looked forward to continuing that successful cooperation with the Organization.

66. Mr. ASADOV (Azerbaijan) emphasized the close cooperation between his country and IOM, which provided assistance to his Government in the main areas of migration, particularly concerning the problems of forced migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons. He welcomed the support which his Government had received in solving problems in the field of regulation of migration processes.

67. Mr. HORVATH (Hungary) welcomed the increasing membership of the Organization, which was a proof that IOM's policies were well accepted. He stressed the importance of enhancing IOM's service orientation, project development and further decentralization, while at the same time ensuring that the Organization remained responsive to the changing needs of governments.

68. Ms. ADJANONHOUN (Benin) said that the Director General's re-election reflected the confidence which Member States placed in him. For more than 50 years IOM had helped Member States to find solutions to voluntary or forced migration of people. Today, mass migration was on the increase, partly due to globalization, and it was urgent to promote dialogue on migration, emphasizing bilateral cooperation with the States concerned, so as to achieve more rational management of migratory flows and narrow the gap created by migration in the education, health, economic and social spheres in many countries. IOM should also continue its process of reflection with all Member States and partners in development, so as to analyse all aspects of its possible integration in the United Nations system. Her country supported IOM's promotion of projects relating to the diasporas in the developing countries – an area in which the Deputy Director General and the IOM staff had made a valuable contribution. Continued financial support from Member States for projects under the 1035 Facility, with its beneficial effects on developing countries, would facilitate the attainment of IOM's objectives.

69. Ms. BETTON (Observer for Jamaica) said that her delegation had noted the valuable work carried out by IOM under the Director General's leadership and encouraged him to continue along the same path during his second term of office. Jamaica, although not yet a member of the Organization, was actively considering membership, as it recognized the important contribution that IOM could make in assisting Jamaica with the migration challenges with which it was faced. She hoped that the IOM's valuable engagement with Jamaica on migration matters would intensify in the coming years.

70. Mr. CAKICI (Observer for the Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI) – Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime) said that the SECI Regional Center, an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Bucharest, Romania, and with 12 Member States, had been operational for two and a half years. It had a very effective and intensive working relationship with IOM, which was cooperating with the Center's task force on trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. A Memorandum of Understanding on practical cooperation had been signed between the SECI Center and IOM in May 2001. Closer links were needed between the two organizations in the future and he reiterated the intention of the SECI Center, a unique law-enforcement organization, to cooperate with IOM and other associated organizations to fight trafficking in human beings and illegal migration which were increasingly important issues and needed to be tackled globally.

71. Mr. RIPOL CARULLA (Observer for the Fundación Paulino Torras Domenech) said that his organization, a foundation with its headquarters in Barcelona, Spain, welcomed the opportunity to cooperate with IOM and reiterated his wish to continue and develop that work.

Agenda item 6

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

72. Mr. KARKLINS (Latvia) drew attention to the fact that at the Eighty-fourth regular session of the Council it had been decided to hold the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council in December 2003. Unfortunately the dates coincided with those of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which would make it virtually impossible for small delegations like his own to cover both conferences. He therefore requested the Administration to propose other dates for the Council session.

73. Mr. PERRUCHOUD (Legal Adviser) said that that problem had indeed been brought to the attention of the Administration, which proposed the following provisional dates: 18 to 21 November for the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council, and hence 28 and 29 October for the Ninetieth Session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance. Those dates were still to be confirmed and Member States would be duly informed.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

74. The CHAIRPERSON reiterated her congratulations to the Director General on his re-election, expressed her appreciation of the Deputy Director General's leadership on many issues and thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the session. She declared the Eighty-fifth (Special) Session of the Council closed.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.