



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

MC/2342/Rev.1

**Original: English
27 november 2012**

COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

101ST SESSION

**REPORT ON THE
100TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

NOTE CONCERNING DOCUMENT MC/2342

At its 101st Session the Council, by Resolution No. 1239 of 27 November 2012, approved the Report on its 100th Session without amendment.

To save the cost of reprinting the whole report, it is requested that this cover page be added to the original document MC/2342 dated 8 February 2012.

Geneva
5 to 7 December 2011
Rapporteur: Mr. Francis Munhundiripo (Zimbabwe)

MC/2342

**Original: English
8 February 2012**

100TH SESSION

**DRAFT REPORT ON THE
100TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

Geneva
5 to 7 December 2011
Rapporteur: Mr. Francis Munhundiripo (Zimbabwe)

Draft reports of meetings of the governing bodies are subject to correction.
Participants wishing to make corrections should submit them in writing to the Meetings Secretariat, IOM, P.O. Box 71, CH-1211 Geneva 19, within one week of receiving the records in their working language; these will then be consolidated in a single corrigendum.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1
ATTENDANCE	1
OPENING OF THE SESSION, CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS	2
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	2
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	3
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS	3
(a) Applications by the Republic of Djibouti, the Republic of Chad, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Maldives, the Republic of Guyana, the Republic of Nauru, the Union of the Comoros, Antigua and Barbuda, the Holy See, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Seychelles and the Republic of Vanuatu for membership of the Organization	3
(b) Applications by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the NGO Committee on Migration, the East African Community (EAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) for representation by an observer	4
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL	5
WELCOME REMARKS BY PIERRE MAUDET	5
IOM GOVERNANCE	6
(a) Draft report on the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council	6
(b) Report on the 108th Session of the Executive Committee	6
(c) Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2011	6
(d) Programme and Budget for 2012	6
(e) Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget ...	7
(f) Other items arising from the Report of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance	7
(g) Election of the Executive Committee	10
(h) Date and place of the next session	10

CONTENTS

(continued)

	<u>Page</u>
REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE STATE OF MIGRATION:	
Current realities, future frontiers	10
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS	12
• Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser	13
• Peter D. Sutherland	14
LAUNCH OF THE <i>WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2011</i>	14
SPECIAL PANEL: MIGRANTS' VOICES	15
• Ian Goldin	15
• Ebum Aforo-Jesu	16
• Dikembe Mutombo.....	16
• Katie Nguyen	16
• Eric Urfer	17
GENERAL DEBATE	17
CLOSURE OF THE SESSION	20

DRAFT REPORT ON THE 100TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1206 of 1 December 2010, the Council convened for its 100th Session on Monday, 5 December 2011, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. Six meetings were held.

ATTENDANCE¹

2. The following Member States were represented:

Afghanistan	Democratic Republic of	Lithuania	Sierra Leone
Albania	the Congo	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Algeria	Denmark	Madagascar	Slovenia
Angola	Djibouti ²	Maldives ²	South Africa
Antigua and Barbuda ²	Dominican Republic	Mali	South Sudan ²
Argentina	Ecuador	Malta	Spain
Armenia	Egypt	Mauritania	Sri Lanka
Australia	El Salvador	Mauritius	Sudan
Austria	Estonia	Mexico	Swaziland
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia ²	Micronesia (Federated	Sweden
Bangladesh	Finland	States of) ²	Switzerland
Belarus	France	Mongolia	Tajikistan
Belgium	Gabon	Montenegro	Thailand
Benin	Georgia	Morocco	Timor-Leste
Bolivia (Plurinational	Germany	Mozambique ²	Togo
State of)	Ghana	Namibia	Trinidad and Tobago
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Nepal	Tunisia
Botswana	Guatemala	Netherlands	Turkey
Brazil	Guyana ²	New Zealand	Uganda
Bulgaria	Haiti	Nicaragua	Ukraine
Burkina Faso	Holy See ²	Niger	United Kingdom of
Burundi	Honduras	Nigeria	Great Britain and
Cambodia	Hungary	Norway	Northern Ireland
Cameroon	India	Pakistan	United Republic of
Canada	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Panama	Tanzania
Cape Verde	Ireland	Paraguay	United States of
Central African Republic	Israel	Peru	America
Chad ²	Italy	Philippines	Uruguay
Chile	Jamaica	Poland	Venezuela (Bolivarian
Colombia	Japan	Portugal	Republic of)
Comoros ²	Jordan	Republic of Korea	Viet Nam
Congo	Kazakhstan	Republic of Moldova	Yemen
Costa Rica	Kenya	Romania	Zambia
Côte d'Ivoire	Kyrgyzstan	Rwanda	Zimbabwe
Croatia	Latvia	Senegal	
Cyprus	Lesotho	Serbia	
Czech Republic	Libya	Seychelles ²	

¹ See List of participants (MC/2341).

² See paragraph 11.

3. Bahrain, Bhutan, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Qatar, the Russian Federation, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan were represented by observers.

4. The Office of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the European Union (EU), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the International Labour Organization, the League of Arab States, the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, the World Bank and the World Health Organization were represented by observers.

5. The International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Sovereign Order of Malta, as well as the following international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), were represented by observers: African Humanitarian Action, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Caritas Internationalis, *Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)*, Hassan II Foundation for Moroccans Residing Abroad, the International Catholic Migration Commission, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the International Islamic Relief Organization, the International Rescue Committee, the International Social Service, the Jesuit Refugee Service, the NGO Committee on Migration,³ the Refugee Education Trust and the Scalabrini International Migration.

OPENING OF THE SESSION, CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS

6. The outgoing Chairperson, Mr. Idriss Jazaïry (Algeria), opened the session on Monday, 5 December 2011, at 10.15 a.m.

7. The Council noted 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, international governmental organizations and NGOs listed in paragraphs 3 to 5.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8. The Council elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr. Christian Strohal (Austria)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Abdul Hannan (Bangladesh)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Mrs. Alicia Arango (Colombia)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Francis Munhundiripo (Zimbabwe).

9. Assuming the Chair, Mr. Strohal thanked Mr. Jazaïry for his outstanding commitment and leadership and said that he looked forward to working with the Member States, who were the owners of the Organization, and with IOM's excellent staff.

³ See paragraph 23.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

10. The Council adopted the agenda as set out in document MC/2312/Rev. 2.

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

- (a) **Applications by the Republic of Djibouti, the Republic of Chad, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Maldives, the Republic of Guyana, the Republic of Nauru, the Union of the Comoros, Antigua and Barbuda, the Holy See, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Seychelles and the Republic of Vanuatu for membership of the Organization**

11. The Council adopted by acclamation Resolutions Nos. 1207 to 1220 admitting Djibouti, Chad, Ethiopia, Maldives, Guyana, Nauru, the Comoros, Antigua and Barbuda, the Holy See, the Federated States of Micronesia, South Sudan, Mozambique, Seychelles and Vanuatu, respectively, as members of IOM.

12. The representative of Djibouti thanked the Director General for his efforts to encourage his country to join IOM and to strengthen the capacity of the national migration authorities. Situated at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa, Djibouti was increasingly becoming a country of transit through the Gulf of Aden, particularly for mixed migratory flows. It therefore had much to learn from working closely with IOM.

13. The representative of Chad said that, thanks to the cooperation agreement his Government had concluded with the Organization in 2010, many Sudanese refugees had been able to return to their homes. The CNAR (Commission Nationale d'Accueil et de Réinsertion des Réfugiés) was working well with IOM. In the wake of the Libyan crisis, the efforts of IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had greatly facilitated the repatriation of some 80,000 Chadian citizens, for which the Government was extremely grateful.

14. The representative of Ethiopia said that, having followed the Organization's work closely as an observer, and having cooperated with it under a bilateral hosting agreement, his country had drawn important lessons from IOM. The Government was grateful for the assistance IOM had extended to it, particularly in ensuring the safe, orderly and humane return of Ethiopian nationals.

15. The representative of Maldives said that, despite being a small island developing State that until recently had been categorized as a least developed country, Maldives was a major destination for economic migrants, who accounted for about one quarter of the total population. While the migrants made valuable economic and social contributions, the authorities would welcome the expertise of IOM in addressing the human, technical and financial challenges involved in managing such population movements.

16. The representative of Guyana called for greater attention to be paid to the role of women in migration and the challenges they faced, particularly those of a sexual nature. More research and development were needed to ensure that verifiable data were available on trafficking in human beings.

17. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda said that his country, a small island developing State, was a young, progressive nation that had become home to migrants from many countries. Its membership of IOM would enable it to build capacity to manage migration into and out of the country and to address its development challenges. In particular, the Government hoped to strengthen its development policy in advance of the free movement of Caribbean nationals within the subregion.

18. The representative of the Holy See said that the Holy See was committed to seeking common solutions to assist displaced people, ensuring the protection of and respect for their human rights. Greater attention should be paid to the ethical implications of migration. Joint programmes and regular information-sharing were an important means of joining forces to assist uprooted people. Catholic agencies and associations responded to the needs of people irrespective of race and religion, and therefore had a particularly significant contribution to make with regard to assisting migrants.

19. The representative of the Federated States of Micronesia thanked the membership for having accepted his country's application. Small island developing States such as his faced a new set of challenges as a result of climate change and rising sea levels, the impact of which could lead not only to forced internal and cross-border migration, but also to the loss of entire islands and nations. He pledged his country's support and cooperation for advancing the work of IOM.

20. The representative of South Sudan expressed his Government's gratitude for the acceptance of South Sudan's application for membership of IOM. He thanked IOM for its efforts to assist in the repatriation of internally displaced persons to South Sudan and the return of South Sudanese refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and other neighbouring countries. His Government wished to invite IOM to conduct a field mission to South Sudan to observe the progress that was being made.

21. The representative of Mozambique thanked the Director General and staff of IOM for their longstanding cooperation with Mozambique, and said that he was confident that Mozambique's bilateral relations with regard to mixed migration would be strengthened now that it was a member of the Organization.

22. The representative of Seychelles welcomed the acceptance of his country's application for membership of IOM and said that his Government pledged to engage fully with the Secretariat and the membership to uphold the Organization's principles, meet its objectives and determine areas for cooperation and partnership.

(b) Applications by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the NGO Committee on Migration, the East African Community (EAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) for representation by an observer

23. The ECCAS, the NGO Committee on Migration, the EAC, the SADC and COMESA were granted observer status at meetings of the Council, in accordance with the terms of Resolutions Nos. 1221 to 1225, respectively.

24. The representative of the NGO Committee on Migration said that it was an umbrella organization for more than 40 NGOs working around the world to advocate for the well-being of migrants and their families. The NGO Committee, which had worked with IOM on a number of

international events and was currently preparing activities for International Migrants Day, looked forward to strengthening its working relationship with IOM.

25. The Director General said that the Organization's efforts to increase the membership were based on the desire to underscore its lead role in the field of migration and the belief that the more people that entered the migration dialogue, the better everyone's interests were served, including those of migrants. Welcoming the 14 new members and five observers, he commended Djibouti for its work in helping to repatriate persons rescued at sea. Thanks to cooperation from Chad, IOM and UNHCR had been able to organize the return of many thousands of Chadian citizens fleeing the conflict in Libya. IOM was working with the authorities in Ethiopia on the safe and orderly return of some of their nationals, as well as on human trafficking. Maldives had taken a lead position within the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and on the issue of climate change. Member States were keen to establish a regional consultative process in Guyana. Migration empowered women, but also rendered them vulnerable at every stage of the migration route; much remained to be done to address sexual exploitation and abuse. IOM would do its utmost to support Antigua and Barbuda on migration issues.

26. He welcomed the Holy See and said he hoped to continue to participate in seminars being held by the International Catholic Migration Committee in Rome. With regard to the Federated States of Micronesia, he said that forced displacement had only recently begun to be recognized in climate change discussions. This was a new form of statelessness, which must be taken very seriously. IOM looked forward to working with South Sudan to continue the process of the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of South Sudanese people. He welcomed the new observers, and said he looked forward to working with them.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

27. The Director General gave a slide presentation summing up his report to the Council.⁴

WELCOME REMARKS BY PIERRE MAUDET

28. Mr. Pierre Maudet, Mayor of the City of Geneva, greeted the participants on behalf of the municipal authorities. The 100th Session of the IOM Council was of great relevance to the city for three reasons. First, Geneva had been providing asylum since the sixteenth century to victims of war and to people being persecuted for religious, cultural, scientific and social reasons. Geneva continued to attach great importance to the tradition of welcoming refugees and migrants, particularly as it encouraged tolerance, dialogue, peace and openness. Indeed, Geneva was a place where migrants' voices were often heard, not least because some 40 per cent of the city's population were foreigners and many others were of foreign origin.

29. Second, migration was increasingly becoming an urban issue, with 70 per cent of the world's population expected to live in towns and cities by 2050. Municipal authorities were responsible for providing adequate housing, sanitation and a decent standard of living for migrant populations. Moreover, it was often in urban settings that tension mounted between migrants and existing residents, putting the onus on municipal authorities to ensure that migrants were perceived in a positive light.

⁴ The full text of the Director General's Report to the 100th Session of the Council (MICEM/3/2011) and the slide presentation are accessible on the IOM website at www.iom.int.

30. Third, Geneva was a centre for addressing issues of governance. It would be useful to know what suggestions the Council could formulate for ways to ensure that migrants' voices were heard. It was essential to allow migrants to contribute to the debate on policies that affected them, and to avoid any repetition of decisions such as the banning of minarets in Switzerland.

IOM GOVERNANCE

(a) Draft report on the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council

31. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1226 of 5 December 2011 approving the report on its Ninety-ninth Session (MC/2310).

(b) Report on the 108th Session of the Executive Committee

32. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1227 of 5 December 2011 taking note, with appreciation, of the Report on the 108th Session of the Executive Committee (MC/2315).

(c) Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2011

33. The Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance stated that the Administrative Part of the Budget remained unchanged at CHF 39,388,000, whereas the Operational Part of the Budget had risen from USD 940.4 million to USD 1.3 billion, reflecting additional funding received and new activities undertaken since the approval of the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2011 (MC/EX/710). Discretionary Income continued to be projected at USD 43.7 million based on the three-year average formula. The Standing Committee had recommended that the Council take note of the document entitled Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2011 (MC/2316).

34. The Council took note of document MC/2316.

(d) Programme and Budget for 2012

35. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Programme and Budget for 2012 reflected the first full year under the new structure. Given the difficult global economic situation and ongoing discussions on budget reform, the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2012 had been kept to zero nominal growth and therefore remained unchanged at CHF 39,388,000. The Administration had highlighted the core needs that required strengthening to enable the Organization to meet the increasing demands for its services. The Operational Part of the Budget, estimated at USD 615.4 million, would be updated throughout the year to reflect the level of the Organization's activities. Discretionary Income, calculated on the basis of the three-year average formula, was estimated at USD 46.7 million. The Standing Committee had taken note of the Programme and Budget for 2012 (MC/2317) and recommended that the Council approve the Administrative and Operational Parts of the Budget (CHF 39,388,000 and USD 615,377,000, respectively).

36. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1228 of 5 December 2011 approving the Programme and Budget for 2012.

(e) Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget

37. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that, according to document SCPF/65 on the status of Member States' contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget, some Member States had made payments towards their arrears, but a significant number remained subject to Article 4 of the Constitution.

38. The Standing Committee had taken note of the situation and urged Member States in arrears to make every effort to pay their contributions as soon as possible or agree to a repayment plan with the Administration.

39. The Administration reported that since document SCPF/65 had been issued, the total amount owed had fallen slightly, from CHF 5,563,525 to CHF 5,451,401, thanks to payments made by the Governments of Cambodia, El Salvador and the Republic of Korea. It noted that 18 Member States remained subject to Article 4.

40. The Director General emphasized that a simple repayment plan was available, enabling Member States to make payments over 5, 10 or 15 years and in local currency.

41. The Council endorsed the Standing Committee's recommendation.

(f) Other items arising from the Report of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

42. The Standing Committee Rapporteur reported on a number of other items discussed by the Committee at its Ninth Session.

• Chairperson's Report on the Working Group on Budget Reform

43. The Chairperson of the Working Group on Budget Reform had reported that, since its previous report to the Standing Committee in May 2011, the Working Group had reviewed proposals for alternative funding sources to support the core structure. It had submitted two proposals for consideration by the Council, one on the establishment of the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (SCPF/67/Rev.1) and one on the addition of contributions from new Member States to the Administrative Part of the Budget (SCPF/68). One delegation had stipulated that the adoption of the proposal to add contributions from new Member States to the Administrative Part of the Budget should not set a precedent in respect of other international organizations. The drafting group established by the Working Group to review existing budget resolutions and mechanisms with a view to updating and consolidating them would continue its work. A broad consensus had emerged whereby the Standing Committee had taken note of the Chairman's report (SCPF/66) and recommended that documents SCPF/67/Rev.1 and SCPF/68, with the relevant draft resolutions, be submitted to the 100th Session of the Council for approval and adoption.

44. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1229 of 5 December 2011 approving the establishment of the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism and Resolution No. 1230 of 5 December 2011 on the addition of contributions from new Member States to the Administrative Part of the Budget.

- **Update on the Field structure reform implementation**

45. The Deputy Director General had reported that the new structure had been put in place within the projected time frame and that the current task was to refine the terms of reference. In order to help maintain and ensure coherence in the new decentralized structure, a project handbook, thematic guidelines, standard operating procedures and a training programme had been developed. Once funding had been obtained, a Project Information Management System would be introduced to foster an environment of knowledge-sharing and continuous learning. The Standing Committee had taken note of the document entitled Executive summary of the structure reform implementation (SCPF/73).

- **Exchange of views on items proposed by the membership**

- (i) **Return migration and IOM**

46. The Administration had emphasized that many countries were simultaneously countries of origin, transit and destination, and had highlighted the different types of return migration and the approaches required to deal with them. Several delegations had recognized IOM's importance as a partner in the field of return migration and had acknowledged the advantages offered by voluntary returns. The Administration had emphasized that IOM, in addition to helping migrants to return, also assisted in reintegrating them into their home communities. The Director General had stressed the importance of reintegration, which often made a critical difference to the outcome of return migration. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/72 on return migration.

- (ii) **IOM's role in the humanitarian response to displacement induced by natural disasters**

47. The Administration had highlighted IOM's role as the global cluster lead for camp management and camp coordination in natural disasters and outlined some of the measures adopted to ensure effective delivery of services. It had underscored the high frequency of natural disasters in recent years, and the need to integrate disaster preparedness into emergency and recovery strategies and to improve technologies and national capacities. Some Member States had highlighted IOM's effectiveness in providing humanitarian assistance in their countries or regions and others had expressed satisfaction with the importance IOM attached to the need for strong strategic partnerships with stakeholders. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/71 on IOM's role in the humanitarian response to displacement induced by natural disasters, the statements and comments made by the Administration, and the comments made by the Member States and the EU representative.

- **Support for developing Member States and Member States with economy in transition**

48. The Administration had presented a status report covering the period between 1 January and 30 September 2011 (SCPF/69), during which 81 per cent of the funds made available to the 1035 Facility had been allocated and the remaining 19 per cent had been provisionally allocated pending finalization of the project documents. On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the 1035 Facility had been renamed the IOM Development Fund. Owing to the increasing demand for funding from the Fund, it had been suggested that it should be made more visible so as to broaden its funding base. The Director General had indicated that his goal for the forthcoming year was to increase the level of funding to USD 10 million. The management of the IOM

Development Fund was reviewing and implementing a number of the recommendations that had been made in the third evaluation conducted by the Office of the Inspector General of IOM. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/69.

49. The representative of one Member State welcomed the goal of increasing the level of funding to USD 10 million and asked how that might be achieved. The IOM Development Fund was crucial as it translated the Organization's core mandate into tangible projects in Member States. IOM should endeavour to be more involved at the project development stage, particularly in developing countries. Countries that did not pay their contributions on time should not be deprived of the benefits of the Fund.

50. The Director General said that, even with an increase in funding, the amount of money available to each eligible Member State would remain relatively modest, given the growing number of developing countries that were joining the Organization. The Administration would approach Member States, regional development banks and foundations in order to reach the goal of USD 10 million. While countries were indeed penalized when they were in arrears, IOM had never applied Article 4 of the Constitution, which denied them their voting rights. It had, in fact, been generous with countries that made even a small gesture towards payment of arrears. The repayment plans enabled Member States to clear their arrears, thus giving the Organization more credibility with those that did pay on time. Greater assistance with project development was now available to Member States from the thematic specialists who were working in the Organization's Regional Offices and from the new *IOM Project Handbook*. The decentralized approach being implemented in 2012 would give eight Regional Offices the authority to approve projects and should provide countries with better assistance more quickly.

51. The Chairperson called on all Member States in a position to do so to contribute to the IOM Development Fund.

- **Statement by a representative of the Staff Association**

52. The Chairperson of the Staff Association Committee had expressed appreciation for the excellent relationship with the Administration and had outlined some of the accomplishments achieved for the benefit of staff. Tribute had been paid to all IOM staff, past and present, including those who had lost their lives while serving the Organization. A new Committee would take office in January 2012. The Director General had thanked the Chairperson of the Staff Association Committee for his two years of service and had affirmed that the Administration and the Committee were committed to the same goal of achieving the very best working, living and employment conditions for IOM staff. He had thanked the Committee for bringing a number of cases in the Field to the Administration's attention and for helping to resolve them in line with his own declared priorities. He had assured the new Committee that the Administration would remain open and constructive. The Standing Committee had taken note of the statement by the Staff Association Committee Chairperson.

- **Progress report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations**

53. The Administration had introduced document SCPF/70, on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations flowing from the audit of the Organization's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010. The Administration had affirmed that it would continue to work closely with the External Auditor in order to attain the highest possible standards of transparency and internal control. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/70.

- **Report on human resources management**

54. The Administration had introduced the document entitled Report on human resources management (MC/INF/305), which gave details of a number of human resources initiatives, including the implementation of the new Staff Evaluation System, finalization of the unified Staff Rules and the redrafting of the policy on a respectful working environment. A statistical overview on staffing had been presented. Some Member States had commended the Administration for the initiatives taken in the reporting period, but had noted that the proportion of female staff had remained the same for the previous five years. The Administration had listed some of the issues that made it difficult to attain gender balance quickly, but underlined the various approaches that were being implemented to address the issue. The Chairperson had noted the need to ensure that Member States were equitably represented in the IOM staffing composition. The Standing Committee had taken note of document MC/INF/305.

(g) Election of the Executive Committee

55. The Council noted that the following 36 Member States wished to be represented on the Executive Committee in 2012 and 2013: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

56. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1231 of 5 December 2011 on the election of the Executive Committee.

(h) Date and place of the next session

57. The Council adopted Resolution 1232 of 5 December 2011 concerning its next regular session and inviting the Executive Committee to meet in June 2012. The tentative dates were: 26 to 30 November 2012 for the Council and 20 June 2012 for the Executive Committee⁵. Provisional dates for the Tenth and Eleventh Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance were 15 and 16 May 2012 and 30 and 31 October 2012, respectively.

REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE STATE OF MIGRATION:

Current realities, future frontiers

58. The Director General⁶ said that IOM's 60th anniversary was an appropriate occasion to examine current migration trends and challenges, their implications for Member and Observer States and for migrants, and the scenario best able to ensure migration was of benefit to all. It was fitting to do so at a time when more people were on the move than ever before: at present, one in every seven persons was an international or internal migrant, and almost every nation a country of origin, transit or destination, with more and more being all three simultaneously.

59. Once simply a sensitive national political matter, migration had increasingly become a geopolitical security issue that tended, at times, to scapegoat migrants in general and to

⁵ The date for the Executive Committee was subsequently changed from 20 June 2012 to **3 July 2012**.

⁶ The full text of the Director General's remarks (MICE/4/2011) is available on the IOM website at www.iom.int.

criminalize those whose status was irregular. And yet, migration was a natural, necessary and potentially enriching phenomenon, and migrants were deserving of respect, humane treatment and gratitude for the skills, innovation and social and cultural benefits they brought with them.

60. In IOM's six decades of experience, human mobility had been a driver of human development, a source of betterment for States and their societies. Among governments, there was a growing consensus that migration would be an enduring trend throughout the twenty-first century. Governments had also understood that migration was far too complex for unilateral, isolationist policies. Indeed, one objective of the Council's high-level segment was to advance collective thinking on how the international community, the Member States that "owned" IOM, could best address the fundamental challenge of finding a humane, orderly and equitable arrangement that acknowledged national sovereignty while respecting people's need to migrate to live in safety and dignity, or to improve their lives.

61. The Organization had identified five major drivers of contemporary large-scale migration. The first related to the discrepancy between the demographics and the labour requirements of ageing, declining industrialized States and other countries with exponentially expanding populations of young people, with most migrants, as in the past, moving legally and as a matter of choice.

62. The second driver was the revolution in technology and social media: the way in which interpersonal links were maintained and the world was understood was changing fundamentally and affecting all aspects of humanity, including mobility. The third was the changing nature of the nation State. The very composition of many, if not most, nation States was in flux, with more and more States becoming multicultural, multilingual, multifaith and multi-ethnic societies. At the same time, migration-induced diversity was generating growing anxiety at local, national, regional and global level. The successful integration of migrants into host societies – whether temporarily or permanently – and, more broadly, the manner in which receiving communities embraced migration and diversity would constitute major policy questions for the Member States in the years ahead.

63. The fourth driver of large-scale migration was the combination of population growth, urbanization and multiple, often simultaneous, global crises relating to food, water, health care, resources, security, persistent human rights abuses, terrorism and the changing nature of warfare. The most damaging effect was mass population displacements, with the displaced likely to include increasing numbers of neglected at-risk populations not covered by a dedicated international legal framework: climate and environmental migrants, internally displaced persons, stranded migrants (including people rescued at sea) and unaccompanied minors.

64. Multiple complex humanitarian disasters – both man-made and natural – constituted the fifth driver of migration. There was every indication that climate change and environmental degradation were growing in intensity; they were expected to displace millions of people in the coming 40 years.

65. The conclusion was that, in the twenty-first century: (a) migration would assume greater policy and strategic significance for States; (b) large-scale population movements were both inevitable and, if intelligently and humanely managed, desirable and necessary; and (c) migration would remain a "megatrend". The Organization had considered what that represented in terms of migration governance.

66. First, governments and organizations had a responsibility to develop a communication strategy to inform and educate the general public, not just so as to limit irregular migration and promote regular labour migration as needed, but also to address the historically positive contribution of migration and dispel destructive stereotypes.

67. Second, that exchange with the public had to be augmented by developing strong regional and global partnerships on migration, for example through the 16 regional consultative processes supported by IOM, or through participation in forums such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group. In addition, one of the principal functions of IOM under the Constitution was to provide a forum for the discussion of contemporary migration issues with a view to finding practical solutions on the basis of sound evidence; the International Dialogue on Migration provided such a forum.

68. Third, there was a need for continued capacity-building in migration management. In that respect, IOM was committed to assisting governments as they managed social diversity and endeavoured to reconcile security with freedom of movement, national sovereignty with individual rights.

69. Fourth, all Member States needed to remain on the policy cutting edge as migration became more complex. Migration governance was a multilayered, multiplayer and multidimensional undertaking, and there was currently no single, unified system for managing migration.

70. The way forward would no doubt be difficult. However, whether or not the country in question was one of origin, transit or destination, or a combination thereof, the Organization viewed the migration governance “high road” as comprising all or some of the following elements: (a) recognition of the fundamental reality that large-scale migration was inevitable, necessary and desirable; (b) a “whole-of-government” approach, with an inter-ministerial body bringing together immigration, labour, justice, social affairs, development and other officials; (c) a “whole-of-society” approach involving the private sector, labour unions, advocacy groups, service providers, migrants’ associations, academia and the media; (d) a cooperation framework, including participation inter alia in regional consultative processes and the Global Forum; (e) a public information and education strategy focused on current realities and the positive contributions of migrants; and (f) national legislation that facilitated regular migration and discouraged irregular migration.

71. The Director General concluded by recalling that migration was the world’s oldest poverty reduction strategy. The best response was a policy that acknowledged and upheld the State’s sovereignty and its expectation that those entering its territory would respect local and national laws and customs, while at the same time recognizing the individual’s age-old desire to migrate, out of choice or necessity, and ensuring that individual rights were safeguarded.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, President of the Sixty-sixth Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- **Peter D. Sutherland**, Special Representative for Migration and Development of the United Nations Secretary-General

72. Mr. Al-Nasser observed that migration was a major twenty-first-century issue, with new migration poles emerging in Asia, Africa and South America in response to the labour demands created by an increasingly interdependent global economy. On the one hand, migrants and migration made a substantial contribution to development in countries of origin and destination. Migrants established businesses and created jobs in their host countries, and sent millions in remittances back to their home countries. When they returned home, they brought with them skills, expertise and global perspectives.

73. On the other hand, worrying imbalances had arisen in the discussion about international migration. Fear of the “other” had become more acute since the onset of the world financial and economic crisis, with migrants increasingly becoming the targets of racist and intolerant attitudes and practices. Recent developments in the Middle East and North Africa had highlighted the vulnerability of international migrants and the need for greater cooperation and coordination at all levels. Remittances had been negatively affected by rising unemployment and weak earnings growth among migrant workers in some countries of destination.

74. The fact that more and more people were moving worldwide was accompanied by growing awareness that international migration had important implications for the work of the international community, including the United Nations. Indeed, solutions to economic, social, cultural or humanitarian problems, and action for international peace and security – all of which lay at the heart of the work of the United Nations – could not be considered complete if they failed to address the fact that people moved. In addition, strengthening cooperation at all levels was an essential component of any strategy aimed at enhancing the contribution of international migration and migrants to development. In short, migration was, and would continue to be, of direct concern to the international community and to the work of the United Nations.

75. As a global organization, IOM cooperated with, and was in many cases fully integrated into, the United Nations at central, regional and local level. The crisis in Libya earlier in 2011 had clearly demonstrated that the world needed IOM and that the Organization’s work was an integral part of the international community’s collective efforts. There were many gains to be made by further examining that partnership and how further cooperation between the United Nations and IOM could be facilitated.

76. Reflecting on the institutional structures that enabled States to engage in dialogue and cooperate on international migration issues, Mr. Al-Nasser noted that IOM had evolved and adapted as international migration had become one of the world’s defining issues. No single government or agency, working in isolation, could successfully address the complex and multifaceted phenomenon of modern-day migration – partnerships were essential. In that respect, the Council’s general debate demonstrated that IOM had a role to play in offering a place for States and other migration stakeholders to debate contemporary migration issues, with a view to fostering deeper understanding and greater cooperation.

77. He looked forward to hearing the views of IOM Member States, all of which were also members of the United Nations General Assembly, on IOM’s potential role in facilitating further dialogue and cooperation on migration and on possibilities for strengthening global institutional frameworks. What contribution could the Council as a whole, as opposed to individual Member States and regional groups, make to the United Nations debate on migration, including in preparation for the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013? How best to ensure that cooperation was strengthened between the Member States’ work at the Council and their work together at the United Nations? Most importantly, how best to ensure

that migration in the twenty-first century was a positive force for the development of individuals and societies, and that migrants were treated with dignity and respect for their human rights?

78. Mr. Sutherland said that the Global Forum on Migration and Development had been established to foster discussion on migration issues between countries of origin and destination. It met annually and had been a phenomenal success. It had a Steering Committee of over 30 Member States, all of which had made real contributions, financial or otherwise, to the functioning of the Forum. While the Forum was not an institution and could not address normative issues, it made a practical contribution to dealing with migration issues. Each country had been asked to appoint a focal point for communication and dialogue between its national administration and the Forum.

79. The Global Migration Group had been established as an institutional interface to link the work of the Global Forum with the United Nations. It had not been as effective as anticipated, although IOM's contribution had been very valuable. The Global Forum relied on voluntary financial contributions from Member States and civil society organizations, and required greater assistance from the Group.

80. The forthcoming High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development would afford an opportunity to discuss the situation of migrants stranded by war or natural disaster. Other challenges that the Global Forum might discuss included the situation of domestic workers, and the importance of ratifying the International Labour Organization Convention concerning decent work for domestic workers, 2011 (No. 189). Coordination between the work of IOM and the Global Forum was particularly important to ensure the provision of effective support for migrants worldwide.

LAUNCH OF THE WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2011

81. The Administration presented the *World Migration Report 2011 – Communicating Effectively about Migration*. That theme had been chosen because migration was one of the most misunderstood contemporary issues, even though the modern world was characterized by the greatest human mobility in history. Human capital had the potential to be one of the key resources of exchange for global economic growth and prosperity. However, in reality, attitudes remained largely ambivalent towards migration. Moreover, particularly in times of economic recession, migrants were often held accountable for economic woes.

82. The Report therefore explored perceptions of migration and what could be done to improve them. The often confusing discourse surrounding migration prevented effective policymaking and engendered harmful stereotypes and discrimination, resulting in needless controversy about its value and impact. Public opinion on migration differed widely, some of it reflecting an appreciation that was seldom in evidence in the media or political discourse. In large-scale opinion surveys, migration was hardly ever explicitly identified as a concern, but its effects were implicitly bound up with many more tangible social and economic issues.

83. Studies conducted for the Report had found that many people perceived the number of migrants in their countries to be significantly higher than was actually the case. Perceptions also differed depending on the category of migrant that people had in mind: skilled or unskilled workers, asylum-seekers, tourists or people migrating for family reunification purposes. The prevailing economic and labour situation had a huge effect on perceptions of migrants, with more

negative perceptions often held by people who were older, less well-educated and of a lower socio-economic status. Furthermore, perceptions evolved significantly over time, some becoming more positive, others more negative. In countries of origin, there was a wide spectrum of perceptions, ranging from migrants as heroes who supported development to deserters. Similarly, returnees were sometimes viewed positively, as people who came back to rebuild, or negatively, as an unsettling influence. Media coverage clearly shaped public perceptions of migration, and increased coverage resulted in heightened public concern about the issue. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the evidence base for the coverage itself was sometimes questionable, and distorted communication about migration could trigger a vicious circle of disinformation.

84. The Report called for policymakers to promote honest, balanced, comprehensive, evidence-based discourse on migration. The debate should be de-politicized, focusing on real issues of concern. There was a need to move away from ideological, parochial, emotional arguments towards a discussion of the place of migration in rational economic, social and demographic planning. In addition, policymakers should work more closely with the media, providing leadership and practical guidance to ensure accurate, high-quality reporting. Migrants should also be given the opportunity to speak for themselves.

85. The Report included a review of the developments that had taken place in migration in 2011, an overview of the history of IOM, and a new section providing facts and figures on IOM's programmes and other activities. A book entitled *Foundations of International Migration Law*, due to be published by Cambridge University Press in early 2012, should constitute a useful source of information for policymakers. Details of that publication were also provided in the Report.

SPECIAL PANEL: MIGRANTS' VOICES

86. The panellists were:

- **Ian Goldin**, Professor of Globalization and Development, Oxford University
- **Ebun Aforo-Jusu**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Sierra Leone
- **Dikembe Mutombo**, former National Basketball Association player and philanthropist, Atlanta, Georgia
- **Katie Nguyen**, journalist for Reuters, London
- **Eric Urfer**, Director, Conservatory of Music, Yverdon.

87. Mr. Jean Philippe Chauzy, IOM spokesperson, acted as moderator.

88. Mr. Goldin said that the impulse to migrate had accounted for humankind's advancement as a species, allowing it to survive periods of extinction, famine, poverty and environmental disaster and to produce some of its greatest achievements; however, the development of restrictions to migration, such as the invention of passports, had had a significant negative effect. Perceptions of migration had altered; the rise of nationalism had created concepts of otherness. Although the absolute number of migrants had increased, partly as a result of the amount of States formed over the last century, the proportion of migrants in most societies had fallen.

89. Much had been said about the negative impact of migration for both sending and receiving countries, but that was not the whole story. Remittances provided many migrants'

families in their countries of origin with vital sustenance, especially in times of crisis. Diasporas played an important role in many spheres. Meanwhile, in their host countries, migrants contributed to the workforce and were often a source of innovation and dynamic growth. Societies that adopted a closed attitude to migration risked damaging their long-term development prospects, particularly in the face of demographic change. In the near future, perspectives on migration would alter completely. The challenge would be to adopt sensible policies on migration, bearing in mind that small policy changes could have significant effects on reality. In that regard, the Organization had an important role to play as a forum for discussion.

90. Ms. Aforo-Jusu recounted her experiences as a migrant. Having qualified as a lawyer in her native Sierra Leone, she had moved to the United States of America to broaden her legal experience. After some years navigating the immigration courts to regularize her status, she had completed her Juris Doctor degree at the University of Georgia. The difficulties she had initially faced in finding employment had prompted her to open her own legal practice in a city known for its hospitality to immigrants. Specializing in immigration law and family law had enabled her to use her experience and background to benefit both her host society and the migrant community.

91. After some 15 years, she had made the difficult decision to return to Sierra Leone, initially for six-month periods. Despite the problems and uncertainties of reintegration, which closely resembled those of migration, she had built a new life in her native country, culminating in the offer of her current government post. She stressed the importance of migrants within the diaspora maintaining contact with their countries of origin and eventually returning home.

92. Mr. Mutombo said that, as a child in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he had dreamed of becoming a doctor. His outstanding school performance had earned him a scholarship to attend Georgetown University in the United States, where he had been spotted by the coach of the university basketball team. Although he had abandoned his medical studies, graduating instead with dual degrees in linguistics and diplomacy, his subsequent 20-year career as a professional basketball player had allowed him to establish a foundation to improve the health-care system in his native country. After the death of his mother, he had donated more than two thirds of the money needed to build the country's first new hospital since independence. It now employed more than 420 medical staff, and he continued to raise millions of dollars every year towards the running costs of the hospital. He was proud of the work he had been able to do to help his country of origin,

93. Although some migrants chose to leave their native countries to seek a better life for themselves or their families, others were forced to do so simply in order to survive. During a recent trip to the Horn of Africa, he had seen at first hand the distressing and desperate conditions in which refugees were often compelled to live. He urged IOM to tackle their plight, and to continue its work to benefit the people of Africa.

94. Ms. Ngyuen said that her experience as a refugee had affected her life profoundly. She had left Viet Nam in 1979 at the age of two. The family had left in a small wooden boat and after four days at sea a British ship had rescued them and taken them to Hong Kong, after which the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration had assisted the family in resettlement to the United Kingdom. Although the kindness of the host community had been considerable, her parents had struggled for several years as factory workers while learning English and trying to overcome cultural differences. While she would be eternally grateful to the United Kingdom for the opportunities it had afforded her, having been a refugee, she had always questioned her identity

and struggled to bridge the gap between the two countries and cultures to which she felt connected.

95. Mr. Urfur said that as a young music student he had been offered the position of first trumpet in the newly formed national symphony orchestra of Costa Rica, under a project run by the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration to place young musicians abroad. He had arrived in Costa Rica in 1970, where he had begun his career, not only as an orchestral player, but also as a teacher, in a project organized by the Costa Rican Ministry of Culture to provide training for young musicians. His experiences in Costa Rica had been fundamental to shaping his development as both a musician and a teacher.

GENERAL DEBATE⁷

96. Statements were made by the following Member States listed in alphabetical order: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama (for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and in its own name), Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland (for the EU), Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania (United Republic of), Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia (for the African Group and in its own name) and Zimbabwe.

97. Statements were made or submitted by the following observers: China, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, the Sovereign Order of Malta, the African Union, the International Catholic Migration Commission, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the World Health Organization.

98. The participants welcomed the new Member States and observers, whose interest was a testament to IOM's global relevance as a credible forum for tackling the multidimensional challenges of migration; their contributions would enrich the debate and strengthen the Organization. One participant nevertheless cautioned that the process by which new members were admitted had to be completely transparent if expanded membership was to be of benefit to all; membership applications should be reviewed before they were submitted to the Council.

99. The participants also congratulated the Organization on its 60-year history of providing services in the field of migration for the benefit of all. The representative of the Netherlands announced that her country, to mark the anniversary and to underline the importance of training young staff members, would finance an IOM position for a Dutch Junior Professional Officer for three years.

⁷ Texts of statements, as and if received from the members and observers, are accessible to Member States on the IOM website at www.iom.int.

100. Deep appreciation was expressed for the dedicated service of IOM Field and Headquarters staff and their courage in even the most difficult circumstances.

101. The Administration received plaudits for the publication of the *World Migration Report 2011*, and for underscoring the links between migration and current political, social and economic issues. At a time of mounting xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance, it was important to promote and strengthen positive perceptions of migrants and respect for migrant rights. Simply criminalizing migrants would not resolve the financial and economic crisis.

102. Many delegates spoke of the interdependence of migration and development: well-managed migration could make a meaningful contribution to the development of migrants' countries of origin, transit and destination and to individual migrants and their families; countries with proper migration management systems benefited from migrant remittances and acquired knowledge and skills. In that respect, it was essential that IOM participate and engage in the 2013 United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

103. Great value was attached to IOM's efforts to coordinate the humanitarian response in emergency situations. Thanks to its experience, in the past year IOM had reacted swiftly and effectively to political conflicts in West and North Africa and to natural and man-made disasters (e.g. in the Horn of Africa and Pakistan) that had strongly affected migrants and migration – it was no exaggeration to say that 2011 had allowed the international community to witness IOM at its best. Those disasters had demonstrated that IOM needed the tools to react without delay; the establishment of the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism was therefore applauded as effectively enhancing IOM's ability to respond rapidly to future migration crises. One Member State nonetheless recalled that IOM must always bear in mind its original mandate, so as to avoid duplication, and others noted that the Fund was intended to complement, not duplicate, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund.

104. Numerous countries expressed gratitude for IOM's assistance at difficult times in their recent history or with respect to particularly nettlesome migration situations.

105. The question of whether or not IOM should be integrated into the United Nations system was addressed by a number of delegations; as some representatives pointed out, however, migration issues required immediate operational responses and a flexibility that was incompatible with the way the United Nations functioned. However, partnerships with United Nations agencies were inevitable and functioned well, as shown by the concerted and timely efforts furnished by IOM and UNHCR during the recent Libyan crisis to avert a humanitarian disaster that had threatened the lives and well-being of tens of thousands of migrant workers. Such partnerships should be further strengthened. Two delegates, for their part, expressed the view that IOM should become a United Nations agency.

106. Agreement was expressed with the need to strike a balance between the sovereign right of States to manage migrant movements across their borders and people's aspirations to migrate in search of better lives. In that regard, IOM was a key player in State and group efforts to map the global migration situation and to establish a just, collective approach to the migration phenomenon. Fair, humane and sustainable migration management was required to maximize migration's benefits globally and deal effectively with its negative consequences. A comprehensive immigration policy aimed at social cohesion and prosperity, and grounded in respect for and protection of human rights, had to include measures for integrating immigrants, tackling racism and xenophobia and combating trafficking in human beings.

107. Several representatives expressed appreciation for the fact that the Administrative Part of the Budget had been held to zero nominal growth or support for the budget reform process in general. It was nevertheless recognized that, despite the decision to add the assessed contributions of new Member States to the Administrative Part of the Budget, the fundamental problem of core budget underfunding remained unsolved. One solution might be to increase project-related overhead from 5 per cent to the 7 per cent applied in the United Nations system; another possibility was to seek private funding and new partnership models.

108. The Director General's determination to increase funding for the IOM Development Fund was applauded, and appreciation expressed to the Governments of Austria, the United States, Italy and Hungary for their voluntary contributions to the Fund.

109. Two representatives emphasized the need to ratify the amendments to the IOM Constitution. The representatives of Egypt and Peru said that their Governments would take action on that point.

110. The Director General noted a number of points made during the general debate that were specific to certain regions. The Africa region attached great importance to capacity-building in areas such as border management and counter-trafficking policy (the IOM Development Fund was the best means of implementing projects for that purpose), to engagement with the diaspora (IOM would organize a ministerial forum on diaspora in 2012), and to labour migration and remittances/role of migrants in socio-economic development. Countries in the Americas also emphasized migration and development, attaching special importance to the integration of migration into national development plans and to the human rights of migrants. The return and reintegration of migrants had taken on new significance amid the economic crisis. In Asia and the Pacific, where integration was also deemed critical to successful migration, it was felt that greater attention had to be paid to the full migration cycle. Another major concern in the region was the management of migration crises, as had recently arisen in North Africa and the Middle East. The countries of Europe had appealed for a balanced approach to migration management, one that incorporated returns and took account of migration crises in humanitarian emergencies. Migration and humanitarian crises were of concern in the Middle East and North Africa as well, as were youth unemployment and migration management, particularly border management and counter-trafficking activities.

111. The Director General further identified a number of cross-cutting themes raised by countries from all regions: migration and climate change, the importance of continued dialogue on migration governance, and the need for regional consultative processes for the Caribbean and Central America. He thanked those countries whose peoples had opened their hearts, their homes and their pocketbooks to migrants forced to return home in the wake of the recent crises, and recalled that attention now had to turn to their reintegration in their countries of origin.

112. It was incumbent on all the participants to condemn the victimization and criminalization of migrants; IOM shared the concern about rising anti-immigrant sentiment and would always uphold the human rights of migrants, regardless of their status. It was strictly following the admonition received in 2007 to enhance the "status quo", namely to strengthen its ties to the United Nations system, but remained entirely neutral on United Nations membership – that was a decision for the Member States.

113. The Chairperson reflected that the record participation at the Council session was clear evidence of the importance States attached to migration issues and of their recognition and

appreciation of IOM as the key global organization in the field of migration, a growing global megatrend. Greater efforts were needed to dispel widespread public misperceptions about migrants, and the *World Migration Report 2011* identified the challenges this posed and set out recommendations for action to be taken by the various stakeholders.

114. The Chairperson further reflected that IOM's participation in various migration platforms, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Global Migration Group and the regional consultative processes, had been saluted, and that IOM had been encouraged to continue supporting those processes. IOM was also encouraged to engage actively in the debate leading up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held at the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, to make its voice heard in the preparations and to share its rich experience and expertise. IOM's unique strength had been defined as its ability to act as a responsive, adaptable and flexible partner.

115. Lastly, the Chairperson pointed out that there was clear recognition of the need to listen more attentively both to migrant success stories and to the difficulties they encountered. Giving migrants a stronger, clearer voice at national and international level had been identified as a priority for the international community.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

116. The Chairperson declared the 100th Session of the Council closed on Wednesday, 7 December 2011, at 6.11 p.m.

