

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE

Thirty-fourth Session

REPORT OF THE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE

ON THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

Geneva

12 and 13 June 2024

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Abbreviations

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
COP29	Twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IDP	Internally displaced person
ILO	International Labour Organization
MOPAN	Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network
OECD/DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSI	Operational Support Income
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
PSEAH	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE
ON THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION**

Introduction

1. The Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance met for its Thirty-fourth Session at the Centre International de Conférences Genève, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 12 and 13 June 2024. The session was chaired by Ms K. Stasch (Germany) and Ms A.C. Gervasi Díaz (Peru). Four meetings were held, with some participants following the proceedings via remote connection.

2. The following Member States were represented.¹

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

¹ The list of participants is contained in document S/34/11. Unless otherwise indicated, all documents and slide presentations are available on the [Standing Committee](#) section of the IOM website.

Opening of the session and credentials of representatives

3. The Chairperson declared the session open on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 at 10.10 a.m.
4. The Standing Committee noted that the Chairperson had confirmed that all credentials were in order.
5. The Member States agreed to a request made by the Permanent Delegation of the European Union and the Permanent Representative of Belgium, on behalf of the European Union rotating presidency, that representatives of the European Union participate as experts.

Election of the Second Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau

6. The Standing Committee elected Ms Ana Cecilia Gervasi Díaz (Peru) as second Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau, the second Vice-Chairperson elected in November 2023 having left Geneva.
7. The second Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau said that she was honoured to have been elected to that position at such a crucial time for the Organization, with the first woman Director General introducing major measures of reform. She vowed to contribute constructively to IOM's agenda in support of migrants and host communities worldwide.

Adoption of the agenda

8. The provisional agenda contained in document S/34/1 was adopted by the Standing Committee and subsequently issued as document S/34/12.

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

9. The Administration introduced the document entitled Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights (as at 31 March 2024) (C/115/4). Total outstanding assessed contributions for 2023 and previous years, plus the assessed contributions still to be paid for 2024 as at that date, had amounted to CHF 65,683,102. Since the document had been issued, however, payments had been received from 24 Member States, reducing that amount to CHF 58.5 million. The number of Member States subject to Article 4 of the Constitution had dropped to 18, of which 11 retained the right to vote. Currently, five Member States in arrears had negotiated a payment plan. One had not met its obligations under the plan and was therefore considered to have lost its voting rights.
10. The Administration reminded Member States in arrears that they had the option of agreeing a flexible payment plan enabling them to pay their outstanding contributions in the manner most convenient to them. Under such payment plans, Member States must make a first payment to settle their current annual assessed contribution and agree to a multi-year payment plan. They had the further option of paying their arrears in the local currency, provided the Organization was in a position to use the funds in the country concerned in a short time.
11. The Standing Committee took note of document C/115/4 and the additional information provided by the Administration. It urged Member States in arrears to pay their contributions in full or, in consultation with the Administration, to agree to a payment plan and to fully respect the payment conditions.

Presentation by the Director General**(a) Annual report for 2023****(b) Update on current activities**

12. The Standing Committee had before it the Abridged Annual Report for 2023 (C/115/5), the Annual Report for 2023 (C/115/INF/1), the related draft resolution (S/34/L/1) and the Tenth update on the application of the Internal Governance Framework (S/34/INF/1).

13. The Director General delivered the statement contained in extenso in document S/34/10, supplemented by a slide presentation. In the eight months since she had assumed office, the IOM senior leadership team had spared no effort to fulfil the Organization's vision to deliver on the promise of migration while supporting the most vulnerable. The evidence was overwhelming that migration – and migrants – were critical drivers of economic resilience, growth and prosperity, and powerful catalysts for sustainable development worldwide. Unfortunately, however, the system enabling the world to take advantage of that potential had for many years struggled to meet the needs of migrants, host communities and countries of origin, transit and destination. The IOM Strategic Plan 2024–2028, which had been drawn up in close consultation with Member States, reflected the Organization's desire to rethink that system, so that more could be done than merely reacting to migration after the fact.

14. Achievement of the Strategic Plan's three objectives – saving lives and protecting people on the move, driving solutions to displacement, and facilitating pathways for regular migration – was contingent on two things: finding the right people and obtaining the right funding. IOM was therefore actively investing in better workforce planning and people management, building an inclusive workforce that reflected the diversity of the Organization's Member States and the places in which it operated. It had launched its first-ever Global Appeal and was stepping up efforts to find more non-traditional donors and obtain funding from international financial institutions. It had also undertaken a structural review of Headquarters and the global and regional configuration of IOM offices, to enable Headquarters to serve the field better and to help IOM become more interconnected and resilient. It had decided to establish the Donor Advisory Group, composed of IOM's top government donors, to foster deeper dialogue on IOM operations and reform efforts, promote alignment of funding priorities and create a platform enabling the Administration to engage directly with donors.

15. IOM would continue to rely on Member States' support and guidance as part of the collective commitment to deliver on the promise of migration for everyone, everywhere.

16. Many representatives expressed appreciation for the Director General's comprehensive report, which reflected the considerable efforts being made to give IOM a more strategic approach and underscored the significant progress made in migration governance. They commended IOM activities to deliver timely multisectoral life-saving assistance to over 31 million migrants in situations of vulnerability in 2023, notably in southern Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen, and to support the work of UNRWA in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It urged IOM to invest in further tailored advocacy on the human rights of migrants in the face of negative narratives on migration and of the difficulties encountered by migrants, including inhumane treatment, racial discrimination and xenophobia. One Member State reminded the Standing Committee of the legal definition of "refugee status" and noted that such status should not be granted to those migrating for economic reasons.

17. Member States commended the new Strategic Plan and the consultative process through which it had been drawn up. As pointed out by the Champion countries for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Strategic Plan prioritized contributions to the full

implementation of the Global Compact and demonstrated a shared vision of how to work together to address the challenges and unlock the potential of migration. It would help stakeholders harness the benefits of migration in a consultative and inclusive manner, lead to better protection for migrants against traffickers and smugglers, and mitigate the impact of climate change on migrant populations. Its three objectives, which were mainstreamed throughout the Strategic Results Framework, were in line with the recommendations resulting from the recent MOPAN assessment of IOM, as was the plan to strengthen oversight functions during the next phase of Internal Governance Framework reform. The endeavour to facilitate pathways to regular migration was in keeping with Member State efforts in that regard, for example through the Rome Process launched at the Italy–Africa Summit in January 2024.

18. Several representatives welcomed the structural reforms but cautioned that the alignment of Headquarters and regional offices with the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan should not come at the cost of restrictions to IOM action on the ground. The uniting of the audit, oversight and evaluation functions in the Office of Internal Oversight and the decentralization of the internal audit and investigation functions to regional offices held much potential, for example to make more strategic use of and integrate audit, evaluation and investigations, but also entailed a bigger management burden that should be reflected by corresponding managerial capacity; it would also be interesting to have information on the relevant financial implications. The Director General was thanked for regularly informing Member States about the reform process and encouraged to maintain that level of transparency.

19. One representative expressed regret that the Strategic Plan, the Strategic Results Framework and the structural reforms had not been submitted to IOM's governing bodies for formal endorsement, as they were all key to IOM's operations and therefore directly affected Member States. He urged the Administration to reinforce its gradual shift towards organization-wide results-based management by developing an open online results reporting system showing overall progress on Strategic Plan implementation, and expressed interest in receiving a detailed analysis of the efficiency gains obtained thanks to implementation of the Internal Governance Framework. It would also be advisable to consult regularly with the Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee on the Framework's implementation, to obtain input for the Administration's learning processes.

20. The same representative asked whether IOM was already using artificial intelligence in its daily operations. While it appeared inevitable that digital technology would be playing a greater role in the work of all organizations, that role should be strategic and well planned, with due regard for potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

21. Member States and one regional group stressed that flexible funding was key to responding to emerging crises and long-term development needs, and thus to achieving IOM's objectives; IOM should therefore pursue its efforts to diversify the donor base for core contributions. In that respect, several speakers welcomed the launch of the Donor Advisory Group, which would provide an excellent opportunity to enhance dialogue on how the Organization was strengthening its core structure to effectively and responsibly oversee its rapid and continued growth. It was also noted that the increase in assessed contributions intended to provide adequate funding for core functions was quickly being outpaced by the growth in the Operational Part of the Budget.

22. Several representatives praised the efforts being made to increase private sector funding. Many expressed thanks to those donors that had made available unearmarked or softly earmarked funding and/or urged more donors to make such contributions.

23. Member States and regional groups called on IOM to continue to promote and enhance cooperation and coordination among, and alignment with, international partners, including in its role as coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, to better address migration globally, promote synergies and avoid duplications.

24. Member States and the representative of one regional group also stressed the need to develop and strengthen initiatives on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, integrating human mobility into climate adaptation plans and supporting at-risk communities. In that regard, robust, reliable, accurate and consistent data were indispensable for informed decision-making and action.

25. Several Member States applauded the appointment of the Senior Director of the Office of Partnerships, Advocacy and Communications.

26. The Director General, responding to Member State questions and comments, expressed heartfelt thanks for the detailed feedback provided as part of the consultative process on the Strategic Plan. The Administration took the obligation to strengthen its core structure seriously and was determined to ensure that IOM remained fit for purpose, including through appropriate oversight and increased allocation of resources for, inter alia, human resources, the Office of the Ombudsperson and regional offices. It would continue to engage in extensive consultations with all Member States on the Strategic Results Framework, so as to ensure that Member State resources were deployed effectively. In the same vein, the structural reforms were intended to allow the Administration to identify additional sources of funding and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.

27. She also expressed thanks to those Member States that had contributed flexible funding and stressed that the Donor Advisory Group was aimed at providing a forum for closer consultation on the use of such resources.

28. She assured the Standing Committee that IOM would continue coordinating and aligning the Organization's work with partners and stakeholders, in order to leverage the best that all partners had to offer and to avoid duplicating efforts. Unfortunately, the roll-out of the new enterprise resource planning system had been hampered by shortcomings in the vendor's understanding of how IOM worked. The Administration was in close contact with agencies that had already implemented similar systems, to learn from their experiences.

29. One Member State exercised its right of reply in response to the statement made by another Member State, which thereafter exercised its right to respond.

30. The Standing Committee took note of the information provided by the Director General in her presentation, the comments made by Member States and the Administration and the documents presented, and adopted Resolution No. 35 of 12 June 2024 on the Annual Report for 2023.

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

(a) Presentation of the Financial Report

(b) Statement of the External Auditor

31. The Standing Committee had before it the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (C/115/3), the related draft resolution (S/34/L/2), the Statement of the External Auditor to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance on the financial operations of the International Organization for Migration for the 2023 financial year (S/34/9), and the Report of the External Auditor to the 115th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration for the financial year 2023 (S/34/CRP/1).

32. The Administration noted that the External Auditor had validated the Organization's financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023, conducted a performance audit in four countries and carried out compliance audits of 15 country offices. Presenting a summary of document C/115/3 in a slide presentation, it reported that total expenditure in 2023 had amounted to a record USD 3.4 billion and revenue, including voluntary contributions and deferred revenue, to approximately USD 5.3 billion. The magnitude of that increase was remarkable, but the speed of the Organization's growth also engendered risks that necessitated mitigating actions. The number of active projects had also increased, by 3 per cent, to 3,617.

33. The Administrative Part of the Budget remained at 2 per cent of consolidated expenditure. After factoring in the decrease in the provision for doubtful receivables and expenses, the total deficit brought forward at the beginning of the year had amounted to approximately CHF 3.5 million, lower than the previous year. Expenditure had increased by 17 per cent. An apparent decrease in expenditure for certain regions (Africa, Asia and North America) was in fact offset by projects under Global Support activities. The offices with the highest levels of expenditure were broadly the same as in 2022; high expenditure tended to be attributable mainly in conflict areas. Total combined revenue showed steady growth, but also indicated that the Organization's core structure was under-resourced. The proportion of unearmarked contributions remained small.

34. With regard to assets, IOM held a large amount of cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments. The higher level of activity had resulted in an increase in receivables. The 735 per cent rise in inventory was a result of the scale-up of central supplies to enhance IOM emergency responses. Intangible assets had increased owing to investments in the upgrade of IT systems, the Migrant Management Operational System Application (MiMOSA), and work related to the enterprise resource planning system.

35. With respect to liabilities, more contributions had been received from donors in advance of delivery of services. The employee benefit liability was fully funded by the terminal emolument reserve under the Operational Part of the Budget and by a yearly allocation under the Administrative Part of the Budget. The increase in borrowing was due to the loan for the new Headquarters building project. Actuarial calculations showed that the Organization was fully covered on liability for staff costs under the Operational Part of the Budget but remained exposed in the Administrative Part of the Budget.

36. In relation to OSI, the Organization had budgeted almost USD 160 million for project-related overheads but had generated USD 192 million, mainly as a result of a significant increase in interest income in 2023. Of the additional income generated, USD 1.4 million had been spent on additional core costs associated with the need to build capacity to deliver at such a high volume. The remainder had been transferred to the OSI reserve in line with Council Resolution No. 1390 of 24 November 2020.

37. Contingent liabilities included donor co-funding not confirmed before the Organization had signed project agreements, an out-of-country voting project (Iraq) that would in all likelihood be removed from the books in 2024, and a variety of claims and suits arising in the ordinary course of operation. In-kind services received had been quantified based on person days.

38. Of the 65 External Auditor recommendations that remained outstanding, most were being addressed by current initiatives. In some cases, however, the timeline for implementation had been affected by the ongoing introduction of the enterprise resource planning system.

39. The Deputy Director General for Management and Reform added that the enterprise resource planning system would go live, using a staggered approach, between August and November 2024.

40. The Deputy Auditor General of Ghana in charge of the Central Government Audits Department read out the key points of the statement of the External Auditor, which was contained in extenso in document S/34/9.

41. In the ensuing discussion, the Standing Committee welcomed the improvements to the annual financial report. One speaker raised the need to address the core structure, which was no longer adequate given the scale of the Organization's work. One wished to know whether there were other ways that Member States could support IOM and whether any thought had been given to cybersecurity issues. Another requested further information on the impact of voluntary contributions and the three lines of the defence risk management model. Three representatives asked about the outstanding External Auditor recommendations: one wished to know which were considered critical, another suggested exploring the feasibility of an online tracking system for recommendations, and a third commended the pursuit of robust risk management practices and technical support at field level. One underscored the recommendation to update the IOM Internal Control Framework.

42. Two representatives requested details – and one a risk analysis – of the proposed change to Article 7 of the IOM Financial Regulations regarding the investment strategy, specifically the sustainability criteria. Two welcomed the action taken on fraud; one proposed adding a dedicated goal of combating and preventing fraud and corruption cases to the Strategic Results Framework and the Internal Governance Framework, and asked whether the Administration had fully taken on board the guidance on managing fraud risk developed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. One representative asked the External Auditor to consider conducting a review of the IOM Office of Internal Oversight.

43. The Administration, responding to the comments and queries, said that it planned to issue a report on the impact of voluntary contributions in 2025. Although all of the External Auditor's recommendations were considered critical, the speed of implementation was sometimes impacted by sequencing owing to chain impact. The updating of the Internal Control Framework was expected soon, although there were some prerequisites. The change to Article 7 of the IOM Financial Regulations had been proposed in order to broaden the scope of investments available to the Organization and allow it to make longer-term investments. The intent of the sustainability aspect was to ensure that investments would be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The reduction in the number of long-term investments was due to the maturity of 90-day investments. The risk management approach had been inspired by and was aligned with the fraud risk guidance mentioned and was being operationalized throughout the Organization.

44. The Standing Committee adopted Resolution No. 36 of 12 June 2024, approving the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2024

45. The Standing Committee had before it the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2024 (S/34/6) and the related draft resolution (S/34/L/3).

46. The Administration supplemented its introduction of the Revision to the Programme and Budget for 2024 with a slide presentation. The Administrative Part of the Budget remained unchanged at CHF 77,113,216. The Operational Part of the Budget had increased by almost USD 1 billion, to USD 2.7 billion, across all regions and in all service areas. As a result, the OSI budget had also increased, from USD 210 to 220 million. OSI covered the costs of 74 per cent of the core structure but was also the most unreliable part of the core budget. Considering that OSI was made up of overhead income

and interest income; a drop in expenditure would lead to a decrease in overhead income, and interest income was unpredictable from one year to the next.

47. The increase of USD 10 million in OSI would be used to strengthen the Organization's policy and oversight functions; to reinforce human resource functions and other global shared services in the Manila and Panama Administrative Centres; boost global services such as information and communication technology, the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Office of Internal Oversight; reinforce the country offices for partnerships and advocacy; and consolidate the regional office structure and establish two global offices, in Washington, D.C. and Brussels, and two subregional offices, in Pretoria and Brussels.

48. It would not be possible to accredit a chief of mission to the country office for partnerships and advocacy based in Canada before the end of the year; the related budget allocation would therefore be repurposed for other institutional priorities in 2024 and a new amount allocated in future budget documents. It should also be understood that advocacy entailed raising public awareness and engaging with civil society, the private sector and the general public to promote issues aligned with IOM's objectives; that definition would be reflected in future budget documents.

49. One regional group, referring to the significant increase in the number of persons displaced as a result of conflicts and natural/human-made disasters, welcomed the increase in the Operational Part of the Budget, specifically in respect of activities on the African continent. Two representatives welcomed the substantial increase in funding for policy and oversight functions, with one stressing that government funding provided for IOM activities could not be used to raise funds in the country concerned. Another representative applauded the fact that the funding increases made possible by the rise in OSI would be used in line with the IOM Strategic Plan 2024–2028.

50. One regional group asked how the creation of a senior position in the Department of Humanitarian Response and Recovery/Protection Division would help IOM address the challenges posed by the growing number of humanitarian crises it was currently witnessing, why the Office of the Ombudsperson and Mediation Services had been allocated USD 399,000 for delocalized positions in the field and what impact that allocation was expected to have.

51. The same regional group welcomed the fact that the restructuring process had resulted in savings of USD 662,900 and asked where, specifically, those savings had been made. One of the group's members commended IOM's structural reform efforts, which would strengthen the Organization's crisis response capacity, and suggested that migrants' access to health care could be promoted by leveraging locally adapted and cost-effective systems. Another commended increases in IOM's counter-trafficking programmes and activities for climate migrants.

52. One representative regretted that IOM had not consulted more closely with Member States about the recent opening of a regional office in Panama.

53. In response to questions about the relative amounts allocated to various programme areas (Regulating Migration versus Facilitating Migration; Migration Health projects in the Middle East at a time of heightened tension in that region; Migration and Sustainable Development projects with the potential to bolster long-term stability), the Administration reminded Member States that IOM did not allocate funds to the services described in the Programme and Budget. It worked with governments, donors and stakeholders to develop projects that addressed specific migration challenges in a specific country before seeking funding for those projects. In addition, the decision to reduce the number of regional offices from nine to six had been taken in the interest of providing greater support to country

offices by funding chief of mission/resource management positions in the countries concerned and thereby enhancing the fundraising possibilities.

54. The Standing Committee took note of document S/34/6, the presentation and comments by the Administration and Member States' comments, and adopted Resolution No. 37 of 12 June 2024 on the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2024, thereby approving document S/34/6.

Assessment scale for 2025

55. The Administration introduced the document entitled Proposed adjustment to the IOM assessment scale for 2025 (document S/34/3) and noted that the IOM assessment scale was fully equated to that of the United Nations; however, owing to the timing of the issuance of the United Nations assessment scale, there was a one-year time lag in the application of the new scale at IOM. The United Nations scale for 2024, which was unchanged, would therefore be applied at IOM in 2025.

56. The Standing Committee adopted the IOM assessment scale for 2025, as contained in the annex to document S/34/3.

Report of the Chairperson of the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities

57. The representative of the Republic of Korea, speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities, gave a summary of the Working Group's activities to date in 2024. The Working Group had met once so far. During that meeting, a number of Member States had expressed support for IOM's potential membership of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), with one calling for a decision to be taken by the Council sooner rather than later.

58. Member States had also expressed support for IOM becoming a member of the International Civil Service Commission and had requested further information on the new contractual framework applicable to IOM staff, particularly with respect to its financial and operational impact. The Working Group had agreed that IOM should maintain its current relationship with the Commission and, to the extent possible, ensure alignment with its standards and practices until the review and implementation of the new contractual framework had been finalized.

59. The Administration had provided an update on the progress made by IOM on enhancing social protection for migrants, including by holding a technical meeting with the ILO to discuss areas of joint work. IOM had also launched a study on the challenges and opportunities of labour mobility for India and was working with partners in the Global Skills Partnership on Migration to pool knowledge and expertise to promote skills.

60. In terms of privileges and immunities, the Legal Counsel had outlined the challenges faced by IOM, underscoring that the purpose of privileges and immunities was to reduce financial and administrative burdens on the Organization, while ensuring equality among Member States and in the conditions of service for staff.

61. Member States had welcomed the proposal that the Working Group establish a dedicated task force on climate change and migration to support discussions and produce recommendations for final submission to the Council.

62. In the ensuing discussion, the possibility of JIU membership was welcomed by several speakers, with one observing that it would be to the benefit of IOM to avail itself of the Unit's

independent oversight. Another speaker requested clarification with respect to the recurring costs of membership, while a third remarked that the financial implications would be offset by greater transparency and accountability.

63. One speaker requested a detailed review of the implications of membership of the International Civil Service Commission, noting that, although IOM would become more efficient and competitive if it were part of the United Nations common system, its specific working environment must be borne in mind. Another speaker expressed support for the task force on climate change and migration but stressed that it should be accompanied by clear terms of reference. A third encouraged continued close collaboration between IOM and the ILO, with a focus on areas of comparative advantage to achieve mutual objectives in support of migrants.

64. The Standing Committee took note of the presentation made on behalf of the Chairperson of the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities, and of the comments made by Member States.

Presentation by the Office of Ethics and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment

65. The Office of Ethics and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment delivered a slide presentation outlining IOM's work to date to promote ethical behaviour and prevent misconduct. The Office had been established earlier in the year as an independent bureau reporting directly to the Director General, reflecting the Administration's renewed emphasis on integrity and accountability, as highlighted in the IOM Strategic Plan 2024–2028.

66. It was noted as essential that IOM personnel should hold themselves to the highest standards so as not to compromise the quality and value of the Organization's work. It was further noted that strengthening integrity, accountability and a culture of ethics required a multifaceted approach, including institutional accountability, victim assistance and coordination with national and international partners.

67. The Organization had developed an increasingly strong ethics and PSEAH function under the IOM Standards of Conduct, with mandatory online training, a growing range of guidance and outreach, and dedicated PSEA officers in 65 country offices across all regions.

68. Looking ahead, IOM must continue to invest in and strengthen its governance and accountability mechanisms to better prevent misconduct, mitigate integrity risks and fulfil its mandate. Priorities included building local capacity, and further identifying and targeting high-risk areas and types of misconduct.

69. A number of Member States expressed appreciation for IOM's sustained efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. Two stressed the importance of enhancing the Organization's survivor-centred approach and improving its response to such misconduct in humanitarian settings.

70. One representative urged the Organization to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, and better risk mitigation measures. Another encouraged IOM to formally endorse the Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment, which synthesizes the key elements of policies, practices and standards.

71. The Standing Committee took note of the presentation made by the Office of Ethics and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment, and of the comments made by Member States.

Update on plans for the IOM Headquarters building

72. The Administration delivered a slide presentation introducing document S/34/4 (Plans for the IOM Headquarters building: update 10). During the development phase of the project, IOM had coordinated the architects' proposals with the needs of end users. It was necessary to ensure that the layout, structural elements and technical equipment of the new building allowed for a flexible workplace environment, owing to changes in working modalities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the fact that the Organization itself was growing and evolving.

73. With respect to the environmental credentials of the new building, IOM had decided to invest in BREEAM "Excellent" certification. The security constraints of the site were still being coordinated with the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), and discussions were ongoing with the host State administration. A consolidated risk register would be presented at the Standing Committee's Thirty-fifth Session, in November 2024.

74. One representative stressed the need for a breakdown of estimated project expenditure and for proposals for financing costs that would not be covered by the loan. She urged the Organization to consider accessibility issues and reiterated the importance of an oversight committee made up of experts and Member States. A second representative suggested involving the Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee in the project to secure its expert advice, while a third requested further information regarding the assessment of changes in workplace practices that had been considered by the Organization in the development of the plans.

75. The Standing Committee took note of document S/34/4 (Plans for the IOM Headquarters building: update 10) and the comments made by Member States.

Report on human resources management

76. The Administration delivered a slide presentation outlining the work of the Department of Human Resources. The 8 per cent increase in the size of the IOM workforce over the preceding nine months reflected Member States' trust in the Organization, as well as the growing challenges of migration globally. Efforts were ongoing to ensure greater representation of women and non-OECD/DAC countries at the P-5 level and above.

77. One of the main achievements of the year to date had been the launch of the IOM People Strategy 2024–2028. The Strategy had been developed in close consultation with the Organization's various units, divisions and offices, as well as with staff, and it was aligned with the IOM Strategic Plan 2024–2028. Migration was at the heart of the recently unveiled Leadership Programme, the aim of which was to provide a clear foundation for the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan.

78. The Department was working tirelessly to introduce the enterprise resource planning system, and to provide a more objective, transparent and competitive process for filling leadership positions that would unearth both internal and external talent.

79. One representative requested further information regarding recruitment for the new roles stemming from the enhancement of human resources in the 2024 budget and for an assessment of absorption capacity to deliver on the IOM People Strategy 2024–2028. Another underscored the

importance of merit-based recruitment that took equitable geographical representation into account and urged the Department to address the overrepresentation of women at certain grades.

80. The initiatives to promote inclusiveness and diversity, better working conditions and continuous professional development were commended by one speaker, who hoped that the reforms would further enhance IOM's effectiveness.

81. In response to Member States' comments and queries, the Administration said that the IOM People Strategy 2024–2028 contained a number of milestones, including a review of the contractual landscape to reduce complexity and better align the Organization with the United Nations common system. With respect to preventing fraud and corruption, the Department was working in close collaboration with the Office of Internal Oversight and the Staff Development and Learning Unit on mandatory training courses.

82. The Administration agreed that a transparent, equitable and diverse workforce helped strengthen the Organization and drew Member States' attention to an online portal, where they could consult data on human resources by region or country.

83. The Standing Committee took note of the presentation by the Administration and of the comments made by Member States and the Administration.

Statement by the Chairperson of the Global Staff Association Committee

84. The Chairperson informed the Standing Committee that, as elections for the Global Staff Association Committee were currently ongoing, the statement to be delivered by the Committee Chairperson would be provided in writing in due course.¹

Exchange of views on items proposed by the membership

85. The Deputy Director General for Operations, in her introductory remarks, emphasized the necessity of strategic foresight in the face of the multifaceted challenges posed by accelerating global demographic and economic transformations, more frequent and more intense disasters, and conflicts. The humanitarian system was stretched to its limits, covering only two thirds of people in need of assistance globally in 2023, and with only USD 7.85 billion received against a funding request of 46.8 billion in 2024. IOM was working with partners to reduce needs, anticipate future risks and pave the way for sustainable solutions. The new whole-of-organization approach paved the way towards solutions that both reduced risks and adapted and built the self-reliance of migrants and host communities. Key to addressing those complex challenges was data. Data were a critical enabler for IOM's strategic objectives, and for triggering early action and informed decisions.

(a) IOM's comprehensive approach to climate preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

86. The Administration introduced the document entitled IOM comprehensive approach to preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (S/34/7), supplemented by a slide presentation. It explained that, in recognition of the critical link between climate change and displacement, IOM was introducing a whole-of-organization approach to preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, in order to identify and implement solutions that supported

¹ The statement has since been made available on the Standing Committee [webpage](#).

Member States' efforts to build resilience and adapt to the changing climate landscape while also working to reduce humanitarian caseloads.

87. Early warning systems were crucial in empowering communities to take anticipatory action and needed to be strengthened to ensure that they reached the most vulnerable. IOM's data expertise positioned it to help define thresholds and triggers for action, while its proximity to communities enabled it to deliver crucial humanitarian assistance. The Organization worked to support the integration of human mobility considerations into national adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans. Capacity-building work had encompassed national policy development, the inclusion of women in community development and decision-making, and data collection and analysis.

88. IOM was working closely with diverse partners to scale up its impact and reach. Its advocacy had allowed migrants and displaced persons to be considered as key constituency groups to consult in the decision-making process for funding allocations in climate-vulnerable States. Data collected and analysed by IOM were used to inform humanitarian responses, develop early warning systems and support policymaking.

89. The Administration called on Member States to work with IOM to address climate change and displacement, to invest in meaningful preparedness efforts, to support the Administration's comprehensive approach and flagship initiatives and integrate human mobility into national climate change plans and policies, and to champion the needs of the displaced in global climate discussions and funding mechanisms, with a view to building a more resilient and sustainable future.

90. In the ensuing discussion, several delegates agreed on the urgent need for investment in preparedness and disaster risk reduction in the context of escalating humanitarian caseloads and development needs. Member States shared examples of the impacts in their own countries and of policy work at the national or regional level. Speakers commended the comprehensive and whole-of-organization approach described in the report; one representative welcomed the establishment of the Preparedness and Climate Change Adaptation Division.

91. IOM's efforts to ensure that labour mobility remained synonymous with climate change adaptive strategies were commended. Several representatives noted that enhancing and diversifying pathways for regular migration was an important adaptation strategy. One representative emphasized that tackling and minimizing the adverse drivers that compelled people to leave their countries would benefit countries of origin and destination, and migrants themselves. Two representatives drew attention to the impacts of internal mobility, with one highlighting the way in which climate-driven internal migration from rural to urban areas was further exacerbated by declining migrant remittances to rural households. Another called for work to continue on proposals for action to improve existing regular migration channels in situations of forced displacement for which the destination country did not have legal channels to regularize the migratory situation of the people affected. A different representative advocated building the resilience of communities and supporting their efforts to stay in place, as early action to minimize loss and displacement reduced humanitarian need, and another said that proactive and effective solutions must be sought to ensure that countries of origin, transit and destination were properly prepared. One representative noted the importance of incorporating environmental migration considerations into national adaptation plans and policies.

92. The emphasis on early warning systems and anticipatory action was welcomed by one regional group and a number of speakers. One Member State commended the identification of seed funding for early action as a high priority in the IOM Emergency Preparedness Dashboard and several noted with satisfaction IOM's role in the framework of the United Nations Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative. One representative encouraged IOM to collaborate with Member States to better understand where scaling up early warning systems could have the most impact.

93. IOM's partnership approach and collaborative spirit were commended by many speakers, who encouraged IOM to ensure that migration, and the voices and vulnerabilities of displaced populations, were mainstreamed in international forums so that migration was managed in a humane, dignified and orderly manner. Several Member States mentioned the importance of working synergistically with other stakeholders to avoid duplication of efforts. One urged IOM to ensure its efforts were in line with discussions in climate change-specific forums and did not go beyond current legal frameworks, emphasizing that such discussions should be conducted in close consultation with Member States. One representative would have like to receive more information on the role of United Nations country team Resident Coordinators and on the Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster as a relevant input for national plans and programmes. The formalization of a closer partnership between IOM and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction was welcomed; one regional group said that collaboration should focus on helping strengthen data-sharing, research and advocacy, and one Member State requested further information about how the partnership would be construed and how the contributions of the two organizations would complement one another. A number of Member States also encouraged further collaboration with other organizations in the United Nations system – to facilitate a system-wide approach – and with other stakeholders. One participant considered it imperative to enhance inter-agency and nexus cooperation in diverse crisis settings.

94. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities with respect to adaptation and mitigation, as enshrined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, was raised by a regional group and a country representative. Several speakers, including the representative of one regional group, expressed appreciation for IOM's efforts to ensure that human mobility and displacement were integrated in funding decisions related to loss and damage, with two Member States also noting with satisfaction IOM's significant role in relation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change fund for responding to loss and damage. One representative requested further information about the challenges faced by governments in accessing loss and damage-related funding in the context of human mobility.

95. Several Member States and regional groups mentioned the need for inclusive approaches that incorporated local, traditional or Indigenous knowledge alongside international best practices, as promoting locally owned solutions helped foster country ownership and build community resilience. One delegate noted the need to consider gender-based vulnerabilities during and after climate-induced disasters. The need to enhance the resilience of host communities was also mentioned by two representatives.

96. One Member State said that supporting the ecological transition of developing and least developed countries through investment remained a priority, the aim being not to further widen the gap between nations and undermine their development efforts; technology transfer and knowledge-sharing were needed to create shared wealth and contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the IOM Strategic Plan 2024–2028.

97. The use of risk modelling and data analytics to anticipate crises and inform resilience building and adaptation planning was commended by one regional group and a Member State: promoting long-term preparedness helped reduce vulnerabilities, while human mobility should be integrated as a multi-pronged approach that considered legal identity and documentation management as an anticipatory measure. One regional group welcomed the implementation of initiatives that anticipated, avoided, reduced and addressed medium- and long-term risks in the context of climate change. IOM's work with the private sector to develop innovative technologies and expertise in the field of risk mapping and data analysis was welcomed.

98. One representative called on Member States to fulfil their pledges and commitments and provide the necessary means of implementation for developing countries, including technologies and appropriate financial resources, to address the existential threat of climate change. Additional funding to support adaptation to climate change in Africa was needed in order to minimize displacement flows. One speaker encouraged IOM to consider the role that disaster risk finance solutions could play in providing faster and more predictable financing to support populations after a shock had occurred. Another representative emphasized the importance of diversified resource mobilization, considering the role of the private sector.

99. The Administration welcomed the constructive contributions from Member States. Sharing information about IOM's ongoing partnerships and collaboration, it said that the Organization was working closely with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on most of the aspects mentioned. It was supporting the national roll-out of the Early Warnings for All initiative in 19 countries and working with the African Union to scale up early warning systems across Africa through the Africa multi-hazard early action system programme. It was also collaborating with the COP29 presidency on a new peace initiative to ensure that climate mobility featured holistically across humanitarian–development–peace nexus actions and responses.

100. Work with a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change task force to develop guidance on human mobility inclusion in national adaptation plans was nearing completion. The Organization was working directly with over 20 Member States on the inclusion of human mobility in national adaptation plans; of 53 national adaptation plans, 82 per cent referenced human mobility and 66 per cent included specific provisions relating to action on climate adaptation and human mobility. Applying a humanitarian–development–peace nexus perspective to climate mobility-related issues allowed the Organization to more deliberately accelerate durable solutions.

(b) 2024 IOM data brief: transformative data for action, insight and foresight

101. The Administration introduced document S/34/8, entitled The Global Data Institute: delivering impact through data for action, insight and foresight – 2024 update, accompanied by a slide presentation. The collection of humanitarian data was often hindered by fragmented tools and time-consuming manual procedures, resulting in limited insight, lack of comparability and slow responses. The IOM Global Data Institute, which brought together the Displacement Tracking Matrix and the Global Migration Data and Analysis Centre, and engaged with partners such as Microsoft, was working alongside the Organization's regional data hubs and experts to overcome those issues. It was dedicated to delivering data and analyses to help save lives, deliver solutions and facilitate regular migration pathways.

102. In terms of data for action, IOM was the leading source of displacement data in the humanitarian system and thereby also contributed to the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. In fact, a recent independent review of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee response to IDPs recommended formally mandating and resourcing the Displacement Tracking Matrix's role as a core IDP data provider, able to furnish analyses, for example, of differences in rural and urban displacement in a country hosting a large number of IDPs. Such subnational data analyses were critical to the design, sequencing and financing modalities of solutions, and could facilitate area-based approaches for durable solutions aligned with community dynamics.

103. In terms of data for insight, Member States needed consistent, comparable and disaggregated data to coordinate policies and programmes that could help capture the benefits of regular migration and reduce the negative impact of irregular migration. For that purpose, the Global Data Institute provided data to support policy discussions on regular migration pathways, generating

country-level data snapshots on, for example, net migration over time and current population pyramids using an automated pipeline to collate IOM data and data from publicly available sources. Joint efforts by the IOM Missing Migrants Project and Displacement Tracking Matrix country teams in many regions had shone a light on dangerous migration routes, and the Migration Governance Indicators project would be teaming up soon on data analysis.

104. In terms of data for foresight, in the face of unpredictable population movements influenced by climate and other environmental, economic and social factors that made decision-making difficult, the Global Data Institute and the IOM Department of Humanitarian Response and Recovery worked together across IOM to improve preparedness and anticipatory action through data analytics and modelling.

105. In the ensuing discussion, several Member States acknowledged the pivotal role played by reliable, disaggregated migration data in shaping effective migration policies; ensuring access to safe, regular and orderly migration, and thereby protecting migrant rights; coordinating policies and programmes; and driving preparedness and anticipatory action. In that respect, leveraging the insights obtained thanks to the Displacement Tracking Matrix and the Missing Migrants Project would enhance understanding of and address the protection risks faced by migrants. Generally speaking, IOM's data work would further enhance collective understanding of migration-related drivers, patterns and profiles along and across routes, including interregional and intraregional movements. It would serve to develop more effective and evidence-based policies and to improve preparedness, foresight and anticipatory action. It would also better inform communication and narratives on migration and displacement based on facts and evidence.

106. One Member State, while recognizing that the Displacement Tracking Matrix was a trusted partner and key source of displacement data that informed IOM and its humanitarian partners' programming, enabling evidence-based responses, stressed that national ownership of and leadership on displacement data and analysis were essential.

107. One representative underscored the power of regional cooperation to tackle migration challenges. The Global Data Institute's plan to roll out continental data initiatives was a significant step forward in that regard. Another representative called on the Administration to continue informing Member States about data-related developments through regular interactions and the publication of studies and reports.

108. Two speakers shared the view that the collection and analysis of data on migration and forced displacement were often fragmented and that greater coordination, consistency and compatibility were required across data sets in the United Nations system and globally. In that regard, the joint commitment of IOM and UNHCR to strengthen cooperation in the field of data was welcome. Moreover, data collection and management should be characterized by the do-no-harm principle, with due regard for the right to privacy of migrants and their families.

109. The representative of a group of countries and several Member States outlined the considerable efforts they had made in recent years to improve data coordination and management, notably through the adoption of operational frameworks, the establishment of national migration and statistical offices, the launch of migration observatories, centres and dashboards, and engagement in regional endeavours. They underscored the key role played by IOM in establishing a common awareness of migratory routes from countries of origin and transit and in detecting new migration trends quickly.

110. Appreciation was expressed for the country-level data snapshots developed by the Global Data Institute, with Member States hoping that they and other migration data tools would be made available on the Global Migration Data Portal soon, in more readily accessible formats and in IOM's official languages, in order to support the preparation of national migration legal frameworks and public policies. A vital next step was to build the global capacity to use data for migration policy and humanitarian assistance decisions.

111. Appreciation was also expressed for the early warning system and transhumance tracking tool, among other efforts made to further enhance the Displacement Tracking Matrix methodology and standardize its field approach, and for the IOM approach to climate impact modelling.

112. Two representatives encouraged IOM to engage in further cooperation on data collection and analysis with other organizations and agencies, in order to increase interoperability and avoid duplication. Other Member States encouraged the Organization to engage in greater cooperation with Member States and the private sector, so as to promote a multisectoral approach.

113. Two representatives, noting that the Global Data Institute had already yielded notable collaborative outcomes, welcomed the expansion of IOM's partnerships to strengthen the Displacement Tracking Matrix, including with the Complex Risk Analytics Fund and with Microsoft.

114. The Administration expressed satisfaction that the Member States shared its vision of data as a strategic priority for action (to save lives and help deliver solutions to displacement), for insight (to help all Member States facilitate regular migration) and for foresight. In the coming twelve months, the Global Data Institute, working in collaboration with IOM's regional data hubs and country offices, would prioritize data-driven solutions for displacement, to build resilience and promote climate change adaptation strategies. The second Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS report), produced together with Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., would be issued later in the year and would report on progress in about 30 countries. The Institute would continue to deliver comprehensive insights on the drivers of migration and disaggregated migration data. It would work with other IOM units in a whole-of-organization approach to make sure that the Organization's foresight activities were linked to field preparedness.

115. The Standing Committee took note of documents S/34/7 and S/34/8, and of the comments made by Member States and the Administration.

Report on the IOM Development Fund

116. The Administration delivered a slide presentation introducing document S/34/5 – IOM Development Fund (Final report: 1 January to 31 December 2023). Over USD 17.5 million had been made available to support developing Member States in 2023. The Administration thanked the Governments of Austria, Belgium, the Philippines and Portugal for their contributions to the Fund; it also expressed appreciation to the Governments of Italy and Japan for supporting Junior Professional Officer positions. The highest demand had been for projects on migration, environment and climate change, with governments' mounting willingness to address the migration–climate change nexus reflected in the growing focus on climate mobility projects. Projects addressed several long-term outcomes contained in the IOM Strategic Results Framework – which outlined the theory of change underpinning the IOM Strategic Plan 2024–2028 – with the majority focused on outcomes 3A (sustainable and responsive channels for regular migration) and 3C (on coordinated migration policy and legal frameworks).

117. Of the 89 projects completed in 2023, 20 per cent had received follow-up funding and the rest had been sustained by the relevant benefiting governments, demonstrating the effectiveness and impact of the seed funding that the Fund was mandated to provide.

118. The Fund produced a number of knowledge management products in 2023, such as an updated innovation booklet, thematic reviews and the annual meta-analysis of project evaluations. One report, which was available on the Fund website, reviewed the added value of the Fund, taking stock of over 20 years of work, and was intended to serve as an internal and external resource highlighting what made the Fund a unique global source of funding in support of migration governance.

119. The Standing Committee viewed a short film demonstrating the work of the IOM Development Fund in Sierra Leone with respect to a project that was helping the Government and relevant communities to address the migration, environment and climate change nexus.

120. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed gratitude to the Fund for its work and said that they looked forward to further collaboration between the Organization and their governments on a diverse range of projects. One speaker commended the Fund's dedication to knowledge management initiatives, which had provided valuable tools and methodologies that Member States could adopt to enhance their migration governance systems and policy coherence.

121. Several delegates voiced their appreciation for the focus that the Fund had placed on addressing the nexus between migration and climate change, and one drew particular attention to the Fund's work to address the Sustainable Development Goals.

122. One regional group called for the Fund to provide more assistance to its region with respect to green economy initiatives, and one speaker urged countries that benefited from brain drain to invest in mutually beneficial dynamics for developing countries. Another speaker stressed the need for a more comprehensive and concerted approach to tackle the root causes of irregular migration. She called on IOM to mobilize financial support for developing countries in order to alleviate the burden of hosting increasing numbers of migrants and refugees.

123. Responding to Member States' comments and queries, the Administration said that the budgets available per region were based on the number of eligible Member States in a given region. Delays in the implementation of some projects could be traced back to the disruption occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

124. The Standing Committee took note of document S/34/5 – IOM Development Fund (Final report: 1 January to 31 December 2023) and of the comments made by Member States and the Administration.

Report on IOM's response to migration crises

125. The Deputy Director General for Operations said that, in a year marked by relentless crises, IOM had learned alongside crisis-affected communities. IOM applied a solutions lens, integrating protection and seeking durable solutions for those affected. It was both morally imperative and financially prudent for the Organization to deliver not only on response but also on preparedness and climate adaptations.

126. The Administration, presenting the report on IOM's response to migration crises in a slide presentation, shared a representation of the Migration Crisis Operational Framework. In 2023, IOM had spent USD 2.5 billion responding to migration crises, reaching 31.6 million people – 49 per cent of

whom were women and girls – across 168 countries. It had sustained an unprecedented eight scale-up responses, in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Somalia, the Sudan, Türkiye and the north-western Syrian Arab Republic. At year end, only the responses in Ukraine and the Sudan were still being coordinated at Headquarters; the scale-downs were a positive indicator of institutional capacity and operational flexibility to shift coordination of responses from Headquarters to a sustainable regional or country-level response.

127. IOM was uniquely positioned to provide a multidimensional response to protect people on the move, ranging from shelter and settlement interventions to camp coordination and camp management operations, and the management of 18 humanitarian hubs that supported system-wide efficiencies and improved access to affected areas with the support of the Displacement Tracking Matrix. In 2023, IOM had provided specialized protection services, including programming to counter gender-based violence and offer primary health-care consultations and mental health and psychosocial support. It had also supported 15 pilot countries with strategies on solutions to displacement, with its peace and recovery interventions benefiting 2.5 million people, and assisted in the resettlement of 150,000 refugees and the voluntary humanitarian return of 25,000 migrants.

128. Enablers and cross-cutting considerations in the 2023 response had included localization to support the leadership and response capacities of national actors, including partnerships with local women-led organizations; direct funding to non-governmental organizations through the Rapid Response Fund; and the establishment in 13 countries of prepositioned global stocks of essential household, shelter and WASH items, medicines and medical supplies from IOM warehouses. Some 73 new dedicated PSEA officers had been appointed in nearly 50 countries, and the presence of PSEA focal points secured in 146 countries. Multichannel complaints and feedback mechanisms ensured accountability to crisis-affected populations. IOM had also scaled up its investment in conflict analysis, to inform its responses and mitigate the risk of harm. Its Global Crisis Response Platform included preparedness and disaster risk reduction interventions. The Organization had published 47 crisis response plans reaching 44 million people.

129. Responding to the presentation, the African Group called attention to the severe underfunding of the response plans for the 17 humanitarian crises affecting the continent, with less than 25 per cent of the required budget pledged. It commended IOM's dedication and expertise in providing immediate relief to the urgent needs of crisis-affected populations through the distribution of shelter, food, water and medical care, its commitment to the humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach and its focus on facilitating safe and regular pathways for migration, offering protection services to vulnerable groups and promoting sustainable reintegration and community resilience. It called for donors to give unearmarked funds to allow IOM to respond rapidly and flexibly to emerging needs. It asked IOM to redouble its advocacy efforts to enhance migration management, improve protection frameworks and ensure that the rights and dignity of migrants were upheld. It emphasized the pressing need for initiatives to address the root causes of displacement and migration, and expressed deep concern at the deaths of migrants who resorted to irregular pathways from Africa to Europe. It also called on IOM to assist and support mechanisms to facilitate safe, orderly and regular pathways in line with the Global Compact for Migration.

130. One Member State requested IOM support to address the difficulties the country was experiencing in relation to migration from rural to urban areas.

131. The Standing Committee took note of the presentation and the comments made by Member States.

Update on the IOM resource mobilization strategy and funding opportunities

132. The Administration delivered a slide presentation on IOM resource mobilization efforts, starting with a description of the more competitive donor landscape faced by all agencies at a time when overseas development aid was declining. Despite those circumstances, IOM had raised a record USD 3.5 billion in 2023 and achieved a 14 per cent increase in funding to date in 2024 compared with the same period the previous year.

133. The 2023 MOPAN assessment of IOM had noted that the Organization had relatively limited capacity to devote to resource mobilization, donor visibility and intelligence, or to seek out new funding sources. As a result of that finding, the Administration had undertaken to make its funding approach more systematic and institutional. The new resource mobilization strategy introduced since the arrival of the Director General was aligned with the Strategic Plan 2024–2028 and had three pillars: diversifying funding sources and increasing quality funding; investing in people and systems to increase resource mobilization capacities; and improving donor recognition, accountability and advocacy efforts. As a result of the new strategy, the amount of funding obtained from donors other than the top ten had risen by nearly 40 per cent, direct funding from international financial institutions by 76 per cent, non-Member State funding by 35 per cent, and private sector funding by 36 per cent.

134. The Director General was determined to make donor visibility and recognition an institutional workstream whereby the Administration followed a checklist to ensure that its partners and donors were recognized and appreciated.

135. One regional group welcomed the focus during the structural reform process on leveraging the traditional contributions of governments and donor communities and the opportunities identified to enhance earmarked and unearmarked funding. IOM needed adequate and sustainable funding to carry out its vital work. The group's Member States would therefore support IOM fundraising appeals and requested IOM donor communities to increase their contributions to the Organization. They were sincerely grateful to donors for their strong support over the years.

136. The Standing Committee took note of the presentation and the comments made by Member States.

IOM partnerships with the private sector

137. The Administration delivered a slide presentation on IOM's engagement with the private sector. With the support of the Director General, and country and regional offices, USD 30 million had been raised within the first year of the Private Sector Engagement Strategy 2023–2027, and the number of private sector partners had increased to 58. Furthermore, the Organization now had 11 Goodwill Ambassadors, who were using their platforms to share information on the important work of IOM and on the need for safe migration.

138. As part of its efforts to scale up private sector engagement, the Organization was investing in digital fundraising to grow flexible income, and building tools and resources to help IOM offices engage at the local level.

139. One regional group applauded IOM's efforts to foster collaboration between the private sector and the global migration community, and thereby leverage private sector resources, expertise and networks to create innovative solutions that would address the diverse needs of migrants worldwide.

140. The Standing Committee took note of the presentation and of the comments made by Member States.

Any other business

141. The Director General expressed sincere appreciation to Mr Joseph Appiah, Comptroller and Director of the Department of Financial and Administrative Management, who would be retiring shortly, and Ms Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano, Deputy Director General for Management and Reform ad interim, whose special assignment would soon come to an end, for their many years of dedicated service to the Organization. Those thanks were echoed by the Chairperson and members of the Standing Committee.

142. One Member State asked whether consideration could be given to when the Standing Committee met, as many permanent missions did not have the resources to attend the multiple meetings of various international organizations that usually took place in Geneva in June. The Chairperson said that IOM was aware that this was an issue faced by all the Geneva-based agencies, as even well-staffed permanent missions found it difficult to ensure a presence at all meetings.

Closure of the session

143. The Chairperson declared the Thirty-fourth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance closed on Thursday, 13 June 2024, at 5.25 p.m.