

MC/2230

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NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

**APPLICATION BY THE REFUGEE EDUCATION TRUST (RET)
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

**APPLICATION BY THE REFUGEE EDUCATION TRUST (RET)
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

1. In a letter dated 31 August 2007, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Managing Director of the Refugee Education Trust (RET) made a formal application to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 14 September 2007, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the Ninety-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 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 31 AUGUST 2007 FROM THE
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE REFUGEE EDUCATION TRUST (RET)
TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your generosity of time and commitment expressed in our recent meeting with me regarding the prospective opportunities of collaboration between the Refugee Education Trust (RET) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). We are very honoured to have a Memorandum of Understanding between our two organisations and look forward to many years of successful collaboration together.

Today, in our first steps to working together in the future, I would also like to officially request that the RET be considered for Observership Status with IOM and I refer to the prior contacts established between the IOM and the RET. IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of great interest in order to be able to positively impact the lives of many of those most vulnerable who have been affected by forced migration.

In December, 2000, the RET was established by Mrs. Sadako Ogata, as a legacy of the 50th Anniversary of the UN Refugee Agency, where she was High Commissioner, in order to address the dire need for emergency post-primary education for refugee and displaced youth uprooted by conflict. This represented approximately 8 million out of 40 million displaced persons around the world. At the time of inception, there was no international organisation dedicated to the exclusive mission of providing post-primary education for refugee youth and adolescents. While the UN and other government agencies were focused on children, primary or basic education, through UNICEF, UNHCR, and policy level education needs and capacity-building for Ministries of Education through UNESCO, the RET became, in theory, and little by little, in practice, the only organisation, addressing this very narrow, singularly focused need and created this niche that was not considered a priority in the world of UN MDGs, and EFA, which were more driven by primary and basic education objectives. Most other NGOs and civil society organizations, focused on the attainment of these world order priorities, while government and intergovernmental institutions funded programmes and projects related primarily to the MDGs and EFA objectives, which either specifically did not, or barely covered post-primary education.

In the last four years, between 2003 and 2007, the RET has been able to raise USD 13.5 million for a broad spectrum of projects in both formal and non-formal education, including livelihoods, around the world – in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The current pipeline of the RET for 2008 already includes nearly USD 2.5 million for projects in 2008 and we are awaiting further funding decisions in the next months. We consider that the RET has a tremendous opportunity to synergistically work together with IOM to increase the impact of programmes to reach our mutual objectives.

Sir, I again thank you for all of your dedication and commitment to helping the RET and I shall greatly appreciate your taking the necessary steps to submit this request to the Council for its consideration of our request for Observership Status.

[Formal close]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 14 SEPTEMBER 2007 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE REFUGEE EDUCATION TRUST (RET)**

Madam,

I refer to your letter of 31 August 2007 conveying the desire of the Refugee Education Trust (RET) to seek observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The growing cooperation between the two organizations, as demonstrated in the recent signing of a cooperation agreement between RET and IOM, augurs well for our future collaboration.

Necessary action will be taken for inscription of your request on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the IOM Council, to be held in Geneva from 27 to 30 November 2007. 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 relationship between our two organizations.

[Formal close]