

STATEMENT

by

**The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations
on agenda item 170: Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the
General Assembly**

in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

United Nations

New York

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***Check against delivery ***

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor in this Committee, please let me extend my delegation's warm congratulations to you, your Excellency, on taking up the Chairmanship of the Sixth Committee during the 70th session of the General Assembly. You can count on Sweden's full support.

As a cosponsor of resolution A/C.6/70/L.7, I would like to take the floor in support of the application of Community of Democracies for observer status with the General Assembly.

According to decision 49/426 of the General Assembly, the granting of observer status in the Assembly is "confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly".

The Community of Democracies is a global intergovernmental coalition of United Nations Member States singularly dedicated to a common goal: to support democratic rule and strengthen democratic norms and institutions around the world.

The objectives of the Community of Democracies and the General Assembly in upholding the fundamental principle of democracy reflected in Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are complementary. By advancing the goals of the United Nations in promoting human rights, development, peace, and security, the Community of Democracy contributes greatly to the activities of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

The core structure of the Community of Democracies comprises the Ministerial Conferences, the Presidency, the Governing Council and the Secretary General.

Following the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat in 2009 and the generous offer of the Government of Poland to accommodate the Permanent Secretariat in Warsaw, a Host Country Agreement was signed between the Government of Poland and the Presidency of the Community of Democracies, at a meeting held in Ulaanbatar, on July 9, 2012.

The agreement regulates the Permanent Secretariat's legal capacity, inviolability of premises and archives. Privileges of the Head of the Secretariat and members of the staff seconded by the governments are regulated in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 1961, whereas privileges and immunities of the other international members of the Secretariat Staff are regulated in accordance with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on February 13, 1946.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.