

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE**

**Thirty-second Session**

**REPORT OF THE**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE**

**ON THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION**

Geneva

27 and 28 June 2023

Rapporteur: Mr L.J. Chuquihuara Chil (Peru)



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## **Abbreviations**

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
COP27	Twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ILO	International Labour Organization
MOPAN	Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network
OSI	Operational Support Income
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

**REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE  
ON THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION**

**Introduction and opening of the session**

1. The Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance met for its Thirty-second Session at the Centre International de Conférences Genève, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 27 and 28 June 2023. The session was chaired by Ms K. Stasch (Germany). Four meetings were held in a hybrid format, with some participants taking part in the proceedings via remote connection.

2. The Chairperson declared the Thirty-second Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance open on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 10.05 a.m.

3. The following Member States were represented.<sup>1</sup>

Algeria	Denmark	Libya	Sierra Leone
Angola	Djibouti	Lithuania	Slovakia
Argentina	Dominican Republic	Madagascar	South Africa
Armenia	Ecuador	Malawi	Spain
Australia	Egypt	Mali	Sri Lanka
Austria	El Salvador	Malta	Sudan
Azerbaijan	Estonia	Mexico	Sweden
Bahamas	Eswatini	Montenegro	Switzerland
Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Morocco	Thailand
Barbados	Finland	Mozambique	Timor-Leste
Belarus	France	Myanmar	Togo
Belgium	Gabon	Namibia	Tunisia
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Gambia	Netherlands	Türkiye
Botswana	Georgia	New Zealand	Uganda
Brazil	Germany	Nicaragua	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Ghana	Niger	United Kingdom
Burkina Faso	Greece	Nigeria	United Republic of Tanzania
Cambodia	Holy See	North Macedonia	United States of America
Cameroon	Honduras	Norway	Vanuatu
Canada	Hungary	Pakistan	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Chad	India	Panama	Viet Nam
Colombia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Paraguay	Yemen
Congo	Ireland	Peru	Zambia
Costa Rica	Italy	Philippines	Zimbabwe
Côte d'Ivoire	Japan	Poland	
Croatia	Jordan	Portugal	
Cuba	Kazakhstan	Republic of Korea	
Cyprus	Kenya	Romania	
Czechia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Russian Federation	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Latvia	Rwanda	
	Lesotho	Senegal	
		Serbia	

<sup>1</sup> The list of participants is contained in document S/32/12. Unless otherwise indicated, all documents and slide presentations are available on the [Standing Committee](#) section of the IOM website.

4. The Member States agreed to a request made by the Permanent Delegation of the European Union and the Permanent Representative of Sweden, on behalf of the European Union rotating presidency, that representatives of the European Union participate as experts.

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

5. The provisional agenda contained in document S/32/1 was adopted by the Standing Committee and subsequently issued as document S/32/11.

#### **Credentials of representatives**

6. The Standing Committee noted that the Chairperson had confirmed that the credentials of the representatives of the Member States listed in paragraph 3 had been found to be in order.

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

7. The Administration introduced the document entitled Status report on outstanding contributions to the Administrative Part of the Budget and Member State voting rights (as at 1 May 2023) (C/114/4). Total outstanding assessed contributions for 2022 and previous years, plus the contributions still to be paid for 2023 as at that date, amounted to CHF 56,300,126. Since the document had been issued, however, payments had been received from 34 Member States, reducing that amount to CHF 47.3 million. As a result, the number of Member States subject to Article 4 of the Constitution had fallen from 31 to 17, 11 of which retained the right to vote. Currently, five Member States in arrears had negotiated a payment plan.

8. The Administration reminded Member States in arrears that they had the option of agreeing a flexible payment plan enabling them to pay their outstanding contributions in the manner most convenient to them. Under such payment plans, Member States must make a first payment to settle their current annual assessed contribution and agree to a multi-year payment plan. They had the further option of paying their arrears in the local currency, provided the Organization was in a position to use the funds in the country concerned.

9. The Standing Committee took note of the contents of document C/114/4 and the additional information provided by the Administration. It urged Member States in arrears to pay their contributions in full or, in consultation with the Administration, to agree to a payment plan and to fully respect the payment conditions.

#### **Presentation by the Director General**

##### **(a) Annual report for 2022**

##### **(b) Update on current activities**

10. The Director General delivered the statement contained in extenso in document S/32/10, supplemented by a slide presentation, in which he summed up the contents of the Abridged Annual Report for 2022 (C/114/5), the Annual Report for 2022 (C/114/INF/1) and the Eighth update on the application of the Internal Governance Framework (S/32/INF/1). As his term of office drew to an end, he reflected briefly, not only on events in 2022, but also on the changes that had arisen during his five years at IOM, both planned and unforeseen, and IOM's ability to adapt and respond accordingly. He had watched IOM staff work under unprecedented pressure and rise to new challenges with commitment, vocation and ingenuity, resolving problems in a manner to which few organizations could lay claim and which left him with a profound sense of pride that would endure long after his departure. He felt honoured to have been the Organization's leader at such a pivotal moment in its history and to

have helped nurture it to new levels of maturity as a member of the United Nations system. He was pleased to be leaving it in familiar hands and attached great importance to ensuring a smooth transition to the new leadership.

11. He also updated the Standing Committee on institutional developments during 2022, notably in relation to the Internal Governance Framework and the Strategic Vision 2019–2023. Together with the Administration, and in particular the previous Deputy Director General, Ms Laura Thompson, he had provided IOM with the building blocks needed for it to flourish in the coming decade, laying the groundwork for clear internal and external agenda-setting. While those achievements remained to be consolidated, there was currently greater coherence across programming areas and a focus on broader goals had broken down silos.

12. Migrants embodied many of the characteristics, including openness and courage, that people wished to see in their leaders. He hoped that everyone would learn from them.

13. The Standing Committee also had before it the draft resolution on the Annual Report for 2022 (S/32/L/1).

14. In the ensuing discussion, many speakers thanked the Director General for his report and for his five years of dedicated service to IOM. During his term of office, significant strides had been made towards bringing the Organization into the twenty-first century, and the adoption of the Strategic Vision had made IOM stronger and better prepared to meet future challenges. Under his guidance, IOM had significantly enhanced the dignity of migrants worldwide.

15. They also warmly congratulated the Director General-elect and looked forward to pursuing the same level of cooperation with her. It was vital that IOM did not lose momentum on its reform trajectory and that the transition to the new leadership was seamless. They were confident that she would continue to carry out her duties with integrity, vision and a strong sense of responsibility.

16. Deep gratitude was expressed to the staff of IOM for their dedication and hard work across the world, often under very difficult circumstances.

17. Turning to the Annual Report for 2022, several representatives expressed appreciation for IOM's rapid scale-up and flexibility in both new and protracted crisis situations, such as in Afghanistan, the Sudan and Ukraine, and for its assistance, expertise and guidance with regard to migrant integration, voluntary return assistance and efforts to combat human trafficking and smuggling amid challenges ranging from terrorism to armed conflict and climate change, all of which had a devastating impact on migrants and their enjoyment of basic human rights. They noted that more and more people were being displaced, both internally and across borders, as a result of both climate-induced disasters and man-made crises, and encouraged IOM to continue to identify areas of potential vulnerability and invest in the resilience of local communities. They applauded IOM's expertise and implementation of programmes across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

18. Migration was a factor of innovation, prosperity and sustainable development, and migrants helped drive economic growth. Humane and orderly migration benefited both migrants and societies. It was therefore important to improve opportunities for legal migration and address labour shortages while respecting national competencies and policies, and addressing the root causes of migration.

19. IOM was commended for bringing the issue of human mobility and its linkages with climate change to the forefront of discussions at COP27, which had concluded with a historic decision on funding arrangements for responding to the loss and damages associated with the adverse effects of climate change. That decision was a tangible example of IOM turning talk into action. The Organization

was also commended for allocating 30 per cent of the Operational Part of the Budget to climate change action and risk reduction, with almost half of IOM country offices engaged in related activities. Did the Displacement Tracking Matrix include that component in its forecasts?

20. Appreciation was expressed for IOM's tireless efforts, as the Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, to promote implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration amid mounting challenges and the continuing gap between needs and resources. In 2022, those efforts had resulted in the success of the first International Migration Review Forum and the adoption of its Progress Declaration. The Organization's increased engagement in the United Nations system further served to integrate migration issues and ensured their centrality in global discourse. Thanks to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, to which several Member States said they were pleased to contribute, many projects for fulfillment of the Global Compact objectives had been implemented, with IOM playing a key role in that regard.

21. In terms of future activities, one regional group commended the Organization's partnership with the Mayors Mechanism, which was fostering local engagement on the Global Compact in the lead-up to the next International Migration Review Forum. It called for close collaboration and regular monitoring of the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, to achieve the desired results. One Member State suggested that IOM should provide guidance on the process of regional Global Compact reviews in 2023 and 2024.

22. IOM was encouraged to continue working closely with partners such as UNHCR, including to enhance labour mobility as a complementary pathway for refugees and asylum-seekers, easing the burden placed on host communities while mitigating the potential for "brain drain". As countries of origin, transit and destination, the Member States believed that migration should be approached holistically, putting the rights and dignity of migrants and their host communities at the centre of endeavours. Global Compact Champion countries and others stressed the critical importance of tackling and minimizing the adverse drivers of migration and enhancing safe, rights-based and gender-sensitive pathways for regular migration that would benefit countries of origin and destination as well as migrants themselves. They highlighted the need for greater use of digital technology to match supply and demand for migrant labour, and for greater transparency and efficiency in the migration process. The recent mass drownings of migrants in the Mediterranean were the tragic symptoms of a serious problem and further underscored the need for regular migration pathways.

23. Migration management on a global scale under the principle of shared responsibility depended on the comprehensive collection and analysis of relevant migration data. The establishment of the Global Data Institute in Berlin, which brought together the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre and the Displacement Tracking Matrix, was therefore welcome. The continued development of the Matrix as the largest repository of data on internal displacement in the world, and its role in helping to mainstream anticipatory analytics and evidence-based approaches to humanitarian action, were particularly heartening. One Member State specifically welcomed the data-based tools and mechanisms developed by IOM in the fields of emergency preparedness and early warning.

24. Numerous speakers welcomed the improvements made to IOM governance, strategic planning, efficiency, risk management, transparency and accountability. They applauded the strategic application of the Internal Governance Framework and the progress made towards its implementation, requesting regular updates on future efforts to that end. Some Member States, noting that the Administration had previously mooted the idea of the Internal Governance Framework 2.0, asked for assurance that the matter was in hand.

25. One representative raised a number of questions in connection with the eighth update on the Framework's application, namely how the efficiencies obtained in 2022 had been calculated;



whether the third revision of the IOM Procurement Manual was already publicly available; whether there were any plans to conduct specific training sessions for IOM staff on its application as part of overall fraud and corruption mitigation activities; and whether it took into account the External Auditor's 2021 recommendation that the Administration should consider establishing a vendor information file. With regard to the Business Transformation initiative, she asked how the Administration planned to guarantee cybersecurity, especially during the transition period, and whether the initiative was being rolled out at the same pace in the field and at Headquarters; she suggested that it might be of interest to conduct a staff survey on the initiative.

26. On the subject of funding and budget reform, several representatives said that the adoption of the budget reform measures in 2022 had contributed to the much-needed strengthening of IOM's core structure. However, the imbalance between project funding and unearmarked funding remained. It was clear that IOM needed more unearmarked funding if it was to deliver on its strategic priorities, and that all Member States collectively had to help address the gaps in IOM's core budget and enable the Organization to remain a truly global player that was fit for purpose. It was for that reason that their countries would continue to provide IOM with unearmarked funds through the Migration Resource Allocation Committee; they called on all donors to increase their unearmarked contributions. Other representatives encouraged the Administration to enhance its partnerships with non-conventional donors and diversify its donor base, with a view to increasing multi-year flexible funding and ensuring that solutions to migration challenges reflected the context-driven priorities and needs of the countries in which IOM operated. One said that, given the limitations of responsible budget growth, as demonstrated by the increase in fraud and presumptive fraud, steps should be taken to reinforce IOM's internal control framework, compliance and accountability.

27. One Member State and the representative of a group of countries welcomed the progress made on the roll-out of the Strategic Results Framework and stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the Framework contributed to its intended goals of stronger institutional coherence and strategic planning. In addition, one Member State expressed appreciation for the development of the interactive and informative webpage on the Framework and observed that the webpage could serve as an example for how other key policies and procedures at IOM could be made more accessible.

28. Several representatives encouraged the Organization to pursue its efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment; in that respect, they welcomed the gradual strengthening of the Office of the Inspector General, which had reduced the backlog of open cases. That said, it would be useful to analyse why there had been a significant increase in cases in 2022. Did the Administration consider that the additional investigative function posts created were sufficient to handle the increase? It was also imperative to give due attention to the relevant recommendations of the External Auditor, not least with regard to the Office's architecture.

29. Great value was placed on the ongoing MOPAN assessment of IOM, which should inform future reform plans, in particular the Internal Governance Framework 2.0 and the next strategic vision. Several representatives looked forward to learning about the Administration's response to the assessment's conclusions and recommendations.

30. Responding to representatives' comments and questions, the Director General stated that efficiencies were calculated using United Nations guidelines and aggregated into the figures on efficiency gains for the United Nations system as a whole. Cybersecurity was an ongoing challenge, and had been taken into account during the cloud migration process. An external audit of the information and communication technology system – requested by the Office of the Inspector General to identify weaknesses and gaps – was ongoing. Activities to improve cybersecurity were closely linked

to the roll-out of the new enterprise resource planning system and would be funded from the OSI budget.

31. Potential reasons for the increase in the number of complaints received by the Office of the Inspector General included the growth of the Organization as a whole and greater staff confidence in the internal justice system. It was hoped that the 2023 staff survey would reflect the growing trust of staff in the internal investigation mechanisms. Fraud was certainly a concern and, as the External Auditor had recommended, more effective ways of monitoring and combating fraud were needed; a review of the Organization's anti-fraud strategy was therefore being conducted. It was also essential to strengthen the role of the Ombudsperson and the internal audit function. In that regard, while the audit function had been certified as satisfactory by an independent assessment, it had received less investment in recent years compared to the investigation function of the Office of the Inspector General and should be further strengthened, in line with the External Auditor's recommendations.

32. Work had begun on the next planning cycle, including consultations on priorities with the regional offices; the outcomes would be incorporated into the next strategy document. The reforms launched during the previous five years needed to be consolidated and fully implemented, with the new enterprise resource planning system playing a critical role in that regard, including with respect to completion of the remaining workstreams of the Internal Governance Framework. The outcomes of the MOPAN and other assessments would also help define future governance priorities.

33. In closing, the Director General expressed gratitude for the appreciation shown for the work carried out during his mandate, which he hoped would continue after his departure.

34. The Standing Committee took note of the information provided by the Director General in his presentation and adopted Resolution No. 32 of 27 June 2023 on the Annual Report for 2022.

### **Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022**

35. The Standing Committee had before it the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (C/114/3), the related draft resolution (S/32/L/2), the Statement of the External Auditor to the Thirty-second Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance on the financial operations of the International Organization for Migration for the 2022 financial year (S/32/9), and the Report of the External Auditor to the 114th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration for the financial year 2022 (S/32/CRP/1).

36. The Administration noted that the External Auditor had validated the financial statements of the Organization for the financial year ended 31 December 2022, conducted a performance audit of field payroll operations and carried out a compliance audit of 11 country offices. Drawing Member States' attention to the main points of document C/114/3 in a slide presentation, it reported that total expenditure in 2022 had amounted to USD 2.9 billion, while total revenue, including voluntary contributions and deferred revenue, had totalled approximately USD 4.5 billion. While in 2022 there had been an exact match between the Administrative Part of the Budget and expenditure, the increase in the provision for doubtful receivables resulting from delayed payment of outstanding contributions – including from prior years – had resulted in an overall deficit of about CHF 8.3 million.

37. Under the Operational Part of the Budget, expenditure had increased by 15 per cent compared with 2021. Broadly speaking, the offices with the highest levels of expenditure had changed little compared to 2021, although 2022 had seen the addition of the highest-expenditure country, Ukraine, as a result of the war there. While total combined revenue had increased steadily since 2018, un earmarked contributions again covered a very small proportion of expenditure.

38. With regard to assets, there had been a net increase in cash and cash equivalents and in short- and long-term investments. Worryingly, however, there had been a 71 per cent increase in receivables of voluntary contributions for services delivered but for which final payments had not been received. There had also been a 15 per cent increase in property, plant and equipment and intangible assets owing to an increase in operations and the internal development of intangible assets such as software.

39. With regard to liabilities, there had been an 11 per cent increase in contributions received from donors in advance of delivery of services. The employee benefit liability was fully funded by the terminal emolument reserve under the Operational Part of the Budget and by a yearly allocation under the Administrative Part of the Budget. There had been an increase in borrowing, owing to the study loan from the Swiss Government for the new Headquarters building project.

40. The increase in the number of projects funded in 2022 had generated excess OSI of USD 31 million, of which USD 25.5 million had been transferred to the OSI reserve in line with Council Resolution No. 1395 of 29 November 2021. The net utilizable OSI reserve balance was just under USD 53 million once the following had been factored in: the carry-forward from 2021; the excess OSI of USD 25.5 million; the drawdown authorized by the Director General for various activities in 2022; and the requirement to retain a sum equivalent to 1 per cent of total 2021 expenditure in the reserve.

41. Three items had been classed as contingent liabilities. One related to an ongoing legal dispute in Yemen for non-delivery of services; the second to a dispute in Iraq that could be considered as resolved; and the third to the minimal risk of donor co-funding not being secured in practice. In addition to the financial details provided in the report, a list had been included of in-kind services received from governments, donors, implementing partners and service providers.

42. The Deputy Auditor General of Ghana read out the statement of the External Auditor, as contained in document S/32/9.

43. In the ensuing discussion, one representative asked how the OSI utilizable reserve balance of USD 52.9 million and the surplus revenue of USD 17.4 million would be used; he welcomed the recommendations made by the External Auditor, particularly those relating to the Internal Governance Framework and the need to strengthen the internal control framework in country offices. Supported by another delegate, he encouraged the Organization to address any vulnerabilities identified to reduce the risk of aid diversion.

44. Another delegate asked whether IOM's financial position was stable or improving; whether that position could be negatively affected by any long-standing issues, such as after-service health insurance liabilities; and how IOM investments could be improved. She welcomed the recommendation on the need to strengthen the internal control framework in country offices to prevent corruption and asked whether IOM had a specific anti-fraud policy. She would appreciate more information on coordination between the External Auditor, the internal audit function and the Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee. Reports from the External Auditor should be more detailed and should include an overview of the status of implementation of previous recommendations; a risk-based grading approach indicating which recommendations were critical; the Administration's response to the recommendations; prudent financial analysis of IOM performance for Member States; and analysis of actuarial assumptions and solvency ratios, in line with international accounting standards.

45. One representative encouraged IOM to ensure that the recommended review of regional and country office architecture included robust consultation with Member States. She welcomed the recommendation to conduct an assessment of the current architecture of the Office of the Inspector

General, with a view to safeguarding its independence while ensuring that cases received the necessary follow-through; IOM must continue to ensure that adequate resources were provided for both audits and investigations.

46. The Administration, responding to the comments and queries, said that it had provided initial feedback on all recommendations made by the External Auditor and was already implementing some of them, for example the centralized global payroll, which it expected to roll out before the end of 2023. As was customary, it would provide an update on its implementation of all those recommendations at the Standing Committee's second session of the year; it would also consider the idea of grading them. The OSI utilizable reserve balance would be allocated based on needs; to that end, a drawdown of USD 12 million had been proposed in the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2023 (S/32/6). For staff under the Operational Part of the Budget, after-service health insurance was covered by the terminal emolument reserve, but there was some exposure for staff falling under the Administrative Part of the Budget, since only those staff members retiring in the year in question were covered. IOM did have, and was guided by, an anti-fraud policy. Investments were very strongly ring-fenced and mostly risk-free, and mainly took the form of bonds and short-term investments with low returns, and only with institutions having high ratings, usually AAA. In addition, the Treasury Risk Committee reviewed and assessed the risk of all investments and made a corresponding recommendation to the Director General for prior approval; a member of the Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee sat on the Treasury Risk Committee as an observer. Unlike for private enterprises, the issue of solvency ratios did not really apply to IOM, which only set up an office if it had the funds to do so. Other financial ratios could be provided to show the Organization's financial situation, which was very healthy. The External Auditor coordinated with the internal audit function in advance of his or her annual audit in order to avoid duplication of work, and coordinated periodically with the Audit and Oversight Advisory Committee to address any concerns raised by the Committee.

47. The Standing Committee adopted Resolution No. 33 of 27 June 2023 on the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### **Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2023**

48. The Standing Committee had before it the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2023 (S/32/6) and the related draft resolution (S/32/L/3).

49. The Administration supplemented its introduction of the first revision to the Programme and Budget for 2023 with a slide presentation. The Administrative Part of the Budget had increased by the amount of the assessed contribution of Barbados (CHF 5,424), which had joined the Organization on 29 November 2022. The Administration proposed to allocate that amount to cover costs relating to staff development and learning. The Operational Part of the Budget, had increased by USD 1.1 billion to USD 2.4 billion, with funding confirmed for all the new projects developed since the adoption of the Programme and Budget in November 2022. The largest increases involved projects in the following sectors of activity: Movement, Emergency and Post-crisis Programming; Regulating Migration; Facilitating Migration; and Migration Health (given the cross-cutting nature of IOM's migration health work, many activities relating to that sector were in fact incorporated into projects in other sectors). The number of projects had risen across all geographical regions.

50. As a result of the increase in the Operational Part of the Budget, the OSI budget had been revised upwards, from USD 160 million to USD 174.9 million. The Administration proposed to use the additional amount of USD 14.9 million to cover institutional staff and office costs in the following areas: parental leave provisions; software licences; staff development and learning; rental of additional office space; staff rotation costs; a new budget line covering institutional initiatives; and the Business Transformation initiative.

51. In line with Council Resolution No. 1390 of 24 November 2020 on budget regulations and practices, the Director General had authorized a drawdown of USD 12 million from the OSI reserve, to support ongoing activities related to implementation of the Business Transformation initiative (USD 5 million), increase the working capital for global pre-positioned stocks (USD 5 million), and add to the balance of funds in the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (USD 2 million).

52. One regional group, expressing support for the draft resolution, emphasized that all activities and projects should be undertaken in line with national priorities. Together with a Member State, it commended the decision to allocate additional funds to the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism and to increase global stocks for emergencies, which would enable IOM to respond in timely fashion to critical humanitarian situations and mitigate vulnerabilities. The Member State nevertheless expressed concern about the streamlined budget for the African Capacity Building Centre on Migration Management based in Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, adding that it was essential to minimize overhead costs and thereby ensure that a greater share of funds was allocated to projects that benefited the people IOM sought to serve.

53. The same regional group, joined by two Member States, encouraged donors to provide voluntary unearmarked funding for new projects developed to meet emerging migration trends. One of those Member States also encouraged IOM Members to pay their assessed contributions.

54. One representative welcomed the decisions to increase spending on staff development and learning and to invest more in implementation of the Internal Governance Framework. The Framework nearing full implementation, she suggested that a discussion be launched with a view to the collective development of organizational effectiveness markers, to ensure that previous, ongoing and future reforms all enhanced efficiencies and improved IOM's agility.

55. Another representative asked for a more detailed description of the activities of the Gender and Diversity Unit.

56. A third representative, pointing out that United Nations agencies tended to have a different approach to the assessed contributions of new Member States, asked on what grounds the assessed contribution of Barbados had been added to the Administrative Part of the Budget overall and not incorporated as a proportionate deduction from the assessed contributions of existing Member States. He had no objection to how those funds would be used, but would find it helpful to learn what specific courses or educational programmes would be financed and where exactly they were reflected in the revised budget. It would also be useful to have the staff positions listed in the table entitled "Object of expenditure" broken down by grade or post level, in order to enhance transparency and accountability and follow United Nations system best practices. Clarification of the projected increase of around CHF 192,000 for post adjustment, and the allocation of an additional USD 4.9 million to the Business Transformation initiative, would also be appreciated. How would the initiative be financed in the future and what would its total cost be? What was the timeline for the transition to the new enterprise resource planning system and what efficiencies would be achieved once the system was fully operational?

57. Two representatives raised concerns relating to projects in their countries, namely the implementation of an allocation of over USD 8 million in the revised Programme and Budget for the provision of peacebuilding and recovery processes in Ethiopia, and the downward adjustment in the amount allocated for a project to enhance national counter-trafficking capacity in Zambia.

58. The Administration, responding to Member States' comments and queries, said that the assessed contributions of new Member States were added to the Administrative Part of the Budget in application of Council Resolution No. 1390. Regarding staff development and learning, the internal

Training Advisory Committee reviewed all proposals and then made recommendations for the Director General's decision on the training requirements and priorities for a given year. Information on staff positions broken down by grade was always provided in the original Programme and Budget document; that information was not repeated in the staffing table provided in the Revision of the Programme and Budget unless it had changed. The roll-out of the new enterprise resource planning system would start in early 2024, and the Administration was currently engaged in finalizing the project and conducting simulations to ensure a smooth transition. The discrepancy between the original amount budgeted for the project to enhance national counter-trafficking capacities in Zambia and the amount set down in the Revision of the Programme and Budget reflected the difference between the projected carry-forward from 2022 and the amount actually carried forward.

59. The Director General said that, in the wake of the earthquake that had affected Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic, IOM's pre-positioned stocks of relief supplies had been seriously depleted; it was crucial to replenish those stocks for IOM to be able to respond to the mounting number of crises occurring worldwide. The decision to allocate funds for that purpose was also closely linked to the revamping of the Organization's entire supply chain system.

60. The Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism, which was intended to allow IOM to respond swiftly to emerging crises, had never attained its planned funding level of USD 30 million. In recent years, as the number of crises had grown, the balance had hovered at around USD 2 or 3 million, severely limiting the Organization's scope for action. Indeed, it was not unknown for IOM to be ready to act when disaster struck but to be unable to do so for want of funds. The Member States should at some point reflect on the Mechanism's sustainability.

61. The total cost of the new enterprise resource planning system had been estimated at USD 56 million, and spending was currently on track not to exceed that amount. Funding for the project was obtained from two sources: a portion of the amount set aside for the Business Transformation initiative (30 per cent of unearmarked voluntary contributions by Member States allocated to the Internal Governance Framework); and the drawdowns that he was authorized to make from the OSI reserve. As had been clearly stated from the outset, the new platform would have higher running costs because it was cloud-based.

62. The Standing Committee adopted Resolution No. 34 of 27 June 2023 on the Revision of the Programme and Budget for 2023.

#### **Assessment scale for 2024**

63. The Administration introduced the document entitled Proposed adjustment to the IOM assessment scale for 2024 (document S/32/3) and noted that the IOM assessment scale was fully equated to that of the United Nations; however, owing to the timing of the issuance of the United Nations assessment scale, there was a one-year time lag in the application of the new scale at IOM. The United Nations scale for 2023 would therefore be applied at IOM in 2024. The assessment scale had been updated with the addition of Barbados.

64. The Standing Committee adopted the IOM assessment scale for 2024, as illustrated in the annex to document S/32/3.

#### **Report of the Chairperson of the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities**

65. The representative of Germany, speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the Working Group on IOM Partnerships, Governance and Organizational Priorities, gave a summary of the activities of the Working Group to date in 2023. The Working Group had met once so far. Member States had expressed

support for the work of the Joint Inspection Unit but had nevertheless considered it prudent to await the results of the Unit's examination of how participating organizations handled its recommendations before taking any decision on IOM participation.

66. With regard to IOM becoming a member of the International Civil Service Commission, Member States had expressed concern at the relatively high costs of participation and the potential impact on contract options and flexibility, both of which were important for a field-based organization such as IOM. The Working Group had therefore recommended that IOM's existing status at the Commission should remain unchanged pending the Administration's review and implementation of the new contractual framework. The Administration had been requested to provide more information on IOM contracts and further analysis of the operational implications of alignment with the Commission's standards once the review had been completed, after which the matter could be revisited.

67. Concerning the proposal by India for enhancing the social security of migrant workers and identifying gaps in the global supply of and demand for skills, the Working Group had recognized the potential benefits of social security portability, but stressed that any initiative would have to take into account States' differing rules and regulations. IOM could play a key role in convening discussions on the topic, but should not duplicate the efforts of the ILO and the United Nations Network on Migration in that area. With regard to the proposed initiative to identify the global supply of and demand for skills, Member States had welcomed the planned joint study by IOM and the India Centre for Migration, noting that a global survey of skills gaps would have implications for the global management of labour migration in the future. It was important to bear in mind, however, that any discussion of skills gaps also had to address the issue of brain drain, especially as it affected developing countries. The Administration had been requested to examine what contribution IOM might reasonably be expected to make to the implementation of the two initiatives and to report to the Working Group at its next meeting.

68. One representative drew attention to the need to consider the opinion of the Joint Inspection Unit itself regarding IOM's participation and said that he looked forward to the outcome of the review of IOM's contractual arrangements.

69. The Standing Committee took note of the presentation made on behalf of the Chairperson of the Working Group and of the comments made by one Member State.

#### **Update on plans for the IOM Headquarters building**

70. The Administration delivered a slide presentation introducing document S/32/4 (Plans for the IOM Headquarters building: update 8). The schematic design was due to be delivered on 30 June 2023 for consideration by the Organization. The subsequent design development would take into account the requirements of efficiency and universal accessibility, and the project management governance structure had been enhanced with the establishment of a project committee.

71. Financial risk would be managed by incorporating lessons learned from other organizations and input from an independent risk assessment consultant. The project budget remained at CHF 72 million; a number of earlier fluctuations that had arisen from increased construction costs had been resolved, inter alia thanks to the use of value engineering. While the final project budget included a buffer of approximately 10 per cent to cover any increases or unforeseen events, a comprehensive risk register was being developed to cover the possibility of any further additional costs. The risk register and finalized construction budget would be presented at the Thirty-third Session of the Standing Committee in November 2023, and the 114th Session of the Council would consider a draft resolution to approve the project. Once the project had been approved by the Council, the

construction loan request would be formally submitted to the host State, Switzerland, by the end of 2023. The goal was still to start construction in 2026, complete it in 2028, and commission the new building early in 2029.

72. The representative of Switzerland welcomed the progress made and said that the construction loan request, once submitted, would be forwarded immediately to the Federal Council and Parliament for rapid processing. Another representative welcomed the establishment of a comprehensive risk register.

73. The Standing Committee took note of document S/32/4.

### **Exchange of views on items proposed by the membership**

#### **(a) IOM's comprehensive approach to disaster displacement**

74. The Deputy Director General for Operations, observing that the number of people displaced within and across international borders had passed the grim threshold of 100 million, said that IOM had drawn on its years of experience to develop a comprehensive approach to disaster displacement focused on resilience-building and solutions; the priority was to ensure that people were safe, empowered and had the information they needed to make mobility-related decisions. That people-centered approach aimed to deliver relevant and swift humanitarian responses based on needs, while at the same time laying the groundwork for solutions and recovery with the people concerned and local authorities. The approach also recognized the criticality of early warning, prevention and preparedness.

75. The Administration introduced the document entitled IOM's comprehensive approach to disaster displacement (S/32/7), which it supplemented with a slide presentation. The IOM approach to addressing disaster displacement was based on the understanding that no disaster was natural; rather, disasters were socioeconomic phenomena resulting from the impact of natural hazards on human populations and settlements, which could lead to displacement, and disaster-induced displacement was a type of environmental migration. The numbers were staggering: according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 32.5 million people had been displaced internally in 2022 following a disaster – a significant increase from the 2021 figure of 23.7 million and, even more alarmingly, 41 per cent more than the annual average of the previous decade. Moreover, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that climate change would increase the frequency and severity of disasters, potentially leading to even higher rates of displacement in the future.

76. Addressing the resulting challenges required the comprehensive and inclusive approach that IOM had been implementing and refining over its years of experience and that was predicated on three pillars involving close cooperation with governments, disaster-affected communities and partners. Under the first pillar – preparedness – IOM boosted capacities to anticipate and mitigate the impact of disasters and thus facilitate effective and coordinated responses. Its *Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster* served as a cornerstone for those efforts, and the Displacement Tracking Matrix provided valuable insights. Under the second pillar – response – the Organization used its direct operational presence and people-centered approach to provide life-saving assistance, including in terms of emergency shelter, health care, clean water and sanitation. All its activities to that end were conceived with a view to laying the foundations for long-term solutions, with the protection of displaced people and disaster-affected communities as the key underlying tenet. Lastly, in terms of recovery and sustainable solutions, IOM helped to rebuild infrastructure, restore livelihoods and facilitate the safe and voluntary return of displaced individuals.



77. At all times, IOM strove to integrate the principles of accountability, resilience, inclusion and sustainability into all its efforts, ensuring that displaced persons could regain their independence. Its approach was rooted in the belief that people were the agents of their future and that their participation in the response was key to ensuring long-term solutions. The Organization was committed to advancing policy efforts to ensure that human mobility was incorporated into national adaptation plans and that those plans were submitted to the Task Force on Displacement under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage and the Transitional Committee established by COP27. Through research and engagement with national partners, it would consider new ways to support displaced people through social protection measures and inclusive policies, exploring innovative approaches such as harnessing the contributions of diaspora communities, including remittances. It would also enhance the Migration Governance Indicators by including comprehensive data on displacement issues and solutions, and work closely with civil society, other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, banks and the private sector to ensure that displaced populations had access to and benefitted from multisectoral services.

78. Among the recommendations set out in document S/32/7, three were key. In order to fulfill their commitments under global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Member States had to address the wide-ranging effects of environmental degradation, disasters and climate change. They needed to continue to invest time and effort in incorporating environmental migration considerations into national adaptation plans and policies related to climate migration, disaster response and sustainable development. Lastly, they should explore the recent legislative and humanitarian visa measures adopted in the Latin American region to address the specific needs of climate-displaced individuals and communities and provide legal pathways for those affected by climate change who sought protection and assistance, both at home and in neighbouring countries.

79. In the ensuing discussion, numerous speakers, citing the rapidly rising figures on disaster displacement published by their respective national authorities, the World Bank and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, said that the numbers clearly reflected the impact of climate change, which in most cases resulted in internal or cross-border displacement, and the extent of the challenges facing Member States. They commended IOM's comprehensive approach to disaster displacement and its work on a range of interventions across preparedness, humanitarian response and development. Protracted climate disasters required a holistic approach that went beyond humanitarian response and encompassed investment in long-term solutions that fostered resilience, stability and prosperity. States had a responsibility to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance in the context of climate-change-induced displacement, in accordance with the principles of equity and shared but differentiated responsibilities. Given IOM's unique ability to provide services such as shelter, health care, cash, WASH support and infrastructure development in an agile and flexible manner, it should play a leading role within the United Nations system in the field of disaster displacement.

80. Several representatives shared IOM's conviction that a solid evidence base was needed to enable both the Organization and its Member States to take informed decisions. In that respect, the representative of a group of countries commended IOM's efforts to constantly develop and reinforce its data-collection processes, monitoring systems and forecasting capacities. It was important to strengthen the data on climate mobility, so as to heighten understanding of how climate change intersected with mobility, and to promote evidence-based decision-making that took mobility into consideration and helped inform the development of local and regional solutions. The Displacement Tracking Matrix played a crucial role in that regard.

81. Many speakers attached equal importance to inter-agency coordination on disaster displacement, notably via the Platform on Disaster Displacement. They asked the Administration to

keep the Standing Committee informed of developments in that respect, and about the place of such coordination in IOM's Strategic Vision.

82. Referring to the humanitarian visas being issued in Latin America and the Caribbean, one Member State called for joint exploration of other areas of regional cooperation. Another cited the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework, or MIRPS in its Spanish acronym, as another example of regional cooperation on disaster displacement, among Central American countries.

83. For one regional group and the representative of a group of countries, averting disaster displacement required sound early warning systems and anticipatory capacities. They therefore welcomed IOM's focus on preparedness and response measures and encouraged the Organization to coordinate with the United Nations Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative. Early warnings had to be translated into early action; in that respect, development assistance could be used to help mitigate climate-related risks. In addition, strong climate action and increased climate financing provided via a community-based planning approach could help countries to develop recovery and resilience-strengthening processes. That being said, climate financing should not be provided at the cost of development funding.

84. Two Member States, pointing to the need to ensure that people were not displaced in the first place, considered that IOM should prioritize prevention as much as possible. Given the increasing challenges facing humanitarian response, it was crucial to work pre-emptively at grass-roots level in order to minimize the displacement impacts of a crisis before it occurred; the IOM guidance note on preparedness for emergency response and the Organization's work to build capacity at both the local and the national levels were therefore welcome. In that regard, both medium- and long-term disaster risk reduction efforts and anticipatory actions were important. For persons that had been displaced, an approach based on the humanitarian–development nexus was needed for early recovery.

85. Two representatives expressed support for the recommendations set out in document S/32/7 with a view to promoting national efforts to adapt plans on climate-induced migration. Another expressed support for the recommendation that IOM should support the work of the Loss and Damage Transitional Committee.

86. Another two representatives expressed appreciation for IOM's role as part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster. However, one said that his country had learned from experience that partnerships with international organizations such as IOM worked best when there was an efficient national system in place and when the agencies concerned engaged in efficient collaboration on policy issues and on the ground. While there was room for a wide range of entities in all disaster displacement situations, each entity had to be clear about its specific place. IOM should reflect that cooperation in future reports on its approach to disaster displacement.

87. Responding to the comments made, the Administration said that it would provide the updates requested. IOM was a committed member of the Platform on Disaster Displacement and worked hard to operationalize the Platform's outcomes.

88. The Deputy Director General for Operations thanked the Member States for the support expressed for IOM's comprehensive approach to disaster displacement. The Organization was fully aware of the need for inter-agency coordination. It was currently engaged in discussions with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on how to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations and had placed its technical expertise at the disposal of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage established at COP25 as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism. It was also

engaged in the Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative, which it believed was critical to creating a capacity and response chain in the most vulnerable parts of the globe.

89. The IOM Global Data Institute was currently preparing the first-ever report on solutions to displacement, the outcome of IOM collaboration with Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration. The report would be the first in an annual series on the state of solutions to internal displacement, with the inaugural edition focusing on the 16 countries covered by the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. It would provide a baseline for monitoring progress on solutions and would help IOM address any gaps existing in comprehensive data on solutions in the Displacement Tracking Matrix.

90. Studies of national policies to address disaster displacement carried out in connection with the IOM Migration Governance Indicators had revealed that 64 per cent of countries lacked a national development strategy containing specific measures to address displacement and that where such a strategy existed, only 18 per cent included an action plan. As part of its comprehensive approach to disaster displacement, and in order to support national responses to displacement, IOM would continue to make its policy tools available to Member States.

**(b) Enhancing social protection of migrants and populations in situations of vulnerability, including internally displaced persons**

91. The Deputy Director General for Operations said that significant gaps in social protection hampered the ability of migrants and other vulnerable groups to cope with crises and shocks. There was a need for innovative solutions and multi-stakeholder engagement and cooperation, including with other United Nations agencies such as the ILO, on social security issues. Noting a recent increase in requests relating to social protection from various stakeholders, she drew attention to the broad range of IOM activities in that field, including in the context of humanitarian and crisis response, and efforts to address internal displacement. IOM was uniquely placed to offer social protection pathways that took into account migration in crisis situations and leveraged its expertise, including on migration governance and diaspora engagement.

92. The Administration introduced document S/32/8 (Enhancing the social protection of migrants and populations in situations of vulnerability, including internally displaced persons), accompanied by a slide presentation. IOM provided support to stakeholders in the field of social protection and, in its capacity as coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, helped develop integrated policy and programme-oriented solutions. It recognized the role of the ILO in providing the normative framework for social protection, and had collaborated with the ILO in the development of the United Nations Network on Migration guidance on bilateral labour migration arrangements, which includes provisions related to portability of social security arrangements, and was guided by ILO standards. Moreover, several bilateral agreements between IOM and other United Nations agencies specifically referred to joint collaboration on broader social protection issues. Formal bilateral and multilateral labour migration agreements were key migration governance tools.

93. Despite the expansion of coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 4 billion people around the world still lacked adequate, or in some cases any, access to social protection. International migrants were particularly at risk. Although several countries of destination had strengthened their social protection coverage, very few provided comprehensive coverage for migrants. Nevertheless, a number of developing countries had extended their social security and insurance arrangements to cover migrant workers and families abroad.

94. In recent years, innovative informal and community-based social protection measures had been developed; transnational and diaspora communities played a growing role in supporting families

and communities, including by mobilizing funds and through remittances, which provided opportunities for investment, development and entrepreneurship. In that regard, small private sector entities also played an increasing role. It was important to collect, share and pilot emerging practices in that area.

95. Internally displaced persons often also lacked access to social protection. Solutions were needed to integrate and align humanitarian and development programmes with frameworks established under the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, to support a more inclusive and equitable approach, and to ensure the socioeconomic inclusion of internally displaced people.

96. IOM played a key role in advancing social protection for migrants, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. Its operations across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and along the migration continuum enabled it to work with partners to identify practical solutions while ensuring compliance with international standards. Moreover, IOM was able to bring countries together to identify innovative practices. The Organization's migration management tools had the capacity to enhance social protection and inclusion, facilitate integration and social cohesion measures for migrants and internally displaced people and their families, and promote ethical recruitment.

97. Document S/32/8 also contained a series of recommendations, including to increase the evidence base on social protection data; strengthen legal frameworks, policies and practices to enhance social protection for migrants in line with international norms and guidelines; promote regional dialogue and action on the portability of benefits; and implement inclusive social protection policies for internally displaced persons, in cooperation with the private sector.

98. Member States welcomed IOM's efforts to enhance social protection for migrants, vulnerable groups and internally displaced persons. The inclusion of the latter in the scope of the document was particularly commended, as was the focus on human rights. One delegate encouraged governments to recognize their duty of care towards internally displaced persons and ensure that they had access to social protection.

99. A number of Member States drew attention to the importance of ensuring the portability of social security benefits and to the socioeconomic contributions of migrants in countries of origin and destination, in particular those who had played a front-line role during the COVID-19 pandemic but who nevertheless had low levels of social security coverage. The pandemic had heightened migrants' vulnerability and insecurity, reduced their access to protection and legal migration opportunities, and led to a rise in xenophobia.

100. Several Member States noted the key role of social protection in tackling inequality, vulnerability and poverty. They highlighted the need for equitable access to social protection and basic services, and drew attention to the importance of the United Nations Network on Migration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. One delegate stressed the need for access to employment and training to promote migrants' economic empowerment, while another emphasized the importance of labour rights and fair working conditions. The Administration was encouraged to take note of developments under international law relating to the protection of people crossing international borders as a result of climate change, and was asked to provide information on measures to ensure social protection for other groups of concern, especially refugees.

101. Many speakers, including the representative of a group of countries, expressed support for a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach, involving countries of origin, transit and destination, and stressed the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including with other United

Nations agencies, in particular the ILO and WHO. One delegate asked the Administration to develop a plan of action based on the recommendations contained in the document. Another stressed the need to integrate social and labour protection into migration governance at the national and international levels.

102. Two delegates welcomed efforts to find innovative solutions; one requested additional information in that regard. IOM's work to support Member States, including through migration management training, was commended. One delegate stressed the critical role of multinational development banks and the need for stronger links between humanitarian assistance and technical support for governments deploying social safety nets. Member States were urged to pursue their efforts to establish political and legal frameworks for social protection in line with international norms and guidelines, including through coordination with the private sector, in compliance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In applying the Guiding Principles, which were non-binding, governments should also consider the provisions of binding international instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

103. Several delegates stressed the importance of social protection to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the aims of the Global Compact. IOM was encouraged to also consider the informal sector, and the role of remittances, and to continue building capacity and providing technical assistance to Member States. One delegate encouraged the Organization to engage with the ILO Global Coalition for Social Justice, while another noted the impact of conflict on Member States' capacity to provide social protection coverage and commended IOM's support for internally displaced persons and returnees. He also drew attention to the use of digital tools to strengthen access to and portability of social protection.

104. The representative of a group of countries noted that grouping together cross-border migrant workers and internally displaced persons could prove problematic, as different rules applied to each group. It stressed the need for gradual, integrated, coordinated and calibrated approaches to identify and address gaps, in compliance with key human rights principles and existing normative frameworks, to avoid duplication.

105. IOM was commended for providing a platform for debate on the issue and applauded for its efforts to mainstream social protection and advocate on related matters. It was also suggested that the scope of discussions might also cover other vulnerable groups, such as migrants with disabilities.

106. The Administration welcomed the comments and suggestions from Member States, which would provide the basis for further work on the topic. It took note of the proposal to develop an action plan as an important first step. IOM worked directly with the ILO on the basis of a partnership agreement signed in 2020. It would incorporate a reference to its strategy for disabled persons in the document. IOM worked together with UNHCR to advocate the inclusion of refugees and internally displaced persons in national protection systems, each organization in accordance with its own mandate.

107. The Deputy Director General for Operations said that social protection was a key part of IOM's comprehensive approach and was being mainstreamed into all aspects of its work. Diaspora engagement on social protection issues was of critical importance. She expressed appreciation for Member States' contributions to the debate, which the Administration would take on board as it pursued its efforts in that area.

108. One Member State exercised its right of reply in response to the statement made by another Member State, which thereafter exercised its right to respond to the right of reply.

109. The Standing Committee took note of documents S/32/7 and S/32/8.

### **Report on the IOM Development Fund**

110. The Administration introduced document S/32/5 (IOM Development Fund (Final report: 1 January to 31 December 2022)), accompanied by a slide presentation. In 2022, over USD 16 million had been made available to support eligible Member States. The Administration thanked the Governments of Austria and Belgium for their generous contributions to the Fund in 2022, the Government of the Philippines for their recent contribution in 2023, and the Government of Italy for supporting a Junior Professional Officer position shared between the IOM Development Fund Unit and the Immigration and Border Governance Division.

111. Fifty-nine projects had been approved during 2022, primarily in the area of migration, environment and climate change. The projects addressed several long-term outcomes contained in the IOM Strategic Results Framework, including that of strong migration governance. The Fund had expanded its two awareness-raising campaigns – “Do the Right Thing”, intended to highlight the migration, environment and climate change nexus, and “Look Forward Give Back”, focusing on diaspora initiatives – which had led to a 400 per cent rise in traffic on the campaigns’ websites.

112. In terms of projects completed during 2022, 30 (approximately 50 %) had focused on policy development, while 25 per cent had included a clear technology component, and 12 per cent had engaged with youth or gender as a target beneficiary. The Fund continued to use the IOM Gender Marker for all its projects at the project design stage, and provided guidance to mainstream and integrate gender into the design and implementation of all projects. Two thematic reviews had been conducted in 2022: one had looked at projects focusing on labour migration implemented between 2016 and 2020 and the other at projects focusing on immigration and border management implemented between 2015 and 2020. All projects had obtained a very good average score based on the evaluation criteria of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The Fund continued to be a key institutional player in the roll-out of the Strategic Results Framework, piloting the Framework’s integration in project design, implementation and reporting across all projects in 2022 and 2023. Standard indicators mainstreamed at the project design stage would allow data to be aggregated and enable IOM to further report on the work of the Organization as a whole.

113. The Standing Committee viewed a short film alongside comments by the Administration showcasing the work of an IOM Development Fund project, Resilience Innovation Facility (known as “Fab Lab”), which was implemented by IOM in partnership with the University of Gaziantep in Türkiye; the film was followed by comments by Professor Mustafa Bayram from Gaziantep University. The project’s aim was to empower refugee, migrant and host community youth by training them in state-of-the-art design, innovative problem-solving and income-generation skills. It had also benefited from generous follow-up support from the Governments of Japan and the United States of America, and had provided learning opportunities for over 7,000 youths and refugees, of whom more than 20 per cent had been young women. It offered training in areas including digital technologies, entrepreneurship, recycling and business development, and implemented networking initiatives with public/private sector and humanitarian partners to promote the creation of similar innovation facilities to benefit youth and refugees in other parts of Türkiye and beyond.

114. The representative of Türkiye drew attention to the link between migration and development illustrated by the Sustainable Development Goals; Goal 10, aimed at reducing inequality within and among countries, was of particular importance. His country, which had the largest refugee population in the world, hosted around 1.6 million Syrian refugees under the age of 18 and attached great importance to their education. The Gaziantep project constituted an important example of both the empowerment of young refugees along with their Turkish peers and the implementation of Goal 10.

115. One regional group said that, while the Report's focus on labour migration, environment and climate change was to be welcomed, the group wished to see an increase in development-oriented projects and those aimed at building community resilience, in order to address the push factors that forced people to migrate. The timely allocation of resources enabling the roll-out of all approved projects was to be commended, as was the extension of projects that had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Noting that digital connectivity and access were factors in the success of recent music and arts events held in the Geneva region as part of the two awareness-raising campaigns, he encouraged IOM to reflect on how similar events could be staged in Africa, where many countries had only limited access to digital platforms and connectivity. In the monitoring and evaluation conducted by IOM to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of projects under the Fund, greater attention should be paid to long-term impact. The continuity of projects where seed funding had been provided by IOM was also of interest to the group, particularly where Member States faced resource constraints to build on the work done. The regional group noted the "strong sustainability prospects" of the projects considered under the 2022 thematic reviews, given that they were needs-based and responded to requests by governments and national agencies, and commended IOM on the inclusion of exit strategies in the projects evaluated, and the translation of materials into local languages, which ensured ownership and sustainability. IOM should provide regular updates on the implementation of such sustainable projects, and compile a compendium of best practices, enabling Member States to see easily what had worked, where and how.

116. One delegate welcomed the Report's focus on environment and climate change-induced displacement and forced migration. Irregular migration could surely be reduced by addressing the root causes of displacement and helping countries of origin build stronger economies. She encouraged the Fund to reflect on how to better support projects focused on migration and sustainable development, particularly in the context of the great inequalities that had recently been exacerbated by the negative economic and social impacts of external shocks and public health pandemics. Migration was relevant to all the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would not be achieved without due consideration of migrants and mobility. She expressed appreciation for IOM's monitoring and evaluation of the efficiency and impact of projects, and encouraged the Fund to ensure greater inclusivity, accessibility and long-term impact, particularly in countries with limited resources. That being said, she welcomed the focus on youth and gender in a significant number of the projects completed in 2022.

117. Another delegate thanked the Governments of Austria and Belgium, and other donors, for their generous financial support of the IOM Development Fund. A third, noting that the Fund provided a useful complement to the Global Compact, said that she would welcome more projects on the return and reintegration of migrants, labour conditions, vulnerable migrants and legal pathways and mobility. Inclusion of women migrants and migrants with disabilities, among others, should be a key component in the implementation of all projects under the Fund. She encouraged other Member States to follow her country's example in becoming a donor to the Fund and providing voluntary contributions.

118. One representative said that the Fund should include more projects on durable solutions for internally displaced persons, as increased investment in that area – especially in the 16 countries identified as priorities in follow-up to the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement – would reflect IOM's commitment to the Action Agenda and help bring about meaningful change in

addressing the relevant needs. She commended the value of the Fund's seed funding for projects to develop government capacities to address migration challenges and support vulnerable populations.

119. Another representative expressed support for capacity-building projects that helped government officials address challenges relating to migration and the prevention of migrant trafficking and smuggling; reduce the incidence and negative impact of irregular migration; and promote the contribution of migration to sustainable development. As her country continued to face challenges in some areas of migration management and governance, including documentation, data, capacity-building and relief centres for victims of trafficking, she appealed to IOM for additional support under the IOM Development Fund and thanked donors to the Fund for the help they had provided, particularly to host countries.

120. Another representative said that her country attached great importance to IOM's work in the area of climate change, particularly with regard to providing alternatives to irregular migration and building resilience, and would be interested to work more closely with the Organization on reducing climate change-induced mobility and to explore projects aimed at building resilience to climate change and supporting migrants affected by it.

121. The Deputy Director General for Operations confirmed that all areas of focus identified by Member States were part of the pathway to solutions that IOM sought to ensure in the areas of both prevention and response. The Organization's approach in that regard took a long-term view of development, in line with the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, while also responding to real needs on the ground, including those of the most vulnerable populations.

122. The Standing Committee took note of document S/32/5.

#### **Report on IOM's response to migration crises**

123. The Administration presented its report on IOM's response to migration crises in a slide presentation, noting that the figures given were preliminary and would be published in the IOM Global Report 2023: Operations and Emergencies. In a context of unprecedented humanitarian needs, IOM was committed to interventions that were in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, based on a participatory approach that prioritized the understanding of local contexts, the involvement of diverse stakeholders, and the building of sustainable and inclusive partnerships for durable solutions.

124. In 2022, the Organization's response to migration crises – including emergency health, transition and recovery, and displacement tracking activities – had reached 31.1 million people, with a total expenditure of USD 2 billion. The Migration Crisis Operational Framework remained a key tool for ensuring comprehensive, inclusive and holistic responses to the mobility dimensions of crises. Importantly, it brought together IOM's humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and migration management capacities for cohesive, context-driven responses.

125. IOM played an increasingly important role in humanitarian coordination. In 2022, it had held a coordination role in 181 coordination structures, including clusters, sectors, working groups and task forces in 72 countries, up by 27 per cent on 2021, and involved civil society organizations and government entities closely in its work. The Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster continued to be used in seeking durable solutions for displaced communities; some 4 million people had been reached in 37 countries with comprehensive site and displacement management. IOM had prepared various internal guidance documents outlining how the Cluster could play a key role in advocating for and supporting displaced communities in accessing durable solutions.



126. With regard to shelter and settlement, more than 9 million people had been reached in 80 countries. IOM was now the largest recipient of shelter funding, highlighting the trust of donors and partners in the Organization's ability to provide critical support to those in need. Almost 13 million people had received support in the form of WASH services in 61 countries, including innovative work in the recycling of solar lanterns in displacement settings in East Africa and improving fecal sludge treatment to prevent cholera outbreaks in Asia. The Organization's WASH expertise and capacity would play a central role in its activities to address climate-related migration.

127. In the area of resettlement and movement management, IOM had provided crucial support for just over 190,000 international movements, including safe evacuation, resettlement, repatriation and returns. Its activities were built on a comprehensive, rights-based and humane approach that recognized travel, health and integration as key components of the movement process. IOM's protection work was aimed at ensuring full respect for and enjoyment of the rights of displacement-affected individuals and communities. The Organization had provided direct humanitarian assistance to 3 million people in more than 58 countries. In addition to specialized protection interventions, IOM was committed to mitigating risks and mainstreaming protection across other assistance sectors.

128. Under IOM's health programming in humanitarian emergencies, more than 23,000 health-care workers had been trained, 130,000 health assessments conducted and 2.9 million people in crisis settings vaccinated. Displacement Tracking Matrix operations had tracked and monitored the movements and needs of over 51 million internally displaced persons and had captured information on migration flows in over 92 countries. The importance that IOM attached to localization and to partnerships with national and international bodies was evidenced by the direct funding it had provided through flagship initiatives such as the Rapid Response Fund in Ethiopia, the Sudan and South Sudan, thanks to which 42 non-governmental organizations had been able to meet the acute needs of the most vulnerable populations. Accountability was another cornerstone of IOM's work, and more than 3,500 staff had received accountability training.

129. The humanitarian system was being stretched beyond capacity, with seven internal Level 3 emergencies and three regional responses demonstrating the need for better, more efficient ways to manage such situations. Learning and evaluation exercises relating to Level 3 management had therefore been conducted, and existing policies, procedures and protocols were being overhauled to enable a rapid whole-of-organization response in such cases. A key component of that response had been IOM's partnership with the private sector. While the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism could also play a useful role in responding to Level 3 situations, only 38 per cent of the USD 30 million target funding had been raised in donor contributions. Member States were therefore encouraged to contribute to the Funding Mechanism in order to support IOM's capacity to provide rapid life-saving assistance to people in need in times of crisis.

130. The Standing Committee took note of the presentation.

#### **IOM partnerships with the private sector**

131. The Administration delivered a slide presentation illustrating key updates on the private sector strategy following the adoption on 28 June 2022 of Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance Resolution No. 31 on investing in the core structure of IOM. It also provided an overview of the Organization's private sector engagement activities in 2022.

132. The strategy outlined three pillars to meet the USD 30 million fundraising goal: impact – support to the private sector for maximum impact by transforming and aligning policies and practices with human rights and labour standards; income – support from the private sector for IOM's mission and mandate, developing a flexible income stream to support programmes and projects; and

innovation – jointly creating solutions as part of efforts to build new models of engagement through innovative collaboration to tackle migration-related challenges.

133. To maximize the benefits and opportunities of partnerships with the private sector, a set of due diligence guidelines had been introduced for private sector engagement, clarifying the scope of such partnerships and relevant criteria and procedures. The aim was to ensure that all collaboration aligned with the core values, institutional practices and commitments of IOM and the United Nations system. The introduction of the guidelines formalized the engagement process and contributed to further alignment with the United Nations system by incorporating United Nations recommendations and drawing on best practices from other agencies, while taking into account IOM's internal processes and resources. The guidelines covered key topics such as common exclusion criteria, sensitive sectors, informed risk and benefit analyses, risk mitigation measures and decision-making processes for approving or rejecting partnerships with private sector entities. They aimed to prevent green- or blue-washing, assess adherence to international principles and safeguard IOM's credibility and reputation.

134. A two-year Goodwill Ambassador programme would also be rolled out to identify high-profile individuals to leverage platforms to support IOM's mission and mandate, and to help the Organization meet its fundraising goals. Guidelines had been developed on the selection, designation and engagement of Ambassadors, and a pilot programme would shortly be rolled out, inviting IOM offices to nominate Ambassadors at the national, regional and global levels.

135. In 2022, private sector contributions had generated revenue amounting to USD 16.8 million, of which more than USD 9 million had been earmarked for the response to the conflict in Ukraine. Of the revenues generated, most (more than USD 15 million dollars) had come from businesses and private foundations. Overall, the Organization was on track to meet its USD 30 million fundraising target.

136. During 2022, IOM had entered into over 30 private sector partnerships worldwide; its largest single donor had been Airbnb, with a contribution of more than USD 6 million. Together with Airbnb, IOM had been able to provide more than 175,000 nights of safe and dignified accommodation to more than 7,000 people. Private sector engagement had been further strengthened by building partnerships with businesses and working with USA for IOM, the organization's non-profit partner in the United States of America. USA for IOM had generated revenue of over USD 3 million in 2022, more than double that of the previous year.

137. In 2023, efforts to increase private sector engagement would continue, to meet the current fundraising target of USD 15 million. Good partnerships had already been built, including with Amazon to support the delivery of essential items to Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic as part of IOM's earthquake response, and with The Walt Disney Company to work on labour migration and ethical recruitment issues.

138. One delegate noted that, in a global context of growing need, efforts to diversify and expand IOM's pool of resources were timely. She encouraged the Organization to seek strategic private sector partnerships based on shared goals and requested regular updates on actions and achievements relating to that work. Another delegate stressed the importance of cooperation with the private sector, drawing attention to the logistics support provided by private companies, including the invaluable assistance offered by national airlines in delivering relief supplies to zones affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes.

139. The Administration expressed gratitude for the support of Member States for IOM's engagement with the private sector and took note of the request to provide regular updates on action taken.

140. The Standing Committee took note of the presentation.

**Other business**

141. The Chairperson informed the Standing Committee that the Administration would soon circulate documents containing information on the process for appointing the Deputy Directors General. She encouraged the regional groups to discuss those matters.

**Closure of the session**

142. The Chairperson thanked the Director General for his invaluable work and wished him every success in the future.

143. The Chairperson declared the Thirty-second Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance closed on Wednesday, 28 June 2023, at 3.50 p.m.