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IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

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COUNCIL

CONSEIL

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103RD SESSION

**APPLICATION BY THE ECOWAS COMMISSION
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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1. In a letter dated 25 April 2013, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the President of the ECOWAS Commission made a formal application for his Organization to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 14 May 2013, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the 103rd 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 25 APRIL 2013 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
THE ECOWAS COMMISSION TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Excellency,

I have the honor to refer to the contacts established between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the ECOWAS Commission. IOM's programs and activities in the field of migration are of great interest to the ECOWAS Commission and the entire sub-region. We would therefore wish to establish a closer relationship with your Organization.

I am pleased to inform you that the ECOWAS Commission desires to take part in the work of the International Organization for Migration by obtaining observer status to the meetings of the IOM Council and I shall appreciate your taking the necessary steps to submit this request to the Council for its consideration.

In past years the ECOWAS Commission has had the pleasure to work closely with the IOM on several occasions. In the year 2000 we have jointly launched the Migration Dialogue for West Africa MIDWA to enhance an action oriented exchange amongst all stakeholders in the region. In summer 2012, the necessary steps have been taken to strengthen the institutional framework of MIDWA during a meeting you personally attended in Dakar. IOM will also be the lead agency in the implementation of the 10 European Development Fund. We are very much looking forward to closely working together with your team. We have also received assistance from IOM in other fields such as human trafficking, the protection of children on the move, labor migration, migration and development, etc.

Furthermore, the ECOWAS Commission was regularly associated to various sub-regional activities implemented by IOM such as the development of Migration Profiles of a certain number of ECOWAS Member States as well as a regional Profile and the regional Labor Migration Project LAMIWA. In all this various activities, IOM has been a professional, highly reliable and pro-active partner for the Commission. The commitment, hard work and unquestionable expertise of all IOM staff members in the sub-region and worldwide have further enhanced the already strong partnership between our two organizations.

The ECOWAS Commission is committed to work hard together with our Member States on improving the free movement of persons framework in the sub-region, as a pinnacle element for the regional integration and development process. We will strive to develop strong and efficient frameworks of migration management to the benefit of all. Counting on IOM as a professional and highly experienced partner in these fields we are confident that by attaining the observer status we will be able to even further strengthen our bilateral cooperation.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 14 MAY 2013 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECOWAS COMMISSION**

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 25 April 2013 seeking observer status for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Indeed, I can only note with appreciation the relationship between the ECOWAS Commission and IOM in the field of migration, and in particular the successful launch of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa as well as the Regional Migration Project for West Africa (LAMIWA). I also highly appreciate the contribution of ECOWAS in the development of country and regional migration profiles. It is therefore my belief that both our organizations could benefit from a further strengthening of this already close and cordial relationship.

It will be possible to take the necessary action to place your request before the IOM Council during its next regular session, to be held in Geneva from 26 to 29 November 2013. An appropriate document formally presenting your application will be distributed to all Member and Observer States prior to the November 2013 Council session. You will receive a copy of this document, together with further details and procedural information concerning the Council session.

A formal invitation to attend the session, during which the ECOWAS Commission's application for Observer Status is presented to the Member States, will also be sent to you.

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.

[Complimentary ending]