

**MC/2231**

**Original: English  
12 November 2007**

**NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

---

**APPLICATION BY *FEMMES AFRICA SOLIDARITÉ* (FAS)**

**FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

**APPLICATION BY *FEMMES AFRICA SOLIDARITÉ* (FAS)  
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

1. In a letter dated 18 September 2007, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Executive Director of *Femmes Africa Solidarité* (FAS) made a formal application to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 27 September 2007, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the Ninety-fourth 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 18 SEPTEMBER 2007 FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF *FEMMES AFRICA SOLIDARITÉ* (FAS)  
TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Sir,

Greetings from *Femmes Africa Solidarité*.

Referring to our collaboration with the Office of Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ms. Ndioro Ndiaye, we would like, herewith, to submit our application for an observer status with IOM.

FAS has been involved and participated in several IOM activities, including

- The conference on Gender and Migration, January 2000 in Geneva;
- The Regional conference on Brain Drain and Capacity Building in Africa: Forging Partnership with the Diaspora, February 2000 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- The International Conference for Women Leaders, September 2005, Haifa, Israel.

Since July 2007, within the context of the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA), IOM and *Femmes Africa Solidarité* are collaborating to produce a database of skilled African Women in the Diaspora who are willing to contribute to the development of their respective countries.

The database will be launched during the Africa Gender Forum 2007, organized by FAS and its PanAfrican Center for Gender, Peace and Development in Dakar, Senegal, tentatively scheduled for the end of the year to be attended by President Wade of Senegal and President Kagame of Rwanda.

FAS has been working for ten years to advance the women's peace movement in Africa, and has tremendously contributed in bringing women voices in peace negotiation such as the Mano River Women's Peace Network's initiative that was awarded in 2003 the UN General Assembly Human Rights Prize. FAS has also taken the leadership role in advocating gender in the African Union that led to the parity principle within the AU Commission as well as to the adoption of the *Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa* by Heads of State.

MC/2231  
Annex I  
Page 2

Herewith we are pleased to attach a summary of FAS activities on the field, in particular the recent mission that was undertaken to refugees and displaced camps in Chad with Ms. Mary Robinson.

An observer status with your organization would be of great mutual benefit, providing the ideal opportunity to reinforce our partnership.

[Formal close]

Enclosures: - Information Note on Mission of Notable Women to Chad\*  
- FAS' Highlights\*

\*Not reproduced.

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 27 SEPTEMBER 2007 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION  
TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF *FEMMES AFRICA SOLIDARITÉ* (FAS)**

Madam,

I refer to your letter of 18 September 2007 seeking observer status for *Femmes Africa Solidarité* (FAS) in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

I have taken note with interest of the multitude of activities of FAS in the wider campaign to protect and promote women's human rights in Africa. I am especially looking forward to the implementation of the joint database project of skilled African Women in the Diaspora who are willing to contribute to the development of their respective countries. It is therefore my belief that both our organizations could benefit from a strengthening of our cooperation.

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 27 to 30 November 2007. 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 it, 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.

[Formal close]