



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

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE

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WORKING GROUP ON BUDGET REFORM

REPORT

(submitted by the Chairperson of the Working Group)

WORKING GROUP ON BUDGET REFORM REPORT

Background

1. In view of the Organization's growth in recent years, the Administration brought to the attention of Member States the overstretched resources for funding the core structure. To find a sustainable solution to the issue of core funding, in May 2010 the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (SCPF) established the Working Group on Budget Reform, open to interested Member States, under the chairmanship of the SCPF Chairperson. The Working Group was tasked with examining the question of budget reform and presenting recommendations to the SCPF.

2. A progress report (SCPF/53) was submitted to the Seventh Session of the SCPF in November 2010 outlining the Working Group's terms of reference and its agenda. An addendum to the report (SCPF/53/Add.1) was circulated in January 2011 to provide details of initial discussions on core functions and potential alternative sources of funding for the core structure. A further report (SCPF/63) was submitted to the Eighth Session of the SCPF in May 2011 which summarized progress over the intervening period and included as an annex a concept paper framing the issues to be examined and outlining the next steps to be taken.

Recent progress and initiatives

3. Since the last report to the SCPF in May, the Working Group has made considerable progress on the three principal areas of focus, namely: (a) reviewing proposals on potential alternative funding sources; (b) exploring the establishment of a migration emergency funding mechanism; and (c) reviewing existing budget resolutions and mechanisms with a view to updating and consolidating them. Meetings were convened on 29 June and 27 September 2011, at which documents addressing these initiatives were examined and discussed.

4. Regarding alternative funding sources, a variety of useful options were explored, including proposals to add contributions from new Member States to the Administrative Part of the Budget; encourage unearmarked voluntary contributions; reach out to new and non-traditional donors and countries; emphasize private sector and individual funding; and promote a geographically diverse group of associate experts to strengthen functions. Particular attention was given to the proposal to add contributions from new Member States to the Administrative Part of the Budget, as this would require the adoption of a Council resolution to proceed with implementation. A document (SCPF/68) has been prepared for submission to the SCPF which illustrates the mechanics of the calculations and contains the relevant draft resolution for endorsement. If endorsed by the SCPF, the document and resolution will be submitted to the Council for adoption in December 2011.

5. Regarding the establishment of a migration emergency funding mechanism, considerable discussion took place in the Working Group about its operational details, including its interrelationship with the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and other funding mechanisms. The recent emergency evacuation from Libya provided a useful backdrop to the discussions, highlighting the need for such a mechanism, which, if adequately funded, would

provide the flexibility necessary for IOM to respond immediately to emergencies involving international migration. A detailed document has been drafted, incorporating various suggestions and modifications proposed by the Working Group. The document (SCPF/67) will be submitted to the SCPF and contains a draft resolution for endorsement. If endorsed by the SCPF, the document and resolution will be submitted to the Council for adoption in December 2011.

6. Regarding the initiative to revise and consolidate existing budget resolutions and mechanisms, a drafting group has been established to undertake this review, which, as agreed, is being carried out in a neutral manner, guided by practices in similar UN-based organizations. The drafting group has commenced its work, with technical support provided by the Administration, and thus far has held three meetings. It is anticipated that the review will be completed early next year, with the Working Group expected to present its recommendations to the SCPF in May 2012. The expected output would be a document incorporating and updating existing regulations and mechanisms into a single, consolidated resolution.