

**MC/2307**

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**NINETY-NINTH SESSION**

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**APPLICATION BY SCALABRINI INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION NETWORK (SIMN)  
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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1. In a letter dated 23 October 2010, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the President and the Executive Director of Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) made a formal application to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 19 November 2010, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the Ninety-ninth 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 and 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 23 OCTOBER 2010 FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCALABRINI INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION  
NETWORK (SIMN) TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Sir,

Following conversations with the Senior Advisor for the Americas of IOM, I would like to send to you the application of Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) for Observer Status with the International Organization for Migration to arrange a formal and constructive relationship between the Scalabrinian Congregation – through the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) – and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2006 as *Association Sans But Lucratif* (ASBL) in Brussels and Incorporated in 2007 in New York to promote the dignity and the rights of migrants and people on the move worldwide (attached\* you will find the SIMN's Certificates of Incorporation in Brussels and New York). In 2009 SIMN became a registered civil society organization in the Organization of American States (OAS). In 2001, the Center for Migration Studies (CMS), one of the members of the SIMN, was granted Special Consultative Status by the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The mission of SIMN is to protect and promote the dignity and the rights of migrants, refugees, internally displaced people, seafarers and people on the move. SIMN's objectives are guided by the basic value placed on the inherent universal dignity of each person, the interrelatedness of all human beings and countries, as well as meeting the needs of the whole human person as the goal of public policies.

Resumption of massive immigration and refugee movements, on the one hand, and restrictive immigration policies, xenophobic violence and new nations with multicultural populations, on the other hand, challenge the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) to provide the knowledge base and understanding required for sound policy formulation and productive national and international debate, as well as provide adequate programs and services for migrants, refugees, internal displaced people and people on the move. Consequently, SIMN is engaged in operational projects for helping migrants, refugees, sea workers and their organizations, all over the world. SIMN's role focuses on these organizations meeting specific requirements prior to the implementation of the project. SIMN provides an evaluation of social, geo-political and historical conditions concerning the project and in the operational stage of the project, SIMN assists with staff training and providing technical assistance. Furthermore, SIMN provides supportive feedback and evaluation of the effects of the project following implementation with the intent of ensuring the objective aims of the project are met.

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\* Not reproduced.

In order to guarantee the activities described above, the SIMN acts as the legal entity in charge of representing all the bodies of the Scalabrinian Congregation that operate in the field in relation to governmental, non-governmental, national and international organizations, as a means to coordinate actions in favour of migrants, refugees and people on the move.

With its interdisciplinary approach and international perspective of services and programs, SIMN conducts scientific research, training programs, services, technical assistance and advocacy programs through the following Networks.\*

The SIMN organizes national and international conferences dealing with immigrants and refugees and their impact on local communities and governments. The most important of these Conferences is the International Forum on Migration and Peace, organized in coordination with the United Nations, International Organizations and governmental and civil society organizations.

SIMN and many Scalabrinian entities have been cooperating for many years with IOM. Some have been collaborating with IOM since its incorporation, in the fields of research, advising for projects of assistance to migrants, partnership in activities of defining and implementing policies on migration, and projects of social and cultural help for migrants.

For instance, since the establishment of the *Conferencia Sudamericana de Migraciones* (CSM) in 1999 by the South American Governments with the support of the IOM, the CEMLA (the Scalabrinian Centre of Studies in Buenos Aires, Argentina), the NGO SCALABRINI of Chile and the FUNDACION SCALABRINI of Bolivia have attended the Conferencia as observers. Moreover, the Scalabrini Migration Center in Manila (SMC) issues the Asian Migration News (Electronic Bulletin) in collaboration with the IOM, and since 2008 the Center for Migration Studies of New York, organizes its Legal Conference in collaboration with the IOM.

The three main offices of SIMN are located in: a) Brussels, to coordinate the relationships with the European Union, b) Geneva, to coordinate the relationships with the United Nations and the International Organizations and c) New York, to coordinate the relationships with the United Nations and Regional Organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS).

Since the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the international institutional leader in managing migration issues, the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) is willing to set up a formal and close relationship with IOM to improve and coordinate its activity in favour of migrants and people on the move in cooperation with IOM.

SIMN therefore kindly requests consideration of its application for Observer Status at the 99th Session of the IOM Council, that will be held in Geneva, on November 29 to December 2nd 2010.

[Complimentary ending]

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\* Not reproduced.

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 19 NOVEMBER 2010 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION  
TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
SCALABRINI INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION NETWORK (SIMN)**

Sir,

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 23 October 2010, conveying the desire of the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) to seek observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

I have taken note of SIMN's commitment to protect the dignity and the rights of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, seafarers and other persons in need of migration services, as well as the increasing cooperation between the two organizations, particularly in the fields of research, policies on migration and other humanitarian activities.

The necessary action will be taken for inscription of your request on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the IOM Council, to be held in Geneva from 29 November to 2 December 2010. An appropriate document formally presenting your application will be distributed to all Member and observer States in the near future. You will receive a copy of this document, together with further details and procedural information concerning the Council session.

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]