

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE

Twenty-seventh Session

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE NAME AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING
GROUP ON IOM–UN RELATIONS AND RELATED ISSUES**

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Introduction

1. During its Thirteenth Session, the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance decided to establish a working group to discuss the relationship between IOM and the United Nations and matters related to the IOM Strategy. Chaired by the Chairperson of the Council, the Working Group IOM–UN Relations and the IOM Strategy met for the first time on 13 February 2014.
2. With regard to IOM-UN relations, the Working Group examined the relationship between IOM and the United Nations and considered which would be in the best interest of Member States, migrants and the Organization itself: maintaining the status quo or changing the format of the relationship. With regard to the IOM Strategy, the Working Group examined the role and scope of the functions of the Organization and considered whether any changes to the Strategy were required.
3. Following the signing of a new relationship agreement between IOM and the United Nations in 2016, the Director General proposed, during the meeting held on 25 October 2016, that the Working Group continue its work. In a subsequent meeting held on 28 April 2017, the Working Group confirmed its intention to continue its activities and maintain its focus on IOM–UN relations and the IOM Strategy.
4. During its meeting held on 24 May 2017, the Working Group reached consensus on the revised terms of reference and proposed that its name be amended to the “Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and Related Issues.” Adjustments to the name and terms of reference of the Working Group, based on a proposal by the Director General, were approved by the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance at its Twentieth Session.
5. During a joint session of the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and Related Issues and the Working Group on Budget Reform, held on 22 May 2019, several Member States highlighted the need for the Working Group to consider revising its terms of reference, owing to the fact that IOM was now part of the United Nations system.
6. The Administration is of the view that the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and Related Issues should continue its work, as it offers a useful forum for the Administration to exchange views with Member States on issues of critical importance to the functioning of the Organization, while ensuring transparency and Member State ownership.
7. In order to maintain consistency and continuity with the key areas of focus of the Working Group since its establishment, the Administration proposes that the Working Group continue to discuss the scope and nature of IOM’s partnerships with the multilateral system, including, but not limited to, the Organization’s role and responsibilities within the United Nations system, and the implications for IOM.
8. The Administration also proposes that the Working Group focus its deliberations on the governance of the Organization. As the Organization’s membership has rapidly increased in recent years, the Administration wishes to engage in discussions with Member States on the structure and functioning of the IOM governing bodies and related mechanisms, in order to ensure that those key institutional forums remain fit for purpose and allow for adequate accountability and transparency on the part of the Organization towards its Member States.

Outcome of discussions

9. During the Twenty-seventh Session of the Standing Committee, several Member States expressed support for the proposed new name and terms of reference for the Working Group, while others suggested some adjustments to the proposed text. The Director General took note of the consensus on revisiting the Working Group's terms of reference and the need for further consultations. It was also agreed that a decision should be made before the next session of the Standing Committee, if possible. More detail on the discussions can be found in the Report of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance on its Twenty-seventh Session (S/27/15).

10. Following consultations with interested Member States and subsequent coordination with the IOM Council Bureau, the revised terms of reference for the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities are included in the annex to this document.

Annex

**WORKING GROUP ON IOM PARTNERSHIPS, GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL
PRIORITIES**

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. With regard to **partnerships**:
 - (a) Review and exchange views on IOM's role and responsibilities within the United Nations system, including in regard to United Nations institutional oversight practices;
 - (b) Review and exchange views on IOM's partnerships with other institutions, including multilateral and civil society organizations;
 - (c) Consider reports by the Director General;
 - (d) Provide the Director General with such feedback, guidance and support as it might find appropriate;
 - (e) Report and make recommendations to the SCPF for its consideration and action, if required.

2. With regard to **governance and organizational priorities**:
 - (a) Review and exchange views on IOM governance and processes, to ensure IOM governance structures are fit for purpose. This includes, but is not limited to, reviewing the electoral process and practices of the IOM Council Bureau and making a timely recommendation to ensure the informal regional groups include all Member States for the purpose of allowing fair access to representation on the IOM Council Bureau;
 - (b) Review and exchange views on current and future organizational priorities and initiatives;
 - (c) Provide the Director General with such feedback, guidance and support as it might find appropriate;
 - (d) Report and make recommendations to the SCPF for its consideration and action, if required.