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Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

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REPORT ON THE

106TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL*

Geneva

Tuesday, 24 November, to Friday, 27 November 2015

Rapporteur: Mr M. Auajjar (Morocco)

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DRAFT REPORT ON THE 106TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Introduction

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1292 of 28 November 2014, the Council convened for its 106th Session on Tuesday, 24 November 2015, at the World Intellectual Property Organization New Conference Hall, Geneva. Eight meetings were held.

Attendance¹

2. The following Member States were represented:

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

3. Bhutan, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Qatar, the Russian Federation, San Marino and Saudi Arabia were represented by observers.

¹ See List of participants (C/106/47/Rev.1).

² See paragraph 21.

4. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the World Bank, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization were represented by observers.

5. The African Union, the European Union, the Indian Ocean Commission, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the League of Arab States, the Mano River Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the Sovereign Order of Malta were represented by observers, as were the following international non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Africa Humanitarian Action, CARE International, Caritas Internationalis, Child Helpline International, Danish Refugee Council, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, International Islamic Relief Organization, INTERSOS, Jesuit Refugee Service, Lutheran World Federation, Migrant Help, Refugee Education Trust, Save the Children, Scalabrini International Migration Network, Terre des Hommes International Federation and World Vision International.

Opening of the session and credentials of representatives and observers

6. The outgoing Chairperson, Mr Sammie Eddico (Ghana), opened the session on Tuesday, 24 November 2015, at 10.25 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 reported on his activities during his term of office, which had been marked by a refugee and migration crisis on a scale not seen since the Second World War, bringing in its wake untold human tragedy. Efforts to encourage countries of transit and destination to keep their doors open to migrants and refugees had been undermined by the media report that one of the suspected perpetrators of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris had been Syrian.

9. He had played an active role in discussions on facilitating human mobility on the African continent in order to broaden the channels of regular migration and curb the outflow of young people to other continents, and thereby reduce the demand for human trafficking services. He urged continued efforts to address the drivers of irregular migration.

10. His visits to IOM Field locations had given him the opportunity to meet with the Organization's highly committed and talented Field staff, who worked tirelessly in difficult and dangerous environments, and to see the daily challenges facing migrants and the adept measures taken by IOM to facilitate worldwide migratory flows. He urged Member States to keep the budget-strengthening process under review, so as to further strengthen IOM core resources and structures.

11. He was delighted to report that a few countries that had granted IOM limited or no privileges and immunities had responded positively to his written communications, resulting in an increase in the number granting full privileges and immunities to the Organization. He urged continued engagement with Member States in that regard.

12. The Director General thanked the Chairperson for his active and fruitful chairmanship and for having found the time to visit a number of IOM Field locations in what had been a tumultuous year. He expressed gratitude for the Chairperson's initiatives, not least his efforts to improve intra-Africa mobility so that Africans could move freely between countries to seek better opportunities and no longer needed to embark on risky voyages across choppy waters and difficult desert terrain.

Election of officers

13. The Council elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr Bertrand de Crombrughe (Belgium)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Mr John Paton Quinn (Australia)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Ms Marta Maurás (Chile)
Rapporteur:	Mr Mohamed Auajjar (Morocco)

Adoption of the agenda

14. The Council adopted the agenda as set out in document C/106/1/Rev.2.³

Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights

15. The Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance said that the Standing Committee had been updated at both its Sixteenth and Seventeenth Sessions on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights. It had taken note of the update on both occasions, and urged Member States in arrears to make every effort to pay their contributions as soon as possible. It had in particular urged Member States whose contributions had been outstanding for two or more consecutive years to pay their contributions in full or agree to a payment plan and fully respect the payment conditions.

16. The Administration, referring to the document entitled Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights (as at

³ Unless otherwise specified, all documents and audiovisual presentations are accessible on the IOM website at www.iom.int.

31 October 2015) (C/106/5/Rev.2), said that total outstanding assessed contributions for 2014 and previous years amounted to CHF 2,795,098, of which CHF 700,917 corresponded to the balance of payment plans. The total amount outstanding was higher than on the same date the previous year (CHF 2,005,143) even after taking account of the provisional write-back regarding Brazil and described in paragraph 2 of the document.

17. As at 31 October 2015, 16 Member States had lost the right to vote because the amount of their arrears equalled or exceeded the amount of the contributions due from them for the preceding two years.

18. Since document C/106/5/Rev.2 had been issued, contributions had been received from Nauru and Sierra Leone, which meant that their voting rights had been restored; that left 14 Member States without voting rights. In addition, payments had been received from the following Member States in good standing: Kenya, the United Kingdom and Uruguay.

19. The Director General reminded Member States that 5-, 10- or 15-year payment plans were available and that payments could be made in local currency. A further incentive was that, once they had become current with their arrears by agreeing to a payment plan and were in good financial standing, eligible Member States could apply for up to USD 200,000 in project funding under Line 2 of the IOM Development Fund.

20. The Council took note of document C/106/5/Rev.2 and noted the additional information provided by the Administration.

Admission of new members and observers

(a) Applications for membership of the Organization

21. The Council adopted by acclamation Resolutions Nos. 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296 and 1297 of 24 November 2015 admitting the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Republic of Kiribati, the State of Eritrea and Saint Lucia, respectively, as members of IOM.

22. The President of Kiribati thanked Member States for supporting his country's application for membership of the Organization. Kiribati had been significantly affected by climate change and had experienced high levels of migration. The expertise and support of IOM would be crucial in addressing those challenges. Kiribati looked forward to strengthening its cooperation with the Organization.

23. The representative of Sao Tome and Principe thanked Member States for supporting his country's application for membership of the Organization. Sao Tome and Principe remained committed to finding global solutions to migration issues and would require IOM support to tackle the current challenges it faced in responding to migration flows within its territory.

24. The representative of Eritrea thanked Member States for supporting his country's application for membership of the Organization. Eritrea had witnessed an increase in irregular migration and cases of human trafficking over recent years. IOM assistance would be required to reduce the prevalence of those phenomena.

25. The Director General welcomed the new Member States and noted that, with two of them coming from the Caribbean, two from Africa and one from the Pacific, the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions were well represented within IOM.

(b) Applications for representation by an observer

26. The Council had before it the applications for representation by an observer from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Indian Ocean Commission, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Child Helpline International, the Mano River Union, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Association of Caribbean States and the University of Oxford Refugee Studies Centre.

27. The nine organizations were granted observer status at meetings of the Council in accordance with the terms of Resolutions Nos. 1298 to 1306 of 24 November 2015.

28. Representatives of six of the new observer organizations thanked the Council for accepting their applications for observer status and pledged to strengthen their cooperation with IOM. Each had a particular interest in key elements of the Organization's work, and their observer status would be of mutual benefit. Many of them had been working in informal partnerships with IOM for several years already. Formalizing that relationship would only serve to strengthen it.

29. The Director General welcomed the new observers, whose presence would enrich and broaden the Council's dialogue on migration. Partnership with other associations and bodies remained a top priority for the Organization.

Report of the Director General

30. The Director General complemented his report to the Council (C/106/48) with a slide presentation.

Draft report on the 105th Session of the Council

31. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1307 on 24 November 2015 approving the report on its 105th Session (C/105/49).

Report on matters discussed at the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

(a) Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2015

32. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administrative Part of the Budget had remained unchanged at CHF 42,629,935, with the Organization having a total of 157 Member States. The Operational Part of the Budget had increased from USD 1.206 billion to USD 1.551 billion, reflecting additional funding received for ongoing projects and new activities undertaken since the approval of the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2015 (S/16/6). The level of Operational Support Income had been maintained

at USD 66.2 million. The Standing Committee had recommended that the Council take note of the document entitled Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2015 (C/106/17).

33. The Council took note of document C/106/17.

(b) Progress report on the 2014–2016 budget-strengthening plan for the core structure

34. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Standing Committee had been presented with the third progress report on the implementation of the budget-strengthening plan for 2014–2016, which had been approved by the Council in 2013 to address the issue of the overstretched core structure. The Administration had reported that implementation of the plan had been proceeding well. The Organization had made effective use of the additional resources generated by the plan to build the capacity of overstretched functions and units, and had been pursuing cost-efficiencies by strengthening the Manila and Panama Administrative Centres and taking other measures. The Administration, in addition to submitting periodic progress reports, would convene a meeting in 2016 at which it would brief Member States on substantive achievements. A final report would be issued in 2017, after the plan's completion.

35. While acknowledging the good progress made, some Member States had asked for more details, for example on cost-efficiencies and action in areas such as staff security and staff development and learning. The Administration had outlined its achievements in those areas, and had noted that it would provide more information in the next progress report. The Standing Committee had noted that nearly 25 per cent of the project portfolio had thus far been converted to the increased overhead rate of 7 per cent. It had taken note of the document entitled Funding the core structure: Budget-strengthening plan 2014–2016 – Progress report (S/17/9).

36. The Council took note of document S/17/9.

(c) Programme and Budget for 2016

37. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administrative Part of the Budget had been presented at CHF 44,164,770, incorporating a 12 per cent increase compared to 2013, in line with the three-year budget-strengthening plan and including contributions from new Member States. The Operational Part of the Budget had been estimated at USD 820.3 million, comparable to the previous year's budget at the same period. The amount would be updated as further contributions were received. Operational Support Income was projected at USD 74.4 million. The Administration had responded to questions concerning the geographical coverage of its projects and the 2017 budget, noting that the budget-strengthening plan ended in 2016 and therefore contained no provision for increases in assessed contributions in future years.

38. The Standing Committee had taken note of the Programme and Budget for 2016, as set out in document C/106/7, and had recommended that the Council approve the amounts of CHF 44,164,770 and USD 820.3 million for the Administrative and Operational Parts of the Budget, respectively.

39. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1308 of 24 November 2015 on the Programme and Budget for 2016.

(d) Report on the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization

40. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Standing Committee had reviewed the Second annual report of the Director General on improvements of the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization by States (S/17/11). The Administration had indicated that, although five new agreements meeting the criteria contained in Council Resolution No. 1266 of 26 November 2013 had entered into force, engagement with States on the matter would be intensified in view of the progress that remained to be made. Only 87 of 157 Member States had concluded agreements with the Organization which met the required criteria and none of the 10 Observer States or 13 other locations where IOM had activities had such agreements in place. Negotiations were ongoing with 10 States with which the Organization had no agreement or an agreement that did not fully meet the criteria contained in the Resolution.

41. The Standing Committee had taken note of the Director General's report and had recommended that the Council keep the issue under consideration and reiterate its call to Member States to grant the Organization privileges and immunities substantially similar to those granted to the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

42. The Council took note of document S/17/11, endorsed the recommendations made by the Standing Committee, and urged Member States to grant to the Organization privileges and immunities substantially similar to those granted to the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

(e) Report on the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and the IOM Strategy

43. The Standing Committee Rapporteur informed the Council that the Chairperson of the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and the IOM Strategy had provided the Standing Committee with updates on the Working Group's progress. At the Seventeenth Session, the Chairperson of the Working Group had introduced the draft Council resolution on IOM–UN relations (C/106/L/23) and had highlighted three main areas on which the membership agreed: the importance of the Organization's efficiency, responsiveness, cost-effectiveness and independence; the value of IOM's field work and experience; and the need for IOM to be well connected to the United Nations agenda through a forward-looking and efficient relationship between the two organizations, which had been affected by changes in instructions issued by the United Nations.

44. The Standing Committee had taken note of the reports presented by the Chairperson of the Working Group and had recommended that the Council adopt the draft resolution on IOM–UN relations.

45. Many Member States expressed appreciation to the Chairperson of the Working Group and the Director General for their efforts and welcomed the draft resolution, which paved the way for formal engagement between the Director General and senior United Nations officials and should lead to a durable solution that would ensure that IOM's expertise and experience in terms of migration management were not lost. Member States valued IOM's ability to build consensus, develop flexible solutions, and help States manage migration in a way that recognized national sovereignty and took into account national legal and policy frameworks. Concern was expressed at recent developments in terms of instructions issued by the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office,

which appeared to ignore the relevance of IOM for achieving Target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many speakers reiterated the importance of maintaining the Organization's independence, efficiency, flexibility and cost-effectiveness.

46. The Director General, thanking the membership for the confidence shown in him and its support for the Working Group on such an important issue, said that he had carefully noted the concerns expressed, many of which he shared. He was committed to providing regular updates on the discussions held with the United Nations, including on the potential cost and legal implications of any changes to the current IOM–UN relationship, and to ensuring that IOM remained a flexible, independent, rapid-response, cost-effective and efficient organization on migration for migrants and Member States. He shared the concerns that IOM continued to be excluded from many migration-related activities and about how to ensure that the Organization played a role in the review and implementation process for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He would also endeavour to address constraints faced in terms of IOM participation in United Nations country teams, access to multi-donor trust funds and the Organization's contribution to larger meetings at which IOM had, or should have, a voice.

47. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1309 of 24 November 2015 on IOM–UN relations.

(f) IOM Migration Governance Framework

48. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Standing Committee had reviewed the document entitled Migration Governance Framework: The essential elements for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people through planned and well-managed migration policies (C/106/40), which had been updated to reflect the outcome of discussions during the Sixteenth Session of the Standing Committee and to take into account the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

49. The Standing Committee had taken note of the document and recommended that it, together with the draft resolution, should be submitted to the Council for adoption.

50. The Director General drew attention to an amendment that needed to be made to the draft resolution: in the fifth paragraph of the preamble, “confirming” would be changed to “recognizing”, as the Organization did not have the authority to confirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

51. One participant, welcoming the Framework, proposed that in the sixth paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution, the phrase “international migration law” should be changed to “the principles of international law relevant to migration”.

52. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1310 of 24 November 2015 on the Migration Governance Framework, as amended.

(g) Other items discussed at the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Sessions 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 Sixteenth and Seventeenth Sessions.

(i) Resolutions and decisions of the Sixteenth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

54. Pursuant to Council Resolution No. 1292 of 28 November 2014, the Sixteenth Session of the Standing Committee had adopted the following resolutions on 2 July 2015: Resolution No. 4 taking note of the Report of the Director General on the work of the Organization for the year 2014; Resolution No. 5 approving the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2014; and Resolution No. 6 approving the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2015.

55. In keeping with the same Council resolution, the Standing Committee had approved the assessment scale for 2016 at its Sixteenth Session.

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

56. At both Standing Committee sessions, the Administration had introduced documents on the following topics selected for discussion by the Member States:

- Migration, environment and climate change
- Resettlement and movement management
- Migration management and reintegration
- Linking relief, recovery and development in the context of mobility and resilience-building

57. The Standing Committee had taken note of the relevant documents and the comments made by Member States in the ensuing discussions.

(iii) Information documents

58. The Administration had presented the following information documents at the Standing Committee's Seventeenth Session:

- IOM's humanitarian policy – Principles for Humanitarian Action (C/106/CRP/20) (English only)
- IOM Private Sector Partnership Strategy 2016–2020 (C/106/INF/16)
- IOM Policy on Protection (C/106/INF/9)
- IOM Gender Equality Policy 2015–2019 (C/106/INF/8)
- Advancing the unfinished agenda of migrant health for the benefit of all (C/106/INF/15)

59. The Standing Committee had recommended that the Council take note of documents C/106/CRP/20 and C/106/INF/16 and of the comments made on them by Member States. Regarding the IOM Policy on Protection, the Standing Committee had recommended that the Administration clarify a number of comments made by Member States and revise the document, if required, before submitting it for the Council to note. With respect to the IOM Gender Equality Policy, one Member State had expressed a reservation relating to terminology. With respect to document C/106/INF/15, the Standing Committee had recommended that the Council take note of the document and had requested the Administration to keep the Council informed about the establishment of a migrant health

platform for policy discussion, experience-sharing and consultation with interested Member States and partners.

60. The Director General said that the Administration continued to work with the Member States to clarify their comments on the IOM Policy on Protection and suggested that the Council defer its consideration of the document pending its finalization. In the revised version of the IOM Gender Equality Policy currently before the Council (C/106/INF/8/Rev.1), the language had been adjusted in some sections in line with the reservation expressed by a Member State. The policy nevertheless remained forward looking and provided a strong accountability mechanism, thereby contributing to gender equality for all migrants.

61. On the document entitled *Advancing the unfinished agenda of migrant health for the benefit of all*, the Director General said that IOM worked in close coordination with the WHO, whose lead role in health it recognized, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others to ensure added value for its beneficiaries. The information document had been amended to reflect that concern and issued as document C/106/INF/15/Rev.1.

62. Many Member States expressed appreciation to IOM for having highlighted the area of health and migration and welcomed its expanded work in that area. They believed that the Organization should enhance migrant-sensitive health policies, strengthen health services to enable equitable access for migrants, promote better information-sharing on best practices in the three principal programme areas (migration health assessments and travel health assistance, health promotion and assistance for migrants, and migration health assistance for crisis-affected populations) and on cross-cutting issues, enhance the capacity of health service providers and professionals – in particular with regard to gender and cultural sensitivity – and promote timely quality health interventions targeted at migrant populations. They appreciated the existing partnership between IOM and WHO on migrant health issues and believed that national situations should be taken into account but not hinder the strengthening of health systems. IOM should continue to help Member States address concerns related to migration and health by engaging in capacity-building, technical assistance, advocacy, research and information dissemination. Health was a basic human right and an essential component of sustainable development. In that regard, IOM was in a unique position to offer a structured and flexible multisectoral platform on migration and health for policy discussion, collaboration, sharing, consultation and enhanced resource mobilization.

63. One representative suggested that the international community should invest more resources in health care for migrants in crisis situations, in particular those requiring international protection and facing increased needs in the Mediterranean region, the Middle East, North Africa and Central and Eastern Europe. IOM, for its part, should step up coordination on migrant health with relevant United Nations agencies, with a view to drawing on their experience, creating synergies and avoiding duplication.

(iv) Other reports and updates

64. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Standing Committee had also examined and taken note of the following reports and updates at its 2015 sessions:

- The statement and report of the External Auditor for the financial year 2014
- Update on human resources management

- Report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
- Report of the IOM Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee
- Report on IOM response to migration crises
- Reports relating to the IOM Development Fund
- IOM global initiatives funding status

65. At its Seventeenth Session, the Standing Committee had also had before it the Annual report of the Office of the Inspector General. Following the Standing Committee's deliberations, the report had been amended and reissued as document S/17/15.

(v) Statement by a representative of the Staff Association Committee

66. The Seventeenth Session of the Standing Committee had heard a statement by a representative of the Staff Association Committee. The Standing Committee had taken note of the statement and the remarks made by the Director General and Member States.

67. The Council took note of information documents C/106/CRP/20, C/106/INF/16, C/106/INF/8/Rev.1 and C/106/INF/15/Rev.1, and decided to defer its consideration of information document C/106/INF/9 pending its finalization. It took note of the other reports and updates heard by the Standing Committee at its 2015 sessions, and of the Standing Committee's decisions.

(h) Reports on the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

68. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1311 of 24 November 2015 approving the reports on the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance.

Keynote address: Anote Tong, President of Kiribati

69. Mr Tong said that, although his country had been relatively isolated from events in the rest of the world during much of its early development, its very existence was now being threatened by the negative impact of climate change: the extreme high tides and severe storms it was already experiencing were damaging homes, coastlines, food crops and drinking water supplies. The very real possibility that the country's islands might in future not be able to support the current level of population or sustain life in its present circumstances had prompted the Government to adopt an adaptation strategy aimed at ensuring that the nation remained above the rising seas and survived the more severe weather conditions. It was unlikely, however, that the resources required to accommodate the current population would be forthcoming, and relocation therefore had to be part of the strategy. That involved preparing people for the possibility that they would have to find a new home in another country, and ensuring that those who chose to migrate were able to do so with dignity.

70. To that end, the Government of Kiribati had launched an intensive training programme to provide people with internationally recognized trade qualifications. It also continued to work with the country's more developed neighbours – Australia and New Zealand – through temporary and permanent labour mobility schemes, which it believed were models that could be replicated elsewhere and might be worth further study by IOM.

71. Furthermore, in order to promote greater recognition of the country's dilemma at the global level, in October 2015 the Government had launched a high-level dialogue on climate-induced migration, in conjunction with the Pacific Island members of the Coalition of Low Lying Atoll Nations on Climate Change and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. Thanks to the active participation of IOM, other development partners and international agencies, the dialogue might give rise to meaningful initiatives to support and facilitate climate-induced migration in a manner that benefited all those involved.

72. The Council had convened for its 106th Session at a time of unprecedented mass migration, a development that was sure to be compounded as climate change took its toll. IOM had the potential to lessen the traumatic effect of displacement and enable those affected to live their lives in security and with dignity. He called on all IOM Member States to approach the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference as global leaders and citizens, and not to subject a global issue such as climate change to their national political agendas – in short, to do what was right for all future generations.

73. The Director General remarked on the timeliness of Mr Tong's keynote comments in the run-up to the Climate Change Conference. Climate change might well spawn a new definition of "statelessness", as certain States actually ceased to exist physically. The measures taken by Kiribati in the face of that threat were, in fact, an endorsement of the IOM approach to climate change, which was to complement mitigation with adaptation measures. Climate change would lead to internal displacement in many countries, and IOM was working in a number of forums to prepare for that circumstance.

74. The Chairperson stressed the need to give the people of Kiribati, not just a safe and secure environment, but also a future. Labour mobility schemes were a smart way to ensure that they gradually formed a connection with other places.

Migration Initiatives 2016

75. The Director General drew the Council's attention to the publication entitled *Migration Initiatives 2016 – Migration Governance and Sustainable Development*. Like past editions, *Migration Initiatives 2016* described priority project areas in which the Organization felt it should be active, specifically in relation to the Migration Governance Framework, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the transition to results-based management. It featured a more informative, user-friendly layout, with funding requirements outlined by country, region and sector of activity.

Panel discussion: International humanitarian assistance in 2015 and IOM's role

Panellists

- **Kelly T. Clements**, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR
- **Hesham Youssef**, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- **Jeremy Konyndyk**, Director, United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) (via video link)

- **Jean-Louis de Brouwer**, Director, Humanitarian and Civil Protection Operations, Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
- **John Ging**, Director, Operational Division, OCHA

Moderator

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

76. The Director General explained that the panel discussion had several aims: to provide an overview of the status of humanitarian action in 2015; to identify challenges faced when responding to multiple crises; and to look at the manner in which the humanitarian community was adjusting its operations in response to the current fluctuating humanitarian environment. He also hoped that the panel discussion would contribute to preparations for the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit.

77. A multidimensional approach was needed to address the global migration crisis, with short-, medium- and long-term actions that did not necessarily fit within traditional humanitarian frameworks. Such an approach would require the mobilization of new human and financial resources and consideration of structural adjustments to the way humanitarian assistance was provided, in areas such as humanitarian financing, humanitarian principles and the role of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). IOM recognized the need for innovative and effective partnerships that moved beyond traditional aid approaches and might include non-traditional players. It was nevertheless redoubling its efforts to deepen its engagement with key partners, particularly United Nations agencies, the European Union, the African Union and humanitarian donors.

78. Mr Youssef, highlighting the numerous conflict situations and humanitarian crises that were currently affecting all corners of the globe, said that the humanitarian system was paying the price for failing to resolve the situations politically. In the light of the global situation, the OIC had decided to work with partners in all of its activities and had organized joint missions with OCHA to Iraq and with OCHA, the African Union and OIC Member States to Chad. The OIC was also cooperating with the Arab League to provide assistance to Syrian refugees and the Islamic Development Bank on activities in Palestine, and missions with OCHA to Afghanistan and Pakistan were in the pipeline. It was developing a mechanism for the coordination of humanitarian assistance and forging partnerships with a number of United Nations agencies, international organizations, regional bodies and individual countries. In partnership with the ICRC, it had published a handbook on the compatibility of international humanitarian and sharia law and, in collaboration with UNHCR, had issued a similar publication on international refugee and sharia law.

79. The global humanitarian system faced a number of significant challenges, and he hoped that deliberations at the World Humanitarian Summit would help tackle them. Progress was urgently needed in several key areas. It was essential to reform the humanitarian system as it could no longer cope with the challenges faced. More also needed to be done to provide assistance to people in hard-to-reach areas, protect humanitarian agents, ensure that humanitarian principles were upheld and that counter-terrorism legislation did not create obstacles to legitimate humanitarian efforts, and ensure that the available resources reached those in need. In terms of building resilience, although progress had been made with the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 and the Sendai Framework for

Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, all stakeholders had to rise to the challenge; it was time for action, not slogans.

80. Ms Clements said that the present-day multiple and concurrent crises had left the humanitarian system overstretched and underfunded. The various conflicts around the world, which were extremely complex and had a regional dimension, the number of protracted crises and the global funding shortfall had obliged the humanitarian system to engage with development partners to address the challenges in a holistic manner. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided an opportunity to do so, as it stressed the need for inclusion and equality for all and considered displacement to be a development issue. Development policies needed to take into account the humanitarian agenda, and international cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination was vital, not only in terms of border management, but also in development policy, in order to create conditions for people to have a future in their own countries.

81. UNHCR welcomed IOM's call to governments to recognize that, historically, migration had had positive effects, helping to build nations and foster progress, and commended IOM for highlighting the operational gaps in the humanitarian system, particularly in terms of migration. At the most recent meeting of the IASC Working Group, there had been broad recognition of those shortcomings and the need to integrate the needs of migrants into humanitarian response plans. UNHCR was working closely with IOM on the regional refugee and migrant response plan for Europe and supported the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative. The latter would complement the work of UNHCR and facilitate the establishment and strengthening of referral measures for migrants, helping to ensure that no migrants or refugees would fall through the cracks in cases where the responsibilities of States and others were not clearly delineated in a protection framework.

82. As co-leaders of the global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, UNHCR and IOM enjoyed a close relationship, contributing to increased capacity and resources in that area. Such capacity nevertheless required an ongoing commitment, so that responsibilities at the global level and leadership at the national and local levels were understood by all partners. IOM had been a partner in protection and reintegration activities, working in sectors that supported the durable return of internally displaced persons and refugees, and also played a key role in resettlement programmes.

83. Mr Konyndyk, reiterating the immense strain on the humanitarian system and the need for new and innovative solutions and ways of working together, stressed that IOM was seen as a critical partner by the OFDA because of its focus on displacement and its flexible operational nature. In Iraq, for example, the displacement tracking matrix had been a crucial tool, enabling informed, evidence-based allocation of humanitarian assistance where it was most needed. He commended IOM for stepping up during the outbreak of Ebola virus disease, which had highlighted the Organization's flexibility and ability to respond rapidly to new needs and challenges.

84. IOM and the OFDA were also collaborating on disaster risk reduction in Asia, where national systems were beginning to play a leadership role in national disaster response, with the international system playing a supporting role. That was an important step forward, as it was vital to find ways to reduce the burden on the international system and increase local ownership of response efforts. In terms of the nexus between humanitarian and development activities, the World Humanitarian Summit was a key opportunity to foster that relationship

and highlight that displacement and natural hazards were challenges that required both proactive and reactive responses.

85. Access to beneficiaries and adherence to humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law were major concerns. Areas held by armed terrorist groups posed a particular problem in that regard, but difficulties were also faced in government-run areas. Consequently, reinforcing respect for humanitarian law and principles was essential. The United States was also focusing its efforts on financing and was in favour of bringing new players into the mainstream system. Ownership of the international system had to be broadened to make it more accessible to new players, and it was encouraging to see the renewed interest of long-term donors in engaging with the system. Another priority for the OFDA was the particular needs of women and girls in crises; progress had been seen, but much remained to be done. The humanitarian system had to be reformed so as to enable it to act in a cohesive, collective manner in response to all those challenges. IOM had a valuable role to play in that endeavour thanks to its ability to respond.

86. Mr de Brouwer said that IOM had become one of ECHO's main partners in the humanitarian field, not just in the current megacrises but also in smaller, highly specialized operations in which the Organization's expertise was much appreciated and a proven factor of success. He was therefore pleased to see that IOM had adopted a humanitarian policy that was largely in keeping with ECHO principles: activities targeted the most vulnerable and focused on needs rather than status; they reflected the Organization's capacity to draw general guidelines from operational experience and to identify sectors in which it provided true added value. In fact, IOM's objectives dovetailed with the global strategy and humanitarian activities of the IASC. That being said, IOM's full entry into the family of major humanitarian players should facilitate action and not make coordination more complex. The fact that IOM staff themselves conducted operations in the Field was a guarantee in terms of monitoring and accountability, and undoubtedly an asset in the eyes of donors.

87. The situation unfolding at Europe's frontiers was fast becoming an unprecedented existential crisis for the European Union. Failure to deliver appropriate, principled and needs-based humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable would have a dramatic effect on the people concerned, on the entire humanitarian community, and on the European Union itself.

88. The World Humanitarian Summit would mark the start of a process leading to dramatic change. ECHO expected the Summit to address three priority concerns. The first was to reaffirm the need for principled, appropriate and needs-based humanitarian aid and protection for the most vulnerable. The time had come, not to draw up a new agenda, but to protect people, locally and internationally, from constant blatant violations of their existing rights. The second priority related to financing and resources, which could be one of the Summit's short-term deliverables. The third related to the nexus between humanitarian assistance and development: could the discussion move beyond what could be delivered by humanitarian donors to making real connections between funding streams? It would be reassuring to have IOM on board in those discussions, especially since migration was not only inevitable, but was also necessary and highly desirable, provided that it was properly managed. In a globalized world in which goods, services and information travelled so quickly, it was unfathomable that people alone should be blocked.

89. Mr Ging applauded the exemplary humanitarian role played by IOM for the benefit of over 20 million people in 2015. IOM was fast, responsive, adaptive and effective, as he had

seen for himself in Malakal, South Sudan, and in the Central African Republic. It set the gold standard for response in terms of speed, efficiency and effectiveness.

90. The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit was a summit of necessity. The world was on a negative trajectory, and the international community had to reflect on the direction it was taking and set a new course. The first priority would be to insert more humanity into the political decision-making process at global level and to protect the innocent. He had seen the generosity and humanity that existed at the local level and among the poorest people; that same sense of humanity had to be central to the decisions made in global political circles, which had to prioritize people and their concerns.

91. Any talk of priorities inevitably led to the issue of financing of humanitarian action, which should not have to compete with development funding. He pointed out that the three biggest United Nations Member States in terms of their contributions to humanitarian aid had donated a combined total of USD 7.7 billion in 2015; the same three Member States had had military expenditures during the same period amounting to USD 746 billion, or 97 times more. The question was whether the positive impact of the military spending in terms of added security was also 97 times the positive impact of the humanitarian spending.

92. In the ensuing discussion, one regional group commended IOM for acting to promote humanitarian action on three levels: by stepping up its presence in the Field; by engaging in a balanced discourse that placed the interests and dignity of migrants at the centre of all crisis response operations; and by making a substantial contribution to the development of new initiatives on migration issues. Those activities had been consolidated three years previously in the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework, which, together with the IOM Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism, had to be made fully operational in the current context of unprecedented migration crises.

93. One representative noted that IOM's role in humanitarian and crisis operations had grown tremendously in recent years. The reasons were multiple: the Organization played a lead role in helping migrants caught in crisis situations and was the co-lead of the global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster; it was among the agencies with the broadest global presence, and often engaged in very frank dialogue with governments, enabling it to launch an initial humanitarian response when an emergency arose. It also had a strong capacity for information-sharing and data management. IOM's new humanitarian policy would help articulate its role, responsibilities and value added in crisis situations, and firmly anchored its commitment to humanitarian principles; the fact that it was the outcome of broad consultations both within IOM and with the Organization's partners in the IASC made it all that much stronger.

94. Two representatives stressed the importance of coordination, with one saying that cooperation between UNHCR and IOM was particularly crucial in the face of increasingly mixed and complex population movements, and the other asking how UNHCR and IOM managed to avoid overlap and coordinate their activities in the light of their respective mandates, limited resources and budget constraints. A third representative asked about the advantages and disadvantages of a stronger, more formal relationship between IOM and the United Nations from the humanitarian response perspective.

95. The presence of an OIC representative on the panel was saluted by one delegate, who underscored the part played by OIC countries, not only as responsible recipients of migrants, but also as new and significant donors. The OIC had stepped up its participation in the

international effort to support migrants; it had also, at the institutional level, established rules for granting OIC consultative status to humanitarian NGOs, and was to be commended for the handbook it had published with the ICRC.

96. One representative, referring to the role of civil society in places like Somalia, asked what impact linking development and humanitarian assistance would have in countries experiencing protracted refugee situations. Another representative asked what happened when the funding requirements of humanitarian agencies were not met, and suggested that the impact of underfunding should be clearly demonstrated.

97. Two delegates, noting that the international community had been talking about the nexus between humanitarian aid and development for decades, asked how to make headway on the question, in particular from the financial point of view. Another delegate agreed that the first priority should be protection of the innocent. He asked how the Member States could work together to ensure that local authorities did not deny asylum to those forced to migrate.

98. Mr Youssef and Mr Ging were blunt: underfunding of humanitarian agencies led to death and disruption. For example, 585,000 children under the age of 5 had died in 2014 across the Sahel because humanitarian agencies could neither feed nor immunize them. Mr Ging, referring to the figures he had mentioned earlier, added that a mere 1 per cent of the military spending of the three biggest donors to humanitarian aid would have sufficed to cover his Office's current deficit. Ms Clements agreed that humanitarian agencies should clearly state the impact of underfunding on their activities.

99. When it came to the nexus between humanitarian assistance and development, Ms Clements believed that the political leadership now existed for the World Humanitarian Summit to mark a turning point. Development agencies were now involved as soon as an emergency arose, working together with relief agencies from the beginning. Mr de Brouwer agreed, adding that the international community was narrowing the gap between humanitarian and development funding, with donors and their partners discussing needs assessments, prioritization and aid effectiveness. Mr Youssef said that combined humanitarian–development action had to be approached with care: wells being sunk in Somalia met immediate humanitarian needs, but also had huge development implications for the community around each well; humanitarian food aid could have a negative impact on food security.

100. On the same subject, Mr Konyndyk pointed out that national governments were increasingly articulating displacement and risk reduction as development priorities, and that in turn was driving donor behaviour. Ethiopia had shown the way in that respect by investing in national food-security and risk-mitigation systems. IOM had also played a crucial role, working with national governments in Asia on disaster risk mitigation.

101. Mr Youssef had been struck by the generosity of very poor people on the ground. The humanitarian community had to capitalize and build on such demonstrations of true humanity. Mr Konyndyk added that IOM had a crucial role to play in terms of local and national engagement. In South Sudan, for example, it had worked with the OFDA to channel additional funding and capacity-building to local NGOs and partners.

102. Ms Clements assured the Council that UNHCR and IOM had complementary mandates and approaches and did not overlap; indeed, one could not exist without the other. For example, without everything IOM did to move refugees around the world, UNHCR

would be unable to resettle those refugees in third countries. The two organizations met frequently at all levels, to address operational and thematic issues.

103. Ms Clements added, and Mr de Brouwer and Mr Konyndyk agreed, that the advantage of incorporating IOM into the United Nations system was that it would then take part in any discussion of migration-related matters and in policy decisions. That was important given IOM's expertise in migration. Care nevertheless had to be taken to ensure that the Organization did not lose its nimbleness, effectiveness and speed.

104. Ms Clements agreed that protection of the innocent was a priority. For Mr de Brouwer, it was particularly important to bear in mind that the people currently seeking asylum in Europe were fleeing terrorist acts.

Appointment of an External Auditor

105. The Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance reported that, at its Seventeenth Session, the Standing Committee had considered document C/106/6, which provided information on the process for selecting and appointing the External Auditor and the candidacies of the countries whose national audit offices had submitted an application for the three-year term from 2016 to 2018, namely Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Pakistan and the Philippines. The Standing Committee had taken note of the document and the list of candidates, which was submitted to the Council for decision.

106. The Chairperson referred to the rules governing the election process and informed the Council that Mr Patricio Guesalaga (Chile) and Mr Hassan El Mkhantar (Morocco) had been appointed as the tellers.

107. The Administration gave a slide presentation on how to fill in the ballot paper.

108. At the first round of voting, 120 Member States were present and received a ballot paper. The results of the first round were as follows:

(a)	Number of ballot papers distributed:	120
(b)	Number of ballot papers taken from the ballot box:	120
(c)	Number of invalid ballot papers:	1
(d)	Number of abstentions:	2
(e)	Number of valid ballot papers:	117
(f)	Simple majority required (more than half of valid ballot papers)	59
(g)	The candidates obtained the following number of votes:	
	Office of the Comptroller General of Ecuador	17
	Ghana Audit Service	40
	Kenya National Audit Office	9
	Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan	34
	Philippine Commission on Audit	17

109. Since the simple majority required by Article 24 of the Constitution had not been obtained, the Council proceeded to a second ballot. As per Rule 46(2) of the Rules of

Procedure of the Council, the second ballot was confined to the candidates having obtained the greatest number of votes, provided that the number of candidates did not exceed twice the number of places remaining to be filled. As there was one place to be filled, the two candidates that obtained the greatest number of votes during the first round, namely the Ghana Audit Service and the Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan, were listed on the ballot for the second round. The results of the second round were as follows:

(a)	Number of ballot papers distributed:	122
(b)	Number of ballot papers taken from the ballot box:	122
(c)	Number of invalid ballot papers:	1
(d)	Number of abstentions:	4
(e)	Number of valid ballot papers:	117
(f)	Simple majority required (more than half of valid ballot papers)	59
(g)	The candidates obtained the following number of votes:	
	Ghana Audit Service	60
	Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan	57

110. The Chairperson announced the result and invited the Council to approve the appointment of the Ghana Audit Service as the External Auditor for the period 2016–2018.

111. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1312 of 25 November 2015 on the appointment of an External Auditor, as completed with the name of the Ghana Audit Service.

112. The representative of Ghana thanked the delegations for their support and commended the constructive spirit in which all candidates had conducted their campaigns.

113. Several Member States and the Director General congratulated the Ghana Audit Service on its election as the External Auditor.

Panel discussion: Sustainable Development Goals and the IOM Migration Governance Framework

Panellists

- **David Donoghue**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, New York
- **Claire Melamed**, Director, Growth, Poverty and Inequality Programme, Overseas Development Institute
- **Gibril Faal**, Director, Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)
- **Paul Ladd**, Director, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva

Moderator

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

114. The Director General said that the Administration had decided to organize the panel discussion on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in order to provide an overview of the Organization's progress in advocating for the inclusion of specific references to migration in the Agenda and its Goals and targets. The panel discussion also offered Member States the chance to discuss what role the Organization should play in the implementation of the targets on migration issues.

115. Efforts had already been made to link the provisions of the IOM Migration Governance Framework with the SDGs and to prepare a strategy for the Organization's continued engagement with the 2030 Agenda. The Organization wished to contribute its vast technical expertise on migration issues in the follow-up and review of the Goals and remained committed to ensuring that migration became an important part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other development planning tools.

116. Mr Donoghue congratulated IOM on its proactive stance during the intergovernmental negotiations on the 2030 Agenda and welcomed the inclusion of references to migration in the SDGs. The Organization's attention should now focus on the role it could play in implementing of the 2030 Agenda and strengthening oversight by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

117. The High-level Political Forum would take two approaches to promoting implementation of the SDGs. The first would involve a thematic analysis of progress made towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda at the international level and the second would offer Member States the opportunity to report on their individual progress towards implementation. IOM should strive to play an active role in both processes and should strengthen its interaction with Member States on migration issues in the lead-up to the reporting process.

118. An initial meeting of the High-level Political Forum due to be held in July 2016 was likely to focus on the equality aspect of the 2030 Agenda and the concept of leaving no one behind. IOM should seize that opportunity to advocate for a focus on migration issues and strengthen its role in the implementation of the SDGs, particularly Target 10.7 on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

119. Ms Melamed said that the inclusion of references to migration in the SDGs provided a tremendous opportunity to effect a change in outcomes for migrants. The idea of leaving no one behind offered IOM and Member States the chance to address the root causes of inequality and poverty among migrants and tackle the discrimination they faced, particularly vulnerable groups of migrants such as women and children.

120. The lack of available data on migrants posed a huge challenge to effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and greater international attention must be paid to building regional and national data-collection capacities so as to gain a better understanding of the specific needs of the migrant population. NGOs and civil society should be involved in implementation and data-collection processes and countries should be encouraged to report regularly on their progress towards implementing the SDGs.

121. Migration would play a decisive role in economic growth and demographic change over the course of the next 15 years, and the successful implementation of the SDGs would be conditional on raising global awareness of the benefits offered by migratory flows of people, expertise and skills. IOM should ensure that it took the lead in that regard.

122. Mr Faal said that there were legitimate concerns about living up to the aspirations reflected in the SDGs. He suggested that countries take a creative and ambitious approach when implementing the SDGs by using them as a framework and setting their own individual targets and indicators that aimed even higher than the SDGs and fostered the migration–development nexus. It was important to go beyond what was required because if, in aiming higher, countries failed to reach their targets, they would at least achieve the basic threshold. Those individual targets should therefore reflect the spirit rather than just the letter of the international agreement.

123. Such an approach would also help offset any reversals caused by misinterpretation of the SDGs. A country could, for example, interpret Target 10.7 on planned and well-managed migration as implying heightened control and security, and exploit the Agenda for that purpose.

124. He emphasized the need for the national statistical authorities responsible for monitoring development indicators to be independent. He also called for support for building the capacities of those authorities, and for representatives of civil society, the business sector and academics from a number of Member States to be involved in monitoring implementation by the authorities. Civil society organizations should receive support to produce their own shadow reports dealing with different aspects of the indicators.

125. Mr Ladd responded to the criticism that the 2030 Agenda had too many Goals and targets and that some of the targets were not precise enough by emphasizing that it was an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agenda. The drafting of the Goals and targets, apart from being a participatory governmental process, had benefited from the significant participation of civil society. The critical importance of migration to development had been taken into account. Ultimately, a degree of simplicity had been the trade-off for greater ownership. Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals had taken too long to get off the ground, but the prospect was good that the SDGs would help make up for lost time.

126. The 2030 Agenda defined itself as being universal; this was a real ground breaker and meant that migration would have an impact on the achievement of the SDGs. Although differing country contexts and challenges would shape national policy and affect SDG implementation, it was clear that the 2030 Agenda applied to every single person and every single country. That was important because, even though migration was mentioned in the targets, they were largely designed with static countries and immobility in mind.

127. Continued economic inequalities between countries, exacerbated by the impact of climate change, were going to drive increasing numbers of people to move, but the impact would be different in receiving and sending countries. In some, greater movements would mean progress towards achieving the Goals; in others, the opposite. Research would therefore be critically important. As the new Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, he was committed to conducting more research into migration.

128. He did not believe that the 2030 Agenda could be effectively addressed with the very organization responsible for migration remaining outside country-level United Nations processes and global review mechanisms. It was fundamental that IOM had a voice and resources within those processes. It was also important to have a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the challenge of implementation.

129. In the ensuing discussion, several Member States welcomed the Organization's active role in promoting the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda and emphasized the importance of the IOM Migration Governance Framework in identifying policies that facilitated orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. They called for a renewed focus on vulnerable groups of migrants in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly women and children, and urged IOM to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations and assume a key role in the implementation and follow-up of the targets on migration.

130. One delegate asked whether the private sector would be involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and, if so, how. Another delegate asked what steps would be taken to ensure the credibility and accuracy of data on migration obtained from non-State partners, while a third asked what efforts had been made to take into account the particular challenges to SDG implementation facing countries convulsed by armed conflict.

131. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of using migration as a means of eliminating inequalities and achieving global development goals such as the SDGs; they stressed that due consideration should be given to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda.

132. One delegate asked what methods had been envisaged to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and what action would be taken to help countries of origin address the root causes of migration. Another delegate wished to know whether the agencies responsible for monitoring and tracking the progress made towards the SDGs would also be involved in efforts to implement their provisions. A third asked what steps would be taken within the framework of the 2030 Agenda to ensure orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration.

133. Mr Donoghue said that he viewed the Migration Governance Framework as a valuable initiative, especially in setting down the concepts and principles to be followed worldwide in responding to challenges and as a tool for IOM to use in engaging in dialogue with other stakeholders in migration. He agreed on the importance of ensuring protection of the rights of women and children in relation to migration in the 2030 Agenda. With regard to the targets being as specific and transparent as possible, much effort had gone into achieving the right technical standard for the targets; the difficulty had been more political than procedural. The methods envisaged to implement the 2030 Agenda were crucial; they were still at the brainstorming stage and would remain under constant scrutiny.

134. Ms Melamed said that the Migration Governance Framework was important for bringing structure and organization to the migration issue in a diverse world, tackling migration within global structures, and defining the interaction of IOM with other agencies more broadly. Data credibility was essential; the problem was not a lack of data, but of access to those data and confusion over what constituted good and usable data for different groups. Governments no longer had a monopoly on providing data; more data were coming from the private sector and civil society. The likely role of governments would be to guarantee the credibility and quality of data. There had been some interesting projects regarding the integration of national data and statistics with new sources such as mobile phone data. A new global partnership had been established on data, which would experiment with helping to form public-private partnerships and guarantee quality and ethical standards.

135. Mr Faal said that all organizations involved in implementation should also be involved in monitoring as a form of internal audit. External audits should be carried out by a

separate, independent entity. The alternative vision of the 2030 Agenda was that migration should become a choice and not a necessity. While consideration must be given to vulnerable groups and the specific protection and support they required, the needs and contributions of second-generation migrants should also be taken into account. The 2030 Agenda would receive many new forms of public–private financing at the implementation stage and it was important to set clear guidelines on what was and was not acceptable, so as not to undermine the public good.

136. Mr Ladd welcomed the comments on the potential role of the private sector in implementing the 2030 Agenda as a key partner. Chambers of commerce and local and national trade bodies would have a different view on the importance of the varied skill set that migrants brought to the process, and that would promote achievement of the SDGs, stronger growth and diversity. The scope of the 2030 Agenda in terms of human mobility was very broad; clearly it referred to people who were moving for a wide range of reasons. There was an unhelpful division emerging between “legitimate” and “illegitimate” migrants, namely asylum-seeking refugees versus economic migrants. Every effort must be made to oppose that division; people would continue to move for a variety of reasons related to inequality in the world and the lack of opportunities they faced.

Panel discussion: Migration, human mobility and global health: A matter for diplomacy and intersectoral partnership

- Message from **Maithripala Sirisena**, President of Sri Lanka (delivered by Ravinatha P. Ariyasingha, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Geneva)

Panellists

- **Margaret Chan**, Director-General, WHO
- **Madina Rahman**, Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation, Republic of Sierra Leone
- **Ioannis Baskozos**, Secretary General of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Greece
- **Päivi Kairamo**, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, Geneva
- **Chaisiri Anamarn**, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
- **Xavier Prats Monné**, Director-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission

Moderator

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

137. The Director General observed that migration and health, despite being highly relevant, was a topic that had often been neglected in the past. IOM was committed to intensifying its activities in that area, in partnership with Member States and relevant agencies, especially WHO. He drew attention to the IOM document entitled Advancing the unfinished agenda on migrant health for the benefit of all (C/106/INF/15/Rev.1). The link between migration, human mobility and health had never been clearer. Modern migration trends had given rise to new challenges in the health sector that required innovative solutions. The panel discussion would focus on several points: whether migrant health had been left behind in the

global discourse on sustainable development; how to avert health risks, mitigate vulnerabilities and promote positive practices associated with migration and health; and what role multilateral partnerships could play in advancing multisectoral policies that took into account migrant health.

138. The representative of Sri Lanka delivered a message on behalf of President Maithripala Sirisena. Sri Lanka was the only country in the world to have a dedicated, multisectoral, all-inclusive national migration health policy and action framework. It wished to host global consultations on the lessons learned in advancing the health of migrants and invited IOM to lead the meeting.

139. Ms Rahman said that IOM's multipronged approach to the outbreak of Ebola virus disease – strengthening infection protection and control measures, conducting mobile training campaigns, supporting robust airport and border controls – had contributed significantly to Sierra Leone's fight against the disease. She commended the Organization's staff members for their selfless devotion, not just during the epidemic itself, but also when providing assistance to the thousands of people affected by flooding in mid-September 2015.

140. The Ebola outbreak had spotlighted the need to enhance understanding of the impact of migration and human mobility from a health perspective. In that respect, IOM had formulated an ambitious plan to strengthen the Sierra Leone health system through the temporary return of qualified Sierra Leonean health-care professionals like her from the diaspora. By applying everything she had learned abroad, she had made a significant contribution to reducing the incidence of Ebola in the country to zero.

141. The Ebola outbreak had been especially intense in Sierra Leone because of the fragility of the country's health system, and the current priority was to restore confidence in the system and build it up to an acceptable level, in particular in the areas of infection prevention and control and of water, sanitation and hygiene. IOM had contributed to the water, sanitation and hygiene programme in various facilities; it had also launched short courses on infection prevention and control in medical schools, to ensure patient and health worker safety moving forward. She trusted that the 106th Session of the Council would be a source of ideas and expertise on the management of migration issues and would help promote strategies for building social capital and cohesion at the local level, as a means of ensuring that migration remained a development tool.

142. The Director General said that he, too, had been impressed by the devotion of IOM staff members: not one of the 100 staff asked to take part in the Organization's Ebola-related activities in the region had refused to go. The return of qualified nationals programme was another source of satisfaction, and was currently proving effective in Somalia.

143. Mr Baskozos recalled that the current crisis was not the first time that Greece had had to cope with large numbers of refugee arrivals; it had, for example, taken in large waves of refugees from Asia Minor in the 1920s and after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The current situation was nevertheless unprecedented, and robust measures and policies had to be identified for dealing with the huge numbers of arrivals.

144. Greece currently received 80 per cent of the people moving to Europe, 70 per cent of whom were refugees; of those, 25 per cent were children and 16 per cent women. The arrivals posed no public health threat and were carrying no communicable diseases; they had, however, undergone enormous hardship and were in need of primary health-care services and

emergency care. The high-level meeting on refugee and migrant health, convened on 23 and 24 November in Rome by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Italian Government, had highlighted the need for cooperation, prevention and treatment protocols, and ways to exchange data between countries of transition and reception that took account of human rights and cultural specificities.

145. Developing policies to meet the health-care needs of migrants would help ensure the health security of all European Union Member States and worldwide. Greece, for its part, was aiming to move closer to universal health care, which should also be extended to refugees arriving in the country. It had created “hot spots” that provided general, indiscriminate access to health care as a basic right to which refugees and migrants were entitled. A Personal Health Record, created in cooperation with IOM and the European Commission, was being used by all health-care providers to collect information on the health needs of refugees and migrants arriving on Greece’s shores; it would serve to ensure they received continuous health care until they reached their final destination.

146. The most serious risk facing the refugees and migrants was death as they crossed the Aegean Sea; hence the importance of an agreement on the identification and registration of all refugees in Turkey.

147. The refugee issue was testing fundamental human values. The international community could move towards greater cooperation and solidarity, or start down the path that would lead to closed borders and xenophobic reactions. For Greece, the choice was clear.

148. Dr Chan, noting that migration was both a development issue and a global public health issue, said that IOM was a key implementing partner, distinguished by its decentralized structure and strong local presence. She paid tribute to IOM for its response to the Ebola outbreak; the Organization’s contributions to training and preparedness had made a significant difference in a crisis that had been exacerbated by high population mobility across porous borders.

149. In 2010, a global consultation on migrant health hosted by WHO, IOM and the Government of Spain had highlighted that policies for managing migrant health were not sufficient or fit for purpose. The challenges faced at that time had since become a crisis, with multiple political, foreign policy, financial, security and health implications. Forced migration in the face of armed conflict and violent extremism was causing unprecedented flows of migrants with little hope of a quick solution. In addition, yawning gaps in income and opportunities across the world meant that migration was a fact of life for many. The international community agreed overall on the need to tackle the root causes of migration, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided an excellent opportunity to do so; pursuing the Goals and targets, such as universal health coverage, would address multiple economic, social and environmental determinants of well-being. However, the changes needed would take time to implement.

150. In terms of migrant health, better data on health needs were urgently required, but that posed a particular challenge, given that many countries lacked the capacity and financial resources to identify and respond to the health needs of their own citizens, much less the needs of migrants, whose health might have worsened during the migration process. Policy and legal frameworks in recipient countries were rarely designed to cope with the influx and scale of health needs currently being seen. Legal guidelines guaranteeing access to health care and other social services promoted migrant integration policies; separating migrants in camps

and addressing their health needs separately only contributed to their marginalization. Respect for the right to health required migrant-sensitive and therefore culturally and linguistically appropriate health systems that paid attention to issues such as mental health disorders and trauma from injuries or torture. Lastly, collaborative networks and international dialogue were vital.

151. Ms Kairamo recalled that, during its Presidency of the European Union in 2006, Finland had launched an initiative entitled Health in All Policies, a theme that had remained firmly on the international agenda to the present day. The initiative had recognized that health and well-being were part of society's capital and enhanced productivity and wealth, and should therefore be seen as an investment. It had also aimed to tackle health inequalities in societies and had encouraged all policy sectors to take health and health inequalities into account independently.

152. Migration was an area where responsibilities were distributed across a number of sectors, with the Ministry of the Interior often taking primary responsibility for migrants on their arrival; in many cases, arriving migrants had not had access to health services in their countries of origin or during their journey, which might have exacerbated chronic conditions or led to the development of new ones. The health sector was therefore called in to identify those in need of immediate medical attention. Subsequently, other sectors, such as housing, education and social protection, were called upon to provide support. The health-in-all-policies approach could therefore benefit migration and health issues.

153. Finland was currently supporting a project implemented by IOM in Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen to boost the capacity of the national authorities to respond to and provide services that were adapted to the needs of vulnerable migrants, such as victims of trafficking, single mothers and unaccompanied migrant children. It had also supported IOM efforts to strengthen the health sector in Somalia, by developing human resource capacities with the assistance of diaspora health professionals. Lastly, she drew attention to the Global Health Security Agenda, the aim of which was to accelerate health system strengthening and preparedness capacity at the country level, including through implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), and to attract high-level political attention to those issues. It also helped to broaden the focus of health-related activities from the national level to include transnational collaboration.

154. Mr Anamarn said that failure to address migrant health problems would lead to chronic problems in the long term. Migrant health was a cross-cutting issue, requiring efforts and cooperation from a variety of stakeholders and agencies. In Thailand, migrant health had been streamlined into both health and migration policies, and the Ministry of Health ensured that all persons living on Thai territory had access to health services when needed, regardless of their migration status.

155. In terms of migration management, Thailand recognized the need for safe migration channels to ensure the protection of migrants. Its migration management policy took into account its status as a destination for labour migrants and the need to register the large number of undocumented migrants already working in the country to enable them to access basic services, such as health care. The country's registration scheme encouraged migrants to apply for health insurance with the State, with large subsidies to cover the costs. If migrants chose not to apply for health insurance, they were offered the chance to register during any visit to a State-run hospital. Nevertheless, undocumented migrants would never be turned away from health facilities, but would have to pay for their treatment, with hospital support,

where necessary. Additional elements of the policy included the provision of interpreters at hospitals and migrant health volunteers to educate migrants on basic health issues and follow up on treatment. Civil society organizations also played a key role in activities pertaining to migrant health.

156. In collaboration with IOM, Thailand had hosted a regional workshop on migrant health to facilitate the sharing of experiences. One of the key outcomes of that workshop had been recognition of the need to mainstream migrant health into national and sectoral policies, and to pay greater attention to the issue at the regional level. Increased population mobility had given rise to health security concerns that coordinated health policies and practices at the regional level could help to address. Exchange of knowledge and information was vital for rapid containment of disease, and the pooling of resources could contribute to the development of treatments and cures. Such efforts could not be made on an ad hoc basis; a permanent, stable system was needed. The most recent outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in Asia had highlighted the need for prompt coordination and decision-making at the regional level. Such coordination was possible only if migrant health was taken into account in the relevant sectors. Cooperation with international organizations was also essential.

157. Mr Prats Monné stressed that the migrants arriving in Europe were not a threat in terms of communicable diseases – although weak and vulnerable and in need of help and shelter, they were generally in good health. It was important to learn from the mistakes made in the past in the treatment of migrants. In the light of the weak condition in which they tended to arrive in Europe, migrants should be a priority for health systems.

158. Concerning the situation in Europe, it was important to distinguish between short- and long-term actions. In the short term, the main requirement was funding; the budget for refugee assistance had recently been doubled. Long-term needs were considerably more extensive and complicated. He, too, mentioned the initiative undertaken by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, in collaboration with IOM, to produce the Personal Health Record and the *Handbook for Health Professionals* to help migrants to reconstruct their medical histories and take them along if they moved countries. The initiative was a tangible example of efforts to meet the short-term needs of migrants and refugees and demonstrated what could be achieved with political will and cooperation. In the longer term, solidarity would be a key challenge. His department was focusing on improving access to and the effectiveness and resilience of Member States' health systems. To ensure that access to health care was truly universal, refugees who were legally in Europe should receive the same treatment and guarantees of health as any European citizen.

159. Two representatives said that the lesson to be learned from the Ebola outbreak was that coordination and preparedness could prevent chaos: States had to prepare before crisis struck, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable (including migrants). An international alliance should be established to address the issue, with WHO playing a pivotal role in that respect. In addition, preparedness was a key component of health system strengthening: countries with robust health systems suffered less damage in times of crisis.

160. Another representative considered that the health challenges facing migrants were best addressed in the framework of multisectoral partnerships that adopted a wide and comprehensive approach.

161. Regarding universal health care, one delegate said that, in his country, it extended to migrants, and another that undocumented migrants were granted access to urgent and essential care in his. The latter added that the high-level meeting on refugee and migrant health held in Rome had proposed the establishment of a common database that would track migrants moving in the European region, from the health perspective alone and with full respect for their privacy. A third delegate, noting that migration had an impact on migrant health and that health issues affected migration, asked how best to build an evidence base on migration health challenges and what key information on the challenges was currently missing.

162. The delegate from Libya expressed admiration for the challenging programmes being put together by Greece. Libya had the potential to undertake similar programmes, but was precluded from doing so by the chaos currently prevailing there. In that respect, he asked how Finland planned to provide health-care services for migrants in Libya, where the health system had collapsed. How would it go about targeting groups in the area?

163. Dr Chan noted that migrant health had long been a global issue, but had not been much talked about until the current crisis had reached Europe's doorstep. She hoped that migrant health needs would be given the attention they deserved. An evidence base and data were crucial to that end – and indeed drove policies and priorities – but might be difficult to establish in a world in which only 68 countries even registered births and deaths.

164. Dr Chan and Ms Kairamo agreed on the importance of preparedness and multisectoral cooperation, but Dr Chan pointed out that the same principle should apply to national ministries, whose positions were often not fully aligned. Ms Kairamo noted that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 placed greater emphasis on health.

165. Dr Chan agreed that the local authorities were vital to health system resilience. The Ebola outbreak had been vanquished thanks to community mobilization.

166. Ms Kairamo, noting that Finland was a very small nation that was seldom able to work in other countries on a bilateral basis, said that it had opted to cooperate with IOM to provide assistance to migrants transiting through North Africa.

Migrants' voices

- **Khadja Nin**, Burundian singer and musician
- **Gai Nyok**, United States diplomat of South Sudanese origin

Moderator

- **Leonard Doyle**, IOM

167. The Council viewed a short video filmed by an IOM staff member in Kos, Greece.

168. The moderator said that the panel discussion would focus on the positive contributions made by migrants and the ways in which the international community could address the prevailing negative perceptions about migration worldwide. IOM had launched a new social media campaign, entitled “i am a migrant”, to portray the various advantages of migration in terms of addressing inequalities and promoting economic growth.

169. He introduced the panellists, who were both migrants themselves. One of the invited guests, Djibril Bodian, an award-winning baker, was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting owing to the recent attacks in Paris.

170. The Council viewed a short video about Mr Bodian.

171. Ms Nin's first experience of migration had been in her native Burundi, which she had left to study in Kinshasa. There she had met her future husband, a Belgian-Swiss migrant. Together, they had moved to a remote location in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they had opened a guesthouse. In 1980, when the main access road to their guesthouse had become impassable, the couple had decided to move to Belgium. In the intervening years, her mother and then her husband had died. Living in an unfamiliar country with a young child to support, she had struggled to earn a living before singing and music changed her life completely.

172. Her intention, however, had always been to return to Africa and, after experiencing musical success, she had returned to her native Burundi, where she had lived for some time before being forced to leave owing to the national trade embargo. Tragically, the situation in Burundi had worsened over time and the country currently stood on the brink of civil war. Like an ever-increasing number of migrants across the world, many people were fleeing Burundi in order to escape violence, persecution and hunger and build a better future for themselves and their families.

173. After leaving Burundi, she had moved to a small village in Mali. She had found that the villagers in her new home were suffering the effects of climate change and being forced to migrate to neighbouring countries in order to survive. In an attempt to address the root causes behind their migration, she had tried to work with locals to establish grass-roots initiatives aimed at strengthening the local community and building capacity.

174. In the light of the growing negative perception of migration and rising levels of xenophobia, it was imperative that action be taken at the international level to give migrants a voice. Steps should also be taken at all levels to highlight the many positive contributions made by migrants to the countries in which they settled and their countries of origin. For example, remittances sent by Africans living overseas to their families and friends had contributed greatly to economic growth and reduced inequalities at the local level.

175. She had recently travelled to Sicily to speak with young African migrants heading towards Europe, a vast number of whom had expressed a strong desire to study and return to their birth place so that they could play a part in their native country's national development. IOM could use the video in its awareness-raising activities worldwide.

176. The Council viewed a short video containing interviews with several young migrants conducted by Ms Nin.

177. Mr Nyok was a former refugee who had just been sworn into the United States Foreign Service as a diplomat in Washington, D.C. He had been born in South Sudan in 1986, and his family had been forced to flee as the war in South Sudan intensified at the end of the 1980s. He had walked barefoot to Ethiopia with his older brother, where they had stayed in a United Nations refugee camp for two years before fleeing back to South Sudan when the war in Ethiopia flared up. He had been one of about 20,000 so-called "Lost Boys of Sudan", aged between 5 and 10 years and without parents. Many had died on the journey. Back in

South Sudan, he and his brother had decided to continue walking towards Kenya, as the war was still raging.

178. Arriving in Kenya in around 1993, they had been welcomed by UNHCR at Kakuma Refugee Camp, and provided with shelter and education. Although better than in South Sudan, life had been difficult in the Kenyan camp, with insufficient food rations. Thus, when the United States and IOM had begun a programme to resettle some of the “Lost Boys” to the United States in 1998/99, he and his brother had jumped at the opportunity. During the lengthy asylum process, IOM had provided a thorough orientation programme to help them adjust to life in the United States. That had been particularly helpful for his brother, who had been given only three months to adjust to life in the United States before being left to fend for himself.

179. He had entered the United States in 2001, at the age of 15, and been placed with an American foster family and enrolled in high school. Thanks to the education he had received in the refugee camp in Kenya, he was able to jump three grades – from sixth to ninth grade – and graduate with honours from high school after only three years in the United States. He had gone on to university and was awarded two bachelor degrees with honours in four years – in international relations and economics – before winning a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program scholarship, which provided graduate students with financial support and professional training to prepare them for a career in the United States Department of State Foreign Service. The scholarship had enabled him to go on to study for a master’s degree in economics and, in October 2015, he had begun his career as a Foreign Service officer in the United States Government.

180. Mr Nyok expressed gratitude to IOM, its Member States, civil society organizations and all people working to help refugees and migrants around the world.

181. One delegate recalled that she had been the UNHCR representative in Kenya during the “Lost Boys” era. The resettlement programme had been a good example of UNHCR/IOM collaboration. She emphasized the importance of access to education for migrants in general, and for refugees in particular, and of resettlement to other countries with educational and employment opportunities for migrants and refugees. She asked whether Mr Nyok had been able to maintain contact with his family in South Sudan.

182. Mr Nyok said that he had not seen his mother and sister since 1993 and visits had not been possible, but that he was in contact with them. They had managed to leave South Sudan and currently lived in Uganda.

183. The moderator said that the main problem was how to raise public awareness of such powerful testimonies and foster a positive perception of migration, especially when there was little political will to stand up for migrants. He agreed that key to that process was swift and effective integration and access to education for migrants, together with heightened awareness of the benefits that migrants brought back to their countries upon their return.

184. The Director General said that a major challenge was how to change public perception back to viewing migrants as key contributors to the development of countries and a positive force in society. He urged Member States and observers to see how the “i am a migrant” campaign might be useful in their countries to counter discriminatory depictions of migrants and help avoid the dangerous rhetoric so often employed, and invited Member States to suggest how the campaign could be improved and disseminated more broadly. The quality

of the welcome and smoothness of the integration process would make all the difference in how movements were handled, taking into account the demographic deficit, competition for skills and implementation of the SDGs. It was important to take immediate action and not waste another three or four years just talking about the process.

185. Several representatives thanked the panellists for having shared their fascinating and inspiring migration stories. Further efforts should be made at national and international level to combat the negative perception of migrants and highlight their contribution to their host countries. It was imperative to focus on the positive narrative advanced by IOM in that regard. Measures should also be adopted to increase the capacity of third-country resettlement programmes and to demonstrate how migrants, when offered the appropriate support, could integrate quickly and successfully into their host communities.

186. One delegate asked whether Ms Nin had any advice or suggestions on how to strengthen the support provided to migrants and what measures could be taken to encourage migrants to return to their countries of origin and help develop their local communities in the future.

187. Ms Nin said that, based on her personal experience, grass-roots initiatives worked well to improve the situation in countries of origin and promote economic growth. She agreed that nowadays young migrants had a strong desire to obtain a decent education and return to develop and strengthen their local communities. The international community should help them to fulfil that wish.

General debate⁴

188. Statements were made by the following Member States listed in alphabetical order: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil (for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and in its own name), Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia (for the African Group and in its own name), Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand (for the Human Security Network and in its own name), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey (as Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and in its own name), Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

189. Statements were made by the following observers: China, Cuba, European Union, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, International Catholic Migration Commission, Migrant Help, International Organization of la Francophonie, Russian Federation, Save the Children and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

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

190. A warm welcome was extended to the new Member States and observers. Their desire to be a part of IOM was indicative of the importance the international community attached to IOM as the lead organization and main forum for debate on migration issues.

191. Many speakers paid tribute to the unstinting efforts of IOM staff members worldwide to ensure the well-being of migrants and their unflagging commitment to migrant rights in unsafe and challenging environments. In recognition of IOM's role as the preeminent organization on migration, one Member State announced an additional voluntary contribution of EUR 400,000.

192. Referring to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, many speakers commended IOM for having advocated the inclusion of migration as an essential component of any development framework, which had enhanced understanding of the migration–development nexus and highlighted migration as an enabler of development. The 2030 Agenda was generally applauded for its reference to orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and human mobility as a common goal of benefit to migrants and society. The Administration was encouraged to engage its expertise in the implementation of the SDGs relating to migration and human mobility and the development of migration-related indicators.

193. Noting that the SDGs committed governments to facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, one observer recalled that the Comprehensive Plan of Action, one of the first examples of IOM–UNHCR partnership, had provided a combined response to the mass movement of people 40 years earlier, in South-East Asia, that had included a substantial orderly departure programme. Were IOM and its partners developing a similar plan for the current crisis situation?

194. Several Member States and one Observer State welcomed the adoption of the Migration Governance Framework. They were pleased that it focused on migration governance from the point of view of States as the primary protagonists and aimed to ensure coherent, principle-based services in the development of national migration systems, while recognizing the absence of a one-size-fits-all model for tackling the issue. The Framework also provided a good tool for dealing with migration from the development perspective, adopting a coherent, broad and balanced approach that was also pragmatic and concrete.

195. Other Member States stressed the link between climate change and migration, and commended IOM for recognizing that linkage and creating the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division. Partnerships between IOM and schemes such as the Nansen Initiative were key to addressing human displacement, which had a negative impact on development. It was hoped that the Climate Change Conference would consider the population consequences of environmental degradation and position IOM as a key player in the management of climate-induced migration, particularly in terms of policy, capacity-building, research and access to climate funding mechanisms.

196. A top priority for many speakers remained the need to promote stability and tackle the root causes of migration. To that end, countries of origin needed help to build sustainable societies characterized by responsible institutions and the rule of law. In that respect, the Valletta Summit on Migration (November 2015), and the workplan and Emergency Trust Fund established as a result, constituted an excellent opportunity to strengthen cooperation between countries of destination and origin.

197. Concerning IOM's relationship with the United Nations, many representatives believed that the international system had to capitalize on IOM's expertise and experience on the ground, and IOM therefore had to be granted the broadest possible access to bodies making decisions on migration. IOM was encouraged to continue strengthening its strategic association with various stakeholders, in particular the United Nations. The adoption of Resolution No. 1309 on 24 November 2015 was therefore a welcome development, as it would allow IOM to continue to play its essential role in migration in a mutually reinforcing relationship of cooperation with its United Nations partners, while ensuring the security of its staff in the field. The Director General's discussions with the United Nations should focus on IOM-UN cooperation on the ground and the integration of IOM staff into United Nations country teams. Any new structures established should allow the Organization to sustain its core strengths of rapid response, cost-effectiveness, efficiency and independence. Several representatives looked forward to receiving the Director General's reports on the discussions and on the anticipated cost implications, although one pointed out that maintaining the status quo would come at a higher cost for migration governance and migrant well-being than IOM's possible association with the system.

198. Several delegates welcomed the IOM Principles for Humanitarian Action, which clearly defined the Organization's role, responsibility and value added in humanitarian action and commitment to humanitarian principles. Other speakers nonetheless noted that States bore primary responsibility for protecting and assisting migrants, in line with the IOM Policy on Protection, while one encouraged the Organization to ensure that it did not spread itself too thin and continued to focus on its core business, namely migration.

199. Several representatives welcomed the Gender Equality Policy, which would provide an essential reference for future IOM activities and programmes to address gender-related gaps, ensure equal opportunities for IOM beneficiaries, and mitigate the threat of gender-based violence. One underscored the constructive approach taken to amend the Policy and make it more acceptable to all Member States, without compromising its objectives. Two others nonetheless expressed regret that references to the unique needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex migrants had been eliminated without an opportunity for discussion; it was critical to recognize that a person's gender identity and sexual orientation shaped their migration experience in the same way that age and sex did, and IOM programmes had to be designed accordingly. Another representative noted the introduction of participatory gender audits throughout the Organization and hoped that more would be carried out in all regions.

200. A number of representatives also welcomed the Administration's efforts to address gender balance and geographical representation.

201. Regarding budget reform, several Member States recognized the impact of the budget-strengthening plan and welcomed the Administration's efforts to ensure transparency and efficiency. One stressed the importance of audit, evaluation, and risk management and investigation activities in that regard. Two others welcomed IOM's increased partnership with the private sector and the IOM Private Sector Partnership Strategy 2016-2020.

202. One Member State exercised its right of reply in response to comments made by another Member State, which was subsequently also granted a right of reply. Another Member State exercised its right of reply in response to the statement of an Observer State.

203. Replying to comments made, the Director General expressed gratitude for the additional voluntary contribution announced. IOM intended to remain a lean organization, and the Administration would continue to provide updates on the budget-strengthening plan – to date all supplementary funding had been spent on core activities. He also welcomed the support expressed for increased private sector engagement.

204. Regarding the Organization's relationship with the United Nations, the Director General agreed that IOM had to have the broadest possible access to all discussions and forums on migration, whether inside or outside the United Nations system. He was committed to protecting the Organization's institutional capacity and to maintaining its rapid response capacity and ensuring that it did not become a normative agency, and pledged to report back to the Council on his discussions with United Nations senior management in New York.

205. The Director General acknowledged the concerns expressed about the Gender Equality Policy and promised to hold further discussions on it: transparency was vital, and IOM would continue to consult Member States on the policies that it developed. Measures would be put in place to improve gender balance at the senior level and to facilitate equitable geographical representation. He also agreed that international partnership was imperative to address climate change and its effects on migration.

206. Migration called for cooperation, for which the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration were a good channel. It was an enabler of development, and the Migration Governance Framework would prove helpful in that respect. He hoped that a comprehensive plan of action for dealing with the current crisis could be discussed in the coming days. In the meantime, IOM would continue to conduct activities within the framework of its Regional Response Plan.

Date and place of the next sessions

207. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1313 of 27 November 2015 on its next regular session, which was tentatively scheduled for November or December 2016. The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance were provisionally scheduled for June and October 2016, respectively.

Closure of the session

208. The Chairperson said that, in the coming year, the newly elected Bureau would strive to help ensure that IOM continued to provide the outstanding services lauded by so many Council members during the general debate and to promote humane, orderly and managed migration at a time when migrant numbers were increasingly dramatically. The Bureau intended to focus on four things: appropriate celebration of the Organization's 65th anniversary; taking advantage of IOM's governing body sessions as venues for serene discussion of migration-related issues with a sense of common purpose, for moving towards well-informed and evidence-based perceptions of the situation, for identifying good practices and generally for stimulating the problem-solving approach that was characteristic of IOM; pursuing the deliberations of the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and the IOM Strategy, in the light of the Director General's discussions at United Nations headquarters in New York; and continuing to implement and finalizing the budget reform measures, ensuring

in particular that the Organization's business-oriented approach was applied to the proceedings of its governing bodies as well.

209. Lastly, he encouraged all Council members to familiarize themselves with IOM's work in the Field, as he himself would have the opportunity to do in Nairobi in December 2015.

210. He declared the 106th Session of the Council closed on Friday, 27 November 2015, at 6.00 p.m.