



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

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COUNCIL

105th Session

**APPLICATION BY THE
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)
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1. In a letter dated 22 July 2014, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme 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 3 November 2014, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the 105th 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 invite, upon their application, international organizations, governmental or non-governmental, concerned with migration, refugees or human resources, to be represented at its meetings.
3. An appropriate draft resolution is submitted separately to the Council for its consideration.

Annex I

**LETTER DATED 22 JULY 2014 FROM THE UN UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT) TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Dear Mr Swing,

I have the pleasure to refer to contacts established between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of great interest to UN-Habitat and we would wish to establish a closer relationship with your organization.

I would like to inform you that preparations are well underway for the Habitat III Conference in 2016. In this regard, as our two organizations have many common interests, our partnership is of great relevance in the time ahead. I will write to you soon under a separate cover in this regard soon.

IOM and the UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding on 18 April 2012 which highlights the importance of collaboration in policy development and in building the capacity of governments and other stakeholders to effectively respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by migration and human settlements. In order to tackle such challenges, a sustained collaboration between the two organizations is crucial.

Among the highlights of the partnership between UN-Habitat and IOM are the two-year Catalytic Support on Land Issues Programme, aimed at facilitating sustainable peace through addressing land issues; ongoing collaboration in Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan and Philippines as part of the Global Shelter Cluster; joint work on urban policies in Iraq; and a reconstruction of housing and neighbourhoods support programme in Haiti.

Potential Projects in the East and Horn of African region include discussions on plans to establish a mini-inventory to identify synergies between the two organizations, and to work out a roadmap for advocacy and policy engagement.

I am pleased therefore to inform you that the UN-Habitat would be pleased 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.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 2014 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO THE UN
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED
NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)**

Dear Dr. Clos,

I have the pleasure to refer to your letter of 22 July 2014 seeking observer status for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

I note with appreciation the work of UN-Habitat in the field of human settlements, particularly with regard to policy development. The 2012 memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and IOM recognizes the benefits of genuine, substantive cooperation and the urgent need to incorporate human settlements into migration policies. Further, the ongoing IOM-UN Habitat partnerships in several countries—Nepal, where IOM, UN-Habitat and UNDP are working jointly on a two-year programme entitled, “Catalytic Support on Land Issues”; Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan and Philippines, where both agencies are involved as part of the Shelter Cluster; Iraq, where the two organizations work jointly on urban policies; and finally Haiti, where IOM and UN-Habitat are working on the “Support Programme for the Reconstruction of Housing and Neighbourhoods”—provide a solid foundation on which to build. These initiatives, as well as the ongoing collaboration in preparation for IOM’s ministerial conference on migrants and cities in 2015 and the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016, clearly illustrate our respective organizations’ commitment to strengthening the capacity of governments and stakeholders to effectively respond to challenges and opportunities presented by the intersection between migration and human settlements. I therefore firmly believe that both our organizations could benefit from a further strengthening of this already established 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 25 to 28 November 2014. An appropriate document formally presenting your application will be distributed to all Member and Observer States prior to the November 2014 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 UN-Habitat’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]