



ARMENIA

OCTOBER 19, 2015

UNGA 70/ SIXTH COMMITTEE / AGENDA ITEM: 168

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC-SPEAKING STATES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REMARKS BY MR. SAHAK SARGSYAN, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF ARMENIA TO UN

Mr. Chair,

I would like to express my Delegation's appreciation to you and other members of the Bureau for your continuous efforts to advance the agenda of this important Committee.

As you may recall the request for observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States (CCTS) in the Assembly has been deferred since the GA 66th Session due to the reservations and concerns raised by some Member States including my Delegation. We do appreciate the expressed intention of the sponsor Delegations to consult with us. Indeed, the representatives of some sponsoring Delegations during the Committee sessions and the inter-sessional period interacted with the concerned Delegations. We exchanged views, additionally clarified our concerns and positions. These sponsoring Delegations were expected to further discuss it with their capitals. However, so far we have not seen a real determination and sustained progress to address our legitimate concerns. As you may also recall, due to the lack of consensus in favor of granting observer status to the Cooperation Council and in line with the practice of decision-making in the Committee, my Delegations and some others encouraged the sponsors of the present resolution to consider withdrawing the item from this Committee's agenda.

Mr. Chair,

While considering the requests of granting observer status in the GA, the 6th Committee should carefully consider both criteria: the legal status of the organizations applying for the observer status and the nature of activities of these organizations as stipulated in the GA decision 49/426. My Delegation has observed once again that the activities of the Cooperation Council continue to fall short of the criteria set forth in the relevant GA decision. Serious concerns regarding the Council's operations, which go far beyond the scope of its membership, inconsistency between the nature of the Council and

areas of its interest and activities firmly remain in place. For example, the declarations adopted annually by the Council and statements and intentions expressed by some of its members and senior officials of the Council on behalf of the organization, contain provisions and language which are in contradiction with the nature and purpose of the UN Charter. The provisions of these declarations fail to properly reflect the principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter, such as respect for equal rights and the right to self-determination, sovereignty and peaceful resolution of international disputes. Furthermore, the Council's founding document, while elaborating on the adherence to the United Nations Charter, makes selective references to the principles and purposes of the Charter and stops short of reflecting on other important principles and norms of the Charter and international law.

Mr. Chair,

For above-stated reasons, my Delegation reiterates its serious reservations for granting observer status to the CCTS and therefore is not in a position to support this request. We kindly advise the co-sponsoring Delegations consider the examples of the past requests involving the absence of consensus in granting observer status and encourage them to withdraw the item from the agenda.

Thank you.