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NINETY-FIRST (SPECIAL) SESSION

**APPLICATION BY THE CENTER FOR MIGRATION STUDIES
OF NEW YORK (CMS)
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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OF NEW YORK (CMS)
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1. In a letter dated 5 May 2006, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Executive Director of the Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) made a formal application to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply, dated 23 May 2006, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the Ninety-first (Special) 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 5 MAY 2006 FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE CENTER FOR MIGRATION STUDIES OF NEW YORK (CMS)
TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Sir,

This application is to confirm and improve the constructive relationship between the Scalabrinian Congregation and IOM.

The *Center for Migration Studies of New York, Inc. (CMS)* is an educational, non profit, Non Governmental Organization, founded in New York in 1964 to encourage the study of sociological, demographic, economic, historical, political, legislative aspects of human migration, refugee movements and ethnic groups relations worldwide. In 2001 CMS was granted the Special Consultative Status by UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

With this interdisciplinary approach and international perspective, CMS conducts scientific research projects and publishes the *International Migration Review*, acclaimed "the flagship of scholarship in its field". It also publishes books and an Occasional Paper series. The Center organizes national and international conferences dealing with immigrants and refugees and their impact on local communities and governments. It provides research opportunities in its specialized library and archives and serves as a resource to national and international communities. CMS fulfils its mission in close cooperation with other research centers, organizations and universities.

Resumption of massive immigration and refugee movements, set in motion by the collapse of the Soviet empire, decolonization in Africa and Asia and the global population explosion, on the one hand, and restrictionist immigration policies, xenophobic violence and new nations with multicultural populations, on the other hand, challenge the *Center for Migration Studies* to provide the knowledge and understanding required for sound policy formulation and productive national and international debate.

CMS was founded on the belief that understanding is the basis for constructive policy, and that understanding requires education. The various dimensions of *CMS* mission – research, publishing, documentation, conferences, consultation – have contributed to the fundamental objective of *CMS* from its inception: education about international migration. By generating and facilitating the dissemination of new knowledge, *CMS* enhances understanding of the causes and consequences of voluntary and involuntary movements of people in both origin and destination countries. What has always distinguished *CMS* from all other organizations and institutions

interested in migration is that the scope of its interest is global – international migration throughout the world – and its goal is to facilitate an understanding of the breadth and complexity of international migration so that people may live together in peace and mutual enrichment in a pluralistic environment. *CMS* brings an independent perspective to the examination of the growing needs created by the circumstances which find 100 million people living outside their countries.

As natural development of its traditional activity of studies and research, *CMS* is more and more engaged in the activity of scientific support to operational projects for helping migrants, refugees, sea workers and their organizations, all over the world; *CMS* contribution has an active part in the phase of evaluation of social, geo-political and historical conditions concerning the project and in the operational stage by staff training and providing scientific assistance. Moreover, *CMS* support steps in the phase of evaluation of concrete effects and incidence, and so of its effective pursuing of its aims.

The mission on *CMS* is guided by the basic values of the inherent universal dignity of each person, the interrelatedness of all human beings and countries, and meeting the needs of the whole human person as the goal of public policies.

CMS acts as the legal entity in charge of representing all the bodies of the Scalabrinian Congregation that operate in the field in relation with governmental, non-governmental, national and international organizations, to coordinate the initiatives in favour of migrants, refugees and people on the move, as indicated in the attached Agreement (attachment n. 4a).

CMS is also federated with the following Centres of Studies:

- CENTRO STUDI EMIGRAZIONE ROMA (CSER), Via Dandolo 58, 00153 Roma
- CENTRE D'INFORMATION ET D'ÉTUDES SUR LES MIGRATIONS INTERNATIONALES (CIEMI), 46, rue de Montreuil, 75011 Paris – France
- CENTRO DE ESTUDIO DE PASTORAL MIGRATORIA, rua Dr. Barros Cassal 220 – 90035-030 Porto Alegre RS – Brazil
- CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS MIGRATORIOS (CEM), Rua Vasco Pereira 55 – Liberdade, 01514-030 São Paulo SP - Brazil
- CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS DE PASTORAL Y ASISTENCIA MIGRATORIA (CEPAM), Apdo 68827 – Caracas 1062-A – Venezuela
- CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS MIGRATORIOS LATINOAMERICANOS (CEMLA), Avda. Independencia 20, 1000 Buenos Aires – Argentina
- SCALABRINI MIGRATION CENTRE (SMC), 4, 13h Street, 1112 Quezon City, Manila
- CENTRO STUDI E RICERCHE PASTORALI EMIGRAZIONE (CSERPE), Rütimeyerstrasse 16, 4054 Basel

The Federation of the Scalabrinian Centres of Studies was established in 2001 (attachment n. 5). Pursuant to this agreement, CMS coordinates and directs the politics of research of the federated Centres of Studies, such as the activities of the Centres of Studies towards the entities and organizations of the Scalabrinian Congregation and other institutions (Episcopal Conferences, international organization, universities, media, trade unions) that actually act in migrants' support in five continents. CMS and the affiliated Centres of Studies actually do an effective and permanent activity of advising, training in cooperation with Scalabrini Foundation (11, Via Calandrelli – Rome), providing scientific evaluation of impact, political incidence and achievements of the activities “in the field” for the migrants done by the Scalabrinian entities listed in attached document 4b.

CMS and many Scalabrinian entities (among those listed in attachment 4b) has been cooperating for many years with IOM (International Organization for Migration); some of them have been cooperating with IOM even since its incorporation, in the fields of research, advising for project of assistance to migrants, partnership in activities of defining and implementing policies on migration and projects of social and cultural help for migrants.

For instance, since the establishment of the Conferencia Sudamericana de Migraciones in 1999 by the IOM Regional Office in South America and South American governments (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela), CEMLA (Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos – Buenos Aires), INCAMI (Istituto Catòlico Chileno de Migratiòn) and NGO Scalabrini in Chile (Scalabrinian organizations represented by CMS) has been invited and has attended the Conferencia as permanent observers; also in Central America, the Scalabrinian organizations operating in the area are actively involved in the “Proceso Puebla” with IOM and the Central American governments; moreover CEMLA and NGO Scalabrini of Chile continuously cooperate respectively with IOM office in Buenos Aires and IOM office in Chile; the “Casas del Migrantes” in Guatemala have close relationships with IOM as well, in assisting migrants in Guatemala.

Obviously the Center for Migration Studies of New York itself enjoys the honour of a strong permanent cooperation with the office of IOM Permanent Observer at UN; in the last years CMS has been cooperating with IOM in relation to several ECOSOC meetings on migration, especially with regards to the High Level Dialogue on Migration and to the 1st UN Coordination Meeting on International Migration in July 2005. Moreover, the Scalabrini Migration Center in Manila (SMC) – within its permanent cooperation with IOM regional office – issues the Asian Migration News (Electronic Bulletin) co-funded by IOM and in 2006 published a Report on Tsunami and Migration, commissioned by IOM.

CMS has also an office in Geneva (15, Rue de La Mairie – 11207 Eaux Vives – Geneva – tel 022 7368382 – fax 022 7867109); the person in charge of Geneva office is P. Leonir Chiarello.

CMS is also among the incorporators of “International Migration Network” Association Sans But Lucratif (IMN ASBL), registered in Brussels in 2005 (www.moniteur.be); by means of IMN CMS manages and coordinates the relationship with the European Union.

Since IOM is the international institution leader in managing migration issues and problems, CMS is willing to set up a formal and close relationship with IOM to improve and coordinate its activity in favour of migrants in cooperation with IOM.

CMS therefore kindly requests you to consider its application for Observer Status at the next session of IOM Council.

[Complimentary ending]

Attachments:¹

- 1) CMS By-Laws
- 2) Annual financial report
- 3) ECOSOC’s Consultative Status
- 4a) Agreement CMS/Congregation
- 4b) List of Scalabrinian entities attached to 4a)
- 5) By-laws of the Federation of Centers for Migration Studies

¹ Copies (English only) will be available at the documentation desk during the 91st (Special) Session of the Council

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 23 MAY 2006 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE CENTER FOR MIGRATION STUDIES OF NEW YORK (CMS)**

Sir,

I refer to your letter of 5 May 2006 informing me that the Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) is interested in being granted observer status in IOM.

Given that CMS, in the various aspects of its work, is dedicated to helping migrants, refugees and other groups in need of such assistance worldwide, and that it has been cooperating for many years with IOM, 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.

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

[Complimentary ending]