

**69TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
SIXTH COMMITTEE,
STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS ON AGENDA ITEM 169:
OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC
SPEAKING STATES**

14 October 2014

General Assembly Decision 49/426, states that observer status shall be confined to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the General Assembly.

On the item under consideration to grant Observer Status to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, my delegation wishes to reiterate its serious reservations, as expressed in previous sessions, regarding the fulfillment by the Council, of the said criteria.

While we note that in Article 1 of the CCTS founding document, the body refers to itself as a cooperation mechanism, our reservations significantly also concern whether its activities cover areas of interest to the General Assembly.

Allow me to elaborate on my country's key concerns:

The CCTS is a cooperation mechanism of limited membership, whose projected areas of interest and thus its potential activities nevertheless stretch far beyond the scope of its membership. It is thus inferred that its operations include, but are not limited to its member states.

As is evident from the body's founding Declaration and declarations of its annual summits, it includes in its sphere of interests a number of international issues on which it pronounces itself, while its relevance to them is rather unclear. For example, while the Cyprus issue is included amongst those issues, at no point has the Government of the Republic of Cyprus been consulted or associated with the CCTS.

Despite this fact the CCTS has repeatedly pronounced itself on the Cyprus issue, most recently in the Declaration of its Fourth Summit in June this year. The said proclamations have been consistent in falling outside relevant Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions. It is our conviction that any entity, which seeks observer status to the General Assembly, ought to operate in line with UN Resolutions and uphold them when pronouncing itself on a particular situation.

Dear Chair,

For the reasons stated we reiterate our serious reservations for granting observer status to CCTS, and, as this is now the fourth time this particular item is deliberated within this committee, we hold the view that consecutive deferrals of the same items in the absence of real progress which would enable a different outcome, adversely affects the work of this Committee and of the Organization. We therefore encourage the sponsors of the resolution to consider withdrawing the item from this Committee's agenda.