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Chair: Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 166: Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly (A/66/141; A/C.6/67/L.2)

1. **Mr. Kydyrov** (Kyrgyzstan), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/67/L.2 on observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly on behalf of the States members of the Cooperation Council, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/66/141 and recalled that the General Assembly, in its decision 66/527, had decided to defer a decision on the request for observer status to its sixty-seventh session. In the statutory documents of the organization, the States members of the Council embraced the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and affirmed their commitment to the basic principles of democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance. The main purposes of the Council were to strengthen mutual confidence among the parties; maintain peace in the region and beyond; coordinate actions to combat international terrorism, separatism, extremism and transborder crime; promote effective regional and bilateral cooperation; create favourable conditions for trade and investment, economic growth and social and cultural development; and promote good governance and protection of human rights.

2. The granting of observer status in the General Assembly to the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States would initiate a mutually beneficial institutional dialogue and open avenues for future cooperation; it would also greatly assist the Cooperation Council to foster regional initiatives among its members. His delegation, on behalf of the sponsors, requested that discussion of the resolution should be postponed in order to allow an opportunity for additional consultations with other regional groups in an effort to reach consensus.

3. **The Chair** suggested that consultations should continue and that the Committee should revert to the agenda item at a later stage.

4. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 167: Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly (A/66/198)

5. **Mr. De Vega** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the request for observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly, Cambodia, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in document A/66/198 and recalled that the General Assembly, in its decision 66/530, had decided to defer a decision on the request for observer status to its sixty-seventh session. The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was established in Manila in September 2000 to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among mainstream political parties. ICAPP had grown steadily, so that its membership currently encompassed 341 political parties in 53 countries and one territory in Asia. The inclusion of both governing and leading opposition parties meant that ICAPP could be an effective channel between the General Assembly and Governments in the region.

6. According to General Assembly decision 49/426, observer status could be granted by the Assembly to intergovernmental organizations whose activities covered matters of interest to the Assembly. However, several non-governmental organizations had already been granted observer status in the General Assembly, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In the light of the contribution ICAPP made to the work of the General Assembly in peace and security, human rights and development in the region, its application for observer status had merit. ICAPP and its members were playing an important role in promoting emerging democracies and had been working closely together in the areas of natural disasters, environmental protection and poverty alleviation. Granting ICAPP observer status would allow for closer cooperation between the United Nations and political parties in Asia. His delegation would coordinate informal discussions on the agenda item during the sixty-seventh session with the hope that consensus could be achieved on a draft resolution in due course. What was essential was that the application of ICAPP for observer status should be kept on the agenda.

7. **Mr. Nay** (Cambodia) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement of the Philippines and supported the request for observer status. ICAPP was

an international institution that offered a platform for dialogue that served to enhance mutual understanding and promote peace and prosperity in the region. Its conferences, such as the sixth ICAPP General Assembly held in Cambodia in 2010, allowed for an exchange of views on regional issues. ICAPP also reached out to other regions and had a successful relationship of cooperation with the United Nations. Observer status would enable it to align its activities more closely with United Nations goals.

8. **Mr. You Ki-Jun** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation supported the statement by the Philippines and hoped that in the future other delegations might join as sponsors of the request for observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties. Representative democracy and multi-party pluralism could not function without political parties, which served to accommodate different interest groups and offer options to voters; political parties made possible individual participation and accountable representation. His delegation favoured expanding the representation of observers to the General Assembly and integrating them further into its deliberations. Observer status would allow ICAPP to work more effectively with United Nations agencies and to follow more closely the General Assembly debate on relevant issues.

9. **Mr. Hameed** (Pakistan) said that his delegation supported the statement by the Philippines. The International Conference of Asian Political Parties was making a positive contribution to international cooperation, peace, consensus-building and good governance. Granting it observer status would contribute to implementation of the principles of the Charter and achievement of United Nations objectives.

10. **Mr. Otsuka** (Japan) said that his delegation gave its full support to the proposal.

11. **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina), supported by **Mr. Tchiloemba Tchitembo** (Congo) and **Ms. Diaz Mendoza** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), said that her delegation had concerns about several of the requests for observer status on the Committee's agenda and wished to make a general comment. The participation of organizations as observers in the work of the United Nations was subject to specific conditions. The first was that the organization was engaged in activities of interest to the United Nations. If that condition was fulfilled, there were two avenues for participation: non-governmental organizations could

request consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, whereas intergovernmental organizations could request observer status in the General Assembly. The criteria for the two avenues for participation were different and mutually exclusive; requests for intergovernmental organizations fell under the regime of General Assembly decision 49/426 and hence under the scrutiny of the Sixth Committee, whereas requests for non-governmental organizations were to be considered by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. There had been an unfortunate tendency in recent years for Member States to request observer status in the General Assembly for organizations that should rather apply for, or indeed that had already been granted, consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. In the light of those considerations, her delegation had serious doubts that the International Conference of Asian Political Parties met the criteria for observer status in the General Assembly.

12. **Mr. Panin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation agreed that the International Conference of Asian Political Parties did not meet the criteria set out in General Assembly decision 49/426 for observer status. When certain exceptions had been made in the past for non-governmental organizations, his delegation had, reluctantly, joined the consensus on condition that those exceptions should not set a precedent. It was clear from the previous statements that there was no consensus in the Committee on the request. The efforts of the Philippine delegation to hold consultations might possibly create such a consensus, but if they did not the item should be removed from the Committee's agenda.

13. **The Chair** suggested that consultations should continue and that the Committee should revert to the agenda item at a later stage.

14. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 168: Observer status for the Andean Development Corporation in the General Assembly (A/67/142; A/C.6/67/L.4)

15. **Mr. Ruiz** (Colombia), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/67/L.4 on observer status for the Andean Development Corporation in the General Assembly, announced that Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Trinidad and

Tobago and Uruguay had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution. He drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/67/142 and to the text of the agreement establishing the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and explained that CAF was a regional organization for the financing of development which had been functioning for over 40 years and provided an invaluable service to the States that utilized its services. Originally conceived as a subregional entity, CAF had expanded its scope in 2005 to become a development bank for the entire Latin America and the Caribbean region; 18 countries participated in its activities, including two in Europe (Portugal and Spain). It had its headquarters in Caracas and permanent offices in 10, soon to be 12, other capitals. Its various programmes and projects were aimed at promoting sustainable development and regional integration, and it was considered to be a successful model of South-South cooperation. Along with the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank it was an important source of financing for the region and was, in fact, the main source of funding for infrastructure and energy projects in Latin America.

16. The Andean Development Corporation met the criteria for observer status set forth in General Assembly decision 49/426. It was an intergovernmental organization whose activities were clearly of interest to the Assembly and in harmony with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, in that they were aimed at promoting the economic and social development of member States and improving the living conditions of their inhabitants. He was therefore confident that the Sixth Committee would favourably receive draft resolution A/C.6/67/L.4.

17. **Mr. Silva** (Brazil), supported by **Mr. Troya** (Ecuador) and **Ms. Diaz Mendoza** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), said that his delegation attached great importance to the draft resolution introduced by the representative of Colombia. The integration process in Latin America and the Caribbean would greatly benefit from a visible and productive interaction with the General Assembly. The Andean Development Corporation met the relevant criteria for observer status; it reinforced on a regional level the values that the General Assembly embraced on a global scale, such as political dialogue, cooperation, development and the rule of law.

Agenda item 169: Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly (A/67/191; A/C.6/67/L.5)

18. **Ms. Le Fraper du Hellen** (France), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/67/L.5 on observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/67/191 and announced that Finland, Monaco and Slovenia had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution. The International Chamber of Commerce had been formed in 1919, well before the founding of the United Nations. It represented the private sector through some 12,000 chambers of commerce in 120 countries and thus had a very broad reach and scope. That vast network could and should be made available to the General Assembly through the granting of observer status. Its structure was unusual: in 92 countries members had established formal International Chamber of Commerce national committees, which in some cases were part of the Government. The International Chamber of Commerce focused on many of the purposes and principles of the United Nations; it had taken part in recent years in all the major United Nations conferences in the areas of sustainable development, the environment and least developed countries and strongly supported the Global Compact. The General Assembly could take advantage of the ability of the International Chamber of Commerce to mobilize resources for the financing of development.

19. The International Chamber of Commerce had been granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as early as 1946. Her delegation was sensitive to the concerns of others about adherence to the criteria of General Assembly decision 49/426. However, in recent years there had been a movement by the General Assembly to reach out to the private sector, notably in a series of resolutions entitled "Towards global partnerships". With its dynamic and unusual structure, which was not that of a typical non-governmental organization, and its historic mission to work for prosperity and peace in troubled times, the International Chamber of Commerce could contribute to the aims of the General Assembly. Her delegation was available for consultations on the draft resolution within the Committee or informally.

20. **Mr. Tchiloemba Tchitembo** (Congo) said that without receiving a copy of the constituent document of the International Chamber of Commerce his

delegation could not adequately assess the request for observer status.

21. **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina) said that the reservations of her delegation with respect to the request for observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce were in no way a reflection on the value of the organization or its commendable aims but rather concerned its legal nature. Its consultative status with the Economic and Social Council implied that it was a non-governmental, not an intergovernmental organization. In the view of her delegation, an organization could not be eligible for observer status through both avenues.

22. **Mr. Delgado Sanchez** (Cuba) said that, although his delegation fully supported the commendable work of the International Chamber of Commerce, it was firmly of the opinion that in all cases, present or future, it was imperative that the Committee should adhere to the criteria set out in General Assembly decision 49/426, whereby not only must the activities of the applicant cover matters of interest to the Assembly, but the entity must be a State or an intergovernmental organization. Non-governmental organizations, including the International Chamber of Commerce, had an adequate opportunity to participate in the work of the United Nations through consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It was his delegation's position that any past or future grant of observer status, even by consensus, that did not comply with the requirements of decision 49/426 should not be considered a precedent that would prevent an objection to a future request on those grounds.

23. **Ms. Diaz Mendoza** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her delegation aligned itself with the position of Argentina and Cuba.

24. **Mr. Silva** (Brazil) said that the contribution of the International Chamber of Commerce to respect for the norms of international law and in particular to the peaceful settlement of disputes constituted a compelling argument in favour of granting it observer status with the General Assembly.

25. **Mr. Panin** (Russian Federation) said that, as with the request of observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties, opinion appeared to be sharply divided as to whether the International Chamber of Commerce, despite its commendable contributions, met one of the legal criteria of General Assembly decision 49/426.

26. **Ms. Le Fraper du Hellen** (France) said that she was grateful to the representative of Brazil for highlighting the Chamber's contribution to peaceful dispute settlement. Her delegation would provide copies of the statute of the Chamber and would be happy to consult with any delegation that had concerns about the request.

Agenda item 170: Observer status for the European Organization for Nuclear Research in the General Assembly (A/67/192; A/C.6/67/L.6)

27. **Mr. Stuerchler Gonzenbach** (Switzerland), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/67/L.6 on observer status for the European Organization for Nuclear Research in the General Assembly, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/67/192 and announced that Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution. He explained that the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) was an intergovernmental organization which had been founded and was funded and managed by States. Despite the term "European" in its name, since June 2010 membership in it was open to all States. As a leading particle physics research institution, CERN had made an entirely peaceful contribution to the advancement of science, which it regarded as a driver of social progress and intercultural dialogue. The activities of the United Nations and CERN were complementary, particularly in areas such as the dissemination of scientific knowledge, education and capacity-building in developing countries. CERN played an active role in raising awareness of the importance of science for the betterment of society. Observer status for CERN in the General Assembly would pave the way for a mutually beneficial dialogue.

28. **Mr. Silva** (Brazil) said that his delegation supported the request for observer status, since CERN met the relevant criteria and was indeed a powerful driver of the development of scientific knowledge and cooperation, including in developing countries.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.