



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation internationale pour les migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

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**COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL**

**CONSEJO**

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**NINETY-SIXTH SESSION**

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**REPORT ON THE  
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

**NOTE CONCERNING DOCUMENT MC/2239 and MC/2239/Corr.1**

At its Ninety-sixth Session the Council, by Resolution No. 1174 (XCVI) of 5 December 2008, approved the Report on its Ninety-fourth Session without amendment.

To save the cost of reprinting the whole report, it is requested that this cover page be added to the original documents MC/2239 dated 14 February 2008 and MC/2239/Corr.1 dated 6 August 2008.

Geneva

27 to 30 November 2007

Rapporteur: Mr. M. Benjaber (Morocco)

**NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

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**DRAFT REPORT ON THE  
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

**27 to 30 November 2007**

**Corrigendum**

Paragraph 220 on page 39 should read as follows:

“220. One delegate asked whether the addition of point 8 continued to imply the application of a two-thirds majority for election. The Legal Adviser replied that it would.”

**MC/2239**

**Original: English  
14 February 2008**

**NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

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Draft reports of meetings of the governing bodies are subject to correction.

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

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## DRAFT REPORT ON THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

### INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1145 (XCII) of 1 December 2006, the Council convened for its Ninety-fourth Session on Tuesday, 27 November 2007, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The session was opened by the Director General at 10.15 a.m. Seven meetings were held and the session ended on Friday, 30 November 2007 at 12.20 p.m.

### ATTENDANCE <sup>1</sup>

2. The following Member States were represented:

Afghanistan	Democratic	Latvia	Rwanda
Albania	Republic	Liberia	Senegal
Algeria	of the Congo	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Serbia
Angola	Dominican Republic	Lithuania	Slovakia
Argentina	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Armenia	Egypt	Madagascar	South Africa
Australia	El Salvador	Mali	Spain
Austria	Estonia	Malta	Sri Lanka
Azerbaijan	Finland	Mauritania	Sweden
Bangladesh	France	Mauritius	Switzerland
Belarus	Gabon	Morocco	Thailand
Belgium	Georgia	Mexico	Tunisia
Benin	Germany	Moldova	Turkey
Bolivia	Ghana	Montenegro	Ukraine
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Nepal	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Bulgaria	Guatemala	Netherlands	United Republic of Tanzania
Burundi <sup>2</sup>	Guinea	New Zealand	United States of America
Cambodia	Haiti	Nicaragua	Uruguay
Cameroon	Honduras	Nigeria	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Canada	Hungary	Norway	Viet Nam <sup>2</sup>
Chile	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Pakistan	Yemen
Colombia	Ireland	Panama	Zambia
Congo	Israel	Paraguay	Zimbabwe
Costa Rica	Italy	Peru	
Croatia	Jamaica	Philippines	
Cyprus	Japan	Poland	
Czech Republic	Jordan	Portugal	
Denmark	Kazakhstan	Republic of Korea	
	Kenya	Romania	

<sup>1</sup> See List of Participants (MC/2238).

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 11.

3. Bahrain, Bhutan, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, the Holy See, India, Indonesia, Mozambique, the Russian Federation and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were represented by observers.

4. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Population Fund, the African Union, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the International Labour Organization, the League of Arab States, the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Ibero-American General Secretariat were represented by observers.

5. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, as well as the following international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), were represented by observers: Africa Humanitarian Action, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee - Center for International Migration and Integration, Amnesty International, Center for Migration Studies of New York, *Femmes Africa Solidarité*,<sup>3</sup> *Fondation Hassan II pour les Marocains résidant à l'étranger*, Paulino Torras Domènech Foundation, Human Rights Watch, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Islamic Relief Organization, Islamic Relief, Jesuit Refugee Service, Qatar Charity, Refugee Education Trust.<sup>3</sup>

## **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

6. The Director General opened the proceedings, replacing Ambassador Najat Al-Hajjaji, the outgoing Chairperson, who was unable to be present.

## **CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS**

7. The Council noted that the Director General had examined the credentials of the representatives of the Member States listed in paragraph 2 and found them to be in order, and that he had been advised of the names of the observers for the non-member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations listed in paragraphs 3 to 5.

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<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 14.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

8. The Council elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr. J. March (Spain)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. O. Carvallo (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. I. Fujisaki (Japan)
Rapporteur:	Mr. M. Benjaber (Morocco)

9. Assuming the Chair, Mr. March thanked his predecessors for the excellent work they had done in enabling IOM to set out its strategy for the coming years.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

10. The Council adopted the agenda as set out in document MC/2222/Rev.3.

## **ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS**

### **(a) Applications by the Republic of Burundi and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for membership of the Organization**

11. The Council adopted by acclamation Resolutions Nos. 1152 and 1153 (XCIV) admitting the Republic of Burundi and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, respectively, as members of IOM.

12. After thanking IOM and its Member States for accepting his country's application, the representative of the Republic of Burundi said that IOM's work was assuming vital importance in a constantly changing world. His Government had applied for membership in order to contribute to the Organization's activities and programmes, and provide support in meeting the tremendous challenges and needs it was facing in the field, especially regarding migration and development.

13. The representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam thanked the Council for having agreed to admit his country to membership of IOM by acclamation. His Government attached great importance to international migration and valued the effective and timely assistance in migration management provided by IOM, including for the return of 17,000 Vietnamese workers from Iraq in 1990 and from Lebanon in 2006, government agency capacity-building, and support in combating illegal migration. In cooperation with Member States, IOM had an important role to play with regard to migration management, protection of the legitimate rights and interests of migrants, and the coordination of international efforts. His country would fulfil all its duties and obligations as a fully fledged member of the Organization.



**(b) Applications by Africa Recruit, the Refugee Education Trust and *Femmes Africa Solidarité* for observership**

14. Africa Recruit, the Refugee Education Trust and *Femmes Africa Solidarité* were granted observer status at meetings of the Council, in accordance with the terms of Resolutions Nos. 1154, 1155 and 1156 (XCIV) respectively.

15. The representative of the Refugee Education Trust thanked the Council for approving its application to become an observer and for the opportunity to collaborate in the future. The Trust was an independent organization with no religious or political affiliation, founded in 2000 by Ms. Sadako Ogata, then United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to address the need for emergency post-primary education for young people uprooted by conflict. It was active in 14 countries, in Africa, Asia and Latin America, providing education and encouraging self-reliance among young people, building capacity to overcome hardship, helping young people to return to their communities, and preparing the leaders of the future.

16. The representative of *Femmes Africa Solidarité* said that her organization, founded in 1996, was an African NGO which fostered the leading role of women in the peace process on the continent. A central focus was the impact of conflict upon women. *Femmes Africa Solidarité* was exploring the phenomenon of African migration and developing new responses in collaboration with IOM. In the context of the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) project, IOM, *Femmes Africa Solidarité* and Africa Recruit were producing a database of skilled African women in the diaspora, which would be launched in Dakar (Senegal), in December, at the African Gender Forum and the African Gender Award ceremony. The database would enable governments, civil society and others to access details of women willing to contribute their skills and expertise to the development of their continent of origin.

17. The Deputy Director General said that Africa Recruit, whose representative could not be present at the meeting, was a London-based NGO with a database of 20,000 members. Its aim was to connect the skills of people in its database with needs and problems in African countries, using an approach that was very similar to that of MIDA. IOM and Africa Recruit had been working together since 2003. Ghana and Nigeria in particular received Africa Recruit experts, mainly from Great Britain but also from elsewhere in Europe.

18. The Chairperson thanked the new members and observers for their statements and welcomed them all to the Organization on behalf of the Council.

19. The Director General said that Burundi's membership would strengthen IOM's position in central Africa and improve its ability to have an active, useful presence in the region. The decision of Viet Nam to join IOM as a full member was most welcome, and would reinforce the Organization's position in the Asian countries, especially in South-East Asia. He welcomed the new observers, who would enrich the Organization.

## INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

### Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy

(a) **Special Panel: Launching the World Migration Report 2008:**  
“Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy”

20. The Administration, introducing the World Migration Report 2008: *Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy*, said the report identified human mobility as a defining feature of the contemporary world and as a function of the process of economic integration popularly known as globalization, which in turn was a key component of the international community’s strategy of growth. Mobility for economic purposes was at the very heart of human mobility, with labour market dynamics increasingly operating across international borders. There were many reasons for this, including disparities in income and employment opportunities within and across regions; increasing global demographic imbalances; and the liberalization of the flow of goods, capital and services. Where once the humanitarian aspects of human mobility had been the most prominent topic of interest in this sphere of international affairs, it was now apparent that economically motivated movement was the focus of attention. The report emphasised that employment interests and concerns could be detected in virtually all categories of mobility, including family migration, tourism, short-term movements for business purposes, internal migration, and irregular migration; the last category accounted for 10 to 15 per cent of total migratory flows.

21. Three broad policy orientations appeared to be required. First, the development of a comprehensive knowledge base covering both issues and facts. Second, the development of mechanisms to match supply with demand in safe, regular, humane and orderly ways. Third, recognition of the capacity-building needs of governments. Consultation at the regional level would facilitate information exchange and the learning process. The report conceived of migration and development as forming a single platform for dialogue, and the global consultative processes launched recently in New York and Brussels would serve to promote such a dialogue.

22. Most of the first part of the report had been written by independent researchers and contained several chapters which explored contemporary migration patterns. The second part had been written for the most part by IOM colleagues in-house and consisted of an inventory of policy elements for the development of strategic responses to all facets of mobility.

23. The Administration thanked the Global Migration Group (GMG), the donors, the authors and the entire team, including IOM field-based colleagues, for their valuable contributions to the World Migration Report 2008.

24. Several Member States expressed appreciation for the excellent presentation and the World Migration Report 2008. The latter was comprehensive and topical, reflecting national and international migration policy concerns. It contained authoritative data essential to the formulation of migration policies and, according to one observer, helped foster understanding of the key role of labour migration in the development of the global economy and in migration overall while highlighting the need to channel regular movements of people to match labour demand with labour supply. IOM was to be commended for its efforts to maximize coherence in its forums by linking the 2007 International Dialogue on Migration with the theme of the World Migration Report 2008.

25. One observer suggested that labour migration policies should be based on a multilateral normative rights-oriented approach in line with international and ILO conventions relating to migrant workers and migration for employment. That would ensure effective migration management while providing benefits for migrants and the home and host societies. It had become urgent to build and ensure social cohesion in parts of the world where the composition of society was changing as immigration surged to meet labour needs.

26. One Member State agreed with the report's assertion that labour migration was the central factor of human mobility. Another pointed to the clear link between migration, on the one hand, and the economy and poverty, on the other, although that was not the only reason people migrated. In addition, the poorest people could not afford to emigrate.

27. Several delegates mentioned the need to tackle the causes of migration. IOM should draw attention to the fact that strengthening communities could help prevent the terrible tragedies and loss of life that often resulted from the mass migration provoked by lack of opportunities, especially for young people and women, and support for development in countries of origin. Education, technology and resources had to be made available to stimulate development and meet the basic needs of citizens in those countries. In addition, training at home had to be geared to meet labour market needs in host countries and jobs had to be created in countries of origin. Capital flows facilitated development in the countries where they were invested, serving as a magnet for labour. Unfortunately, many developing countries did not benefit from those capital flows and were therefore marginalized. International financial institutions could help counter that effect, and at the same time address the causes of migration and of irregular migration in particular.

28. One delegation wished to know whether IOM had an approach or policy whereby the international community could bring an end to the growing number of tragedies related to irregular migration. A way had to be found of reducing substantial irregular migration so that migration was a choice, not a necessity. While remittances had a positive impact on the economies of home countries, they were perhaps not a decisive factor in creating the conditions required to curb irregular migration. Another delegation said that the Group of 77 plus China was an example of how the international community could lend support to developing countries not just in the field of migration but in trade and development as well. It would be good to discuss development in the context of developing countries sending people to developed countries. The industrialized world should not view migration as a negative phenomenon but rather as an integral part of the development of its own economic and social capacities.

29. The Deputy Director General added that the fight against the phenomenon of irregular migration also depended on countries of origin, which had a responsibility to create conditions that would enable young people to lead a life of dignity. Remittances were also a type of capital investment, and efforts should be made to invest them in job creation or productive areas of the economy.

30. One Member State stressed the importance of accurate, reliable information on current migration trends when drawing up migration policies, while another suggested that IOM should build a database enabling governments to set and manage policy and to serve society as a whole.

31. ILO had compiled the International Labour Migration Database and was working closely with IOM to develop a knowledge base aimed at regulating labour migration effectively. It was also preparing, in cooperation with IOM and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Mediterranean edition of the Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination.

32. One Member State said that matching the labour needs of destination countries with the labour supply in countries of origin required political will and sound information on labour markets. The relevant factors had to be determined in order to lay the groundwork for future discussion on temporary labour migration agreements. How had IOM determined that up to 15 per cent of migrants were irregular? Their number might be higher. According to the Administration, the figure was based on ILO data, but was not definitive given the inherent difficulty with measuring and reporting in this domain.

33. As one observer pointed out, it was important to remember that labour migration was about work. This meant that all partners in the work relation had to help develop and implement labour migration policy, in particular trade unions representing national workers and migrant workers, and the employers and firms providing jobs for those workers. The ideas in the World Migration Report should be put into practice to make migration a win-win situation for countries of origin and destination, and for migrants and all nationals. The Director General agreed, saying that IOM was doing its best to reach out to all those involved in labour migration.

34. For some delegates, migration management, in particular that of highly skilled workers, was a key issue. Economic development in industrialized countries had led to increased mobility of people, heightening demand for specialized labour. The fact that developing countries could not keep up with that demand had spurred keen competition among developed countries to attract highly skilled workers. Discussion currently revolved around devising and implementing selective admission policies based on matching skills with labour market needs. Such policies, including the points system and green cards, were aimed at attracting and holding on to the most qualified migrants. The standpoint of developing countries, marked by concern over the loss of their most qualified workers, should be borne in mind.

35. The Polish representative cited his country's experience in adapting to changing labour market needs. The Government had introduced major reforms and had modified Polish law to facilitate access to its labour market. Since Poland's accession to the European Union (EU) in 2004, large numbers of Polish nationals had left the country, creating labour shortages. The education system had had to be adapted to meet the needs of the Polish labour market, in particular in construction, agriculture and services. An inter-ministerial committee had been set up to assess needs and take appropriate measures to promote legal immigration. The risks associated with irregular migration could be reduced by launching effective worldwide information campaigns. Poland stood ready to take part in such efforts.

36. The Director General applauded Poland's efforts to meet the challenges of a changing labour market and encouraged other States to establish inter-ministerial committees to discuss migration management. There was no substitute for decent work in countries of origin, and the causes of migration out of necessity should be tackled in order to improve living conditions in developing countries. It was indeed necessary to create jobs in home countries and to set up mechanisms,

such as the proposed International Partnership on Migration and Development, to enhance understanding of migration and labour market needs. IOM had many cooperative programmes with governments, including information campaigns aimed at preventing the human tragedies related to irregular migration. The Organization looked forward to working with the membership, in particular with governments of the countries of origin, to address that issue.

37. The Administration recalled that the previous World Migration Report (2005) had dealt with the costs and benefits of migration, reaching the conclusion that, overall, benefits exceeded costs by a small but measureable margin. In short, effective migration management was essential in order to maximize the benefits derived from migration. The 2008 Report, which focused on labour migration, suggested that growth triggered migration and explored what happened to human mobility in a world committed to economic growth. There was a need for comprehensive responses to migration and for partnerships among all stakeholders, in particular between countries of origin and countries of destination. Labour migration, or the motivation to find employment, was the spur for much of contemporary mobility.

38. Migration appeared to be the only area of international affairs that produced such heated debate on the basis of so little data. IOM had therefore drawn up regional migration profiles, which had proved to be a real challenge because the data tended to be fragmented, confusing and contradictory. It would be worthwhile for Member States to provide feedback. The need for data should be addressed through specific projects: practical responses could be provided by identifying specific labour needs rather than speaking of labour in abstract terms of supply and demand. Addressing achievable, feasible goals was perhaps the best way to manage labour migration efficiently and thus move resolutely towards an international mechanism or mechanisms that would enable the supply of migrants to meet demand for their services more safely and effectively.

#### **(b) Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy**

High-level plenary presentations and discussion on managing increasing cross-border movements of people as an integral part of globalization

39. The panellists were:

- **Ali Abdullah Al-Ka'abi**, Minister for Labour, United Arab Emirates;
- **Arturo Cabrera**, Deputy Secretary of International Migration Policy, National Secretariat for Migrants, Ecuador;
- **Maxime Tandonnet**, Advisor on Immigration and Integration, Cabinet of the President of the Republic of France;
- **Moremi Soyinka-Onijala**, Senior Special Assistant to the Vice President, Migration and Humanitarian Affairs, Nigeria.

The moderator was **Ikram Sehgal**, Chairman, Pathfinder Group, and member of the IOM Director General's Business Advisory Board.

40. Dr. Al-Ka'abi said that problems relating to labour movements in the evolving global economy required urgent dialogue and cooperation between the nations concerned and commended the main Asian labour-sending States and the principal countries of destination in the Gulf, Europe and Asia for their efforts to develop the Regional Consultative Process on the Management of Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (the Colombo Process). The Process had three basic aims: to facilitate and manage labour movements and optimize their benefits, to improve the welfare of and support services for overseas workers, and to promote institutional capacity-building and inter-State cooperation.

41. A country of destination for millions of expatriate contractual workers from various parts of the world, the United Arab Emirates had adopted policies and programmes to manage the workers and had signed a number of memorandums of understanding with the main Asian countries of origin to regulate their employment. Many challenges remained, however. For that reason, and in order to enhance cooperation between countries of origin and destination, the Government of the United Arab Emirates had decided to host the Fourth Ministerial Consultations on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia, which would take place in Abu Dhabi on 21 and 22 January 2008. The consultations would be attended by 11 ministers from countries of origin and 11 ministers from countries of destination in the Gulf and Asia, with observers from other regions such as Europe. International and regional organizations such as ILO, the World Bank, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Labour Organization had also been invited to attend, with IOM acting as the focal point for organization with the Government.

42. Eighty per cent of workers in the United Arab Emirates were expatriates hired as temporary labourers. It was thanks to them that the country had roads and buildings constructed to certain standards. Unfortunately, however, the same labourers often encountered difficulties with recruitment agencies that charged them exaggerated fees. Their countries of origin now had to work together with the United Arab Emirates to set standards that met the concerns of all those involved: overseas contractual workers, countries of origin and countries of destination. It was hoped that the Ministerial Consultations, which would issue the Abu Dhabi Declaration setting out conclusions and making recommendations for the future of the Colombo Process, would help eliminate bad practices on the part of the recruitment agencies.

43. Mr. Cabrera called for an end to the hypocrisy with which migration was managed internationally. Currently, agendas of supposed global benefit were imposed rather than negotiated. Invoking the causes of development or security, those agendas ultimately criminalized human mobility and violated people's fundamental rights. It was immoral and paradoxical to promote the free movement of goods and capital in order to maximize profit, while at the same time penalizing the free movement of persons who were seeking a better life. Nonetheless, the free movement of persons was not the most urgent priority, since it took time to channel migratory flows properly and objectively. More pressing was the need to ensure respect for human life and dignity.

44. Ecuador's migration management experience was worthy of examination since the number of people migrating to and from the country was probably the highest in the world relative to the population. Migration was a high priority, with a dedicated ministry in the Government. Ecuador's migration policy focused on human development; economic development was one component of the policy, not an end in itself. One example of Ecuador's good practice that had

been commended by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was the appointment of high-profile Ecuadorian migrants to the country's busiest consulates abroad. The consuls had introduced several initiatives to facilitate links between the migrants and their country of origin, and to assist and protect them abroad. Ecuadorians living abroad maintained all their political rights, including the right to vote and to be appointed to public office. Ecuador's new constitution would include significant sections on the rights of Ecuadorians living abroad and of foreigners residing in Ecuador.

45. Ecuador called for the same rights for its nationals who migrated abroad as it granted to foreigners who came to live in its territory. Ecuador also had policies on the right of migrants to send money home and on the repatriation of persons and mortal remains. It carried out projects in related areas such as aid for those who suffered from the negative effects of migration, promoting inter-cultural understanding and preventing racism, labour exploitation and trafficking in persons. The Government was aiming to strengthen its relations with countries that received Ecuadorian migrants, with a view to facilitating its citizens' social integration. For example, it had reached an agreement with the Spanish Government on migratory flows between the two countries. In December, his Government would launch a new plan for the human development of the migrant, one of the main components of which would be the right to return.

46. Human rights were a central tenet of migration management for most governments and should no longer be considered a side issue. Future forums on migration should focus on human rights. Such an approach would help to eliminate the notion of "illegal human beings", and to stop the criminalization of poverty and family reunification. Migration could not be controlled by force, despite being identified as a security issue in the policies of most developed countries. It required management according to shared interests. The international community should manage migration by focusing on respect for human rights, free and orderly movement of persons, the right to earn a living with dignity, the right to leave or remain in one's country of origin, and the right to return.

47. Mr. Tandonnet outlined the seven key points of French Government immigration policy. First, like the European Union in general, France was open to immigration: it needed migrants for economic and demographic reasons. Secondly, it was especially in favour of labour migration and aimed to increase the proportion of labour migrants from the present 7 per cent to 50 per cent of the total number of migrants. Labour migrants arrived in Europe with the benefit of a salary and were therefore more easily able to find accommodation and put their children in school. The European Commission had the same objective, and planned to introduce a blue card system to facilitate the entry of labour migrants into the European Union.

48. Thirdly, at the same time, France fully recognized immigration as a matter of right, i.e. the right of asylum under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the right to immigration of family members under the terms of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It nevertheless wanted to prevent people who had never been persecuted from using asylum procedures to remain on EU territory, and to ensure that migrants who were joined by their families were able to house and support them. The same approach was being adopted throughout the European Union.

49. Fourth, France and its EU partners intended to mount a robust fight against irregular immigration, which hobbled efforts to manage migration, sustained the underground economy and, most serious of all, promoted the resurgence of a genuine slave trade between Africa and Europe.

50. A fifth key point was the massive reinforcement, in France and in the other EU Member States, of policies to integrate foreign populations and avoid their “ghettoization”. An essential component of those policies was the recently introduced “integration contract”, whereby migrants arriving in an EU country undertook to respect the values and laws of the country of destination, and the government undertook to give them the means of integrating, such as training in a European language.

51. Sixth, the real solution to the problems posed by immigration nevertheless lay in the development of the countries of origin, and French immigration policy was therefore to promote co-development, for example by providing tax incentives to encourage migrants to invest their savings in their countries of origin, and to fight brain drain through circular migration, enabling migrants to come to Europe for a few years to acquire professional skills before going home.

52. Lastly, France intended to strengthen European solidarity on immigration. When it assumed the EU presidency in 2008 it planned to put forward a European pact on immigration that would lay the groundwork for a common European policy on immigration. The pact would commit the EU Member States *inter alia* to fight brain drain, promote co-development of countries of origin and combat illegal immigration.

53. Ms. Soyinka-Onijala said that human mobility could not be ignored since it was increasing in direct correlation to the evolving global economy. The Nigerian Government had implemented several measures to improve its migration management. In particular, the National Commission for Refugees was currently being restructured into a national agency for migration, resettlement and refugee matters, which would coordinate all government bodies, and national and international NGOs.

54. The definition of globalization should include the movement of people as well as that of capital, goods and services. There was an inherent contradiction in understanding the movement of services from North to South as globalization, while regarding the movement of people from South to North as migration. Nigeria had liberalized its migration policy to facilitate the entry and permanent residence of many foreign workers in the banking, finance, manufacturing and telecommunication sectors. Why did Nigerian citizens not receive the same treatment when seeking employment abroad? Furthermore, there was a lack of political will in the North to educate citizens about the benefits migrants could bring to those countries. In that regard, legislation prohibiting acts of xenophobia and discrimination should be implemented. In addition, States should provide opportunities for qualified people of all nationalities to access jobs according to the forces of supply and demand. Opportunities for education and family reunification should be truly liberalized.

55. In order to facilitate better migration management on a global scale, all States should gather data, analyse statistics and forecast migratory trends. The findings should be made available to all governments, enabling them to train their workforces to acquire the skills needed elsewhere. Labour exchanges should also be globalized, since opening up legal migration channels reduced



the incidence of irregular migration. New destination countries should increase their investment in critical sectors of developing nation economies, such as energy, manufacturing and agriculture, in order to ensure gainful employment for the citizens of those countries. IOM and other stakeholders should continue to help build technical and human capacity for migration management, and all relevant organizations should strive to protect migrants' human rights. Migrants should not be criminalized and dehumanized, as had been the case all too often; indeed, it was not unknown for returnees to be dead on arrival. All States should liberalize their financial policies in order to enable migrants to send money home efficiently, cheaply and quickly. Obstacles should be removed to ensure that people did not resort to smuggling money out, thus risking theft or loss. Moreover, migrants who were sent back to their countries of origin should be allowed to gather their belongings and sort out their affairs before departure.

56. Mr. Konstantin Romodanovskiy, Director, Federal Migration Service, Russian Federation, made an intervention from the floor as a Special Guest of the Director General, in which he said that large-scale cross-border migratory movements had become inevitable in a world of growing economic globalization. International labour migration helped stimulate growth in most developed economies, and migrants made valuable economic, political, social and cultural contributions to society in their countries of origin. The task of the international community was to heighten the positive effect of migration as much as possible while reducing its negative impact and securing the legal rights and interests of migrants.

57. Effective control of migratory flows required constructive, balanced and streamlined national, regional and international migration policies that took account of the interests of all those involved in the migration process. Existing problems could be solved by enabling migrants to work legally in their new countries and to make migratory flows more transparent.

58. The Russian Federation had recently amended its migration legislation, simplifying the rules on work permits and migrant registration and holding employers to greater account. Experience had shown that to be the best means of curbing inflows of irregular migrants, reducing crime and raising the migrants' levels of legal and social protection.

59. It was also important to strike a proper balance between the interests of countries of origin and migrants, and the needs of national economies and labour markets in countries of destination. Shortcomings in labour migration management often resulted in heightened tension in countries of destination; it was therefore crucial to integrate migrants and foster relations based on mutual understanding.

60. Coordinated measures had to be taken to counter irregular migration, especially that connected to global terrorism, organized crime, and trafficking in drugs and human beings. Readmission agreements were an effective means of countering irregular migration.

61. Like most developed nations, the Russian Federation had demographic concerns. In response to those concerns it had drawn up a demographic policy for the period up to 2025 that comprised a migration component focusing on promoting voluntary returns of Russians living abroad and of migrants, attracting skilled foreign specialists, upgrading the country's migration legislation and developing the appeal to migrants of the Russian Federation's regions.

62. Resolving migration issues required close bilateral, regional and international cooperation between the parties concerned. The Russian Federation was therefore pleased at the level of cooperation it had developed with IOM, as evidenced by the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 31 October 2007.

63. Mr. Sehgal opened the interactive part of the dialogue by highlighting the central role business played in the migration process. Migrants moved in response to offers of work from business people and once abroad, worked in jobs provided by business. Governments in countries of origin and destination should therefore take steps to verify the credentials of companies that sent manpower and of individual migrants.

64. At its meeting of 26 November 2007, the Business Advisory Board, which had been founded several years earlier to allow businesspeople to share with IOM their perspectives on issues relating to migration, had discussed the possibility of establishing national boards that would engage in a variety of activities: voluntary lawyers could advise incoming and outgoing migrants about their rights, certification services could verify migrant skills and documents and check the bona fides of recruitment agencies dispatching migrants abroad, disaster relief units could work to mitigate the effects of disasters, equal opportunity schools could be established for the children of migrants sending money home for education, migrants wishing to start their own businesses could be given business advice, and discount vouchers could be delivered for remittances. Human trafficking was another issue of concern. The national boards could set up units to assist trafficking victims and to focus media attention on those involved in that heinous practice. Every government should look into setting up a national business advisory board whose members would be businesspersons who chose to volunteer.

65. One representative pointed to the contradiction between official discourse and activities, on the one hand, and corporate policy, on the other, as exemplified by the recruitment of irregular migrants at home and foreign investment to exploit cheap labour. Western companies were engaged abroad in activities that the State authorities were fighting, or claimed to fight, at home. Had the positive contribution of irregular migrants, who were criminalized in some of the same countries that took advantage of their services, ever been evaluated? Had any thought been given to the distressing, even inhuman methods used to return irregular migrants to their countries of origin? Another concern was the fact that some countries used irregular migrants as scapegoats, to shift attention away from their internal difficulties. In so doing, they tarnished the image of all foreigners and compromised efforts to integrate regular migrants.

66. Mr. Cabrera felt that it was no longer appropriate to approach migration management from the perspective of business. Several Member States agreed that, while governments could not ignore the role business played in migration, people were at its centre; economic systems should work to serve people, not vice versa. Taking issue with the use of the word “illegal” to describe human beings, they argued that members of the international community should work together to help people who moved in search of a better life, not criminalize them.

67. Mr. Cabrera also highlighted the need to distinguish between asylum and migration, since there were clear differences between the human rights of migrants and those of asylum-seekers. While migration and asylum were often confused, and indeed mixed flows did exist, it was incumbent on all countries, on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

and on other relevant actors, to be in a position to differentiate between migrants and asylum-seekers. One observer, however, argued that it was sometimes difficult to distinguish between migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

68. Mr. Tandonnet pointed out that countries that accepted large numbers of regular migrants and asylum-seekers found it materially impossible also to accept numerous irregular migrants. France, for example, had a shortfall of one million subsidized housing units for people lawfully on its territory. Those who arrived unlawfully tended to end up in ghettos and live in horrendous conditions. Responsible governments were therefore obliged to set limits on the number of legal migrants they could accept.

69. Ms. Soyinka-Onijala agreed, but urged countries of destination to re-examine their policies on who they accepted and on what conditions. For example, France had decided to accept 200,000 migrants by 2016 and 300,000 by 2025. Had it determined in what sectors jobs would open and had it made that information available to all prospective migrants, either through government agencies or private companies?

70. For Mr. Tandonnet, the answer lay in organization between countries of origin and countries of destination. Spain and Ecuador provided one example. France was trying the same approach with a number of countries of origin: it had just signed agreements on joint managed migration with Senegal, Gabon and Benin. Other agreements were being negotiated. The agreements spelled out the sectors in which jobs would become available and under what conditions migrant workers would be received in France (housing, work, schools). Labour migration did not have to mean definitive departure, which could constitute a serious loss for the country of origin and exacerbate its underdevelopment (the example of the medical sector was telling in that respect). Countries of origin and destination had to organize alternate forms of migration whereby migrants left their countries for a few years before returning in dignified conditions to capitalize on the funds and experience they had earned while abroad. An organization like IOM had an essential role to play in that regard, namely to identify effective practices allowing all countries to work on solid foundations.

71. Calls were made for the international community to make efforts to enable people to remain in their countries of origin by improving conditions there. One Member State asked what could be done to reduce or prevent irregular migration. Another asked whether the current destination countries planned to implement strategies to prepare their citizens to live in a multicultural environment.

72. Mr. Cabrera pointed out that fears that migrants would flood job markets were sometimes exaggerated. The laws of supply and demand tended to regulate migratory flows efficiently. When the nationals of a country were prepared to fill all the employment opportunities available, migrants sought a livelihood elsewhere. Indeed, one Member State described how, in its experience, a liberal immigration policy had not led to increased unemployment, even during an economic crisis.

73. Mr. Tandonnet disagreed: it was not necessarily true that the labour market was governed by “an invisible hand”. In the EU countries, for example, the unemployment rate for foreigners was on average over 20 per cent, compared to an overall average of 8 per cent. The explanation was

that many people were prompted to migrate by misleading information provided in particular by smuggling networks.

74. One representative wondered whether sufficiently strict policies had been adopted against human traffickers or whether States tended to turn a blind eye to their activities. Mr. Tandonnet agreed that levels of international police and judicial cooperation were insufficient. In addition, irregular migration fostered a form of modern slavery, and tackling that problem should be a priority.

75. Mr. Sehgal agreed that irregular migrants provided many services, but irregular migration was nevertheless an open invitation to anarchy that no country could afford. He expressed a further concern, that of migrant workers, especially those who were lower skilled, who were not paid their proper wages. Dr. Al-Ka'abi acknowledged that the problem existed, adding that as of January 2008, the salaries of all migrant labourers in the United Arab Emirates, for example, would have to be paid on time through the banking system, which would be linked electronically to the Ministry of Labour. Workers whose wages were not paid on time would be entitled to transfer to another employer without paying a fee, and the defaulting employer would be subject to a penalty. The United Arab Emirates had also set up a labour court system to which overseas workers had direct access.

76. One Member State asked about the main objectives of Nigeria's new migration agency. What were Ms. Soyinka-Onijala's views on the readmission agreements signed between certain developed countries and developing nations?

77. Ms. Soyinka-Onijala said that the Nigerian migration agency would disseminate information on employment opportunities abroad to potential migrants. It would screen prospective applicants, match their skills with demands, counsel migrants prior to their departure and monitor their progress once they were abroad. The agency would also provide resettlement assistance where required to people returning from abroad or to persons who had been internally displaced. Refugees formed the third pillar of the agency's work.

78. Her Government had no objection to readmission agreements, provided that all countries upheld their obligations under the terms of the agreements. To that end, countries that returned Nigerian citizens should ensure that those people were properly identified and given the opportunity to settle their affairs and to bring their savings and property back to Nigeria with them.

79. The representative of Spain, referring to the agreement on migratory flows between Spain and Ecuador, asked what the relationship was between Ecuador's migration agreements with other countries and its new plan on the right to return. People's right to move freely would become a reality in future, but would require careful coordination by governments and international organizations alike, since it was currently limited by national labour markets. The countries of Latin America, plus Spain and Portugal had taken a decisive step towards the realization of that right by signing a multilateral agreement on social security at the XVII Ibero-American Summit in Santiago, Chile. It would be useful to hear Mr. Cabrera's views on that agreement.

80. Mr. Cabrera reaffirmed his Government's position that all citizens had the absolute right to leave and return to Ecuador as and when they wished. The new migration plan focused on

improving conditions in Ecuador so that its citizens could remain there, and on creating conditions to facilitate voluntary and sustainable returns. It would be launched on 18 December 2007 and would give all citizens who had left the country an equal opportunity to return in a dignified and sustainable manner; it would also facilitate their social reintegration. The plan allowed people to bring back household appliances and other purchases they had made while abroad, and strove to link the work experience they had acquired with opportunities for employment in Ecuador. The priority, however, was family reunification, particularly for those who had been unable to find legal employment abroad. The agreement on migratory flows between Ecuador and Spain had facilitated management of migration between the two countries for a considerable period. Other countries were welcome to enter such agreements with the Government of Ecuador.

81. One Member State expressed satisfaction at the high level of cooperation between countries of destination and origin within the Colombo Process when it came to protecting the interests of migrant workers. By deciding to host the Ministerial Consultations, the United Arab Emirates had demonstrated that it intended to enhance its own migration mechanisms and address the issues currently confronting both sending and receiving countries. IOM, for its part, was also to be commended for its co-sponsorship of the consultations and the other initiatives it had taken in support of labour migration and development programmes.

82. In response to a request from the representative of Mauritius, Dr. Al-Ka'abi said that the United Arab Emirates and IOM would be delighted to receive Mauritius as an observer at the Ministerial Consultations.

83. The Administration, summing up the discussion, noted the repeated references to the rights and dignity of migrants. The fact that a country of destination, the United Arab Emirates, was organizing the Fourth Ministerial Consultations was a truly groundbreaking development not only within the Colombo Process but for the human rights of migrants in general. As Mr. Tandonnet had said, when no legal mechanisms existed for bridging the gap between labour supply and demand, the resulting irregular migration could lead to real abuse of individuals. Better procedures had to be found for preparing, managing and matching the supply of economic migrants with the demand for their services, in order to realize the human potential for development described by Mr. Cabrera. Those procedures had to be transparent and provide accurate information, so that migrants turned towards authorized channels. Sessions such as those organized for the International Dialogue on Migration and the production of evidence and analyses in formats such as the World Migration Report helped governments build tools for managed labour migration of all kinds: high and low-skilled workers, students, family members. Important roles were also to be played by the private sector (employers), trade unions, migrant associations, diaspora groups, and so on. All would benefit from working in a situation that was better understood, better planned and better managed.

(c) **Migration Highlights**

High-level plenary presentations and discussion of selected recent and forthcoming migration developments

84. The panellists were:

- **Vladimir Naumov**, Minister of Internal Affairs, Republic of Belarus, on the **opening of the International Training Center on Migration and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Minsk**;
- **Mohammed Ameer**, Delegate Minister to the Prime Minister, in charge of the Moroccan Community Resident Abroad, Kingdom of Morocco, on the **forthcoming launch in Rabat of the Mediterranean edition of the Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies**;
- **José Magalhães**, Deputy Minister of the Interior, Portugal, on **migration as a priority of the Portuguese EU Presidency**;
- **Erlinda F. Basilio**, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva, on the **preparations for the next Global Forum on Migration and Development, Manila**.

85. Mr. Naumov said that Belarus had experienced economic recession and substantial emigration following the break-up of the Soviet Union. High levels of demand in Western Europe for migrant labour, including for the sex trade, had dramatically increased migration flows into his country, as well as irregular transit migration and international trafficking, especially by organized networks.

86. The Government of Belarus, initially unprepared, had risen to the challenge and taken measures to combat those phenomena and ensure public safety. Legislation had been introduced in line with international standards, a number of targeted national programmes had been established, and the country had acceded to various fundamental international legal instruments. Special operative units set up in the Ministry of Internal Affairs had used innovative techniques to uncover and investigate trafficking activities and bring perpetrators to justice. To date, the law enforcement agencies had instituted over 1,000 criminal proceedings, and broken up 53 criminal groups and 11 international criminal organizations.

87. The Conference on Cooperation between Source and Destination Countries on Human Trafficking, held under the aegis of IOM in Minsk in October 2006, had identified a need for an international training centre to combat human trafficking. Belarus had offered to host such a facility and had chosen IOM as its partner. The centre had been opened at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in July 2007 in the presence of the IOM Director General and the President of Belarus.

88. The centre was equipped with modern computer, language and training facilities; it had a well-equipped conference room and provided accommodation, catering and leisure facilities.

Instructors of the Academy and Belarusian law-enforcement practitioners were responsible for training, curriculum design and research. Further input would come from international migration experts, international organizations and NGOs.

89. The centre would provide tailor-made courses for different types of professionals from all countries and regions. Three courses were currently available on trafficking and migration issues, and further topics were being developed in line with demand. A twelve-day course on human trafficking was first run in July 2007 for two groups of countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and two more international groups were currently undergoing training. Four more courses would be provided in 2008 to law-enforcement agency staff from CIS and Gulf States.

90. Belarus hoped the international community would support the new venture. There should be a common approach to achieving common goals. It was offering to enhance its contribution to international security and engage in constructive international dialogue, working with due respect for the rights, freedoms and natural interests of migrants.

91. In reply to a query from one representative, he added that training lasted from three to 12 days. The maximum cost of the 12-day training course was approximately USD 700. To date the costs had been covered by sponsorship found with the help of the IOM Mission in Minsk.

92. The Director General observed that IOM would make every effort to help countries in need of assistance to find funding for training. The training centre in Minsk, which was an extensive and well-equipped facility, had an important role to play within the CIS, as well as in many other countries which were now expressing strong interest in training officials for better migration management. It was significant that the Gulf States would be sending people on courses there. Belarus and many other CIS countries were especially affected by trafficking in human beings, particularly women, and were working to change both public attitudes and law-enforcement procedures. The training centre was therefore focusing on those topics, in addition to broader migration management topics.

93. The idea of training centres was gaining ground in other parts of the world. He had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the Republic of Korea on the establishment of a migration research and training centre near Seoul to serve the East Asian countries. Discussions with the African countries on a capacity-building centre in Africa would probably come to fruition in 2008.

94. Mr. Ameur said that globalization required a new, objective analysis of the age-old phenomenon of migration, in order that national, regional and international migration policies could be formulated which would encompass democratic principles, migrants' legitimate aspirations, and the interests of countries of origin, transit and destination.

95. Migrants were experiencing marginalization and exclusion, officially and on the streets, as a result of the terrible events at the start of the new millennium. Strategies evolved to fight terrorism and transnational crime had had an impact on migration issues. However, policies based exclusively on security concerns had proved counterproductive, and irregular migration and exploitative networks had grown. The world needed a new, holistic migration policy, one that was

based on both economic and social factors and that took account of concerns at both ends of the migration spectrum.

96. Morocco was particularly aware of these issues because of its position at the crossroads between Europe and Africa, and it had set out to launch a dialogue on the management of migration flows and the need for States on both sides of the Mediterranean to pull together. The Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held on 10-11 July 2006 in Rabat, had mobilized means to implement a range of cooperation programmes aimed at managing legal economic migration, facilitating labour movement, promoting development and co-development, and fostering scientific and technical partnerships and training. The resulting Rabat Declaration had been an official document at the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held concurrently with the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

97. Morocco would be hosting a seminar in Rabat on 12-13 December 2007 to launch the Mediterranean edition of the OSCE/IOM/ILO Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination. The seminar would encourage dialogue and cooperation between OSCE members and countries on the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean relating to the creation of effective labour migration policies in countries of origin, transit and destination, and promote the exchange of good practices and innovative approaches, thereby furthering migrant integration.

98. The aims of the seminar included presenting the Handbook as a policy tool for government practitioners and social partners, facilitating communication between participating countries, examining how those countries implemented models in practice, and promoting dialogue and networking between participating countries and partners.

99. In addressing migration-related issues, it should be borne in mind that, since host countries were enriched by migration, it was appropriate that origin countries and migrants themselves should benefit likewise.

100. One representative, referring to the OSCE/IOM/ILO Handbook and to the fact that labour migration, in particular in the Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-African contexts, was a topic on which cooperation already existed, asked what the added value was of dialogue between IOM, the OSCE and ILO.

101. Mr. Ameer replied that such dialogue contributed to global dialogue on three levels: it helped shape national immigration policies, build capacity and implement measures and policies on migration. The launch seminar in Rabat would be an opportunity to introduce the Handbook, which provided know-how and tools to help countries review their policies at a time of great change, and would serve to identify topics and problems which needed to be considered in greater depth.

102. The Director General congratulated Mr. Ameer on the forthcoming launch of the OSCE/IOM/ILO Handbook. The fact that it had been produced in Arabic was very important. There was a tremendous interest in better management both of migration and of schemes covering



overseas contract workers in the Arabic-speaking world, and IOM's response to that demand must include documentation in Arabic.

103. Mr. Magalhães said that Portugal had decided to make migration a priority during its presidency of the EU Council. In the past, the European debate on migration had been whether Europe should be an open space or a "fortress". The evolving global economy had changed this, and a consensus had now emerged that it would not be wise to draw a second iron curtain between the countries of the enlarged Schengen area and those lying outside it.

104. The Draft Treaty amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community (the Lisbon Treaty), which the EU Member States would shortly be signing, recognized that EU Member States had competence to set admission rules, but did not provide for a common and integrated migration policy, which the EU badly needed. Portugal had organized the High-level Conference on Legal Immigration in September 2007 to emphasize the need to promote legal migratory flows. Since then, the European Commission had adopted a proposed directive, which Portugal fully endorsed, on the application procedure for third-country nationals to reside and work lawfully in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State.

105. The Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Migration, which Portugal had organized in Algarve in November 2007, had underlined the need to strengthen joint management of migratory flows in a spirit of partnership. In a sign of clear support, the European Commission had promptly announced that it would make 5 million euros available as of 2008 to finance projects agreed during the Euro-Med Meeting. Germany had offered to organize the workshop on return and readmission of migrants, and Morocco had agreed to hold the workshop on management of legal migration for seasonal workers.

106. Portugal's migration and development activities focused on three main issues: remittances, brain drain and the role of diasporas. With regard to remittances, the Euro-Med Meeting had launched efforts to reduce transaction costs, and Portugal had presented the prototype of a Euro-Med website on remittances and announced its willingness to participate in efforts to facilitate effective channelling of financial capital flows into actual investment. In terms of brain drain, the EU should support initiatives to ensure the implementation of codes of conduct for the ethical recruitment of highly skilled workers such as those in the health and education sectors. Lastly, diasporas could stimulate development by activating and reinforcing the political, economic, social and cultural ties between migrants and their countries of origin and destination. Working with other stakeholders, migrant associations could serve as partners in co-development projects that used migrants' human and social capital in their countries of origin, created opportunities for migrant re-integration in countries of origin and improved integration of migrants in countries of destination.

107. Before the end of its presidency, in December 2007, Portugal would host another important event, the EU-Africa Summit. Portugal believed that Europe and Africa had to work together to find solutions to their common problems, and the Summit therefore aimed to adopt a joint strategy on specific areas of cooperation and common positions on major migration issues. Failure to do so would result in more deaths on the high seas and trafficking in human beings.

108. In conclusion, well-managed legal migration in the form, for example, of circular migration and mobility partnerships had the potential not only to reinforce coherence and dialogue, but also to allow for efficient transfers of human, social and financial capital between countries of origin and destination. Co-development hinged on the legal possibilities for migrants and countries to contribute to poverty reduction, build capacity and infrastructure, promote good governance and the rule of law, and invest in countries of origin.

109. One Member State asked whether the EU had given any thought to the negative aspects of circular migration, especially its impact on family members who were left behind.

110. Mr. Magalhães agreed that circular migration required rules that tempered its negative effects. Portugal had recently adopted a law to that effect, having realized that otherwise families would be left behind without support.

111. One delegate asked what specific steps were being taken to stem brain drain. Another suggested that more information was required on existing initiatives to compensate developing countries for their investment in workers, such as medical personnel, subsequently recruited by developed countries. A third said that university-trained professionals constituted a pool of migrants for both the North and the South that had to be managed in the best interests of both countries of origin and destination. The partnerships required to do that had to be supplemented by a form of legal compensatory mechanism.

112. Mr. Ameer agreed that regulatory and compensatory mechanisms had to be devised to counteract the effects of brain drain on countries of origin. Mr. Magalhães, for his part, acknowledged that the EU currently had no directives or regulations on brain drain, but added that the Euro-Med meeting had established a working group to discuss that truly complex issue: stemming brain drain required a variety of instruments that also respected individual rights to live and work abroad. In his view, codes of conduct provided an effective means of curbing public administration and corporate recruitment from third countries.

113. Several Member States queried the steps being taken to use remittances more efficiently for development projects. Remittances were essentially private monies and migrants were free to spend their earnings as they saw fit. Their capacity to do so was greatly enhanced when they had access to banking services. In addition, the focus on remittances might draw attention away from State commitments to increase development assistance to a specific percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). It had certainly drawn the sending countries' attention away from other negative aspects of migration, such as the serious problems caused by the growing tendency of women, the emotional mainstay of the family, to migrate.

114. Mr. Magalhães agreed that remittances should not take the place of development cooperation. The purpose of the Euro-Med prototype website was to show how remittances were handled in different regions, with a view to lowering transaction costs. The Euro-Med Meeting had decided that cooperation was required in that regard with the European banks, the World Bank and European experts and NGOs.

115. One Member State applauded the efforts made at the Euro-Med meeting to reduce transaction fees for remittances, adding that host countries should also limit the steps they took to encourage migrant workers to keep a maximum amount in the host country.

116. Ms. Basilio updated the Council on the preparations for the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development, which would take place in Manila in October 2008. The Global Forum remained an informal and voluntary, State-led enterprise, with international organizations and civil society participating as observers. The Second Global Forum would keep the same format as the first, namely a one or two-day civil society event, during which civil society members could articulate their views on the items on the agenda, followed by two days of round-table and plenary discussions between State representatives.

117. Round table 1 would discuss migrant rights and development. In the view of the Global Forum's Steering Committee and of many countries, migrants, especially low-skilled labour migrants, women migrants and migrant family members, were best able to contribute to development at home and abroad when they were protected and supported socially, politically and economically, and when their basic human rights were upheld. The round table's sub-themes included social protection in the form of migrant resource centres, the economic protection and empowerment of migrants, political rights such as the right to vote and to organize, and partnerships between migrants and the governments and agencies working with them.

118. The theme for round table 2 was promoting safer, legal and more productive migration in order to strengthen the development impact of migration. Again, in the view of the Steering Committee and of many countries, all migration and development stakeholders must share responsibility for this by adopting a three-pronged approach: building capacity to manage and promote migration using legal and safe mechanisms; defining the roles of each of multiple stakeholders in combating the negative aspects of migration, such as trafficking and smuggling of human beings; and establishing migration policies and programmes that struck the right balance between facilitation and control while bringing tangible "returns" to developing countries.

119. Round table 3 would examine the policy and institutional coherence and partnerships that had to be promoted on the domestic, regional and international fronts between the various migration and development stakeholders. It would discuss how to strengthen migration-related data collection and research; how to link policy planning and methodology in order to promote (a) synergies between migration and development policy and action, (b) the inclusion of migration in national development plans and strategies, and (c) the achievement of policy coherence within governments; how to enhance bilateral partnerships and regional consultative processes; and lastly, how to use the Global Forum as a means of attaining greater coherence within and between the migration and development policy fields.

120. The Steering Group had already met twice and had considered the comments and feedback received on the draft round-table agendas, such as the need to focus on the human rights of migrants, to enhance the involvement of civil society and international organizations, to highlight South-South cooperation and the Asia-Pacific experience, to avoid a North-South clash and to maximize use of information and communication technologies. It had also been briefed on the Global Migration Group's (GMG) proposal to establish an International Partnership on Migration

and Development, which had been approved in principle by the GMG agency heads and would be the subject of further discussion with the Steering Group.

121. The first “Friends of the Forum” meeting for the Second Global Forum would take place in Geneva in December 2007. The Member States were requested to comment further on the round-table agendas and the International Partnership and to submit country papers outlining the policies and programmes each country had adopted in the wake of the First Global Forum. Those papers would be compiled in a compendium so that all the participants in the Second Global Forum could pick up best practices for implementation at home and forge partnerships with other countries.

122. The representative of Belgium, which had hosted the First Global Forum, reflected on the change in migration policy from the narrow focus on national interests to a more global approach that took account of the national interests of partner countries; hence the word “partnership”. The global approach had characterized Belgium’s organization of the First Global Forum, and he was pleased to see that the Philippines had adopted the same approach for the second. Belgium’s contribution to the Second Global Forum would be to report on the results of the recommendations made by the first.

123. One representative asked whether the Second Global Forum would make the same arrangements as the first for sponsorship of participants who would otherwise not be able to attend. Ms. Basilio replied that the matter would be discussed by the “Friends of the Forum” and by the Steering Group. It was to be hoped that sponsorship arrangements could be made, and she encouraged Council members to respond appropriately.

124. Several delegates raised the matter of human rights of migrants and development. One said that migration and human rights had been covered only superficially at the First Global Forum, contrary to the wishes of many countries, and noted that this subject would be merely a round table sub-theme at the Second Global Forum. Human rights should be a central theme at the Global Forum, as migrants were human beings whose economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights had to be respected. It would be unacceptable for the Second Global Forum to be structured like the first in that respect. Furthermore, irregular migrants also made substantial contributions to the country of destination, and should be included in the Global Forum’s discussions. One delegate asked the Philippines, as the host country, to coordinate with the parties already dealing with the issue on the many initiatives taken to date.

125. Several delegations raised a number of other points in connection with the human rights of migrants. For example, it was pointed out that there was a clear dichotomy between the concerns of countries of destination, whose priority was internal security, and the reasons most people migrated, which were economic. Partnerships were required that took account of the destination country’s security concerns and the fundamental rights of migrants. Several delegations thought that irregular migration should be decriminalized; countries were entitled to decide who had the right to enter, but irregular migration should be viewed as a misdemeanour, not as a criminal offence, and “profiling”, or discrimination based on a person’s dress, language or culture was to be avoided. Unlike goods and capital, migrants travelled with their culture, and the Second Global Forum should explore the adaptations that consequently had to be made by the receiving country, the sending country and the migrants themselves.

126. Mr. Magalhães pointed out that the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Europe had all reached a consensus on the proper balance between security, privacy and human rights. The EU had no plans to introduce “profiling”; the Schengen system had clearly shown that the free flow of people was compatible with a high level of security.

127. One delegate called on all Member States to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

128. Ms. Basilio endorsed that call. The human rights of migrants and development was indeed a cross-cutting issue. The Steering Group had slated it for discussion by round table 1, but she encouraged the members of the Council to raise the matter at the forthcoming “Friends of the Forum” meeting.

129. One delegate asked whether the decisions taken at the Second Global Forum would be binding or serve purely as benchmarks.

130. Another delegate pointed out that all Council members received immigrants, had emigrants leaving their territory and saw migrants who were passing through. Migration was just as much a South-South as it was a North-South phenomenon, yet the present discussion had focused almost exclusively on the North-South aspect and as a result had been reductive and not necessarily very productive. The countries of immigration attending the Second Global Forum should be prepared to talk about how they protected the human rights of migrants within their borders, not just how their citizens were treated abroad. Brain drain was another universal as opposed to North-South concern, and should not be discussed in accusatory terms that resulted only in empty rhetoric.

131. The Director General, noting that the word “partnership” had been used by many speakers, said that the concept paper on the International Partnership on Migration and Development had been distributed to the Group of 77 plus China, the Global Migration Group, the Global Forum Steering Committee and IOM’s governing bodies. The proposal called for modest secretarial and funding arrangements to help the Member States carry on the work of the Global Forum between sessions, and forge genuine partnerships to build capacity to manage human mobility and realize the development potential of migration.

132. With respect to a potential confusion of terminology, “profiling” was a practice whereby people or groups were put on watch lists for security reasons. The Director General trusted there would be no confusion in the Member States’ minds between “profiling” and the migration country “profiles” IOM was producing with EU funds. The country profiles described the historical, demographic, geographical and economic reasons, among others, underlying a country’s current and future migration patterns, thereby helping to build a clearer picture of a country’s migration dynamics, including with a view toward better planned and managed international labour migration and facilitation of development.

133. The Director General agreed with Mr. Magalhães that the EU countries had recently engaged in more open and forthright discussion of migration-related topics. It was a sign of progress that migration was one of the five items on the agenda of the forthcoming EU-Africa Summit, which IOM would also attend.

134. Many delegations thanked the panellists for their presentations and remarked on the usefulness of the International Dialogue on Migration.

135. The Administration said that the discussion of migration highlights had made it clear that all countries were “countries of migration” facing similar challenges related to mobility. Dealing with those challenges called for multi-dimensional policies that took account of the wide range of migration-related issues. Circular migration, for example, was particularly relevant in a more mobile world and its implications from both the cultural and economic perspectives had to be managed. Brain drain was a source of legitimate concern, but also needed to be depoliticized and considered from the perspective of a growing global labour market. Rather than getting into potentially contentious debate about compensation, States may wish to consider global partnership possibilities for human resource development. Managing mobility in a world in which all countries were “countries of migration” required training and capacity-building. It was to be hoped that centres like that in Belarus would open in many parts of the world, and that the Member States would seize the real possibilities for multi-stakeholder cooperation on the many aspects of migration that the panellists had outlined.

#### (d) Migration and the Environment

136. The panellists were:

- **Qiao Zonghuai**, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, People’s Republic of China;
- **Abdul Bari Khan**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, People’s Republic of Bangladesh;
- **Theodoros Skylakakis**, Secretary General for International Economic Relations and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece;
- **Nguele Dieudonné Tolo**, Director General, National Forestry Development Agency, Republic of Cameroon;
- **Jaifa Mezher**, Director, *Programa Colombia Nos Une*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia.

The Discussant was **Christophe Bouvier**, Director, Regional Office for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme.

The Moderator was **Janos J. Bogardi**, Director, Institute for Environment and Human Security, United Nations University.

137. The Administration gave a presentation on migration and the environment. While climate change was currently a popular topic, scant consideration had been given to the effects of environmental degradation and climate change on the movement of people, or more generally to the impact of environmental change on migration and of migration on the environment. A fundamental misperception was that migration was the outcome of ineffective adaptation and mitigation strategies, when in fact it was an essential component of such strategies that needed to

be managed. Discussion should be engaged on the two-way relationship between migration and the environment in order to ensure cost-effective, efficient and sustainable responses and prevent crises. IOM had proposed a working definition of environmental migrants in order to facilitate discussion of policy design and inter-agency coordination. A series of scenarios illustrated how environmental change could affect the movement of people, how migration could affect the environment, and the relationship between conflict, environmental change and migration. Effective management of environment-related migration required early action and proactive policies that were comprehensive and coherent. To that end, the research agenda should be improved and environmental migration profiling carried out in conjunction with environmental impact assessments. Capacity-building for governments and other relevant stakeholders was also necessary. Given the strong likelihood that environmental degradation and climate change would continue, and the inevitability of migration, preparedness was fundamental at the governmental, community and individual levels.

138. Mr. Bogardi said that, while debate on environmental migration was still in its infancy, reliable sources estimated that there were currently some 20 to 30 million environmental migrants. That figure was set to increase, given that climate change and land degradation were likely to continue. One issue to take into consideration was the fact that if it was no longer possible to make a living in a place, most inhabitants would be forced to leave. Some environmental migrants crossed national borders, some crossed continents, and some were internally displaced.

139. Mr. Qiao said that migration and the environment were closely linked because natural disasters and environmental changes caused by human activities often triggered migration problems, and massive migration also had an impact on the environment. However, there was no conclusive evidence that migration was the principal cause of environmental degradation, just as the environment was not the main reason behind migration. Only within the framework of sustainable development could the relationship between migration and the environment be properly handled and made to work for a prosperous and harmonious world. To start with, migration's contribution to development should be recognized, and governments should be requested to view migration more openly, positively and fairly, without bias towards migrant groups. Policies favouring regular and orderly migration should be adopted and legal migrants should be encouraged to contribute to the economic development of countries of origin and of destination. Countries of destination should strengthen coordination with countries of origin on the adoption of effective measures to protect migrant's rights. International cooperation and dialogue should be enhanced, and developed countries and international and regional organizations should provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries, while countries of destination and of origin should work together to tackle brain drain. Lastly, every effort should be made to protect the environment in the wake of increased development, a positive effect of migration. The international community should further strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in environmental protection and coordinate global and regional efforts. Developed countries should offer greater assistance to developing countries, and the international community should step up research on the link between migration and the environment and compile databases to support migration management. The Chinese Government was committed to conserving resources and protecting the environment. It had signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, had devised a national climate change programme and was taking steps to cut its energy consumption per unit of GDP by 20 per cent by

2010 and its emissions of pollutants by 10 per cent. China would continue to work closely with IOM and other players to seek prosperity for all.

140. Mr. Khan said that Bangladesh was especially prone to natural disasters, the most recent one being Cyclone Sidr, and thanked the international community for its generous response to the disaster. Riverbank erosion was one example of environmental degradation that led to involuntary migration. It displaced more than 500,000 people annually from the countryside to the cities as they lost ownership of their farmlands and became impoverished and marginalized. Many formed floating populations, living on rivers. Every five years some 500,000 acres of farmland were damaged, and each year about 2,400 km of the bank line underwent erosion along 16 rivers in Bangladesh, changing river courses.

141. Environmental degradation was a major concern in South Asia, which had designated 2007 as Green South Asia Year. Bangladesh had recently hosted a community-based disaster risk-reduction and disaster-preparedness workshop under the auspices of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. In addition, the Government had set up cyclone preparedness and disaster risk-reduction programmes and had factored disaster risk-reduction indicators into its poverty reduction strategy. In the words of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, disaster prevention was a “moral imperative”.

142. Mr. Skylakakis said that least developed countries and small island developing States would be hardest hit by climate change because of their geographical position and their reduced capacity to adapt and respond to its daunting challenges. In some cases, migration might be the only possible recourse for people in vulnerable regions. Although climate change was not the only push factor in migration decisions, climate change-induced droughts, wildfire, extreme weather events and natural disasters were likely to exacerbate pre-existing problems in vulnerable regions: food insecurity, water scarcity, reduced agricultural output, unequal access to resources and the spread of disease. In his view, most climate change-induced migration in the coming decades would stem from gradual disasters caused by desertification and the loss of agricultural production. Such challenges could gradually weaken institutions and already ailing infrastructures and compromise peace and security by compounding the propensity for violent conflict. Effective migration management and collective preparedness and burden-sharing in response to climate change disasters would be required to cope with the significant population movements expected within the next forty years. Climate change required a swift, global response based on adaptation, technology transfer and mitigation, with an emphasis on coherent policies. It was vital to incorporate sustainable development and climate change concerns into development cooperation programmes and into national policies and development strategies, approaches that Greece had promoted within the European Union and intended to implement in its national policies. Targeted development assistance and cooperation in promoting capacity-building and sustainable development in partner countries could enhance migration policies as well.

143. Located at the crossroads of three continents, Greece had had considerable experience in migration and stood to be greatly affected by climate change, and thus climate change-induced migration. Its population had already risen by 10 per cent over the past 15 years because of migration. Its response to migration would include the creation of special funds in cooperation with regional organizations to finance adaptation projects in Africa and small island developing States, and cooperation with IOM on various projects. The latter aimed to encourage legal



migrants in Greece to contribute to development in their home countries; by doing so, diasporas would also strengthen ties with their host country. In addition, Greece was chairing the Human Security Network, which focused on the impact of climate change on human security, in particular women, children and people who were driven from their homes by climate change.

144. Mr. Tolo said that mass movements of people were frequent throughout Cameroon, reflecting the situation elsewhere in Africa. In many cases, people migrated for economic reasons, searching for a better life. Economic migration took a particularly heavy toll on the environment when people moved in order to cultivate land, fell forests and fish. Such population movements were sometimes instigated by the government or local authorities, and in other instances were spontaneous and unplanned. Some government-led migration projects had been successful in terms of developing agriculture, creating employment, and increasing social cohesion and stability, but had resulted in land erosion, depleted soil fertility and uncontrolled logging. Spontaneous migration to islands off the coast where fish were abundant had also harmed ecosystems as fishing had not been managed. It had also led to excessive logging as migrants had cut down trees for wood to build houses and to smoke the fish they caught.

145. People also migrated in Cameroon for socio-cultural reasons linked to habits and customs, and in the wake of natural disasters and conflict situations. Since the 1990s, the Government had begun to take steps to alleviate the detrimental effects of migration on the environment. It had set up a national biodiversity action plan, which aimed to ensure that the country's natural resources were used in a rational manner, and a national forest development agency, which limited logging and organized planting of new trees. Further efforts were being made to protect the country's water resources and its biodiversity, keep the land fertile, and increase people's incomes.

146. Ms. Mezher outlined her Government's project entitled Colombia Nos Une (Colombia Unites Us). Created in 2003, it was headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and aimed to maintain positive links between Colombia and the three million Colombians living abroad. Its policies and projects focused on education, health, population trends, transnational networks, culture, consular issues, international organizations and coordination with civil society organizations working with migrants. The programme was responsible for designing, monitoring and implementing the country's migration policy. IOM had played a key role in that regard, and consultations had been held with other international and non-governmental organizations.

147. One of the initiatives developed to attenuate the devastation caused to communities in the wake of natural disasters was Colombia's temporary circular labour migration project. It managed migratory flows by offering agricultural workers and rural dwellers temporary employment opportunities abroad, until lands had recovered and could be cultivated once again. That migration model also aimed to channel the savings migrants accumulated while abroad, Colombian public and private funding and international cooperation funds into productive projects that fostered local and regional development in areas such as housing and education. Structures had been put in place to guarantee the sustainability of those investments. The initiative had helped to reduce irregular immigration, improve respect for migrant workers' human rights and ensure that non-government actors took part in establishing migration policy. With assistance from IOM and two Spanish organizations, it was currently benefiting almost 8,000 people who normally lived in the area around the Galeras volcano, and a further 60 people who had been living

in areas of the Caribbean that were vulnerable to flooding. More people were expected to benefit as the initiative was further developed.

148. The other initiative worthy of mention in the context of migration and the environment was the forest warden programme, which supported families who gave up growing or working on illegal coca and poppy crops. Those families had received an economic incentive equivalent to some USD 1,800 over 18 months in order to help them start up legal, sustainable projects. They also received social assistance to set up workers' organizations, savings funds and leadership projects. Opportunities for education were also provided. The programme included a technical component under which measures were taken to address the environmental damage done by illegal drug cultivation, particularly in terms of deforestation. It aimed to guarantee the right not to migrate, by providing institutional support for cultivating crops such as coffee, rubber and fruit. The programme had won wide international recognition and achieved environmental, social and economic results in the target areas. In 2007, it had benefited over 53,000 families, affecting some 2,300,000 hectares of illegal crops.

149. Mr. Bouvier stressed the need for more data and analysis to determine the impact of climate change worldwide. Various issues had to be explored: first, how much time should be spent on resolving problems of adaptation to climate change and how much energy should be used to grasp the global and local challenges? Second, what roles should the community, the private sector, the State and the international community play in dealing with the relationship between migration and the environment? Third, how far could individual countries go in meeting those challenges and how far could international organizations go in supporting them? Examples of the State's role in tackling migration problems had been provided by the representatives of Colombia, Cameroon and Bangladesh. The community's role had also been illustrated by Bangladesh. Humanitarian aid, development aid and peace and security were other concerns raised during the discussion. The Chinese and Greek panellists had called for solidarity, which was basically a manifestation of global self-interest in trying to resolve a problem that was global in nature, local in its expression and unpredictable. Climate change and migration were long-ranging problems requiring innovative solutions.

150. One Member State wished to know more about the linkage between what communities could do to improve their adaptive capacity and their ability to respond to disasters and the impact of climate change and what the international community could do to add most value to community efforts. It would be interesting to know what work was being performed on a South-South level, i.e. between developing countries, what assistance and learning was being transferred from one vulnerable community to another and what could be said about the role of women in those environments.

151. In reply, Mr. Khan said that in his country communities were actively involved in disaster preparedness because of Bangladesh's historical exposure to natural disaster. In anticipation of the rainy season, community members raised the level of their homes and built embankments and boats. Special treatment was given to women during disasters because they were often the most affected. The international community was helping the Bangladeshi Government develop its infrastructure and foster awareness of the need for disaster management among the people; the international organizations' involvement in comprehensive disaster management programmes was crucial.

152. The representative of Ecuador asked whether Colombia planned to establish an initiative under the temporary circular labour migration project with Ecuador, given that many Colombians had migrated there.

153. Ms. Mezher said that no initiatives had yet been launched under that project with Ecuador, but that Colombian migration policy was still at the drafting stage. Colombia was implementing other important projects with Ecuador, such as one which assisted Colombian and Ecuadorian migrants in Spain. That project would be extended in 2008 to include Colombian migrants living in Ecuador. Her Government hoped, nonetheless, to establish a temporary circular labour migration project with Ecuador in future.

154. One delegate asked why the discussion had focused on climate change, and made no mention of pollution, particularly the illegal dumping of pollutants at sea.

155. Mr. Bouvier said that, while his comments had focused on climate change, other environmental factors had important consequences for migration. For example, trawlers from Western countries were over-fishing off the coast of West Africa. The depletion of fish stocks damaged the environment and encroached on the livelihoods of local fishermen. Some of those fishermen ended up migrating in search of employment, at times to the very countries where the trawlers guilty of their predicament were registered.

156. Mr. Skylakakis was struck by the diverging views on migration offered by representatives of developed countries and developing countries during the discussion. It was important to be open to all views and to avoid the tendency to adopt local perspectives, responses and policies on a global problem.

157. The Director General said that IOM's role in terms of migration and the environment could be traced to its longstanding experience in helping Member States respond to natural disasters on an ad hoc basis, most recently through its involvement in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's cluster approach, and linkage of migration with other topics as part of the International Dialogue on Migration. True to its tradition, IOM would continue to be of service to Member States, solving individual problems and providing long-term policy guidance to governments.

158. One representative suggested that IOM could provide a valuable service to Member States by developing an "early warning system" to avoid humanitarian crises in the event of drought, locust invasions or other long-term climate problems. Another representative stressed the need for a contingency fund for countries struck by natural disasters, an issue he had previously raised with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In times of disaster, it was vital to act swiftly; unfortunately, international aid was slow to come and often arrived too late. Two Member States said that international organizations could play a key role in tackling climate change by helping governments and people to adapt to the phenomenon and should focus attention on social problems stemming therefrom, such as irregular migration.

159. One delegate said that discussion concerning human movement and displacement caused by environmental degradation and climate change should not be grounded in the assumption that international migration was the preferred solution to, or the inevitable consequence of, such factors. Disaster preparedness could temper the future impact of environmental degradation and

climate change and help reduce the need for people to resort to international migration. His government welcomed the Discussion Note: Migration and the Environment (MC/INF/288), which was based on the premise that the most cost-effective and humane policy options obviated the need for environmental migration by intervening at the earliest stage possible. The interrelationship between migration and the environment was not yet fully clear, however. To manage migration effectively, it was essential to obtain a better understanding of how environmental factors interacted with other drivers for movement and to have a more realistic idea of migration trends. IOM was ideally placed to take the issues forward in a well-informed and pragmatic manner.

160. One representative said that the downside of climate change was that jobs were lost in polluting industries, resulting in migration. On the other hand, the fight against climate change would generate employment in the green industries and lead to the development of renewable energy sources and better technology. International policy should focus on the creation of green energy jobs, facilitate the entry of qualified foreign workers into destination countries and establish conditions enabling people to stay in their home countries.

161. Mr. Bogardi and the Director General agreed that migration and the environment would continue to be a burning issue in the years to come and that 2008, in particular, held the promise of fruitful discussion of that topic at many events. The organizers of the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development should be encouraged to add environmental migration to the agenda, as inter-governmental debate was needed on the issue.

## **GENERAL DEBATE**

### **(a) Statements by the Director General and the Deputy Director General**

162. The Director General expanded on the statement reproduced as Annex I to this report.

163. The Deputy Director General delivered the statement reproduced as Annex II to this report.

### **(b) Statements by members and observers**

164. Statements were made by the following Member States listed in alphabetical order:\* Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Ghana, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), Republic of Korea, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia (on behalf of the African Group), Turkey, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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\* Texts of the above statements, as and if received from the members and observers, are accessible to Member States on the IOM website at [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int).

165. Statements were made or submitted by the following observers:<sup>\*</sup> Ethiopia, the Holy See, African Union, the Ibero-American Secretariat General (SEGIB), the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Human Rights Watch.

166. The membership welcomed the new IOM members and observers. Many Member States also welcomed the adoption of the IOM strategy, which would help the Organization meet contemporary challenges in an efficient manner. It was a clear statement of the aims and objectives of the Organization, against which its performance could be measured. A number of Member States nevertheless identified areas where further improvement could be made, particularly in order to avoid duplicating the work of other international organizations.

167. After the last delegation had spoken, the Director General commented on a number of points raised during the General Debate. IOM would continue to explore new ways of applying the recently adopted strategy. It would continue to support the vitally important new and ongoing regional processes and to consolidate its capacity-building activities, especially in Africa. He noted the offer made by Morocco to host the capacity building centre for Africa and commented on efforts in a number of places in the area of training and capacity building.

168. The Global Migration Group's proposal to establish the International Partnership on Migration and Development had also been mentioned. Some delegations were in favour of the concept, others against. It might, as one Member State had suggested, be useful to form a working group to discuss the matter.

169. Many delegations had discussed short-term and circular migration. They had mentioned the shared responsibilities of countries of destination and of origin to ensure that migrants did not leave a vacuum at home and had the right credentials for the work they were hired to do.

170. New ways had to be found of safeguarding the human rights of migrants. The criminalization of irregular migrants and all forms of xenophobia had to be resolutely combated, notably by integrating migrant communities and by controlling irregular flows of migrants. In that regard, IOM hoped to obtain more support for its Humanitarian Assistance for Stranded Migrants (HASM) facility and would continue to cooperate with other agencies to assist migrants in distress.

171. The Deputy Director General raised three points. First, the General Debate afforded the Organization the opportunity to hear the concerns of all those affected by migration: countries of origin, destination and transit, the migrants themselves and the NGOs working to promote their interests. The ordinary session of the Council was the only statutory meeting at which all the parties were able to exchange views.

172. Secondly, while the increasingly multisectoral nature of migration made it imperative to build capacities, demands for capacity-building had to be properly formulated.

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<sup>\*</sup> Texts of the above statements, as and if received from the members and observers, are accessible to Member States on the IOM website at [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int).

173. Third and last, the Organization had to focus on what it did well. All the disciplines required for proper migration management had to come together at the Council with a view to discussing migration policy.

#### **DRAFT REPORTS ON THE NINETY-SECOND SESSION AND THE NINETY-THIRD (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

174. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1157 (XCIV) approving the reports on its Ninety-second Session (MC/2210) and Ninety-third (Special) Session (MC/2220).

#### **REPORT ON THE HUNDRED AND FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

175. Through its Resolution No. 1158 (XCIV), the Council endorsed the decisions taken by the Executive Committee at its Spring Session and took note of the report on the Hundred and fourth Session of the Executive Committee (MC/2225).

#### **SUMMARY UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2007**

176. The Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance said that the Standing Committee had examined document MC/2226, which indicated that the Administrative Part of the Budget had remained unchanged at CHF 38 million, that the Operational Part of the Budget had risen from USD 636.6 million to USD 721.5 million, and that Discretionary Income was projected to increase by about USD 7 million, primarily because of higher than anticipated interest and overhead income. The proposed application of this additional discretionary income was included in the document. The Standing Committee had subsequently recommended that the Council take note of the document.

177. The Council took note of document MC/2226.

#### **STATUS REPORT ON OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE PART OF THE BUDGET**

178. The Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance reported that on 11 October 2007 total outstanding contributions had amounted to about CHF 6 million and 18 Member States had been potentially subject to Article 4 of the Constitution. A number of Member States had informed the Standing Committee of their ongoing efforts to settle their arrears. The Standing Committee had taken note of those efforts, and urged those with contributions outstanding for two or more consecutive years to either pay their contributions in full or agree to a repayment plan, and to report to the Council on efforts to honour their financial obligations.

179. The Administration added that after the SCPF, payments had been received in full from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Tunisia and Zimbabwe,

while payments in line with repayment plans had been received from the Dominican Republic and Kyrgyzstan. The Government of Tajikistan had sent a contribution that was unfortunately insufficient to preclude application of the provisions of Article 4 of the Constitution. The Administration also reported the Government of Argentina has informed that they will soon be making a payment towards their outstanding contribution and agreed repayment plan.

180. The representative of Argentina reported that the Interior Ministry had adopted a resolution on the settlement of his country's arrears, which would be paid during the coming week.

181. The representative of Cameroon advised that arrangements had been made to pay Cameroon's outstanding contribution in its entirety in the next few days.

182. The representative of Nigeria said that administrative delays had held up payment of his country's outstanding contribution during the session of the Council, but that payment in full would be made shortly.

183. The Rapporteur of the Standing Committee went on to say that the Administration had recalled that the Republic of Liberia had requested that its total outstanding contributions up to 2005 be waived. The Administration had responded that no provisions existed in the Constitution or the Financial Regulations for cancellation of assessed contributions, and that the most common approach in international organizations was to work out a repayment plan. Most delegations had emphasized that it was important for Member States to show financial discipline in the payment of assessed contributions. The Administration had been invited to contact the Government of Liberia and to propose a flexible repayment plan that took account of the country's socio-economic situation.

184. The Administration advised the Council that a very flexible repayment plan had been proposed to the Government of Liberia. The matter was being kept under review and future governing body sessions would be apprised of developments.

185. The Deputy Director General said that the Liberian Ambassador in Paris, who also covered Geneva, had called to confirm that the contributions for 2006 and 2007 would be paid any day. He had also said that Liberia would agree to the fifteen-year repayment plan, but hoped to pay off the outstanding amount earlier.

186. The Council took note of the efforts made by some Member States to pay their outstanding contributions and urged those in arrears of two or more consecutive years to settle the amounts in full or agree to a repayment plan.

## **PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2008**

187. The Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance said that a number of delegations had commended the Administration on the improved format of the Programme and Budget for 2008 (MC/2227).

188. As planned, the Administrative Part of the Budget for 2008 had been drawn up on the basis of zero nominal growth and amounted to CHF 38,045,000. This had been achieved by absorbing cost and statutory increases of about CHF 1 million. Under the new assessment scale, the assessed contributions of most Member States had been reduced relative to 2007. The Operational Part of the Budget amounted to USD 529 million, which represented an increase of some USD 90 million over the 2007 original budget of USD 438.5 million. Discretionary Income had been estimated at USD 31 million. Following specific requests from the African Group, USD 250,000 had been budgeted for structural support and capacity-building in Africa.

189. The African Group had reserved the right to resume discussion of the Programme and Budget for 2008 at the present session of the Council, depending on the outcome of further talks with the Administration.

190. The Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance had recommended that the Programme and Budget for 2008 (MC/2227) be approved, subject to the reservation of the African Group.

191. The African Group withdrew its reservation to the Programme and Budget for 2008 as it had set out in detail in its statement during the general debate. It trusted in the spirit of cooperation prevailing between IOM and the Group, and thanked the delegations which had commented on Africa's needs.

192. In the light of the African Group's withdrawal of its reservation, several Member States reaffirmed the need to establish effective capacity-building structures in Africa.

193. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1159 (XCIV) on the Programme and Budget for 2008 (MC/2227).

#### **OTHER ITEMS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE**

194. The Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance reported on a number of other items discussed by the Standing Committee at its First Session.

- (i) Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (MC/2232)

195. The Standing Committee had examined document MC/2232, which the Administration had drawn up on the basis of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Executive Committee and the former Subcommittee on Budget and Finance, and which incorporated comments made by Member States during informal consultations. A consensus had emerged on the rules in the ensuing discussion, and the Standing Committee had therefore recommended that the Council adopt the draft Rules of Procedure.



(ii) Statement by a representative of the Staff Association

196. The Chairperson of the Staff Association Committee (SAC) had expressed satisfaction about the Committee's cooperation with the Administration, but had been concerned about some of the proposed changes to the Staff Regulations and Rules: a number of regulations, which were subject to change by the Council alone, were apparently to become rules, which could be changed at the discretion of the Administration. He had noted the significant improvements in the working conditions of field staff, particularly the proposal to allocate part of Discretionary Income in order to extend health insurance to locally hired IOM staff worldwide, and had expressed concern that IOM staff had not yet obtained certain privileges and immunities from a number of Member States.

197. In a statement read on his behalf, the Director General had recognized the excellent work performed by IOM staff worldwide and noted that the Administration had worked with the Staff Association Committee on initiatives designed to improve staff service conditions. The Committee had been invited to provide inputs for the amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules; while there may have been differences of perspective in certain areas, the fact was that the Administration had always worked out solutions with the Committee that were beneficial to staff.

198. A number of delegations had welcomed the cooperative working relationship which had emerged between the Administration and the Staff Association Committee, and had invited the latter to call on Member States for assistance as necessary.

199. The Standing Committee had taken note of the statement by the Chairperson of the Staff Association Committee and the Director General's response.

(iii) Exchange of views on items proposed by the membership

(a) IOM and "One UN"

200. The Administration had recalled that, while the Member States had generally not been in favour of IOM's incorporation into the United Nations system, they had wished to see the Organization forge closer cooperation with it. Accordingly, the Administration had pursued enhanced participation in United Nations country teams, and IOM was actively engaged in five of the countries involved in the pilot phase of the "One UN" project. IOM's association with the process varied in each country, depending on the level of activities and the wishes of the country team and host country. The Member States had agreed that the subject should be kept on the agenda of future Standing Committee sessions.

(b) IOM's role in the clusters

201. The Administration had advised that IOM was an active participant in the emergency shelter, protection, logistics, early recovery, and health clusters and the lead agency in the camp coordination and camp management cluster. It had also addressed the budgetary concerns raised. One Member State had commented on the relative absence of debate on the cluster approach within IOM.

(c) Global Migration Group, including the International Partnership for Migration and Development

202. The Administration had provided background on the Global Migration Group and its involvement in the preparations for the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development. It had conceived the idea of the International Partnership on Migration and Development in response to the need for an implementing mechanism which could, *inter alia*, facilitate follow-up of the Global Forum recommendations on the operational level, and provide funding and support. Some delegations had raised questions about the funding and resources used by IOM to support the Organization's involvement in a process which they considered had not been adequately discussed with Member States. The Administration had undertaken to arrange a date for further consultations on the subject.

(iv) IOM Assessment Scale

203. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/3, Methodology used to establish the IOM assessment scale, and SCPF/4, IOM assessment scale fully equated to the United Nations assessment scale. It had recommended that the provisions of document SCPF/4, updated with the addition of new Member States, should be adopted for 2009 by the Executive Committee at its spring session in 2008.

(v) Report on Human Resources Management at IOM (MC/INF/286)

204. The Administration had provided an overview of key developments in human resources management in the previous twelve months. The newly established Rotation Appointments and Postings Board would review the Organization's staffing needs and the mobility of international officials, and make recommendations to the Director General. Funds had been set aside so that non-occupational accident and sickness insurance benefits could gradually be extended to general service staff worldwide. Work had been put in hand to divide the Staff Regulations and Rules into two separate but linked documents covering all staff members throughout the Organization. The aim was to make the Staff Regulations and Rules more inclusive and to eliminate any unnecessary distinction between officials and employees.

205. The Standing Committee had taken note of document MC/INF/286.

(vi) Update on Delocalization: Manila and Panama Administrative Centres (SCPF/2)

206. The Administration had reported that the respective roles and responsibilities of the Administrative Centres in Manila and Panama had been clearly defined. It would ensure that the Centres would continue to complement rather than duplicate each other's efforts. One delegate had observed that, although the purpose of delocalization was to save money, the costs of the Administrative Centres had risen sharply. The Administration had pointed out that the Administrative Centres enabled the Organization to provide more support in the face of the growth experienced in all areas.

207. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/2.

- (vii) Support for developing Member States and Member States with economy in transition – Status report 1 January to 30 September 2007 (SCPF/5)

208. The Administration had introduced document SCPF/5 and made reference to the establishment of line 2, which would be activated as of 1 January 2008 with partial funding already identified in 2007 and reported in document MC/2226 and also in the 2008 budget and reported in document MC/2227 with the remainder to be identified in 2008 following the closure of 2007 accounts. One delegation had encouraged Member States to provide financial support to the 1035 Facility, and applauded the Administration's efforts to ensure that expenditure was in proportion to the geographic distribution of eligible Member States.

209. The Standing Committee had taken note of document SCPF/5.

210. The Administration noted that line 1 of the 1035 Facility included USD 600,000 of unearmarked contributions from the United States Government, and that instructions had been received from the Government of Austria that USD 84,000 of its unearmarked contribution should be set aside for the 1035 Facility.

211. Several Member States welcomed the introduction of the second line of funding in the 1035 Facility.

212. The Council took note of the documents and endorsed the recommendations of the Standing Committee. It adopted Resolution No. 1160 (XCIV) on the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance.

## **ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

213. The Council noted that the following 35 Member States wished to be represented on the Executive Committee in 2008 and 2009:

214. Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America.

215. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1161 (XCIV) on the election of the Executive Committee.

## **PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY**

216. The Chairperson, introducing the item, referred to the informal consultations held on 15 November, to the informal exchanges of views that had taken place on 27 and 29 November, and to documents MC/2234, MC/2234.Rev.1 and MC/2236.

217. The representative of Egypt, expressing the need for compromise on a comprehensive set of election rules that encompassed the views of the Member States and were in keeping with the Organization's Constitution, was willing to accept Part IV of document MC/2234/Rev.1, on which a consensus had emerged during the Council. Document MC/2236, for its part, contained elements that required more extensive deliberation and had not obtained widespread consensus. The fact that those elements had been added on very short notice was unhealthy as it was forcing the Council to make a decision on an important matter in order to satisfy the interests of some States while ignoring the concerns of others. Should a consensus nevertheless emerge on them, Egypt would not block approval of the rules set out in the document. He proposed the addition of the following sentence: "The attached additional elements are to be applied in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the Council, in addition to Rule 48 of those Rules". He agreed with the Chairperson's suggestion that a working group may have to be established and considered that it ought to address the broader decision-making process of the Council.

218. The representative of Belarus would have preferred to delete paragraph 1 of document MC/2236, but would not block adoption of the rules it contained if a consensus emerged. He also endorsed the idea of considering establishing a working group to deal with all elements pertaining to the forthcoming election of the Director General.

219. Following further consultations among the Member States, the Chairperson proposed that the following paragraph be added as point 8 to document MC/2236: "The aforementioned elements are to be applied in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the Council, in addition to Rule 48 of those Rules". Rule 48 states that "Any of these Rules may be amended by the Council provided that the proposed amendment be consistent with the Constitution of the Organization".

220. One delegate asked whether the addition of point 8 continued to imply the application of a two-thirds majority for election, consistent with Rule 6a of the Rules of Procedure for the Council. The Legal Adviser replied that it would.

221. The Council adopted the rules set out in document MC/2236, as amended.<sup>4</sup>

222. The representative of Belarus noted that the requirement that the Director General and Deputy Director General be nominated by a Member State risked undermining their independence. His delegation had nevertheless joined in the consensus on document MC/2236, as revised, in a spirit of compromise and on the understanding that the Council could amend the document when and as appropriate.

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<sup>4</sup> The full amended text of the rules was subsequently issued as document MC/2236/Rev.1.

223. The representative of Bangladesh agreed that paragraph 1 of document MC/2236, on nominations, could compromise the neutrality expected of an international civil servant at the head of an international organization. His delegation had wished to propose that an incumbent Director General or Deputy Director General need not be nominated for a second term, but had withdrawn that proposal on the understanding that the Council could amend the rules set out in document MC/2236 as necessary.

224. The representative of Canada spoke in support of the amended rules and expressed appreciation for the flexibility shown by the Member States.

225. The delegate of Honduras said that the present IOM Administration was doing an outstanding job. The previous election rules had been clear but no longer adapted to the circumstances. The Member States should undertake an in-depth process of reform not only of election procedures but also with a view to introducing regional representation as it applied to the Organization's leaders.

226. The delegate of Senegal pointed out that paragraph 1 of document MC/2236 was entitled "Nomination of candidates", whereas paragraph 2 referred to "presenting candidates". The two paragraphs should be harmonized.

227. The Chairperson proposed that the paragraphs be harmonized if and when the Council amended the document. He thanked all the Member States for the spirit of cooperation and compromise they had shown in the discussion of item 14. The Chair remained open to all possibilities for further improvement of the rules.

228. Many Member States thanked the Chairperson for the unstinting efforts he had made to forge a consensus on the rules set out in document MC/2236, as revised.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

229. There was no other business.

## **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSIONS**

230. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1162 (XCIV) concerning its next regular session and inviting the Executive Committee to meet in June 2008. The tentative dates were: 2 to 5 December 2008 for the Council and 17 June 2008 for the Executive Committee. Provisional dates for the Second and Third Sessions<sup>5</sup> of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance were 6 to 7 May and 28 to 29 October 2008 respectively.

231. The Council further adopted Resolution No. 1163 (XCIV) on the Ninety-fifth (Special) Session of the Council. The tentative dates for that session, at which the Member States would elect a Director General, were 18 and 19 June 2008.

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<sup>5</sup> Dates for the Third Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance have subsequently been changed from 28 to 29 October to 4 to 5 November 2008 due to another conflicting meeting.

Annex I

**MAIN POINTS OF THE  
DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT**

IOM Strategy

- We have begun the integration of the June strategy document in all phases of our work.
- At the first meeting of the new Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance in October, delegations conducted a useful discussion of policy issues under the leadership of the acting Chair of the Council.
- We have adjusted the Blue Book to show how our programmes and projects fit with the Council's priorities.
- We have also shared the strategy document with our partners in the Global Migration Group as a guide to future cooperation and coordination.

Continuing Growth

- IOM is drawing steadily closer to its long-standing goal of broad and representative coverage of the world.
- The new Members and Observers we added at this Council session are a sign of IOM's broad acceptance and a welcome reinforcement of our capacity to serve the needs of migrants and governments.
- In the last year and a few months, we have signed cooperation agreements with China, India and the Russian Federation and are developing important programme activities with all three countries.
- The new interest of the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council in working with IOM in general is greatly welcome, as is their intention to refine their system of overseas contract labour and improve conditions for foreign workers in their countries.

Migration and Development

- The Brussels meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development succeeded in launching a process that has the potential of bringing great benefits to all countries.
- The GMG will have a role to play in the next Global Forum in Manila.
- Capacity building for successful participation in the global labour market is a key component in the effort to harness migration for development goals.

- IOM and other GMG agencies are working with the Government of the Philippines and many developing countries on a concept for an International Partnership for Migration and Development that would address the capacity-building needs of the world economy in connection with a better managed labour market. We briefed on this concept at the SCPF.
- In this context, Members will be pleased to learn that multilateral dialogue between sending and receiving countries in Asia, through the Colombo Process, is advancing steadily and seems likely to furnish models of cooperation for other countries and other continents.
- Multilateral cooperation in setting the terms of work by foreigners is the most efficient method of creating a regulated labour market and also one of the best ways to protect the human rights of the workers.

#### Other New Developments

- The subject of migration and the environment has come to the fore over the past year, bringing greater attention to permanent or temporary human displacement as a result of climate change, global warming, desertification and cataclysmic natural disasters. In this regard, in the 2007 tropical storm season IOM has reacted to emergencies in the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico.
- The Panama Administrative Centre is up and running and promises to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations worldwide.
- In 2008 we shall roll out the second phase of PRISM, our new software platform that will equip IOM with state-of-the-art capabilities in human resource and financial management.
- You all know that we are publishing this year the latest IOM *World Migration Report*, already a touchstone for Governments and students of migration.

#### Staff Relations

- As the Staff Association Committee told the Member States at the Standing Committee on Programmes and Budget last month, the SAC and the Administration continue to work closely together to identify new areas of cooperation, foster morale and improve working conditions.
- Health insurance for local staff (the majority of our employees), simplified staff regulations and rules, a memorial for colleagues who lost their lives while working for IOM, further measures on tax relief – these are just examples of improvements we shall put in place soon together with the SAC.
- IOM staff work hard and enjoy a real sense of pride and accomplishment. We in the Administration have an obligation to make their work as safe, productive and rewarding as we can – an obligation we share with Member States. Let us all work together, Member States, SAC and the Administration to meet these challenges.

Annex II

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is my honour and pleasure to address you all today at the Ninety-fourth Council Session of IOM.
2. I would like to extend my special appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Mrs. Najat Al-Hajjaji, the Ambassador of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for her efforts and commitment that allowed us all to move forward and conclude the debate on the IOM strategy. Truly, this has been an important achievement for IOM and the Member States and we applaud her for this.
3. I would also like to congratulate the new Chairperson of the Council, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio March, Ambassador of Spain, and his bureau on their election. I would like to reiterate my commitment and support to him as he leads the work of the IOM Council on issues that are immensely crucial to IOM's future development and long-term vision and strategy.
4. I wish to welcome our newest Member States, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam with whom we have had about twenty years of cooperation and the Republic of Burundi with whom cooperation has been ongoing since 2001, within the framework of the MIDA Great Lakes programme. I am confident that the membership of Burundi and Viet Nam will pave the way for further broadening of our migration management agenda and help put in place programmes and activities of particular relevance to their development.
5. My congratulations to Africa Recruit, the Refugee Education Trust (RET) and *Femmes Africa Solidarité* (FAS) on their observership status with IOM.
6. I would also like to greet all the delegations present here, many of whom have travelled from afar to attend the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. My statement to the Council today will focus on four issues. The first concerns the use of migration as an effective tool towards poverty reduction and the need for policy coherence, a message that was voiced by many delegates during the High-Level Dialogue in 2006 as well as the Global Forum on Migration and Development in July 2007. My statements to the Council in 2005 and 2006 have consistently called upon Heads of State and governments, and upon development partners to focus their attention in this area. Migration is as complex and multidimensional a phenomenon and process as development is and this has direct consequences on the policy choices to be made.
8. Therefore, mainstreaming migration into national development agendas, as well as keeping the focus on establishing long-term coherent strategies to eradicate poverty, represents a challenge for many governments, particularly the countries of origin. Very few governments, in my view,



have been able to address this challenge in a coherent way and most of them do not have a clear understanding of the relationship between migration and development.

9. National migration policies and policy coherence require coordinated actions amongst various government programmes and ministries to fill the lack of inter-institutional cooperation; they also require better collaboration between the policies of home countries and those of host countries, and between the governments and the international community.

10. In Lisbon, just this month, many governments argued for the inclusion of climate change in national development frameworks, particularly as regards the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, as well as a stronger commitment to implement Millennium Development Goal No. 7 on environment. How do we take this agenda forward and what are the next steps?

11. Our experience tells us that the best way to construct coherence is for governments to organize national meetings. I propose to organize such meetings that could provide appropriate technical support and advisory services to governments in setting up inter-ministerial national committees charged with formulating national policies on migration as well as creating economic models of migration management, such as through the Threshold 21 model from the Millennium Institute, with sectoral plans that could contribute to economic and social development. I am convinced that placing migration on the development agenda in this manner is one evident way of advancing development.

12. IOM, primarily through funds made available by the 1035 Facility, is trying to assist governments to pursue this integrated approach in a few pilot countries (e.g. Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Mauritius). In Asia, countries such Bangladesh and the Philippines have made progress and are seeking IOM's technical and financial support to advance the process forward. Latin America is also interested in advancing the agenda on migration and development. Indeed, this process must become systematic for Africa, Asia and Latin America.

13. Most importantly, the recent evaluation of the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme as an illustration of IOM's approach to making migration work for development has reaffirmed the relevance of MIDA to IOM's mandate, in particular to its Constitution and to the new strategy document adopted by its Member States. Once again, I urge all our Member States, the IOM Administration and in particular the donor governments to invest in MIDA and help facilitate the flow of funds toward this programme.

14. Ladies and Gentlemen, my second point touches upon the diaspora. 2006-2007 has witnessed many meetings in various European countries on the need for better diaspora policies, for cost-effective methods of financial transfer and for the setting up of appropriate structures in order to achieve a common understanding and agreements between home and host countries, by investing in the potential that the diaspora has to offer.

15. Under the auspices of the German Government, specifically the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the conference "Migration and Labour - How to balance the interests of countries of destination and of origin?" took place in Berlin in June 2007, to discuss as one of its issues, remittances enhancing the developmental impact of migration. In November 2007, under the

incumbent Portuguese Presidency of the European Council, the EU Development Days conference addressed the challenges of climate change on development cooperation in Europe, where I was given the opportunity to highlight the ways in which migrants and diaspora members can help prevent environmental degradation.

16. Allow me to also to commend the African Union, and the Government of South Africa in particular, for having organized five diaspora regional consultative conferences this year in Brasilia (April 2007); London (April 2007); New York (June 2007); Paris (September 2007); and in Bridgetown, Barbados (October 2007). These conferences were followed by continent-wide consultations in Addis Ababa (October 2007) which prepared the way for ministerial consultations in South Africa a couple of weeks ago (November 2007). The plan of action to which this process has led will be adopted during the Extraordinary Summit to be convened in early 2008. I would encourage you all to read these reports and play a proactive role in supporting the efforts of the diaspora worldwide.

17. Late in 2006 and all through 2007, IOM engaged in a series of diplomatic events entitled the Diaspora Dialogues and drawn from this plan of action. Not only do these dialogues confirm the diaspora's commitment; they allow for a broader collaboration in various fields of development. We have seen the positive results of diaspora involvement in China, India and Latin America. We can strengthen a country's capacities by tapping into their resources abroad.

18. Diasporas will be most interested in contributing to development efforts in both origin and host country when they have a sense of belonging and are recognized as key development partners and investors. In order to achieve this, both origin and host governments must invest in their diasporas abroad, identifying and understanding their skills and interests. Building constructive relationships between countries of origin, host countries and diasporas requires that migrants be treated not as a mere resource, but as development partners and investors.

19. The issue of gender which I will expand upon next is also relevant to the diaspora. Mainstreaming gender in national policies is required because gender is a supplementary force in the diaspora that cannot be overlooked. Not only does it take into account vulnerable women and their needs, it also involves highly skilled women and takes into consideration their contributions to their home and host countries. In particular, women in the diaspora can be of instrumental help in advancing national migrant integration policies. To this effect, IOM will soon be launching a diaspora database of skilled migrants, both men and women.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

20. In terms of mainstreaming gender in IOM's programmes and staffing activities, as you are aware, an evaluation was conducted last year on the results of ten years of implementation of the gender mainstreaming policy. In this connection, I should personally wish here to thank Denise Glasscock, who retired in March 2007, for her efforts and hard work within IOM for which she should have received the DG Award for services rendered to the Organization.

21. This evaluation has been a very interesting exercise. It has challenged our understanding of IOM's situation and has forced us to rethink IOM's action towards the promotion of women among IOM staff and the inclusion of gender concerns in our programmes and activities.

22. Following the evaluation, the gender officer conducted an Organization-wide consultation of senior staff members, gender focal points and members of the Working Group on Gender Issues (WGGI) to gather their views and recommendations on how to address weaknesses and gaps in the current policy. Our gender coordinator analysed their contribution and has prepared a strategy document to revitalize the gender mainstreaming policy in IOM.

23. During the last UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2007, which focused on addressing discrimination against female children, IOM insisted on the need to improve education for girls as a strategy to prevent trafficking, an important service that IOM continues to provide worldwide.

24. WGGI aimed to do more, but ultimately, our budgetary constraints did not allow us to advance more. A larger budget equates to greater work in this area.

25. In 2008, with a focus on the research of data, the WGGI will support the inclusion of gender analysis in four IOM projects in Costa Rica, Latvia, Indonesia and Senegal. The findings of this exercise will help us make sure that IOM projects address the needs of men and women adequately and do not reproduce gender inequalities. This gender analysis shall, we hope, be a systematic step in project development.

26. It is a regrettable weakness that no staff has been hired or dedicated specifically to promote the gender agenda in IOM. Gender activities have been left to the voluntary contribution of a few members of staff who serve as gender focal points (GFP) and work on gender activities in addition to their regular duties. GFPs, in all IOM Missions worldwide have limited resources, both financial and human, and there is no budget dedicated to promote gender and migration in IOM. This is an unfortunate fact, considering the many declarations and interest promised for this subject.

27. Our Gender Officer is part of the Appointment and Posting Board to ensure proper consideration of gender priorities within IOM's hiring process. I wish to call for an improvement in the position to prove that we are giving gender the place it deserves. The new Gender Officer is young, full of goodwill and expertise; I believe we will achieve a lot during her service.

28. To make a real difference in their area of work and mission, GFPs and WGGI members need more training, more opportunities to meet with one another and to agree with the Gender Officer upon an institutional vision and workplan. Moreover, they need to be taken more seriously and with more professionalism in MRFs and field missions. This, I repeat, requires a budget and a professional team dedicated to gender and migration.

29. I call upon each one of you to make a commitment for a stronger, more dynamic and systematic inclusion of the gender dimension in migration management. Addressing the different needs of men and women, of boys and girls is a major key to face today's migration challenges.

30. Ladies and Gentlemen, a fourth and final point before closing my statement relates to governance within IOM. I wish to recollect the achievements made under H.E. Mrs. Najat Al-Hajjaji's presidency regarding the IOM strategy, governing bodies and programme and budget based on H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba's suggestions.

31. Despite the efforts of H.E. Mrs. Al-Hajjaji and all of you, IOM is still suffering from a lack of transparent cooperation between the Organization and Member States, which reflects upon our ability to fund and pursue our projects and programmes on the ground.

32. The past years have seen many efforts towards reforming the IOM's governing bodies in order to achieve greater transparency and promote good governance. I had clearly stated these reforms as necessary for IOM to remain a leading organization in the field of migration, and continue to do so today.

33. I would like 2008 to be the year where IOM, in close consultation with Member States, the Standing Committee and incoming Chairperson H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio March, engage in the collaboration touched upon in previous years, so that IOM's status as the leading organization on migration be not only maintained but enhanced

34. We still have a long road ahead of us. Under your guidance, we can achieve better transparency, a better balance of our respective roles in programme management, and improve equality and professionalism in our resource management, including human resources. In short, meet the challenges for IOM's future.

Thank you.