

EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 29 November 2000, at 3.25 p.m.

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

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Agenda item 14

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS
FOR THE PERIOD 2001-2003 (continued)
 (MC/2013, MC/L/1000)

1. The LEGAL ADVISER announced the results of the informal secret ballot taken at the previous meeting as follows:

Number of ballot papers distributed to Members present	:	63
Number of ballot papers taken from the ballot box	:	63
Number of abstentions	:	None
Number of invalid ballot papers	:	6
Number of valid ballot papers	:	57
Number of votes in favour of Norway	:	29
Number of votes in favour of the Philippines	:	18
Number of votes in favour of the United Republic of Tanzania	:	10

2. In accordance with the agreed procedure, the candidates from Norway and the Philippines were retained for a formal round of voting, the candidate from the United Republic of Tanzania having obtained the least number of votes.

3. In accordance with the agreed procedure and on the basis of Article 29 of the Constitution and Rules 38 and 45 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, a formal ballot was taken to select one of the two remaining candidates.

4. At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. Selim Labib (Egypt) and Mr. Borisovas (Lithuania) acted as tellers.

5. The CHAIRMAN announced the results of the vote as follows:

Number of ballot papers distributed to Members present	:	62
Number of ballot papers taken from the ballot box	:	62
Number of votes cast	:	62
Number of invalid ballot papers	:	1
Number of valid ballot papers	:	61
Number of votes in favour of Norway	:	33
Number of votes in favour of the Philippines	:	28

6. Consequently, he declared the Auditor General of Norway duly elected External Auditors of the International Organization for Migration for the period 2001-2003.

7. The draft resolution on the Appointment of External Auditors (MC/L/999) completed with the name of the Auditor General of Norway was adopted.

Agenda item 12

IOM MIGRATION POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(MC/INF/244)

8. The DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL introduced document MC/INF/244 which provided further information on IOM's strategic policy for sub-Saharan Africa. Throughout Africa, political, economic and cultural changes were giving rise to new migratory flows which were increasingly difficult to manage. Common features of such migration flows included: the movement of large groups of displaced persons in very precarious situations either inside a country or from one country to another as a result of conflict; movement of people from one country to another within Africa or towards other continents in search of better working and living conditions; needs connected with the rehabilitation of those migrant populations and the reconstruction of countries to establish conditions favourable to human security and development; health problems or pandemics that followed migrants and their families; all forms of migrant trafficking, particularly affecting women and children. Those challenges were increasingly difficult to meet as donor interest in the region had declined in recent years. There was nevertheless evidence of the determination of African countries to tackle their own problems and IOM offered its assistance in partnership with those countries to establish concrete programmes to alleviate migration-related problems, and to assist countries to build up their technical capacity to manage such migration flows.

9. It was important to review sub-Saharan country situations on the basis of past achievements and to consider how IOM could analyse trends and devise forward-looking response strategies. Document MC/INF/244 was a working document which constituted a first step in that direction and was intended to be used as a guide for preparing a plan of action to face the major challenges of African migration.

10. Mr. HUNTER (United States) expressed his delegation's appreciation for the information document and welcomed the Deputy Director General's report on the activities which she was promoting in that region.

11. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Council request the Administration to review document MC/INF/244, incorporating any comments received from Member States so that it might be used as a basis for a plan of action to achieve realistic and satisfactory migration management.

12. On that understanding, the Council took note of document MC/INF/244.

Agenda item 13

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: UPDATE AND PERSPECTIVES
(MC/INF/245)

13. Mr. GRAMEGNA (Head of the Counter-Trafficking Service) recalled that an information document "Trafficking in migrants: IOM policy and responses" (MC/EX/INF/58) had been submitted

at the June 1999 session of the Executive Committee, giving a brief description and definition of the problem, with the implications for IOM's programme. That document had served as a basis for subsequent work, after which the current update (MC/INF/245) had been drafted.

14. Raising a question of terminology, he pointed out that a Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had established an official translation of the English term "trafficking" as "trata" in Spanish and "traite" in French. The English term "smuggling" had been translated as "tráfico" in Spanish and "trafic" in French. In IOM, however, the words "tráfico" and "trata" continued to be interchangeable for the moment and in the context of the present debate the word "tráfico" corresponded to "trafficking" in English. IOM would, of course, gradually align its terminology upon that of the United Nations.

15. Counter-trafficking measures in IOM included the establishment of a network of counter-trafficking focal points in each of IOM's Field Offices. There were currently 59 counter-trafficking projects already under way or in process of development, targeting 49 countries in Africa, Asia, Central, Eastern and Western Europe and Latin America as well as one global assistance project covering all developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Those activities corresponded to individual governments' needs with regard to awareness-raising and capacity building, protection of and assistance to individual victims of trafficking.

16. Document MC/INF/245 gave a brief summary of activities in each region, which were carried out in each case in close cooperation with regional bodies (see paragraphs 8 to 11 of document MC/INF/245). Part III of the document listed the various components of IOM's strategic approach to trafficking in persons including: regional and subregional strategies; comprehensive integrated responses; global rapid response to stranded persons; reintegration assistance as an integral part of return programmes; HIV/AIDS and STD prevention and assistance; research on trafficking; closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other intergovernmental organizations; enhanced technical cooperation; and closer cooperation with international and national law enforcement institutions and enhanced training and exchange of information in migrant trafficking. He added that a list of projects on counter-trafficking within IOM was now available, although currently only in English. Trafficking in persons affected most countries of the world and made millions of victims, particularly women and children who fell into the hands of criminal organizations often through lack of opportunities in their countries of origin. Cooperation between and with Member States was essential for the eradication of those problems.

17. Mr. SCHOLZ (Austria) welcomed the impressive list of IOM's counter-trafficking activities. There was growing consensus that irregular migration was harmful to all the parties involved, both sending and receiving countries, and the migrants themselves. The situation became worse when it was inter-linked with human trafficking. IOM had considerable experience and expertise to contribute in that field, and its regional and comprehensive approaches to counter-trafficking in the Balkans and South Eastern Europe were particularly praiseworthy. His country attached great importance to better and more cost-effective use of available resources and urged IOM to take a coordinated approach based on cooperation with the OSCE, the Stability Pact and the European Commission. The signing of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime including its Protocol to Prevent,

Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which would take place in December 2000, and the recent endorsement by the OSCE Ministerial Council of the OSCE's enhanced efforts to combat the trafficking in human beings in the Euro-Atlantic region, provided ample evidence of the common determination of all involved to eradicate such criminal practices.

18. Ms. KONRAD (Chairperson of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, addressed the Council also in her capacity as Regional Coordinator on trafficking in human beings for South East Europe under the auspices of OSCE, with which IOM cooperated closely to combat trafficking in the Balkan region. One of her objectives was to further strengthen cooperation with partner organizations, in particular IOM, since no single institution or country was, on its own, able to combat effectively the problem of trafficking in persons, which especially affected women and children.

19. Such trafficking was expanding dramatically and, with globalization, had taken on an added dimension. Trafficking was likely to increase world wide on account of weak economies and few employment opportunities, particularly for women, in many countries of the world especially those in transition; low risk of prosecution; enormous potential profit for traffickers; and improved international transportation infrastructures. Since trafficking in human beings was an underground industry, accurate statistics did not exist, but governmental and non-governmental experts estimated that between 700,000 and 2 million women and children were trafficked globally every year. Her organization had consequently launched a project which was to be carried out by IOM, to provide a comprehensive database on trafficking in human beings to, through and from the Balkan region. The first results were to be expected at the end of 2000.

20. The causes of trafficking were complex and although there were numerous contributing factors, the primary root cause was poverty, particularly among women. The recently published biennial report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) had shown that the drop in levels of women's employment in Eastern Europe during its transition to a market economy had been dramatic, in some cases amounting to 40 per cent. Trafficking had its roots in socio-economic and gender inequalities and had broad implications for stability, democratization and the rule of law, particularly in post-conflict areas. It had become a new fast-growing and highly lucrative business with vast profits and strong potential for organized crime, involving both loosely associated networks and major criminal syndicates. Trafficking in persons was also connected with other related criminal activities such as racketeering, money laundering, bribery, drug use and gambling. It could not thrive without corruption and there were no ethnic barriers between criminals. Unfortunately trafficking in human beings was often seen by governments as substantially less important than other crimes and was not given the attention it deserved, with the result that its transnational aspects were overlooked.

21. On the positive side, there was a growing willingness to learn about the issue and to address the organized crime aspects of the problem, as a result of awareness that solutions could only be found with the active participation of government authorities in every sector. The Stability Pact Task Force had therefore initiated the designation of governmental coordinators within each country, so as to ensure coordination within governments, and with all bodies involved in counter-trafficking at national, regional and international levels. The Task Force could provide a framework for local initiatives, while

simultaneously ensuring that there were regional and international components in each part of the anti-trafficking chain. Coordination on all aspects was essential for the fight against trafficking to be successful. In that context, she expressed her thanks to the newly-appointed IOM Chief of Mission at the Regional Office in Vienna for taking over the function of coordinator of one of the most important areas of concern, namely return and reintegration assistance. The call for enhanced cooperation, coordination and a pragmatic division of labour continued to be relevant, so as to avoid needless competition between institutions and to ensure the efficient use of resources. The Stability Pact and its Task Force had the capacity to provide political and financial support for the work already being undertaken, so the challenge was now to establish a platform for practical action, on the basis of a close partnership between OSCE, IOM and the Stability Pact.

22. Ms. BELLO DE KEMPER (Dominican Republic) welcomed IOM's interest in measures to combat trafficking in persons which often stemmed from unfavourable and inequitable social and economic conditions. The twenty-first century would witness an increase in illegal migration and trafficking, especially of women, if the root causes of the problem were not dealt with, firstly at national level. It must be recognized that people fell victim to trafficking because of lack of education, training and employment and that women and minors were particularly vulnerable groups. An intersectoral effort was required at national level to disseminate information and provide new training opportunities for the more vulnerable sectors of society, and international involvement, especially in the receiving countries, was also essential.

23. The delegates of the Latin American missions in Geneva had included international trafficking in migrants and relevant punitive measures in the working paper for the forthcoming regional conference in preparation for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and other Related Forms of Intolerance. She also drew attention to the conclusions and recommendations of two recent conferences on women and migration which should be reflected in IOM's approach to the problem and urged all countries to establish national plans of action to combat trafficking in persons.

24. Ms. POSADA CORRALES (Colombia) said that her country had always experienced major migration flows and was now facing the problem of trafficking in human beings, especially in the more vulnerable groups such as women and children. Such problems should be addressed through a coordinated approach, involving governments, IOM, the international community, non-governmental organizations and civil society.

25. As an increasing number of Colombian nationals were being trafficked to other countries, IOM had organized a training seminar on migration and trafficking for 25 Colombian consuls throughout the world, with the participation of a Colombian non-governmental organization concerned with trafficking in women. The conclusions of the seminar had emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach including as many actors as possible, with mechanisms for training officials in migration matters and making the public more aware of the problem.

26. A high-level expert conference on trafficking, held recently in Bogotá, had recommended a joint institutional approach with increased international cooperation in counter-trafficking and legal cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination; had stressed that trafficking should be

recognized as a crime and sanctioned by the international community through the International Court of Justice; and had highlighted the need for international cooperation in order to develop appropriate preventive measures and to provide assistance to the victims of trafficking.

27. Urging IOM to continue its counter-trafficking programme, she appealed to donor countries and countries receiving trafficked migrants to join forces in order to develop a common strategy. She also urged IOM to establish a counter-trafficking programme and corresponding plan of action in Colombia.

28. Mr. THEVENAZ (Switzerland) stressed that trafficking in human beings was a violation of fundamental human rights. Such illicit practices had increased through clandestine networks, to such a degree that they had now become a major aspect of illegal migration. His country was deeply concerned by the rise of that phenomenon which called for strong, concerted action by the international community. Switzerland fully supported IOM's efforts to develop a coherent counter-trafficking strategy and welcomed its action in the field of prevention and assistance to victims of trafficking. Document MC/INF/245 highlighted the need for a comprehensive regional approach which included closer cooperation between national public authorities in legal and social fields, information campaigns and programmes for support to victims and reinsertion. Switzerland also invited IOM to strengthen its cooperation with NGOs and with other international institutions in that field, notably the OSCE. His country's support was not confined merely to the expression of principles but included the financing of certain IOM programmes which it intended to continue.

29. Mr. HUNTER (United States of America) commended IOM for its participation in the development of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols against migrant trafficking and smuggling recently finalized in Vienna, and in particular the collaborative work carried out by IOM, UNHCR and other agencies to ensure that basic protection principles were fully incorporated in those instruments. He urged governments to consider signing those protocols at the earliest opportunity.

30. The United States Government had made extensive efforts to combat trafficking both domestically and throughout the world – measures which would be strengthened by the recently established comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation which covered prevention, protection of and assistance to victims, and prosecution of traffickers. He commended IOM for its work on trafficking, in particular the anti-trafficking information campaigns in the Czech Republic. In 2000 the United States had provided support for similar efforts to combat trafficking in women in Bulgaria, Romania and Albania and had contributed to a global fund supporting IOM's efforts in Africa, Latin America and Asia to assist the return of women and children who were victims of trafficking. His delegation welcomed document MC/INF/245 and emphasized the need for IOM to coordinate its activities with other related initiatives, including the work of non-governmental organizations which was particularly relevant to IOM's involvement in reintegration activities.

31. Mr. GIUCA (Australia), welcoming document MC/INF/245, said that IOM was well placed to play an important catalytic role in finding acceptable solutions to the problems faced by countries affected by people smuggling and trafficking, whether they be countries of origin, transit or destination. Trafficking in women and children was a major global problem calling for a comprehensive response at

many levels. It could not be dealt with in isolation, but was part of the broader phenomenon of illegal migration which involved increasingly mixed flows of people, including asylum seekers, economic migrants, and victims of trafficking and smuggling. It was vital that countries work together to implement coordinated comprehensive and integrated responses to illegal migration. Those responses must also address the problem of protection for genuine asylum seekers caught up in the illegal migration flows, support for the victims of trafficking and the rights of countries to manage the orderly movement of people across their borders. In that context UNHCR has a key role to play in ensuring that the international protection system responded to the needs of refugees. IOM had a valuable contribution to make by providing practical assistance in dealing with the migration management aspects of the problems, e.g. accommodation, food, emergency medical assistance, and return.

32. Australia was working closely with IOM and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region to address the problem of illegal migration including trafficking of women and children. IOM had played an important role in encouraging a regional response to people movement issues in the Asia-Pacific region, notably through its support for the development of the Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC), a key forum for considering illegal migration at regional level, to which IOM had contributed by developing coherent and sustainable strategies against people smuggling and trafficking. His delegation urged countries to sign the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and in particular its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

33. Australia urged IOM to continue to support regional dialogue and assist countries in the region to achieve concrete results to combat the problem of people smuggling in general and trafficking in women and children in particular.

34. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria), welcoming document MC/INF/245, said that it would appear that trafficking in persons followed mainly a South-North, East-West direction in which the countries of destination were the developed countries. Trafficking in women was linked closely to prostitution, trafficking in children often also concerned the legal or illegal adoption of children, as well as paedophilia, and trafficking in men related to exploitation of underpaid labour or even slavery, for all of which the countries of destination tended to be the developed countries. However, there seemed to be a discrepancy between that fact and the content of paragraph 2 of the document which stated that the sheer scale and cost – socially and financially – of trafficking had escalated well beyond the capacities of some of the hardest hit countries hosting victims of trafficking. In his view, it was rather the countries of origin and transit that were the hardest hit socially and financially and should receive assistance from IOM, particularly with regard to capacity building to deal with those situations.

35. Trafficking in persons was a transnational crime calling for transnational responses including strategic regional or subregional approaches. It was important that countries should sign the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. He would also have welcomed a reference in document MC/INF/245 to INTERPOL with which IOM should develop its cooperation.

36. Mr. GRAMEGNA (Head of the Counter-Trafficking Service) thanked Members of the Council for their contributions and suggestions, which would be taken into account in the preparation of IOM's future counter-trafficking programmes – in particular the emphasis on further cooperation with other international organizations and non-governmental organizations dealing with reintegration aspects, and on a sharper focus on conflict and post-conflict situations.

37. In response to the delegate of Algeria, he said that cooperation against trafficking should of course involve countries of origin, transit and destination, but should also be adjusted to the situation in each country. Cooperation in countries of origin should focus on alleviating problems such as poverty and unemployment which were among the causes of trafficking, but countries of transit and destination were also faced with other problems which deserved attention.

38. The Council took note of document MC/INF/245.

Agenda item 15

OTHER ITEMS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (MC/2016, MC/2015, MC/INF/242)

(a) Outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget

39. Ms. CALLANGAN-RUECA (Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance) said that the Subcommittee had noted with appreciation the efforts made by some Member States to pay their arrears, but had noted with concern that the current situation showed no improvement over the previous year and that the large amount of contributions outstanding had an impact on the capacity of the Administration to manage the programmes for which it was responsible. It had urged all Member States, particularly those with contributions outstanding for two or more consecutive years, to pay their contributions in full or to agree to a repayment plan, making a first payment as soon as possible.

40. The ADMINISTRATION reported on payments received since the previous meeting of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance. Ecuador had paid CHF 215,872, which represented full payment of all its prior years' contributions. Tajikistan had paid CHF 16,200 and Uganda CHF 5,052. Outstanding contributions for previous years now amounted to CHF 3,989,817.

41. The Council endorsed the views of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance.

(b) Human resources policy in IOM (MC/INF/242) Statement by a representative of the Staff Association

42. Ms. CALLANGAN-RUECA (Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance) said that the Director of Human Resources had provided an overview of IOM's human resources policy, pointing to the various initiatives that the Administration had taken to address issues that were of interest

and concern to the staff and to Member States. The Administration had provided clarifications to specific questions raised by some delegations. The Subcommittee had then heard a statement by the representative of the Staff Association.

43. The Subcommittee had taken note of the document on Human Resources Policy in IOM and had invited the Administration to continue to update the information contained therein and keep Member States informed on a regular basis, taking into account the comments made by Member States regarding the document. The Subcommittee had also taken note with appreciation of the statement made by the representative of the Staff Association.

44. The Council took note of the conclusions of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance on the Human Resources Policy in IOM and on the statement by a representative of the Staff Association.

Agenda item 16

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

45. There was no other business.

Agenda item 17

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

(MC/L/1000)

46. The CHAIRMAN informed the Council that accommodation had been tentatively reserved at the Palais des Nations for the Eighty-fifth Session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance on 9 and 10 May 2001; for the Ninety-eighth Session of the Executive Committee on 6 and 7 June 2001; for the Eighty-sixth Session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance on 30 and 31 October 2001; and for the next regular session of the Council, from 27 to 29 November 2001. Those arrangements were subject to the agreement of the Council.

47. He then invited the Council to consider the draft resolution on the convening of its next regular session (MC/L/1000).

48. The draft resolution on the convening of the next regular session of the Council (MC/L/1000) was adopted.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

49. The CHAIRMAN expressed his appreciation to all Members of the Council on having successfully completed the work of the session and thanked the Legal Adviser, the Secretariat and the interpreters for their valuable contributions to the success of the Eightieth Session of the Council.

50. The Eightieth Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration was closed on Wednesday, 29 November 2000, at 5 p.m.