



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

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**REPORT ON THE 110TH SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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REPORT ON THE 110TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Executive Committee convened for its 110th Session at the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG), on Thursday, 13 June 2013, at 10.10 a.m. One meeting was held. The session was opened by the outgoing Vice-Chairperson Mr Enrico T. Fos (Philippines).

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Executive Committee: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America and Zimbabwe.¹

3. In addition, the following Member States were represented by observers: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.¹

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS

4. The Executive Committee took note that the Director General had examined the credentials of the representatives of and observers for Member States and found them to be in order.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. H.E. Mr Thani Thongphakdi (Thailand) and Ms Marilina Armellini (Italy) were elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively, by acclamation.

¹ See List of participants (MC/EX/732).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Executive Committee adopted the agenda set out in document MC/EX/726/Rev.1.

PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

7. The Director General made a slide presentation outlining the highlights of the Organization's work in 2012 (see www.iom.int). Its priorities remained those set in 2008: State proprietorship, strategic partnerships and staff professionalism (the three "Ps"). With regard to State proprietorship, members had achieved much in strengthening their ownership of the Organization. Extensive consultations between Member States had been held, he had met with all of the regional groupings, Council Bureau meetings had been regular, and a number of thematic debriefings had taken place. Only five more ratifications were needed for the constitutional amendments to be passed and he urged members to make every effort to help achieve that goal. IOM membership continued to expand, with two new Member States, Suriname and Malawi, due to be admitted at the Council's 102nd Special Session.

8. Strategic partnerships continued to expand and IOM was also a recipient of funding from virtually all of the European Union and United Nations multi-donor trust funds. A number of major coordinated actions had been taken such as the combined operations between IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic and work in key areas with many other agencies. Other important activities were regular consultations with civil society organizations and the media and expanding partnerships with the private sector and academia.

9. IOM supported the principal 14 regional consultative processes (RCPs). He listed the Organization's major existing strategic partnerships and informed the Committee that a new Central African States RCP had been established in 2012, a Caribbean RCP was under consideration, the Almaty Process had been launched in May 2013 with UNHCR and that the Commonwealth of Independent States had expressed interest in forming an RCP.

10. Turning to the Global Migration Group (GMG), he said that IOM was actively engaged with all members in its reform and would take over the chair from July to December 2013.

11. The 101st Session of the Council had adopted resolutions on the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and on the Migration Crisis Operational Framework. The six IOM policy recommendations to the High-level Dialogue called for more attention to migrants caught up in crisis situations, a better evidence and knowledge base, more policy coherence and institutional development, integration of migration into development planning, improvement to the public perception of migrants to achieve a more balanced treatment of their contributions, and the protection of their human rights.

12. Presenting the key facts and figures for 2012, he said that active projects had increased significantly over 2011 as the Organization continued to grow and expand. The ratio between international and national staff, at around 1:10, was one of the best ratios of any agency working in migration. IOM was working towards replacing even more internationals with national staff, as it was the best form of capacity-building.

13. With regard to operational highlights, he said that a major challenge was living in a period of the widest range of complex humanitarian emergencies in recent times, given the addition of climate change and environmental degradation. In that respect, IOM was focusing on South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Philippines, Somalia and Mali and had developed a unique system, known as the Displacement Tracking Matrix, which it had pioneered after the Haiti earthquake and was now being used by many agencies. In research and policy, work had continued on many projects, including on Migration Profiles and the *World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-being and Development*, which was directly geared towards the High-level Dialogue. Migration and health had long been a major focus and a range of activities were ongoing in that area. Significant work also continued in the areas of immigration and border management, migrant assistance, labour migration and human development, resettlement and movement and supporting innovation.

14. The main challenges in 2012 were ensuring core funding kept pace with the growth of the Organization, achieving gender, geographical and linguistic equity and continuing to follow the three “As” – arrears, amendments and accession. The Administration would lend any support required to the 19 Member States still in arrears and to Member States that had yet to ratify the amendments. It was IOM’s goal to have 160 Member States by the end of 2013 because the more States that were engaged in active dialogue, the better the future of migration management, and the greater likelihood of coming up with a usable compromise formula. A higher membership would also help ensure that IOM was the lead global agency on migration.

15. In conclusion, he reminded the Committee of the three strategic objectives agreed at the IOM retreat: leadership (to maintain IOM as the leading migration agency), operational (to strengthen capacity to serve migrants and Member States) and advocacy (to increase government and public recognition of the contribution of migrants and migration).

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 2012

16. The Executive Committee considered the Report of the Director General on the work of the Organization for the year 2012 (MC/2377) and the relevant draft resolution (MC/EX/L/189).

17. One observer welcomed the three priorities set by the Director General, which would lead to greater visibility, the prominent role of IOM in the global discourse on migration and the Migration Crisis Operational Framework. He also welcomed measures adopted to comply with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), but urged IOM to devise suitable internal procedures to take into account the recommendations of the External Auditor. In that connection, he supported the steps taken to appoint the Audit Advisory Committee. He was concerned at increasing anti-migrant sentiment, a trend that was reflected in the Organization’s focus on projects in the area of regulating migration rather than that of migration and development, as shown in the breakdown of operational expenditure according to service classification. He therefore called for more dialogue with donor States on implementing more migration development projects. He advocated caution when negotiating agreements for private-sector funding to ensure that it did not adversely affect IOM core mandate and projects.

18. One representative congratulated the Director General on his leadership and dynamism in leading the Organization's many activities in 2012 and efforts to secure IOM recognition as the leading global migration agency. She called for international and national migration to be included in the post-2015 development agenda as a driver for development, greater coordination of multilateral initiatives in migration management and a strengthening of the GMG. IOM should focus its efforts on promoting a more positive and less polarized image of migration and on addressing the situation of persons displaced as a result of climate change.

19. Another representative, speaking on behalf of the African Group, welcomed progress made in providing direct technical assistance to millions worldwide, the launch of the *World Migration Report 2013* and IOM guidance and vision on the preparations for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and on emergency programmes for Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic, South Sudan and Somalia. The African Group noted the Executive Committee's recommendation on the adoption of the new assessment scale for 2014 and the intention to review the assessment scale for 2015 at the latest by 2014. It would like to see a representative of the African Group on the selection panel for members of the Executive Committee and the Audit Advisory Committee.

20. The Director General, in response to the above comments, said that IOM was ranked high among organizations that complied with IPSAS, which made it more alert to the integrity standards needed in its finances. Discussions would take place on the Audit Advisory Committee, particularly concerning the rotation of its first members. Anti-migrant sentiment was widespread, much of it in the highly industrialized nations. IOM must therefore strongly promote the compelling link between migration and development and ensure it was an integral part of the High-level Dialogue and the post-2015 development agenda. IOM would be cautious in its overtures to the private sector; most current activity was public-private sector partnerships. The Organization would continue its successful efforts with African States in emergency programmes.

21. The Executive Committee adopted Resolution No. 135 on the Report of the Director General on the work of the organization for the year 2012 (MC/2377).

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

22. The Executive Committee considered the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2012 (MC/2376), the relevant section of the Report of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance on the Twelfth Session (MC/EX/729), the Report of the External Auditor to the 110th Session of the Executive Committee of the International Organization for Migration for the financial year 2012 (CRP/40) and the draft resolution on the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2012 (MC/EX/L/190).

23. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that in 2012 the Organization's financial statements had, for the first time, been prepared in full compliance with IPSAS. Total expenditure for 2012 was USD 1.24 billion, a slight decrease from USD 1.31 billion for 2011. In highlighting the main parts of the report, the Administration had drawn the attention of the Standing Committee to the contingent liabilities.

24. A representative of the External Auditor (the Comptroller and Auditor General of India) had stated that, in the External Auditor's opinion, the financial statements presented a true and

fair view of the Organization's resources, expenditures and financial position. The External Auditor had also reported on the key issues identified during the audit of the Financial Report for 2012 and had made a number of recommendations. The Administration had indicated that it had accepted and planned to implement all those recommendations, within the limit of available resources.

25. Several Member States had commended the Organization's compliance with IPSAS and the decision to implement the recommendations of the External Auditor in full. The Standing Committee had taken note of the statement of the External Auditor on the accounts of IOM for 2012 and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2012.

26. One representative praised IOM not only for achieving full compliance with IPSAS, but also for doing so without the need for additional resources, something that a number of other organizations had not managed to achieve. She also welcomed the full implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations, which would help lead to better organizational management.

27. The Executive Committee took note of the above-mentioned reports and adopted Resolution No. 136 on the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2012 (MC/2376).

REVISION OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2013

28. The Executive Committee had before it the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2013 (MC/EX/727), the Programme and Budget for 2013 (MC/2349), the relevant section of the Report of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance on its Twelfth Session (MC/EX/729) and the draft resolution on the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2013 (MC/EX/L/191).

29. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administrative Part of the Budget had been increased from CHF 39,398,792 to CHF 39,495,629. The increase had resulted from: (a) the assessed contributions of the new Member States that had joined IOM in November 2012; (b) the assessed contribution of South Sudan following the adoption of its assessment scale by the United Nations in December 2012; and (c) surplus from the 2011 Administrative Part of the Budget in line with the provisions of Executive Committee Resolution No. 134 of 3 July 2012 on budget processes and mechanism. The Administration had proposed that the increase be used to cover costs relating to the Organization's preparations for the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

30. The Operational Part of the Budget had increased from USD 642.7 million to slightly over USD 1 billion and was expected to increase further.

31. Having examined document MC/EX/727 in detail, the Standing Committee had recommended that the Executive Committee approve the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2013.

32. The Executive Committee adopted Resolution No. 137 approving the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2013.

ASSESSMENT SCALE FOR 2014

33. The Executive Committee considered the proposed adjustment to the IOM assessment scale for 2014 (MC/EX/728) and the relevant section of the Report of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance on its Twelfth Session (MC/EX/729).

34. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the proposed IOM assessment scale for 2014 had been fully equated to the United Nations assessment scale and took account of the admission of the new Member States admitted in November 2012.

35. The Standing Committee had recommended that the Executive Committee adopt the scale of assessment for the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2014 shown in column 3 of the annex to document MC/EX/728 and that the governing bodies review the matter of the assessment scale for 2015 in the first half of 2014. The Working Group on Budget Reform would not address that aspect, meaning that the assessment scale remained as provided in the relevant document.

36. One representative sought clarification on when the new assessment scale for 2014, if adopted, would become applicable.

37. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the adjusted scales would apply to the IOM budget as from 2014.

38. The Executive Committee approved the assessment scale for 2014 set out in column 3 of the annex to document MC/EX/728, and invited the governing bodies to review the matter of the assessment scale for 2015 in the first half of 2014.

OTHER ITEMS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE

39. The Executive Committee continued to examine the Report of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance on the Twelfth Session (MC/EX/729).

(a) Exchange of views on items proposed by the membership

40. The Standing Committee Rapporteur reported on the three subjects discussed under this agenda item.

(i) Update on preparations for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and examination of IOM activities and possible “high-road scenarios” for the four round-table themes

41. The Administration had explained how States and the international community could build scenarios based on policy recommendations through which migration could contribute to the development and well-being of migrants and society. A number of delegations had indicated that document SCPF/95 had served as a good basis for preparations for the High-

level Dialogue and the Administration had been requested to build on the document and to keep Member States informed on developments in preparation for the meeting. Some of the delegations had been of the view that the High-level Dialogue should emphasize the importance of recognizing the link between migration and development in the post-2015 development agenda. Member States had expressed appreciation for the Administration's efforts in preparations leading up to the meeting.

(ii) IOM's work on and with the diaspora

42. The Standing Committee Rapporteur reported that document SCPF/97 examined the contributions that diasporas, or transitional communities, made to their communities and gave an overview of IOM's experience in diaspora-related programming.

43. The Administration had outlined the comprehensive strategy approach of IOM to enable, engage and empower the human, cultural, social and economic capital of transnational communities as agents for development. It had underscored the importance of enhancing the well-being of transnational communities to help them reach their full potential. Diasporas were already active in many parts of the world and the role of IOM was to facilitate and add value to Member State strategies for dealing with them. Several delegates had attested to the contributions of international communities to society and had urged States to attach importance to them. The Director General had reminded the Standing Committee about the objectives of the upcoming Diaspora Ministerial Conference and thanked Member States for their contributions towards it.

(iii) Privileges and immunities

44. The Administration had reported in document SCPF/96 that IOM did not enjoy privileges and immunities in a number of countries where it operated, despite its Constitution providing that the Organization should enjoy them for the exercise of its functions. Measures on remedying the situation had been proposed. Many delegates had agreed that IOM should be granted the privileges and immunities it needed to function smoothly as an international organization and some delegations had requested the Administration to quantify the cost to IOM of not enjoying full privileges and immunities in all States. The Administration had responded that it would be better to consider the matter from the broader perspective of IOM's ability to function. A number of delegations had expressed support for a resolution by the Council calling on Member States to grant IOM the same privileges and immunities as those granted to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The Working Group on Budget Reform had also discussed the matter and supported the proposal for a resolution.

45. The Standing Committee had taken note of the presentations made by the Administration and of the comments of Member States.

46. One representative said that the link between migration and development should be better reflected in the High-level Dialogue and the post-2015 development agenda. He highlighted the need to strengthen coordination and communication between IOM and other international bodies, particularly within the United Nations system, on issues such as mixed migrant flows and on making the necessary link to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Accession to

and ratification of that core international instrument was important to protect the rights of migrant workers, particularly given the reluctance of industrialized nations to do so.

47. Another representative called for the High-level Dialogue to take stock of the importance of migrants' remittances to sending countries because it was an open secret that remittances to developing countries were now three times more than aid from Member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It should also focus on the growing phenomenon of South–South migration and efforts should be made to promote equitable access to health and decent work for the diaspora population, especially women and children. He hoped that the Diaspora Ministerial Conference would result in workable proposals to advance the promotion and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families.

48. The Executive Committee took note of the Standing Committee's deliberations on the three items on which views were exchanged.

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

49. The Executive Committee examined the Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget (SCPF/99) and the relevant section of the Report of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance on its Twelfth Session (MC/EX/729).

50. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administration had reported an increase in total outstanding assessed contributions since 2011. The number of Member States subject to Article 4 of the Constitution remained high. Some of the participants had lauded the efforts made by some Member States to pay their arrears and urged the rest to follow suit. The Director General had indicated that the Administration would continue to work closely with Member States in arrears by offering flexible payment plans, highlighting that outstanding amounts could be paid in local currency and that paying arrears would allow access to line 2 of the IOM Development Fund.

51. The Standing Committee had taken note of the situation and urged all Member States in arrears, particularly those whose contributions had been outstanding for two or more consecutive years, to make every effort to pay as soon as possible, or to agree to a payment plan with the Administration and to comply fully with the payment conditions.

52. The Administration added that, since the Standing Committee's Twelfth Session, the number of Member States that were currently subject to Article 4 of the Constitution had fallen from 20 to 19, following receipt of a payment from Madagascar. Although not subject to Article 4 of the Constitution, Armenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Morocco, Seychelles, Spain, Uganda and Ukraine had also made payments since the last report to Member States. The Administration intended to continue following up on arrears through a variety of measures.

53. The Executive Committee took note of the Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget (SCPF/99) and endorsed the Standing Committee's conclusions.

(c) Report of the Chairperson of the Working Group on Budget Reform

54. The Chairperson drew the Executive Committee's attention to the document entitled Working Group on Budget Reform – Progress report (SCPF/102).

55. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that, as the Chairperson of the Working Group on Budget Reform, he had reported that significant progress had been made on the issue of funding for the core structure. He had also been holding bilateral consultations with delegations, which had served as an effective means of building a spirit of cooperation. The report had outlined measures being considered to address IOM's core structure underfunding, including cost-efficiencies, alternative funding sources, increasing the overhead rates charged to projects and the level of the Administrative Part of the Budget through a phased three-year approach.

56. Other issues discussed had included the establishment of host country agreements affording privileges and immunities to IOM and its officials to provide more favourable conditions through tax exemptions and privileges similar to those enjoyed by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the establishment of a single audit or auditor to streamline audit procedures for projects. The Chairperson had proposed that a draft resolution be formulated for discussion at the Working Group's next meeting and there would also be a draft resolution on the privileges and immunities issue.

57. The Standing Committee had taken note of the progress report and indicated that the Working Group would continue to discuss budget reform with a view to formulating appropriate recommendations for submission to the governing body sessions in the second half of 2013.

58. The Executive Committee took note of document SCPF/102.

(d) IOM Development Fund

59. The Executive Committee examined the reports on the IOM Development Fund (SCPF/98 and SCPF/100) and the relevant section of the Report of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance on its Twelfth Session (MC/EX/729).

60. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administration had briefed the membership on the allocations made in 2012 and the resources available in 2013. The status report had highlighted that the IOM Development Fund had already received a number of requests during the first quarter of 2013 in excess of the available resources for the whole year. It had also indicated that the performance audit of the Fund had been finalized in March 2013 and that the Administration would respond to the recommendations of the audit in the second quarter of 2013. Several delegates had expressed appreciation for the support provided by certain Member States and had encouraged others to follow suit. In view of IOM's commitment to the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the IOM Development Fund had allocated a spending target of 5 per cent of funds to gender-related activities. The Director General had encouraged all Member States to contribute to the Fund, which was the only funding available to the Organization that was not tied to specific projects.

61. The Standing Committee had taken note of documents SCPF/98 and SCPF/100.

62. The Executive Committee took note of the information provided.

APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE IOM AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

63. The Executive Committee considered the document on the appointment of the members of the IOM Audit Advisory Committee (MC/EX/730).

64. A few delegates requested further clarification on how the membership of the Audit Advisory Committee would be selected and on the candidate recruitment process described in the document. Drawing on their own knowledge of similar advisory committees and the selection procedures used in other international organizations, two delegates underscored the importance of including equitable geographical representation in the criteria for the selection panel and said that, to achieve that, the panel should comprise five Member State representatives, not two. Another said that the proposal in the document to list the reasons why unsuccessful candidates were not selected was not necessary so long as the list of successful candidates clearly and comprehensively described their relevant expertise and qualifications.

65. Responding, the Administration clarified that the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance would recommend the Member State representatives to serve on the selection panel. An open advertisement would be published calling for qualified candidates to apply for membership of the Audit Advisory Committee and Member States would be able to recommend candidates who they felt should also apply. The advertisement would clearly state the qualifications and experience required by candidates. The Administration further confirmed that the proposal contained in document MC/EX/730 would be revised to take account of the suggestion made by delegates to increase the number of Member State representatives on the selection panel from two to five.

66. The Executive Committee approved the proposed revision to the terms of reference of the Audit Advisory Committee, taking into consideration the comments made by delegates.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

67. Pursuant to Council Resolution No. 972 of 26 November 1997, the next session of the Executive Committee would take place in Geneva in June 2014.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

68. The Chairperson thanked the Meetings Secretariat and the interpreters and declared closed the 110th Session of the Executive Committee at 12.15 p.m. on Thursday, 13 June 2013.