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

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COUNCIL

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103RD SESSION

**DRAFT REPORT ON THE
103RD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

Geneva
26 to 29 November 2013
Rapporteur: Ms Kate O'Malley (Australia)

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DRAFT REPORT ON THE 103RD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1245 of 27 November 2012, the Council convened for its 103rd Session on 26 November 2013, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. Seven meetings were held.

ATTENDANCE¹

2. The following Member States were represented:

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

¹ See List of participants (MC/2397).

² See paragraph 14.

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

4. The United Nations, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the African Union, the Council of Europe, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States, the Organisation internationale de la francophonie, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation were represented by observers.

5. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Sovereign Order of Malta were represented by observers, as were the following international non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Africa Humanitarian Action, CARAM Asia, FOCSIV – Volontari Nel Mondo, the Hassan II Foundation for Moroccans Residing Abroad, International Catholic Migration Commission, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the International Islamic Relief Organization, the International Medical Corps, the International Social Service, the Jesuit Refugee Service, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Refugee Education Trust, Terre des Hommes International Federation, and World Vision International.

OPENING OF THE SESSION, CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS

6. The outgoing Chairperson, Mr A. Hannan (Bangladesh), opened the session on 26 November 2013 at 10.20 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.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL

8. The outgoing Chairperson informed the Council of his visits earlier in the year to Haiti and Colombia to see first-hand IOM's engagement in the two countries, which, respectively, had been affected by a colossal earthquake and had grappled for many years with the challenges posed by illegal armed groups.

9. In Haiti, he had taken the opportunity to renew IOM's commitment to supporting the transition from an emergency phase to one of recovery and technical cooperation and had met with key government officials and representatives from the donor community to see how various challenges were being addressed. He had also met with the European Commission Department of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection in Haiti, to discuss the high level of

support that it had given, and hoped to extend, to IOM operations, and with representatives of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, to express thanks for the Mission's support for IOM projects. On a visit to IOM's base of operations he had discovered more about its camp coordination and camp management, data-management and health-related activities, such as a cholera response project. Pleasingly, the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs had recently recognized IOM's Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster as the best managed in Haiti. He had also attended a town hall meeting with IOM staff members and had undertaken some eye-opening Field visits to an IOM-managed camp for internally displaced persons and an IOM-built evacuation shelter. Without visiting the camps, he believed it would not have been possible to appreciate just how successfully IOM was operating in the Field and responding to crisis situations.

10. On his visit to Colombia he had met informally with the Vice-President and other senior government officials and had recalled that IOM's operations in Colombia were often viewed as a model example of a successful partnership between IOM and a government. IOM had been a key partner in the development of the government-initiated peace process in Colombia and provided expertise and support for demobilization, reintegration and victims' reparations. Its strategy covered areas such as migration management, counter-trafficking, and migration issues relating to gender, health, climate change, and human rights, among many others. One of the most important aspects of the Organization's work was its cooperation with the Colombian Agency for Reintegration, which had many offices around the country and was the main point of contact for demobilized people. There were, however, still a number of challenges for IOM's work in Colombia, including: enhancing work on migration and childhood, climate change and rural development; diversifying sources of cooperation and expanding private-sector contributions; developing social responsibility models for rural regions; and assisting the high number of displaced persons.

11. Following both visits, the Chairperson had acquired a greater appreciation of the role and mandate of IOM in delivering services in countries at times of crisis or crucial need. He believed, however, that IOM required significantly more financial resources to cover its needs and projects in the Field and, in particular, a predictable level of funding so that it could continue to deliver a high standard of service, dedication and professionalism and address more challenges in the future.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12. The Council elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia (Peru)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Minelik Alemu Getahun (Ethiopia)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Bertrand de Crombrughe (Belgium)
Rapporteur:	Ms Kate O'Malley (Australia)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

13. The Council adopted the agenda as set out in document MC/2375/Rev.3.

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

(a) Applications by Turkmenistan, the Republic of Iceland, the Republic of Fiji and the Republic of the Marshall Islands for membership of the Organization

14. The Council adopted by acclamation Resolutions Nos 1251, 1252, 1253 and 1254 of 26 November 2013 admitting Turkmenistan, the Republic of Iceland, the Republic of Fiji and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, respectively, as members of IOM.

15. The representative of Turkmenistan thanked Member States for supporting his country's application for membership of the Organization. He said that Turkmenistan's decision to join was a logical continuation of its long-standing and productive cooperation with IOM and reflected the country's increased desire to address challenges relating to migration. Turkmenistan had an "open-door" migration policy and had established a system for effective legal and social protection of migrants. Legislation in line with international standards on refugees and stateless persons was being implemented. Turkmenistan looked forward to pursuing its work with IOM at the international, regional and subregional levels to develop projects and find effective and sustainable solutions to global migration challenges.

16. No representatives of Fiji, Iceland or the Marshall Islands were available at the meeting to speak following the countries' admission.

(b) Applications by the International Medical Corps, the Economic Community of West African States Commission, the United Nations Children's Fund, Terre des Hommes International Federation and CARAM Asia for representation by an observer

17. The International Medical Corps, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Terre des Hommes International Federation and CARAM Asia were granted observer status at meetings of the Council, in accordance with the terms of Resolutions Nos 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258 and 1259 of 26 November 2013, respectively.

18. The representative of the ECOWAS Commission said the Commission was honoured by the invitation to assume observer status and looked forward to working more closely with IOM to address the ever greater challenges of migration, curb irregular migration and promote regular migration.

19. The representative of UNICEF said that UNICEF looked forward to consolidating its cooperation with IOM at Field level in a number of strategic areas. She congratulated IOM on its chairmanship of the Global Migration Group and its leadership in advocating the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda.

20. The representative of Terre des Hommes International Federation emphasized the long-standing working relationship between Terre des Hommes and IOM at global level, particularly as active members of the Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move, participants in the recent second United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and advocates for the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda.

21. The representative of CARAM Asia emphasized the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach in all migration policies. He underscored the need to ensure that all migrant workers were given access to health information and services in sending and receiving countries alike, and said that particular attention should be paid to raising migrants' awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues.

22. The Director General welcomed the new members and observers, whose decision to join the Organization illustrated the growing global interest in migration matters and was testament to IOM's lead role in that regard. IOM looked forward to enhancing and expanding its excellent cooperation with all those concerned.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

23. The Director General gave a slide presentation summing up his report to the Council (MICEM/4/2013).³

DRAFT REPORTS ON THE 101ST SESSION AND THE 102ND (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

24. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1260 of 26 November 2013 approving the reports on its 101st Session (MC/2361) and 102nd (Special) Session (MC/2373).

REPORT ON THE 110TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

25. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1261 of 26 November 2013 taking note, with appreciation, of the Report on the 110th Session of the Executive Committee (MC/2378).

REPORT ON MATTERS DISCUSSED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE

(a) Entry into force of the amendments to the Constitution and implications for the functioning of the Organization

26. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that, subject to the deletion of operative paragraph 5 of Annex VIII, which had become obsolete, the Standing Committee had noted document on the amendments to the Constitution (MC/2387) and had recommended that the Council approve the draft resolutions contained in Annexes VII and VIII thereto.

27. The Director General informed the Council that ratifications had been received from Switzerland on 24 October 2013 and Germany on 21 November 2013 and that the amendments to the Constitution had therefore entered into force on 21 November 2013, as per document MC/2387/Add.1.

³ The full text of the Director General's report to the 103rd Session of the Council (MICEM/4/2013) and the slide presentation are available on the IOM website at www.iom.int.

28. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1262 of 26 November 2013 on the Entry into force of the amendments to the Constitution and Resolution No. 1263 of 26 November 2013 on the Revision of the Rules of Procedure for the Council, of the terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance and the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, and other consequential decisions.

(b) Revision of Staff Regulations

29. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administration had noted the decision to raise the mandatory age of retirement from 62 to 65 years for staff members joining the Organization as of 1 January 2014 and to amend the Staff Regulations in line with changes in the United Nations system. It had also been proposed that the maximum age of appointment should be increased from 60 to 63 years. The Standing Committee had taken note of the document entitled Revision of Staff Regulations (MC/2386) and had recommended that the Council adopt the draft resolution.

30. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1264 of 26 November 2013 on the revision of Staff Regulations.

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

31. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administration had introduced document SCPF/108, entitled Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget, and had reported a slight decrease in the total amount of outstanding assessed contributions compared with the previous year; 15 Member States remained subject to Article 4 of the Constitution. 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. Member States with contributions outstanding for two or more consecutive years had been urged to pay their contributions in full or to agree to a payment plan with the Administration and to fully respect the payment conditions.

32. The Administration added that, following the entry into force of the amendments to the Constitution, Member States would lose their voting rights the year after the Council had been informed that they had been in arrears the two preceding years; those that had a payment plan and were up to date with their payments under that plan would retain their voting rights. To update the membership on the current status of Member States under Article 4, it had prepared a document entitled Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member States' voting rights (MC/2395).

33. The Council endorsed the recommendation made by the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance and took note of document MC/2395.

(d) Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2013

34. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administrative Part of the Budget had been increased by CHF 955 with the contributions of Malawi and Suriname, which had been admitted as Member States in June 2013, to CHF 39,496,584, while the Operational Part of the Budget had increased from USD 1.018 billion to USD 1.278 billion as a result of additional funding received and new activities undertaken since the Revision of the

Programme and Budget for 2013 (MC/EX/727). At its Thirteenth Session, the Standing Committee had recommended that the Council take note of the document entitled Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2013 (MC/2379).

35. The Council took note of document MC/2379.

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

36. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Working Group on Budget Reform, he had reported on the examination of a budget-strengthening model and two associated draft resolutions. The draft resolution on core structure funding had proposed that: (a) the Administration pursue its cost-saving measures; (b) the Administration continue to seek alternative funding sources; (c) the overhead rate for all new projects be raised from 5 per cent to 7 per cent; and (d) assessed contributions be increased in 2014, 2015 and 2016 by 4 per cent (not compounded). It had also encouraged support for the single audit principle. The draft resolution on privileges and immunities had recommended that Member States grant IOM privileges and immunities substantively similar to those granted to United Nations specialized agencies. Having reviewed the draft resolutions, the Working Group had considered its work on the core funding issue to be complete at the technical level and that the time had come for a policy decision.

37. The Chairperson of the Working Group on Budget Reform reported that, during the Working Group's deliberations, many Member States had expressed support for the draft resolution on core structure funding, noting IOM's commitment to cost-efficiency and the heightened risks it faced. They had acknowledged that the current budget situation was unsustainable and that the budget reform proposals met an urgent need. A few Member States, while expressing support for some of the proposed measures, had stated that they could not agree to an increase in assessed contributions in view of their commitment to zero nominal growth or because of economic constraints. Regarding the draft resolution on privileges and immunities, many Member States had recognized that improving IOM's status in host countries could significantly reduce the financial burden on the Organization.

38. The Standing Committee had called on Member States to continue their deliberations with a view to reaching a consensus on core structure funding and on improving the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization by States.

39. The Rapporteur confirmed that the Member States had pursued their deliberations since the Standing Committee session. Although some continued to have reservations about the draft resolution on core structure funding, the overwhelming majority was in favour of the measures proposed and believed that IOM should not miss the opportunity to rebalance its finances and address the structural risks it faced.

40. The Council then proceeded with the adoption of Resolution No. 1265 of 26 November 2013 on funding of the core structure and Resolution No. 1266 of 26 November 2013 on improving the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization by States, with no delegation opposed. The Chairperson then invited those delegations that wished to do so to make statements for the record.

41. The representative of India said that his country had joined the consensus on Resolution No. 1265 despite its reservations about moving away from zero nominal growth

and increasing assessed contributions. The fact that IOM's scale of assessments was aligned with that of the United Nations meant that India faced a 17 per cent increase in its assessed contribution in 2014; it was ill-equipped to face an extra 4 per cent increase. His delegation was aware of the financial challenges facing the Organization, but believed IOM should exercise prudence, bear in mind resource constraints and focus strictly on activities within its mandate, namely international migrants and their welfare.

42. The representative of Brazil also expressed reservations on Resolution No. 1265 that had just been adopted, since Brazil's assessed contribution would almost double in 2014, which was unacceptable in the current economic and budgetary context. Referring to document MC/2395, on outstanding assessed contributions and Member States' voting rights, she reminded the Administration that Brazil considered that it had joined the Organization in June 2012, when it had deposited its letter of accession, not in 2004, and that it therefore reserved its position in respect of the document.

43. The representative of Spain expressed reservations with regard to paragraph 1(a) of Resolution No. 1265, that had just been adopted, for the following reasons: (a) Spain applied a policy of zero nominal growth in respect of all international organizations; (b) it was inappropriate to increase assessed contributions by such a significant amount, namely 12 per cent between 2014 and 2016; and (c) most importantly, the increase in assessed contributions did not constitute a long-term solution to the funding of IOM's core structure. IOM's problem of core structure funding originated in the exponential growth in the Operational Part of the Budget and the increasing imbalance between the core structure and the volume of operations. A lasting solution required balanced growth between the two, and the mechanism for achieving that balance was an overhead rate that reflected the real cost of the core services needed to implement projects.

44. The representative of Portugal concurred with the previous speakers on several points. In the current global economic and financial context, Portugal consistently promoted the principle of zero nominal growth in every organization. While his delegation recognized the need for additional funding for the Administrative Part of the Budget, it remained convinced that a better balance would have been achieved with further increases in the overhead rate, and that more time would have been needed to explore ways to make greater efficiency savings without increasing assessed contributions. Portugal nevertheless remained deeply committed to IOM and had therefore decided to join the consensus on the resolution.

45. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that his delegation had joined the consensus on Resolution No. 1265 despite its concern that the increase in assessed contributions was currently the only solution envisaged to resolve the Organization's core funding difficulties and at the increased financial burden it would place on the country. It was to be hoped that future budgets would take account of the real situation of all Member States.

46. The representative of the Republic of Korea pointed out that some Member States, including the Republic of Korea, might face technical and administrative constraints when it came to implementing the increase in assessed contributions as of 2014, yet stressed that it was important for all Member States to implement the measures laid out in Resolution No. 1265.

47. The Chairperson, replying to a question from one representative, said that all comments would be recorded in the report on the Council session but would not affect the validity of Resolution No. 1265.

48. The Director General commended the Council for adopting the two resolutions despite the additional financial burden that would result from them. He had listened carefully to the comments voiced and reassured the membership that the Administration would continue to pursue cost-saving measures, to defer expenses whenever possible and to use the extra funds made available with the greatest vigilance.

(f) Programme and Budget for 2014

49. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administration had presented the Programme and Budget for 2014 (MC/2380), which had been drawn up on the basis of the budget-strengthening proposal reviewed by the Working Group on Budget Reform. The Administrative Part of the Budget therefore included an increase of 4 per cent in assessed contributions and amounted to CHF 40,982,857. The Operational Part of the Budget had been estimated at USD 740.6 million. The level of Operational Support Income had been gauged at USD 60,823,000, which included the proposed increase in the overhead rate to 7 per cent.

50. The Standing Committee had taken note of the Programme and Budget for 2014 and referred it to the Council for further consideration. It had called on the Member States to pursue their deliberations with a view to reaching a consensus. Those consultations had continued and the resolution on the Programme and Budget for 2014 was now before the Council for adoption.

51. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1267 of 26 November 2013 on the Programme and Budget for 2014, with no delegation opposed.

52. The representative of Spain said that, given that the Programme and Budget for 2014 had been drawn up on the basis of a 4 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget, his delegation wished to express its reservations concerning Resolution No. 1267.

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

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

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

(i) IOM–UN relations

(ii) The IOM Strategy

54. The documents entitled IOM–UN relations (SCPF/106) and Review of the IOM Strategy (SCPF/105) highlighted that, although IOM had worked as closely as possible with the United Nations within the current framework and had succeeded in making significant progress, it continued to be excluded from important processes because of its status as a non-United Nations organization. The Standing Committee had therefore agreed to establish a working group to consider IOM–UN relations and the IOM Strategy.

55. The Director General had commented that the Administration's efforts to enhance its relationship with the United Nations had improved the Organization's access to, and standing within, the United Nations system. He had fully endorsed the consensus to establish a working group.

56. The Council took note of documents SCPF/106 and SCPF/105 and the decision of the Standing Committee to create a working group to review both subjects.

- **IOM Development Fund**

57. The Administration had presented the document entitled IOM Development Fund (Status report: 1 January to 30 September 2013) (SCPF/109). Funding in 2013 had amounted to USD 8.6 million, including unearmarked contributions, and the Administration had made every effort to ensure that the funds had been allocated equitably across all regions. In response to requests from Member States, previous projects had been analysed in order to identify constraints and best practices. The Administration had confirmed that efforts were being made to obtain a funding level of USD 10 million. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/109.

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

58. The Chairperson of the Staff Association Committee had reported on the feasibility study on the establishment of a global staff association, a proposal resulting from the global meeting held between the Staff Association Committee and local staff associations in the Field Offices. She said that the Association had actively engaged with the Administration on a number of priorities, namely the posting of vacancy notices for external candidates, staff rotation, the introduction of the unified Staff Rules and the Association's Social Welfare Fund. The Director General had agreed on the need for all IOM offices to have a staff association and had noted that the Administration would continue to work with the Staff Association Committee to establish transparent, family-friendly policies and to ensure that the right balance was struck between internal and external vacancy notices. The Standing Committee had taken note of the statement made by the Chairperson of the Staff Association Committee.

- **Report on human resources management**

59. The Administration had introduced the document entitled Report on human resources management (MC/INF/310), which provided an update on human resources activities between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 and underlined the Organization's efforts to achieve more balanced geographical representation, build and strengthen partnerships, and promote staff mobility and gender balance. The Standing Committee had taken note of document MC/INF/310.

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

60. Introducing the document entitled Report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations (SCPF/107), the Administration had noted that some of the recommendations made by the External Auditor had not required the investment of resources and had therefore been implemented. Other recommendations and their implementation, however, had been contingent on approval of the recommendations made by the Working

Group on Budget Reform. The Director General had mentioned that the Organization had been doing its best to implement the recommendations but would be unable to do so in many cases without additional resources. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/107.

- **Annual report of the Office of the Inspector General**

61. The Administration had introduced the document entitled Annual report of the Office of the Inspector General (SCPF/104) and had outlined the initiatives undertaken, including the establishment of the Ethics and Conduct Office and ongoing work on an enterprise risk management project. It had noted that, as of January 2014, the executive summaries of internal audit reports would be published on the IOM website. Some Member States had expressed support for the audit, evaluation and oversight functions of the Office and had requested more information to be provided on its work. Responding to comments by Member States, the Administration had said that the Office of the Inspector General followed international auditing standards and had a three-year plan that was reviewed annually. Quality audits were also performed by the Institute of Internal Auditors every three years on the Organization's audit function, but the Office needed additional resources in order to properly carry out its functions. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/104.

- **Report of the IOM Audit Advisory Committee – Activities from July 2012 to July 2013**

62. A representative of the Audit Advisory Committee, to be renamed the Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee, had introduced the document entitled Report of the IOM Audit Advisory Committee – Activities from July 2012 to July 2013 (CRP/41). The Committee's terms of reference had been revised and approved in July 2013, with members' mandates extended to three years and renewable once. The Director General had commented on the great value of the Audit Advisory Committee's recommendations. The Standing Committee had taken note of document CRP/41.

63. The Council took note of the report by the Standing Committee Rapporteur on the other items discussed by the Standing Committee.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MIGRATION AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

64. The representative of France introduced a draft resolution on IOM's role in the post-2015 development agenda, which she said was a simple, consensual text that was in line with the conclusions reached at the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The draft resolution reiterated the need to include migration in the post-2015 development agenda and emphasized the role of IOM and its Director General in that regard.

65. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1270 of 29 November 2013 on IOM's role in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

66. Several Member States expressed their appreciation to France for having coordinated consultations on the text of the resolution. Migration was an enabler for sustainable development and as such should be included in the post-2015 development agenda. As the leading global agency on migration issues, IOM had a pivotal role to play in supporting the

Member States' deliberations on migration-related issues and in promoting the establishment of new and innovative partnerships. The Organization was therefore the key advocate for the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda. Some Member States expressed concern that the draft resolution had been submitted to the Council somewhat late; such time pressure for the consideration of resolutions should be avoided in future. That notwithstanding, members welcomed the resolution and looked forward to IOM's continued engagement in the post-2015 process.

MIGRANTS' VOICES

Panellists

- **Alfredo Zamudio**, Director, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva
- **Yolanda Tsuda**, Professor, Kobe College, Japan
- **Gibril Faal**, Chairman, African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), United Kingdom

Moderator:

- **Folly Bah Thibault**, journalist, Al Jazeera

67. Ms Bah Thibault, introducing the panellists, said that migration was a powerful force that had shaped the world and would define the future. She emphasized in particular that the new identities migrants brought to their destinations were values. Her personal experiences as a migrant had heightened her awareness of the scale, complexity and vibrancy of the migration process. Born in Guinea, she had relocated to Nairobi in 1987 after her father, a politician, had been imprisoned and tortured. Integration had been difficult, owing to the language barrier and a lack of contacts in the host country. During her time in Nairobi she had learned from other migrants, many of whom had left their homes in search of peace and security, better employment prospects, and a better quality of life, and had understood that being a migrant required resilience, creativity and patience. In 1996, she had moved from Kenya to the United States to complete her higher education. As an immigrant there she had faced further hurdles, such as visa restrictions on her right to work while studying. Later, on moving to France, she had encountered yet more integration difficulties, despite being fluent in French, knowledgeable about French culture and married to a Frenchman. Each of her migration experiences had served to demonstrate the strength and perseverance required to survive as a migrant, yet had also enriched her life and enhanced her well-being. International migration should be seen as a force that strengthened peace and knitted nations together. When addressing migration issues, governments had a responsibility to protect the vulnerable, since people were nations' most valuable assets.

68. Mr Zamudio explained that his life as a migrant had begun after the coup d'état in Chile in 1973, during which, at the age of 12, he had seen his father escorted away by the military and their house ransacked. Having survived alone on the streets for over a year, he had been informed by his father that the Norwegian ambassador had arranged, jointly with IOM, for the two of them to be granted asylum in Norway. With no money and with considerable trepidation they had left for Norway, and on arrival had been met by representatives of the Norwegian Refugee Council. While at that time migrants were very welcome in Norway, the situation was now somewhat different, and perceptions of "them" and "us" were constantly changing. Norway was, de facto, a multicultural country, yet some members of society still

resisted cultural change. Organizations, such as IOM, working on international migration issues should promote change in society and show that migrants could contribute to change for the better in their host countries. No country should ignore that opportunity.

69. Ms Tsuda said that she had been brought up in the Philippines by a father of Chinese descent and a mother of Spanish descent and had subsequently married and settled in Japan. Her migration had coincided with a sharp increase in the number of Philippine women who had migrated to Japan on entertainment visas. She had initially found it very difficult to integrate into Japanese society, owing to the negative gender stereotypes of female Philippine migrants, and had spent a long time trying to overcome such misconceptions. The discrimination she had experienced had inspired her to retrain and secure a position as a lecturer, and to establish an assistance and rehabilitation service for Philippine women and girls in exploitative situations. Together with her husband, she had also set up an interpreting service and compiled a medical dictionary for Philippine migrants. In her view, international migration bodies must raise awareness of the fact that, despite the many challenges in relation to global migration, countries of destination and origin alike benefited greatly from the skills and knowledge of migrants. International cooperation and coordination would be imperative in advocating such a change in perceptions.

70. Mr Faal said that he had migrated from the Gambia to the United Kingdom in 1987 in order to attend university, and that several members of his family had also migrated and settled in the United States. After deciding to reside permanently in the United Kingdom, he had become a member of a charity working to improve conditions for African migrants. Like many migrants, his migration to the United Kingdom had raised issues of identity and citizenship and he had found that, in order to contribute successfully to his country of destination, he had needed to take proactive steps to integrate fully into society. International cooperation was paramount when managing migration and every country had a role to play in addressing the issue. Xenophobia was not restricted to developed countries and, in order to guarantee the best possible conditions for migrants, attitudes towards migration and the skills that migrants could offer had to change. The majority of countries welcomed richer migrants but more resources should also be allocated to help poorer migrants adjust and adapt to their countries of destination.

71. In the ensuing discussion, representatives thanked the panellists and the moderator for having shared their personal stories and ideas; hearing personal accounts was a particularly valuable means for governments to learn about the experiences of their nationals living abroad. They wished to know what support the panellists had received, beyond consular assistance, from their national authorities. They asked what measures could be taken to counter increasingly xenophobic attitudes towards migrants, and what role education, particularly early education, might be able to play in that regard; they also asked one of the panellists to share a positive experience of multicultural education.

72. One representative suggested that future panels should include a North-South migrant. Finally, the representatives underlined that migrants of choice (i.e. diplomats) also encountered integration challenges while in their countries of destination and were therefore not insensitive to the issues.

73. Responding to the questions raised by the Council, Ms Tsuda said that the majority of support for Philippine migrants in Japan had come from civil society, rather than from the Philippine authorities. Her work in the education system in Japan was a step towards changing

attitudes towards migrants. Despite having lived away from the Philippines for many years, she maintained her Philippine citizenship as a symbol of her origins and a reminder of the strength and courage she had shown in her years as a migrant.

74. Mr Zamudio pointed out that xenophobia existed not only in recipient countries, but also in countries of origin and could only be overcome through knowledge. Efforts to that end had to start by admitting that xenophobia was commonplace, and had to involve multiple stakeholders, including civil society, governments, and migrants themselves, who must prove that they could contribute positively to their host society and were not merely beneficiaries of assistance. Rather than being educated to have all the answers, children should be taught to ask the right questions.

75. Mr Faal said that efforts were being made to change attitudes in the United Kingdom through the education system. Children were being taught, for example, about Caribbean soldiers who had fought during the First and Second World Wars, and about black African inventors and scientists, as well as musicians and sportsmen.

76. Ms Bah Thibault said that it was rare for national authorities to provide support beyond consular assistance to those who migrated voluntarily. Attitudes to migrants would continue to evolve. She would not have become a successful migrant without the education she had received before migrating.

77. The Director General, summing up the discussion, said that the first-hand accounts given by the panellists had provided examples of just some of the many challenges faced by migrants around the world. The stereotypes that cast long and dark shadows across migrants' paths could easily tip into xenophobia. Although hard work and resilience were required to survive and succeed, the difficulties they encountered often made migrants stronger, more positive people. It was hoped that the launch of the IOM information campaign would help raise awareness of the broad range of experiences of migrants around the world.

LAUNCH OF THE IOM INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS

78. The Director General recalled that there had been much discussion over the past year on the need to change the public perception of migration and migrants, especially as human mobility had reached the highest level in recorded history. None of the other goals set in relation to migration would be reached if action was not taken to change negative perceptions of migrants and overcome the discrimination and xenophobia that they experienced. IOM had therefore commissioned McCann Enterprise to devise a campaign designed to help correct the misrepresentations and unhelpful stereotypes of migrants. The campaign was due to be launched in early 2014.

79. Mr William Shepherd, Creative Director, McCann Enterprise, gave a presentation outlining the challenges that the campaign sought to address and its key aims and content. The primary goal of the campaign was to confront people's stereotypes of migrants and show that migrants contributed positively and powerfully to the societies of which they became a part. The campaign sought to increase public awareness about that contribution and to foster a more favourable and balanced attitude towards migrants and migration.

80. At present, too much of the discourse in politics, the press and among the public represented migrants as a burden and as people who took from rather than contributed to society. In the press in particular, hyperbole was often used to sell the most newspapers, so it tended to be only the stereotypes and negative connotations associated with migration that were reflected. A core focus of the campaign was to humanize migrants and to show, through their diversity of character, skills and personality, that they were no different from other people in their new communities, regardless of their background or origins. Migration was certainly a force for progress, as the free movement of people led to trade, new industries and economic development and helped to spread cultural diversity, experiences and ideas. Migration often brought people and their skills and talent to where they were most needed.

81. The images used in the campaign focused precisely on those things that migrants brought with them; it showed different people arriving with suitcases or bags filled with their qualifications, skills and aspects of their individual personalities. The campaign website included further details, such as myth-busting facts and statistics about migration and real life stories of migrants.

82. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the presentation and welcomed what they believed would be a timely and important campaign. The representative of Sweden confirmed that her Government would be providing financial support for the campaign. When asked about the extent to which the campaign had been tested on audiences and what reactions there had been to it, Mr Shepherd responded that no international research had been conducted, but qualitative testing within his advertising agency had yielded very positive reactions and had shown that people quickly understood the message of the campaign. Further research could be carried out as necessary.

83. One representative questioned the global relevance of the campaign, noting that migrants from his and other countries often had few or no skills or qualifications. A different approach would be needed if perceptions were to be changed about all migrants, rather than just those who were highly qualified or skilled. Mr Shepherd replied that every migrant had a contribution to make, regardless of background or level of skills. It was a matter of establishing what that contribution might be and working out the best way to promote it. The Administration added that it was difficult to encapsulate the complexity of the issue in one campaign slogan. The campaign would initially be launched in around 12 countries in several geographical regions where audiences would be sympathetic to the campaign message in its current form; it could be modified at a later stage, including by considering how to better represent manual labourers or low-skill migrants, and target other countries. One observer, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, expressed appreciation for the strategic action taken to change the perceptions of migrants but said that an approach should be adopted that allowed for greater involvement by migrants and the diaspora as those who were able to best express what they brought to communities.

84. The Director General welcomed the constructive comments, which would provide valuable input to the Administration and McCann Enterprise as they sought to implement the campaign and look at how it could be adapted to target audiences in more countries and include the perspectives of other stakeholders.

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT ON MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Speakers:

- **Jan Eliasson**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **Peter D. Sutherland**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on International Migration and Development

Moderator:

- **William Lacy Swing**, Director General, IOM

85. Mr Eliasson said that human mobility – be it to earn a basic livelihood, for employment, study or family reunification, or to escape persecution or violence – was one of the most prominent features of the current global landscape and seemed likely to continue to rise. Migration should therefore be an integral part of the future sustainable development agenda. Moreover, in his report entitled *A Life of Dignity for All*, the United Nations Secretary-General had identified recognition of migrants' contributions to economic and social development as one of the transformative actions to be taken under that agenda. The second United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, in which IOM had played a key part, had identified several practical measures to enhance the contributions of migrants to development, first and foremost among them being to ensure that migration took place in a legal, safe and orderly fashion under conditions in which the human rights of migrants were respected. That meant grounding all migration policies firmly in fundamental human rights and therefore protecting migrant workers – men, women and children – from discrimination, exploitation and abuse. To that end, all States should ratify and implement the core international treaties relating to migration, including the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the protocols to the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on trafficking in persons and against migrant smuggling, and the 1951 Refugee Convention.

86. The High-level Dialogue had led to the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. In the Declaration, the General Assembly had decided to work towards what Member States pledged would be an effective and inclusive agenda on international migration that integrated development and respected human rights. The time had come for governments, the Global Migration Group, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and civil society to join forces and transform the political will expressed in the Declaration into lasting concrete results for millions of migrants around the world, a mission in which IOM had a crucial role.

87. IOM was to be commended for launching a global information campaign to change negative perceptions of migrants. The international community had to stand up for basic values and principles, recognizing that all human beings were equal in value and entitled to live in dignity. It had to be aware that the dividing line between forced and voluntary movement was becoming increasingly blurred in the complex reality of today's world, with millions of people being displaced across international borders because of conflict or natural disaster, or caught up in crisis situations without a clear source of assistance.

88. IOM was also to be commended for establishing a working group to look in greater depth at its relations with the United Nations, which had become more positive and fruitful in recent years.

89. Mr Sutherland said that the past ten years had witnessed the positive transformation of IOM and critical progress in how the international community addressed migration. The success of the Global Forum on Migration and Development was proof of that; it was becoming a year-round resource for governments, as well as an engine of international cooperation.

90. The Global Migration Group had also begun to tackle migration issues in a more systemic and systematic fashion and there had been a groundswell of support from Member States and other stakeholders for greater cooperation between migration stakeholders to protect migrants' human rights and to enjoy the economic, social and cultural benefits migration could bring. Despite those advances, however, there remained much work to be done and changes to the institutional approach to migration must be made at the earliest opportunity.

91. The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had been a watershed moment in the history of international cooperation on migration and had underscored the need to include migration in the post-2015 development agenda, which offered international migration actors a unique opportunity to design concrete, practical and measurable ways to reduce the human, social and economic costs of migration. The High-level Dialogue had also resulted in the establishment of an initiative to protect migrants affected by crisis situations through the introduction of a series of crisis management principles and guidelines.

92. The High-level Dialogue had clearly demonstrated that a great many migration challenges remained unsolved and that more creative methods must be developed in order to foster more effective, results-orientated cooperation among Member States and stakeholders in future. As Special Representative, he intended to focus on four main areas in 2014 in an effort to build on the conclusions and guidance resulting from the discussions at the High-level Dialogue. His work would include organizing regular meetings with the leadership of the Global Migration Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development, ensuring that migration was given full consideration as part of the post-2015 development agenda, remaining closely involved in the migrants' crisis initiative, systematically analysing the opportunities and challenges posed by migration and developing recommendations. Similarly, it was imperative that the Council develop strategies and policies, at its 103rd Session, which could be transformed into tangible improvements for migrants and countries of destination and origin across the world. Every effort must be made to combat and overcome the prevailing negative rhetoric on global migration. IOM's reach in the world of migration was unique, its experience on the ground unparalleled and its institutional memory deep. It would be central to progress on global migration issues.

93. The representative of Sweden, the current Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, welcomed the overwhelming support for the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda as a critical step towards political coherence and expressed appreciation for the continued leadership of the Special Representative in advancing the global debate on migration. The Global Forum, for its part, would continue to place strong emphasis on the protection of migrants' human rights, the portability of skills and qualifications and the management of migrants in crisis situations as part of its programme of work. There was great

scope for identifying synergies between the Global Forum and the Global Migration Group and for increasing the extent to which IOM contributed to the Global Migration Group in order to ensure better continuity and migration expertise across chairmanships.

94. One observer, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, said that international organizations, particularly IOM, should seek to assert leadership in relation to migration issues and foster inter-agency consensus. Similarly, civil society would be willing to play its part in addressing urgent migration issues in an effective and efficient manner. As to protection measures for migrants, it would be interesting to know what steps had been taken to assist migrant victims of violence and trauma in transit as well as victims of conflict and national disasters and whether efforts had been made to include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to a greater extent in migration and development processes. He asked whether IOM intended to formalize its approach to the legal protection of migrants in its core mandate and become a *de jure* member of the United Nations system. Lastly, he enquired whether measures would be taken to improve global migration governance in an attempt to meet the current migration challenges.

95. The representative of Turkey expressed support for the integration of migration into the post-2015 development agenda and said that her Government would continue to advocate such an approach once it assumed the chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

96. The representative of UNDP welcomed the constructive outcomes of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and said that UNDP had worked closely with IOM and its other partners in the Global Migration Group to support national and local government efforts to integrate migration into development planning. Its joint programme with IOM to mainstream migration into national development strategies would enter a larger, second phase in 2014 and would help countries to carry out situation assessments, identify policy priorities, establish inclusive coordination mechanisms and develop integrated migration and development strategies.

97. Mr Sutherland said that the Global Forum on Migration and Development would remain an integral part of the consensus-building process among Member States as part of efforts to integrate migration into development processes. A lack of understanding of the importance and positive value of migration had become increasingly evident in the developed world and governments must take steps to combat such perceptions and safeguard migrants' human rights.

98. Mr Eliasson agreed that xenophobic and discriminatory attitudes towards migrants must be addressed and efforts should be made to obtain global engagement on migration issues. Member States' support for the integration of migration into the post-2015 development agenda would be crucial as the international community adapted and responded effectively to the new global migration landscape. International solutions to national migration challenges must be found and fully supported by all international migration stakeholders in order to make progress.

99. The Director General said that IOM would continue to take measures to increase international cooperation on migration issues and had already taken steps to align its work with the new global landscape. Careful consideration would be given to formulating an international approach when combating the prevailing negative perceptions of migrants in

many countries, and the working group on IOM–UN relations and the IOM Strategy would provide further guidance for any future action. The ultimate success of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, however, would rest on enhanced international cooperation and coordination overall.

GLOBAL MIGRATION GROUP

Speakers:

- **William Lacy Swing**, Director General, IOM
- **Sven Alkalaj**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- **Guy Ryder**, Director-General, ILO
- **Peter D. Sutherland**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on International Migration and Development

100. The Director General, speaking in his capacity as the current chairperson of the Global Migration Group, said that the main purpose of the panel discussion was to demystify the Group's work. To that end, he recalled its terms of reference, which were to advocate the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration and to promote coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approaches to migration.

101. During IOM's chairmanship (July to December 2013), the Group had organized a side event at, and about, the High-level Dialogue. There was a high degree of substantive convergence between its recommendations, the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the United Nations Secretary-General's plan (Making migration work: an eight-point agenda for action), and civil society's five-year, eight-point action plan. The Declaration mentioned the Group several times and stressed the importance of regular interaction between it and Member States.

102. The Group had already deliberated at working level on how to turn the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda into a programme of action. The Chair had held initial discussions with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on International Migration and Development and the Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and had decided that all three would convene every two months to communicate and exchange information. In 2013, the Group had contributed collectively to the Global Forum through substantive papers on labour migration, diaspora issues and migration as an enabler of inclusive social development. It had also endeavoured to enhance its outreach to civil society and university scholars. It had issued a joint paper advocating the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda. As the Group's current chair, he had represented it at the United Nations General Assembly's Special Event towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in September 2013 and would represent it at the Sixth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in December 2013.

103. Mr Alkalaj said that, during the United Nations Regional Commissions' chairmanship of the Global Migration Group (January to June 2013), the focus had been on the following key outcomes: (a) strengthening the Group to improve its substantive coordination and collaboration function; (b) improving the Group's visibility by reaching out to Member States and other stakeholders; (c) implementing the Group's ongoing internal review process; and

(d) coordinating the Group's preparations for the High-level Dialogue. The Group had achieved a measure of interdisciplinary collaboration in recent years that could not have been foreseen earlier. It had built a more open and constructive climate for inter-agency debate and exchange on international migration and development, developed a more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approach to international migration, and reached a common understanding of the interactions between migration and development and the need for coordinated response strategies.

104. The Group had also realized, however, that it had to step up its efforts to bring its members' diverse perspectives and technical capacities to Member States and the international community to better help them manage such a complex, cross-cutting subject. It was therefore strongly committed to the process of review undertaken in November 2012, and was pleased that, in the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, United Nations Member States had welcomed "the recent efforts made by the Global Migration Group to undertake measures to enhance its functioning and to promote coherence and coordination among its member organizations".

105. Indeed, the review process had successfully addressed a number of long-standing issues relating to the Group's institutional strengthening and coherence: (a) it had made more predictable arrangements for the rotating chairmanship (by alphabetical order) and extended the chairmanship from six months to one year; (b) it had established an administrative support team to facilitate and ensure continuity in the Group's work; (c) it had set up additional working groups and task forces with clear terms of reference to ensure greater depth in the treatment of substantive issues and coherence and coordination in key thematic areas; and (d) it had formulated a three-year work plan (2013–2015) with two overarching work streams (Group coordination and visibility, and migration and the post-2015 development agenda).

106. The actions taken in 2013 to streamline the Group's structure and activities were testimony to the shared interest of a community of United Nations international entities and IOM in working coherently and effectively on common global migration and development challenges. By pooling the expertise and resources of the agencies concerned, and by delivering joint outputs and results, the Group had become an effective working mechanism for coordination, consensus-building and cooperation in migration. It was to be hoped that the process of review would provide a solid basis for its future work with governments and other partners to implement the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue and pave the way for a migration-inclusive post-2015 development agenda.

107. Mr Ryder, who would chair the Global Migration Group from January to December 2014, said that there were many indications that something qualitatively new was happening in the area of migration, with new demands being placed on the multilateral system to respond to the evolving circumstances. One was recent events: the shocking list of migration-related tragedies, such as that in Lampedusa, Italy, was a sharp call to action for all countries. Another was the institutional juncture following the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the forthcoming session of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the evolving working methods of the Global Migration Group. There was also the rapidly changing global landscape, in which migration was becoming a necessary and inevitable part of the globalized economy and an important positive element. However, the consensus that had emerged contrasted somewhat with the manner in which migration was addressed in individual Member States. The IOM Director General had referred to the lack of political courage in dealing with migration issues, and current discussions could not be

divorced from that reality, which would inevitably shape future work. The ILO was encouraged by the outcome of the High-level Dialogue, in particular the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue, and by its clear and welcome recognition – echoed in the United Nations Secretary-General’s eight-point agenda – of migrants’ human rights.

108. The ILO was particularly encouraged by the recognition of the importance of the labour dimension of migration. With labour so much at the centre of the migration story, there was a strong convergence between the work undertaken by institutions such as IOM and the ILO’s own “decent work” agenda. The ILO had also welcomed the attention given by the United Nations Secretary-General to the need for equitable recruitment practices for migrants, skills recognition and certification, the portability of benefits and the role of social dialogue. It had held a tripartite meeting on labour migration to look at how it could implement the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue. He underlined the relevance of international labour standards, as was recognized by the High-level Dialogue, and mentioned ILO Convention No. 189 specifically. He was delighted that the ILO would soon be taking up the chairmanship of the Global Migration Group. Several representatives had spoken of the outcomes of the Group’s internal review process and the evolution of its working practices and, through the multi-year workplan for 2013–2015, he looked forward to the Group becoming more strategic in its work, increasingly pooling expertise and creating practical guidance and training tools to strengthen capacities and coordination among agencies. As Chair, the ILO hoped to stimulate further engagement to ensure that migration was integrated into the post-2015 development agenda, including by promoting productive employment and decent work for all and the protection of migrants’ human and labour rights. It would also work to establish channels for more regular and structured engagement with governments and civil society organizations regarding the need for greater transparency. There was also a need to ensure greater involvement by workers’ and employers’ organizations in the Global Forum on Migration and Development processes as, although they were not recognized as distinct actors, they were key players in improving migration governance. It would also be important to improve data collection and the documentation and exchange of good practices at national and regional levels and to include them in global policy discussions.

109. In the coming year, the ILO was looking forward to marking the anniversaries of various key Conventions relating to migration and migrant workers and was committed to working with all partners to enhance the political will and multilateral ambition needed to address the migration-related issues at hand. He further noted that the migration debate should not shy away from discussions on the normative elements.

110. One representative said that Member States had a responsibility, as members of the agencies making up the Global Migration Group, to improve the Group, which lacked continuity, consistency, practicality and expertise. She therefore recommended that IOM, the sole international entity with a mandate focused exclusively on migration, be appointed the Group’s permanent co-chair. Two other representatives endorsed that recommendation, although one suggested that there might also be other ways to ensure continuity and coherence within the Group.

111. Another representative asked about the distribution of tasks between the Group’s members. Human trafficking, for example, could be considered as a labour or a human rights issue. Which agency would take the lead in the Group on the issue? Did the Group already have tangible ideas or plans that it wished to promote in the multilateral context?

112. Several representatives of agencies belonging to the Global Migration Group also took the floor. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said that UNHCR saw huge value in partnership through the Global Migration Group on issues such as forced displacement and migrant rights. It was keen to work with the ILO on the practical means of addressing labour mobility for refugees (portability of pensions and documents, reduced remittance costs), and with IOM on practical responses for migrants in crisis situations and a related question, that of asylum systems overwhelmed in the absence of adequate migration governance. The Global Migration Group needed to work much more closely as a group with civil society players on all fronts, to ensure that it benefited from their perspectives and expertise. Referring to the refugee component of mixed migratory flows, he said that two further points had to be borne in mind: the need to emphasize human rights and the normative element, namely the specific status of stateless persons and refugees.

113. The representative of UNDP said that the Global Migration Group was especially important because migration was a multidimensional issue that could be considered from any number of points of view: rights, development, social protection, and so on. It was therefore also important for the Group to work closely with civil society members and all partners on the ground.

114. The representative of UNICEF welcomed the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue and said that UNICEF was fully committed to supporting the Group's chair in following up those outcomes, in particular with regard to the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda. She also welcomed the commitment by Member States, civil society partners and the United Nations system to protect the human rights of all migrants and their families; putting that commitment into practice would mean guaranteeing that all children caught up in the migration process (in countries of origin, transit and destination) benefited from all the rights enshrined in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. Indeed, migration could make a positive contribution to development only if the human rights of migrants were protected, respected and fulfilled.

115. One observer, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, applauded the Global Migration Group's move to multi-year planning but noted that group work was often slow and wondered whether a membership of 16 might not be too big for the Group to act on any of the issues of migrants and migration with the requisite urgency.

116. Mr Sutherland did not consider that it was appropriate for him to express an opinion at that stage regarding IOM's role as a permanent co-chair. He did say, however, that, while the Group had always been seen as an important means of bringing together various United Nations agencies and thereby of making the United Nations a more effective contributor to the policies, debates and actions of the global community on migration, it had not been an unambiguous success as a collective body. Individually, the agencies making up the Group had contributed greatly and even worked well together in certain instances. As a group, however, they had not been as effective as hoped, perhaps because what was expected of the Group had never been clearly defined. The Group should focus on practical action within a defined mandate that it itself had helped to determine. Each of the organizations in the Group should ensure that a high-level staff member – someone in a position of real authority – participated actively and represented the organization in a way that was not simply advancing the parochial interests of his or her agency.

117. Mr Ryder observed that the challenge for the Global Migration Group was to ensure coherence among its members, a challenge made no easier by the fact that the Group had 16 members. The Group had to apply the most rigorous discipline when it came to reviewing its working methods, and all its members should work together rather than promote their own interests.

118. The Director General announced that IOM had appointed an experienced staff member who was familiar with the Global Migration Group to work full-time in Geneva for the Group's newly created support team, along with a part-time colleague from the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs in New York.

119. IOM's ambition for the Global Migration Group was that it would be action-oriented, with a stronger structure for greater interaction with Member States and other partners. The Group should add value to the dialogue on migration by acting as an interdisciplinary meeting place at which the multiple perspectives on migration could be expressed. The 16 agencies making up the Group typified the multiple aspects and complexity of migration, and certainly the time and effort invested in making the Group a coordination mechanism for information-sharing and consensus-building were worthwhile, not least because migration had, as a result, come to be considered first and foremost in terms of individual people endowed with dignity and rights; the Group still had some way to go, however, to ensure it was greater than the sum of its parts.

GENERAL DEBATE⁴

120. Statements were made by the following Member States listed in alphabetical order: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola (for the African Group), Argentina (for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

121. Statements were made by the following observers: China, the Russian Federation, the African Union, the European Union, the International Authority on Development, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Sovereign Order of Malta, CARAM Asia and the International Catholic Migration Commission.

122. A warm welcome was extended by numerous speakers to the new Member States and observers. Several speakers paid tribute to the members of IOM's staff, who had a reputation

⁴ Texts of statements, as and if received from the members and observers, and of the Director General's concluding remarks are accessible to Member States on the IOM website at www.iom.int.

for being hardworking, pragmatic and solution-focused, and deplored the attack on the IOM Country Office in Kabul in which one staff member had been killed.

123. The outcomes of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development were overwhelmingly seen as positive, and great appreciation was expressed to IOM for the significant contribution it had made with a view to improving migration governance, reinforcing coherence and cooperation at all levels, establishing the migration–development nexus and focusing the debate on the human rights and well-being of migrants. The High-level Dialogue had confirmed the growing political importance of migration and IOM’s role as the lead organization for the promotion of humane and orderly migration; it had given greater impetus to cooperation on addressing gaps in dealing with migrants caught in crisis situations, and marked a turning point for IOM as it sought to enhance its relations with the United Nations, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group. The Declaration of the High-level Dialogue marked a milestone in efforts to make migration dignified, safe and orderly, and several Member States expressed support for IOM action to implement the key recommendations it contained.

124. IOM efforts to ensure that migration was included as a cross-cutting theme on the post-2015 development agenda were also warmly applauded. The post-2015 development agenda should address migration squarely, including the protection of migrant rights and recognition of migrants’ positive contribution to development in sending and receiving countries alike.

125. Regarding the Global Migration Group, one representative noted that the Member States had worked hard to establish IOM as the lead migration entity and endowed it with a mandate to provide practical expertise and policy advice to States grappling with migration challenges. She was joined by several others in suggesting that consideration should be given to assigning IOM a more permanent role in the Group, notably by appointing it as the Group’s permanent co-chair.

126. Several representatives welcomed the establishment of a working group to review IOM–UN relations. The working group should discuss all issues on the table, including cost implications, without anticipating IOM’s future status; it was crucial that IOM’s comparative advantage (flexibility and operational capacity) be maintained regardless of its status.

127. The recent tragic loss of migrant lives in Lampedusa, Italy, and elsewhere in the world was a stark reminder that efforts were required to safeguard the human rights of migrants and promote their dignity and well-being and to overcome anti-migrant sentiment through appropriate policies. IOM had a key role to play in changing perceptions of migrants and migration worldwide and was therefore to be commended for launching a global information campaign to highlight the contribution of migrants. It also had a key role to play in seeking ways to reduce the costs of remittances and enhancing ethical approaches to recruitment through the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS).

128. Many Member States applauded the outcome of the Diaspora Ministerial Conference in June 2013, which had identified better ways to engage, enable and empower diaspora communities and promote them as development actors. Conditions for strengthening the role and contribution of diasporas should be improved, in particular with regard to remittances. A number of Member States said they looked forward to the 2015 ministerial conference on migrants and cities, which would contribute greatly to the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

129. Several Member States applauded the outcome of the budget reform process and the adoption of Resolution No. 1265 of 26 November 2013 on core structure funding. They acknowledged the position of some delegations regarding the principle of zero nominal growth in the Administrative Part of the Budget but believed that the risks to IOM's service delivery associated with the overstretched core budget and restrictive budget policy of the past 18 years called for flexibility. It was now up to IOM to implement the measures adopted in close coordination with Member States, address the most urgent gaps in management and accountability structures first, take further measures aimed at efficiency and reform, and ensure that its staff was more representative in terms of gender and geographical origin. The Administration should report regularly on the progress being made to fill gaps and on the impact of the changes adopted.

130. Many representatives expressed condolences to the people of the Philippines following typhoon Haiyan and commended IOM's activities, under point 9 of the IOM Strategy, to provide assistance in the aftermath. The representative of the Philippines expressed appreciation for the messages of solidarity and sympathy and for the assistance furnished, including the visit by the Director General.

131. The Director General also expressed condolences to all those affected by typhoon Haiyan. He thanked Member States for their acknowledgement of IOM's role as the leading global agency on migration, particularly when it came to assisting migrants in times of crisis, and for having recognized IOM's contribution to the High-level Dialogue. The link between migration and development was a key area of IOM's work that would become even more relevant in the context of the post-2015 process. The Organization would follow up on the High-level Dialogue, notably through the Global Migration Group, its global information campaign to change public perceptions of migrants, its work relating to IRIS and its efforts to reduce the transfer costs for remittances.

132. Regarding IOM's role in the Global Migration Group and his suggestion to the Group's members that IOM be appointed permanent co-chair, the decision was up to the members of the Group; he did not plan to raise the matter again.

133. Regarding the working group on IOM-UN relations, the Organization welcomed the initiative and would provide technical and other assistance to the working group but would not be a member of it, as IOM's status with regard to the United Nations system was a matter for the Member States to deliberate.

134. He agreed that migration must be included on the post-2015 development agenda and welcomed the support for IOM's efforts to that end. Referring to migrants who risked the sea crossing from Africa to Europe in what he termed "survival" or "desperation" migration, he said that IOM hoped to help both the European Union and the countries of North Africa find a solution. Clearly the current policy of control was not working and more legal channels were needed for migration; such a shift in policy would not be easy to sell to the world's parliaments.

135. IOM would continue to work with Member States to combat migrant-related xenophobia and discrimination and highlight the positive contributions of migrants to development, including through the global information campaign. He was personally committed to changing perceptions of migrants and indeed was convinced that fulfillment of all migration-related objectives hinged on achievement of that goal.

136. He agreed that the Diaspora Ministerial Conference had greatly contributed to the formulation of several important recommendations on migration reform, adding that diaspora management was a key component of any migration policy. He hoped that the conference on migrants and cities would be equally well attended and successful in terms of policy recommendations.

137. The Director General welcomed the support expressed for the budget reform process and pledged that the Administration would keep Member States informed about the use of the extra resources made available with the adoption of Resolution No. 1265 of 26 November 2013.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSIONS

138. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1268 of 29 November 2013 on its next regular session, which was tentatively scheduled for November 2014. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance were provisionally scheduled for June and late October 2014, respectively.

139. The Council further adopted Resolution No. 1269 of 29 November 2013 on the 104th (Special) Session of the Council, at which the Member States would elect a Deputy Director General and which was tentatively scheduled for June 2014.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION

140. The Director General thanked the delegations for their participation. The session had been a very productive one, not least because of the adoption of the two resolutions submitted by the Working Group on Budget Reform, the entry into force of the amendments to the Constitution and the launch of the global information campaign. He noted that many Member States had stressed the role to be played by IOM in the post-2015 process and endorsed the plan to hold a global conference on migrants and cities in 2015, which would also be the theme of the World Migration Report in that year. Lastly, he announced that Cape Verde had paid its outstanding assessed contributions during the Council session, meaning that fewer States than ever were in arrears. The Administration would nevertheless pursue its efforts to ensure that all arrears were cleared.

141. The Chairperson agreed that the Council session had been of substantive importance. It was the first to take place under the amended version of the Constitution and had adopted new Rules of Procedure that would heighten its efficiency. It had seen the launch of the global information campaign to change perceptions of migrants. It had marked the start of a process of institutional reflection on IOM–UN relations, and he would be starting consultations immediately on the composition and terms of reference of the working group established to that end. The Council had also adopted a number of resolutions. With regard to Resolution No. 1270 of 29 November 2013, on IOM's role in the post-2015 development agenda, he found it especially encouraging that the Council should adopt resolutions that were crucial for migration and not limit itself to administrative matters. With regard to Resolution No. 1265 of 26 November 2013, on the funding of the core structure, he underscored the spirit of consensus that had kept the Member States united in constructive cooperation in spite of the reservations expressed by some delegations.

142. The Chairperson declared the 103rd Session of the Council closed on Friday, 29 November 2013, at 1 p.m.