

**COUNCIL**

**113th Session**

**DRAFT REPORT ON THE  
113TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

Geneva  
Tuesday, 29 November, to Friday, 2 December 2022  
Rapporteur: Mr L.J. Chuquihuara Chil (Peru)



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List of abbreviations

COP27	Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
EMM2.0	Essentials of Migration Management 2.0
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
MOPAN	Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OSI	Operational Support Income
SADC	Southern African Development Community
WFP	World Food Programme

## DRAFT REPORT ON THE 113<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

### Introduction

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1398 of 29 November 2021, the Council convened for its 113th Session on Tuesday, 29 November 2022, at the Centre International de Conférences Genève. Eight meetings were held, with some participants taking part in the proceedings remotely. The meetings were chaired by Mr L.A. Gberie (Sierra Leone) and Ms K. Stasch (Germany).

### Attendance<sup>1</sup>

2. The following Member States were represented:

Afghanistan	Costa Rica	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Myanmar	Somalia
Algeria	Côte d'Ivoire	Ireland	Namibia	South Africa
Angola	Croatia	Israel	Nauru	Spain
Argentina	Cuba	Italy	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Armenia	Cyprus	Jamaica	Netherlands	Sudan
Australia	Czechia	Japan	New Zealand	Sweden
Austria	Denmark	Jordan	Nicaragua	Switzerland
Azerbaijan	Djibouti	Kazakhstan	Niger	Thailand
Bahamas	Dominican Republic	Kenya	Nigeria	Timor-Leste
Bangladesh	Ecuador	Kyrgyzstan	North Macedonia	Togo
Belarus	Egypt	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Norway	Trinidad and Tobago
Belgium	El Salvador	Latvia	Pakistan	Tunisia
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Estonia	Lesotho	Palau	Türkiye
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Eswatini	Libya	Panama	Turkmenistan
Botswana	Ethiopia	Lithuania	Papua New Guinea	Uganda
Brazil	Fiji	Luxembourg	Paraguay	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Finland	Madagascar	Peru	United Kingdom
Burkina Faso	France	Malawi	Philippines	United Republic of Tanzania
Burundi	Gabon	Maldives	Poland	United States of America
Cabo Verde	Gambia	Mali	Portugal	Uruguay
Cambodia	Georgia	Malta	Republic of Korea	Vanuatu
Cameroon	Germany	Marshall Islands	Republic of Moldova	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Canada	Ghana	Mauritania	Romania	Viet Nam
Chad	Greece	Mauritius	Russian Federation	Yemen
Chile	Guatemala	Mexico	Rwanda	Zambia
China	Haiti	Mongolia	Samoa	Zimbabwe
Colombia	Holy See	Montenegro	Senegal	
Congo	Honduras	Morocco	Serbia	
	Hungary	Mozambique	Sierra Leone	
	India		Slovakia	
			Slovenia	

3. A representative of Barbados,<sup>2</sup> which was an applicant for membership of the Organization, was also present.

<sup>1</sup> The list of participants is contained in document C/113/10. Unless otherwise indicated, all documents and slide presentations are available on the [Council](#) section of the IOM website.

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 15.

4. Bahrain, Indonesia, Malaysia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia were represented by an observer.
5. FAO, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and WFP were represented by observers.
6. The African Union, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the European Union, the International Anti-Corruption Academy, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the Sovereign Order of Malta and the Union du Maghreb Arabe were represented by observers, as were the following entities: the Friends World Committee for Consultation, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the International Catholic Migration Commission, Migrant Help, Partage avec les enfants du monde and Save the Children.

#### **Opening of the session and credentials of representatives and observers**

7. The Council observed a minute of silence in memory of the former President of China, Jiang Zemin.
8. The Council noted that the Director General had examined the credentials of the representatives of the Member States listed in paragraph 2 and had 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 4 to 6.

#### **Report of the Chairperson of the Council**

9. A representative of the outgoing Chairperson, Ms F.E. Méndez Escobar (Mexico), delivered a statement on her behalf in which Ms Méndez Escobar thanked her predecessor, Ms C. Devandas (Costa Rica), for her tireless efforts to reach an agreement on the budget reform measures adopted by Member States in Standing Committee Resolution No. 31 of 28 June 2022 on investing in the core structure of IOM. Those measures would pave the way for more sustainable and flexible funding for the Organization, enabling it to respond to the needs of its Member States and migrants around the world. Other milestones during the year included the first International Migration Review Forum, which had brought together Member States and other stakeholders to discuss the progress made to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and to identify areas requiring further action. Those discussions had resulted in the adoption of the Progress Declaration, which set out key priorities and commitments for the coming years. Moreover, COP27 had witnessed unprecedented recognition of the links between climate change and human mobility, underscoring once again the importance of IOM's activities in support of its Member States.
10. The Director General expressed appreciation for Ms Devandas's leadership during 2022 in support of the budget reform process and thanked Ms Méndez Escobar for stepping into her shoes late in the year.

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

11. The Administration reported that, since the publication of document C/113/5/Rev.1, additional contributions amounting to approximately CHF 2.3 million had been received, reducing total outstanding contributions for 2022 and prior years from CHF 31.7 million to CHF 29.4 million – higher than the amount of CHF 23.09 million in arrears recorded at the same time in 2021. The number of Member States subject to Article 4 remained unchanged at 29, of which 17 had lost their voting rights.

Member States were encouraged to settle outstanding assessed contributions or to contact the Administration to negotiate a flexible payment plan.

12. The Council took note of and endorsed document C/113/5/Rev.1 and the additional information on payments received provided by the Administration.

#### **Election of officers**

13. The Council elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr Lansana Alison Gberie (Sierra Leone)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Ms Katharina Stasch (Germany)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Taeho Lee (Republic of Korea)
Rapporteur:	Mr Luis Juan Chuquihuara Chil (Peru)

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

14. The provisional agenda contained in document C/113/1 was adopted by the Council and subsequently issued as document C/113/11.

#### **Admission of new Members and observers**

15. The Council adopted by acclamation Resolution No. 1399 of 29 November 2022 admitting Barbados as a Member of the Organization.

16. The representative of Barbados thanked the Council for having accepted his country as the 175th member of IOM. Barbados had worked with IOM for many years and had benefited in numerous ways. The IOM Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean in particular had been a consistent and reliable partner, helping the region to cope with climate change and economic crises that had a widespread impact on the movement of people. As Barbados and IOM embarked on a new phase of their relations, his Government looked forward to further collaboration on the interface between climate change and migration and to addressing the challenges and opportunities of migration. It pledged to contribute to discussions important to the global commons, share knowledge and experience, and work with all Members to ensure that IOM delivered on its mandate.

17. The Council viewed a video message from the Minister of Home Affairs and Information of Barbados, in which the Minister expressed gratitude for the Council's decision to admit his country as a member of IOM.

18. The Director General welcomed Barbados to the Organization. He looked forward to strengthening cooperation with the Government, notably by ensuring that the IOM Office in Barbados played a critical role in the coordination of all IOM activities in the region. As he had made clear since the beginning of his term of office, he believed that it was IOM's vocation to be universal: migration was a cross-cutting issue that required close multilateral cooperation. The Administration would therefore continue to invite all countries that were not yet IOM Member States to join the Organization.

19. The representative of a Member State from the region also extended a warm welcome to Barbados. Migration was an important issue for developing countries and small island States, including those of the Caribbean. In joining IOM, Barbados would widen its involvement in the global network of instruments and organizations governing or facilitating the movement of people across borders. The

country was a well-known advocate of multilateralism and engaged in many regional and multilateral organizations.

### **Draft report on the 112th Session of the Council**

20. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1400 of 29 November 2022 approving the report on its 112th Session (C/112/L/6/Rev.1).

### **Report on matters discussed at the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programme and Finance**

#### **(a) Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2022**

21. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that, at its Thirty-first Session, the Standing Committee had examined the document entitled Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2022 (C/113/8), in which it was reported that the Administrative Part of the Budget and the level of OSI remained unchanged at CHF 54,030,308 and USD 142 million respectively, and that the Operational Part of the Budget had increased from USD 2.2 billion to USD 2.9 billion. In accordance with Standing Committee Resolution No. 31 of 28 June 2022 on investing in the core structure of IOM, the Administration had drawn USD 5 million from the OSI reserve to invest in and implement a private sector strategy and to create a Goodwill Ambassadors programme.

22. The Standing Committee had recommended that the Council take note of the Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2022.

23. The Council took note of document C/113/8.

#### **(b) Programme and Budget for 2023**

24. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administration had prepared the Programme and Budget for 2023 taking into account the provisions of Standing Committee Resolution No. 31. At the Thirty-first Session of the Standing Committee, the Administration had proposed that the Administrative Part of the Budget amount to CHF 65,346,816 in 2023. The Operational Part of the Budget had been projected at USD 1.3 billion, which was USD 100 million higher than the 2022 budget presented at the same time the previous year. The projected level of OSI – USD 160 million – had been calculated based on the previous year's results and current and expected trends.

25. The Administration had expressed appreciation for the confidence that Member States had shown in the Organization by agreeing to provide more stable funding for its core functions. The budget reform process had acknowledged the Organization's key role in the increasingly important area of migration, while the expanded definition of its core structure to include the leadership structure of country offices recognized that it remained a field-based, operational organization. The agreed budget reforms would also heighten oversight and accountability at all levels of the Organization. The first instalment of USD 12 million – of the additional USD 60 million in assessed contributions over five years – would be applied proportionately across the key areas of delivery, oversight and advancement. The projected increase in OSI of USD 18 million in 2023 would be used to cover emerging and existing priorities as the Organization expanded. Nevertheless, a sizeable funding gap remained. Additional voluntary contributions would be warmly welcomed, and the Administration remained committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in how they were used.



26. The Standing Committee had taken note of the Programme and Budget for 2023, as set out in document C/113/7, and had recommended that the Council approve the amounts set out therein for the Administrative and the Operational Parts of the Budget.

27. One representative said that, although the decision of the Standing Committee to increase the level of assessed contributions had not achieved universal support, steps could be taken to ensure the change was inclusive, meaningful and efficient. To that end, the Administration should consult Member States on how to implement the reform in a transparent way and provide regular updates on progress and the intended uses of the additional funding. Specifically, provision should be made for the possibility that IOM would join the Joint Inspection Unit and the International Civil Service Commission, which would enhance transparency, accountability and oversight within the Organization. In relation to the Programme and Budget for 2023, he asked the Administration to improve the format of the document by drawing a distinction between the National Officer and General Service category positions in the staffing tables, and to coordinate with Member States during the transition to results-based budgeting.

28. Another representative commended the adaptability shown by Member States in reaching an agreement on budget reform. It was clear that the growth in IOM operations in recent years had led to correspondingly larger demands on its budget. However, the agreed increase in assessed contributions came at a time when many governments faced serious challenges, including those associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. She therefore called on the Administration to use the additional funding in a transparent way to increase the effectiveness of IOM activities, notably in those regions where need was greatest. Member States should also be granted the flexibility to enter into payment plans where necessary, according to their capacity.

29. The Council approved document C/113/7 and adopted Resolution No. 1401 of 29 November 2022 on the Programme and Budget for 2023.

**(c) Report on the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization by States**

30. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that, at its Thirty-first Session, the Standing Committee had been presented with the ninth annual report of the Director General on improvements in the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization by States (document S/31/6). During the reporting period, the total number of Member States, observer States, and other States and places where the Organization had been granted privileges and immunities that met the criteria contained in Council Resolution No. 1266 of 26 November 2013 had increased to 102. However, the absence of privileges and immunities in many relevant States and places – including the absence of immunity from legal process, the failure to recognize the inviolability of IOM premises and archives, and the lack of exemption from taxation – continued seriously to undermine the Organization's ability to function effectively.

31. The Standing Committee had taken note of the report and recommended that the Council remain seized of the matter and reiterate its call to all States to grant the Organization privileges and immunities substantially similar to those of the United Nations specialized agencies.

32. The Council endorsed the Standing Committee's recommendation and reiterated its call to all States to grant the Organization privileges and immunities substantially similar to those of the United Nations specialized agencies.

**(d) Other items discussed at the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance**

33. The Standing Committee Rapporteur briefed the Council on a number of other items discussed at the Standing Committee's Thirtieth and Thirty-first Sessions.

**(i) Resolutions and decisions of the Thirtieth Session of the Standing Committee**

34. In pursuance of Council Resolution No. 1398 of 29 November 2021, the Standing Committee had adopted, on 23, 24 and 28 June 2022 respectively, Resolution No. 28 approving the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2021, Resolution No. 29 approving the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2022 and Resolution No. 30 taking note of the Annual Report for 2021. In addition, on 28 June 2022, it had adopted Resolution No. 31 on investing in the core structure of IOM.

35. During that session, the Standing Committee had also approved the IOM assessment scale for 2023, as illustrated in document S/30/3, and had agreed to review the assessment scale for 2024 during 2023.

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

- At the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Sessions of the Standing Committee, the Administration had introduced documents on the following topics that had been selected by the Member States:
- The criticality of humanitarian access to assistance and protection work
- Enabling human mobility as part of resilient pandemic preparedness and response
- Update on displacement, migration and climate action: promoting innovative approaches to prevention, preparedness, response and solutions
- Increased availability of labour mobility pathways for inclusive and prosperous societies.

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

**(iii) Statement by the Chairperson of the Global Staff Association Committee**

37. At its Thirty-first Session, the Standing Committee had taken note of a statement made by the Chairperson of the Global Staff Association Committee.

**(iv) Other reports and updates**

- At its 2022 sessions, the Standing Committee had also examined and taken note of the following reports and updates:
- Status reports on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights
- Statement and report of the External Auditor
- Progress report on the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations
- Report on the work of the Office of the Inspector General
- Report of the IOM Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee
- Update on plans for the IOM Headquarters building

- Update on the application of the Internal Governance Framework
- Update on human resources management
- Reports of the Chairperson of the Working Group on Budget Reform
- Reports of the Chairperson of the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities
- Reports on the IOM Development Fund
- IOM partnerships with the private sector
- Update on risk management
- Update on the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework – 2021 addendum
- Provisional workplan for the IOM governing bodies during 2023.

38. One representative said that further information should be provided on the work of the Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee, notably the implementation status of its recommendations, and that dedicated briefings should be held with Member States to discuss the Organization's performance. Additional attention should also be given to the follow-up of recommendations of the Inspector General and External Auditor, focusing on the IOM risk management system. Lastly, on the subject of human resources, he urged the Organization to provide an overarching strategy for Member State review, and to avoid promoting controversial and unapproved definitions of diversity.

39. The Council took note of and endorsed the decisions and documents referred to in paragraphs 21 to 40 above.

40. In conclusion, the Council adopted Resolution No. 1402 of 29 November 2022 taking note of and endorsing the reports of the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance.

#### **Date and place of the next sessions**

41. The Council had before it draft resolutions C/113/L/5 on the convening of its next regular session and C/113/L/6/Rev.1 on the convening of a special session in 2023.

42. In reply to a query from one Council member, the Director General explained that, under the terms of document C/113/INF/2 (Note on rules and procedures for the election of the Director General), the election for Director General had to be held before the term of the incumbent expired (30 September 2022). The date of the special session of the Council convened for an election was traditionally set by the Council. It was probable that in 2023 that date would fall on an official United Nations holiday, the date of which would be determined only in early 2023.

43. In the ensuing discussion, Council members stressed the need to take account of the holiday period in Europe and to ensure the presence of the largest possible number of Member States at the special session. As a result, it was proposed that the draft resolution indicate that the special session should take place before the end of June 2023.

44. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1403 of 30 November 2022, according to which its next regular session was tentatively scheduled for November 2023 and the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance was invited to meet at least twice during 2023. It also adopted Resolution No. 1404 of 30 November 2022, according to which it would meet in special session before the end of June 2023.

**High-level segment – The intersection between climate change, food security, migration and displacement<sup>3</sup>**

45. In his introductory remarks, the Director General said that the recently published Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had confirmed the profound impact of climate change on patterns of movement, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. The IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021–2030 reflected the Organization’s approach in that regard. In addition, climate-change-induced migration had recently been compounded by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, political and economic instability, rising food and fertilizer prices, and the war in Ukraine, resulting in a complex multidimensional crisis that was generating unprecedented levels of food insecurity throughout the world.

46. The successful outcomes of COP27, including acknowledgement of the rights of migrants and the adverse effects of climate change on human mobility and the lives and livelihoods of local communities, together with the establishment of a loss and damage fund, would help Member States address the serious situations facing an ever-increasing number of communities, particularly in small island developing States, least developed countries and those living in the most vulnerable regions of the world. At COP27, many States had emphasized the need to access funding for the purposes of adaptation, prevention and resilience-building, areas in which the development of early warning systems could play a useful role.

47. A growing number of disasters, including long-term droughts, catastrophic hurricanes and floods, were occurring each year, and the situation was likely to worsen in 2023. Urgent cooperation was required, and climate-change-induced migration should itself be considered a potential tool for adaptation and mitigation.

48. In a video message, the Director-General of FAO said that the interconnected nature of climate change, food security, migration and displacement was widely recognized, particularly the negative impact of climate change on food security. FAO was working to address the adverse drivers of migration and climate impacts on rural livelihoods by strengthening pre-emptive actions to avert the risk of displacement. It was also working with rural communities to better manage climate risks and promote climate-adaptive practices, sustainable use of natural resources and restoration of degraded ecosystems. Community-led solutions would be essential to those efforts. Migration should be harnessed as a possible contributor to climate change adaptation and the development of inclusive, sustainable and ecologically friendly agrifood systems in areas of origin, transit and destination.

49. In a video message, the Deputy Executive Director for Programme and Policy Development of WFP said that insufficient development progress had led to food insecurity reaching unprecedented levels in much of the world in 2022. Food insecurity drove displacement, which in turn created food crises as agricultural lands were left behind and large numbers of displaced people generated unmanageable demand in host areas. Recent events in Somalia and Pakistan illustrated how overlapping crises could cause extensive damage and suffering. As displacement reached record levels and food insecurity continued to worsen, humanitarian action and social protection would be essential. However, aid could not be the only solution. There must be a strong focus on quality programmes that empowered and protected vulnerable groups and provided them with solutions. Rising to current challenges and working across institutional boundaries would help to avoid even greater humanitarian crises in future.

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<sup>3</sup> Texts of statements, as and if received from Member States and observers, are available on the [Council](#) section of the IOM website.

50. Statements were delivered or provided in writing by the following Member States listed in alphabetical order: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt (speaking as President of COP27), El Salvador, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Somalia, Switzerland, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe.

51. Statements were also delivered by the European Union, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

52. Council members and observers expressed concern that levels of climate-change-induced migration and displacement were already extremely high and expected to increase, intensifying humanitarian risks and creating new ones. Indeed, the World Bank's recent *Groundswell* report had estimated that over 216 million people in six regions might move within their countries by 2050. In addition, the most vulnerable groups of internally displaced persons and migrants were often disproportionately concentrated in areas most exposed to climate risks.

53. The complex relationship between migration and climate change was compounded by other factors, such as political and economic instability, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising prices and the war in Ukraine, resulting in a multidimensional crisis that had led to significant food insecurity. In turn, food insecurity was itself increasingly a global driver of displacement and migration. The inhabitants of small island developing States continued to be displaced, their livelihoods affected by the rise in sea levels and climate change, causing them to flee or abandon their island homes. The representative of one such State noted that they were among the countries most affected by the crisis and thus most in need of support from the international community, on account of factors such as their heightened vulnerability to hazard-related shocks and dependence on imports; in addition, in some cases their classification as high-income States ruled out financial aid. Another representative called for the debts of small island developing States to be converted into climate investments in education, health and the eradication of poverty and inequality.

54. Examples of measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation and climate resilience included the use of new technologies and renewable energy; the promotion of climate-resilient agriculture in least developed countries; emergency food assistance; and cash transfers. Efforts were also being made to fight biodiversity loss through nature-based solutions and improving the management of natural resources. A number of representatives asserted that migration itself – if accompanied by the creation and strengthening of safe, orderly and regular pathways – could also be used for adaptation and mitigation purposes.

55. A number of speakers pointed to the need for quality, disaggregated climate data for early warning systems that would allow countries to better predict and limit the impacts of climate disasters. Others highlighted the need to promote sustainable farming practices to improve food security. More generally, a holistic and integrative approach should be applied to climate, food and migration strategies in synergy with humanitarian aid, development and peace initiatives – all under a solid legal framework that upheld the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment guaranteed under United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/75. IOM was urged to work directly with local communities, national governments and other United Nations agencies to continue supporting Member State efforts to strengthen their disaster risk reduction and preparedness capacity.

56. Council members and observers reaffirmed their commitments to the Paris Agreement on climate change and welcomed the outcomes of COP27, in particular the planned creation of a loss and

damage fund to support the countries most vulnerable to climate change. However, procedures for accessing resources through the new fund would have to be streamlined for developing countries to truly benefit. IOM was praised for having played an important role in making migration part of the discussions at COP27, and the Administration was encouraged to continue integrating climate perspectives into migration programmes and vice versa. There was broad agreement that multilateralism, solidarity and cross-sectoral collaboration were needed. One representative suggested that climate security should be integrated into the work of the United Nations Security Council, which should tackle the issue in collaboration with other organizations, including IOM. Other relevant platforms and frameworks included the Platform on Disaster Displacement, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move.

57. The high-level segment provided welcome visibility to the intersection between climate change, food security, migration and displacement. Speakers relished the opportunity to share their experiences and learn from others and expressed confidence that their discussion would contribute to a clearer vision for future action.

58. The Director General, responding to the statements made, said that the debate had shown the links between climate change, food security, migration and displacement to be both indisputable and widely recognized. The factors described by Member States must therefore be tackled in a comprehensive and integrated manner. Speakers had also made it clear that while the impacts of climate change were being felt worldwide, they were highly context-specific, and a one-size-fits-all approach could not be applied. The special vulnerabilities of small island developing States, least developed countries and coastal areas must all be taken into account in order to tailor solutions to specific challenges.

59. Recommended lines of action for Member States included emphasizing prevention and disaster risk reduction by developing early warning systems, engaging with populations living in risk-prone areas and acknowledging the key role played by women and young people. Regional, bilateral and international cooperation would also be essential, both in terms of short-term emergency action in response to disasters and long-term solutions for people unable to return to their regions of origin. Lastly, while the loss and damage fund agreed upon at COP27 was a significant step forward, it would also be important to ensure that sufficient funding was allocated to adaptation measures. The focus should be on making existing resources more flexible and accessible so that countries in need received immediate support.

60. Multilateral cooperation and engagement with private stakeholders was another important aspect. Indeed, many corporations were willing to address climate impacts in the humanitarian and development sectors. Regional and global multilateral development banks, which had been slow to incorporate climate impacts into their strategies, should provide more proactive support. By working with Member States and other United Nations agencies, IOM would help translate the breakthroughs at COP27 into concrete action to meet the needs of populations experiencing the severe effects of climate change.

61. The Council viewed a video on the effects of climate change in Vanuatu.

#### **Report of the Director General**

62. The Director General complemented his report to the Council (document C/113/9) with a slide presentation.

63. The Council took note of document C/113/9.

## General debate<sup>4</sup>

64. Statements were made or provided in writing by the following Member States listed in alphabetical order: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt (also on behalf of the Arab Group), El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria (also on behalf of the African Group), Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea (also on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group), Republic of Moldova, Samoa, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine (on behalf of 45 Member States), United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay (also on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

65. The Permanent Observer for the European Union delivered a statement on behalf of the Union's members.

66. Statements were made by four observers, namely FAO, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the Sovereign Order of Malta and the International Anti-Corruption Academy.

67. The Council welcomed Barbados as the newest Member State of the Organization.

68. Member States and observers welcomed the Director General's report, which underscored the progress made and challenges that remained to be met in the face of the unprecedented deterioration in the living conditions of millions of people worldwide. They applauded IOM's leading role as the United Nations migration agency in respect of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and its stewardship of the United Nations Network on Migration. They thanked IOM for spearheading preparations for the successful first International Migration Review Forum and noted that the Forum outcome document, the Progress Declaration, was a clear expression of States' willingness to leverage the Compact to bring about real change in migration management using a rules-based, multilateral approach. While many representatives underscored the importance of international cooperation and multilateralism for effective migration management, one nevertheless cautioned that the Compact should be implemented in line with the principle of sovereignty and individual States' national conditions, adding that more technical assistance should be provided to developing countries to that end. Another thanked the Director General for his Champion countries initiative and said that her country hoped to become a champion. The representatives of several champion countries reaffirmed their commitment to orderly and safe migration; they were joined by others in thanking those States that had contributed to the Migration Multi-partner Trust Fund and calling for more spaces for constructive multilateral dialogue between States and international organizations with a view to developing sustainable joint strategies.

69. Many Council members addressed the unprecedented number of crises that required strong cooperation between organizations and institutions. They expressed concern about the spike in numbers of people embarking on dangerous routes managed by smugglers and traffickers, including the Central Mediterranean route. They praised IOM's work to meet the needs of people affected by the war in Ukraine, especially displaced persons; and to facilitate the inclusion of refugees into host communities; and to combat gender-based violence and human trafficking in the context of the war.

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<sup>4</sup> Texts of statements, as and if received from Member States and observers, are available on the [Council](#) section of the IOM website.

They also welcomed the Organization's continued focus on the Sahel, a region in turmoil that was often forgotten, and on the situations in Afghanistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. One representative nevertheless observed that data on migrants should be compiled following a strict methodology and that a distinction should be made between economic migrants and refugees or asylum seekers. It was unfortunate that migration figures were sometimes exaggerated in order to raise funds or for political reasons. Another said that it was necessary to distinguish between regular and irregular migrants, particularly in terms of the responsibilities of States of origin, transit or destination; solutions to irregular migration should be found that addressed both pull and push factors. It was also important to work in host countries with young people newly displaced by a crisis, to ensure that they remained connected and that their capabilities did not go to waste.

70. Appreciation was expressed for the budget reform measures adopted in June 2022, which represented the outcome of constructive negotiations in which all Member States' concerns had been considered against the backdrop of the current global economic crisis and the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was hoped that the newly agreed increase in assessed contributions would support ongoing implementation of the Business Transformation initiative, strengthen results-based management and reinforce IOM's ability to meet global challenges, despite the funding gaps that remained. Some Member States reiterated their commitment to provide multi-year, unearmarked funding so that the Organization had predictable, flexible resources; other Member States were encouraged to follow suit. It was also suggested that the Administration should broaden its efforts to find non-traditional donors. Representatives noted the progress made in terms of implementation of the Internal Governance Framework, which was central to efforts to improve effectiveness, manage risk and keep the Organization fit for purpose. They asked to be kept abreast of the impact of the reforms and of whether there were changes to be made or lessons to be learned. The second MOPAN assessment would guide development of the next generation of IOM reforms and would be crucial in shaping the next strategic vision.

71. Preventing sexual abuse and harassment was a priority for many representatives, who suggested that the Administration should invest in legal and human resources to handle cases. It was important, in that respect, to maintain the gains made by the Office of the Inspector General and to prioritize the internal justice system when allocating funds. In order to continue to grow and succeed, the Organization required a robust human resources unit, transparent internal processes and a responsive internal justice system; it must also seek ways to broaden its resource base, including by expanding its outreach to and partnerships with the private sector.

72. Many speakers, noting that IOM's staff was its strength, paid tribute to staff members' tireless efforts to respond to the needs of migrants and displaced persons. Many agreed that the current language requirements for recruitment did not promote staff diversity. They welcomed the Director General's assurance that the requirements would be reconsidered and asked to be kept informed about any changes, suggesting that the Administration consider lifting the requirements in the meantime. The representative of the Arab Group reiterated the Group's request to add Arabic as an official language of the Organization, thereby reflecting the growing cooperation between countries and areas in the Arab region and IOM. Others stressed the need to ensure equitable geographical representation and to address the underrepresentation of developing countries at Headquarters.

73. The Administration was commended for having organized the high-level segment on the intersection between climate change, food security, migration and displacement, and Member States pledged to continue working with IOM on climate-change-related issues, in particular on early warning systems to avoid mass movements of people. Representatives who had been unable to participate in the segment confirmed that the triple crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss was undermining efforts to manage migration effectively and driving young people to undertake perilous migration journeys. In places like the Sahel, climate change was worsening an already dire situation,



heightening vulnerability, spurring recruitment by radical groups and exacerbating the security situation. In countries like Pakistan and Somalia, extreme weather conditions were a risk multiplier, and efforts to address them should include support for adaptation and resilience-building. Developing countries, especially those that were vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, needed support to enhance their resilience and capacity to tackle those adverse effects on human mobility. Small island developing States, for their part, had less territory and were therefore at greater risk from climate change, compounding their vulnerability and making it more difficult for them to host migrants.

74. Member States welcomed the work of FAO and the COP27 outcomes, particularly in relation to loss and damage, and hoped that they would increase the resilience of communities vulnerable to climate change, to ensure that migration was not the only option. The proposed loss and damage fund was a promising start, but more needed to be done to make the international financial system fairer and better address the historic asymmetry in countries' climate change situations. Indeed, the effects of climate change on food security and human displacement were asymmetric, as were the historic benefits of the economic activity that had caused climate change – the financial burden of responding to the crisis should therefore also be asymmetric. Member States also called for urgent action and a comprehensive approach to better protect and promote the rights of vulnerable groups, including migrants, in the context of climate change. One observer advocated recognition of “environmental refugee” status as a legal concept in international law, as surviving climate breakdown would require more than compensation for loss and damage.

75. Migrant trafficking and smuggling was an issue of concern raised by many participants, who said that the rights of migrants and their families should be central to the work of IOM. They expressed support for IOM's work to prevent trafficking in persons and migrant-smuggling, although one Member State called for an end to the pro-migration policies that encouraged such activities. IOM, in its coordinating role, should encourage multilateral cooperation to address issues such as the humane treatment of migrants. All migrants, including refugees, should be issued legal identification documents, have their diplomas recognized and benefit from better management of remittances.

76. One Member State exercised its right of reply in response to the statement by a group of other Member States during the general debate. Another Member State, speaking on behalf of a number of Member States, thereafter exercised its right to respond to the right of reply.

77. The Director General, responding to the comments made, thanked Member States for supporting the Organization's response in numerous situations, notably the conflict in Ukraine, flooding in Pakistan and the situation in Afghanistan. He was also grateful for the support received in connection with the Global Compact and in terms of national policies to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.

78. IOM was working closely with civil society in Ukraine (where it had 50 implementing partners), which allowed it to address problems on the ground and to support the country during attacks. It had identified the basic priority needs as cash, clothing, food and medication. The onset of winter and the shelling of power facilities in Ukraine would likely lead to another wave of refugees moving to countries further west; IOM and its United Nations partners had started planning for that contingency. IOM would continue cooperating with the Government of Ukraine and local authorities to identify needs for the country's recovery. The Organization was also looking ahead to Ukraine's reconstruction, to enable displaced people to return to their regions of origin.

79. IOM was committed to pursuing its life-saving humanitarian activities in Afghanistan. Further support from the international community was required, not just to provide assistance, but also to contribute to greater stability in communities and to help restore the local economy.

80. The first Ministerial-level meeting of Global Compact champion countries, held in March 2022 in Rabat, Morocco, had been a major factor in the success of the International Migration Review Forum. Clearly, solidarity and partnership were fundamental aspects of multilateral cooperation on migration.

81. He was grateful that some Member States had mentioned the importance of legal identification. The international community must mobilize in support of countries that needed to upscale their legal identification tools, including civil registries, identity cards, passports and residency permits, all of which were critical not just to ensure the stability and security of the countries concerned but also to promote legal, regular migration channels. Opening regular pathways for migration was a key element of the fight against irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking in persons. For IOM, the situation of migrants was a matter of humanitarian protection, not politics. The Organization was concerned about both the root causes of migration and the plight of migrants themselves. It used data supplied by host countries, not with the aim of increasing donations, but in order to protect and support migrants in those countries.

82. Turning to the question of internal reform, he said that a great deal of progress had been made and that he was fairly positive that three of the Internal Governance Framework's four workstreams would be concluded by the end of 2022. However, the task was by no means complete: the reforms had to be consolidated and gaps identified – the budget reforms would be instrumental in addressing those concerns. The Administration was counting on the forthcoming MOPAN and other external assessments to identify gaps and needs for a new set of internal reforms in the 2024–2028 planning cycle and to show that the current reforms had enabled IOM to improve its track record in areas such as oversight and accountability. So far, the Business Transformation initiative had been funded, not by the budget reform measures, but by unearmarked contributions and drawdowns from the Organization's OSI reserve. As things stood, he was fairly confident that the target of USD 56 million by the end of 2023 for the total cost of the Business Transformation initiative would be met.

83. Examination of the Organization's language policy for staff was ongoing, including through the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities, through which the Administration would report back to Member States. The recruitment process was also being reformed, and the Administration was giving priority to applicants from unrepresented States.

## Panel discussions

### EMM2.0: IOM's flagship training programme on migration management

#### Speakers

**Ms Susan V. Ople**, Secretary, Department of Migrant Workers, Philippines (video message)

**Ms Stephanie Leung**, Director of International Migration Policy, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

**Ms Nurdan Erpulat Altuntas**, Director General of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye

**Mr Sheuneni Kurasha**, Parliamentary Specialist, SADC Parliamentary Forum (video message)

**Ms Monica Goracci**, Director, Department of Programme Support and Migration Management, IOM

#### Moderator

**Ms Ugochi Daniels**, Deputy Director General for Operations, IOM

84. The Deputy Director General for Operations, introducing the newest version of IOM's flagship training programme on migration management, the Essentials of Migration Management (EMM2.0), said that the pledges made by Member States both at and after the International Migration Review Forum had shown that capacity development was key for effective, rights-based migration governance and management, and that IOM had a crucial role to play in helping countries boost those capacities. To that end, and in line with the guidance set out in the Organization's recently developed corporate methodology, Capacity Development for Migration Management (CD4MM), IOM staff provided comprehensive and systematic capacity-development support to governments and other migration management stakeholders.

85. Capacity development encompassed strengthening organizations, the individuals working with them and the systems or wider institutional environment within which they interacted. It involved a wide range of technical and methodological expertise that went well beyond training. EMM2.0 therefore provided not only training modules, but also online resources covering a wide range of migration management subjects, from foundational topics such as international cooperation, international migration law and the policy cycle, to specific thematic areas such as migration health, youth migration, the environment and climate change.

86. EMM2.0 was versatile. It could be used to fill specific gaps identified by a Migration Governance Indicators review of a national or local migration system; to support efforts to develop whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to migration in the context of a policy development process; or, more broadly, to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The programme could help introduce relevant staff and target groups to migration and migration management, to train government staff in terms of migration governance and governance structures, or to provide a platform for in-depth exploration of thematic issues. In essence, EMM2.0 was intended to offer guidance for effective migration management while allowing practitioners the freedom to respond intelligently to the challenges at hand; the focus throughout was on practical answers and win-win solutions.

87. Uptake had been strong worldwide. More than 700 government officials had participated in EMM2.0 training and more than 20 countries had already used the tool to improve their migration

management. Since May 2022, over 250 users had created an account and begun working through the modules.

88. Ms Goracci, who supplemented her statement with a slide presentation, recalled that the original version of the EMM programme launched in 2004 had consisted of three large paper volumes. The new online version featured a handbook, an e-library and courses, all of which were available on an interactive and easy-to-navigate online platform (<https://emm.iom.int/>) that was regularly updated to reflect emerging trends. The EMM2.0 handbook was the programme's foundation. Its 30 chapters provided brief but comprehensive overviews of different aspects of migration management, from the basics of good migration governance and management to the main policy challenges faced by governments. The content had been compiled by IOM thematic experts, external research consultants, academics and government officials, and relevant United Nations agencies had been invited to provide their input to ensure overall synergy with the broader United Nations system.

89. The EMM2.0 e-library was a repository of meticulously selected resources from IOM, other United Nations organizations, research institutions and other entities; it also contained an interactive version of the IOM Glossary on Migration. The e-library was open to the public and searchable by thematic area, region, year of publication, language and type of resource.

90. The EMM courses were delivered face-to-face, online or as a blend of the two. The 18 face-to-face training modules covered various aspects of migration management and included a facilitator's guide, presentation slides, learning handouts and more. It was anticipated that participants completing a course would feel more empowered to take action to improve their own migration policies. The overarching goals, however, were to influence migration policy development and implementation, and to promote intragovernmental and intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration with the private sector, civil society and international organizations, among other stakeholders. Participants also had the possibility to enrol in self-paced e-learning courses, which were free of charge and available on demand.

91. All EMM materials were available in English; selected training modules and handbook chapters were also available in Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, French, Spanish and Turkish. The objective was to make them available in all languages, and fundraising efforts were being pursued to that end. Resources had been received from Canada, Denmark, Switzerland and the United States of America, and funding had been allocated by the IOM Migration Resource Allocation Committee and the IOM Development Fund.

92. Ms Ople said that, although the Philippine Department of Migrant Workers was in its infancy, having been established on 27 December 2021, the Philippines nevertheless had more than 40 years of experience in migration governance and remained committed to ensuring the rights and welfare of the 10.5 million Filipino migrants working outside the country. As the Department's Secretary, she had every intention of upholding that commitment at various levels, in line with the Global Compact objectives.

93. The Philippines had supported the EMM since its inception, and she herself was a frequent user. EMM2.0 built on IOM's vast experience and knowledge to provide stakeholders with the tools they needed for evidence-based policymaking and provided links to key publications, such as the *World Migration Report 2022*, which she had used to learn more about the slow-onset impacts of climate change and the multicausal nature of climate migration. She had also appreciated the course on trafficking in persons, which featured the four Ps: prevention of human trafficking, protection of victims, prosecution of perpetrators, and partnerships.

94. She suggested that EMM2.0 could be further enhanced by providing more information on human trafficking via social media platforms, which was an emerging phenomenon in the Philippines, providing more information on how Member States could work together in line with the principle of shared responsibility when it came to third-country illegal recruitment and human trafficking; adding a chapter on the impact of pandemics on migrants and migration governance; and adding another chapter on communicating in migration crisis situations, to avoid the confusion that had prevailed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

95. All stakeholders now had an important role to play as perpetual students of migration and keen observers of human mobility, namely to help ensure that EMM2.0 remained up to date. In a constantly changing world marked by a looming global recession, ageing populations in many countries and conflicts of all kinds, stakeholders must rely on each other to enhance their understanding of the world.

96. Ms Leung said that her Government recognized the positive contribution that migrants made to society and had therefore made a deliberate decision to welcome an increasing number of permanent residents to Canada each year through regular pathways and settlement services. IOM was an important partner in the delivery of those services and as in relation to capacity-building, humanitarian assistance, stabilization activities and longer-term development work. Strengthening migration systems was key to her Government's approach to international capacity-building, as it gave States and stakeholders the necessary resources to advance migration governance. To that end, Canada had been involved in the development of EMM2.0, notably by chairing meetings of the associated Group of Friends, which provided input on the design of the programme to ensure it was user-friendly and relevant to Member States.

97. Highlighting some of the features of EMM2.0, she explained that the updated programme gave a more in-depth view of the cross-cutting issues that affected migration, allowing users to access information on a range of interlinked themes and strengthening migration literacy for policymakers, those responsible for delivering programmes and other partners. Its digital format meant that the programme could be updated regularly to reflect emerging trends in migration, while courses could also be adapted to the needs of specific stakeholders. The community of users was also itself a valuable source of support, and she invited Member States to provide feedback on their experiences of using EMM2.0, or to consider how it could help them strengthen capacity within their migration systems if they had not yet participated in the programme. Her Government strongly supported a learning-oriented approach to strengthening migration management and remained committed to promoting EMM2.0 both within Canada and further afield.

98. Ms Altuntas said that, given Türkiye's position as a crossroads for migrants and its role hosting the largest number of refugees worldwide, her Government attached great importance to close cooperation with IOM and other United Nations agencies. Making migration work for everyone was a challenging but urgent task, and partnerships and capacity development were crucial in that respect. EMM2.0 was a comprehensive, informative and insightful tool that filled a significant gap in the understanding of migration management.

99. Her Government had both contributed to the development of the programme and taken advantage of the training it offered: staff at 120 Turkish missions in a range of countries had completed modules on labour migration, the global migration context and trafficking in persons through webinars and self-paced learning. That training had been contextualized with national data, enabling a direct link to be made to the implementation of national policies to manage irregular migration. It had also provided staff with a platform to discuss the migration issues they faced in their day-to-day work. The feedback from participants had been extremely positive and the Government aimed to organize similar events in future.

100. Mr Kurasha described how the SADC Parliamentary Forum collaborated with IOM through its Regional Office in Pretoria to build the capacity of parliamentarians to incorporate migration governance issues into their work. He had recently participated in regional training under the EMM2.0 programme alongside other parliamentarians from the region. The interactive training had been customized to meet participants' needs, with a step-by-step approach to the process of developing, implementing and evaluating migration policies, and had covered a range of issues, including international migration law, the human rights of migrants, border management and sustainable development.

101. Following the training, participants had formed a community of practice to continue exchanging views. In addition, their exposure to migration governance issues had confirmed that parliaments could support safe, orderly and regular migration through partnership with IOM and in a variety of ways: by strengthening of legal frameworks for migration through their primary role of law-making, including by reviewing existing legislation and ratifying regional and international instruments; by exercising their right of oversight to help guarantee accountability in migration management, especially in relation to emerging issues such as climate change adaptation; and by acting as a link between citizens and regional and international frameworks for migration management, to ensure that policymaking processes were inclusive.

102. As more and more people moved across borders in Southern Africa, greater regional cooperation was required to ensure that the rights of migrants were protected. National and regional parliaments could use their convening power to promote collaboration between Member States and non-State actors to address the challenges threatening migrants' rights. Budget allocation was another area that parliamentarians could influence; national parliaments that had provided EMM2.0 training for relevant committees had found that participants subsequently became more supportive of pro-migration policies, including in terms of budget allocations.

103. EMM2.0 could be leveraged further to enhance the ability of parliaments to support effective migration governance. It was particularly vital to continue training the relevant committees and staff of national parliaments to maintain institutional memory. The training of trainers was also an important strategy in that regard. In addition, deliberate efforts were needed to ensure that parliaments were involved in migration governance processes, notably the implementation and monitoring of migration policies. Through sustained collaboration and advocacy work, the SADC Parliamentary Forum and national parliaments were committed to ensuring that a coherent, rights-based and gender-responsive approach was taken to strengthening migration governance across the region; they would continue to collaborate with IOM in that regard.

104. The representative of a donor government that had provided funding for the EMM2.0 test phases and the translation of sections into French, congratulated the EMM team on its work. The programme was a major migration management tool that went beyond generating skills and knowledge to bring people together, as had been seen during face-to-face pilot training sessions in Ethiopia and Somalia, for example. He invited Member States to try the modules so as to familiarize themselves with how the EMM worked and to consider contributing to its translation into more languages, in order to reach more migration officials.

105. Another representative stressed the importance of giving greater visibility to EMM2.0. At a time when Member States were working to implement the Global Compact, it would be useful for them to rely on such tools to facilitate decision-making. He welcomed the fact that the thematic contents reinforced the objectives of the Global Compact, as had been suggested by the Group of Friends on EMM2.0. It was especially important for Member States from the Latin America and Caribbean region, given its sizeable migration flows and the programme's potential benefits there, to

be proactively involved, and continued efforts should therefore be made to translate all elements of EMM2.0 into Spanish as well.

106. The Deputy Director General for Operations expressed her appreciation to the Group of Friends and to all the governments that had supported EMM2.0 for their sustained commitment.

### **Migrants' testimonies**

#### **Speakers**

**Mr Henry Kwabena Kokofu**, Special Envoy of the Climate Vulnerable Forum Presidency, Ghana

**Ms Vania Alexandra Llerena Velásquez**, Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Officer for the Migration Youth and Children Platform

**Ms Elizabeth Mullings-Smith**, representative for development issues, Global Jamaica Diaspora Council

**Ms Krystal Sil Sikana**, African Union Diaspora Youth Initiative

#### **Moderator**

**Mr Manuel Marques Pereira**, Head of the Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction Division, IOM

107. The Moderator said that, as part of its activities under the Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021–2030, IOM strove to promote, whenever possible, an inclusive approach that led to greater migrant participation and given a voice to migrants affected by climate change, environmental degradation or disasters in various forums of discussion and policy coordination. The most vulnerable groups – women, children, young people, the elderly and those with gender-diverse identities – had to be empowered, with a view to shaping effective policies for climate change adaptation and risk reduction.

108. IOM firmly believed that diasporas could help address current and future sustainable development challenges that required a whole-of-society approach. Diasporas had expertise, knowledge and technology that could be helpful in addressing climate crises. Their remittances also represented direct investments in skills transfers to their countries of origin.

109. The Migrants' Testimonies panel had been convened to highlight the importance of effective and inclusive climate action; it would also discuss the various channels through which migrants could make their voices heard and be part of decision-making processes.

110. Mr Kokofu presented Migrants4Climate, an initiative led by the Climate Vulnerable Forum that promoted expanded support for climate migrants and those displaced due to climate change, leveraged the contributions to climate action made by migrant communities in support of all Forum members and aimed to carry migrant voices and actions beyond borders.

111. The main objectives of the initiative were to shift the focus from climate vulnerability to resilience and eventually to prosperity, by making migrants active and dynamic players in inclusive climate solutions; to mobilize greater solidarity and support, including through private sector partnerships, for the communities most vulnerable to climate change and climate-induced displacement and migration, focusing on migration in the context of slow-onset impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, desertification, sea-level rise, ecosystem and biodiversity loss, and

ocean acidification; to contribute to full and effective implementation of the Global Compact in all areas related to climate change, resilience, disasters and environmental degradation; and to acknowledge the role of migrants in sustainable development, in line with the aspirations set out in the Sustainable Development Goals, the preamble to the Paris Agreement and the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change and of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement.

112. The initiative also comprised the Migrants4Climate Award, which recognized innovative migrant- or diaspora-led initiatives in fields such as clean energy, water, sanitation and hygiene, land rehabilitation, resilience-building, agroecology, ocean and maritime solutions, and ecosystem preservation. It was expected that the first cycle of the award selection process would be concluded by the time of COP28.

113. Ms Llerena Velásquez, who supplemented her statement with a slide presentation, said that the Migration Youth and Children Platform was the largest global youth-led and self-organized stakeholder group for young people and children in migration governance processes. It had partnered closely with IOM in key advocacy spaces such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the International Migration Review Forum, and was committed to including and embedding diverse youth voices across IOM.

114. Her own story was not one of migration by choice, but rather of displacement. Growing up in the Andean highlands in Peru, she had suffered multiple hardships, such as limited access to education and the absence of sanitation, health care and electricity, as a result of deep-seated discrimination against indigenous peoples. In what amounted to a form of internal displacement, her family had sought better opportunities in the capital, Lima – only to encounter, not sustainable infrastructure and design, but high levels of pollution, big industries that polluted the rivers, and deforestation. That experience had shown her the need for investment in more liveable, sustainable cities built in line with the indigenous definition of “thriving” and in partnership with governments, policymakers, international entities and local leaders who understood the struggles of their communities better than anyone else. After the Second World War, for example, cities had risen from the ashes in Europe to become thriving communities and economies. What was to stop a similar future being built with indigenous communities in Latin America’s cities? Peru was one of the greenest places on Earth, with fertile land and people keen to have a better lifestyle. All that was needed was decentralized thinking and prioritization of the well-being of each member of society.

115. Many Peruvians were engaged in sustainable innovations that went unnoticed because of communication barriers. Most international opportunities for youth were in English, but little was being done to teach young people a foreign language or provide instruction in one of the country’s many indigenous languages. Countries in which students learned two languages at school had prospering economies.

116. She called on the international organizations present at the Council to speak to indigenous children in Peru in their native languages, so as to better understand their struggles; to ensure that indigenous peoples were provided with quality education and dignified workplaces; and to work with the Peruvian Government to bring agricultural products from indigenous farmers directly to market and sell them at a fair price guaranteeing a decent income. She also called on all countries facing similar situations to become actively engaged with their indigenous peoples.

117. The Council needed to listen to diverse youth voices, because it was young people who were going to inherit the planet. By working together and drawing on each other’s expertise and ideas, a better future could be created for all. At COP27, for example, she had seen how other young people were embracing their different realities and finding sustainable solutions for local challenges.



118. Ms Mullings-Smith said that Jamaica, like other Caribbean States, was experiencing the direct impacts of climate change, which was compromising food, water and energy security, and negatively affecting the agriculture and tourism sectors. In the past, the country's main connection to diaspora communities had been through the remittances they sent, including in response to emergencies. However, Jamaica's extensive diaspora network around the world also represented a valuable source of intellectual capital, which could help promote the country's growth and development. The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council had been established as part of efforts to harness that capital. It was made up of elected representatives from the larger diaspora groups in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and sectoral representatives covering key thematic areas. As one of those representatives, she provided a link between her heritage country, Jamaica, and her host country, the United Kingdom, to promote the growth and development of Jamaica and advocate for communities that were often excluded from the agenda.

119. Describing the effects of climate change on small island developing States, she stressed the importance of a holistic approach to policymaking with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. For instance, water security could not be addressed without considering food security or energy security, and vice versa. The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council was working to advocate that holistic approach with the aim of enhancing policy coherence and improving the plight of communities on the ground. Climate change was not a future threat, but one whose effects were already being felt. In that respect, the recent discussions regarding loss and damage at COP27 would be vital to the growth and development of the country.

120. Ms Sil Sikana said that her background as a person from Cameroon who lived in Belgium and worked across Africa had given her insight into the vastly different impacts climate change had on different communities. In Senegal, there were many people living in coastal areas whose homes were being destroyed by rising sea levels and whose livelihoods in the fishing industry were threatened by decreasing fish stocks. Although large numbers of them had been forced to move, she had met one woman who had remained, despite terrible flooding, because she simply had no other choice. Some of those who had left had tried unsuccessfully to reach Europe by boat; some had died at sea, while others had been returned to Senegal. Yet despite the risks, many people would attempt to make the journey again because they were so desperate to provide better futures for their families. Those stories demonstrated how climate change and economies were closely intertwined. For the migrants who did reach Europe, however, the situation did not necessarily improve. In Brussels, many migrants were unable to access government protection and were sleeping on the streets, while some had become stranded as they attempted to travel onwards to countries where they had family links. Their situation was made worse by the increasing demonization of migrants in Europe.

121. The experiences of people from more established African communities in Belgium differed again. People of African descent living in Belgium were affected by climate change through environmental racism, as communities of migrants and their descendants were more likely to live in areas where they were exposed to higher levels of pollution, for example from incinerators. They were also less likely to benefit from flood defences or have access to green spaces, and more likely to have lower incomes, which affected their capacity to keep their homes at a comfortable temperature. Those communities were often overlooked in policy development. Indeed, insufficient attention was paid to how members of racialized communities were affected by climate change or whether they were able to engage in decision-making spaces usually dominated by white people.

122. Young people from the African diaspora were working to raise awareness of those issues but needed support to ensure that their voices were heard. The African Union Diaspora Youth Initiative was working closely with the African Union Permanent Mission to the European Union to engage the diaspora in contributing towards Agenda 2063 of the African Union, while other grass-roots diaspora youth organizations were focusing on areas such as the interaction between climate justice and racial

justice, and empowering communities to participate in decision-making processes. It was vital to change the narrative surrounding migrants: they were skilled individuals who could make a positive contribution, given the right support and conditions. It was also important to remember that the decisions taken in Europe had direct and indirect impacts on people in Africa, as well as on migrant and racialized communities within Europe.

123. Responding to comments from the floor, Ms Llerena Velásquez said that, although indigenous communities had many creative solutions to the challenges they faced, they often lacked the resources to put them into practice. Governments and international organizations therefore needed to support those communities, including by helping them overcome language barriers to facilitate communication. Raising awareness of the situation of indigenous communities was an important first step towards improving that situation, and she also hoped to return to her own community in future in order share the lessons she had learned from studying abroad.

124. Responding to a question from the floor, Ms Mullings-Smith said that host countries could harness the potential of their citizens living abroad by reaching out to diaspora groups, which acted as a bridge to their heritage countries. For example, when hurricanes occurred in the Caribbean, members of the diaspora could contextualize the experience of those affected, while also providing practical support by making use of specialist skills in subjects such as engineering. The lack of connectivity between host countries and diasporas could be addressed through representative bodies such as the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council, which acted as a focal point for both diaspora members and government agencies. In the United Kingdom, for example, she had worked alongside the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to address crisis situations associated with climate events. She would like to see increased interaction and closer cooperation between host countries and their diaspora communities, as that would enable positive changes to be made in both host and heritage countries.

125. The Moderator concluded by thanking the panellists for their contributions, which had illustrated the many ways in which climate change was affecting individuals and communities, while providing examples of how human mobility offered opportunities for adaptation, so long as suitable pathways were available and the potential of all stakeholders, including diasporas, was harnessed. In that regard, IOM, as an inclusive and diverse organization, would continue to build strong partnerships in order to contribute to addressing the worst impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

### **Closure of the session**

126. There being no other business, the Chairperson declared the 113th Session of the Council closed on Friday, 2 December 2022, at 4.50 p.m.