

EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 27 November 2001, at 3.20 p.m.

Moderator: Mr. B. McKINLEY (Director General of IOM)

<u>Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
Panel discussion: Migration challenges for the 21 st century	1

Summary records of meetings of the governing bodies are subject to correction.

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

Agenda item 7

PANEL DISCUSSION:
MIGRATION CHALLENGES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Moderator: Mr. B. McKINLEY, Director General of IOM

1. The DIRECTOR GENERAL welcomed the participants to the Panel Discussion, introduced the expert panellists and invited them to give their presentations, covering three main topics: demography, trade and globalization, and integration of migrants.
2. Mr. CHAMIE (Director, United Nations Population Division, New York) gave a presentation addressing the implications of demographic projections for international migration policy. He said that the present time was the most exciting period in the world's history to be a demographer. Indeed, the twentieth century had achieved more records and more unprecedented changes than all the other centuries combined. The world population, which until the end of the eighteenth century was well below 1 billion, had quadrupled during the twentieth century to 6.1 billion persons. For thousands of years people had worked mainly in rural areas but current trends showed a massive population shift to urban areas, which had great social, economic and political significance. In 1960 the world population was growing at its maximum rate, namely at approximately 2 per cent, whereas the growth rate had now decreased to 1.2 per cent. The period between 1960 and 1999, during which the population had risen from 3 to 6 billion, was the shortest time in human history in which the world population had doubled. At the beginning of the twentieth century, average life expectancy was 30 years, whereas today it was approximately 65 years and, in his view, the changes and improvements in mortality and life expectancy were the greatest single achievement of humanity. At the same time, there had been unprecedented declines in fertility, with a reduction of family sizes from six to a current level below three persons. The twentieth century had also seen increased urbanization and the emergence of megacities: in 1950 the only megacity had been New York, while today there were scores of them in the world, which also had important implications for migration.
3. Commenting on predictions as to the demographic future of the new century, it was estimated that there would be 3 billion more people in the next 50 years and nearly all of that growth would be in the developing countries. The growth rate had declined and would continue to come down, basically because of declining fertility, particularly in the developed countries. There would be lower mortality and people would live longer: in fact a life expectancy of 100 or 125 no longer seemed an impossibility.
4. Another important transformation was that the population was ageing, which implied a changing relationship between the young and the old. Some years ago there had been a historic reversal, where for the first time in history, there had been more elderly persons than children. Society would become increasingly urbanized and there would be greater global migration. It was anticipated that by 2050, the world's fertility rate as a whole would be very close to replacement rate, with enormous growth in the least developed countries and a shrinking population in the developed ones. Projections showed that the United States population, currently estimated at 283 million, would increase to nearly 400 million, 80 per cent of that growth being due to international migration, so that the United States would be receiving more migrants than any other country in the world. Numbers were increasing particularly fast in the

developing world. In 1950, there had been two persons in developing countries for every person in developed ones, whereas the ratio was now 4 to 1, and by 2050 the ratio would be 7 to 1. Today six countries contributed half of that growth, namely China, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia and, in particular, India. In 1950, Europe had had approximately three times as many people as Africa, today they were even, but by 2050, Africa's population would be three times as large as Europe's. Further statistics showed that Europe's percentage of the world population was continually shrinking; India was growing faster than China, and Pakistan's population was growing much faster than that of the Russian Federation.

5. The ageing of the world population, especially in the developed countries, with increasing percentages of persons over 65, had a major impact on the potential support ratio, i.e. the changing ratio between workers and retirees, which in turn would greatly influence migration, as the developed countries would have to import an increasingly large work force in order to support its elderly population. The changing complexion of society had enormous economic, social and political significance, with implications for pension schemes, health care systems and for society as a whole. In developed countries, people would have to work to an unacceptably high age if they were to provide for the retired population. However, in recent years, roughly 40 per cent of countries had wished to reduce immigration. Yet if there was no inflow of immigrants, the population in the developed world would inevitably decline. Even with immigration, statistics showed that it was impossible to stop the ageing process of the work force by migration.

6. In conclusion, he pointed out that there were enormous differences in all countries between socio-economic groups and, even in developed countries, there were rich and poor people. Hence behind statistics, averages and trends, there was great diversity. What should be done? Often government reactions to demographic statistics consisted of denying their accuracy, delaying in taking action and in many cases, doing nothing. In contrast to such an approach, he suggested that governments take a bold approach, facing the future challenges inherent in the demographic trends and providing the human, financial and other resources to meet them. Enlightened leadership was essential in a world where some lived in comfort and plenty, while half of the human race lived on less than two dollars a day.

7. The DIRECTOR GENERAL thanked Mr. Chamie for his presentation and invited participants to ask questions or make comments.

8. Ms. BELLO DE KEMPER (Dominican Republic) said that although migratory movements might have positive effects, such as promoting understanding between cultures as a result of ethnic intermingling, they might also have serious disadvantages such as major population increases in the host countries. While developed countries managed to assimilate such increases and maintain reasonable levels of education and welfare among the population, developing countries receiving migrants would not be in the same position and faced a future of increasing poverty, illiteracy and hunger.

9. Mr. CHAMIE replied that analyses by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicated that, taken overall, there would be sufficient quantities of food for the world in future. The problem was not so much the amount of food available as the lack of social, political and economic systems for delivering food to people in need. It was now urgent

to face the challenges of education, poverty and hunger without further delay, so as to ensure that in the next 50 years many more of the developing countries would have moved gradually into the category of developed countries.

10. Mr. PARY (Indian Movement Tupac Amaru, Bolivia), representing a non-governmental organization and speaking at the invitation of the Director General, expressed concern for the future in view of the dramatic population trends which had been described. Perhaps humanity was moving towards chaos, precisely because of globalization, as a result of which riches were being transferred overnight from poorer countries to richer countries, leaving the poorer countries without resources and forcing their populations to emigrate in search of better working and living conditions. Such development patterns were disorderly, anarchical and irrational, resulting in unequal distribution of natural resources and leading to chaos. He inquired whether Mr. Chamie shared the theory whereby resources increased by only a minimum while populations increased three- or four-fold - a situation which could only lead to hunger and famine.

11. Mr. CHAMIE said that he did not subscribe to that view and did not believe that the world was moving towards chaos as a result of globalization. On the contrary, many situations had improved immensely. In 1900, for example, the average life expectancy was 30 years, women died in childbirth, people died before they reached retirement and children died in infancy. In comparison, the health situation in 2001 reflected major progress. Given the past situation and present trends, therefore, there was room for cautious optimism with regard to the future.

12. The second expert panellist, Mr. MAMDOUH (Director, Trade in Services, World Trade Organization), speaking on the implications of globalization and trade liberalization for international migration policy, said that traditionally trade had always been a substitute for migration. International trade consisted in goods being produced in one economy then crossing the border into another economy in another country, and the corresponding payments crossing the border in the opposite direction. For trade in services, however, that definition was not valid because the supply of a service often required the physical proximity of the consumer and the producer and therefore also involved simultaneity of production and consumption. In the context of WTO, therefore, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) had had to include a broader definition of trade, covering the supply of any service through any mode of supply, for example: cross-border supply through telecommunications and the Internet; consumption abroad, with the consumer going to the country of the producer, as in tourism; commercial presence such as the establishment of the branch of a bank or insurance company; and the cross-border movement of natural persons such as lawyers, accountants or nurses, to supply a service in another country.

13. It should be borne in mind that the GATS was a legal framework which covered temporary movement of people only incidentally in the context of supply of services, but did not cover migration in the full sense of the term. It was the host country which decided on the length of stay of the persons in question. If a person moved to another country and started functioning as the supplier of a service, however, longer-term migration might be involved and the legal coverage of WTO or the GATS would cease to apply. When the GATS had been negotiated in the Uruguay Round and the first package of commitments to liberalize the supply of services internationally by measures which included the movement of natural persons had been negotiated, the question of cross-border movements of persons as a subject for trade negotiations in the legal framework had emerged as an extremely sensitive political issue, because it touched

on the immigration policies of all countries, both developed and developing. The commitments negotiated had therefore been limited in coverage and of doubtful effectiveness. They were confined to limited categories of persons such as managers, executives or specialists within the context of intra-corporate transfers, in which people were transferred within the same corporation from one country to another or followed the establishment of a commercial presence in the export market. If Switzerland, for example, was establishing a new bank to supply banking services in Pakistan, then the liberalization commitment of Pakistan would cover only those people who would be working in that branch. That would exclude natural persons who were independent service suppliers, i.e. service suppliers who would move to another market to supply a service in their personal capacity, such as lawyers, accountants, nurses, doctors, software specialists or any person not part of a legal entity.

14. In the current round of negotiations, considerable progress had been made, new proposals had been put forward and regulators and negotiators were adopting a different approach to the matter, which had now become the subject of common interest to both developed and developing countries alike. Discussions on immigration policies and administrative procedures were more open and covered the examination and streamlining of, for example, visa procedures, work permits or access to social security facilities. It was essential to simplify and speed those procedures. For example, nine out of every ten lawyers currently travelled abroad with tourist visas because the process of obtaining business visas was cumbersome and completely impractical. The possibility of issuing a GATS visa designed to administer the liberalization commitments undertaken under the GATS was to be proposed - a fact which reflected a new willingness to examine such matters seriously. During the current negotiations, developed and developing countries were reviewing their existing procedures and policies and making new commitments, in order to launch a broader agenda for negotiations and give fresh impetus to the services negotiations, including those relating to liberalization of the movement of natural persons.

15. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said he looked forward to increased cooperation between WTO and IOM in future.

16. The third expert panellist, Mr. KAZANCIGIL (Deputy Director General for Social and Human Sciences, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), speaking on behalf of the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, congratulated IOM on its fiftieth anniversary and on the work it had accomplished since its establishment in 1951. International migration, the integration of migrants and the preservation of cultures were aspects of migration which were of interest to both IOM and UNESCO.

17. Cross-border population flows led to increasing diversity within societies which called for policies and programmes that respected the rights of migrants and underscored the benefits of cultural and ethnic diversity in societies and the need for tolerance, mutual understanding and shared values within populations. Such considerations had given rise, over the years, to a number of key legal instruments which formed an international framework for action – for example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities, 1992, and the International Convention on the

Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, 1990, as well as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965.

18. The need for policy responses to diversity in multicultural societies was becoming increasingly acute. Some time previously, UNESCO had developed three definitions of multiculturalism, the first focusing on the existence of ethnically cultural diverse segments of the population, the second on specific types of programmes and policy initiatives designed to manage diversity and promote social cohesion, and the third on ideological and normative aspects, which had given rise to considerable debate on the sociological, ethical and philosophical foundations of diversity: how far a society could accept diversity, what was the right balance in each society between unity and diversity and between respect for the identities and rights of immigrants and of the autochthonous populations. Such considerations went beyond the cultural sphere and involved socio-economic differences, inequalities, poverty and discrimination, all of which had to be combated in order to prevent conflict and violence.

19. Other factors to be taken into account were the changing nature of multi-ethnic and multicultural societies due to international migration, and the changing characteristics of migrants in terms of origin and gender. Women were being increasingly involved in labour migration and often found themselves in the position of victims of trafficking or discrimination. There were increased flows of highly-skilled technical professionals and managers, on the one hand, and of unskilled labourers, on the other. Illegal migration controlled by international criminal organizations had become a major problem, leaving migrants stranded in foreign countries without legal status.

20. The increase in international migration in the 1980s and 1990s related mainly to four or five categories: refugee movements, asylum seeking, permanent migration, contract labour and illegal migration, and would continue, not only on account of demographic factors but also of transnational flows of information, commodities, capital and persons which accompanied globalization. New migration policies and control mechanisms might reduce those movements but would not stop them completely. There was therefore a need to manage migration flows through agreed long-term strategies and policies involving both the sending countries and the receiving countries, with support from the international organizations.

21. The broader applicability of multicultural policies as a response to the impact of migration was a complex issue covering many areas: language policies, educational policies which included the teaching of native languages in schools, the existence of media in those languages, housing, health and welfare problems, the legal status of immigrants, equality in educational opportunities, access to employment, representation, exercise of citizenship and autonomy. The corresponding policy choices were very difficult and also involved information enabling the local populations to feel less insecure and to change their attitudes in the face of foreign immigration.

22. Countries that developed participatory approaches to understanding and regulating the social changes induced by such population movements were better able to generate positive results in terms of relation between the local populations and the migrant populations. In many cases there was a certain dissociation between nationality and citizenship, as migrants obtaining citizenship rights did not necessarily regard themselves as nationals of the country. An effort would have to be made to overcome such dissociation and to achieve greater recognition of the identities of migrant populations and acceptance of their differences. International migration and

integration issues should also be related to sustainable development, not only in terms of the environment but also in economic and social terms. In UNESCO such issues were addressed through the MOST (Management of Social Transformations) programme. It was important that the international organizations pool their resources and develop joint activities. UNESCO would be willing to work with IOM to produce a feasibility study on ways and means of developing joint programmes on aspects of international migration of interest to both organizations.

23. The DIRECTOR GENERAL welcomed the suggestion that IOM and UNESCO, whose mandates converged on certain aspects of migration, should work together on joint programme activities.

24. Mr. VEER (Netherlands), referring to the multicultural dimension of migration stressed the urgency of finding ways of solving problems in multicultural societies. In his country, optimism had given way to increasing pessimism, particularly concerning the situation in the large cities in Europe. Socio-economic developments, cultural developments and demographic developments, including the pressure of international migration, did not really come together in a harmonized way. At the moment more than 30 per cent of people living in Amsterdam were not of Dutch origin and estimates showed that that figure would rise to 50 per cent over the next 20 years. Urgent measures were therefore required to cope with that multicultural situation.

25. Mr. KAZANCIGIL agreed that the original theories concerning multiculturalism had now given way to a certain puzzlement. Even the best intentioned governments, like the Dutch Government, simply were at a loss to know what to do. Furthermore the receiving countries were now not only the richer industrialized countries but also included many countries in the developing world which further complicated the situation. There was therefore a need for international debate on the subject in order to establish a joint international migration strategy which would be acceptable to the North and to the South.

26. The fourth expert panellist, Mrs. FRITH (Director General, Integration Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada), addressing measures to combat racism and xenophobia through integration policy, said that immigration had always played a central role in Canada's history. Prior to 1960, immigration policies had favoured the British and other Europeans, whereas in the past four decades, two-thirds of immigrants had come from non-traditional source countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Today immigration was a largely urban phenomenon, with more than 85 per cent of immigrants settling in cities. It was predictable that migrants would constitute 20 per cent of the Canadian population by 2016.

27. As Canada's mosaic now included most races, religions and cultures, it was expected to become more diverse with time, so that integration meant finding a two-way process of accommodation between newcomers and Canadians. Canadian policy consciously welcomed all immigrants and endeavoured to ensure their full participation in economic, social, political and cultural life, with a view to the acquisition of citizenship after a relatively short period of time. 85 per cent of immigrants took that step, although research showed that full integration sometimes required several generations. They were free to settle anywhere in Canada and strongly encouraged to respect Canadian laws. Racial violence was not tolerated and frameworks existed to ensure equitable treatment by governments and employers. Xenophobia tended to

occur when absorption capacities in areas such as housing and schooling were exceeded or when the public was ill-informed. Programmes were therefore implemented to increase cultural awareness and foreign credential recognition and encourage better understanding and respect.

28. Labour market performance was one of the yardsticks for measuring economic integration and it was expected that rates of employment and working conditions for migrants would equal those of the Canadian-born population. However, research had shown that under-employment and wage inequalities existed, a problem which needed to be overcome by public education programmes at provincial and community levels, including language training.

29. Studies on political participation of immigrants had shown that immigrants participated at levels slightly below or equal to the levels of the Canadian-born population, although federal politics were still firmly in the hands of politicians of British or French origin. However, about 33 per cent of federally-elected politicians could claim some minority background. The sense of belonging, involving a shared commitment to political communities, was fostered by according equal citizenship to newcomers and the Canadian-born. All citizens needed to know that there was a real chance that they could influence the evolution of Canadian society. That implied commitment to certain core values, such as mutual respect, the rule of law, equality and the peaceful resolution of disputes. In return, Canada guaranteed basic human rights such as individual autonomy and freedom of association and religion. Canada depended on its educational system to impart citizenship values to newcomers and attempted to create a welcoming attitude by teaching the value of diversity through public campaigns. Her country remained a close-knit society with low rates of inter-ethnic conflict and crime. Canada's multicultural experiment had been successful, but required constant vigilance, to avoid potential divisions and instabilities.

30. The DIRECTOR GENERAL thanked Mrs. Frith for her informative description of multiculturalism in Canada. He then invited the two commentators to take the floor.

31. Mr. DE BROUWER (European Commission) said that one of the main challenges facing all concerned with migration was the construction or reconstruction of immigration policies - a highly complex task. If effective policies were to be established, a better understanding of migration was essential. Annual migration figures in the European Union now totalled 700,000. In 1999, moreover, the European Union had received 352,000 requests for asylum as well as an estimated 500,000 immigrants in an illegal situation. Although such figures were important, they could not, however, constitute an accurate basis for migration policies. For example, the statistics did not show that a certain number of migrants originally in an irregular situation had subsequently been issued with papers. During the period 1975 to 2000, in seven European Union States 1,800,000 immigrants in an illegal position had had their situation regularized. Out of 352,000 persons requesting asylum, 36,000 had been given refugee status under Article 1.1 of the Geneva Convention, but those figures gave no indication as to what had happened to the others - had they been returned, granted other forms of protection or relapsed into clandestinity? Nor did the figures distinguish between immigrants who had crossed borders illegally and those who had entered the country legitimately on a tourist visa but had subsequently prolonged their stay illegally. Figures and statistics therefore required further refining.

32. An additional problem was that in the past many problems could be solved by simple dialogue between countries of origin and countries of destination. That was no longer possible,

because many former countries of emigration had now become transit countries or countries of immigration, which made dialogue much more complex and notions concerning immigrants more difficult to change.

33. Although the international legal instruments might have considerable influence on world migration strategies, they were nevertheless controlled by ministers of trade and not ministers of the interior or those specifically in charge of migration. In the European Union, another form of protection existed - temporary protection for massive inflows of refugees and displaced persons as a result of major geopolitical crises. Measures concerning migrant workers and their integration in the labour market had been taken jointly by member States of the European Union - defined, however, not by ministers of the interior but by ministers of labour. Hence immigration policies could not be conceived in isolation but were closely linked to other policies: social and health policies, foreign policy, justice and police policies, especially concerning illegal migration and trafficking in human beings. The experience of the European Union was relevant in that the member States and neighbouring States had agreed that questions of migration should be not only questions of common interest but of common policy.

34. Mr. ABELLA (International Labour Organization), speaking on behalf of ILO, expressed his best wishes to IOM on its fiftieth anniversary. Commenting on the panellists' presentations, he agreed with Mr. Chamie's conclusions in his review of the dramatic changes in the demographic structure of populations, and in particular that the decline in fertility in even some of the poorest developed countries would create a substantial need for migration. He could think of no single United Nations document in recent years that had aroused more interest and debate than the United Nations Population Division Report.

35. However, some of the conclusions depended on implicit assumptions, such as the support ratio, i.e. the number of members of the working population required to support every retiree, a ratio which might well change with time and place. Whereas in the past 30 per cent of the United States workforce had been occupied in providing food for its own population, that percentage was now 5 per cent and included agricultural exports as well as home consumption. Hence changes in productivity had to be taken into account and there was likely to be a quantum leap as the world entered a new age of the knowledge economy. He assumed that many of Mr. Chamie's points had been made to stress the need for action, rather than to state a definitive conclusion.

36. In regard to the relationship between trade and migration, it had always been assumed that with liberalization and an increased flow of goods, world incomes would converge. Yet globalization had so far failed to produce the expected result and he feared that things were likely to become worse before they became better. A recent ILO study had shown that only 13 developing countries had successfully managed to integrate in the global market for manufactured products and they were responsible for 88 per cent of the total exports of manufactured goods from developing countries. The rest of the developing world had seen its traditional markets decline over the past two decades, resulting in a divergence instead of a convergence of incomes. Hence the challenge was principally to ensure that development reached the poorest countries.

37. He welcomed the liberalization of the labour market, highlighted by Mr. Mamdouh, who had noted that immigration policies had so far constituted a barrier to trade and services. He felt, however, that the resistance to the movement of persons was likely to be overcome within a generation, although that might well be forestalled by improvements in the transfer of technology and capital to the developing world, as had occurred in many of the dynamic Asian and Latin American countries.

38. He expressed his admiration for Canada's successful policy of multiculturalism, comprising a comprehensive programme involving education, housing, labour markets, health and language. The Canadian experience might be regarded as a model for all countries which were committing resources to raising the status of marginalized communities and attempting to combat racism. Yet so far, the majority of migrants settled for secondary status in the labour market: they were entering countries illegally and were being accepted precisely because of that status. As Mrs. Frith had pointed out, integration frequently required at least one generation. Migration affected the rights and interests of different groups in society and in that context, ILO had consequently been working on ways of finding a solution to conflicts of interest between those who benefited from migration and those who suffered from it and should therefore receive some compensation.

39. In conclusion, he highlighted the importance ILO attached to specific programmatic approaches dealing with prejudice and xenophobia which had been discussed in the recent Durban Conference. He hoped that his organization would work closely with IOM and UNESCO in the near future, with a view to evolving successful models for integration.

40. After thanking the commentators for their statements, the DIRECTOR GENERAL opened the floor for discussion.

41. Mr. AL-ATTAR (Yemen) pointed out that since the problems of rapid demographic growth would become increasingly pressing in years to come, there was an urgent need to tackle the issue of economic and social development, which would only be possible in the context of international solidarity.

42. He had drawn three conclusions from the debate, namely that social development had to be continuous and sustainable; that coordination was essential between developed and developing countries in funding development policies and ensuring that resources were used to foster accountability and good governance; and lastly, that that could only be accomplished with the help of the United Nations and other agencies. He consequently welcomed the proposal for various organizations to cooperate in finding solutions.

43. Ms. LAOHAPHAN (Thailand) outlined her country's experience as a developing country which had long served as host to foreign migrant workers, stressing the problems of integration and xenophobia. While integration was important, it might not be the only option: certain societies might find it appropriate to integrate migrants, while others might not, on account of physical, economic, social or cultural constraints. Furthermore, an appropriate balance had to be achieved between the need for integration and the need to preserve the cultural identities of the immigrants, and care should be taken to ensure that integration policies were not used as a tool for enforced assimilation. In the process of integration, which should reflect the changing social context, both the immigrants and the host society had to make an effort to adapt to their new

social realities. In that context, xenophobia was one of the most difficult obstacles to overcome. Measures to combat xenophobia and discrimination might include: ensuring that any law which might have discriminatory effects on migrants was revised; that law enforcement officers treated migrants in a dignified and non-discriminatory manner and that the migrants knew their rights and where to go to make complaints and seek justice; and promoting education on the human rights of migrants, both within and outside the school system at all levels; providing the public with accurate information on migrants and migration issues, stressing the positive contribution of migrants to the host society and the vulnerability of migrants; and promoting understanding of cultural diversity so as to create a culture of tolerance, respect and non-discrimination.

44. The media should be encouraged to adopt an appropriate code of conduct, with emphasis on non-discrimination, tolerance and respect for cultural differences. Integration was not the only answer; thought should also be given to temporary migrants who would return home eventually and to their planned reintegration in their home countries, which depended greatly on the level of social and economic development of the countries in question. Irregular migration had to be combated through focus on its root causes, one of which was poverty. There again, development could help to prevent an outflow of irregular or undocumented migrants and to ensure sustainable return and reintegration of returnees. Integration called for dialogue and cooperation between host governments and migrant communities on the one hand and between host countries and the international community on the other, and also with IOM, in order to ensure technical cooperation and adequate resources. Her delegation welcomed the proposal by the representative of UNESCO to conduct a feasibility study on joint migration projects.

45. Mr. GERBER (Switzerland) agreed that it was important to establish on which level migration policies would be devised and applied as different ministries dealt with different aspects of migration and its ramifications. There was an obvious lack of coordination between those decentralized policies. Furthermore measures taken in one area often had repercussions on other areas which might be negative. The same applied to the international level where it was not always the case that the General Assembly of the United Nations had a comprehensive view of all matters. IOM could play an important role in developing the necessary dialogue and achieving more effective correlation between migration policies and their applications.

46. Ms. STRACK (United States of America) said that while her Government shared Canada's approach in supporting integration, it pursued a less active policy at federal level, except in the case of refugees, for whom there was a special programme. Immigrants were treated equally under United States labour law and had full rights in the work place with respect to wages, working conditions and union organization, regardless of whether they had legal or illegal status. There was strong reliance on the public school system to bring immigrant children into the community and teach them about civic values. The United States shared with Canada the view that the availability of citizenship was very important and in fact constituted a key element in the United States' approach to integration. It was felt that that contributed to a positive public perception of migrants in society at large and thereby to combating racism and xenophobia. Government policy did not consider integration to be equivalent to assimilation, but rather it was a voluntary choice by migrants to join the United States civic society through shared values.

47. Ms. PRANCHERE-TOMASSINI (Luxembourg) asked about IOM's intentions on its status *vis-à-vis* the United Nations system.

48. The DIRECTOR GENERAL replied that it was for the Member States to determine whether or not IOM should enter the United Nations system. As there were both advantages and disadvantages, the matter was one which required careful consideration.

49. Mr. CHAMIE, making some concluding remarks, stressed that demographic research and studies in no way constituted policy recommendations for governments to follow. National policies were based on social, economic, political and cultural considerations. Demographic factors, while providing important input, could be taken into account or not, as the case might be. Forecasts on the basis of those factors tended to cover long periods of 50 years or more and had proved remarkably accurate. Projections made in 1953, for example, had forecast a world population of 6.2 billion 50 years later. The current world population was now estimated at 6.1 billion. Such forecasts could therefore be of considerable value to decision-makers. Regarding the possible consequences of current and projected migration trends, it was too early to make predictions as accuracy depended on a longer-term estimate. In view of the progress and achievements of humanity, however, he remained optimistic.

50. The DIRECTOR GENERAL thanked the panellists, commentators and participants in the discussion which had been most constructive, placing migration and migration management in a broader, longer-term global context.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.