

COUNCIL

Sixth Special Session

REPORT ON THE

SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL*

Geneva

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REPORT ON THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Introduction

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 1404 of 30 November 2022, the Council convened for its Sixth Special Session at the Centre International de Conférences Genève on 15 May 2023. Two meetings were held, chaired by Mr L.A. Gberie (Sierra Leone).

Attendance¹

2. The following Member States were represented:

Afghanistan	Costa Rica	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Solomon Islands
Albania	Côte d'Ivoire	Ireland	New Zealand	Somalia
Algeria	Croatia	Israel	Nicaragua	South Africa
Angola	Cuba	Italy	Niger	South Sudan
Antigua and Barbuda	Cyprus	Jamaica	Nigeria	Spain
Argentina	Czechia	Japan	North Macedonia	Sri Lanka
Armenia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Jordan	Norway	Sudan
Australia	Denmark	Kazakhstan	Pakistan	Suriname
Austria	Djibouti	Kenya	Palau	Sweden
Azerbaijan	Dominica	Kiribati	Panama	Switzerland
Bahamas	Dominican Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Papua New Guinea	Tajikistan
Bangladesh	Ecuador	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Paraguay	Thailand
Barbados	Egypt	Latvia	Peru	Timor-Leste
Belarus	El Salvador	Lesotho	Philippines	Togo
Belgium	Estonia	Libya	Poland	Tonga
Belize	Eswatini	Lithuania	Portugal	Trinidad and Tobago
Benin	Ethiopia	Luxembourg	Republic of Korea	Tunisia
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Fiji	Madagascar	Republic of Moldova	Türkiye
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Finland	Malawi	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Turkmenistan
Botswana	France	Maldives	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Tuvalu
Brazil	Gabon	Mali	Samoa	Uganda
Bulgaria	Gambia	Malta	Sao Tome and Principe	Ukraine
Burkina Faso	Georgia	Marshall Islands	Senegal	United Kingdom
Burundi	Germany	Mauritania	Serbia	United Republic of Tanzania
Cabo Verde	Ghana	Mauritius	Seychelles	United States of America
Cabo Verde	Greece	Mexico	Sierra Leone	Uruguay
Cambodia	Grenada	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Slovakia	Uzbekistan
Cameroon	Guatemala	Mongolia	Slovenia	Vanuatu
Canada	Guinea	Montenegro		Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Central African Republic	Guinea-Bissau	Morocco		
Chad	Guyana	Mozambique		
Chile	Haiti	Myanmar		
China	Holy See	Namibia		
Colombia	Honduras	Nauru		
Comoros	Hungary	Nepal		
Congo	Iceland			
Cook Islands	India			

¹ The list of participants is contained in document C/Sp/6/4. Unless otherwise indicated, all documents and slide presentations referenced in this report are available on the Council section of the IOM website.

3. The European Union was represented as an observer.

Opening of the session and credentials of representatives

4. The Chairperson declared the Sixth Special Session of the Council open on Monday, 15 May 2023, at 10.15 a.m.
5. The Council noted that the Chairperson had confirmed that the credentials of the representatives of the Member States and the observer listed in paragraphs 2 and 3, respectively, had been found to be in order.

Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights

6. The Administration, introducing document C/114/4 (Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights (as at 1 May 2023)), said that, since the document's publication, payments had been received from 15 countries, bringing the combined total of outstanding assessed contributions from 2023 and prior years down to CHF 52.7 million. In addition, the number of Member States in arrears that had negotiated a payment plan with the Administration had increased to six, of which one had not met its obligations under the plan and was therefore considered to have lost the right to vote.

7. By the opening of the Session, the number of Member States subject to Article 4 of the IOM Constitution had fallen from 31 to 26, 17 of which maintained their right to vote. Of the remaining nine Member States that had lost the right to vote, seven were registered for the current special session.

8. The Council took note of document C/114/4 and of the update provided by the Administration.

Election of the Second Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau

9. The Council elected Mr Seong deok Yun (Republic of Korea) as Second Vice-Chairperson of the Council Bureau, his predecessor in the post having left Geneva.

10. The Second Vice-Chairperson of the Council said that it was an honour to have been elected at such an important juncture for the Organization and that he would discharge his responsibilities to the best of his ability under the leadership of the Chairperson.

Adoption of the agenda

11. The provisional agenda contained in document C/Sp/6/1 was adopted by the Council and subsequently issued as document C/Sp/6/3.

Election of the Director General

12. The Chairperson drew attention to the provisions of the IOM Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the Council related to the election process, as described in document C/113/INF/2, entitled Note on rules and procedures for the election of the Director General.

13. Following a slide presentation by the Legal Counsel explaining the voting procedure for electing the Director General, the Chairperson highlighted that the Council would proceed on the basis that the candidate with fewest votes would be removed only after the third ballot.

14. At the meeting of the Council Bureau on 9 May 2023, lots had been drawn to determine the order in which the candidates would appear on the ballot paper, with the following result: Ms Amy E. Pope and Mr António Vitorino.

15. Member States were called to vote in English alphabetical order, starting with the United Republic of Tanzania, which had been drawn by lot. The countries holding the positions of First and Second Vice-Chairperson of the Council, respectively, had designated the following tellers: Mr Reinhard Hassenpflug (Germany) and Ms Daeun Kim (Republic of Korea). The counting took place in the conference room and the tellers read the name appearing on each ballot out loud.

16. At the first round of voting, 165 eligible Member States received a ballot paper and voted. The results of the first round were as follows:

(a)	Number of ballot papers submitted:	165
(b)	Number of invalid ballots:	0
(c)	Number of valid ballots:	165
(d)	Number of abstentions:	0
(e)	Number of Members present and voting:	165
(f)	Required majority:	110
(g)	Number of votes in favour of: Ms Amy E. Pope	98
	Number of votes in favour of: Mr António Vitorino	67

17. No candidate obtained the two-thirds majority of the votes required by Article 13 of the Constitution.

18. The Council voted by show of hands (68 in favour and 48 against) to suspend the meeting.

19. When the meeting resumed, the Chairperson announced that the delegation of Portugal had withdrawn its candidate, Mr António Vitorino.

20. Following a further suspension of the meeting, the Chairperson announced, on the basis of his consultations with the regional groups, that a consensus had been reached to proceed with the election of Ms Amy E. Pope by acclamation.

21. The Council elected Ms Amy E. Pope as the next Director General by acclamation and adopted Resolution No. 1405 of 15 May 2023 on the election of the Director General.

22. The Chairperson congratulated Ms Pope on her election and assured her of the Council's fullest support.

23. The Chairperson reminded the Council that the Director General-elect's draft contract had been communicated to the Member States for consideration on 11 May 2023. The Council adopted Resolution No. 1406 of 15 May 2023 on the contract of the Director General.

24. The Director General-elect thanked the Member States for their support and the Government of the United States of America for its shared commitment to running a positive, people-first, forward-looking campaign. She expressed appreciation to the Director General for his work over the previous five years and to her fellow Deputy Director General for her partnership and friendship. She paid tribute to IOM staff members around the world, who strove every day, under difficult conditions, to make the world a better place. She felt privileged to be the first woman to be elected as Director General of the Organization.

25. Hundreds of millions of people lived in extreme circumstances that were being exacerbated by climate change. IOM must not lose sight of the fact that it served people with hopes and dreams or of the overwhelming evidence that well-managed migration benefited the whole world. Her goal was to deliver on the promise of migration. To that end, she would ensure that IOM built partnerships with all members; had a workforce representing the diversity of all Member States at all levels of the Organization; engaged in fearless innovation; used data more strategically; better communicated with communities in crisis; and remained operational, so that it could continue providing life-saving support to migrants in the field. IOM must be transparent and accountable, and partner better with the private sector and civil society.

26. The Council warmly congratulated Ms Pope on her election, not least because she would be the first woman to occupy the post of Director General. IOM had a crucial role to play in ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration, and in preventing anti-migrant discrimination and xenophobia; Council members looked forward to working with her to those ends. They emphasized the need to address the mounting challenges facing the Organization holistically, in a manner that took account of the rights of both migrants and host communities, and to pursue ongoing reform processes.

27. The Council expressed its deep appreciation to the incumbent Director General, Mr Vitorino, for his truly exceptional leadership during an especially challenging period marked by myriad conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. The unifying and magnanimous gesture he had made in conceding after the first round of voting attested to his commitment to IOM.

28. Appreciation was expressed to both candidates for running honourable and constructive campaigns while managing the day-to-day operations of IOM. The Council Bureau and the Administration were thanked for having organized an election that was fair, transparent and conducted in a spirit of collegiality.

29. The Director General expressed appreciation to the membership for their support during his tenure. He congratulated the Director General-elect on her election and assured the Member States of his commitment to a smooth transition. IOM was a unique organization with a remarkable staff that was able to act where many other organizations could not. He was confident that the Director General-elect would make the best of the Organization's potential.

Closure of the session

30. The Chairperson declared the Sixth Special Session of the Council closed on Monday, 15 May 2023, at 6.10 p.m.