



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

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REPORT ON THE 104TH (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

NOTE CONCERNING DOCUMENT C/104S/8

At its 105th Session, the Council, by Resolution No. 1289 of 25 November 2014, approved the Report on its 104th (Special) Session without amendment.

To save the cost of reprinting the whole report, it is requested that this cover page be added to the original document C/104S/8 dated 14 July 2014.

Geneva
19 June 2014
Rapporteur: Ms Kate O'Malley (Australia)



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104th (Special) Session

DRAFT REPORT ON THE 104TH (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Geneva

19 June 2014

Rapporteur: Ms Kate O'Malley (Australia)

Draft reports of meetings of the governing bodies are subject to correction.

Participants wishing to make corrections should submit them in writing to the Meetings Secretariat, IOM, P.O. Box 71, CH-1211 Geneva 19, within one week of receiving the records in their working language; these will then be consolidated in a single corrigendum.

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COUNCIL DRAFT REPORT ON THE 104TH (SPECIAL) SESSION

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Council convened for its 104th (Special) Session at the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG) on Thursday, 19 June 2014, at 10.20 a.m. A single meeting was held. The meeting was opened by the Director General, who, in the absence of the Chairperson and both Vice-Chairpersons, and after consultation with the two Member States fielding candidates for the post of deputy director general, proposed that the meeting be chaired by the Rapporteur, Ms Kate O'Malley (Australia).

2. The Council elected Ms O'Malley as Chairperson of the 104th (Special) Session.

ATTENDANCE¹

3. The following Member States were represented:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Afghanistan | Denmark | Lithuania | South Sudan |
| Albania | Djibouti | Luxembourg | Spain |
| Algeria | Dominican Republic | Madagascar | Sri Lanka |
| Angola | Ecuador | Mali | Sudan |
| Argentina | Egypt | Malta | Swaziland |
| Armenia | El Salvador | Mauritius | Sweden |
| Australia | Estonia | Mexico | Switzerland |
| Austria | Ethiopia | Mongolia | Thailand |
| Azerbaijan | Finland | Morocco | The former Yugoslav Republic of |
| Bahamas | France | Mozambique | Macedonia ² |
| Bangladesh | Gambia | Myanmar | Timor-Leste |
| Belarus | Georgia | Namibia | Togo |
| Belgium | Germany | Nepal | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Benin | Ghana | Netherlands | Tunisia |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Greece | New Zealand | Turkey |
| Botswana | Guatemala | Nicaragua | Turkmenistan |
| Brazil | Guinea | Niger | Ukraine |
| Bulgaria | Haiti | Norway | United Kingdom |
| Burkina Faso | Holy See | Pakistan | of Great Britain and Northern |
| Burundi | Honduras | Panama | Ireland |
| Cabo Verde | Hungary | Paraguay | United Republic of |
| Cameroon | India | Peru | Tanzania |
| Canada | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Philippines | United States of |
| Central African Republic | Ireland | Poland | America |
| Chile | Israel | Portugal | Uruguay |
| Colombia | Italy | Republic of Korea | Venezuela |
| Congo | Jamaica | Republic of Moldova | (Bolivarian Republic of) |
| Costa Rica | Japan | Romania | Viet Nam |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Jordan | Rwanda | Yemen |
| Croatia | Kazakhstan | Senegal | Zambia |
| Cyprus | Kenya | Serbia | Zimbabwe |
| Czech Republic | Kyrgyzstan | Seychelles | |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Latvia | Slovakia | |
| | Liberia | Slovenia | |
| | Libya | South Africa | |

¹ The List of participants is contained in document C/104S/7/Rev.1. Unless otherwise indicated, all documents and PowerPoint presentations are available on the Council section of the IOM website.

² See paragraph 6.

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES

4. The Council took note that the Director General had examined the credentials of the representatives of the Member States listed in paragraph 2 and found them to be in order.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Council adopted the agenda set out in document C/104S/1/Rev.1.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION: THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

6. The Council adopted by acclamation Resolution No. 1271 of 19 June 2014 admitting the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to membership of IOM.

7. The representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia said that since 1999, when an IOM Field Office had first been established in the country, the Government and IOM had implemented over one hundred projects in response to humanitarian emergencies and in areas such as immigration and border management, counter-trafficking, migration law, policy and research, migrant health, labour immigration, human development and migrant assistance. Their dynamic and successful cooperation was certain to become even more productive now, especially in terms of migration management capacity-building. He reaffirmed his country's support for strong partnerships with national and international counterparts, in particular on projects to protect and promote migrants' rights, gender equality and the most vulnerable.

8. The Director General welcomed the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as the 156th member of the Organization and looked forward to strengthening its excellent relationship with IOM. It was important for IOM's membership to continue growing, for at least two reasons: first, to engage more people in the discussion of human mobility, which had become the megatrend of the century; and second, to consolidate IOM's position as the global migration agency.

9. Numerous delegations took the floor to congratulate the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on its admission, which served to reinforce IOM's global reach and would add tangible value to the Organization's work.

ELECTION OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

10. The Chairperson reminded the Council that Article 13, paragraph 1, of the IOM Constitution stipulated that the Deputy Director General had to be elected by a two-thirds majority of the Council and served a term of office of five years unless decided otherwise, in exceptional cases, by a two-thirds majority of the Council. Article 24, paragraph 2, of the Constitution stated: "Majorities provided for in this Constitution or rules made by the Council shall refer to members present and voting"; paragraph 3 went on to state: "No vote shall be valid unless a majority of the members of the Council (...) are present." Rule 38, paragraph 4, of the Rules of Procedure of the Council stipulated that, "For the purpose of these Rules, the phrase 'members present and voting' means members casting an affirmative or negative vote.

Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting”, and Rule 45 that, “On decisions relating to individuals, a secret ballot shall be taken.”

11. The Chairperson further reminded the Council that the Bureau had sent Member States the official list of candidates in a note verbale dated 24 April 2014. Lots had been drawn on 18 June 2014, at the Fourteenth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, to determine the order in which the candidates’ names would appear on the ballot paper. As a result, the candidates were listed on the ballot papers in the following order:

Ms Laura Thompson

Mr Juan José David García Vásquez

12. Member States would be called to vote in English alphabetical order, starting with Myanmar, which had been drawn by lot. The tellers had been designated by the countries holding the First and Second Vice-Chairmanship of the Council: Mr Girma Kassaye Ayehu (Ethiopia) and Ms Christine Coen (Belgium).

13. The Legal Counsel explained in a PowerPoint presentation the procedure for filling in the ballot papers.

14. In all, 118 Member States were present and received a ballot paper. The results of the voting were as follows:

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Number of ballot papers distributed | 118 |
| (b) | Number of ballot papers taken from the ballot box | 118 |
| (c) | Number of invalid ballot papers | 1 |
| (d) | Number of abstentions | 2 |
| (e) | Number of valid ballot papers | 115 |
| (f) | Two-thirds majority | 79 |

15. The candidates obtained the following number of votes:

Ms Laura Thompson 101

Mr Juan José David García Vásquez 14

16. Ms Laura Thompson was re-elected Deputy Director General.

17. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1272 concerning the election of a Deputy Director General, completed with the name of Laura Thompson in the operative paragraph.

18. The Chairperson congratulated the Deputy Director General on her re-election and assured her of the Council’s full support. She thanked Mr García Vásquez for his interest in and support for the Organization’s work.

19. The Deputy Director General thanked the Member States for their support during her first five-year term of office and for demonstrating their confidence in her by re-electing her.

She congratulated the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on its admission to the Organization. In her acceptance speech, she highlighted the following points.

20. The twenty-first century had been characterized by human mobility, which was expected to increase exponentially in the coming years and was not only human rights-centred, but also demographic, social and economic. There was no longer any question of the impact that ageing populations, low birth rates, increased life expectancy and urbanization was having on the economies and social protection systems of developed and high middle-income countries. The links between migration and development for countries of origin and destination alike were also understood. States were adopting policies to enhance the positive aspects of migration in their development and economic planning. That notwithstanding, there had been a worrying rise in discrimination and xenophobia against migrants, leading to their exclusion and violations of their human rights. Public perception had restricted the ability of politicians to advance the economic arguments in their discourse on migration.

21. Migration and human mobility were thus prominent on current political and economic agendas, at national and international levels. As a result, IOM's composition, size, objectives and work were evolving. Traditional operational and logistical support to Member States on movement, resettlement and assisted voluntary return and reintegration was now supplemented with advice, capacity-building and technical assistance on policy, legislation and best practices on a variety of issues related to migration governance.

22. At a time of limited financial resources, all international organizations were being asked to do more with less, and with tighter financial controls and transparency requirements. IOM was no exception and was thus modifying its structures, systems, procedures, working methods and control mechanisms to better respond to new realities, while reshaping its advisory capacity, expertise and ability to respond to the new expectations of its membership. The structure reform had been the most prominent of a series of administrative adjustments made to adapt IOM to its new size and field presence.

23. Internally, several mechanisms and tools had been developed to identify IOM's principles, policies, experiences and best practices in thematic areas, and better integrate them into its programmes and activities worldwide. A series of initiatives had been taken to enhance IOM's capacity to help governments address migration-related matters and develop integrated and comprehensive migration policies and legislative frameworks. Greater emphasis was being placed on the protection of migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations and those affected by natural disasters, political crises or unrest. All of those efforts were intended to strengthen IOM and increase its capacity for analysis and advice, making its performance standards predictable, reliable and results-oriented, and rendering an Organization that could learn from its own successes and failures and correct its actions if anticipated results were not achieved.

24. Priority must be given to the implementation of the Human Resources Strategy 2012–2015, to ensure that the Organization had the right people in the right place at the right time. IOM's staff members were its greatest asset, responsible for the reputation and relevance of the Organization, working around the world in often difficult and dangerous conditions. Their commitment should not be taken for granted. IOM must therefore enhance its training capacity and provide staff with all the tools they needed to enable them to discharge their responsibilities in a professional manner and ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the

Organization. Efforts must also be made to encourage wider geographical representation and gender equality among staff, particularly in senior positions.

25. IOM's support for and assistance to Member States should not rely exclusively on generous voluntary contributions from some members and donors. The Organization required greater capacity to define priorities, respond to requests for advice and assistance, and address urgent issues in order to continue to be a reliable and relevant partner. Member States had an important role to play in consolidating the Organization, expressing their needs and opinions on the areas on which they wanted IOM to focus its attention and in which IOM should be working with the broader international system. She was committed to working together with Member States to strengthen IOM's capacity for the benefit of governments and migrants alike.

26. The Director General, speaking on his own behalf and on that of IOM's 9,000 staff members worldwide, warmly congratulated the Deputy Director General on her re-election. He was convinced that the period leading up to IOM's 65th anniversary in 2016 would be one of continued significant achievement for the Organization, during which it would find solutions to issues and address major migrant- and migration-related challenges and opportunities.

27. The representative of Costa Rica said that the role played by the Deputy Director General during her first term of office had brought great honour to his country and that he was gratified to observe that her efforts and the confidence they inspired had been rewarded with her re-election.

28. Numerous other speakers took the floor to congratulate the Deputy Director General on her re-election. They paid tribute to her work and dedication, and were certain that her professional and personal capacities would make for an excellent second term of office. The fact that she formed a strong team with the Director General augured well for the Organization's work on migration-related issues in the coming years.

29. A number of delegates lauded the Deputy Director General's specific achievements during her previous term of office: her leadership of the structure reform process; her efforts to improve the public perception of migrants, to integrate migration matters into development planning and to heighten the protection of the human rights of migrants; her work to foster the adoption of coherent migration policies at all levels, most recently in connection with environmental and climate-induced migration.

30. For one Member State, the structure reform of the previous five years had prepared IOM to deal with crisis situations efficiently and in timely fashion, as evidenced in Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic. For another, it was fitting that the election had coincided with the membership's first review of the structure reform, enabling Member States to continue benefitting from the Deputy Director General's guidance in that respect.

31. Many speakers commended IOM and its operational expertise, efficiency and effectiveness as the lead agency on migration. They noted in particular the role it had played in the many humanitarian and migration crises of the previous year, thanks in no small measure to the Migration Crisis Operational Framework.

32. Two representatives echoed the Deputy Director General's praise for the work and dedication of IOM staff members, especially when conditions were dangerous and demanding. Two others endorsed her proposal to ensure greater geographical representativity among IOM's senior and international staff.

33. One representative noted that the Deputy Director General's second term of office was beginning at a time in which international migration was the focus of particular attention, at events such as the second United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The Deputy Director General was sure to make a substantive contribution to the Organization's participation in those forums.

34. Looking to the future, one representative trusted that the Director General and the Deputy Director General would together continue to strengthen the consistency and coherence of IOM action and the quality of its programming worldwide, ensure effective oversight and enhance its reliability vis-à-vis the donors and its partners. Another noted IOM's key role in integrating migration into development planning, in particular in respect of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda.

35. The Chairperson reminded the Member States that they had had the opportunity to examine the Deputy Director General's contract during the Fourteenth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance. She invited them to consider the draft resolution approving the contract and empower the Chair of the Council to sign it.

36. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1273 of 19 June 2014 on the contract of the Deputy Director General.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

37. The Chairperson thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the 104th (Special) Session of the Council and declared the session closed at 1.05 p.m. on Thursday, 19 June 2014.