

MC/2329

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HUNDREDTH SESSION

**APPLICATION BY THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
SECRETARIAT (SADC) FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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SECRETARIAT (SADC) FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

1. In a letter dated 7 April 2011, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community Secretariat (SADC) made a formal application for his Organization to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 12 May 2011, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the Hundredth Session of the Council.
2. This matter falls under rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure for the Council which provides that the Council may admit, upon their application, international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, concerned with migration, refugees or human resources as observers at its meetings.
3. An appropriate draft resolution will be submitted to the Council when this matter comes up for decision.

Annex I

**LETTER DATED 7 APRIL 2011 FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
SECRETARIAT (SADC) TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the contacts established between the International Organization for Migration and the SADC Secretariat when we met in the margins of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, and your recent follow-up communication regarding migration issues of mutual interest to both our Organisations. The IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of great interest to SADC and we wish to establish a closer relationship with your Organisation.

It will be recalled that currently, the SADC/IOM collaboration is guided by the existing Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two organizations in 2004, in Gaborone, Botswana. As the SADC Region continues to progress towards deeper integration, migration challenges relating to migrant labour, HIV and AIDS and mobile population, trafficking in women and children, and the need to link SADC's diasporas to national and regional development priorities, are becoming even more apparent and must be effectively addressed. There is therefore, a compelling demand for increased collaboration in the area of migration and mobile populations which should include developing a comprehensive regional migration policy framework for SADC.

I am pleased to inform you that the SADC Secretariat desires to take part in the work of the International Organization for Migration and I shall appreciate your taking the necessary steps to submit this request to the next Session of the IOM Council for consideration.

In the meantime, the Secretariat will continue liaising with Mr. Bernardo Mariano, the IOM Regional Representative for Southern Africa to discuss further collaboration on migration issues including renewal of the existing MoU, development of a regional migration policy framework and secondment of staff for technical assistance to support SADC on migration and related issues.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 12 MAY 2011 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT (SADC)**

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter SADC/11/044/1 dated 7 April 2011 informing me that IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of great interest to the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and that you wish to establish a closer relationship with IOM. The growing cooperation between the two organizations, as demonstrated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 1 October 2004 between SADC and IOM and IOM's active engagement with SADC and MDSA augurs well for our future collaboration.

I have taken note of your desire to seek observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In this regard, I shall take the necessary action for inscription of your organization's request on the agenda of the next regular session of the IOM Council, to be held in December 2011. A document formally presenting the application of the Southern African Development Community will be distributed to all IOM Member States and Observers in due course. I shall send you a copy of it, together with further details and procedural information concerning the Council session at a later stage.

It gave me great pleasure to receive your organization's request for observer status. Allow me therefore to express our deep satisfaction at the prospect of a closer relationship developing between IOM and the Southern African Development Community.

[Complimentary ending]