

MC/2263

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NINETY-SIXTH SESSION

**APPLICATION BY DECEMBER 18
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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1. In a letter dated 14 November 2008, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Director of December 18 made a formal application to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 19 November 2008, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the Ninety-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 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 14 NOVEMBER 2008 FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DECEMBER 18
TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to submit our application for obtaining observer status with the International Organization for Migration. Our organization – December 18 vzw – has worked together with the IOM over the past years in the context of the Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for the Ratification of the UN Migrant Workers Convention of which both our organizations are members and have indeed taken up the role of convener/coordinator in the past.

December 18 was established in 1999 and it is now a non-profit organization registered under Belgian law. In 2007, the organization obtained Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The mission of December 18 is to promote respect for the human rights of all migrants worldwide and to advance their full participation in any society. The main guiding principle of December 18's work is that migrants' rights are human rights. December 18 believes its role and purpose lies in the dissemination of information and in working towards the effective implementation of international norms and standards that promote and protect the human rights of migrants.

The two main programmes of December 18 focus on:

- Mainstreaming migrants rights throughout the UN system, with an emphasis on the work on the UN Migrant Workers Convention.
 - o We maintain the secretariat of the International Platform for the Migrant Workers Convention.
 - o We just published a research paper on the UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies.
- Promoting International Migrants Day (IMD) as an opportunity to celebrate the contribution made by migrant as well as to highlight their plight.
 - o We are, for example, preparing for the third edition of the Radio 1812 event, a worldwide initiative that brings together radio stations on the occasion of International Migrants Day. IOM representatives have frequently featured on the special programmes produced by participating radio stations.

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Annex I

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In conclusion I would like to emphasize that because of our common interest in respect for the rights of all migrants, obtaining observer status with the IOM would allow us to explore further avenues for collaboration and for us to learn from the vast experience which the IOM has in this field.

[Formal close]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 19 NOVEMBER 2008 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
TO THE DIRECTOR OF DECEMBER 18**

Dear Mr. Plaetevoet,

I would like to refer to your letter of 14 November 2008 conveying the desire of December 18 to seek observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

I am confident that the relationship developed over the last years between the two Organizations to promote effective respect for human rights of migrants will be further strengthened, in line with the strategic objectives of our respective organizations.

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 2 to 5 December 2008. 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 between our two Organizations.

[Formal close]