

**EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOURTH MEETING**

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 3 December 2002, at 3.25 p.m.

Chairperson: H.E. Ms. A. MOHAMED (Kenya)

later: H.E. Mr. J. KARKLINS (Latvia)

H.E. Mr. G. ALBIN (Mexico)

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

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Agenda item 6 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY DIALOGUE (continued)  
(MC/INF/253, MC/INF/255, MC/INF/256, MC/INF/257)

1. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Rapporteurs of the three workshops on specific migration management components to report to the Council on their respective findings.\*

(i) Workshop on integration

2. Mr. LUGRIS (Uruguay), Rapporteur of the Workshop on Integration, said that the meeting had been very well attended by delegates of countries of origin, transit and destination and by representatives of various organizations. The debate had begun with discussion of whether countries had policies for the integration of migrants and of the definition of integration of migrants in society. In the many views expressed on that subject, there had been an emphasis on the participation of migrants in the receiving society and various concepts had been cited: the model of assimilation in the new culture, the model of multicultural societies, the melting-pot and models of separation, in which migrants, although living in the country, were to some extent excluded from society because they were unsure that the situation would continue in the future. There had been an interesting debate on the difference between assimilation and integration, and the importance of integration which preserved diversity had been highlighted.

3. It had been agreed that integration was an ongoing two-way process, requiring efforts on the part of the migrant and of the receiving society. The difference between integration of migrants and integration of refugees had been raised, as well as the need to ascertain the cause of migration in order to proffer appropriate assistance. An interesting discussion had taken place on migration flows and the dynamics of migration: at present they seemed to be mostly from South to North, but in the recent past there had been a strong flow from North to South, particularly to Latin America where very interesting integration experiences had taken place that could serve as models.

4. Attention had also been paid to the actors who were most important in the integration process, and to the responsibilities of host States, countries of origin, civil society, migrant associations, trade unions and so forth. One of the most important subjects of debate had been the need for cooperation between countries of origin and of destination: examples of good practices in various countries had been cited, such as the observatory established by the Government in Morocco to study the situation of Moroccans abroad and the Haitian Ministry responsible for expatriate citizens. There had been a reference to the very important studies on integration carried out by the Council of Europe. Another point discussed was the challenge of integration not only for current migrants, but also for the second and third generations.

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\* There was no summary record of the 443<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on Tuesday 3 December in the morning.

5. The Workshop had also studied the various ways in which States could measure the level of effectiveness of integration: objective criteria related to such matters as salary and educational levels and participation in the new society, while subjective criteria included migrants' own feelings about their integration. It was pointed out that the process began with economic integration, of which work was a fundamental element. In the discussion on migrants' access to citizenship, naturalization and political rights, an interesting issue that had been raised was that nationality or citizenship should be considered as an integral part of the integration process, not as the culminating point of integration. There had also been an exchange of views on whether migrants could really be deemed to be integrated once they had obtained a new nationality or whether that was merely one more factor in the complex process of integration.

6. Another very important point discussed was the promotion of the rights of migrant workers and their families, particularly in connection with the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in that sphere and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001). The experts and participants had emphasized strongly both the efforts required by receiving and sending countries to combat all those negative attitudes and, in the same context, the importance of allowing migrants to maintain their cultural identity and their religion and also on the gender perspective and the need for an in-depth study of the integration of migrant women.

(ii) Workshop on comprehensive and solutions-oriented approaches to addressing irregular migration

7. Mr. ALEXANDRU (Romania), Rapporteur of the Workshop on comprehensive and solutions-oriented approaches to addressing irregular migration, said that the Workshop had begun with a political and ideological discussion on the possibility of the solidarity of a welfare State being undermined by immigration and the challenges entailed. With regard to the protection of the population, the linkage in the public mentality between irregular migration and criminal activity risked undermining sorely needed public support for migrants and regular migration programmes; at the same time respect for human rights and dignity had to be upheld. The subject of temporary visas for temporary migrants had been mentioned as had the importance of public tolerance as an indicator of capacity for absorption of migrants.

8. It had been suggested during the debate that dialogue between government and private sectors could improve national migration policies as a whole. The importance of addressing the root causes of migration had been stressed, as had the role of information in creating more realistic expectations for migrants in countries of destination. It had been pointed out that whereas countries of destination were responsible for receiving migrants in full respect for their rights, it was also incumbent upon the migrants to respect the laws and customs of host countries. Although regularization in the form of an amnesty would not provide a solution, it could help with the identification and, indirectly, the protection of migrants in an irregular situation. The asylum-migration nexus had been mentioned in the context of ensuring the protection of genuine refugees, especially where there was a mixture of types of migrant; reference was made to the Global Consultations on International Protection and the Agenda for Protection as well as the joint IOM-UNHCR paper on the nexus prepared in that context.

9. One delegation had suggested a nine-point description of a properly managed migration system, as follows: regular migration in accordance with national laws; reasonable opportunities for people to have access to lawful permanent and temporary migration; support for migration programmes within receiving States; protection for people in need, including resettlement where appropriate; prompt return to their country of nationality for people who did not have permission to remain in other States; respect for the human rights and dignity of migrants; aid and development possibilities providing alternatives to irregular migration; strong institutional systems in terms of staff and technology; and effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation in managing specific flows.

10. It had also been suggested that not only States, but also non-governmental organizations and international institutions should be involved in the dialogue for establishing a migration system. The solutions must be comprehensive, taking into account all the actors and variables of the migration equation – opportunities for regular migration while addressing irregular migration, protection and enforcement. The urgent and important issues in that regard were, first, capacity-building, or helping States to establish management systems to transform an irregular situation into a regular one, taking care to address the possibility of corruption, and second, cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to form new partnerships through which migration could become profitable for all concerned.

(iii) Workshop on diaspora support to migration and development

11. Mr. LONGO (Italy), Rapporteur of the Workshop on diaspora support to migration and development, said that a diaspora might be defined as the displacement of persons from a country of origin to a receiving country under the influence of economic, social and political factors which affected all layers of society and all countries. That process had been exacerbated by globalization and, in the case of the brain drain, by the advancement of science.

12. With regard to the diaspora, the general consensus seemed to be that it was a factor in development for the countries of origin. All seemed to agree that the diaspora led countries of origin and receiving countries into a partnership in which there were three actors - the country of origin, the receiving country and civil society, i.e. the diaspora. The discussion had centred on the way in which the diaspora could be used, from the two points of view of transfer of remittances and transfer of knowledge, as means of contributing to the development of the country of origin. To that end, the diaspora needed to be supported by public institutions and States.

13. In transfer of remittances, the role of the State was important for channelling the investments of the diaspora which would otherwise remain dispersed. The preliminary steps should be to institutionalize and rationalize transfer methods, to channel the transfers towards local development projects, to make an arrangement such as the Mexican 3 for 1 programme, involving the State, local communities and migrants' associations, to follow the Tunisian system of loans and donations through lines of credit, and to reach agreement with banking institutions on the reduction of commission on all transfers of income to countries of origin.

14. With regard to transfer of knowledge, several solutions had been considered, with a view to deriving benefit from translocation of skills - first, the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme; second, conferences and meetings for expatriates both in the countries of

origin and in the receiving countries so as to maintain contact with them; third, the organization of short visits for expatriate university lecturers enabling them to supervise dissertations or to teach specific university courses in their country of origin as was done in Benin and Tunisia.

15. Discussions had also covered the question of increased aid and financial contributions and methods of improving the linkage between migration and development in countries of origin. It had been agreed that the MIDA programme and other similar programmes should be expanded by applying them to subregions. At European level, the European Commission had recently issued a communiqué concerning the relationship between migration and development with a view to promoting intensive dialogue with developing countries in a spirit of partnership. A process of regional consultations might serve as an operational framework for putting migration and development initiatives into practice simultaneously and, finally, training opportunities should be increased for expatriate nationals from developing countries.

16. The CHAIRPERSON thanked the three Rapporteurs for their interesting reports and the Facilitators for their valuable work; she invited the latter to make additional comments.

17. Mr. ALCÁINE (El Salvador), Facilitator of the Workshop on comprehensive and solutions-oriented approaches to addressing irregular migration, emphasized the usefulness of the debates at all three workshops and drew attention to the fact that there had been a tacit consensus that practical programmes and projects tended to function more at bilateral and at regional, levels. He stressed the importance of IOM's role in capacity-building for migration management in all countries including the legal, administrative and protection aspects of migration policy. It was obvious that migration management programmes had to be comprehensive in order to cover all those aspects.

18. Ms. PARKER (Australia) said that IOM was to be commended for holding workshop meetings during the Council session, thus enabling participants to examine various important topics in greater detail than would have been possible in plenary session.

19. Mr. GHONEIM (Egypt), noting that delegates had been speaking about the diaspora as a source of income for countries of origin, said that Egypt regarded it more as a valuable asset that should be preserved and developed. Since most Egyptian migrants were temporary, his country was studying an insurance scheme for them, providing very substantial benefits: the migrant's family was to be compensated in the event of death or disability, the migrant would be entitled to medical care and in countries where a migrant had legal problems with his employer, it was proposed to provide legal assistance through Egypt's labour representation missions and consulates. The aim of that comprehensive scheme was to make migrants feel secure and to encourage them to emigrate, temporarily or permanently, in the knowledge that whenever they were in trouble they could rely on immediate financial, legal or other assistance from the home country.

20. Ms. STOIOS-BRAKEN (Netherlands), referring to the statement of the Rapporteur for the Workshop on Integration, said that the report had seemed to focus mainly on the rights of migrants which were of course important, but were accompanied by responsibilities. She asked to what extent the workshop had discussed that aspect of integration.

21. Ms. PORTOCARRERO (Venezuela) expressed her country's appreciation of the introduction of workshops as a means of supplying information for the reorientation of migration policies and practices at the international level.

22. Mr. LUGRIS (Uruguay), Rapporteur for the Workshop on Integration, replying to the delegate of the Netherlands, said that the stress he had placed on the two-directional nature of integration in his report to the plenary meeting reflected the lengthy debates on the subject in the workshop. Migrants as well as receiving countries had responsibilities in the integration process. The question of migrants learning the language of the receiving country had been discussed and there had been disagreement on whether they should be obliged to do so. The theme of the responsibility of migrants was indeed a very important factor.

23. He stressed that although the topic of integration was by no means a new one, no appropriate forum had yet been found to debate the subject. His country, for example, was peopled almost entirely by migrants from various parts of the world and integration had not been an academic process but the result of years of living side by side - an experience sometimes positive and sometimes less so. He therefore commended IOM on having provided the opportunity for an exchange of views on the first-ever search for international governance on the subject of real migration policies.

24. The DIRECTOR GENERAL, summing up the debate on agenda item 6, thanked all those who had attended the plenary meeting on the previous day, the three workshops, the two lunchtime meetings on the rights of migrants and the Berne Initiative and had contributed to their success. In particular, he thanked Mr. Appave who had worked to design the policy dialogue, and the facilitators, rapporteurs and the presenters who worked hard to make the dialogue a success. He reminded the Council of the decision it had taken at its 82<sup>nd</sup> session to consider whether it could play a useful part in building consensus on a migration policy. The decision had met with an immediate and successful response, but it should of course be borne in mind that the process was only just beginning and that building a consensus on international migration policy would take time and effort and would perhaps require the establishment of some kind of informal mechanism to carry on the debate on a more frequent basis. He looked forward greatly to continuing that interesting endeavour.

#### Agenda item 7

GENERAL DEBATE, INCLUDING IOM-UN RELATIONSHIP  
(MC/INF/252, MC/INF/254, MC/INF/258, MC/INF/259, MICEM/9/2002,  
Conference Room Paper/2, Conference Room Paper/3)

Mr. Karklins took the chair

25. The CHAIRMAN invited the representatives of Members and observers to take the floor.

26. Mr. RADOVANOVIC (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) drew attention to the fact that paragraphs 79 and 80 of document MC/INF/258, entitled Internally Displaced Persons contained inaccurate data concerning the number of IDPs that might give a wrong idea of the complexity of the problem faced by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. According to official United Nations

data, the total number of IDPs from Kosovo and Metohija who were currently located in other parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia stood at nearly 250,000. Moreover, the number of Serb IDPs who had returned to KiM since the United Nations peacekeeping mission had been established in July 1999 amounted to about 200, or less than 1 per cent. He asked that the necessary corrections be made.

27. Another inaccuracy appeared in the document entitled *Migration Initiatives 2003* concerning the number of refugees whom the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was sheltering. The figure of 44,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia should be changed to over 440,000. His delegation considered it important to point out that mistake because the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia sheltered the largest number of refugees in Europe and because the mistake occurred in a document relating to the financing of the programme for 2003.

28. In conclusion, he pointed out that the use of the word “Kosovars” to denote the inhabitants of Kosovo and Metohija was inaccurate and that the terms officially in use were “Kosovo Albanians”, “Kosovo Serbs” and so forth, depending on the national origin of the people concerned.

29. The DIRECTOR GENERAL thanked the speaker for drawing attention to the above and said that the Secretariat would take the necessary measures.

30. Ms. GABR (Egypt) welcomed the new Members and observers, in particular the African countries. The statements by the Director General and Deputy Director General were especially worthy of attention as they contained strategic considerations of relevance to IOM's future and to international work in the field of migration as a whole. As migration was having an increasing impact on all nations and on individuals everywhere in the world, it was necessary to devise more effective ways of managing international migration in all its aspects through new and creative forms of international cooperation. Her delegation firmly believed that a comprehensive and cooperative approach to migration management could bring significant sustainable benefits to countries of origin and of destination and to the migrants themselves, and could stimulate economic and demographic development. Furthermore, as migration also reflected the need for many people to improve their living conditions, migration management was also connected with legal, economic, social and humanitarian concerns. The frank discussions following the presentations by the two guest panellists and at the workshops would provide valuable guidelines for the elaboration of balanced approaches to migration management in countries of origin, transit and destination, taking into account the particular needs of the developing countries. Her delegation was in favour of establishing a mechanism to continue policy discussions on a more regular basis between Council sessions.

31. Regarding IOM's links with the United Nations system, she considered that IOM's current situation was both functional and sustainable. Nevertheless, the positive implications of joining the United Nations system should be given due consideration by Member States, with further evaluation of their impact, both on Member States and the Organization. Her delegation proposed the establishment of a steering group in Geneva to follow up such discussion, elaborate ideas, assess implications and report back to IOM's governing bodies. Her delegation was willing to exchange ideas with all other Member States and to join any consensus on that crucial

issue. She reiterated her country's commitment to increased cooperation with IOM and its support for IOM's Mission with Regional Functions in Cairo.

32. Mr. KOUDELNY (Czech Republic) said that migration, as a global, supranational phenomenon, had a deep impact on many aspects of the social, economic and political life of individual States. No State, however, had sufficient capacity to solve migration problems by itself, which made international cooperation essential. He expressed appreciation of the work of IOM, which played an irreplaceable role in such cooperation. Projects successfully implemented by IOM included: humanitarian evacuations and repatriations of Kosovo Albanians, medical evacuation programmes from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (the MedEvac programme); cooperation to prevent irregular migration and support the asylum structure in source countries such as Ukraine, Moldova and Romania; long-term projects of voluntary return for rejected asylum-seekers and of foreigners residing illegally in the Czech Republic and wishing to return to their countries of origin; the provision of valid travel documents and visas to enable unsuccessful asylum-seekers to return to their countries of origin; information campaigns to prevent trafficking in women; cooperation in the United Nations project on the prevention, suppression and punishment of trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, through which IOM was going to organize voluntary return of victims to their countries of origin, including the issuing of travel documents and air tickets, assistance with departure and arrival and social reintegration of victims. The Czech Republic was interested in continuing and broadening its cooperation with IOM in those areas and others.

33. He expressed appreciation of the role of the IOM Council as a forum for international political dialogue on migration. There was an increasing need for joint, coordinated measures to cope with massive migration flows, including the effective use of financial resources and clear division of responsibilities. The scope and quality of IOM's services should be strengthened and its future institutional development and structure reviewed. Regarding IOM's relationship with the United Nations system, his delegation considered that the irreplaceable character, independence and flexibility of IOM should be taken into account in considering that issue. Any potential strengthening of the institutional arrangements between IOM and the United Nations should also address the current obstacles to the fully effective functioning of IOM and should be based on an analysis of the cost-effectiveness (possibly in cooperation with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations) of the potential functioning of IOM mechanisms within the United Nations system.

34. Mr. McKINLEY (United States of America), welcoming new Members and observers, reaffirmed his country's strong support for IOM as the leading operational support agency for the movement of persons in need of migration assistance. As IOM expanded, Members had a responsibility to exercise appropriate oversight and to ensure that the Organization's central management and administrative control system were commensurate with its tasks. He welcomed the proposed review of IOM's internal management and organizational structure, which might include a recommendation to create an appropriate senior management position and mechanisms to share the burden of administration and management. IOM should be provided with the necessary staff, tools and mechanisms to meet its challenges. His country shared the concern of many others over the need to define IOM's mandate, priorities and future status, because migration management was becoming increasingly complex and touched on many areas of



modern life and public policy. IOM should not seek to be the custodian of migration doctrine, however. Its main priority was to provide quality performance in its core service areas in accordance with its mandate. Care should therefore be taken to avoid dispersing IOM's activities over too broad a range of humanitarian fields.

35. His Government had always advocated generous, orderly and legal migration policies. When organized in that way migration was beneficial to sending, transit and receiving countries and to the migrants themselves. One of the major problems facing all governments was the increasing flow of irregular migrants, which undermined public support for the admission and integration of legal immigrants and often resulted in exploitation, abuse and human suffering, and in the creation of political tensions between neighbouring countries. In order to combat irregular migration, the United States strongly endorsed regional migration dialogues as the most promising means of developing coordinated policy responses on a regional basis. His Government was sceptical concerning the development of new normative frameworks governing migration at global level, and preferred an approach based on practical cooperation among the States. He welcomed IOM's support for the Regional Conference on Migration, its counter-trafficking projects and its technical assistance programmes to increase national capacities for migration management.

36. He welcomed the role of the Council as a forum for policy discussion, expressed support for the Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP), including its partnership with non-governmental organizations, and looked forward to the evaluation of the MPRP to be completed in 2003. He also welcomed the project to produce an IOM handbook on assisted voluntary returns.

37. His Government considered that the question of relations between IOM and the United Nations required further discussion based on an evaluation of migration trends and any existing deficiencies in the international system. His Government therefore considered that the *status quo* should be maintained, pending the establishment of a process whereby many of the issues related to migration trends and the need for an enhanced global institutional arrangement to respond to those trends could be discussed.

38. Commending the Director General on his dynamic leadership, he said that his Government looked forward to joining other Member States in supporting the re-election of the Director General, Mr. Brunson McKinley, for a second term of office, at a special Council session to be convened in mid-2003.

39. Mr. AKINDES (Benin) welcomed the new Members and observers. Dialogue on international migration policy was becoming increasingly important in a world in which conflicts, natural disasters and economic crises were forcing thousands of people to migrate. IOM had worked for years to attenuate the effects of those population movements and to improve migration management. The discussions on the workshop themes should provide a good basis for independent reflection on sustainable migration management. Whether sustainable, temporary or definitive, international migration created immediate problems which had to be solved by working to establish a managed migration system and to develop partnerships.

40. Globalization, trade liberalization and world economic integration tended to increase labour migration, which also required balanced migration management structures. Governments, civil society and international organizations should join forces to combat exploitation and trafficking in persons, insecurity, organized crime, violence and corruption. Regional and subregional approaches should be emphasized, with a view to ensuring that migration contributed to the development of countries of origin and of destination and to the protection of migrants. Some months previously, his Government had given considerable attention to the legal aspects of migration. At present there were several thousand displaced persons in Benin, most of whom were expecting to stay indefinitely. The migration of young people from rural areas in Benin to other countries in the subregion – which was a feature of modern life – could also be managed better. Several ministries in Benin had joined forces to try to eliminate trafficking in children and the irregular displacement of people. Subregional meetings had been held on the theme of international cooperation to solve the problem of mass migration management. The smooth and sustained implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) would lead to greater coherence between existing structures relating to migration and the gradual reintegration of displaced persons.

41. He thanked IOM, on behalf of the Government and people of Benin and on his own behalf, for its valuable assistance in relation to return of Benin nationals who had been obliged to leave Gabon and Côte d'Ivoire suddenly and return to their country of origin.

42. Migration had too many ramifications to be dealt with in isolation. It was essential to identify the components of national migration policy, to establish a strategy for managing migration flows at national and international levels and to measure their impact on national economies. He reiterated his previous request for reliable statistics with which to analyse the variations in migration flows in his country, and expressed the hope that the process of implementing and financing of the MIDA projects for Benin would be accelerated. The return of many nationals of Benin to their country would certainly boost Benin's economic development. IOM should strengthen its existing links and partnerships with the United Nations system and with relevant non-governmental organizations, so as to pool human and material resources, especially in emergency and post-emergency situations.

43. Mr. NGARE (Kenya) thanked the IOM Secretariat for the focused and timely presentation of documents and noted with appreciation that the Organization had earned a well-deserved reputation for the manner in which it discharged its mandate. He welcomed the new Members and observers, appreciating the continued expansion of IOM's membership which gave it a universal and global character. He was pleased to note, furthermore, that IOM's programmes and projects had gradually expanded to meet the new challenges posed by the world's 175 million migrants and believed that migration management benefited both migrants and society and contributed significantly to economic development. Kenya also held the firm view that a key factor in such management was cooperation between countries of origin and host countries and called upon IOM to ensure that its programmes remained demand-driven. In that regard, Kenya reaffirmed its continued support for the 1035 Facility aimed at targeting projects which ultimately focused on irregular migration in developing countries and countries in transition. He expressed appreciation that IOM had worked extensively through its field missions, and with Member States through their national authorities and their Permanent Missions in Geneva to implement that programme rapidly and equitably. Noting that the 1035 Facility had enabled the Organization to direct its scarce resources in a strategic manner in

selected Member States through national and regional initiatives, he urged IOM to continue its dialogue with Member States on that subject.

44. Turning to IOM's MIDA programme, he welcomed the proposed workshops on various migration issues aimed at encouraging interregional and intraregional policy dialogue, as he firmly believed that the success of the MIDA project depended on meaningful partnerships and dialogue among governments, civil society, and the private and public sectors in countries of origin and of destination. In that context there was a need to take into consideration certain challenges which included the provision of a predictable, broad financial base which should ensure the involvement of African countries in the design and development of the programmes and the effective promotion of MIDA among potential recruits and private-sector beneficiaries.

45. Referring to the proposed project on labour migration in Kenya, he noted that the aim was to develop an up-dated, consolidated database constituting a comprehensive information system on the labour market throughout the region. Kenya considered that the project should also provide training and national capacity-building and should be carried out in collaboration with the relevant government authorities and agencies. In that respect he endorsed the Director General's view that all IOM Member States needed to institute migration policies that would satisfy economic and development needs, accommodate the inevitable growth of social diversity, enhance respect for migrants and provide them with regular jobs and decent working conditions. Kenya firmly believed that in order to address the issue of migration in connection with developmental issues, it was necessary also to consider the conditions that compelled people to migrate to other countries.

46. Mr. JAKUBOWSKI (Poland), after commending IOM on its achievements and the Director General and Deputy Director General on their imaginative leadership, and welcoming the new Members and observers, expressed satisfaction that the overall trend for IOM in recent years had been growth in many areas – membership, operational funding levels, number of offices and projects, and types of service offered. He also welcomed the regional focus which was becoming increasingly visible in programmes, in the formation or consolidation of regional migration forums and cooperation mechanisms, and IOM's partnerships with regional bodies. In addition to its statutory activities, the Organization was executing programmes for the identification and compensation of former forced and slave labourers as well as for property losses under the Nazi regime in Germany; both programmes were vitally important to several thousand Polish citizens and to peoples of the Central European region.

47. IOM was facing a very important strategic decision concerning further strengthening of cooperation with the United Nations system in general and, specifically, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Poland was ready to participate actively in discussions on the subject. He had found the international migration policy dialogue very interesting and endorsed the Director General's views on the findings of the three workshops. The Council session had reflected Member States' willingness to seek cooperative solutions to migration management problems. He also expressed satisfaction at the compromise reached on a systemic solution to the question of the use of surpluses in the Administrative Part of the Budget. He informed the Council that the Government of the Republic of Poland had decided to donate USD 20,000 for the IOM programme for Transitional Assistance to Former Soldiers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

48. Poland was especially interested in enhancing IOM involvement in Central and Eastern Europe, believing that regional cooperation on migration issues had great potential and would assist in solving many migration issues in the region to the satisfaction of States and the benefit of migrants. His country's active participation in IOM's work was one of the priorities of Polish foreign policy in humanitarian and migration areas. In order to meet its growing commitments, IOM was expected to strengthen even further its own capacities and effectiveness. The arrival of new Members would doubtless extend the Organization's field of action and range of activities.

49. Ms. PORTOCARRERO (Venezuela), welcoming the new Members and observers, said that her country was giving careful consideration to the proposals submitted by the Administration in regard to the Organization's future. Consideration of migration as a positive factor in economic, social and human development rather than as a problem called for a new outlook in which migratory flows were seen as a deeply enriching human process essential for peaceful cohabitation of all countries. Abandoning the concept of irregular migrants as disturbers of stability in the receiving countries and perceiving migration instead as a new relationship between developed and less-developed countries meant, for IOM, opening a debate on national and regional migration policies in the context of development. International cooperation would be required, to ensure that migrants were given optimum opportunities to use their skills in a context of legal equality and the payment of fair wages. That was clearly beneficial not only to migrants but also to receiving countries and, indirectly, to countries of origin.

50. It should be remembered that, underlying the world migration statistics quoted, there was a human side: the people who left behind their own customs and traditions to seek a better life. International cooperation was essential more than ever before in an increasingly globalized world in order to ensure peaceful coexistence, and she therefore considered that there was a clear need for closer relations between IOM and the United Nations. Nevertheless, IOM must retain the flexibility, independence and prompt response capacity which earned it the confidence of Member States in the sensitive process of migration for development. In that context, international cooperation as a systemic, multilateral strategy with the aim of progressive development would allow more successful management of migration pressures in the international arena. She therefore supported the Director General's proposal to establish strategic alliances with other United Nations bodies, particularly the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), as a means of creating innovatory mechanisms for the benefit of all.

51. She welcomed the continuation of the dialogue on migration policy begun at the Council in 2001 which had enabled Member States to identify the main problems in that area. The three workshops had produced valuable findings on the integration of migrants, on solutions to irregular migration and on support by the diaspora. On the question of the Programme and Budget for 2003, Venezuela supported the statement made by Guatemala on behalf of GRULAC in regard to the recent agreement reached in the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance: in view of the Organization's real needs, an increase of 2.54 per cent could be accepted, on the understanding that it was exceptional. She also hoped that the Organization would achieve an equitable balance in the budget allocation and staffing for the Latin American region and its offices. She also welcomed the decision taken by the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance to

include the 1035 Facility as a separate item on the agenda, in view of its importance for the developing Member States and those in transition.

52. In regard to human rights of migrants, the Director General's commitment to the region gave hope for better management of the problem of migration in Latin America, and in particular, better protection of their fundamental rights. Furthermore, she commended IOM on its action, described in document MC/INF/252, in relation to HIV/AIDS and its effects on migrants. Finally, on behalf of her delegation and of Venezuelan migrants, she expressed the hope that the current session would be successful in encouraging new policies and practices in migration, leading to just and harmonious conditions throughout the world, without anyone being excluded.

53. Mr. KULLAVANIJAYA (Thailand), welcoming new Members to the Organization, said that the expansion of membership was indicative of the increasing recognition of IOM's professionalism in dealing with migration matters. He was particularly happy to greet the Kingdom of Cambodia whose membership would further strengthen the Organization's role in supporting regional initiatives as well as Thailand's burgeoning bilateral cooperation with that country on migration-related matters. Migration in the 21st century involved every region and had an impact on many aspects of daily activities. His country was fully conscious of the important role of migration and supported a comprehensive approach to migration management which would bring together all actors involved in addressing international migration issues. Thailand's national priorities entailed better migration management while current concerns focused on irregular migration. It was important to tackle the problem at its source and IOM had been encouraged to play a greater role in the sending countries. The Organization could also play an important role in the assisted returns of migrants in an irregular situation and their reintegration by ensuring that they were equipped with basic skills – a measure that would facilitate voluntary returns. It could also help to combat smuggling and trafficking in persons by reducing the need for the services of illegal networks. He stressed that Thailand treated those falling prey to traffickers as victims, not as wrongdoers.

54. He valued the Director General's insight on how IOM could build on its comparative advantages to serve Member States better. The Organization's independent status had lent it the necessary flexibility and freedom of action to respond to situations and thus to the needs of its Members. It should pride itself on its businesslike and non-bureaucratic characteristics and its capacity to innovate and to launch bold initiatives. One such initiative was the migration policy dialogue that had taken place at the current Council session, which would help identify possibilities for more effective international migration management and which would be complemented by the Berne Initiative. Thailand considered that it might be wise to delay formulation of any practical move regarding IOM's status vis-à-vis the United Nations system until more substantive input had been received. Meanwhile, IOM could usefully focus its attention on a more thorough analysis of its strengths and weaknesses and the enhancement of strategic alliances with relevant international organizations.

55. Thailand thanked the Organization for its cooperation and willingness to respond to Member countries' needs. It was heartening to hear that generous assistance from donors would enable the activity on access to primary health care, communicable disease control and reproductive health by Burmese irregular migrants in Thailand to move ahead.

56. Mr. VEGAS TORRES (Peru), welcoming the new Members and observers, commended the great efforts of IOM and the international community to meet the challenges of migration and to encourage cooperation and dialogue with a view to developing migration management policies and practices beneficial to all. As the United Nations Secretary General had said recently, migration was of great economic, political and moral importance and it should not be forgotten that the 175 million migrants in the world were a particularly vulnerable group unable to exercise fully their rights and freedoms. That situation was the result of inadequate international response to migration, which generated serious problems of violations of human rights, trafficking and smuggling of persons, discrimination and xenophobia. The international response to those problems should reflect the general agreement on the need for full respect for the human rights of migrants. As IOM with its valuable experience had a serious role to play in finding solutions to migration problems, he was following carefully the debate on the Organization's future status, in the hope that the links between IOM and the United Nations system could be strengthened, while at the same time conserving IOM's particularities, especially its freedom, flexibility and capacity for action. He also hoped consensus would be reached on the need to improve migration management policies, with emphasis on their positive effects overall.

57. On the question of integration, he was encouraged by the growing concern and efforts of receiving countries and believed that bilateral and multilateral dialogue and cooperation were essential for ensuring full respect for human rights and the eradication of all forms of discrimination. Furthermore, he endorsed the views of the United Nations Secretary General that societies must be informed of the benefits of migration and disabused of their misconceptions. Peru had initiated a publicity campaign, in collaboration with IOM, to inform Peruvians about the legal requirements for travel abroad as well as the dangers of failure to comply with them. Clearly, any national activities in that regard must be reinforced by associated regional and international initiatives. He noted that current migration trends showed an increase, largely because of economic disparities between countries, and that solutions to such flows, contributing to human development everywhere, depended on taking action, particularly in the IOM framework.

58. Mr. VEGA (Chile), after expressing his satisfaction at the admission of new Members and observers to IOM, which was a reflection of the increasing global importance of migration and the international community's commitment to the issue, said that his country was involved in both immigration and emigration. From the beginning, migrants, especially from Europe, had contributed to Chile's development as a country; in the past decade, many migrants had arrived from neighbouring countries, essentially seeking work, and his country acknowledged the cultural and social benefits they brought. On the other hand, Chileans had emigrated either to seek a better life or in search of refuge because of adverse political situations in the country. Chile would never forget the support received from IOM during one of the most difficult periods in its history.

59. Changes that had taken place in the past decade had affected all aspects of public and private life in the world. In particular, the globalization process had had a great influence on migration as it had generated vast economic disparities between countries and regions, leading inevitably to population movements towards the richer areas. Hence migration loomed large on the international agenda and its importance had been highlighted by the Secretary General of the United Nations. His delegation considered that IOM should continue to be a forum for discussion of migration policy, so as to promote understanding of migration and encourage cooperation among States concerning its management. In that context it was important that Member States should participate actively in the debate on IOM's future relationship with the United Nations. In considering that matter, a clear distinction should be made between migrants and refugees and between irregular migration and trafficking in human beings which was linked with international crime. Those different topics required different approaches.

60. He stressed the importance of adopting migration policies based on respect for the human rights of migrants, in line with the findings of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001). The true way towards a more peaceful world was through the development of a culture of human rights, solidarity and cooperation which was essential in the field of migration.

61. Mr. SIMONETTI (Italy) welcomed the presentations concerning migration management which, although it was the responsibility of States, could only be successful through reinforced international cooperation. Regional approaches to migration management were of key importance, but there was frequently a need for a wider framework for debate and decision-making. Italy therefore welcomed the timely introduction of the topic of international institutional arrangements, in order to address more adequately the question of migratory movements in a comprehensive way, giving due consideration to the future relationship between IOM and the United Nations. Such an approach would also involve more closely the agencies active in areas such as development, trade, labour and health. Furthermore, Italy believed that closer coordination between IOM and the organizations of the United Nations system would be necessary, on account of the growing link between migration for economic reasons and migration resulting from unstable political situations and humanitarian crises. It would therefore be appropriate to strengthen cooperation among international bodies concerned with population movements, bearing in mind the positive impact that a fully coordinated action might have on such problems as asylum and the protection of refugees.

62. He advocated a gradual approach, allowing for in-depth analysis of all the implications, financial and otherwise, involved in any change in relations between IOM and the United Nations. A more thorough study of the issue would enable Member States to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of the different options. Italy would not fail to make its contribution to the debate, both in its national capacity and as a member of the European Union, of which his country would be assuming the presidency in the second half of 2003.

63. Mr. ALI (Bangladesh) welcomed new Members and observers. He thanked the Director General for his important policy statement and commended the Secretariat on the documentation which had served as a basis for the debate. In view of the generally recognized need for

international cooperation in migration management, IOM needed to explore all possible sources of partnership with intergovernmental and international organizations and other stakeholders. It was perhaps time for serious reflection on IOM's future relations with the United Nations. He therefore welcomed the proposal to set up a steering committee to look into the matter.

64. Since migration was a multifaceted and dynamic global phenomenon, it was essential to agree on a comprehensive framework for an international migration regime, reflecting current world economic and demographic realities. It was clear that restrictive migration policies had discouraged positive movement of people, and increased irregular migration, which in turn encouraged criminal activity. Migrants, who continued to be vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, were also suffering from racist, xenophobic and discriminatory attitudes and inhuman treatment, owing to heightened security concerns.

65. As a major labour-exporting country, Bangladesh was deeply conscious of the contribution made by its expatriate migrant workers to the economy of their home country, as they represented the second highest source of foreign exchange earnings, accounting for about one-third of the country's total export earnings. His Government had endeavoured to develop an orderly and coherent approach to migration and in 2001 had established a separate ministry for the welfare of expatriate workers and for facilitating overseas employment. His Government was grateful to IOM for its support to the new ministry and to the establishment of a managed migration regime in Bangladesh. He expressed appreciation of the Director General's recent visit, which had strengthened his country's links with IOM.

66. Concerning labour issues, a number of studies had indicated that the greatest potential benefits to both sending and receiving countries lay in the relaxation of restrictions on the international movement of workers, which negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO), in connection with the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) were aimed at achieving. Although goods and capital now moved more freely, there had been virtually no liberalization of markets for cross-border labour services. Consequently workers with similar qualifications might earn ten times more in advanced countries than in low-income countries. Estimates indicated that liberalization of cross-border labour movement could be expected to yield benefits that were about 25 times higher than those that would accrue from the traditional system focusing on goods and capital flow. It had also been estimated that a temporary visa scheme for temporary workers, amounting to no more than 3 per cent of the OECD labour force, would yield economic benefits for both developed and developing countries equivalent to almost USD 150 - 200 billion.

67. Positive gains could also be derived from temporary workers returning home, who brought with them capital, management skills, work ethics and expertise, thereby helping their countries to reduce their reliance on aid significantly. Recent studies had also shown that, in many countries, workers' remittances now far exceeded the aid flow. A systematic pattern of labour movement would, moreover, reduce the scope for irregular migration. IOM had a unique opportunity to help to achieve consensus on temporary labour movement throughout the world.



68. Mr. SMITH (Canada), welcoming the new Members and observers, noted that there had been a striking increase in the frequency and intensity of meetings and discussions on migration management among governments, international organizations and intergovernmental and regional organizations. The time had come to take stock of the input provided by the various organizations and of their respective responsibilities. The United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the International Labour Organization, for example, were all dealing with different aspects of migration, while yet other organizations were focusing on questions of trafficking and smuggling of people. The exact fields of competence of all the United Nations bodies involved should be clarified and more effective cooperation established between them. Canada had long been concerned about clarity in the mandates of United Nations Specialized Agencies and international organizations, as well as effective coordination between them. The question of a possible alliance of IOM with other United Nations agencies, or alternatively the possibility of IOM seeking status as a Specialized Agency, warranted careful consideration. In the forthcoming lengthy process of examination, Member States would make every effort to support IOM and its commitment to achieve orderly and humane migration. IOM's broad experience in the field, in a wide variety of activities associated with migration, was a valuable asset for its many partners in migration management. He expressed appreciation of IOM's experience and its valuable contribution to the Canadian refugee resettlement programme.

69. One point for consideration was whether IOM would retain the same flexibility and efficiency if it became a Specialized Agency of the United Nations. The possibility of a strategic alliance between IOM and UNHCR was envisaged and in that event a decision would have to be taken on whether both organizations should remain in their present form or not, and whether the management of migration and asylum-seeking would best be served by one single organization or two separate organizations with complementary mandates. Whatever form such an alliance might take, the mandate of each organization should continue to be one of mutual support and collaboration, with a minimum of overlapping. Furthermore, it was essential that there should be no negative repercussions on the main activities of the organizations such as the protection of refugees. Any decisions would have to take into account the comparative advantage of each organization, as well as viability, in other words, a cost-benefit analysis would have to be conducted to determine which organization was best placed to find solutions within the limits of available resources.

70. Looking to the future, consideration had to be given to the activities which IOM accomplished most successfully, as well as to new activities, some of which were not covered by the mandate of any existing international organization. Perhaps the time had come to ask the Administration to review IOM's mandate and present a draft proposal thereon, which if approved would have to be given the appropriate financial resources. In order to ensure that States took part in such decisions, an open-ended process had to be established, allowing for broad-based input. One exchange of views a year would not be sufficient and a new, more permanent mechanism would have to be set up to discuss strategic questions relating to IOM. Canada looked forward to collaborating with the Administration and other Members in exploring what would be the most appropriate form and structure for such a body. His country was proud of its active international commitment to migration issues. It had a long history of managing a

comprehensive immigration programme and looked forward to working with partners towards greater international cooperation on migration management.

71. He welcomed the comments of the Director General, whom Canada would be pleased to support in his candidature for re-election for a second term of office.

72. Mr. SCIARONE (Netherlands), welcoming the focus of the present Council session on high-level dialogue between countries of origin, transit and destination, expressed appreciation of the preparation and timely distribution of the relevant documents. The Netherlands endorsed the Migration Policy Research Programme (MPRP), which was helping Members to turn best practices, highlighted in the dialogue on migration, into practical solutions. His Government had made a financial contribution to the MPRP in the past and would determine its position as to whether the MPRP should become an item in the Administrative Part of the Budget when the results of the evaluation of the programme in mid-2003 became available.

73. Although growing membership was helping to expand the support base for IOM's work, membership entailed certain obligations. His delegation expressed concern about the arrears in assessed contributions and called upon the Members concerned to follow the recommendations made on that subject at the last session of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance.

74. The Netherlands attached great importance to dialogue and partnership, where the greatest challenge consisted in finding ways to put those concepts into practice. His Government was grateful to IOM for giving it the opportunity to propose elements for a managed migration system, from the point of view of a country of net immigration. The Netherlands considered that a successful asylum and migration policy should, by its very nature, be an international policy in which international organizations played their respective roles. With regard to the future relationship between IOM and the United Nations, it was essential for IOM to retain its innate qualities of flexibility, efficiency and effectiveness, avoiding duplication of the activities covered by other organizations. He looked forward to further discussions on the subject which would also need to include a cost-benefit analysis of any change in IOM's status.

75. Mr. MANSOUR (Tunisia) welcomed the debate on IOM's functions and future role, in particular its relations with the United Nations system. It was important to define the Organization's strategic position in a swiftly changing international environment, in which migratory movements presented a major challenge, and to review its prerogatives and objectives in that context. Without prejudging the outcome of such reflection, it would seem that a move towards the status of a Specialized Agency or an organization affiliated to the United Nations system might prove the best way forward. Nevertheless, it would be useful to give further consideration to: adjusting IOM's objectives to those of the United Nations; identifying areas of complementarity between IOM and partner institutions; encouraging effective partnerships; and examining the implications of each of the options proposed. He suggested setting up a working group or *ad hoc* committee to discuss all aspects of the matter, propose alternatives and make operational suggestions which would take into account the findings of the Council at its present session. In that context he supported the Director General's proposal to establish a mechanism for regular follow-up to that debate.

76. Mr. BOULGARIS (Switzerland) said that the concept of partnership and coordination were essential if IOM was to meet its future challenges successfully. The Swiss Federal Authorities had noted the correspondence relating to the institutional future of the Organization and the Director General's statement the previous day. Even if a final decision was not reached, an exchange of views on the institutional future of IOM, and in particular its relations with the United Nations system, would be valuable. Welcoming the fact that the subject of migration had been emphasized by the Secretary General of the United Nations in his recent report to the United Nations General Assembly, he stressed that IOM already occupied an important place among other bodies (States, agencies and non-governmental organizations) in the complex reality of world migration. Regarding IOM's future relations with the United Nations, his Authorities were not in a position to take a decision solely on the basis of the Director General's note of 25 October 2002 and wished to reserve their reply. First, there had been insufficient time to study the legal, institutional and thematic content of the matter. Secondly, his Authorities considered that the Administration should provide a more precise and thorough analysis of the direct and indirect consequences of the options proposed, covering the formal and legal aspects as well as areas such as programming, personnel and governance in the broad sense, including a cost-benefit analysis. Likewise, his Authorities also suggested that the Administration broaden the range of options by studying other institutional variants (as for example the status of the international financial institutions) and provide Member States with the findings of that study at an appropriate later date. His Authorities were, however, prepared to examine all the options open, without any preconceived ideas.

Mr. Albin (Mexico) took the chair

77. Mr. REYES (Colombia) welcomed the new Members and observers. On behalf of his Government, he thanked IOM for the effectiveness and relevance of the programmes and projects which IOM was engaged in jointly with Colombia. His delegation attached importance to IOM's capacity to assist governments and Member States with migration management. Many governments, Member States and regions were faced with complex problems which had considerable repercussions, both negative and positive. The technical assistance and cooperation which the Member States would receive would be clearly identified in the institutional response to be established and in the strengthening of those institutions. It would then be necessary to decide on the migration management structures required. IOM's independence, flexibility and capacity for action should be preserved, however, and accompanied by broader and more effective cooperation and coordination with the other international bodies and with the United Nations system in particular. It would also be advisable to improve interaction between the Organization and the regional groups and to strengthen links with Permanent Delegations in Geneva. IOM had a fundamental role to play in achieving greater coherence among bodies and mechanisms which were concerned with the different aspects of migration and their relation to social change and globalization.

78. Mr. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) welcomed the new Members and observers. Any concrete and comprehensive approach to migration called for the identification of its increasingly complex aspects throughout the world. Civil wars, regional crises and armed conflicts constituted the main causes of irregular migration – a problem which could only be solved effectively through bilateral, regional and international cooperation to promote peace and stability. Rapid population growth combined with the ever-increasing gap between rich and poor

societies were among the other root causes of population movements. Solutions to those problems required both international measures and intergovernmental cooperation, which should aim at capacity-building in countries both of origin and of first arrival.

79. IOM occupied a pivotal and leading role in enhancing international cooperation in the field of migration management and devising solutions to the problem of irregular migration. The Organization with its capacities could increasingly perform significant tasks in different migration-related areas all over the world. In developing a comprehensive and solution-oriented approach to irregular migration, IOM should focus mainly on countries of origin and those of first arrival, in addition to destination countries.

80. With neighbouring regions which had produced large-scale and protracted displacement of people, his country had constantly been faced with mixed population flows and irregular migration, in particular from Afghanistan. The end to the emergency situation in Afghanistan provided the international community with an opportunity to assist Afghan refugees to return to their homeland in a sustainable manner. A total of 369,000 Afghan refugees had returned home from the Islamic Republic of Iran, thanks to the voluntary repatriation programme, in which IOM's role had been much appreciated. The current extent of IOM's involvement was, however, insufficient to meet the present requirements of the migratory situation facing the Islamic Republic of Iran.

81. He drew attention to the precarious situation in his region, where new large-scale population movement and displacement might be triggered off by military action in the region, to an extent exceeding current estimations. He called on the international community to take appropriate preventive measures to maintain an adequate level of emergency preparedness, so as to respond in a timely manner to possible displacements and refugee outflows in the region.

82. It was his view that the question of IOM's relations with the United Nations deserved further elaboration and consultations, either in the form of informal meetings or during the Council sessions. He requested further clarification on the statutory rights and obligations that might arise from the "related agency status" and could be prescribed for IOM's Member States. He would welcome consultations on that question. He was aware of the need to upgrade IOM's relations with the United Nations system and to strengthen its position in order to meet the requirements of the constantly changing migration environment.

83. It was to be hoped that the IOM Council, acting as a forum for dialogue on migration, would prepare the ground for more effective cooperation amongst IOM's Member States in managing migration and enhancing international understanding of migration, thus reducing the negative effects of migration both for States and individuals.

84. Ms. HOCHSTETTER (Guatemala), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, welcomed all new Members and observers. She stressed the importance of building up strategic alliances in the form of closer cooperation with the United Nations' agencies and programmes. She thanked the Director General for his letter of 25 October concerning the IOM-United Nations relationship and reflecting its complexity. The topic would require open and in-depth discussion which she would like to see initiated in early 2003. She also requested the Director General to report at that discussion on the results of his meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations on

9 December 2002, which, it was to be hoped, would provide useful guidelines for future debate on the subject.

85. Ms. CARRAL CUEVAS (Mexico) welcomed the new Members and observers. Migration was an essential, unavoidable and potentially advantageous factor in the economic and social life of each country and region of the world. Stressing the importance of the regional dialogue on migration issues, she outlined the work achieved over the past eight years through the Regional Conference on Migration – the Puebla Process – covering the North and Central American region. The eighth Conference, to be held in Mexico in 2003, would be attended by its participating States and by relevant international bodies such as the UNHCR, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and IOM, which provided invaluable support through its experience and expertise in migration management and its logistical support. The participation of civil society, through a regional network of non-governmental organizations, was a distinctive feature of the Conference.

86. For eight years the Conference had been working on the consolidation of existing mechanisms and the development of a plan of action geared to the specific characteristics and needs of the region. That was not a closed process, but rather reflected a convergence with other regional processes and collaboration with the appropriate specialized agencies. Furthermore, the governmental participants at the Conference were the senior national officials responsible for internal migration administration, consular protection and the formulation and implementation of national migration politics. The Conference, based on dialogue and consensus, had concrete practical goals such as the modernization of migration management, the standardization of statistical systems, and training and coordination to combat trafficking in persons. The Puebla Process with its experience could make a valuable contribution to other similar consultative processes.

87. Mexico, which received thousands of seasonal Guatemalan agricultural workers each year, regarded its foreign workforce as a source of national wealth. Acknowledgement of the fact that restrictive migratory policies were not an efficient way of dealing with flows of undocumented migrants should lead to a search for migratory agreements to channel those flows and at the same time, to ensure respect for the human rights of migrants.

88. The organization of specialized workshops, as at the present IOM Council, contributed to better understanding of migration management, and the effective protection of migrants' human rights. Dialogue between IOM, the Member States and other mechanisms or regional processes should be broadened so as to achieve a comprehensive and constructive approach to the solution of migration problems.

89. In conclusion, she expressed Mexico's support for the re-election of Mr. Brunson McKinley for a second term of office as Director General of IOM.

90. Mr. BERG (Germany) said that the debates had reflected the great complexity and challenges of migration in a world of increasing globalization. Germany strongly supported IOM's work and welcomed new Members and observers. Migration management was now connected with a broad range of other issues, such as economy and trade, labour and social affairs, environment and development, security and justice, human rights and protection of

individuals, involving political decision-making at all levels - national, regional and international - and all States, whether of origin, of transit or destination, although those categories now tended to merge. Migration patterns were in the process of changing, on account of trade liberalization, global economic integration and improved transportation and communication networks – a situation which called for comprehensive solutions.

91. He welcomed the documentation which IOM had produced concerning migration management. In general the responsibility for each field of activity referred to in the discussions was the responsibility of individual States, regional institutions and international organizations. Regarding the question of whether there should be a change in the relationship between IOM and the United Nations system, he said that Germany was very satisfied with the way IOM was carrying out its task. Germany had benefited from IOM support, for example concerning the return of refugees from Bosnia and the implementation of tasks in relation to the Forced Labour Compensation Programme and would not like to see IOM change its functions in that regard, as those tasks called for a broad independent and flexible structure based on pragmatism.

92. Activity-based funding and the inductive grass roots approach in the work of the IOM were also of particular advantage. IOM might not be a full member of the United Nations system but was an excellent partner. He fully supported IOM's intention to further improve cooperation in the form of a strategic alliance with the relevant agencies and programmes of the United Nations. It was hard to imagine that it would be advisable to have just one agency or organization dealing with all aspects of migration. On the contrary, provided a reasonable division of labour combined with strategic alliances was achieved and duplication of work and competition avoided, the current system seemed well equipped to accomplish the work. At the same time, the migration policy dialogue within IOM and the United Nations system should be continued in order to promote common understanding of migration, migration-related issues and the necessary structures. Germany would actively participate in that complex process.

93. Mr. TOMITA (Japan) expressed his appreciation for IOM's valuable assistance to migrants and for its emergency relief programmes for refugees and internally displaced persons in cooperation with United Nations Specialized Agencies. He stressed that it was vital for the issue of trafficking and irregular migration, which was transnational and transregional in nature, to be tackled in a cooperative framework. In that regard, the holding of the Ministerial Regional Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali, February 2002) represented an important initiative of the Asia and Pacific region. Japan was strongly committed to that regional process and commended IOM's efforts for facilitating the Bali Conference, as well as the Inter-Governmental Asian Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC) and the Manila Process, and also for co-chairing with the European Union the European Conference on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in September 2002.

94. The international community had faced serious problems caused by complicated emergencies at the global level, for which emergency relief operations for refugees and displaced persons were urgently required. His Government considered that such operations were one of IOM's main international operations, to which Japan, despite budgetary constraints, was willing to contribute.

95. With regard to IOM's relations with the United Nations, he considered that it was still premature to make any concrete suggestions. His delegation would consequently welcome more detailed information on matters such as: the current status of the international institutional relationship of IOM with various United Nations Specialized Agencies; the procedures necessary for IOM to be merged into another United Nations agency or alternatively to become a Specialized Agency; the budgetary implications of such arrangements, especially regarding Member States contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget, and overhead costs; and the institutional and organizational implications.

96. He welcomed IOM's efforts to achieve efficient budgetary management by transferring certain functions from Headquarters to Manila and urged the Organization to continue to enhance its financial management on the basis of zero nominal growth. His Government, in cooperation with other Member States, would support IOM's work on behalf of refugees and migrants, particularly on the issues of trafficking and illegal migration.

97. Mr. MALATJI (South Africa) welcomed the new Members and observers. He considered it appropriate that an African country should chair the Council at the present juncture in the history of the African continent, which was witnessing the emergence of the newly-formed African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the search for more equitable international institutions and systems to meet Africa's needs and for lasting peace in conflict-affected areas. He noted that almost 20 African States had joined IOM under the leadership of the present Director General. South Africa was of the opinion that migration, both at the global and the regional level, was likely to increase rather than to decrease. His Government was therefore ready to cooperate with IOM in seeking to establish regional partnerships for the management of migration. He commended IOM for its assistance to the South African Government in enhancing its capacity to implement its new legislation on immigration and expressed appreciation for the recent project undertaken by IOM and South Africa to transport and distribute a large consignment of humanitarian aid to Angola.

98. South Africa supported the IOM Council as the appropriate forum for discussions on migration policy, especially because of IOM's neutral, independent, activity-based and grass-roots approach. His country also strongly supported closer cooperation between IOM and the United Nations, in particular UNHCR, although it believed that further discussion was advisable prior to any institutional change. In recent years, South Africa had increasingly become a country of migration, not only of destination, but also of origin and transit. Migration management proved complex on account of the current high level of unemployment and of disparities in the labour market. The effects of irregular migration was a matter of concern and in that connection he looked forward to the findings of the joint IOM and UNHCR research project on the nexus between migration and asylum. As regional, global and bilateral cooperation became increasingly vital, South Africa welcomed the Berne Initiative on a more structured form of inter-State cooperation in the field of migration management. As IOM's MIDA programme was, in his view, complementary to the objectives of the NEPAD, he urged IOM to extend its action to include cooperation with the NEPAD Secretariat.

99. As HIV/AIDS was having such a devastating effect on the lives of people, including migrants, he supported IOM's research project on the link between HIV/AIDS and mobility in Southern Africa and looked forward to the results.

100. Mr. SAMVELIAN (Armenia), welcoming the new Members and observers, expressed appreciation of the opportunity to highlight programmes in his country which had sprung from fruitful cooperation between Armenia and IOM. The scope and nature of migration management was an issue of great importance in the South Caucasus region bearing in mind the specific characteristics and the geopolitical sensitivity of the area. Considering that the region still suffered from economic difficulties following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the transition to a market economy, the three Republics – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia - needed to pursue seriously a number of important projects already launched by IOM. He therefore welcomed IOM's continued priority focus on the region.

101. High-level dialogues and discussions of experts between the Government of Armenia and IOM had yielded a number of important conclusions which he then highlighted. Regarding measures to prevent irregular migration and facilitate the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants, Armenia appreciated IOM's Cluster Proposal initiatives for drawing up migration assistance programmes between the South Caucasian and Western European countries. Currently Armenia was engaged in an active negotiation process to reach conclusions on readmission agreements. He reiterated the full commitment of the Armenian Government to the preparation and signing of readmission agreements with all parties concerned. He expressed appreciation of IOM's efforts in conducting surveys on human trafficking, a matter of serious concern to the Government of Armenia. On 14 October 2002, following a decision of the Prime Minister of Armenia, an intergovernmental commission on anti-trafficking issues had been established. The Commission included representatives of governmental bodies, international and non-governmental organizations and embassies accredited in Armenia.

102. Another important aspect was capacity-building in migration management in Armenia. In order to establish a well-unified system for the management of migration processes, an agreement between IOM and his Government laid the basis for cooperation in that area. Coordination with the capacity-building programmes in Azerbaijan and Georgia, to build up a regional approach, had been assisted by IOM. IOM assistance in the field of migration information was another essential matter. Lack of reliable information on countries of destination had proved to be a major cause of irregular migration. IOM was conducting a large-scale programme aimed at the prevention of irregular migration in the South Caucasus region, and the Migrants Service Point, established in Armenia in May 2002, was functioning successfully.

103. Given the specific demographic distribution of the Armenian population in the world, the Armenian Government would cooperate with IOM in establishing services for migrants in the diaspora, with particular focus on strengthening the production links between the diaspora and the home country. Armenia counted on the strong support of IOM Member States and the donor community for developing appropriate ways and means of implementing those programmes so as to meet migration challenges and concerns in the region as a whole, and in Armenia in particular.

104. Ms. DE HOZ (Argentina), welcoming the new Members and observers, said that in view of the increasing number of IOM Member States, there was a need to strengthen regional migration agreements and seek effective solutions to complex migration challenges. Furthermore, greater mobility, especially in the field of labour migration, called for creative responses. It was, of course, necessary to combat terrorism, but it was true to say that most migrants moved to other parts of the world for valid reasons and many of them required international assistance.



According to studies carried out in Argentina, migratory movements had a positive impact on the social structure and labour market of the receiving countries.

105. The Director General had highlighted the importance of regional processes. In that context, Argentina had had positive experiences in concluding agreements and additional protocols with Bolivia and Paraguay to control migratory flows and regularize the situation of migrants who had already settled in the country. A similar agreement was shortly to be signed with Peru. Her country had also participated in the South American conferences on migration, in which governments sought to harmonize their interests and programmes, with a view to achieving orderly migration processes to the mutual advantage of South American countries. Within the context of MERCOSUR a draft agreement had been discussed on preferential treatment for nationals in the MERCOSUR area and associated States, so that nationals of one State who moved to another State in the area could regularize their situation without having to return to their country of origin.

106. Her delegation considered that the strategic alliances set up by IOM had been successful in various fields and her Government agreed with the Director General's view that it was essential to blend continuity and change in tackling the challenges of migration. The interest shown by the United Nations in migration matters was the logical consequence of a globalized world. Argentina considered that no decision should be taken on IOM's future status without a detailed analysis of the views of the Secretary General of the United Nations and an evaluation of the effects on IOM's work and the financial implications of the various options.

107. Her delegation wished to state that the 2.54 per cent increase in the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2003 constituted a heavy burden for Argentina at a time of major economic crisis in the country.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.