<u>MC/2259</u>

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NINETY-SIXTH SESSION

APPLICATION BY THE STATE OF QATAR FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER

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1. In a letter dated 17 June 2008, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar made a formal application for his country to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply, dated 26 June 2008, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included in the provisional agenda of the Ninety-sixth 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, non-member States 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 17 JUNE 2008 FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE OF QATAR TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Sir,

The State of Qatar gives necessary consideration and interest in the Organization (IOM) to get to know its activities, observes its decisions relating to contracting employment, and examines the programs followed by the Organization in this regard in order to create close links with the Organization.

I have the honor to inform you that my Government wishes to obtain an observer status at the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

I would be grateful if you would take the necessary steps to submit my Government request to the Council of Administration of the Organization.

[Formal close]

Annex II

LETTER DATED 26 JUNE 2008 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE OF QATAR

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 17 June 2008, informing me of the desire of the State of Qatar to seek observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In coordination with your Ambassador in Geneva, I shall take the necessary action for inscription of your Government's request on the agenda of the next session of the IOM Council, to be held in December 2008.

It gave me great pleasure to receive your Government's request for observer status, together with its expression of interest in our activities and programmes. Cooperation between the State of Qatar and IOM in contract work by foreigners has already proved particularly useful and rewarding.

Allow me therefore to express my deep satisfaction at the prospect of a closer relationship developing between IOM and the State of Qatar.

[Formal close]