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29 September 2003**

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION

**APPLICATION BY THE
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC) –
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION (CIMI)
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

**APPLICATION BY THE
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC) –
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION (CIMI)
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

1. In a letter dated 29 August 2003, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Chairman, Center for International Migration and Integration / Director-General of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)-Israel made a formal application for his Committee and its Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 15 September 2003, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included in the provisional agenda of the Eighty-sixth 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. An appropriate draft resolution will be submitted to the Council when this matter comes up for decision.

Annex I

LETTER DATED 29 AUGUST 2003 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION (CIMI) / DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC)-ISRAEL
TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Sir,

I have the honor to apply on behalf of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and its Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) for observer status with the International Organization for Migration.

JDC has a long history of working with migrant populations, including immigrants, refugees, and returnee populations, through programs of rescue, relief and reconstruction, resettlement and welfare, and return and reintegration activities, conducted on behalf of both Jewish and non-Jewish communities since 1914. Today JDC conducts activities in 59 countries on every continent except North America. JDC efforts conducted on behalf of refugees and displaced persons have taken place in Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Congo, Turkey and elsewhere. JDC has also amassed extensive experience in immigrant integration through decades of working with immigrants and their integration in Israel, and also assists work with refugees, asylum seekers and foreign workers in Israel.

JDC places high importance on sharing best practices of immigrant integration and migration management for the purpose of upgrading policies and practices in these fields in both developing and developed countries. It is for this reason that JDC established the Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI). Through CIMI, JDC seeks to promote knowledge sharing on the best practices of immigrant integration and migration management. This will enable policymakers and practitioners to better identify and meet the needs of migrants worldwide.

Given shared concerns regarding migration and integration, IOM activities are of great interest to JDC and CIMI. This common interest was realized in a concrete way through cooperative JDC/CIMI and IOM efforts to offer a two and a half week course on migration and integration to international migration policymakers and practitioners, which took place in July 2003 with 26 participants from around the world. Currently JDC/CIMI and IOM are exploring further cooperative efforts in the form of a workshop in Africa and a course in Israel for African migration practitioners and policymakers.

Wherever it operates, JDC works in close partnership with the international community and local communities. JDC is a member of various international umbrella organizations, including the UN's National Council of Social and Welfare Services (ECOSOC); the International Council on Jewish Social and Welfare Services (INTERCO); International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA); Interaction; International Development Bank (IDB); Interfaith Hunger Appeal; Coalition of Disaster Relief (Executive Committee Member). JDC operates in Israel in partnership with national and local government as well as with NGOs.

I would be honored if JDC/CIMI could be admitted as an observer on the IOM Council, in accordance with Article 8 of the IOM Constitution, so as to facilitate this further cooperation. I shall appreciate your taking the necessary steps to submit this request to the Council for its consideration.

I look forward to our future cooperation.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

LETTER DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 2003 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO THE
CHAIRMAN, CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND
INTEGRATION / DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC)-ISRAEL

Sir,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 29 August 2003 conveying the desire of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and its Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) to seek observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

I have taken note with great interest of JDC's long history of working with migrant populations, including immigrants, refugees, returnees and displaced persons, as well as its extensive experience in integration. I am convinced that both our organizations could benefit from a strengthening of our cooperation and I will take the necessary action 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 18 to 21 November 2003.

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]