

**MC/2054**

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**EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION**

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**APPLICATION BY THE  
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MIGRANT AND REFUGEE OFFICE (ACMRO)  
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

APPLICATION BY THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MIGRANT AND REFUGEE  
OFFICE (ACMRO) FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER

1. In a letter dated 6 September 2001, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) 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 19 September 2001, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the Eighty-second 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 or non-governmental, concerned with migration, refugees or human resources as observers at its meetings.
3. If the Council so decides, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) will be included among the international non-governmental organizations listed in paragraph 2 (c) of Resolution No. 753 (LVIII).
4. An appropriate draft resolution will be submitted to the Council when this matter comes up for decision.

Annex I

LETTER DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 2001 FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MIGRANT AND REFUGEE OFFICE (ACMRO)  
TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Sir,

**Application for Observer Status with the International Organization for Migration:  
from the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office.**

This application seeks to enhance and reaffirm, through observer status, the active association which the Catholic Church in Australia has maintained with International Organisations engaged in the protection, relief and assistance to displaced persons and refugees as well as in the provision of specific services to migrants, refugees and displaced people who seek to be resettled.

With respect to the resettlement of both migrants and refugees, the links between IOM and its predecessors have endured since the early post-war years. Notable was the cooperative framework that the late Monsignor G. M. Crennan AO OBE PA developed when he was National Director of the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee (1949 to 1995) with ICEM/ICM/IOM in the provision of travel loans and resettlement opportunities for both migrants and refugees. That period enabled some 60,000 persons to be resettled in Australia.

In 1995, with the retirement of Monsignor Crennan, the Bishops of the Catholic Church in Australia replaced the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee (located in Sydney) and the Australian Catholic Refugee Office (located in Canberra) with a new unified organisation in Canberra entitled the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO). At that time, the Bishops appointed me as National Director.

The Mission Statement which guides the work of this office includes the following:

- Refugees and Asylum Seekers merit our special consideration. We undertake this special service in their regard, irrespective of their creed or origin;
- Within our capacity and limited resources, we commit ourselves to the mission of care and support in every possible way;
- We believe that this work reflects the Church's universal compassion for those in need.

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Annex I  
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The attached two pages outline the mandate, structure and functions of the Director of ACMRO. It specifically requires the Director to maintain links at international level on migration and refugee issues.

It would be appreciated if this application for observer status could be considered.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

LETTER DATED 19 SEPTEMBER 2001 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION  
TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MIGRANT AND REFUGEE OFFICE (ACMRO)

Sir,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 6 September 2001 conveying the desire of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office to seek observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Given that the work of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office deals with issues relating to migrants, refugees and displaced persons, I concur with you that its participation as an observer will be mutually beneficial to both our organizations. As you have indicated in your letter, the links between IOM and the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office go back a long way and I am confident that this growing cooperation will continue for many more years to come. The necessary action will be taken for inscription of your request on the agenda of the next session of the IOM Council, which is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 27 to 29 November 2001.

An appropriate document formally presenting your application will be distributed to all Member States and observers in the near future. You will receive a copy of it, together with further details and procedural information concerning the Council session.

It gives me great pleasure to receive your request for observer status. Allow me therefore to express my satisfaction at the prospect of furthering the close relationship and collaboration between our two organizations.

[Complimentary ending]