

**EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH MEETING**

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 28 November 2000, at 10.25 a.m.

Acting Chairman: H.E. Mr. J. MOLANDER (Sweden)

Chairman: H.E. Mr. J. E. VEGA (Chile)

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Agenda item 1

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared open the Eightieth Session of the Council.
2. He said that, during his year as Chairman, the Organization had impressed him with the flexibility with which it had met the specific needs of so many governments in such complex fields, served the interests of migrants and made best use of its accumulated expertise. While governments appreciated that approach, they were also aware of the need for IOM not to lose sight of its core mandate. The six service areas were a good reflection of that and of the broad scope of IOM's activities. He welcomed IOM's efforts to encourage regional cooperation, which could make an important contribution to migration issues in the long term.
3. He drew attention to the new IOM publication "World Migration Report 2000", which provided a review of major recent trends and an understanding of the complexity and global impact of migration. IOM should continue to undertake such analyses for the benefit of policy-makers and others interested in migration. It had given him great pleasure to welcome the Director General to Sweden on an official visit, during which useful discussions had laid the groundwork for further cooperation between IOM and his Government.
4. He commended the IOM Secretariat on its efficient work, paying tribute to the dynamic contribution of the Deputy Director General. Finally, he thanked the members of the Bureau of the Council, in particular the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Manuel Rodríguez-Cuadros of Peru.
5. The DIRECTOR GENERAL thanked the outgoing Chairman for his services throughout the year and presented him with the IOM Medallion.

Agenda item 2

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS

6. The ACTING CHAIRMAN requested the Council to take note that the Director General had examined the credentials of the representatives of Member States and found them to be in order and that he had been advised of the names of the observers for non-member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations attending the session.
7. The Council took note.

Agenda item 3

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8. The ACTING CHAIRMAN called for nominations for the office of Chairman.

9. Mr. REYES (Colombia - GRULAC), seconded by Mr. NORDMANN (Switzerland), nominated H.E. Mr. J. E. Vega (Chile).

10. H.E. Mr. J. E. Mr. Vega (Chile) was unanimously elected Chairman and took the chair.

11. The CHAIRMAN thanked Members for the honour done to him and paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman. The countries of Latin America recognized the important role played by IOM in the 50 years of its existence. The rapid changes being brought about by globalization had important implications for migration, for humanitarian as well as socio-economic, political and cultural reasons. There was a danger that masses of people would move across borders, with consequences both for the countries they were leaving and those receiving them. Those consequences were not necessarily negative, as the resulting diversity in the populations of the host countries was a source of cultural richness and a factor of development. IOM was providing the basis for a humanitarian and practical approach to the problems of mass movements, particularly aspects relating to women and children. His own family had benefited from the assistance of IOM and he was therefore only too well aware of the significance of the Organization in difficult times. He drew particular attention to one of the main challenges facing IOM – that of human trafficking. It was hard to believe, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, that trafficking continued to threaten the dignity and often the lives of so many victims. IOM must make every effort to eradicate such practices.

12. Mr. FUTRAKUL (Thailand), seconded by Mr. LAGOS (El Salvador), nominated H.E. Mr. I. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) as First Vice-Chairman.

13. H.E. Mr. I. Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) was unanimously elected First Vice-Chairman.

14. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda), seconded by Mr. PALIHAKKARA (Sri Lanka), nominated H.E. Mr. M. Abbas (Egypt) as Second Vice-Chairman.

15. H.E. Mr. M. Abbas (Egypt) was unanimously elected Second Vice-Chairman.

16. Mr. PETIT (France), seconded by Mr. BUSIEGA (Kenya), nominated Mr. Borisovas (Lithuania) as Rapporteur.

17. Mr. Borisovas (Lithuania) was unanimously elected Rapporteur.

#### Agenda item 4

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (MC/2004/Rev.2)

18. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the revised provisional agenda (MC/2004/Rev.2).

19. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 5

MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Application by the Republic of Benin for membership in the Organization  
(MC/2008, MC/L/991)
- (b) Application by the Republic of Slovenia for membership in the Organization  
(MC/2012, MC/L/992)
- (c) Application by the Kyrgyz Republic for membership in the Organization  
(MC/2017, MC/L/993)

20. The CHAIRMAN invited the Council to consider the draft resolutions concerning applications for membership, contained in documents MC/L/991, MC/L/992 and MC/L/993.

21. The draft resolutions on the admission of the Republic of Benin (MC/L/991), the Republic of Slovenia (MC/L/992) and the Kyrgyz Republic (MC/L/993) as Members of the Organization were adopted by acclamation.

22. The CHAIRMAN, noting that the Secretariat had informed him that the credentials of the representatives of the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Slovenia and the Kyrgyz Republic had been received and found to be in order, invited them to take their places among the Member States of the Organization.

23. He then invited the representatives of the new Member States to make statements.

24. Mr. AMEHAN (Benin) thanked the Member States for having admitted Benin to IOM, thereby formalizing the relationship already enjoyed between the two parties. Because of its geographical location, Benin was a country of transit and migration and had great need of the Organization's services. He therefore trusted that membership would provide the basis for fruitful cooperation.

25. Mr. ZORE (Slovenia) expressed his gratitude to the Member States for having admitted his country to the Organization and to the Director General and his team for their support. Slovenia looked forward to participating more fully in the work of IOM. Slovenia had cooperated with IOM since 1992. Activities in 2000 had been particularly intensive; IOM had helped in organizing and financing the transport of Kosovar refugees to Slovenia and, subsequently, their return to Kosovo. He was convinced that Slovenia's full membership would strengthen and expand such cooperation and contribute to the exchange of experiences and knowledge in the area of migration.

26. Mr. SULTANOV (Kyrgyzstan) said that it was a privilege and honour for Kyrgyzstan to join IOM at the threshold of the new millennium and the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. Kyrgyzstan had shown its commitment by acceding to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and to the ILO Migration for Employment Convention and had gained observer status in IOM in 1993. Since the adoption of the plan of action at the 1996 CIS Conference in Geneva, an institutional framework for migration management had been established in Kyrgyzstan, and the country had enjoyed a new level of collaboration with IOM since then in developing a unified migration management system and national migration programmes. Appropriate policy, legislative and operational

measures had been taken and, since the commencement of IOM representation in Bishkek in 1996, a technical cooperation programme had started to establish a governmental commission for migration management and independent migration and border control services. A national strategy on migration policy for 1999-2001 had been approved. Special emphasis had been laid on active involvement of relevant non-governmental organizations, with the development of a social partnership strategy. A national law on foreign migration had been adopted in 2000.

27. The establishment in 1997 of the Bishkek Migration Management Centre and an international conference on migration policy for Central Asia, the Caucasus and neighbouring States held in Kyrgyzstan in May 2000 had strengthened regional cooperation, and it was hoped that the Centre would be given regional status. IOM's pilot project on information and border control at Bishkek international airport had been successful and similar projects were envisaged at other check points. He also looked forward to joint action with IOM for further institutional and human resources capacity building.

28. Kyrgyzstan's achievements and expectations would be meaningless unless they improved the lives of people in need. He was therefore proud to report that, so far, more than 3,000 Tajik refugees had been voluntarily repatriated and more than 10,000 Tajik and Afghan refugees had settled and were being integrated in the country – the best example of Kyrgyzstan's fruitful partnership with IOM.

Agenda item 6

OBSERVERSHIP

(a) Application by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for representation by an observer  
(MC/2018, MC/L/1001)

(b) Application by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee  
for representation by an observer  
(MC/2011, MC/L/994)

29. The CHAIRMAN invited the Council to consider the draft resolutions concerning the applications for representation by an observer, contained in documents MC/L/1001 and MC/L/994.

30. The draft resolutions on granting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (MC/L/1001) and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (MC/L/994) observer status at meetings of the Council were adopted by acclamation.

31. The CHAIRMAN, noting that the Secretariat had informed him that the credentials of the observers for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee had been received and found to be in order, invited them to take their places at the observers' table.

32. He then invited the new observers to make statements.

33. Mr. BRANKOVIC (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) thanked the Member States for having accepted his country as an observer. He also expressed appreciation to the Director General and his staff for their assistance with the application. His country had paid particular attention to the work of IOM

since its inception. He pledged his Government's full support to the Organization and looked forward to future cooperation.

34. Ms. ABOULNAGA (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the current President of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC), thanked the Council for having granted AALCC observer status in IOM. The Secretary General of AALCC, Dr. Wafik Zaher Kamil, had recently had consultations with various international organizations, including IOM, and a cooperation agreement between AALCC and IOM had been signed in October 2000. The agreement had been implemented by the granting of observer status to AALCC and would allow the AALCC Secretary General to attend meetings of IOM and vice versa. She assured the Council of AALCC's determination to work closely with IOM in order to explore areas of cooperation that could be beneficial to the movement of migrants and migrant workers in sending and receiving countries that were members of AALCC.

35. The DIRECTOR GENERAL welcomed the new Members and new observers, all of whom represented areas in which migration needs and IOM's responses were on the increase.

#### Agenda item 7

#### GENERAL DEBATE

- (a) Opening statements by the Director General and the Deputy Director General  
(MICEM/8/2000, MICEM/9/2000, MC/L/996)

36. The DIRECTOR GENERAL made a statement which is annexed hereto *in extenso* (Annex I).

37. The DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL made a statement which is annexed hereto *in extenso* (Annex II).

(b) Statements by delegations

38. The CHAIRMAN invited general comments on the statements of the Director General and the Deputy Director General. He requested speakers to focus on the points raised in those statements.

39. All delegates who took the floor welcomed the new Members and the new observers, many of them noting that the expansion of the Organization reflected the continuing growth in migration issues throughout the world. They also commended the Director General and the Deputy Director General on their opening statements.

40. Mr. NORDMANN (Switzerland) commended IOM on the "World Report on Migration 2000" and on the work carried out during the previous year. Switzerland had enjoyed excellent cooperation with IOM during 2000 and the IOM Office in Bern had provided substantial support to the Swiss authorities in respect of their return programmes, in particular to Kosovo. The return of migrants who were no longer in need of protection or whose asylum claim had been rejected often gave rise to problems for host countries. IOM should continue to play an important role in that area, especially in relation to Kosovo.

41. He expressed concern at some of the IOM programmes planned for 2001, which may not appear to conform with the Organization's core mandate. With regard to internally displaced persons, Switzerland had already called for an IOM policy that would be acceptable to all Member States. The General Support Programme, with the exception of Humanitarian Emergency Operations Assistance, and the programmes on migration and health ought to be reviewed to ensure relevance to IOM's mandate. The relevance of other programmes, in particular the German Forced Labour Compensation Programme, should also be reconsidered and priorities and objectives defined, to ensure that such programmes were limited in duration and did not place an excessive administrative burden on the Organization.

42. Concerning the budget for 2001, he considered that IOM had not taken sufficient account of exchange rate fluctuations and had therefore produced an overestimated budget figure; the planned programmes could perhaps be implemented at a lower cost than forecast, thereby reducing the level of the 2001 Operational Part of the Budget.

43. The situation in regard to outstanding assessed contributions continued to give rise to concern. Non-payment had a serious impact on IOM's efficiency and obliged Member States to compensate for the resulting shortfalls. He hoped that the proposed increase of 5 per cent in the Administrative Part of the Budget would lead to an improvement of arrears repayment.

44. He was pleased to announce that, from January 2001, Switzerland would place an associate expert at the disposal of IOM on a long-term basis. Furthermore, his country would be making an additional contribution to the Organization to ensure that its fiftieth anniversary provided an opportunity to draw greater attention to the importance of migration issues. He finally pledged Switzerland's continued support to the Organization.

45. Mr. DEMBRI (Algeria) said that migration had taken on an international dimension in the nineteenth century with the establishment of colonial empires and had become institutionalized by the time former colonies had attained independence. Following the economic boom in the industrialized countries in the 1960s and 1970s and their strong demand for labour from the newly-independent countries, that trend had been formalized in a number of bilateral agreements on migrant workers. With the ending of the cold war and the rise of the market economy, developing countries had seen an increase in political and military conflicts, often ethnic or territorial in origin, and serious economic crises resulting from drastic structural adjustment programmes to meet market requirements, which had led to further poverty and unemployment. Those two trends, together with trafficking and enforced labour, had resulted in an enormous increase in migration. An understanding of the underlying causes of migration was essential if appropriate solutions were to be found for countries of origin, transit and destination.

46. Algeria commended the action taken by IOM to meet the needs of migrants and to assist governments in managing migration flows. IOM should continue to develop cooperation with affected countries, in particular those in the southern hemisphere, where appropriate in cooperation with the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations and through relevant international fora, such as the OAU Summit in Zambia in 2001 and the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be held in South Africa. IOM should follow closely the activities of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in order to ensure that free movement did not apply only to goods and services but also to human beings. Solutions would be needed to the development problems of African countries if voluntary return and reintegration of migrants was to be achieved. IOM should increase its cooperation with the OAU and subregional African organizations in order to direct assistance to the regional or country levels. Frameworks for North-South cooperation such as EURO-MED should be revised to take account of increasing migrant flows. He urged countries that had not yet done so to ratify the United Nations Convention for the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The accession of new Member States to IOM, in particular from Africa, reflected the need for the Organization's services.

47. Algeria, which had substantial migrant flows because of its geographical position, was continuing its efforts to implement a sound migration policy. Since his country's accession to membership of IOM in 2000, cooperation with IOM had received renewed impetus: the Director General had recently visited the country and IOM representation in Algiers was planned in the near future. Algeria was also an active participant in IOM regional cooperation mechanisms, in particular in the Western Mediterranean.

48. Finally, he drew attention to the appalling conditions being experienced in the Palestinian occupied territories. Israel continued to deny the Palestinian people the most basic of human rights and dignity and violated daily the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. The United Nations Commission for Human Rights had taken a position on the subject, which had been corroborated by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. He proposed that IOM should also take a position by condemning Israeli policies in relation to the Palestinian people.

49. Mr. ROTHEN (Germany) said that in 2000 IOM had once again been a most reliable and much appreciated partner for the German Government. The Organization had successfully implemented the German programmes in support of voluntary return of rejected asylum seekers, which had proved particularly effective in facilitating the voluntary return of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from Kosovo: in 2000 alone, some 64,000 refugees from those two areas had decided voluntarily to return to their home countries through financial support provided by the programmes. It should be stressed once more that all German authorities in charge of the repatriation of refugees were fully committed to giving

priority to voluntary return, and IOM was to be thanked for operating the programmes so diligently. For those reasons, Germany would not only continue to finance such programmes at the current high level but was even contemplating a slight increase in those funds for 2001.

50. With regard to the Administrative Part of the Budget, Germany continued to believe that the zero nominal growth applied by IOM for the past five years should remain the guiding principle for some years to come, but had accepted the fact that the challenges faced by IOM in the coming year required some additional funding and was therefore prepared to accept a one-time increase of the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001. It was to be hoped that that gesture of understanding of IOM's needs would enable the Organization to return to zero nominal growth in 2002 and thereafter.

51. His delegation deeply appreciated the fact that IOM was prepared to become an even more important partner for Germany than it had already been, owing to its newly established role of handling claims for compensation for former forced and slave labourers under the Nazi regime. The basis for such compensation had been laid jointly by the German Government and a number of German companies in order to mark their historical and moral responsibility for subjecting large numbers of people to forced labour. A fund had therefore been set up to allow for speedy payment of compensation, within the legal framework of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future", which had become legally effective in August 2000. IOM had been invited to act as a partner organization of the Foundation for handling a particular category of claim. His delegation was convinced that IOM would perform that task with the same excellence as that it had shown with respect to its other activities.

52. Mr. NOIRFALISSE (Belgium) noted that the statements of the Director General and the Deputy Director General had highlighted some of the basic elements required for a global view of migration, such as strengthening countries' capacity to manage migratory phenomena, particularly from the outset; and the need for every multilateral organization concerned to take into account migration problems and to call upon IOM's expertise with a view to dealing effectively with such acute problems as racism, the situation of the less-developed countries, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the future of Africa which was now regarded as one of IOM's priorities. Belgium was anxious to become a partner in the programmes thus established, particularly that relating to the Return of Qualified African Nationals.

53. In supporting the recommendation to increase the Administrative Part of the Budget by 5 per cent in 2001, Belgium was confident that IOM would maintain its concern for strict economy. If Discretionary Income was to be used more widely as seed money for programmes in developing countries and countries in transition, it was to be hoped that IOM would retain a maximum of flexibility in allocating such funds. IOM had indeed become the focal point of Belgian multilateral public assistance for development, benefiting particularly multi-annual programming of its voluntary contributions. That innovative approach should help to make the allocation of IOM resources more predictable.

54. Belgium also wished to make IOM its privileged partner in a number of other fields, since there was a real need to meet the claims of victims of Nazism, to combat migrant trafficking and to deal with the growing number of requests for asylum in Belgium, 5000 in October 2000 alone, which had caused the Belgian Government to reform its asylum policy so as to accelerate the requesting procedure and to provide applicants with material aid (lodging, food, medical care) instead of financial assistance. At the same time, the Government would stimulate voluntary return and that policy would be connected with durable reintegration and with the development of the countries of origin and transit.

55. Belgium had excellent experience of cooperation with IOM in the framework of programmes for the return of Kosovars, 2,644 of whom had received temporary protection status in Belgium and had been then returned by IOM, which had also helped those people to rebuild their homes. Belgian financial aid also enabled IOM to conduct information campaigns in certain countries of origin in order to discourage irregular emigration towards Belgium.

56. Mention should also be made of the increasing relations between IOM and the European Union. The European Commission was currently making full use of its new capacity for migration initiatives and Belgium, which was to preside over the Union during the second half of 2001, was aware of that new basic dimension. It attached great importance to IOM's constantly evolving tasks and to the quality of its cooperation.

57. Mr. ABBAS (Egypt) said that his Government was convinced of the need for adequate and sound budgeting to enable IOM to carry out its tasks and therefore supported the proposed 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001. His delegation appreciated the increased resources allocated to Africa in the Programme and Budget for 2001: according to the geographical distribution of the Operational Part of the Budget, Africa had become the second largest recipient after Europe and was the only region to receive an increase in allocated resources over the year 2000. In that connection, Egypt attached particular importance to IOM's policy framework for sub-Saharan Africa.

58. The current level of cooperation between Egypt and IOM was most satisfactory. A pilot project on training and awareness-raising on refugees and migrant issues in Egypt had been implemented during 2000 and an agreement on an integrated migration information system had recently been signed in Cairo between IOM and the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower. The next step was to implement the project on training and small credits to returned Egyptian expatriates. The Director General's forthcoming visit to Cairo and the signing of a cooperation agreement between IOM and the Arab League would undoubtedly generate a new momentum to enhance cooperation between Egypt and IOM, and the Organization's recent decisions to support and further strengthen its Cairo office were to be commended.

59. International migration had become a global phenomenon, involving a wide range of countries and diverse groups of migrants, profoundly affecting international relations. IOM thus had an increasingly important part to play in facing new challenges and waves of migratory movements due to natural disasters, escalating conflicts, violence and other emergency situations. The international community as a whole was called upon to help alleviate the suffering of people in distress and assist migrants to regain their basic rights.

60. In that connection, he felt obliged to refer to the tragedy inflicted on the Palestinian people who were currently facing aggression by Israel, in violation not only of the norms and principles of international law, but also of its own obligations under the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. That grave situation was clearly relevant to the issues under discussion in the Council. The tragedy and injustice involved and the violation by Israel of the basic rights of the Palestinians, in particular their rights to self-determination and to an independent State, made it incumbent upon the international community to come to the assistance of the people of occupied Palestine.

61. Mr. RAMEL (Philippines) said that his delegation endorsed the recommendation to approve a 5 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001, on the clear understanding that that part of the budget for 2002 would be prepared on the basis of zero nominal growth. The Philippines also

supported the proposal to allocate an additional USD 1 million from Discretionary Income for the development of migration projects in favour of developing Member States and Member States in transition, on the basis of equitable regional distribution and without prejudice to funds already earmarked for those purposes.

62. With regard to the appointment of IOM External Auditors for the period 2001-2003, his delegation would be grateful if Member States would give favourable consideration to the bid of the Philippine Commission on Audit, taking into account the information provided in a note circulated earlier. A representative of the Philippine Commission on Audit was present to answer questions or provide any additional information that might be requested.

63. His delegation had noted with appreciation document MC/INF/245 that had been submitted on trafficking in persons. The Philippines supported IOM's involvement in counter-trafficking projects, since trafficking in persons was a serious concern not only for the countries of origin, transit or destination but for the international community as a whole. IOM should be encouraged to coordinate with United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations and civil society in order to pursue a comprehensive, holistic and cost-effective approach that would include prevention, protection, prosecution of traffickers and rehabilitation of victims.

64. Mr. BEKE DASSYS (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his country, which had become a Member of the Organization in June 2000, was fully aware of the outstanding role of IOM in a world in which developing countries were labouring under economic, social and political constraints which constituted the root causes of migration. Côte d'Ivoire was currently playing its traditional role as host to refugees from the conflicts that were ravaging a number of African countries. That duty of hospitality, resulting in a population of which 40 per cent were foreigners, had been reaffirmed by the new President of the Republic in his investiture address.

65. The need to manage migration and to ensure the legal and effective protection of migrants was becoming urgent in the face of globalization and the depredation of goods and services in the developing countries. His delegation therefore welcomed the Interregional meeting on the Participation of Migrants in the Development of their Country of Origin, held in Dakar in October 2000, which in its Declaration had recognized the lack of information on migration and had recommended the establishment of observatories and the collection of relevant data.

66. His country, which had recently established an immigration and emigration office, stood in need of specific programmes and consequently welcomed the IOM migration policy framework for sub-Saharan Africa, in which it hoped to cooperate with the Organization. It also supported the proposed increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget. In conclusion, it welcomed IOM's cooperation with other international organizations, such as ILO and UNHCR, on the eve of its 50th anniversary, as a sign of its openness and its desire for the harmonization of humanitarian policies.

67. Mr. HEINEMANN (Netherlands) said that the growth of IOM membership over the past decade was a recognition of the importance that the Organization had gained in the international community. That increase was due to the fact that the population movements and the problems that they entailed had become well known world wide, such as the large-scale displacements that had taken place after such recent events as hurricane Mitch, and the events in Kosovo and East Timor. In those major crises, IOM had played a very effective and positive management role. The problems resulting from such population movements could be faced only by concerted efforts and cooperation of the international community. The fact that migration had become an increasingly complex and significant policy issue in many countries had led to the understanding that measures must be broad in scope in order to be able to address migration challenges effectively. Regional and international approaches were therefore most likely to lead to the needed durable solutions.

68. Like many other countries, the Netherlands was committed to orderly and legal migration, in the belief that the safe and voluntary transfer of migrants and returnees, which was a traditional core function of IOM, benefited not only the migrants themselves, but also the sending and receiving countries. His country therefore encouraged the IOM "cluster proposal", whereby several countries from different regions could come together to discuss problems relating to migration and to find durable solutions from which all parties could benefit.

69. With regard to the IOM budget for 2000, the Administration was to be commended for eliminating the deficit of more than USD 30,000 referred to in the 1999 financial statements under the Operational Part of the Budget. That showed a commitment to strict financial discipline and to engagement in new activities on a fully funded and projectized basis. The increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2001 after five years of zero nominal growth should be an exception, in order to respond to needs clearly identified by IOM. His delegation could support the increased allocation of Discretionary Income to project development and activities for developing Member States or Member States in transition and also the efforts to find a systemic solution for the use of surpluses in the Administrative Budget, which should be modelled on the United Nations system.

70. The continuing problem of outstanding assessed contributions which jeopardized IOM's ability to deliver its programmes had unfortunately not been solved, despite significant payments of arrears made by Kenya and Angola and partial payments of arrears by other Member States. The Administration should be encouraged to further strengthen its efforts to negotiate repayment plans with Member States in arrears and those Member States should be urged to make every effort to meet their obligations.

71. He welcomed IOM's information document on trafficking in persons and efforts to assist the return of victims of trafficking to their countries of origin should be supported.

72. His delegation expressed appreciation of IOM's role in taking care of the smooth and easy voluntary return of those who had not been granted a resident permit in the Netherlands and those who had resident permits but preferred to return to their country of origin. The IOM Office in The Hague had

considerably expanded its activities over the past year. In conclusion, he said that his country had recently agreed to finance additional IOM projects in Morocco, Azerbaijan and Georgia, while new project proposals for 2001 were under consideration.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

Annex I

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Greetings to Delegations  
Congratulations to new Officers  
Welcome to new Member States and observers

**Accomplishments of the year 2000**

1. IOM has continued to expand in the year 2000. Membership, operational funding levels, numbers of offices and projects are all up. Increasingly, governments are coming to recognize migration as a crucially important policy issue and IOM as an essential element in migration management. I should like here briefly to mention some of the more significant developments of this year.
2. In Africa, our efforts at regional migration management are beginning to bear fruit. The Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa, the creation of our respected former colleague Shun Chetty, whose work we acknowledge and honour, is up and running. In connection with partner organizations, MIDSA has just conducted a successful forum of SADC countries in Mbabane. The first of many planned capacity-building activities in the region, this seminar was devoted to "Migration, Integration and Border Management".
3. In October in Dakar, governments of West Africa launched a new migration management process for the ECOWAS region. The Dakar Declaration contains an ambitious agenda of training, technical assistance, counter-trafficking, health and post-conflict measures. Its existence speaks to the growing realization in Africa that migration, especially forced migration, puts enormous strains on developing societies and requires vigorous responses.
4. To support the development efforts of African States through return migration of their qualified nationals abroad, IOM is vigorously preparing for a new phase of its programme for Return of Qualified African Nationals. An RQAN seminar which we hope will take place next month in Gabon will determine whether this important development effort will continue next year.
5. IOM's post-conflict specialists are present in Guinea-Bissau, Angola and other war-torn countries. We stand ready to assist Africa both in the healing process and in the resumption of normal migration relations among nations. My consultations with the Secretary General of the OAU in Addis Ababa last month convinced me that the issue of migration is gaining prominence and importance throughout the continent. And as you know, new Members are rapidly reinforcing IOM's already solid institutional base in Africa.
6. In Asia, where IOM is still relatively less prominent than the need for migration management would dictate, we are making good progress. The 1999 Bangkok Declaration has led to significant new attention to migration issues in signatory countries.

7. Indonesia, for example, hosted this year's meeting of the Manila Process, a gathering that mandated immediate efforts to raise Member-State capacity to cope with irregular migration and trafficking. IOM has concluded a detailed arrangement with Indonesia for the provision of migration services and has opened offices there. Our new relationship with Indonesia is one key to our ability to work effectively in Timor.

8. The People's Republic of China intends to upgrade its contacts with IOM. Already making serious efforts to control smuggling of Chinese migrants, the PRC will work with IOM on this and other migration management challenges. The Republic of Korea is currently rethinking its labour migration policy and has asked for IOM's assistance. Japan, long a major supporter of IOM programmes throughout the world, continues to look to IOM in relation to migration challenges in the Asia and Pacific region.

9. South and South West Asia have big and important migration concerns. IOM is working to become more active there as well. We have signed a cooperation agreement with Pakistan. The Deputy Director General has visited Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to discuss new projects. We are exploring the possibility of assistance to Bhutan and Nepal to enhance capacity and permit progress towards the solution of their bilateral problems. Our efforts at cooperation with India continue.

10. In the interests of coordinating migration management and refugee questions throughout Asia, the Asia Pacific Consultations have concluded their annual conference this month by endorsing an ambitious programme of discussion for the year 2001.

11. In the Western Hemisphere, where it began, the regional approach to migration management is thriving. The Puebla Process grows deeper and more effective every year, with IOM as the lead implementing partner of the governments and NGOs active in the process. We manage the virtual secretariat and much of the programme activity mandated by the Puebla Process.

12. Conferences in Lima and Buenos Aires over the past year have made good progress towards the establishment of a South American consultative body comparable to Puebla. The Summit of the Americas has adopted migration as a theme, leading to expectations of an eventual hemisphere-wide management mechanism. This very week, a first meeting is taking place in Santo Domingo to assess interest in establishing a Caribbean regional process.

13. As the Western Hemisphere remains relatively free of wars and conflicts, IOM has concentrated its efforts, with notable success, in the areas of capacity building, training and policy advice. In Colombia, unfortunately, violence continues. IOM has undertaken major programmes on behalf of displaced persons there. We are also studying how to help affected neighbouring countries. We shall be ready to help if asked.

14. Coming closer to Geneva, there is much promising new activity to report. Our desire to help the nations of the Western Mediterranean manage their migration dynamics has met an encouraging response. With European Union funding, Headquarters and IOM Rome held a regional seminar in Tunisia in September to explore cooperation between the Maghreb and the

countries on the opposite shore of the Mediterranean. IOM intends shortly to open offices or start programmes in Tunis, Algiers and Rabat, with solid programme funding in sight.

15. In South East Europe, we have substantial ongoing programmes in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and significant activities in almost every country of the region. We expect that the changes in Belgrade will lead to new possibilities for the Stability Pact and stand ready to cooperate fully with it.

16. In the former Soviet Union, we are encouraged by the establishment this year of a further follow-up mechanism to the 1996 Geneva Conference. We intend to continue our strong capacity-building effort throughout the region. We shall focus special attention on the three countries of the South Caucasus in a meeting early next year designed to forge a migration assistance relationship between the Caucasus and governments of Western Europe.

17. In the EU sphere, we are pleased to support the pioneering steps being taken by some governments to facilitate regular labour immigration into their countries, which can serve both to meet their immediate labour market needs and support the growth and development efforts of sending countries. I am thinking here especially of the German Green Card initiative and the Italian training and integration programme for Albanian labour migrants.

18. More and more European governments are turning to IOM for support in the area of migrant integration, including public information campaigns to counter anti-foreigner and xenophobic sentiments in host communities – an issue high on the EC agenda for good migration management.

19. In the Middle East, IOM made a concerted, urgent effort to get ready for the migration challenges sure to result from a peace settlement. In consultation with the Government of Israel, we sent an expert to begin planning for solutions with the Palestinian Authority. Like all of you, IOM laments the new outbreak of violence that has forced a postponement of this activity.

20. The Middle East remains nevertheless a major potential growth area for IOM. In two weeks I shall travel to Cairo to sign a cooperation agreement with the Secretary General of the Arab League. The Syrian Government has recently given us permission to open an office in Damascus.

21. We have just signed the papers for a substantial new programme activity in Egypt. The Integrated Migration Management System, funded by Italy, will help the Egyptian Government set up more effective data gathering, analysis and dissemination mechanisms.

### **IOM Services and core activities**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

22. This brief and incomplete review shows how much my colleagues have accomplished this year. I could have listed many other activities to prove the point. I kept the focus geographic on purpose to emphasize both the global reach of IOM and the lead role of IOM Missions in the

field. It speaks well for the policy of decentralization that our highly-independent teams have succeeded so well in identifying and addressing the concerns of migrants and governments.

23. Another way to present the same material would have been functionally, Service by Service. This approach would make another point that I want to emphasize - that each of our six Services played a part in the growth of IOM in 2000. Our experts in transportation, migration health, capacity building, information, assisted returns and counter-trafficking have developed the profile and credibility we need to attract new support.

24. The year 2000 also saw the emergence and solidification of a new set of activities under the heading "services to migrants in a diaspora". Our work on the migrant component of elections in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina this year, like earlier similar efforts including Timor, have allowed us to develop a recognized expertise in out-of-country voting.

25. Another example of "services to migrants in a diaspora" is the German Forced Labour Compensation Programme. This is a big and challenging programme, but success will help our German partners bring settlement to a thorny issue and a measure of comfort to many of the same migrants, now citizens of almost all your countries, for whom IOM was created, nearly 50 years ago.

26. Emergencies require special mention. IOM prides itself on its quick reaction capability. Apart from questions of money, it has often been IOM's work in crises that got us in, made the desired good impression and helped us to stay on to develop lasting migration management programmes. A humanitarian organization's emergency response capacity requires constant attention. We shall place this subject on the agenda for our spring Executive Committee meeting and circulate a paper for discussion. While on the subject of emergencies, I would like to pay tribute to all IOM staff in Indonesia who played a key role in the swift evacuation from West Timor in September, not only of our own people, but also of other UN and NGO staff, following the brutal murder of three UNHCR staff members.

27. Finally under the heading of Services, a word about research, an area of change and progress in the year 2000. IOM's first *World Migration Report* appeared this year. We expect it will become a point of reference for the public and policy debate on migration that is sure to grow in years to come. We have focused the majority of our research on specific migration management challenges. As a service organization, we think IOM research should be the essential first step in problem solving.

### **Management questions**

28. The debate over zero nominal growth in the Administrative Part of the Budget has dominated the dialogue between Member States and the Administration this year. The Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, meeting last month, recommended an increase of 5 per cent over the figure at which the Administrative Part of the Budget has been frozen for the past five years, the new level to apply for two years, 2001 and 2002. This result produces both a degree of satisfaction and difficult new management challenges, at a time when membership and work are increasing rapidly.

29. On the positive side, IOM's Member States have recognized the fact that a dynamic, growing organization like ours needs to strengthen its core administrative services in relation to its expanded activities. More Members, more programmes and more offices require higher levels of performance in financial and personnel management, research, training, inspection and evaluation and other core management functions.

30. The Administration is grateful for the willingness of Member States to acknowledge these needs and grant IOM an exception to the general practice of freezing or reducing the administrative budgets of international organizations.

31. We also share the desire of Member States to see more of our Discretionary Income used as seed money for programme activity in developing and transition countries and shall put this idea into practice next year. We call on Member States to contribute additional funds to the Organization for this purpose, as several of you have already announced you intend to do.

32. On the side of challenges, we must all be aware that the increase of 5 per cent falls short of the amount we need - in our present configuration - to provide effective core support to our growing activities. In the past, Discretionary Income has been used to make up the shortfall. Now we need to consider other ways to make ends meet. In the near future we may have to implement new cost-saving measures.

33. One idea is to transfer some Headquarters' functions to countries where they can be performed more economically. We may also have to adjust some personnel policies - like the automatic granting of permanent contracts - to account for the new realities, always seeking to protect IOM's dedicated employees, its greatest resource.

34. This year's serious and responsible debate over the level of IOM's Administrative Part of the Budget has produced a balanced result. Member States have acknowledged the Administration's greater needs while insisting on stringent management and even greater attention to efficiency and cost-effectiveness. I believe the outcome of this debate reflects well on the Organization. I wish to thank the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance for his outstanding work and congratulate the representatives of Member States who persevered in bringing a difficult task to a successful conclusion.

### **Other international organizations**

35. As you know, IOM maintains close relations with a range of international organizations interested in different parts of the broad migration policy spectrum. I want to mention several developments from this year.

36. The International Labour Office shares with IOM a profound interest in organized labour migration, migrant rights, training programmes, capacity building, prevention of trafficking and protection of abused migrants. This year IOM has deepened its dialogue with ILO, both at Headquarters and in the field. ILO is well established in regions of interest to IOM. Through cooperation, IOM can benefit from ILO's broad base and rich experience. IOM brings to the partnership our operational experience and our hands-on approach. We look forward to a project-oriented partnership with ILO, especially in developing and transition countries.

37. Another new partnership brings IOM together with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, an international organization we welcome as an IOM observer today. With member governments throughout Asia and the Middle East and in much of Africa, AALCC has an important role to play in addressing the treatment of migrant workers in law and in practice. Its membership includes major countries of origin, transit and destination. In April 2001, IOM will organize a one-day discussion of migration issues at the ministerial-level AALCC General Assembly in Bandung, Indonesia.

38. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees is our partner in most emergency humanitarian operations. I pay tribute to High Commissioner Sadako Ogata for ten years of exemplary leadership in the humanitarian arena and congratulate her successor, former Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers of the Netherlands. IOM will continue its long-standing cooperation with UNHCR in the spirit of humanitarian solidarity, including through the new agreement, concluded last June, that provides for using IOM transport services in most refugee movements.

#### **Fiftieth anniversary**

39. The year 2001 marks the fiftieth anniversary of IOM. Originally created as the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration at a ceremony in Brussels in December 1951, IOM has grown into a worldwide international body with representation and important activities on every continent. We are working with the Government of Belgium on a special event in Brussels. This is highly appropriate but not enough. To mark the new character of IOM, we need in addition to develop commemorative activities not only in the original Member States but especially in the new, growth areas for IOM - Asia and Africa. I invite all Member States to consider how we can work together to use the anniversary to bring greater attention and better informed debate to migration issues in your part of the world.

Annex II

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr. Chairman  
Ladies and gentlemen

1. This is the second year in which I have the privilege of addressing you, the Members of the IOM Council, in my capacity of Deputy Director General.
2. I would like to thank the outgoing Bureau chaired by Ambassador Mollander of Sweden for its availability and the quality of our discussions this year, and of course welcome the Chairman of the incoming Bureau. I am sure that their competence will help to enlighten our discussions.
3. I should firstly like to thank you for the sustained interest you have shown in our work throughout the past year. By the same token, I wish to pay tribute to your constant concern for the efficient functioning of IOM.
4. On this occasion, I should likewise like to thank the Director General, Mr. Brunson McKinley, for his open-mindedness and team spirit that he encourages, both at Headquarters and in our Offices and Missions in your countries. I wish to assure him once again of my faith in this kind of cooperation.
5. I should also like to reiterate the commitments that I made before you a year ago, on 30 November 1999.
6. But I shall begin by recalling that it was in full agreement with the Director General that we decided that I deal in particular with certain issues “which we have taken to heart and which are of strategic importance for the Organization”.
7. The first matter concerns gender issues both within and outside the Organization. Two major issues in this area are: firstly, the formulation of specific projects for migrant women, in order to take account of the growing feminization of migratory flows; and secondly a more equitable balance in the Organization’s recruitment policy. Substantial progress has been achieved in both of these areas.
8. Eight projects have thus been proposed:
  - support for an information campaign on trafficking of persons in the Philippines,
  - preparation of a handbook for researchers and persons working on migrant trafficking issues,

- production of a video film to promote the return of Afghan women doctor refugees in Pakistan,
- provision of funds to start a "health and migration" project to benefit migrant women in Europe,
- a contribution to the distribution costs of a film on abandoned migrant children,
- an information campaign aimed at employers of female domestic labour in Costa Rica,
- a training programme for adolescents in a refugee camp in Kenya awaiting resettlement,
- updating and reissue of the IOM publication on "Trafficking of women from the Dominican Republic for sexual exploitation".

9. With regard to staff gender balance, I am able to announce, as already done at the SCBF, that by the end of September 2000 the percentage of women at all levels had increased to 31 per cent.

10. There is still a need, however, to convince more and more the persons who develop projects within IOM to take this factor into account. Likewise, I must admit that it is necessary to accelerate the balance between men and women within the Organization. The specific "briefings" to put pressure on senior staff should help us.

11. I also want you to know that I participate as often as possible in international meetings concerned with women, especially when it seems appropriate for IOM to introduce migration issues during the discussion.

12. Concluding the gender issue, I would remind you that a year ago I asked you here to help us by allocating more resources for gender issues. Still in the interest of equity, I hereby reiterate this appeal.

13. The second matter concerns relations with the United Nations and other international organizations. These are essential both at the political and diplomatic level and that of the thematic programmes which we develop. Our relations with UNHCR, UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and those mentioned earlier by the Director General, have been strengthened and the same applies to the Bretton Woods institutions. In the area of finance, too, we have sought new partnerships and have begun to establish relations with the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank. New conventions have been signed or are on the point of being signed. In addition, our already existing cooperation agreements are now subject to regular evaluations.

14. Another matter in which we are interested is the integration of French-speaking countries in the Organization, I should say a better integration of French-speaking countries in the Organization, and a greater use of French.

15. Initiatives for the integration of francophone countries have mainly related to African countries. But also to certain French-speaking countries of Asia and the Americas. Visits have already been paid to certain countries in order to meet the authorities to examine the migration problems with which they are faced and to consider, in addition to the desired adhesion, the areas in which a real partnership might be established.

16. It is to be noted that there is a distinct increase in the use of French as a working language in our Organization. But there is still at the translation level a lack of translators from French into English.

17. Another concern is the African continent. I have already stated last year that Africa is also a key region for IOM and that I would be working actively to strengthen our presence there. That is what has been done during general visits and meetings arranged by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), such as the Algiers and Tripoli/Sirte summits in 1999. The objectives were multiple and varied. On every occasion the question was for IOM to strengthen a partnership – both internal (with our regional and national offices in African countries) and external, with governments on the one hand and with subregional and international institutions on the other (particularly with the OAU and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and also with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (UEMOA). During these visits we also had contacts with the regional offices of the UNDP, UNICEF and FAO, with which we are developing or intend to develop specific programmes). The topics dealt with range from post-conflict situations with demobilization and reintegration of soldiers in civilian society, to the training of officials concerned with management of migration flows, passing through the continued implementation of our programme for the Return of highly Qualified African Nationals (RQAN) or through the development of new projects concerning the topic of “migration and AIDS”.

18. Follow-up of our activities with Member States is essential if we are to guarantee the continuation of our actions and relationships. For us, the question is one of a timely response to countries requesting IOM aid, a response in the form of specific and concrete programmes which will help them to foresee crises and to anticipate the undesirable effects of migratory movements. And indeed, this is what we have done by promoting such subregional exercises as the Dakar Conference in October 2000, which culminated in the adoption, at ministerial level, of the so-called “Dakar Declaration”, whereby all the countries of the West African subregion committed themselves to a subregional dialogue and to certain other specific measures, such as the establishment of migration observatories or the initiation of training programmes jointly and in partnership with the subregional institutions to which they belong. It may be noted at this point that our efforts to improve our relations with our partners have led some of our Members to pay their contributions for 2000 in whole or in part.

19. Finally, we thought that a special effort should be made to mobilize the diaspora, wherever it may be, and particularly in the developed countries where qualified persons acquire and develop new skills which should benefit the African countries of origin in one way or another. This could be called “migration for development”. We have thus launched a programme jointly with the (Canadian)

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the ECA in Addis Ababa to mobilize this diaspora and to establish new partnerships, particularly with representative associations of the diaspora here in Europe and with non-governmental organizations. A first meeting was held in Addis Ababa in February 2000, followed by another meeting here in Geneva at IOM Headquarters and a third in Dakar. We are on the point of creating together a large-scale programme in this field. The aim of the programme will be, in the long run, to accompany the RQAN programme, to which I shall return later.

20. As I also foresaw last year, these specific topics are “neither immutable nor definitive” and, in close symbiosis with the Director General, we have expanded our areas of concern.

21. At the internal level, I have followed closely the preparation of budget proposals for the different SCBF meetings. This exercise is made difficult by the fact that we have to take two somewhat paradoxical factors into account. On the one hand, the Organization cannot carry out its mandate unless it is able to respond to the migration management needs of the international community as a whole and of its IOM Member States in particular, which calls for a solid organization of IOM services but also a constantly growing capitalization of our past experiences. This organization takes place through the establishment of offices in Member States and also of Regional Offices capable of observing migration phenomena and organizing -and especially helping countries organize - adequate responses. Such a “preventive” process requires investments, particularly in all parts of the world where potential problems may be detected and in developing countries where “migration and development” must be linked. On the other hand, we have the Member States which either have limited resources and are determined not to increase their contributions to the institutions of the United Nations system and other international organizations. With the IOM staff responsible for drafting proposals, we have tried to ensure the coherence of the proposals prepared, while at the same time taking account of the aspirations of Member States, particularly those of the countries with the most needs, i.e. the countries of the South.

22. We very soon became interested in the problems of the countries and regional institutions of other continents, especially Asia and Latin America. Thus, a first mission took us to Asia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in August 2000 and enabled us to make fruitful contacts with the authorities of these countries, to assess the extent of the problems with which they are faced and above all to hear from these authorities what they expect from IOM. The regional forum of the Asia Pacific Consultations (APC) was an opportunity for me to extend my contacts and to understand the effects, but also the limits of this concertation. In 2001, we hope to visit Viet Nam, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia, as a complement to the work which the Director General has already begun in these countries.

23. With regard to the Middle East, we had the pleasure to visit Jeddah and to establish relations with the Islamic Development Bank. These contacts are promising and we expect this institution soon to finance some of our projects. Also in the Middle East, an appointment has been made with the Yemen authorities for January 2001 in the context of a cooperation agreement.

24. Finally, I should like to share with you our vision for the future.
- (a) Following the example of Latin America, we thought that a strategic document would be required to anchor Africa firmly in IOM practices. Such an exercise is complex and delicate and that is why we will be proceeding by stages and successive consultations with you. You will find the first version prepared by IOM among the Council documents and we are looking forward to receiving your comments and suggestions. On this basis, we hope to be able to prepare an improved version on which it will be possible to build a short-, medium- and long-term action plan.
  - (b) With regard to developing countries in general, we are convinced of the need to strengthen their capacity for dealing with migration phenomena. Many countries need to train their officials, to install networks to collect and analyse data on the movements of their populations, whether they are within their national territories, across their frontiers with neighbouring countries or towards more distant countries. Only if these structures exist and are functional will such countries be able to define and apply a migration policy. The training includes that of staff specialized in dealing with the populations most “at risk”, such as women and children, who need special attention. We feel that this type of action, primordial for the developing countries which need it, should be carried out also at the regional level, in partnership with the organizations that the countries have established. Accordingly, IOM should promote “regional dialogues” that can improve diplomatic contacts and consultative procedures among the countries of a region. This is the case of the “MIDSA” (Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa) which the Director General has just mentioned, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Following the Dakar appeal in October 2000, we hope that a dialogue process could also be created in West Africa as well as Central Africa and East Africa (the Maghreb being included in the Mediterranean area).
  - (c) Finally, our RQAN (Return of Qualified African Nationals) programme will also give us an opportunity to develop and test new concepts in Africa. Indeed, this programme which has contributed greatly to our renown in the area of returns and enabled us to return some 2,000 highly-qualified volunteers to their homes since 1983, has been evaluated by the European Union, with the resulting recommendations that not only should the programme be continued, but that the partnership should be expanded. IOM hopes that this new phase of the RQAN will continue to help the countries of the South to reach out to their expatriate qualified nationals on the basis of the voluntary return of individuals and of well identified needs and negotiated cooperation agreements in which the commitments of the parties are made perfectly clear. IOM also would like this new phase of the RQAN to be innovative: (1) that the process of conceptualization and implementation should involve not only the governments of the beneficiary countries (countries of origin) but also the host countries and the associations of the diaspora and of former migrants (countries of return), as well as all the forces affecting employment in Africa, particularly the private sector of the South as of the North. In reality it is the private sector which are at present creating employment in the countries of the South, since the governments are undergoing many structural adjustment programmes and conditions which limit the total wage bill of the public sector of the countries of return; (2) that this new programme should be of interest to both

nationals of the country of origin as well as former nationals (who have adopted another nationality); (3) that the new RQAN may also be temporary and/or sequential, or even virtual, i.e. that the investments may be made from the host country; and (4) that emphasis may be put also on francophone countries, which have been somewhat neglected during earlier phases. The reconceptualization seminar will be of interest to all potential participants and IOM through qualified experts both from governments and from institutions of the North and the South.

- (d) With regard to Asia and Latin America, the major problems of the countries and institutions of these regions which will be of concern to us in the future are: the settlement of post-conflict situations; trafficking, especially in persons; the special situation of women and children; the pandemics that accompany migration, and so forth. We will visit a number of these countries in 2001; we think that a field visit is always a more enriching experience.

The Puebla Process has been and will remain exemplary for us. We plan to participate more in these meetings and be able to visualize globally all the problems relating to migration management in these regions.

- (e) Finally, in general, we should like IOM expertise to be taken more into consideration wherever pertinent and particularly on the agendas of the main United Nations agencies or major international institutions. Thus, along the lines of our participation in the Durban meeting on HIV/AIDS this year, we should like to be associated with other worldwide meetings such as the one of the least developed countries which is to convene in Brussels in May 2001 at the initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), or such continental meetings as the summit of OAU Heads of State in Zambia in July 2001 or the World Conference against Racism foreseen to be held by the United Nations in 2001 in Durban, South Africa.

25. Apart from our search for more financial resources, we are seeking above all to enhance our political image and the recognition of our *savoir-faire* and finally of the great challenges that accompany the migratory movements in the world and the development of our countries. This is a difficult task to which I intend to devote all my efforts, side by side with the Director General.