

**Sri Lanka Statement**  
by  
**Sonali Samarasinghe, Minister**  
**Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations**  
**In the Sixth Committee**  
**Item 170: Observer status for the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan**  
**72<sup>nd</sup> United Nations General Assembly**  
**Draft Resolution : A/C.6/72/L.8**  
**Trusteeship Council Chamber**  
**09 October 2017**

Mr. Chairperson

Sri Lanka associates itself with the statement made by the Peoples Republic of China and is happy to join other member states in co-sponsoring this resolution.

The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) was established as an autonomous non-profit inter-governmental international organization in 1997 and Sri Lanka joined INBAR in the year 2000. Bamboo and Rattan are the two most important non timber forests products in Asia. In Sri Lanka bamboo resources support household economies as they are the raw materials used for cottage handicraft industry, housing and construction purposes and they provide income for rural families.

The work of INBAR helps implement a range of Sustainable Development Goals targeting poverty alleviation, sustainable energy, housing, sustainable production and consumption, land degradation and climate change. The Organization plays a vital role in South South cooperation, and supports countries in using this unique resource to improve environmental security and the livelihoods of their rural population.

INBAR already enjoys observer status in a wide range of other UN entities such as the UN Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC) the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) among others.

Sri Lanka believes that permanent observer status to the UN General Assembly will help INBAR engage more coherently and efficiently to further its global efforts in implementing through its work, the Sustainable Development Goals and in establishing international standards and harmonizing system codes for bamboo and rattan products.

Therefore Sri Lanka supports the resolution to grant observer status to the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan in the General Assembly.

Thank you