

MC/INF/300

**Original: English
4 November 2010**

NINETY-NINTH SESSION

**CRITERIA FOR ADMITTING NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS AS OBSERVERS TO THE IOM COUNCIL**

CRITERIA FOR ADMITTING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS OBSERVERS TO THE IOM COUNCIL

1. At the Ninety-eighth Session of the IOM Council in November 2009, one delegation suggested that the Administration submit to the Council for its consideration the requirements to be met by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for admission as observers at the Council (see MC/2290, paras 15–16). The present document responds to this request.

2. The relevant provisions of the IOM Constitution and the Rules of Procedure for the Council are as follows:

Article 8 of the IOM Constitution

“The Council may admit, upon their application, non-member States and international organizations, governmental or non-governmental, concerned with migration, refugees or human resources as observers at its meetings under conditions which may be prescribed in its rules of procedure....”

Rule 10 (paras 2 and 4) of the Rules of Procedure for the Council

“2. Upon their application, international organizations, governmental or non-governmental, concerned with migration, refugees or human resources may also be invited by the Council to be represented at its meetings.”

“4. The Council may prescribe conditions governing the granting of observer status.”

3. The eligibility requirements applied by the Administration in screening NGO applications for observer status have been the following:

- (a) The aims and purposes of the NGO must be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the IOM Constitution.
- (b) The principal activity of the NGO must be in the area of migration, refugees or human resources. If its principal activity is in the latter area, it must be in the framework of the migration and development theme.
- (c) If the NGO is national – rather than international – the scope of its work should extend in great part beyond the national boundaries.¹
- (d) The NGO must have consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).²
- (e) There must be an existing history of successful operational cooperation between IOM and the NGO, so that the granting of observer status is a recognition of mutually beneficial collaboration rather than the beginning of a partnership.

¹ It should be noted that NGOs active in their own country may, and do, cooperate very often closely with the IOM office as partners in the implementation of national projects.

² In order to obtain consultative status with ECOSOC, an NGO must, inter alia, have been in existence for at least two years (officially registered with the appropriate government authorities as an NGO/non-profit organization); have an established headquarters, a democratically adopted constitution, authority to speak for its members, a representative structure, appropriate mechanisms of accountability, and democratic and transparent decision-making processes; and its basic resources must be derived in the main part from contributions from national affiliates, individual members, or other non-governmental components.