

COUNCIL

114th Session

REPORT ON THE

114TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Geneva

Monday, 27 November to Wednesday, 29 November 2023

Rapporteur: Mr S. Bachtobji (Tunisia)

* This report was approved by the Council at its 115th Session through the adoption of Resolution No. 1412 of 26 November 2024.

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Abbreviations

COP28	Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organization
MOPAN	Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OSI	Operational Support Income
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme

REPORT ON THE 114TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Introduction

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1403 of 30 November 2022, the Council convened for its 114th Session on Monday, 27 November 2023, at the Centre International de Conférences Genève. Six meetings were held, with some participants taking part in the proceedings remotely. The meetings were chaired by Mr L.A. Gberie (Sierra Leone), Ms K. Stasch (Germany), Mr S. Yun (Republic of Korea) and Mr L.J. Chuquihuara Chil (Peru).

Attendance¹

2. The following Member States were represented:

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

3. Bahrain, Bhutan, Indonesia and Qatar were represented by an observer.

¹ The list of participants is contained in document C/114/9. Unless otherwise indicated, all documents and slide presentations are available on the [Council](#) section of the IOM website.

4. FAO, the ILO and WFP were represented by observers.

5. The African Union, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the Sovereign Order of Malta were represented by observers, as were the following entities: Amel Association International, Caritas Internationalis, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Initiatives of Change International, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, International Council of Voluntary Agencies, International Organisation of Employers, International Social Service, Migrant Help, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children and the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations.

Opening of the session and credentials of representatives and observers

6. The Chairperson declared the 114th Session of the Council open on Monday, 27 November 2023 at 10.10 a.m.

7. The Council noted that the Chairperson had confirmed that all credentials were in order.

Report of the Chairperson of the Council

8. The outgoing Chairperson, Mr L.A. Gberie (Sierra Leone), said that, during his 12-month term of office, he had worked to foster dialogue among Member States to ensure that IOM could achieve its priorities, deliver much-needed assistance and support to migrants, and respond in timely fashion, often in extremely difficult circumstances, to emergencies worldwide. The year had also been marked by implementation of the budget reform measures agreed by the Member States, which allowed for more sustainable and flexible funding in key areas of IOM endeavour, and by the election of the first woman to the position of Director General in the Organization's 75-year history.

9. He touched briefly on his field visits to two IOM offices, in Kenya and Morocco, where he had had wide-ranging conversations with IOM staff in town hall meetings organized by local IOM officials and had been struck by how passionate they were about the work of the Organization. That passion, combined with in-depth technical knowledge and eagerness to engage with migrant communities and local authorities, made for greater effectiveness. During his visits, he had also met with donors, United Nations agencies, humanitarian organizations and the beneficiaries of various IOM projects.

10. IOM had continued to grow in 2023, as had the challenges it faced. At a time of record-breaking displacement worldwide, it was critical for Member States to redouble their efforts in support of the Organization, focusing on activities related to migrant rights, climate change and regular migration pathways. IOM's commitment to its own sustainable growth through flexible funding remained a priority.

11. The Director General thanked the outgoing Chairperson for his advice over the four years of his tenure on the Council Bureau, during which time he had demonstrated great leadership and acted as a steward for the Organization, building alliances and friendships.

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

12. The Administration reported that, since the publication of document C/114/4/Rev.1, six Member States with arrears of less than two years had made payments. Sixteen Member States remained subject to Article 4 of the IOM Constitution; ten of those maintained their right to vote.

Member States in arrears were reminded that the Organization offered them the possibility to negotiate a flexible payment plan. Such plans comprised three important elements: the Member State had to make a first payment to settle its current annual assessed contribution; it had to agree to a multi-year payment plan; and it had the option to pay its arrears in the country's local currency, provided that the Organization was in a position to use the funds in the country in the relatively short term.

13. The Council took note of document C/114/4/Rev.1 and the additional information on payments received provided by the Administration.

Election of officers

14. The Council elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Ms Katharina Stasch (Germany)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Seong deok Yun (Republic of Korea)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Luis Juan Chuquihuara Chil (Peru)
Rapporteur:	Mr Sabri Bachtobji (Tunisia)

Adoption of the agenda

15. The provisional agenda contained in document C/114/1 was adopted by the Council and subsequently issued as document C/114/10.

Draft reports on the 113th Session and Sixth Special Session of the Council

16. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1407 of 27 November 2023 approving the reports on its 113th Session (C/113/L/7) and Sixth Special Session (C/Sp/6/L/3). The reports were subsequently issued as documents C/113/12 And C/Sp/6/5, respectively.

Report on matters discussed at the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

(a) Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2023

17. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that, at its Thirty-third Session, the Standing Committee had examined the document entitled Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2023 (C/114/7), in which it was reported that the Administrative Part of the Budget and the level of OSI remained unchanged at CHF 65,352,240 and USD 174.9 million respectively, and that the Operational Part of the Budget had increased from USD 2.37 billion to USD 3.34 billion.

18. The Standing Committee had recommended that the Council take note of the Summary update on the Programme and Budget for 2023.

19. The Council took note of document C/114/7.

(b) Programme and Budget for 2024

20. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that the Administration had prepared the Programme and Budget for 2024 (document C/114/6) taking into account the provisions of Standing Committee Resolution No. 31 of 28 June 2022 on investing in the core structure of IOM. At the Thirty-third Session of the Standing Committee, the Administration had presented the Administrative

Part of the Budget for 2024 at CHF 77,113,216. The Operational Part of the Budget had been projected at USD 1.8 billion, which was USD 573.9 million higher than the 2023 budget presented at the same time the previous year. The projected level of OSI – USD 210 million – had been calculated based on the previous year's results and current and expected trends. Following a discussion, the Standing Committee had recommended that the Council approve CHF 77,113,216 for the Administrative Part of the Budget and USD 1.8 billion for the Operational Part.

21. It had been recalled that the Director General had requested an analysis of IOM's organizational structure and had briefed the regional groups on the organizational review. Initial structural adjustments at Headquarters would be implemented in early 2024, while the review of the field structure would continue until the second quarter of 2024. Gratitude had been expressed for the Administration's continued efforts to identify a structural design that strengthened accountability in terms of results and optimal use of resources.

22. The Standing Committee had recommended that the Council invite the Director General to proceed with the necessary adjustments to the organizational structure, within the limits of available resources and taking into account the views expressed by Member States, and to report on any such adjustments at the next Standing Committee session.

23. One representative said that future budget documents should contain more detailed data on inflation and the corresponding adjustments. Moreover, the transition to results-based budgeting should be carried out in close collaboration with Member States. Similarly, Member States should be involved in setting the priorities of the programme of work and developing documents such as the Strategic Results Framework. Risk management techniques should be employed more comprehensively when drafting the Programme and Budget, and the increased digitalization of IOM's business operations necessitated the strengthening of its cybersecurity capacities. In addition to the Strategic Results Framework — which should be the subject of a dedicated briefing — a comprehensive, open system for reporting administrative and financial results should be developed. IOM should participate fully in the work of the International Civil Service Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit.

24. Another representative expressed appreciation for the significant increase in funding for the Africa region and requested further information on the proposed changes to IOM's organizational structure, including whether it would affect the reporting structure at Headquarters and for the Regional Directors. He also asked about the resource management functions that had been consolidated in the Regional Office in Nairobi, whether the envisaged efficiency gains would offset the cost of downgrading the Regional Office in Pretoria and how the latter would be expected to reform optimally given the plans to decrease its budget and recruit just one additional staff member. Member States in Southern Africa should be consulted prior to the implementation of those changes, which should consider regional context. Information on the planned structure of all regional offices in Africa would be welcome.

25. The Director General said that she looked forward to further consultation with Member States on the ongoing reforms, such as the Strategic Results Framework and results-based management. Under the previous Administration, the Council had decided to fund the consolidation of back-office support for some regional offices in an effort to improve efficiency, particularly where there was duplication of efforts. The findings of an external review of the regional offices, expected in 2024, would be shared with regional groups, and they would be invited to share their views.

26. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1408 on the Programme and Budget for 2024.

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

27. The Standing Committee Rapporteur said that, at its Thirty-third Session, the Standing Committee had considered the tenth annual report of the Director General on improvements in the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization by States (document S/33/5). 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 set out in Council Resolution No. 1266 of 26 November 2013 had increased to 104. However, the absence or incomplete application of privileges and immunities, particularly immunity from legal process, the inviolability of IOM premises and archives, exemption from taxation and immunity from immigration restrictions, presented particular operational and financial difficulties for the Organization.

28. The Standing Committee had taken note of the report and had 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. It had also requested the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities to consider the recurring challenges faced by IOM with respect to its privileges and immunities, with a view to identifying options for consideration by the Standing Committee.

29. The Council endorsed the Standing Committee's recommendation to remain seized of the matter 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 Thirty-second and Thirty-third Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance

30. The Standing Committee Rapporteur briefed the Council on a number of other items discussed at the Standing Committee's Thirty-second and Thirty-third Sessions.

(i) Resolutions and decisions

31. During its Thirty-second Session, in pursuance of Council Resolution No. 1403 of 30 November 2022, the Standing Committee had adopted Resolutions Nos. 32, 33 and 34 of 27 June 2023, taking note of the Annual Report for 2022, approving the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 and approving the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2023, respectively.

32. During that Session, the Standing Committee had also adopted the IOM assessment scale for 2024, as illustrated in document S/32/3.

33. During its Thirty-third Session, the Standing Committee had recommended that the Council authorize extending the contract of the Deputy Director General for Operations until the appointment process for the Deputy Directors General had been finalized.

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

34. At the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Sessions of the Standing Committee, the Administration had introduced documents on the following topics that had been selected by the Member States:

- IOM's comprehensive approach to disaster displacement
- Enhancing social protection of migrants and populations in situations of vulnerability, including internally displaced persons
- Delivering impact through data for action, insight and foresight

- Adapting skills-based labour migration programmes for people with international protection needs.

35. Following discussions among Member States on each presentation, the Standing Committee had taken note of the documents provided by the Administration.

(iii) Other reports and updates

36. At its Thirty-second and Thirty-third Sessions, the Standing Committee had also considered and taken note of a number of reports, presentations and updates on subjects of interest to Member States.

37. The Council took note of the decisions referred to in paragraphs 30 to 32 above and authorized extending the contract of the Deputy Director General for Operations until the appointment process of the Deputy Directors General had been finalized.

38. In conclusion, the Council adopted Resolution No. 1409 of 27 November 2023 taking note of and endorsing the reports of the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Sessions of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (documents S/32/13 and S/33/14).

Date and place of the next sessions

39. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1410 of 27 November 2023, according to which its next regular session was tentatively scheduled for late November 2024 and the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance was invited to meet at least twice during 2024. It also adopted Resolution No. 1411 of 27 November 2023, according to which it would meet in special session in the first half of 2024.

Report of the Director General

40. The Director General delivered a statement, supplemented by a slide presentation, outlining the main points of her report to the Council (document C/114/8).²

41. The Council took note of document C/114/8.

Presentation of the IOM crisis response plans 2024

Speakers

Ms Amy Pope, Director General, IOM

Ms Katharina Stasch, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Ms Khadija Mohamed Al-Makhzoumi, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Somalia

Mr Alier Deng Ruai Deng, Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Mr Jamie Munn, Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies

Ms Agnieszka Kunert-Diallo, Head of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs, LOT Polish Airlines

² The text of the statement by the Director General is available on the [114th Session of the Council](#) webpage.

Moderator

Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General for Operations, IOM

42. The Director General, complementing her remarks with a slide presentation, introduced the Global Crisis Response Platform. While IOM had traditionally taken a project-based approach to funding, the delay between requesting and operationalizing financial resources had led it to adopt a model that would allow it to plan the resources required on a year-by-year basis. Although humanitarian crises were very likely to proliferate in the coming decades, the majority of the related human mobility could be prevented through sustained action. Such action, however, required funding from Member States, and the Global Crisis Response Platform would lend transparency to IOM's use of financial resources by providing details of planned activities and funding requirements.

43. The funding request for the coming year amounted to USD 4 billion, which would be used holistically over more than one year; more flexible funding would improve IOM's ability to support communities in need. Funding figures would be published on the Platform. Investment would be made in localization efforts so as to render responses sustainable, and emphasis would be placed on partnerships and coordination, including with the governments and organizations represented by the panellists.

44. The Council viewed a video on the Global Crisis Response Platform.

45. The Deputy Director General for Operations said that the climate crises that had left almost 400 million people in need of humanitarian assistance would only intensify. The humanitarian community remained committed to providing such assistance, despite shortfalls in funding, and IOM's diverse range of partners were dedicated to alleviating suffering through measures that enabled recovery and led to long-term solutions. She asked the panellists to share their views on the following topics: pathways to solutions in humanitarian responses; collaboration to minimize the impact of disasters and climate change; the role of climate-resilient development in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; people-centred approaches; and successful cooperation between IOM and its partners.

46. Ms Stasch said that the German Government was currently revising its humanitarian strategy for the period 2024–2028, with the aim of striking a balance between needs-based humanitarian assistance and programmes that maximized the efficiency and effectiveness of that assistance. Solutions must be inclusive; to that end, funding decisions for both humanitarian and development assistance were guided by Germany's explicitly feminist foreign policy, with a focus on rights, representation and resources. Another priority was addressing climate change, which was exacerbating humanitarian needs around the world. Her Government recognized that flexible multi-year funding was key to effective needs-based aid, as it enabled greater responsiveness and could be used to fill gaps in earmarked funding. Germany had therefore made a commitment, under the Grand Bargain, to improve the quality of the funding it provided. It had also worked with IOM to set up two softly earmarked programmes, the Global Humanitarian Programme for Africa and the Global Emergency Response Programme, which had already worked with the Organization to provide a rapid response to both protracted and sudden-onset crises. However, more flexible funding called for greater accountability and higher standards of compliance from partners, as well as a coordinated approach to risk management, especially given the potential for aid diversion. It was also important for implementing partners to involve local stakeholders in project design and implementation. Her Government's overall aim was to encourage trust-based partnerships based on transparency.

47. Ms Al-Makhzoumi said that long-running conflict and record floods resulting from the effects of climate change had led to significant internal displacement and widespread hunger in Somalia. Her Government was therefore keenly aware of the importance of climate-resilient development in mitigating the consequences of disasters and had further strengthened its commitment to addressing climate change by signing the expanded Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change. It was also working with IOM to break the vicious circle of conflict and the effects of climate change that were directly affecting people's lives in the country. The majority of Somalis were dependent on climate-sensitive agriculture and pastoralism, but extreme weather events were making them vulnerable to conflict over scarce natural resources. Communities lacked the financial, technical and informational resources needed to build resilience to climate change, and knowledge of how to prepare for the effects of extreme weather. That was being addressed through collaborative projects to, inter alia, improve water management, educate young people about climate change, and empower women to market and scale up the distribution of adaptation technologies, as part of overall efforts to enhance the adaptation capacities of populations facing vulnerability across Somalia. Extreme weather events were likely to continue, and worsen, but by incorporating climate resilience strategies into national policy, the Government aimed to shift from simply responding to disasters to implementing proactive, sustainable measures to minimize their effects through a collaborative approach. In that way, it sought to treat climate change-related challenges as development issues, rather than solely humanitarian ones.

48. Mr Deng said that addressing climate change required a comprehensive approach encompassing data, risk analysis, funding mechanisms and climate-resilient development. South Sudan was extremely vulnerable to the effects of natural hazards, notably drought and flooding, with climate change having an indirect effect on peace and security in the country. The outbreak of conflict in the Sudan earlier in 2023 had caused large-scale displacement into South Sudan and had led to an increase in the cost of food and fuel, especially in the northern states, adding to the vulnerability of the populations there and generating acute protection risks. In that context, high-quality of data and risk analysis were crucial for informed decision-making and effective response strategies. His Government was committed to enhancing its capacities in that regard and sought to collaborate with international organizations, including IOM and climate research institutions, to ensure adequate risk assessments and a timely response. Funding mechanisms were needed to transform climate-resilience strategies into actionable interventions, yet countries affected by peace and security issues tended to receive significantly fewer resources than other development settings. It was therefore vital to engage with international partners; his Government aimed to create an enabling environment for private sector investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and agriculture, and renewable energy projects, such as the solar plant that powered the humanitarian hub managed by IOM in Malakal. Climate change adaptation measures must be integrated into national policies and development planning, which would in turn require investment in infrastructure and practices resilient to climate-related shocks. The Government aimed to reduce vulnerabilities by mainstreaming climate resilience into development initiatives and had further committed to action on climate change by signing the expanded Kampala Ministerial Declaration. Climate-resilient development could help shift the narrative in relation to loss and damage by favouring proactive resilience measures over efforts to deal with the aftermath of disasters, thereby minimizing the human and economic toll while fostering long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency.

49. Mr Munn noted that, from the NGO perspective, it was important to put people first. His organization brought together the voices of NGOs from around the world, with a particular focus on representation from the global South, and included formal and informal structures such as community groups. Localization, a term which had risen to the fore following the adoption of the Grand Bargain at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, involved truly hearing the voices of the persons involved – women and girls, young people, climate migrants and people in areas affected by conflict. Their desires for the future should be taken into account when designing programmes,

rather than relying on generalizations. In that regard, he welcomed the contributions to the discussion of the representatives of South Sudan and Somalia. Localization was underpinned by government ownership of humanitarian efforts, and the voice of local government was as important as that of central government. The voices of individual citizens, local entities and local government were increasingly heard at Geneva-based platforms. Discussion and policy should be led by the countries concerned through those local voices; IOM was involved in a number of initiatives of that kind.

50. Another aspect of putting people first was accountability. The accountability of NGOs to crisis-affected populations had been under discussion for at least 20 years. Despite changes in terminology, however, it was not clear that much had changed in practice. Safeguarding was a key area of accountability that called for listening and observation and, crucially, education for those affected and NGO staff members. Finally, the principle of humanity provided the foundation for putting people first and was not usually called into question in the way that the principles of neutrality and impartiality could be, so it provided a starting point and a way forward.

51. Ms Kunert-Diallo explained that her airline had entered into a partnership with IOM on combating trafficking in persons in 2021 as a means of attaining LOT Polish Airlines' strategic goal of social responsibility and protection of human rights. Through the partnership, 25 per cent of the company's workforce had received training; flight attendants were the airline's largest group of employees and the most exposed to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, but training was also being provided to ground staff. The training had empowered staff members to identify and report passengers that were vulnerable to trafficking in persons, as had happened at a European airport the previous week. Other measures taken included developing a network of contacts at prosecutor's offices and adopting guidelines on trafficking in persons. Her company was considering the possibility of cooperation with other market participants, in particular airports and the Civil Aviation Authority, and hoped that its example would encourage other private sector airlines to take action on trafficking in persons.

52. The Director General, thanking the panellists for their contributions, said that IOM aimed to involve all Member States in the Global Crisis Response Platform in order to build more sustainable solutions.

53. The Council viewed a video featuring a poem on the theme of displacement.

General debate³

54. Statements were made by the following Member States listed in alphabetical order: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Holy See, Honduras, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine,

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

the United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

55. Statements were also made by Argentina on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group, the Permanent Observer for the European Union on behalf of the Union's members, the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group and Rwanda on behalf of the African Group.

56. Statements were also made by three observers, namely the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

57. Member States and observers thanked the Director General for her comprehensive report and noted the discussions that would be undertaken to identify organizational priorities for the period 2024–2028. They commended the programmatic emphasis on emergency preparedness and response, climate mobility solutions and enhanced regular pathways. They encouraged the Administration to bring together diverse stakeholders (civil society, local authorities, the private sector, academia, crisis-affected communities and others) with a view to ensuring that such pathways were anchored in human rights and based on comprehensive, coordinated global solutions taking a whole-of-society and whole-of-route approach with due regard for the risk of brain drain. They also encouraged the Organization to continue raising the topic of return on its agenda and to provide its members with support to ensure stable, safe and dignified return activities and welcomed IOM efforts to counter the narrowing of regular pathways with enhanced skills-matching, training and education programmes, stronger private sector engagement and the use of data to balance global labour shortages. They further welcomed the Administration's plans to invest in data management and analysis, and urged IOM to work on data-sharing and interoperability with other United Nations agencies.

58. Many delegations highlighted the importance of ongoing internal reform processes and stressed that the new management team should remain committed to efficiency, transparency, oversight, accountability, balanced reflection of the needs and priorities of the countries in which IOM operated, and equitable geographical representation among IOM staff members. The strategic plan for 2024–2028 and the Internal Governance Framework 2.0 should build on the reform processes and be guided by the conclusions and recommendations of the MOPAN, United Nations Advisory Alliance and UK Government assessments. The focus should be on improving governance while maintaining response capacity; greater investment in strengthening core functions, such as IOM risk management and internal oversight, at a time of rapid budget growth; and the promotion of strong internal justice mechanisms. One of the key strategic challenges for IOM remained how to strengthen its core functions while retaining its highly valued operational flexibility.

59. Appreciation was expressed for IOM's gender-based approach, in particular for the launch of its new multi-stakeholder initiative, the Gender and Migration Research Policy Action Lab (GenMig), and its focus on research supporting gender-responsive migration policies, operations, programming and practices. Appreciation was also expressed, given the scale and range of the migration challenges facing the international community, for the Administration's efforts to obtain unearmarked or softly earmarked funding, diversify its funding base, expand private sector partnerships and launch the Goodwill Ambassador programme. Since the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Member State expectations of the Organization had grown, and it was essential that IOM was able to count on the resources it needed to meet those expectations and deliver on the promise of migration.

60. Turning to external matters, many representatives and observers expressed deep concern about the humanitarian situations in Ukraine, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Sahel

region, the Sudan, Haiti and elsewhere. Despite the challenges it encountered in such contexts, IOM's responses had proven that it was a "can-do" organization that addressed needs worldwide through its efficient country offices and flexibility on the ground. They also acknowledged IOM staff members' tireless efforts, often in difficult and even dangerous circumstances, to provide timely humanitarian assistance to those in situations of vulnerability and to promote safe, regular and orderly migration.

61. The task of the international community was to regulate human mobility so that migrants could travel with dignity and respect for the rules, and to make migration beneficial for all. Migrants' rights should be protected in the face of mounting racial profiling and discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of inhumane treatment. How migrant workers were treated should not be determined by their usefulness; terms such as "burden-sharing" and "reallocation" reduced persons on the move to commodities. IOM played a critical role in safeguarding migrants' dignity and rights, and in facilitating cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination to mitigate the challenges linked to brain drain and consolidate migrants' positive contributions to sustainable development. It also played a central role in developing a positive discourse on migrants' contributions, changing the narrative on migration, fighting xenophobia and acting as a catalyst to develop the full potential of international migration.

62. It was the view of many Member States and several observers, in particular but not uniquely those hosting large refugee populations, that migration was best addressed through robust multilateralism and global, continental and regional cooperation based on genuine partnerships, not just donor-recipient relationships, and common but differentiated responsibility, with States respecting each other's concerns and needs and working together to address the poverty, inequality and inequity that affected much of the world's population and constituted drivers of mobility. The fact that growing numbers of migrants were forced to move in increasingly precarious conditions meant that the structural causes of migration must be addressed. The post-COVID-19 pandemic economic crisis, conflict, climate change and resource scarcity were all having a negative impact on migration flows, encouraged irregular migration and fomented illegal activities, such as trafficking in persons.

63. One speaker cautioned that efforts also had to be made to discourage migrants from travelling and to demolish the business model of people smugglers; to that end, the root causes of migration should be tackled through the peaceful resolution of armed conflicts, and strategies to invest in underdeveloped economies, so as to create jobs, enable developing countries to retain their populations and ensure that everyone enjoyed the fundamental right to live in peace at home.

64. Regarding the migration and climate change nexus specifically, numerous Member States heralded the signing of the expanded Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change at the Africa Climate Summit 2023 in September, and of the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility at the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in November, but stressed that more action was needed. In that respect, they commended the Organization's timely decision to make human mobility in the context of climate change the focus of the high-level segment. Climate change-induced mobility was complex and required a holistic approach and sustainable responses in terms of community resilience-building, early warning, mitigation and adaptation. Investment to minimize non-economic losses resulting from climate change was vital; the loss and damage fund should therefore become operational as soon as possible and climate financing and overseas development assistance scaled up and made more accessible and fit for purpose, to support mitigation and adaptation measures.

65. Many Member States, in particular Global Compact Champion countries, and one observer reiterated their commitment to the objectives of the Global Compact, which emphasized States'

shared responsibility to respect migration needs and protect all migrants. They underscored the importance of IOM's role as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration and encouraged the Organization to step up its efforts to mainstream migration issues across the United Nations system. Calls were made for further contributions to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, which, inter alia, supported climate-change initiatives in line with the Global Compact.

66. The Director General, responding to the statements made, thanked Member States for working with the Organization to identify regular pathways and thus deliver on the promise of migration. At the same time, it was important to acknowledge the risk of brain drain. In fact, IOM was looking at good examples of effective agreements that supplemented investment in training institutions to prevent countries from losing talent, doubled the impact by training nationals staying at home as well as those going abroad, and encouraged circular migration. IOM would also continue to work with UNHCR on regular migration pathways for people with protection needs; resettlement was the most durable pathway and must not be taken away from persons eligible for refugee protection because new pathways were being established for persons not eligible for such protection.

67. She thanked the Member States, in particular those that provided unearmarked funding, for their contributions to IOM's operations and stressed that the Organization relied on the support of the international community to address increasingly complex humanitarian situations in many parts of the world and the needs of communities hosting large numbers of migrants and refugees.

68. She applauded the Global Compact Champion countries for their efforts to identify innovative approaches to attaining the Compact's objectives, which remained critical to IOM's activities, and to advance work on the second round of regional reviews of the Compact, which would take place in 2024.

69. The Administration had already acted on the request for better geographical representation among IOM staff, introducing changes to the language policy, which had hindered recruitment, for example, of nationals from the Asia-Pacific region. IOM had used the increased resources it had obtained from Member States with great transparency, oversight and compliance, while maintaining its agility and responsiveness.

70. Many countries were already experiencing the effects of climate change, often in combination with other vulnerabilities or challenges such as conflict, and often while hosting migrant populations. For small island developing States in particular, the situation was becoming existential, and it was critical to build the resilience of communities there and elsewhere. IOM was prioritizing the issue precisely because communities lacked the resources and resilience to adapt to climate change quickly enough. It would continue to address the impact of climate change on human mobility, using a comprehensive people-centred and data-driven approach to guide the mobilization of resources.

71. Four Member States exercised their right of reply in response to the statements made by other Member States during the general debate. Another Member State thereafter exercised its right to respond to the right of reply.

High-level segment – Climate impact on human mobility: a global call for solutions⁴

72. In her introductory remarks, the Director General said that climate change had overtaken conflict as the largest driver of global displacement, intensifying humanitarian challenges and leaving people with the impossible choice of whether to stay in life-threatening environments or to move with no guarantee of safety or stability. Climate mobility had become a top global priority, with growing recognition of the need to incorporate migration into discussions on climate, notably at COP28. Alongside Member States, IOM was taking practical action to address the effects of climate change on the ground, for example through regenerative agriculture projects in Somalia and work to resolve disputes over water resources in Yemen. However, in more extreme cases, solutions were needed to assist people forced to move away from areas that had become uninhabitable. Effective migration management would enable people to make safe, informed decisions about their own mobility in response to climate change by giving them the option of a regular migration pathway before they were displaced. The Organization's work on climate mobility therefore aimed to cover three dimensions: crisis preparedness and prevention for people wishing to stay; migration solutions that would enable people to move when necessary; and anticipatory action for people already on the move.

73. IOM's institutional strategy had been brought together in a climate mobility road map, which set out a comprehensive approach to addressing the issue. As part of those efforts, climate mobility innovation labs were being set up in Africa and Asia to allow community members, young people, governments and United Nations partners to share ideas and design and implement innovative responses. Data would also be key to accomplishing the Organization's overarching objectives, as they could help prevent displacement in the first place by ensuring more effective use of time and resources. In that regard, IOM's Global Data Institute was already producing data for action, insight and foresight.

74. In order to make progress, a wide range of partners would have to be mobilized, including civil society, other United Nations agencies and the private sector. More financial resources would also be needed in the short term. However, investment in sustainable solutions underpinned by quality data and analysis would ultimately reduce costs by enabling the development of more resilient and peaceful societies, thereby lowering risks and vulnerabilities. That could only be achieved by understanding the needs of Member States. Governments had already shown their dedication to addressing the issue of climate-driven human mobility and she looked forward to their guidance and support as the Organization pursued its work to help the people and communities affected by climate change.

75. In a video message, the President of the United Nations General Assembly drew attention to the particular plight of small island developing States such as his own, Trinidad and Tobago, which faced the existential threat of sea-level rise due to climate change. That threat had far-reaching implications in terms of the stability of those States and the resulting migratory flows. With millions of people already on the move, it was essential to commit to bold solutions to protect both people and the planet. Developing countries, including small island developing States, were disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, as were individuals in situations of vulnerability, including women and girls, young people, people with disabilities and Indigenous peoples. On the eve of COP28, it was imperative to catalyse action on mitigation and adaptation measures and mobilize adequate, accessible resources for climate finance. Integrated, action-oriented solutions were needed, drawing on both scientific expertise and the traditional knowledge of communities, as

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

part of a bottom-up approach that placed people at the heart of the response. Rather than simply a challenge, climate mobility could be an opportunity for growth, adaptation and shared prosperity with a view to achieving true climate justice.

76. Statements, in many instances delivered by the president, prime minister or a member of cabinet, were made by the following Member States listed in alphabetical order: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gambia, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malta, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zimbabwe.

77. Statements were also delivered by the Permanent Observer for the European Union on behalf of the Union's members and by three observers, namely Bahrain, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and the ILO.

78. Speakers agreed that urgent action was needed to tackle climate change and climate-change-induced migration and displacement, which was already occurring in many countries. In some cases, the impact of climate change was compounded by other factors, such as the presence of displaced persons in areas of vulnerability, or was a factor in conflict that led to displacement. Several speakers underscored the particular vulnerability to the adverse consequences of climate change of small island developing States, other island States and low-lying coastal areas as a result of sea-level rises and extreme weather events. Developing countries and the Pacific region, alongside Latin America, Africa and Asia, were also particularly affected by climate change, including as a factor of displacement. For many low-lying islands and developing countries, the consequences of climate change presented a clear existential threat; two representatives highlighted the potential loss of cultural identity and heritage in places where the land was vanishing. Three representatives emphasized the need to preserve statehood in the event of complete loss of territory, with one calling for support for the Rising Nations Initiative launched for that purpose.

79. Some representatives noted the value of action to limit climate change in addressing climate change-induced migration. Others called for the integration of migration into action on climate change or work on sustainable development, and advocated its inclusion in disaster risk reduction planning. In addition, efforts were needed to tackle trafficking in persons. The importance of a human-rights based approach to managing the impact of climate change on migration was stressed by a number of speakers. One speaker called for existing international protection standards to be repurposed for climate migrants, particularly vulnerable groups such as women and children, and another called for climate migration projects to benefit all parties – migrants, hosts and countries of origin.

80. Developing countries required funding to address the consequences of climate change and take action to prevent displacement. Two Council members called for IOM and Member States to operationalize climate investment and funding mechanisms, while others highlighted the need for greater efforts on the loss and damage fund at COP28. Some Council members noted that developing countries bore the brunt of the consequences of climate change despite having contributed least to the phenomenon. One called for developed countries to provide scaled-up climate finance, capacity-building and technology transfer for the countries most affected by climate change, while another underlined the need for climate justice and reparations. One Council member called for developed countries to support debt relief initiatives for developing countries, while another called for an expanded donor base for climate financing. Access to innovative concessional finance was suggested by a further speaker. One Member State stressed the need for flexible funding for IOM to help it

respond quickly to crises, and encouraged governments to allocate 5 per cent of their humanitarian funding to anticipatory action.

81. In certain situations, migration would present a solution to the consequences of climate change, with some representatives noting the opportunities presented by labour migration. A few representatives referred to the need to ensure that it was possible to stay rather than move, with one emphasizing the importance of keeping migration voluntary and another noting the need for investment in order to make that possible. Another representative emphasized that agreements were needed to facilitate the movement of climate migrants to countries that were less vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, rather than neighbouring countries that were also affected. IOM was called on to support the operationalization of existing human mobility pathways and frameworks. Speakers referred in particular to the Falepili Union Treaty, the Pacific Regional Climate Mobility Framework, the expanded Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change and the Nansen Initiative. One speaker noted the importance of an effective legal framework for migration and encouraged the resolution of operational issues at the national level.

82. Representatives noted the need for IOM to focus on data collection; some emphasized the need for data analysis to anticipate changes and mobility patterns, while others focused on research into climate change and human mobility that could inform decision-making and policy development. One highlighted the responsibility of governments to analyse migration linked to climate change, and another called for greater regional and international collaboration to improve data quality. Another called for IOM to support the exchange and compilation of relevant strategic information and to set up an academic network on migration policy. Two members called for access to information on migration pathways, with one also calling for IOM to provide information on the vulnerabilities of climate migrants. One Council member stressed the need to consider how climate-related factors interacted with more immediate causes of migration and not overemphasize the factor of climate change. Another called for IOM to help develop responses to the calls for support from small developing countries that were disproportionately affected by climate change. Another speaker suggested a role for IOM in facilitating bilateral labour agreements and skills development partnerships.

83. Speakers expressed gratitude to IOM for convening the high-level segment on human mobility and climate change, particularly in the light of the importance of international cooperation to tackle the issue. Appreciation was also expressed for the leadership shown by IOM in raising the international profile of climate-change-induced migration as an issue, with speaker taking note of the planned high-level representation of IOM at COP28.

84. The Director General thanked all speakers for sharing their reflections and experiences, which highlighted the vulnerabilities of different communities around the world. The scale and severity of climate change – and the displacement it caused – could not be ignored. It was also clear that the issue could not be tackled by any one country alone, but rather required a unified response based on human rights and respect for human dignity, with the goal of making migration work for all. Many speakers had furthermore drawn attention to the need to address the uniquely vulnerable position of certain groups in the context of climate-change-induced displacement. IOM sought to find solutions that would give people as much agency as possible, enabling them to stay at home or choose to migrate in a safe, regular way, with the opportunity to undertake well-paid, dignified work. More specifically, the Organization recognized the importance of increasing regular migration pathways and improving access to financing for adaptation measures, especially for smaller nations. It would also be joining other United Nations organizations in calling on States to operationalize the loss and damage fund at COP28. Much of the groundwork had already been laid for the necessary action, notably in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; it was now time for implementation.

Introduction of the first IOM Goodwill Ambassador

85. The Director General introduced Olympic champion long-distance runner Mo Farah as IOM's first Global Goodwill Ambassador.

86. The Council viewed a short video showcasing Mr Farah's achievements.

87. Mr Farah said that he was honoured to be Global Goodwill Ambassador for IOM. As a survivor of human trafficking who had been given the chance to overcome that experience through sport, he looked forward to supporting the important work of the Organization to promote safe migration pathways and protect people on the move.

Closure of the session

88. There being no other business, the Chairperson declared the 114th Session of the Council closed on Wednesday, 29 November 2023, at 6.05 p.m.