STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE

Twenty-eighth Session

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORKING GROUP ON

IOM PARTNERSHIPS, GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

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1.   At its Twenty-seventh Session, the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, reviewed a proposal by the Director General to amend the name and terms of reference of the Working Group on IOM–UN Relations and Related Issues. The Standing Committee took note of document S/27/11 and invited the Director General to undertake further consultation with Member States, so that the terms of reference might be amended and subsequently approved by Member States.

2.   Further discussions took place with interested Member States, resulting in additional amendments to the proposed name and terms of reference of the Working Group, reflected in document S/27/11/Rev.1. The proposed amendments were reviewed by the IOM Council Bureau on 25 January 2021 and the Chairperson of the Council confirmed that the proposal reflected Member States' wish to continue discussing IOM's role within the United Nations system, as well as important elements related to the Organization's governance. Member States were asked to provide any final comments by 12 February 2021, but no further comments were received, leading to the adoption of the Working Group's revised title and terms of reference through a letter from the Chairperson of the Council to Member States on 17 February 2021.

3.   For reference, the amended terms of reference of the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities are included in the annex to this document.

4.   To date, the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities has held two meetings, on 11 March and 19 May 2021, respectively.

5.   The Working Group started to review the issue of the composition of the IOM Council Bureau and the process followed to nominate Bureau members, to ensure transparent and inclusive representation of all IOM Member States. At the request of the Chairperson, the Administration prepared an option paper (document WG/PGOP/2021/2) for further review.

6.   Several Member States expressed their support for an IOM Council Bureau composed of four officers (as currently established), with Member States arranged into four regional groups following the regional grouping model used by another United Nations agency in Geneva. As an alternative – and in order to reach a decision by consensus – a number of Member States explained that they were open to the option 2 described in document WG/PGOP/2021/2, which would mean a Bureau composed of five officers representing the five regional groups used by the United Nations General Assembly. One Member State expressed a clear preference for this second option. It was underlined that the sole purpose of defining regional groups within IOM would be for the nomination of members of the IOM Council Bureau. Further consultations are still required to achieve a final decision on this issue.

7.   The Working Group also reviewed document WG/PGOP/2021/3, on two other points put forward during the course of the first meeting of the Working Group: the elaboration of an annual programme of work of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance in consultation with Member States; and IOM participation in United Nations inter-agency mechanisms. Consultations would continue on these issues.

8.   The Chairperson's notes for the meetings of the Working Group are contained in WG/PGOP/2021/1 and WG/PGOP/2021/4.

Annex

WORKING GROUP ON IOM PARTNERSHIPS, GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

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.