



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 “LA CAIXA” FOUNDATION  
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**



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FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

1. In a letter dated 8 July 2014, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Director General of the “la Caixa” Foundation 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 7 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 and non-governmental, to be represented at its meetings.
3. The aims and purposes of “la Caixa” Foundation, a non-governmental organization based in Spain, are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the IOM Constitution and its activities are relevant to migration, migrants, diasporas, refugees, displacement and human resources. The scope of its work extends in a great part beyond its national boundaries. “La Caixa” Foundation does not have consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, but the Director General is of the view that its observership at the Council will strengthen cooperation and be in the interests of IOM.
4. An appropriate draft resolution is submitted separately to the Council for its consideration.



## Annex I

**LETTER DATED 8 JULY 2014 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
“LA CAIXA” FOUNDATION TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Dear Sir,

It is for me an honour to write to you in accordance with the prior contacts established between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the “la Caixa” Foundation. The IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of considerable interest to our Foundation, and we should therefore like to strengthen the relationship we have with your organization.

Our own organization, founded over a hundred years ago, pursues the goal of becoming a reference on the international sphere in the commitment to human rights, peace, justice and the dignity of people. Our values are solidarity, integrity, humanism and transformation. Since 1997, our International Division has worked to improve quality of life amongst the most vulnerable populations in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Our main lines of action in as regards international cooperation include providing support for refugees, displaced persons and, in general, the most vulnerable, by promoting economic activities, training, etc., both in emergency and post-emergency situations. To this end, over the last 17 years we have given our cooperation to more than 500 projects, helping to improve the lives of more than 10 million people with total investment of EUR 80 million.

Here in Spain, moreover, in the spirit of helping to lay the foundations for harmonious co-existence, we operate an Intercultural Community Intervention Programme aimed at promoting community development processes that can contribute to enhancing co-existence between citizens and cultures, fighting for the integration of people at risk of social exclusion, with particular attention to refugee and immigrant populations.

Our organization has the honour of cooperating with the IOM in Spain with regard to these lines of action. To this end, the two organizations signed a framework cooperation agreement to work together in common areas of action.

Under the framework of this agreement, “la Caixa” Foundation and IOM Spain developed the MIDA Project in Morocco. This initiative entailed promoting 5 production projects that were implemented in the northern region of Morocco (Tangier, Erfoud and Larache). The programme sought to involve Moroccan migrants living in Catalonia in the development of their country of origin, fostering job creation and promoting voluntary return. The result was the establishment of four cooperatives operating small businesses in such fields as catering, honey making, sewing and hairdressing, as well as the founding of a textile industry training school.

IOM Peru also provided technical assistance for the assessment of projects promoted by our Foundation in that country.

Moreover, “la Caixa” Foundation is a partner in a project that the IOM has submitted to the European Union. Entitled “Linked efforts for reintegration between the two shores”, the project pursues the objective of improving coordination models, mechanisms and structures for cooperation and joint actions between Europe and Latin America (Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador) in order to provide better support for the reintegration of vulnerable migrants before and after their voluntary return.

Our organization is deeply honoured to be able to cooperate with the International Organization for Migration, as both bodies share common goals, and we are keen to continue working to find synergies and new opportunities for cooperation, both in Spain and internationally, to achieve the institutional missions pursued by both parties.

In view of all this, I am pleased to inform you that “la Caixa” Foundation would like to take part in the work of the International Organization for Migration as an Observer at meetings of the IOM Council. We should therefore be grateful if you would take the necessary steps to submit this application to the consideration of the Council.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 7 NOVEMBER 2014 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO  
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE “LA CAIXA” FOUNDATION**

Dear Director General,

I have the pleasure to refer to your letter of 8 July 2014 seeking observer status for “la Caixa” Foundation in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Indeed, I can only note with appreciation the relationship between “la Caixa” Foundation and IOM in the field of migration and development. I highly appreciate the contribution of “la Caixa” Foundation in providing assistance to vulnerable groups and creating labour opportunities for former unaccompanied minors in Spain, as well as the foundation’s involvement in development projects in the migrants’ countries of origin such as Morocco and Senegal focusing on training and capacity building. Following the first cooperation agreement between “la Caixa” Foundation and IOM signed in 2010 and the new agreement signed in July 2014 to continue the fruitful collaboration between the respective organizations, it is my belief that both our organizations will 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 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 application of “la Caixa” Foundation 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]