

MC/2331

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HUNDREDTH SESSION

**APPLICATION BY THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA (COMESA) FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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AFRICA (COMESA) FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

1. In a letter dated 27 July 2011, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) 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 8 August 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 27 JULY 2011 FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA)
TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR MIGRATION**

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the partnership that has been established between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the joint programmes that we have developed. I also refer to the fruitful discussions we have recently had towards deepening our cooperation and hereby formally apply for Observer Status to meetings of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), is an international governmental organization of nineteen independent African countries which is a building block of the African Union and is committed under its Treaty to achieve progressively the free movement of persons, labour and services among other things. It has been collaborating with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in the implementation of its programmes. The two organizations are also about to start implementing two projects on Diaspora Engagement and the Development of Migration Profiles for migration policy making in COMESA Member States.

As the two organizations continue to implement joint programs and deepen their collaboration, I am pleased to inform you that the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is desirous of deepening its collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through attending of IOM meetings as an observer. Accordingly I have the honour to request you to submit our application for Observership to the IOM Council for consideration.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 8 AUGUST 2011 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO THE
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA)**

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter (ref. CS/LEG/32(439-11)(bc-rs)) dated 27 July 2011 regarding your organization's application for observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM values highly its existing cooperation and partnership with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and I take particular note of the joint initiatives for enhanced collaboration between the two organizations. The growing cooperation between the organizations, as demonstrated by the signing of a memorandum of understanding on 2 December 2003, and IOM's active engagement with COMESA augur well for our future endeavours and partnership.

It is very reassuring to note that most of the 19 COMESA countries are also IOM Member States. This common denominator is favourable for deepening cooperation on the basis of our shared principles, which include the free movement of persons, labour migration and encouraging social and economic development through migration, inter alia; these are some of the fundamental principles of both organizations.

I have taken note of your desire to seek observer status in IOM. In this regard, I will take the necessary action for the 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 made by COMESA will be distributed to all IOM Member States and observers in due course. I will send you a copy of this document, 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 COMESA and IOM.

[Complimentary ending]