



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

**C/105/27**

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## **COUNCIL**

**105th Session**

**APPLICATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

**AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

**FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

**APPLICATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY  
AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN FOR REPRESENTATION  
BY AN OBSERVER**

1. In a letter dated 3 November 2014, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) made a formal application for her Organization to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 13 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 admit, upon their application, international organizations, governmental or 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 3 NOVEMBER 2014 FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL  
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR  
GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN TO THE  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
FOR MIGRATION**

Dear Mr Swing,

I have the honour to refer to the contacts established between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). IOM's programmes and activities in the field of migration are of great interest to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and we would wish to establish a closer relationship with your Organization.

Over the years, UN Women has worked closely with IOM on many projects related to women migrants and through interagency initiatives such as the Global Migration Group. We also have many ongoing partnerships with the IOM in our regional and field offices and would be keen to continue these fruitful collaborations in the future. With women and girls featured prominently among all international migrants, it is essential to consider the gender dimensions of international migration to make sure that the specific needs and priorities of migrant women and girls are addressed in policies and programmes. Going forward, observership will give us the opportunity to cement our partnership and work towards common objectives on protecting the rights of migrant women and their families and our interest in labour migration and women's economic and social rights in sending, receiving and transit countries.

I am pleased to inform you that UN Women desires to take part in the work of IOM as an observer 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 13 NOVEMBER 2014 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO THE  
UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE  
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

Dear Madam Executive Director,

I have the pleasure to refer to your letter of 3 November 2014 seeking observer status for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Indeed, I can only note with appreciation the relationship between UN Women and IOM in the field of migration and development, particularly in both our organizations' commitment to goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girl migrants, and dedication to addressing their needs and protecting their rights. IOM has adhered and is strongly committed to the System-wide Action Plan for Implementation of the United Nations Chief Executive Board for Coordination Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, so ably led by your organization. In this context we appreciate very much all your technical guidance and support. I also highly appreciate the ongoing collaboration between UN Women and IOM in several countries in projects concerning the legal empowerment of women from migrant households and the reduction of the incidence of trafficking in women and girls by addressing its root causes such as domestic violence and lack of economic opportunities. 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 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 UN Women's application for observer status is presented to the Member States, will also be sent to you. Assuming IOM's membership grants this application, and we have no reason to believe that they would not, a representative of UN Women would be offered the floor to make a brief statement upon admission as a new observer.

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]