



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
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Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS
ON SCPF MATTERS**

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**POTENTIAL DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR THE NINTH SESSION OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE**

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POTENTIAL DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR THE NINTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE

Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to help Member States select topics on which to exchange views at the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (SCPF) on 1 and 2 November 2011. The paper builds on documents IC/2011/1, IC/2010/6, IC/2010/2 and IC/2009/8, which provide background information on the Standing Committee's origin, its objectives and the standing agenda item on the exchange of views. It should also be read in conjunction with document MC/EX/712, the report on the Eighth Session of the SCPF. This paper also lists topics previously suggested by the membership that have not yet been discussed and describes new topics for discussion proposed by the Administration.

Background

2. The IOM Strategy adopted in June 2007 reflected, inter alia, the wish of Member States that a space be created where they could examine and review policy, programme, administrative and financial issues holistically, thus filling a gap in the previous governing body structure. The Standing Committee was established as a result (see MC/INF/287 for further details). The Member States subsequently decided to introduce a regular item on the SCPF agenda entitled "Exchange of views on items proposed by the membership" and agreed that the items for discussion would be decided in advance through the informal consultation process. Initially, there were four items for discussion: two policy-oriented items, one operations-related item and one management and finance-related item. In early 2009, based on their experience, the Member States decided as a general rule to reduce the number of items from four to three, one of which would relate to policy, one to management and finance, and one to operations. At its Fifth Session in October 2009, in light of the heavy agenda, the Standing Committee decided to discuss only two items, and at its Seventh Session in November 2010, in view of the discussion on the IOM Strategy, the Standing Committee exceptionally decided to discuss only one item. Again, the Standing Committee decided to discuss only two items at its Eighth Session in May 2011.

3. Details regarding the topics discussed at successive SCPF sessions are laid out in documents IC/2011/1 and MC/EX/712; IC/2010/6 and MC/2304; IC/2010/2 and MC/EX/705; IC/2009/8 and MC/2283; IC/2009/3 and MC/EX/697.¹

Potential topics for the Ninth Session (November 2011)

4. At the Eighth Session of the SCPF (10 and 11 May 2011), Member States exchanged views on IOM oversight and evaluation² (SCPF/61) and IOM cooperation with the United Nations System (SCPF/62).

¹ For an overview of all suggested and discussed topics, see the annex.

² During the Eighth Session of the SCPF, Member States invited the Administration to submit a strategy paper on evaluation to the next session, covering project evaluation specificities, thematic evaluations and training activities for the Field.

5. In the past, Member States have expressed interest in a number of topics that, in the end, were not chosen. These are listed below:

- Migration Profiles
- Unaccompanied children and migration
- Migrant smuggling
- Measuring programme performance in IOM.

6. As in the past, and based on its analysis of current developments and ongoing dialogue with a range of stakeholders, the Administration proposes that the topics to be discussed at the Ninth Session of the SCPF in November 2011 be chosen from those listed below.

(a) Return migration and IOM

Return migration has in recent decades emerged as a fundamental element of many governments' migration management policy, complementing border management and timely and fair asylum processes. As such, it supports States' sovereign right under international law to determine who can enter their territory and the conditions under which they can remain. Effective migrant returns can also be important for maintaining productive bilateral relations between countries of origin, transit and destination. Experience has shown that involuntary and voluntary returns are interlinked and have a mutually reinforcing effect.

Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) is increasingly seen by host governments as a preferred return option that helps foster improved relations among countries and stakeholders along the migration continuum, supports return with dignity and offers financial savings compared with forced removals. The past has shown that additional investment by returning States in reintegration support and local development in countries of origin are likely to render the return more sustainable. AVRR-related activities are implemented by IOM and its partners globally, with over 100 AVRR projects worldwide from over 40 host countries and reintegration activities in over 160 countries. In the last decade alone IOM helped more than 400,000 migrants to return to their countries of origin in a humane and dignified manner.

In this context, issues for the SCPF to discuss could include how to enhance mechanisms for sharing information on effective return migration among Member States, and sharing positive experiences on finding humane, sustainable and cost-effective solutions for all stakeholders involved.

(b) Migration health and IOM

Migration health has received much more attention in both the global health and global migration debates in recent years, as exemplified by the World Health Assembly resolution on the Health of Migrants (2008), the subsequent Global Consultation on Migrant Health organized by IOM, the World Health Organization and the Government of Spain (March 2010), various regional high-level meetings focusing exclusively on migration, health and development, such as the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) held in the United Republic of Tanzania (2009), the multi-stakeholder Regional Dialogue on the Health Challenges for Asian Labour Migrants (2010), the inclusion of health in the recommendations/final declaration of the fourth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (2010), the Colombo Process, and the inclusion of

migrants' vulnerabilities in the recently adopted high-level Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (June 2011), to name just a few. There is progressively more widespread awareness on migrants' right to health and increasing recognition of the health and psychosocial needs and vulnerabilities of migrants, mobile populations and displaced persons, asylum-seekers and refugees throughout the migration process.

Within IOM, migration health has become further embedded as a crucial component of comprehensive migration management. Whether the discourse is on health assessments in the context of refugee resettlement or immigration, primary health care and psychosocial support as part of (re)integration or in emergency response, managing health worker migration or promoting the health of labour/irregular migrants, governments and other partners increasingly see IOM's value as a key technical partner that can effectively strengthen capacities of governments to address migration-related health challenges. Particularly since 2008, IOM has developed a number of new approaches and tools that are shared with Member States. With an annual portfolio of about USD 60 million, it is important to bring to the attention of IOM Member States the significance of migration health issues and challenges, especially as most IOM counterparts responsible for migration are not aware of the impact migrant health can have on society, the economy and the health sector.

(c) International migration law in managing migration and IOM

International migration law (IML) is a field of international law that has increasingly attracted the interest of the Member States in recent years. Encouraged by ongoing flows of voluntary and forced migration around the world and by greater recognition of the link between migration and development, the promotion of IML has become a focus of the international community. The legal and normative framework on IML has also generated strong interest in academic settings.

Although there is no comprehensive legal instrument at the international level establishing a framework for migration management, a set of legal rules constrain, regulate and channel State authority over migration. Such rules – which have been created through State-to-State relations, negotiations and practice – are enshrined in multilateral and bilateral treaties and non-binding instruments or have become part of customary international law. They constitute the framework for cooperative migration management and reflect primarily interests of States, their nationals and inter-State relations. The human rights of migrants and the need to promote and protect these rights in the exercise of State sovereignty have been addressed in IOM's constituent documents since the Organization's foundation. The IOM Constitution and certain Council decisions provide the basis for IOM involvement in promoting IML as part of its comprehensive migration management frameworks. These documents also provide the basis for IOM's protection work and practices that support and supplement the activities of States in the application of their duty to protect. Given this background, State and other actors are increasingly seeking IOM's advice on IML matters. Similarly, the SCPF could reflect on IOM's greater and dynamic role in fulfilling its prime objective "to enhance the humane and orderly management of migration and the effective respect for the human rights of migrants in accordance with international law"³ through its conceptual work and action.

³ See Council Resolution No. 1150 of 7 June 2007, Annex: IOM Strategy document, Part I: Strategy, Activity No. 2; see also IC/2004/3, MC/INF/298 and IC/2007/3.

(d) IOM's role in the humanitarian response to displacement induced by natural disasters

Protecting and assisting displaced people and communities is at the heart of IOM responses to humanitarian emergencies. As a key stakeholder in the humanitarian community and standing invitee of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, IOM leads the global camp coordination and camp management cluster in natural disaster situations (within a partnership arrangement with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which assumes the lead role in conflict situations). Targeted response strategies and tools have been developed in order to address the specificities of displacement triggered by natural disaster crises and to support interventions of the government concerned, through, inter alia, the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, allowing for fast profiling, registration, mapping and tracking of population movements from the onset of an emergency to final return to areas of origin, or relocation; and training support for national authorities and civil protection bodies on best practices and principles in managing internal displacement. In its recent work with national disaster management authorities in affected countries such as Haiti, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Namibia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Timor-Leste, IOM has been training national authorities to adopt principled and solution-driven practices when managing displaced populations. Tools and systems used in such responses are systematized in preparedness phases. States that are better equipped to swiftly respond to natural disasters with displacement consequences may aim at establishing a roster of national trainers; establish their own displacement tracking tools; and set up humanitarian communication channels for displaced populations, along with ready-to-use monitoring, profiling and registration tools. These efforts will contribute to strengthening the capacity of States to engage effectively in protecting displaced people in natural disasters.

Discussions with the membership could focus on strategic partnerships between IOM and States to increase global preparedness in the management of populations displaced by natural disasters. Particular areas of attention could include the adaptability of current tools to the needs of States and the specificity of natural disasters as opposed to other types of crises leading to displacement; the inclusion of representatives of disaster management authorities in emergency response rosters; and the functioning and applicability of the Displacement Tracking Matrix and related tools.

(e) Update on the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)

At the informal consultation on SCPF matters on 28 September 2010, document IC/2010/6 presented various potential discussion topics for the SCPF, including an update on IOM's progress towards IPSAS adoption. While not selected for discussion on that occasion, the Member States expressed an interest in receiving a conference room paper on this topic. This paper was provided for the Eighth Session of the SCPF in May 2011 (CRP/32), during which some Member States expressed a renewed interest in having this as a discussion topic for a subsequent SCPF session. If selected, the discussion paper would reiterate the points covered in CRP/32; provide a further update on IOM's progress towards achieving full IPSAS compliance; and discuss in more depth issues associated with the full implementation of some of the remaining standards (e.g. IPSAS 17 – Plant, Property and Equipment, and IPSAS 25 – Employee Benefits).

Annex: List of proposed and selected discussion topics for SCPF

Topics	Session for which topic first proposed	Date of informal consultation when topic selected	Session at which topic discussed	Background document
1. POLICY				
Migration Profiles and IOM	7th SCPF Autumn 2010		Not yet discussed	
IOM cooperation with the United Nations system	6th SCPF Spring 2010	5 April 2011	8th SCPF Spring 2011	SCPF/62
Research	4th SCPF Spring 2009		Not yet discussed	
Project-based versus programmatic approaches to funding	4th SCPF Spring 2009		Not yet discussed	
The impact of the financial crisis on international migration	4th SCPF Spring 2009	26 February 2009	4th SCPF Spring 2009	SCPF/31
IOM's role in supporting regional consultative processes	4th SCPF Spring 2009	26 February 2009	4th SCPF Spring 2009	SCPF/30
Labour mobility	3rd SCPF Autumn 2008	26 February 2008	3rd SCPF Autumn 2008	SCPF/20
Migration and environment	3rd SCPF Autumn 2008	26 February 2008	3rd SCPF Autumn 2008	SCPF/21
Regional consultative processes: where they are, where they are heading	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	26 February 2009	4th SCPF Spring 2009	SCPF/30
Update on the International Partnership on Migration and Development	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	26 February 2008	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	SCPF/13
IOM and "One UN" and IOM's role in the clusters	1st SCPF Autumn 2007	26 February 2008	3rd SCPF Autumn 2008	SCPF/18
Global Migration Group, including the International Partnership on Migration and Development	1st SCPF Autumn 2007		1st SCPF Autumn 2007	No document issued – discussion only

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Topics	Session for which topic first proposed	Date of informal consultation when topic selected	Session at which topic discussed	Background document
2. OPERATIONS				
Unaccompanied children and IOM's programmatic response	8th SCPF Spring 2011		Not yet discussed	
Capacity-building in migration management	7th SCPF Autumn 2010	28 September 2010	7th SCPF Autumn 2010	SCPF/52
Migrant smuggling	6th SCPF Spring 2010		Not yet discussed	
Efforts to enhance capacity for border management, including the ability to deal with migrant smuggling	5th SCPF Autumn 2009	24 September 2009	5th SCPF Autumn 2009	SCPF/38
IOM's involvement in demobilization, disarmament and reintegration	5th SCPF Autumn 2009		Not yet discussed	
IOM's emergency response capacity	4th SCPF Spring 2009	26 February 2009	4th SCPF Spring 2009	SCPF/29
Trafficking	4th SCPF Spring 2009		Not yet discussed	
Efforts to enhance capacity for border management	4th SCPF Spring 2009		5th SCPF Autumn 2009	SCPF/38
<i>Migration Initiatives: An assessment of 2007 and perspectives for 2008</i>	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	26 February 2008	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	SCPF/14
Migration and health: IOM's programmes and perspectives	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	26 February 2008	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	SCPF/12
IOM's response to the needs of stranded migrants	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	18 February 2010	6th SCPF Spring 2010	SCPF/45 + Rev.1
A walk through the IOM project development process	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	18 February 2010	6th SCPF Spring 2010	SCPF/44

Annex: List of proposed and selected discussion topics for SCPF

Topics	Session for which topic first proposed	Date of informal consultation when topic selected	Session at which topic discussed	Background document
3. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT				
Update on the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)	7th SCPF Autumn 2010		8th SCPF May 2011*	CRP/32
Management of human resources in IOM	6th SCPF Spring 2010	18 February 2010	6th SCPF Spring 2010	SCPF/43 + Rev.1
Measuring programme performance in IOM	6th SCPF Spring 2010		Not yet discussed	
IOM's oversight and evaluation mechanisms (in more depth than discussed at the Fifth Session)	5th SCPF Autumn 2009	5 April 2011	8th SCPF Spring 2011	SCPF/61
IOM's oversight and evaluation mechanisms	5th SCPF Autumn 2009	24 September 2009	5th SCPF Autumn 2009	SCPF/37
New security challenges for the staff of international organizations and their ramifications for IOM	2nd SCPF Spring 2008		Not yet discussed	
Update on IOM's Processes and Resources Integrated Systems Management (PRISM)	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	26 February 2008	3rd SCPF Autumn 2008	SCPF/19
Discretionary Income: Legal basis, trends and oversight on its use	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	26 February 2008	2nd SCPF Spring 2008	SCPF/15 + Add.1

* Although presented as a potential discussion topic for the Seventh Session of the SCPF, this topic was not selected at the informal consultation held on 28 September 2010; however, the Member States expressed an interest in receiving a conference room paper on the subject. Accordingly, a paper (CRP/32) was provided for the Eighth Session of the SCPF.