

MC/2091

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21 November 2002**

EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION

**APPLICATION BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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1. In a letter dated 18 November 2002, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Executive Director of Human Rights Watch 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 20 November 2002, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included in the provisional agenda of the Eighty-fourth 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, Human Rights Watch will be included among the 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 18 NOVEMBER 2002 FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
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 (IOM) and Human Rights Watch. IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of great interest to Human Rights Watch and we would wish to establish a closer relationship with your Organization.

The work of Human Rights Watch, throughout its various incarnations since 1978, has been dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world. This work is directly related to tackling the root causes of forced migration. In addition, Human Rights Watch works to monitor and ensure protection of the rights of migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees throughout the world. Increasingly, we conduct investigations focused exclusively or primarily on the rights of these groups – during 2002, for example, Human Rights Watch publications have included reports on migrants and asylum seekers in Spain's Canary Islands, internally displaced persons in Turkey, and refugees in Kenya, Uganda, Pakistan, North Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Australia. On the basis of such research and monitoring work, we challenge both governments and intergovernmental organizations to act in accordance with international human rights law and established standards relating, for example, to refugee reception and voluntary return. We would like to cooperate with IOM on meeting these challenges in future.

Human Rights Watch holds consultative status with ECOSOC and currently participates as an official observer at the Executive Committee meetings of UNHCR.

I am pleased to inform you that Human Rights Watch desires to be admitted as a non-governmental observer to the Council of the International Organization for Migration and I shall appreciate your taking the necessary steps to submit this request to the Council for its consideration.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

LETTER DATED 20 NOVEMBER 2002 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Sir,

I refer to your letter of 18 November 2002 informing us that Human Rights Watch is interested in being granted observer status in IOM.

Given that the work of the Human Rights Watch has been dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world, and is directly related to the tackling of root causes of forced migration, I am confident that its participation as an observer in IOM will be mutually beneficial to both our organizations. The necessary action will be taken for inscription of your request on the agenda of the next session of the IOM Council, to be held in Geneva from 2 to 4 December 2002.

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]