

MC/2214

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NINETY-THIRD (SPECIAL) SESSION

**APPLICATION BY AFRICA HUMANITARIAN ACTION (AHA)
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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1. In a letter dated 23 April 2007, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the President and CEO of Africa Humanitarian Action made a formal application to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 7 May 2007, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the Ninety-third (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 23 APRIL 2007 FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF
AFRICA HUMANITARIAN ACTION TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Sir,

I recall our recent meeting in Geneva, and have the honour to refer to the contacts established between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA). IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of great interest to our organization's work and we would wish to establish a closer relationship with your Organization.

Africa Humanitarian Action is a pan-African non-governmental organization providing effective humanitarian assistance to alleviate human suffering, building on the strength of African people to solve African problems. Founded in 1994 in response to the Rwandan genocide, we have supported more than 9 million people in 16 African countries, to regain their health, dignity and wellbeing. Our proximity to affected populations and understanding of local contexts maximize the sustainability and accountability of the multi-sectoral programmes we deliver.

AHA has extensive experience in addressing the challenges of refugee flow, internal displacement, migration and other forms of population movement. Since inception our response has been motivated by the needs of vulnerable populations, not their formal status. On this basis we have delivered assistance, supporting people to rebuild their lives, retuning to them their health, dignity and wellbeing.

Currently AHA works in eleven African countries, running programmes in:

- Capacity Development: Promoting potential and building resilience
- Health Care: Addressing physical, mental and social wellbeing
- HIV/AIDS: Prevention and care
- Public Advocacy: Bringing African voices to humanitarianism
- Relief and Recovery: Providing protection and assistance
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence: Prevention and response

Given our mandate and mission, I am pleased to inform you of our desire to take part in the work 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.

[Formal close]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 7 MAY 2007 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
TO THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF AFRICA HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

Sir,

I refer to your letter of 23 April 2007 conveying the desire of the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) to seek observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

I have taken note with great interest of AHA's experience in addressing the challenges of refugee flow, internal displacement, migration and other forms of population movement in eleven African countries. I am convinced that both our Organizations could benefit from a strengthening of our cooperation and 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, at a date to be communicated shortly.

An appropriate document formally presenting your application will be distributed to all Member and Observer States 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 between our two Organizations.

[Formal close]