

Statement by
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Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nation, New York
71st Session of the General Assembly

Sixth Committee

Item 169: **Observer status for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly**

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Thank you Mr. Chairperson

Sri Lanka associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea.

Sri Lanka also wishes to thank all the other co-sponsors of the draft resolution: **A/C.6/71/L.4** for their efforts.

Mr. Chairperson

Since the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was launched in Manila, Philippines, in September 2000, it has endeavored to promote political cooperation and serve as a framework for building bridges and networks of mutual benefit among mainstream political parties in Asia, both ruling and in opposition.

In this spirit of bipartisanship and commitment to UN principles, Sri Lanka hosted the eighth General Assembly sessions of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Colombo in September 2014.

The Colombo Declaration was unanimously adopted in 2014, aimed at promoting regional security, economic integration and mutual trust in a spirit of positive engagement with the United Nations community as a whole.

ICAPP has been a staunch and steady supporter of the United Nations and its activities. The first paragraph of the preamble of the ICAPP Charter, adopted in September 2006, declares the unequivocal commitment of ICAPP to the principles and objective of the UN Charter.

Furthermore, the essential role of Parliaments in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and therefore the importance of the political parties that make up these national parliaments, cannot be over emphasized.

Mr. Chairperson,

Sri Lanka as a signatory to the inter-governmental memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide support for the activities of ICAPP signed in July 2013 remains committed to the goals and values of ICAPP, and ever committed to upholding the values and goals of the United Nations.

We urge the members to support the resolution to grant observer status to ICAPP in the General Assembly.

Thank you