

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Item 173 – Observer Status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly

Sixth Committee, 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly
Monday, 19 October 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

As one of the sponsors of this proposal, the Philippines fully supports Cambodia's introductory statement earlier.

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties was founded in Manila in the year 2000. Its objective is to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among political parties in Asia. Since then, ICAPP has grown steadily, counting almost 400 political parties in over 50 countries.

We continue to believe that ICAPP can be an effective and efficient channel between the General Assembly and the governments in the region, to wit:

- ICCAP and its members play an important role in promoting and consolidating emerging democracies, a priority for General Assembly.
- In addition to political work and governance, ICAPP members have been working closely together on areas like environmental protection, natural disasters, and poverty alleviation. These are also priorities for the General Assembly.
- Finally, ICAPP can substantially contribute to the overall work of the General Assembly in peace and security, in human rights, and in development in the region.

Mr. Chair, we understand and appreciate the concerns that certain delegations may have with this proposal. We thank them sincerely for their candor and constructive suggestions. But as the other sponsors have said, this proposal does not violate the criteria in Resolution 49/26. We would like to stress the fact that members of ICAPP belong to different parties and are government officials, members of parliament or the Cabinet, and hence, can satisfy the criterion of having "intergovernmental" character.

ICAPP has been in close touch with their concerned counterparts in different regions, to explain that, with recent developments, ICAPP is taking on a quasi-governmental or official status in the legislative branch of government.

Together with the other sponsors, the Philippines requests the favorable consideration and support of this Committee, to finally give due course to this proposal. Granting observer status now will allow ICAPP to forge closer cooperation between the UN and political parties in Asia, thus cultivating and sustaining international consensus on the most important UN actions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.