

**EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

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

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Wednesday, 4 December 2002, at 10.25 a.m.

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

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Agenda item 7 (continued)

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)

1. Mr. KESSEDJIAN (France), welcomed the new Members and observers, whose arrival testified to the dynamic qualities of IOM's leadership. The new Members would appreciate the atmosphere of cooperation which traditionally prevailed in IOM. He welcomed the consensus that had been reached in the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance on such important questions as the growth in the Administrative Part of the Budget and the use of surpluses from that source. Although France was in favour of the expansion of IOM that had taken place during the terms of office of the current Director General and Deputy Director General and of a justified increase in its resources, it considered that such development should be based on Member States' shared responsibility and commitment, on the one hand, and on IOM's compliance with the need for budgetary discipline, on the other.
2. One of the most encouraging examples of IOM's expansion was the establishment of the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme, which not only promoted the return of qualified nationals to Africa, but was also part of the broader issue relating to the positive aspects of migration and the contribution it could make to development. Nevertheless, he did not consider desirable the development of certain activities, such as humanitarian aid operations, which were only distantly related to IOM's core mandate. IOM had always presented itself as a service organization at the disposal of its Member States and had given proof of its speed of action and efficiency. It should maintain that approach, even though reflection on medium- and long-term prospects might be useful.
3. Migration was an essential factor in modern society and relations between States, as reflected in the fact some 175 million people had been living outside their countries in 2000. The ease of present-day transport and new communication technologies, labour shortages in the North and the need for intellectual skills were among the main factors currently affecting migration. In the new context of globalization, appropriate responses must be found, avoiding negative developments such as trafficking in human beings and the rise of all forms of xenophobia, and transforming migration and the way in which it was perceived into a positive factor of human development.
4. Given the wide scope and impact of migration, it was clear that it ought to be dealt with in the framework of the United Nations system. There was no single organization within that system, however, which had a specific mandate in that field. France considered that IOM, which currently had observer status in the United Nations system, and had considerably developed its links with the United Nations funds and programmes, should go one step further and apply for the status of Specialized Agency. That was a medium-term objective which was not supported by all IOM's Member States, but France considered that it would be advantageous to all concerned, especially with respect to coordinated action by all the participants in the different organizations. Such a move must, of course, be approved by all IOM Member States and the Organization should retain its speed of action and effectiveness.

5. Mr. MOLANDER (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic Group, commended IOM for organizing another important debate within the framework of the International Migration Policy Dialogue and encouraged it to pursue that activity, while focusing on topics closely related to its core mandate. International migration was a global challenge, affecting industrialized and developing countries alike, and as an intergovernmental body IOM should act with its partners in the international community to promote orderly migration and to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between States on migration matters.

6. The Nordic countries attached great importance to IOM's continued commitment to coordination with other relevant actors particularly within the United Nations system, and commended the Organization on its work to facilitate voluntary repatriation. IOM was also to be commended for its active participation in the United Nations Consolidated Appeals Process, in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and in joint strategic planning under the Common Humanitarian Action Plan in many field locations. The Nordic countries welcomed the intention of IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to forge a strategic alliance in order to address international migration problems in a concerted manner, and encouraged IOM to establish frameworks for cooperation with other key partners. It was essential, however, for IOM to assess its own capacity and resources before launching new programmes, especially in complex emergencies, since the consequences could be serious if programmes had to come to an abrupt halt because of unexpected lack of resources – as in the case of operations in Afghanistan during the past year. Predictability of funding was, of course, an important related factor.

7. The Nordic countries were prepared to give their views on IOM's relationship with the United Nations over the coming months, but considered it premature to give a definitive reply at the current Council session. Some of the advantages of IOM's becoming a Specialized Agency would be easier access to processes and missions led by the United Nations and a more coordinated and comprehensive response to future migration challenges, while the disadvantages might include a heavier administrative structure and a less responsive organization. The Nordic countries recommended that IOM itself, preferably through an independent review, should examine the possible change of status in greater detail, focusing on the likely consequences for IOM's beneficiaries, Member States, donors and programmes, as well as for its own staff.

8. The Nordic countries supported IOM's important role in humanitarian work and welcomed the strategic background document on that subject. They also appreciated IOM's efforts to combat trafficking in women and its action for the safe return of victims and facilitation of their reintegration. Those programmes should be developed further in close cooperation with relevant organizations. IOM's efforts to mainstream the gender perspective should be strengthened and it was heartening to learn that they enjoyed the support and commitment of the Organization's top management. With regard to the security of field personnel, it was gratifying to note IOM's decision to remain within the UNSECOORD system and in particular the agreement reached in the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance on the administrative measures required to enable the Organization to cover the increased security costs which, logically, should be part of the core budget.

9. Unfortunately, it had been necessary for the Council once again to address the issue of outstanding contributions, urging all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full

and on time. There was an obvious need to begin to apply Article 4 of the Constitution and to give serious consideration to other measures, such as closing offices and postponing planned activities in the States concerned, since all Member States were responsible for fulfilling their obligations to the Organization. IOM should also pay greater attention to measures it could take to encourage payment of contributions. The Nordic countries expressed particular satisfaction that consensus had been reached in the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance on a systemic solution for the use of surpluses in the Administrative Part of the Budget – a subject which had taken up much valuable meeting time that could have been better used discussing more substantive issues.

10. Mr. BOGUNOVIC (Slovenia) said that his country, although a recent Member State of IOM, had acquired considerable experience in migration management, beginning with the acceptance of thousands of refugees fleeing from wars in adjacent countries. Following an initial reception phase, the Slovenian government authorities and civil society had worked together to provide the refugees with appropriate care and then, after the signature of the Peace Agreement, with assistance in voluntary repatriation. Slovenia had recently taken the further step of offering those who had opted not to return to their countries the possibility of integrating into the new community. Organizations such as IOM and UNHCR had played an important part in those activities and continued to do so.

11. The challenges now posed by migration were different from in the past; policy makers had to face an expanding economy, an ageing population and other factors of concern. It was becoming evident that Slovenia, like many other States, would need a new skilled labour force and the efforts made to prepare a comprehensive migration policy had culminated in the recent adoption of revised migration legislation by the Slovenian Parliament: that instrument constituted the main tool for migration management and defined, at policy level, actions and mechanisms in all the main migration areas – forced migration, migration control, facilitated migration and migration and development.

12. During preparation of that legislation it had been confirmed that success in managing migration depended largely on the level of cooperation between key players. Since migration was a clear example of a cross-curricula subject, cooperation had to be established not only among various governmental and other institutions in a country, but also between States. Slovenia therefore supported IOM's endeavours to continue the migration debate, which contributed to a growing consensus on migration issues, with the realization that the benefits of migration were shared by all the parties involved. The traditional distinction between countries of immigration and emigration was gradually fading and migrants in the age of globalization were more mobile than ever before. One area in which States should intensify their efforts was that of trafficking in human beings and the protection of women and children, the most vulnerable victims of that unacceptable trade. States must reach agreement that trafficking networks should be combated at the national and international levels, from countries of origin to those of transit and destination, for results could be obtained only through joint, coordinated action by the entire international community. Slovenia looked forward to participating in the discussion of possible changes in IOM's institutional arrangements and concurred with the Organization's view that its main assets, such as freedom of action, a light and flexible management structure and freedom from bureaucratic entanglements, were of the highest importance for efficient migration management at the global level.

13. Ms. FILIP (Romania) welcomed the new Members and observers. The recently obtained right of Romanian citizens to travel freely within the Schengen area had consolidated her country's position as a credible partner in the creation of a free and secure Europe. Her country's efforts to combat irregular migration and human trafficking and to support voluntary return and the protection of the rights of migrants had led to the development of national policies and the consolidation of international cooperation in those fields, with the valuable assistance of IOM.

14. The emergence of new migration patterns and the blurring of such concepts as countries of origin, transit and destination required States to develop specific capacities in response to the new challenges. International cooperation was an essential feature in that field and the Director General's invitation to reflect on IOM's future relationship with the United Nations had led her delegation to ask three questions which might serve as reference points: first, how could the expertise acquired by IOM be maintained and developed; secondly, how could better coordination be achieved between the action of IOM and that of other international organizations (mostly United Nations Specialized Agencies); and thirdly, how could IOM's resources be increased and put to better use. In seeking answers it was essential to keep in mind the importance of maintaining IOM's specific characteristics: flexibility of action, cooperative partnerships with governments and civil society and consolidation of strategic alliances with other international organizations.

15. While bearing in mind the practical side of IOM's activity, Romania commended the efforts of the Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP) to clarify migration concepts and identify elements that could consolidate IOM's role. Her country also endorsed the proposal to initiate regular consultations through a series of informal meetings between IOM Council sessions and supported the suggestion by the Nordic countries that a detailed study be conducted of the IOM-United Nations relationship. Romania commended IOM for reaching consensus on the systemic use of surpluses in the Administrative Part of the Budget and encouraged Member States which would thus benefit from a reduction in their assessed contribution to allocate an equivalent amount as a voluntary contribution to the 1035 Facility for financing projects to be implemented in developing Member States and States in transition.

16. Ms. KRAIA (Greece) said that she would concentrate on the positive influence of regularizing the status of immigrants, which was the first step towards integration and the reduction of the irregular immigration rate. In the 1990s Greece had received a very large number of immigrants, mainly from the Balkan countries and those of Central and Eastern Europe. According to the population census held in March 2001, the population of Greece stood at 11 million, of which 800,000 were immigrants, 380,000 of whom had settled in the Athens area and the remainder in the northern part of the country and central and southern Greece. They accounted for almost 10 per cent of the total population. The total number of legal immigrants in Greece was 600,000.

17. In order to cope effectively with immigration, particularly irregular immigration and integration of immigrants in Greek society, Greece had adopted new laws in 2001 and 2002 to fill gaps in the existing legislation. Legal provisions had been approved for the issue of residence and working permits to legal immigrants into Greece and for the legalization of the status of immigrants living in Greece without a permit when the law entered into force. The new legislation further provided a procedure for immigrants' access to the Greek labour market,

protection of immigrants' rights, their integration in Greek society (including children's education, access to legal aid and to the health and social security systems), reunification of families and the establishment at central and regional levels of special services for immigrants in order to promote implementation of the national migration policy.

18. The purpose of the new legislation was to control the flow of irregular immigrants at the borders, to achieve the gradual legalization of their status and the economic and social integration of legal immigrants into Greek society, with a view to protecting the human rights of immigrants. In view of the influx of immigrants in the 1990s – many of them in an irregular situation – Greece had launched two legalization programmes, the first in 1998 and the second in 2001. The first programme showed that 380,000 people had applied for a provisional residence permit, and 220,000 had applied for a fixed-period residence and work permit. The applicants for the fixed-period permit, mostly between 20 and 44 years old, came from the following countries: 61.8 per cent from Albania, 7 per cent from Bulgaria, 4.3 per cent from Pakistan, 3.9 per cent from Romania, 2.8 per cent from Ukraine, 2.5 per cent from Poland, 2.4 per cent from Egypt, 2.1 per cent from India, 1.7 per cent from Georgia, 1.7 per cent from the Philippines, and others. There had been 355,000 applicants for a provisional residence permit under the new legislation but procedures had not yet been completed.

19. Mr. KARIYAWASAM (Sri Lanka) observed that, since the process of globalization had caused nearly 3 per cent of the world's population to live and work in countries other than those of their birth or citizenship, trans-border migration was becoming a fact of life and the substantial contribution made by millions of migrants to the economic, social and cultural advancement of their countries of temporary residence must be recognized. Nevertheless, such massive migration had complex social and economic effects which were both positive and negative. Regular reports of people smuggling and abuse of asylum and refugee facilities and laws, and an increase in irregular cross-border migration had negative effects not only on receiving countries, but also on countries of origin. Moreover, illegal migration exposed the migrants concerned to dreadful abuse and exploitation. In his country's view, such developments could not be contained by strict regulatory mechanisms alone and one solution might be to provide opportunities for legal employment in countries where work was apparently available.

20. Almost half of all migrants worldwide were women, most of whom travelled abroad independently to escape poverty or to improve the socio-economic situation of their families. In Sri Lanka, remittances by female migrant workers had accounted for 62 per cent of all private remittances in 1999 and women accounted for 65 per cent of all regular workers going abroad. When regular migration opportunities were limited or not available, some women became involved in irregular and clandestine forms of migration. The majority of migrant women currently worked in unskilled jobs or in the informal sector, with only limited prospects for upward mobility. Apart from earning low wages, they worked long hours, had little or no job security and enjoyed limited rights to social benefits. For all those reasons, attention must be paid to mainstreaming gender issues when dealing with migration matters.

21. There was clearly a need for greater global and regional understanding and better coordinated international and regional approaches to migration management. All the issues should therefore be addressed in cooperation with a wider range of stakeholders, with a view to establishing effective bilateral, regional and international arrangements to promote orderly

migration for the benefit of both countries of origin and receiving States: the key to a solution was therefore not the arbitrary prevention of mobility, but improved management. It was gratifying to note that cooperation in controlling irregular migration and human trafficking in the Asian region was growing, with encouragement from the Manila Process, the Bali Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime of February 2002 and many other initiatives. Sri Lanka also intended to host in April 2003 the first Labour Migration Ministerial Consultations for countries of origin in Asia, with an expected participation by ten countries of the region.

22. The Director General's visit to Sri Lanka in May 2002 had marked the country's enhanced cooperation with IOM in building local capacities for migration management, combating human trafficking and promoting the welfare of migrant workers. Sri Lanka also appreciated IOM's role in facilitating emergency and assisted returns and supporting the development of reintegration programmes for returning migrants.

23. Whereas IOM had for many years received worldwide acclaim as an organization capable of responding with unusual speed and flexibility, Sri Lanka considered that it needed to be strengthened not only as a service provider but also as a forum for the discussion of complex migration policy issues. Furthermore, the broad scope of migration-related issues called for an inter-ministerial approach to migration policy at national level and greater international coordination, in which IOM could play a key role through strengthened strategic alliances. Sri Lanka agreed with the Director General that IOM needed to blend continuity and change. Activity-based funding had worked well and should be continued, since it was cost-effective and could be rapidly deployed. IOM should serve as a forum for policy dialogue on migration subjects in both the regional and the international context and the dialogue should lead to practical and effective solutions and arrangements.

24. The growth of IOM membership should lead to the financing of more sustainable regional and global solutions which were pragmatic, humane and equitable. Sri Lanka therefore looked forward to the participation of a greater number of important Asian countries as IOM Members. With regard to the IOM-United Nations relationship, a measured and cautious approach seemed to be indicated, as the status quo was sustainable and the need to ensure an undiminished funding base for project delivery and IOM's ability to maintain its flexibility and its capacity for rapid action at low cost were key questions. On the other hand, it must be recognized that if IOM became a Specialized Agency active dialogue on substantive matters would be facilitated. The matter required further focused discussion and Sri Lanka supported the proposal that IOM should conduct an independent review of the whole question. In conclusion, Sri Lanka considered that under the Director General's leadership IOM was well on the way to becoming a truly universal intergovernmental organization and therefore intended to support Mr. McKinley's candidature for re-election for a second term of office.

25. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said that full perception of the complex nature of contemporary migration required a study of the root causes, such as conflict, repression and economic deprivation, which led millions of migrants to abandon their homes and move to far-off destinations with alien cultures placing heavy strains on their basic values. The ongoing debate on migration had served to underline the mutual benefits to be derived from orderly migration, necessitating the establishment of international norms for facilitating the movement of people, to

which IOM could make a significant contribution by assuming a central role as a mediator between labour-starved and labour-surplus economies.

26. A basic flaw in the prevailing philosophy about migration was the misplaced idea that migrants distorted the values and cultural norms of receiving countries, a generalization based on isolated incidents which made it incumbent upon political figures, opinion formers and media representatives to emphasize the productive role of migrants who introduced cultural stimuli and contributed to economic development. Most Western nations would not have reached their current level of advancement but for the toil of millions of migrants who had helped with the reconstruction of their continent after the ravages of the Second World War and, according to a study by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, Boston, the phenomenal growth of the United States economy in the 1990s had been largely fuelled by the 13 million migrants who had entered the country between 1990 and 2001, most of whom had contributed more in taxes than they had used in services.

27. Parallel to the creation of a humane framework for orderly migration was the need to endeavour to create a sustainable structure for economic cooperation that would ensure equity in wealth distribution across and within countries, alleviate privations resulting from unhampered globalization, generate equal opportunities for all, liberate debt-laden nations from their crushing burden and promote investment in the social sectors, especially education and health. In the absence of such a framework, the prospects for curtailing irregular migration would remain insignificant. The building of legal and administrative barriers would not stem the flow of migrants whereas economic empowerment would.

28. The events of 11 September 2001 had cast migrants in a negative light and had provided a convenient platform for xenophobic, racist and anti-migrant forces throughout the world. Yet the entire Islamic world should not be judged by the actions of a few misguided individuals and the situation presented a serious challenge for organizations such as IOM to dispel such distorted and biased attitudes. Migrants were a vital bridge between diverse cultures and societies, and severance of that link would intensify cultural polarization in the world, thus inadvertently furthering the ambitions of the protagonists of discord and confrontation. It was gratifying to note that the resurgence of extreme-right political forces in several European countries had been dwarfed by the even greater ascendancy of the forces of reason, tolerance, understanding and compassion.

29. The question of IOM's future as a member of the United Nations system or with its existing status needed careful reflection and should be decided on the basis of a comprehensive report on the advantages and disadvantages of both options. The continuing increase in IOM's membership reflected not only its wider relevance to contemporary realities but also its new responsibilities. Pakistan therefore welcomed the Council's endorsement of a proposed budget increase of 2.54 per cent and considered that the proposal to increase project overhead costs from 9 per cent to 12.5 per cent was an appropriate way of mobilizing the additional funds that IOM would be required to disburse. IOM should consistently strive to achieve equitable geographical distribution within the staff and the global nature of its membership should be reflected by recruiting a larger proportion of professional staff members from developing countries at Headquarters and at IOM Field Offices.



30. Mr. DEMBRI (Algeria) observed that migratory flows were a constant feature of the history of mankind and that many nations had been able to integrate migrants in a dynamic process leading to progress and prosperity. The developed countries had profited greatly by that human capital, as could be seen from the appeals for manpower launched after the two world wars of the twentieth century and during the economic boom of the 1960s. It was thanks to migrant workers that the great industrial, agricultural and mining infrastructures had been created. The causes of migration were many and varied, but were related above all to inequalities which were most noticeable in the context of globalization which tended to marginalize whole sections of the population rather than bring shared prosperity, and to factors affecting the stability and internal security of many developing countries. In view of the complexity of migration flows, which affected countries of origin, transit and destination alike, a global approach to the problem should be adopted. IOM's mandate provided an appropriate multilateral framework for dialogue, cooperation and action. The Organization had shown its capacity for adapting its original action in post-war Europe to the challenges of migration on an international scale. Noting that under the guidance of its Director General IOM had consistently increased its efficiency and shown initiative and imagination in dealing with the many problems of migration, Algeria supported Mr. McKinley's candidature for re-election for a second term of office. He also paid tribute to the Deputy Director General for her valuable contribution to the Organization's dynamic development and commended the staff on its excellent work.

31. The dialogue on international migration policy should not, in his view, remain at the consultation stage, but should be accompanied by practical action, with a view to facilitating cooperation between States and various partners in the management of migration-related problems and eliminating unilateral or restrictive approaches. The increasing number of African countries applying for membership in IOM served as proof of their urgent needs with respect to care of migrants. In a continent with the greatest number of least-developed countries, where conflicts caused mass population movements, it was the duty of other States to join the efforts of the Africans themselves, particularly within the framework of the New Programme for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which constituted a valuable political and intellectual framework of solidarity among African countries.

32. To avoid the generalizations that had abounded after the tragic events of 11 September 2001 which Algeria had been among the first to condemn, IOM should take greater care to integrate in its day-to-day work an element of explanation or interpretation, in order to avoid certain dangerous short-cuts liable to give rise to misunderstanding and suspicion between peoples. In the light of its experience and expertise, IOM should be encouraged to expand its sphere of action and its cooperation with United Nations agencies and other international organizations. Algeria had welcomed the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding between IOM and UNHCR, which provided for greater coordination and cooperation between the two organizations. IOM should also concern itself more closely with matters dealt with by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in connection with migrants' rights. IOM's relationship with the United Nations system should be examined in greater depth, in view of its importance and implications: any hasty decision on the subject might have serious consequences. In any event, IOM's contribution and experience must be taken into account and its Constitution must be preserved.

33. IOM attached special importance to regional processes as a means of concerted action and dialogue between neighbouring countries which were often faced with similar migration-related problems. That had been the background of the Ministerial Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean (the 5+5 Dialogue), held in Tunis in October 2002. The meeting had dealt with all the complex aspects of migration in that region, which had always been a crossroad of culture. Algeria welcomed the Tunis Declaration in which the parties had identified measures liable to improve methods of dealing with migration problems and to consolidate cooperation in that regard. The 5+5 process was a cogent example of the concerted actions at the regional level that IOM should encourage through specific projects and now constituted an integral part of the Barcelona Process.

34. With regard to bilateral relations between Algeria and IOM, his country had signed an agreement with the Organization at Algiers on 29 October 2002. The opening of an IOM office in Algeria marked a new phase in those bilateral relations. While IOM's experience would certainly be instructive for his country, Algeria's considerable opportunities for observation and analysis of migration flows and its geostrategic position could be useful to IOM. The Director General's visit to Algiers had resulted in decisions on a number of projects and a multidisciplinary IOM mission to the city was to define the terms of that cooperation and to identify specific actions to be taken. Algeria was already cooperating with IOM on the HIV/AIDS Project for Return and Transit Migrants in Algeria.

35. Ms. BARTOSIEWICZOVÁ (Slovakia) said that during the past six years the IOM Mission in her country had become an important part of the network of governmental, non-governmental and international organizations involved in the implementation of migration policy. Slovakia greatly appreciated the Mission's assistance with the voluntary returns of unsuccessful Slovak asylum-seekers from Belgium, Finland and the Netherlands and their reintegration in society and with the voluntary returns to their countries of origin of unsuccessful asylum-seekers in Slovakia. The training facilities provided for public administration employees, teachers, journalists and representatives of Roma communities, along with professional studies issued by IOM on the subjects of health care for migrants, potential asylum-seekers, Roma migration from Central Europe and trafficking in women were also very valuable. Another important contribution by IOM was its participation in raising public awareness through a media campaign targeted at various aspects of migration and a presentation of the Organization's activities.

36. Slovakia was aware of the need for a comprehensive and cooperative migration management approach and attached great importance to the rationalization of migration policy at national level. In that context, the crucial importance of regional cooperation, in Slovakia's case between the four member countries of the Visegrad Group and Austria, should be stressed. It had been recognized that prescriptive measures did not produce the desired effect without common agreement on principles. That approach and the practical experience acquired would be incorporated in the new Slovak migration policy now being prepared.

37. With regard to IOM's relationship with the United Nations system, Slovakia had listened with interest to the Director General's views on the advantages and disadvantages of changing the status quo and had concluded that, given the complexity of migration and the links between migration and issues such as trade, employment, security or development, individual governments or institutions acting alone could not meet current or future migration challenges, so

that a global approach and inter-agency cooperation in addressing migration issues were essential. IOM already had well-developed ties and would continue to build strategic alliances with UNHCR and other United Nations agencies and programmes. With its growing membership, IOM was moving towards universality and, in the long term, could be envisaged as a full member of the United Nations system, but it should be borne in mind that the Council was just beginning its detailed examination of the issue, which should be based on a serious analysis of all aspects of the matter.

38. Mr. HUGHES (Australia), welcoming new Members and observers, stressed the need for cooperative action between all partners involved in migration management. His country continued to pursue an active programme of immigration and humanitarian settlement for people from all continents. Australia strongly supported the concept and practice of managed migration and advocated the benefits of migration. Australia was working closely with its partners in the region through the process initiated by the Ministerial Regional Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali, 2002) and the Asia-Pacific Consultations, with a view to achieving better managed migration. It looked forward to working with IOM for the further implementation of those concepts. Australia saw a continuing vital role for the Organization in stimulating debate on migration policies, in addition to its more traditional role as an effective provider of migration services, and would continue to draw extensively on IOM as a service provider as long as it remained effective and competitive.

39. On the important question of IOM's relationship with the United Nations system, he observed that the modernization of the IOM Constitution in the late 1980s, when the Organization had only 34 Member States, had paved the way for expansion to the current membership of 98 and a much greater range of services: IOM as it now stood was a successful organization by any standard. It was flexible and highly responsive to Member States and had a relatively healthy budgetary situation, due largely to its activity-based funding. It was essential to preserve those strengths. The United Nations had expressed interest in greater involvement in migration issues, but had not yet specified the nature of that involvement. IOM had already declared its intention to develop a strategic alliance with UNHCR, and Australia believed that it was appropriate for the two organizations to create better cooperative working arrangements where their tasks intersected. Nevertheless, it also believed that a merger of IOM with any United Nations body would result in losing the very strengths that had made IOM successful and was sceptical about the value, for Member States, of turning the Organization into a United Nations Specialized Agency. It was important to focus first on the specific migration challenges likely to arise over the forthcoming decade before deciding on any new institutional arrangements: further consideration of the subject must be preceded by a full cost-benefit analysis, so that such a move could be examined thoroughly by Member States. In any event, Australia would expect IOM to remain the central forum for migration policy dialogue and for worldwide provision of migration services.

40. Mr. HILAËLE (Morocco) said that the close collaboration between his country and IOM had been further consolidated by the Director General's recent visit and by the finalization of the project for the establishment of a migrants' rights centre. That pioneering initiative in the Mediterranean region would help to launch information and public awareness campaigns for potential migrants, seasonal migrant workers and the most vulnerable migrants. The centre would also strengthen Morocco's institutional and technical capacities with regard to migrants'

rights and to setting up an information and training mechanism to ensure that they were respected.

41. Another joint initiative by IOM and Morocco was the establishment in 2000 of an observatory for the Moroccan community abroad, with the primary purpose of examining new aspects of Moroccan migration flows. The second phase of that project would be aimed at evaluating the knowledge and experience acquired during the first stage.

42. Morocco welcomed the recent decision of the European Union to grant USD 1.3 million for the implementation, with IOM assistance, of a pilot project on integration and socio-economic development in the Titoua region. With over two and a half million nationals living abroad, Morocco attached great importance to initiatives specifically designed to benefit those communities, in particular by improving migrants' living conditions and obtaining equality of treatment, freedom of movement, family reunification and preservation of their cultural identity on the basis of non-discrimination and respect for human rights. The establishment of a ministerial department for managing the affairs of the Moroccan community resident abroad demonstrated the real will of the competent Moroccan authorities to meet the difficult migration challenges that arose at bilateral and multilateral levels. Morocco was glad to note that the promotion and protection of migrant workers' rights currently engaged the interest of all members of the international community side by side with the economic, political, social and cultural aspects of migration problems. It was therefore essential for all the partners concerned with that question to abandon their security-obsessed approach in favour of one based on a joint development strategy benefiting receiving countries and countries of origin.

43. The Ministerial Meeting on Migration in the Western Mediterranean (Tunis, 2002) had been held as a result of that partnership of political dialogue and economic cooperation and the productive debates it had engendered bore witness to an unprecedented realization of the need to deal with migration as a single, overall factor of cohesion, development and prosperity. Morocco looked forward to hosting the second such conference in July 2003, in order to consolidate the results of the first stage and identify the challenges and joint strategies through appropriate cooperation mechanisms. The second meeting would also serve to institutionalize dialogue on migration among the Western Mediterranean countries.

44. Of late, irregular immigration had assumed alarming proportions owing to the emergence of illicit trafficking networks which facilitated emigration from indigent countries in search of better economic conditions. As the problem went beyond national frontiers, its solution required concerted efforts. As a country at the crossroads of continents and transit towards Europe, Morocco was faced with great difficulties in containing such immigration and believed that a more detailed and bolder examination of the problem by all countries involved in migration was essential, as was the contribution of regional and international organizations, because of their expertise, their financial resources and, especially, their overall view of migration as a factor in joint development. Responsibility for solving the problem must be shared by all the actors, since any unilateral or purely security-based approach was doomed to failure: all barriers erected by receiving countries without consideration for the sources of the problem would immediately be overcome by traffickers, risking everything for gain, irrespective of tragic consequences.

45. Morocco appealed to States to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, so as to ensure its entry into force as rapidly as possible.

46. Mr. KARKLINS (Latvia) welcomed the new Members and observers. The continuous growth of IOM in recent years was a clear indication of its success. Referring to the future of IOM, he gave positive encouragement for the Organization to further pursue its energetic and dedicated approach in tackling migration issues. His Government saw IOM as a dynamic, service-oriented, non-political organization greatly devoted to its objective and having unique organizational qualities of dynamism and flexibility. Migration today was closely interconnected with other contemporary problems including war, ethnic violence, economic underdevelopment, trafficking in drugs and human beings, disease, and inadequate education and housing. IOM should therefore strengthen its partnerships with relevant international organizations in order to avoid duplication of effort and to use its limited funding most efficiently.

47. His Government believed it was premature to take a decision on IOM's status with respect to the United Nations and that careful discussion and analysis were required. The Organization's efficiency and flexibility were derived in great part from its independent status and, by becoming part of the United Nations system, it would run the risk of being incorporated into a bureaucratic machine, thus complicating the planning of budgets and programmes, as the process would have to be endorsed by the United Nations Fifth Committee, and increasing the cost of services from the current level of 12 per cent to the 13 per cent which was standard in the United Nations system.

48. Referring to the table on page 15 in the second edition of the *Compendium of Intergovernmental Organizations Active in the Field of Migration 2002* published in the *International Dialogue on Migration* series, he wondered what "value added" IOM would derive from entry to the United Nations system. Migration was dealt with by many United Nations bodies and he suggested that outsourcing by the United Nations was perhaps the correct way for it to address migration. Nevertheless he looked forward to further discussion on the issue and might change his opinion if compelling arguments in favour of IOM's entry into the United Nations system were given. For the present, he preferred to maintain the status quo.

49. Mr. MENGA (Congo), after welcoming the new Member States and observers, said that migration was a basic feature in the history of humankind and had contributed to the economic development of States, the creation of a universal culture and the progress of science. Although migration was much more complex at present than in the past, on account of globalization, he believed that it could be beneficial for the international community if well-managed and should not be regarded purely as a problem. He therefore emphasized the link between migration and sustainable development, especially since poverty and armed conflict were the chief causes of migration at the present time. Outflows of human capital had a considerable impact on the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, as they entailed loss of qualified professionals. He therefore urged IOM to enhance its policies and activities for development, for example the Migration Policy and Research Programme (MPRP), capacity-building on the basis of the regional processes, and the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme, which was important in seeking solutions to the brain drain. He also considered that financing for the 1035 Facility should be expanded.

50. Another sector in which IOM's expertise was widely recognized was the return and resettlement of displaced persons and demobilized soldiers. His country had benefited from that programme which could usefully be consolidated by establishing longer-term development projects. Regarding IOM's status with respect to the United Nations, he urged caution and thorough discussion of the matter in Council. He commended the Director General, the Deputy Director General and the IOM staff for their excellent work.

51. Ms. KONRAD (Observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE), after greeting the Council on behalf of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, Dr. Erhard Busek, said that the relationship between the Stability Pact and IOM was particularly satisfactory and urged that mutual support should continue and improve. IOM had been an important partner in establishing the Migration and Asylum Initiative (MAI) and, in streamlining the Refugee Return and the MAI, had played a leading role in elaborating the concept and integrating a comprehensive approach. In that context, the Organization seconded a high-level official to the MAI Support Unit in Vienna to guarantee the fast flow of information in both directions and provide the benefits of its experience. Later in December 2002, the Stability Pact would launch a new initiative to manage and stabilize population movements in Southeastern Europe with the objective of strengthening ongoing national action plans with a regional dimension and developing an integrated and holistic approach to issues of asylum, migration and refugee return in the region. The Initiative would also be closely coordinated with other relevant initiatives within and outside the Stability Pact. She greatly appreciated the support expressed by IOM for the new Initiative.

52. The Stability Pact was designed to encourage cooperation between the countries of Southeastern Europe and to streamline efforts for assisting the region's political, economic and security integration into the rest of Europe. The fight against human trafficking was one main issue and the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings (SPTF), established under the auspices of the OSCE, provided the framework for all relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations dealing with human trafficking in the region to offer their input and expertise in that area. Coordination in that field was essential, as had been demonstrated in practice by the SPTF, which encouraged States to develop national and regional anti-trafficking strategies and provided assistance to governments to improve their capacities to act solely and in cooperation. The SPTF had set up an expert coordination team with IOM as one of its main partners, which had developed a multi-year anti-trafficking action plan for Southeastern Europe. Cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination was vital for successfully combating human trafficking, and the Brussels Declaration on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings would doubtless provide important input for future work.

53. The Chairperson of the Informal Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking of the OSCE, Ambassador Del Marmol, had wished to attend the present meeting but was currently in Portugal where the foreign ministers of the OSCE Participating States were about to adopt a Declaration on trafficking in human beings, the text of which was provided to IOM Council members for information. She reiterated that the SPTF relied on the knowledge and experience of international organizations such as IOM, which had the potential to assist in providing more and better information, to influence the development of appropriate legislation, to promote adequate law enforcement response and to protect trafficked persons. Apart from that, political

will was needed: she therefore appreciated the opportunity to address the IOM Council, which had the political influence to make progress in those areas.

54. Mr. FULLER (United Kingdom), speaking on the question of IOM's future status and relationship with the United Nations, said that while his Government encouraged close cooperation with UNHCR, a merger of the two organizations did not appear to be the best way ahead. The matter of whether it would be better for IOM to remain an independent organization or become a United Nations Specialized Agency was still open to discussion, however, and IOM Members should define the objectives of such a change and decide on the terms for IOM entry if that were decided. He therefore supported the proposal for the establishment of a team to look more closely into the question. It would need to examine carefully the implications for IOM of any change in status, including all the costs and benefits, and to make recommendations to the Council. Whatever IOM's future status, its ability to think and work independently should be retained. Secondly, the United Kingdom had taken a close interest in the migration policy dialogue led by IOM, in particular the Migration Policy and Research Programme. The United Kingdom supported further discussion at future sessions of the IOM Council for the purpose of exchanging views and information designed to assist the development of migration best practices. He did not envisage the development of standard setting or the drafting of an internationally binding framework agreement as part of that process. Finally, he noted that the Director General would stand for re-election in 2003. Under his leadership, IOM had been a cost-effective and efficient service organization and also a forum for constructive dialogue on migration issues. The United Kingdom would therefore support Mr. McKinley's candidacy.

55. Mr. ZAPATA (Honduras) thanked the IOM Secretariat for the useful information documents prepared in advance and the Director General for his excellent work. The role of IOM had been vital in Honduras in the reconstruction work following the devastation caused by hurricane Mitch in late 1998. The Organization had collaborated in community and social organization programmes, had provided technical assistance to government departments in that area and had supported awareness campaigns on the risks of irregular migration. In addition, an important disaster prevention and risk management programme had been carried out with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in rural and urban areas, and nationals of Honduras residing in the United States had been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) by the United States Government following the hurricane. Other programmes of particular importance concerned the return of migrants, disaster prevention, national capacity-building and resettlement. Recently, his country had submitted to IOM a project focused on the improvement of internal security. IOM's role in that area would be vital through its involvement in the Honduran authorities' information campaigns for civilian communities on efforts to improve the climate of security, in seeking to encourage internal investment and create jobs to motivate nationals to stay in the country rather than joining Honduran irregular migrants in their search for better living conditions elsewhere. IOM would continue to be a key organization for his country in the sector of migration. With regard to the possibility of the Organization becoming a full member of the United Nations system, his country's position was that any change should strengthen and improve the Organization rather than increase bureaucracy and possibly lessen its effectiveness. IOM had been working very well and independently in facing the challenges of migration. It had acquired knowledge and valuable experience regarding the impact of movement of persons on economic, social and political aspects of development. In order to maintain that progress, its activities in the field must remain

flexible and he hoped that if IOM did become part of the United Nations system the search for financial resources would be facilitated and IOM's individuality and flexibility would be maintained.

56. Mr. KIHOMANO (United Republic of Tanzania), welcoming the new Members and observers, paid tribute to the Director General and the Organization as a whole for their immense contribution in assisting governments to address migration challenges. Globalization and its ramifications had continued to be a predominant feature in the programmes of many world forums. Heinous crimes, beginning with the terrorist attacks in the United States of America on 11 September 2001, and the escalation of conflicts in Africa, the Middle East and Asia had continued to deepen human suffering. Many cases of displacement, refugee-generating situations and mass killing had also been registered and, in addition, natural disasters had led to large-scale movements within countries and across borders, influencing patterns of migration worldwide. On the other hand, some encouraging developments had taken place in regional integration and orderly migration initiatives. In Africa, various programmes were being carried out to emancipate the continent economically and to open up new possibilities for production within and outside Africa and for sound economic development, which would ensure better living standards and encourage orderly migration.

57. Tanzania had signed a cooperation agreement with IOM in October 2002 giving the Organization legal status in the country and he hoped much would thereby be gained. Stakeholders in IOM's projects in Tanzania were currently working on a document on a migration for development in Tanzania programme, under the auspices of the MIDA programme, which would provide guidance on how to implement various migration programmes in the country especially in relation to labour, higher education, management, statistics and employment. The document would soon be presented to the Nairobi IOM Regional Office for Eastern Africa to obtain the necessary funding and guidance.

58. He considered that IOM had stood the test of time; experience and expertise was shared at IOM meetings and the workshops which had been organized for policy makers had provided a valuable contribution for exchange of ideas and better understanding of migration issues and dynamics relevant to all Member States. Forums of that kind should be encouraged in the future. Another matter for dialogue was that of IOM's relationship with the United Nations and the advantages and disadvantages of maintaining its present status. Tanzania welcomed the idea of IOM joining the United Nations.

59. Ms. CLARAMUNT (Costa Rica) welcomed the new Members and observers and expressed her gratitude to the Organization. Discussions at the current session of the Council had been most valuable in highlighting challenges and tasks to be faced in the field of migration. For her country, the exchange of views in the workshops had provided useful information for new approaches or the consolidation of existing processes to migration management. She was willing to debate with an open mind the various options for achieving greater intra- and inter-institutional efficiency in dealing with current problems in migration linked to refugees, transnational crime and people's search for a better life. Efficiency, flexibility and cost had all to be taken into account but, on the other hand, it was essential that human rights were stressed in national and international policies and the necessary cooperation was undertaken in



implementing those policies. Furthermore, the joint responsibility of States and of other actors in civil society should also be analysed more thoroughly.

60. She expressed deep recognition for the work carried out in her country through the IOM Mission with Regional Functions in San José, which provided valuable assistance to countries in Central America where migratory movements were high. As Costa Rica was largely a receiving country, it was important to strengthen the Mission in order to support governments in sustaining their social, medical and educational systems and ensuring respect for migrants' rights. She was therefore in favour of frank and open discussions such as had been undertaken at the Council and urged the Director General to continue exploring practical ways of responding to the needs inherent in international migration.

61. Mr. EVDOKIMOV (Observer for the Russian Federation) said that the annual report on IOM activities showed that international cooperation on migration was gaining momentum, to the benefit of IOM as well as its partner countries and organizations. His country appreciated the Organization's contribution to settling migratory problems within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which were still acute. In order to place migration in the CIS region in the framework of international law, to turn migration into a factor facilitating sustainable economic and cultural development of the States of the region, the work begun in 1996 should be sustained. His country, which was making considerable efforts to solve the migration problems facing it, attached great importance to bringing its legal standards into line with European and international standards. Two fundamental Federal laws, one on citizenship of the Russian Federation and the other on the legal status of foreign citizens in that country, based on international practice and legal experience in that field, had been adopted in July 2002 and the Act introducing a special identification document for migrants, as a step towards better regulation of migratory processes in the country, had been adopted in the autumn. The situation was, however, still acute: Russia's borders with the CIS countries remained permeable and the Russian Federation still suffered a constant inflow of migrants from South-East Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

62. Expert evaluations indicated that there were about 1.5 million irregular migrants in the Russian Federation from the above-mentioned regions who included not only asylum-seekers but persons who planned to manage illegal business activities, including trafficking in human beings, weapons and drugs. Without specific international assistance, that situation could spin out of control, with very negative consequences, including international terrorism. Concerted international efforts were therefore of the utmost importance. The Russian Federation fully supported IOM projects in the country, in particular the draft dialogue and technical capacity-building programme in migration management for Central Asia and the People's Republic of China, recently elaborated by IOM.

63. The new agreement between his country and the Organization would surely contribute considerably to strengthening cooperation with IOM and the Russian Federation. He expressed the hope that the current session of the IOM Council would give fresh impetus both to the process of improving the Organization and enhancing cooperation between the Russian Federation and IOM.

64. Mr. SIMKHADA (Observer for Nepal) said that the increasing relevance of IOM's work in a rapidly globalizing world and the dynamism with which the Director General led the Organization had encouraged the Kingdom of Nepal to seek participation as an observer the previous year; he looked forward to working with IOM in the future. He welcomed the new Members and observers and hoped that his country would be taking its seat as a Member of the Organization by the time the Council met in autumn 2003. Given the unprecedented rise in international migration caused by many social, economic and political factors, the work of IOM was extremely challenging in promoting dialogue on national, regional and international levels for managed, orderly and legal migration. In his view, the prevention of irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and xenophobia and the need for international cooperation for that purpose represented some of the most important policy challenges of current times. IOM Members should provide the necessary intellectual input for formulating appropriate policy guidelines for all involved in the migration field: for Nepal, protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers, asylum-seekers and refugees was central to the debate and he reiterated the calls made at IOM by several developing countries on the need to adopt more tolerant migration policies.

65. Flexibility in the movement of persons was a critical task and it was crucial to increase the level and flow of resources in order to achieve improvement in living conditions through employment generation and poverty reduction programmes in the developing world in order to reduce illegal migration. Nepal therefore fully supported projects proposed by IOM for developing countries to provide training for skills development, to increase awareness of the risks of illegal trafficking, to encourage greater dialogue and cooperation at all levels in order to develop a comprehensive international plan for better managed and more humane migration in the world. He emphasized that new world conditions required a new paradigm for effective governance: the migration policy dialogue instituted by IOM was attempting to address the apparent contradiction between globalization of economics and localization of politics - a complex but crucial issue.

66. Mr. VAN HOVELL (Observer for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR) welcomed the opportunity to participate at the IOM Council and, referring to the useful Migration Management diagram which had been distributed, he said that, since refugee outflows were disorderly by their very nature, there could be no pretence that forced displacement could be managed in the same way as migration control or labour migration. He recognized that there was scope for improving management in terms of more coordinated and equitable responses to refugee crises and acknowledged the importance of asylum systems to sift out rapidly, but with the necessary safeguards, those really in need of protection. Many of the components listed in the diagram had a different impact on different forms of migration. Documentation for migrants and relations with diasporas were cross-cutting facets covering both the refugee and the labour migration fields; as was the theme of integration, in recognition of the potential solution it offered, but also of the serious problems experienced by refugees and labour migrants as well as some societies receiving them. The responsibilities of UNHCR for refugees and others did not, of course, extend to migrants generally; nevertheless, UNHCR had an interest in the broader migration debate so as to ensure that migration control measures did not undermine the refugee protection regime. Measures to combat trafficking and smuggling could reduce exploitation of asylum-seekers and refugees, while enhanced opportunities for legal migration might reduce unwarranted resort to the asylum channel. A more positive image of

migration generally, with greater emphasis on its economic potential, could help to counter-balance xenophobic trends and the increasingly negative atmosphere prevailing in some asylum systems. Furthermore, greater international cooperation, particularly between countries of origin and destination, was crucial to allow the swift return of unsuccessful asylum-seekers. He welcomed the strengthened international cooperation now becoming prominent in the debate on migration generally; to be meaningful, a central objective of such cooperation should be the promotion of the positive potential of migration movements while limiting the more detrimental consequences, and the interests of all countries involved must be accommodated in a fair and balanced way. To be humane, the sovereignty of States must take account of the human rights of migrants generally and of refugees in particular.

67. Data collection and analysis was one area where there was clear need for further cooperative action and the recently published UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2001 provided a wealth of relevant information. Closer and more effective cooperation between UNHCR and IOM was a common objective for both agencies and substantial progress had been made in that regard in recent years. Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in 1997, there had been a gradual shift from *ad hoc* operational cooperation towards a more clearly defined and strategic relationship. During the course of the Global Consultations on International Protection, the two organizations had cooperated in the preparation of a joint paper on *Refugee Protection and Migration Control* and the Action Group on Asylum and Migration (AGAMI) which had emerged from that process was an important inter-agency forum. High-level policy discussions, moreover, had taken place and IOM's role in voluntary return operations, and UNHCR's collaboration in that domain, had been the subject of recent discussions between the High Commissioner and the Director General which would be elaborated upon further.

68. On the one hand, UNHCR saw a real need to delineate operational responsibilities more clearly and, on the other, it wished to invest more in joint policy dialogue and forging common approaches. The two organizations had different mandates, different areas of expertise and sometimes different perspectives, but in well-defined areas, such as asylum and involuntary migration, where the two mandates overlapped, strengths should be pooled to create genuine synergy. The results of that could be seen when the two organizations participated in various international forums.

69. UNHCR was following closely the discussions currently taking place in Geneva and in New York and was pleased that the United Nations Secretary General was examining the contributions which the United Nations system could make in the area of migration. Since no United Nations agency was working systematically across the whole spectrum of migration, the need for much closer inter-agency relationships was all the more evident, both within the United Nations system and especially with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and with IOM. UNHCR was fully committed to taking the partnership with IOM further.

70. Mr. ABELLA (Observer for the International Labour Organization, ILO), after thanking the members of the IOM Council and the Director General for allowing him to contribute to the work of the IOM Council, said that contemporary trends indicated clearly that in the current decade Member States would be facing increasingly difficult challenges in managing migration. Some 460 million more workers would be joining the world's labour force during the decade. While the world's income was reported to have grown by an average of over 3 per cent a year

throughout the 1990s, the growth of employment had been much slower at 1.5 per cent per year. Vast numbers of hopeful young workers in the less-developed regions, many of them with substantial investments in education, were awaiting the opportunity to work. Many would be disappointed by being employed in low productivity occupations in sectors relying on outdated methods. Clearly, that problem could not be solved by migration alone, which would meet the employment needs of only a few in the growing workforce. The world needed to create new poles of economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa, the densely populated regions of South Asia and Central and South America. Moreover, such growth must generate more employment than hitherto; for many years the ILO had promoted development strategies which created more employment per unit of capital and placed priority on reducing inequalities between rural and urban areas. Migration was an independent contributory force behind globalization, not simply one of its consequences, and it must be better understood if its potential for contributing to greater prosperity were to be harnessed and if the social problems it posed were to be addressed.

71. The ILO with its long-standing interest in those issues, was conscious of the complementarities in the comparative strengths of the respective organizations. The ILO could make a distinct contribution in promoting social dialogue over the formulation of migration and integration policies. Its tripartite constituents – governments, workers and employers organizations - had already demonstrated their keen interest in addressing the issues posed by migration at all levels. The ILO had been mandated, moreover, to develop norms and standards relating to the protection of migrant workers and was engaged in promoting principles and standards to inspire national legislation and practice in their treatment. The ILO technical departments both in the field and at headquarters were working on many issues relevant to designing labour migration policies, promoting social integration models for migrants and minority workers, providing alternatives to migration, equipping workers with employable skills, improving employment services and regulating recruitment, identifying risks to health and safety and promoting safe working methods, establishing agreements on social security for migrants, addressing the problem of the special vulnerability of women migrant workers, including the threat of trafficking, generating data and monitoring migration, and mobilizing remittances for development.

72. In the spring of 2002, the ILO Governing Body had decided to include the topic of migrant workers for general discussion at the International Labour Conference in 2004 and he invited IOM to take an active part in the Conference and to provide information essential to a meaningful discussion of the many issues likely to be raised. He also proposed a meeting among all international organizations dealing with migration in order to define, coordinate and pool their efforts, resources and strategies and, finally, reiterated ILO's continuing interest in the work of IOM and in cooperating with the Director General in addressing the many and complex challenges of international migration.

73. Ms. RODRIGUEZ (United Nations Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human Rights on the Rights of Migrants) said that as the United Nations Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human Rights on the Rights of Migrants, her mandate was to examine the situation with regard to the human rights of migrants and identify ways of protecting them more effectively. On many occasions she had witnessed migration management that did not comply with that principle; families had been separated and migrants arbitrarily detained for long periods of time in inadequate conditions. In that connection, she referred to her forthcoming

report to the Commission on Human Rights which dealt specifically with the human rights of migrants deprived of their freedom. Although in most countries the laws formally guaranteed respect for human rights, other factors such as xenophobia, discrimination, corruption, lack of training and the impact of trafficking and smuggling of persons prevented their full application. She noted with satisfaction that in the Council many speakers had stressed those problems and the need to integrate human rights in migration management. Many international instruments recognized the responsibility of States to guarantee the human rights of all individuals under their jurisdiction and she highlighted the importance of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Without imposing undue obligations on States or limiting their national sovereignty, the Convention incorporated in a single instrument a broad range of human rights for migrants and their families whether they were in a regular or an irregular situation. Its provisions would alleviate considerably the situation of vulnerability in which migrants often found themselves, particularly in undertaking irregular work. The Convention also provided a model for international cooperation in migration management in order to prevent irregular migration. She recalled that only one more ratification was required for the Convention to enter into force and was hoping that on 18 December, International Migrant's Day, that would be achieved.

74. She would like to see more extensive debate in IOM on the subject of human rights, in which all its Member States clearly had an interest, in order to enhance migration management programmes. The Organization also had an important role to play in migration management, which included protection activities. She hoped that the fruitful dialogue would continue and was prepared to share with IOM the best practices which she had observed in the performance of her duties.

75. Ms. MENDOZA (Observer for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS) thanked IOM for the opportunity to participate in the current session, which came at a time of renewed collaboration between IOM and the UNAIDS Secretariat that had started in 1998 when it became clear that mobility was closely linked to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Since then the two organizations had developed an increasingly strong partnership at global and regional levels, resulting in the first cooperation agreement signed in 1999 and later reinforced in the new framework. The new cooperation responded to fresh challenges following the commitment entered into by 180 Governments at the United Nations General Assembly Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS in 2001, as well as the targets of the millennium development goals. IOM had a unique role to play in relation to HIV/AIDS since migration increased vulnerability and encouraged behaviour that put people at risk from such diseases. Collaboration between UNAIDS and IOM focused on enhancing international understanding of the relationship between HIV/AIDS and migrant populations and ensuring that relevant national and regional programmes included their need for prevention and care. She hoped that capacity-building of institutions by fostering links between countries and technical resources would be sustained and relevant. The two organizations had worked together on promoting best practices and policy reviews that would serve as a basis for programme development. There had been much progress in the past four years, including the participation of IOM professionals in the field, joint actions by United Nations field groups in regional migration programmes in Asia and Africa, and a growing institutional recognition that HIV/AIDS was an important issue in the achievement of IOM's goals. The UNAIDS Secretariat appreciated that progress but recognized that there were still many challenges: the HIV/AIDS epidemic was growing dramatically in

many regions, often fuelled by mobility. The number of migrants continued to rise and migration flows were much more complex and diverse. HIV-oriented responses were limited in scope, intercountry cooperation was weak and political support often inconsistent. The partnership between the two organizations was aimed at building up their knowledge and capabilities and harnessing their respective advantages to meet those challenges. It would require increased commitment that must be translated into concrete programme efforts and be supported by high-level involvement in policy and resource mobilization. She hoped the Council would give its full support to IOM's initiatives in relation to HIV/AIDS and to the spirit of the UNAIDS-IOM partnership. She assured the Council of the continued commitment of the UNAIDS Secretariat to working with IOM in intensified action aimed at addressing HIV/AIDS in the context of migration.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.