

COUNCIL

Seventh Special Session

REPORT ON THE

SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Geneva

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* 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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REPORT ON THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Introduction

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1411 of 27 November 2023, the Council convened for its Seventh Special Session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 29 April 2024 at 10.10 a.m. One meeting was held, chaired by Ms K. Stasch (Germany).

Attendance¹

2. The following Member States were represented:

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

3. The European Union was represented by an observer.

Credentials of representatives

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

¹ The list of participants is contained in document C/Sp/7/5. Unless otherwise indicated, all documents and slide presentations referenced in this report are available on the [Council](#) section of the IOM website.

Election of the Second Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau

5. Further to the departure of the second Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau elected in November 2023, the Chairperson informed the Council that the Latin America and Caribbean Group had endorsed the nomination of his successor. The latter being unable to attend the session, the Council decided to invite the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance to include the matter on the agenda of its forthcoming session in June 2024.

Adoption of the agenda

6. The provisional agenda contained in document C/Sp/7/1 was adopted by the Council and subsequently issued as document C/Sp/7/4.

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

7. The Administration, referring to document C/115/4, entitled Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights, reported that, as at 31 March 2024, the combined total of outstanding assessed contributions for 2023 and previous years and assessed contributions for 2024 still due was CHF 65.9 million. Although payments had been received from 14 Member States since the report's issue, a significant sum – CHF 59.8 million – remained outstanding. Those payments had nevertheless led to a drop in the number of Member States subject to Article 4 of the IOM Constitution, from 22 to 20. Of those, 13 retained the right to vote. Five Member States in arrears had negotiated payment plans; one had failed to comply with the terms of the plan and had therefore lost its voting rights.

8. The Council took note of document C/115/4 and of the additional information provided by the Administration.

Information on the Director General's selections for the positions of Deputy Director General

9. The Chairperson introduced document C/Sp/7/3, entitled Report on the process for the appointment of the Deputy Director General for Operations and Deputy Director General for Management and Reform. The document summarized the process leading to the selection of the two new Deputy Directors General. She reminded the Council that it had been informed of the Director General's selections for the two positions through a letter dated 19 April 2024.

10. The Chairperson of the ad hoc commission established pursuant to Resolution No. 1385 of 28 October 2020, on strengthening the senior leadership structure of the Organization, described the key points of the process outlined in document C/Sp/7/3. The ad hoc commission had agreed to take decisions by consensus and to interview all candidates, so as to ensure fairness and transparency. The commission had organized itself into two panels, ensuring equitable geographical representation. The Commission had agreed by consensus on the final list of candidates to be submitted to the Director General for each position, while giving due consideration to gender balance and equitable geographical representation. The Chairperson commended the members of the ad hoc commission for their dedication and the collegial approach they had brought to the commission's work. She wished the two candidates selected by the Director General every success during their tenure.

11. The Director General said that she was honoured to formally announce that she had selected Ms Ugochi Florence Daniels (Nigeria), the incumbent, for the position of Deputy Director General for Operations and Ms SungAh Lee (Republic of Korea) for the position of Deputy Director General for Management and Reform. Ms Daniels' selection brought continuity as the Organization focused on the

priorities set out in the Strategic Plan 2024–2028: saving lives, driving solutions to displacement and facilitating more regular pathways for migration. She also brought an important protection lens to bear on migration issues at a time when the right of migrants to protection was not always recognized. Ms Lee had over 20 years of experience in aspects of her role that were key to IOM’s success: financial and human resources management, implementation of new management tools, diversity and inclusion, the move to a new enterprise resource planning system and resource mobilization.

12. Both had the experience and the expertise needed to lead and direct thousands of people, make decisions about multi-million-dollar budgets and ensure that IOM did not fail the millions of vulnerable people it served as it delivered on an agenda described by some Member States as “ambitious” – a term that she embraced in a world of rapid change, with life-destroying conflicts taking place in far too many places, a record number of people being displaced far from where they wanted to live, and climate change threatening living conditions on every continent. There were too many improvements to make, too many lives to protect and too many dreams to help fulfill for IOM to maintain the status quo.

13. She thanked the ad hoc commission for its dedication and hard work. Every person on the two shortlists submitted by the ad hoc commission was highly valued by their peers, prized by their current organization and a potential asset to IOM. The strength of the shortlists was a testament to how important IOM was to its Member States. She thanked all the candidates for the considerable time, effort and energy they had devoted to the selection process.

14. It was a source of particular pride that the three most senior leadership positions at IOM were all filled by women and that all three came from different geographical regions, with Ms Lee being the first representative of the Asia-Pacific region at the senior management level since 1998.

15. She concluded by expressing gratitude to Ms Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano, who had served with great distinction as Deputy Director General for Management and Reform ad interim since October 2023. The progress made in recent months would not have been possible without her.

16. Council members and the observer warmly congratulated the two Deputy Directors General on their selection from a list of outstanding candidates. Their appointment reflected the shared commitment of the Director General and the Member States to continue strengthening IOM’s senior management with people of outstanding abilities able to advance the Organization’s mandate. It also marked a milestone in terms of gender equity, with three women at the helm of the Organization, and set an example for other organizations. Thanks to the ample experience and expertise they had acquired in their respective fields, the two Deputy Directors General were well placed to maintain the momentum achieved by the Director General and would have the full support of Member States as they helped implement her timely reforms under the Strategic Plan 2024–2028.

17. In that respect, IOM should redouble its efforts to achieve its organizational priorities and goals, while strengthening its engagement with Member States. The new team provided the Organization with the solid foundation it needed to generate capacity at global, regional and national level, and thereby promote a holistic and human rights-based approach to migration, in line with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Member States should continue to work together for a vision that highlighted migrants’ contributions to development and fostered co-responsibility and cooperation among States, international organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

18. Deep appreciation was expressed to the Chairperson and the members of the ad hoc commission for their hard work to interview and prepare the shortlist of candidates. They had been

unstinting with their time and efforts, and had ensured that the process was both transparent and thorough. Appreciation was also expressed to the IOM staff members who had supported the process.

19. Many speakers took the floor to thank Ms Vojáčková-Sollorano for successfully discharging her responsibilities as ad interim Deputy Director General for Management and Reform since October 2023.

20. One regional group, several Member States and the observer were especially pleased to note the progress made towards enhanced geographical representation at IOM; the Organization would benefit from a wealth of knowledge and different perspectives as a result. Particular satisfaction was expressed at the return of the Asia-Pacific region to the senior management team after an absence of over 20 years. It was hoped that the Latin America and Caribbean region would also be increasingly involved at the senior-most levels of the Organization.

21. Several delegates paid special tribute to IOM's teams in the field and their work to support vulnerable migrant populations.

22. The Director General welcomed the strong statements of support made by Member States from all regions of the world. They were a testament to the Council's confidence in the reform process she had launched, in the future of the Organization and in its ambitious programme. She was deeply pleased to be able to work with two extraordinary women in support of those goals and would ensure that they were empowered with the authority to deliver on IOM's vision.

23. The Council took note of the Director General's selections for the positions of Deputy Director General.

24. The Chairperson congratulated the two Deputy Directors General on their appointment and thanked Ms Vojáčková-Sollorano for stepping in at a decisive time.

Closure of the session

25. The Chairperson declared the Seventh Special Session of the Council closed on Monday, 29 April 2024 at 11.50 a.m.