



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 ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

1. In a letter dated 5 November 2014, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 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 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 5 NOVEMBER 2014 FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Dear Mr. Swing,

I have the pleasure to refer to the ongoing cooperative activities between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNEP, including the recently proposed joint project on “Small-scale solutions for adaptation and climate resilient development in arid and semi-arid regions of Kenya” and to request IOM to grant UNEP, ‘observer’ status in the meetings of its governing body.

In view of the increasing environmental challenges such as climate change, land degradation, scarcity of water and other resources and the associated rise of migrants across the world in search of a more hospitable environment, I believe there is much room for collaboration between UNEP and IOM. Since UNEP is headquartered in Kenya, with close proximity to countries most affected by desertification, arable land loss and other issues that can result in forced migration, it is well positioned to provide expertise on project development, implementation and capacity building in a cost effective manner. In this context and in accordance with Article 8 of the IOM Constitution and Rules 10 and 11 of IOM Council Rules of Procedure I request UNEP’s observer status in the Governing Council of IOM.

I also wish to draw your attention to Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the UNEP Governing Body - the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) - which entitles IOM to an observer status in the meetings of UNEA and its subsidiary body, the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR):

Representatives of specialized agencies, of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and of appropriate United Nations bodies, as well as of the intergovernmental organizations referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) which are designated for this purpose by the United Nations Environment Assembly, may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary organs, if any, upon the invitation of the President or Chairperson, as the case may be, on questions within the scope of their activities.

UNEP will consult with the President of UNEA, currently H.E. Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Minister of Environment and Green Development of Mongolia, and invite you to participate in the second session of UNEA to be held from 23 to 27 May 2016 as well as the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to be held in February 2016 (dates to be confirmed), which serves as a preparatory committee for the Environment Assembly. I look forward to IOM’s constructive engagement in the deliberations of UNEA, which responds to the call made by world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in June 2012 to upgrade and strengthen UNEP as the leading global environmental authority.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to continued cooperation as UNEP and IOM endeavour to meet up to the greater expectations of the Member States to implementation of our respective mandates.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 2014 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME**

Dear Mr. Executive Director,

I have the pleasure to refer to your letter of 5 November 2014 seeking observer status for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Indeed, I can only note with appreciation the relationship between UNEP and IOM, and our organizations' strategic partnership on climate change, environment and migration, especially our joint collaboration to support operational efforts and mainstream the environment into humanitarian action all over the world. I also highly appreciate the contribution of UNEP through specific partnerships, such as the Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance (CCEMA), a multi-stakeholder global partnership that aims to bring migration considerations to the environment, development and climate change agendas through awareness raising, research, policy development and practical actions.

IOM, in partnership with UNEP, integrates climate change adaptation measures into programmatic responses through several projects implemented around the world. These include projects in Egypt and Mauritius targeting communities living in low-elevation areas threatened by sea-level rise; in Senegal and Mali focusing on deforestation and the exhaustion of vital ecosystems due to unsustainable livelihoods; and in Niger assisting communities in the inner Niger delta to better adapt to the consequences of climate change and improve planning by integrating migration and human security. Furthermore, to raise awareness on this important subject, IOM, UNEP and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs arranged a side event on the topic People on the Move: The "push factors" of environmental degradation, climate change and humanitarian emergencies at the Asia Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the 2013 UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

Finally, IOM looks forward to participating in the United Nations Environment Assembly and the open-ended meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2016 as deemed appropriate.

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 UNEP'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]