



**Statement
on behalf of the
Republic of South Africa
by**

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before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

under Agenda Item 177

**“Observer status for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in
the General Assembly”**

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Chair

I thank you for affording me the floor. South Africa associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the People's Republic of China.

South Africa is one of the prospective founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. As such, South Africa is one of the Member States co-sponsoring the draft resolution requesting observer status for the Bank.

South Africa supports the request of the Bank for observer status as it fulfils the criteria for observer status in the UN General Assembly as set out by the General Assembly in its decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994, in that it is an intergovernmental organisation whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly.

The Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank entered into force on 25 December 2015, in accordance with article 59, following the ratification of seventeen States. Membership of the Bank is open to existing members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank. There are currently nearly seventy members in the Bank.

The Bank is a multilateral financial institution focused on infrastructure development. The purpose of the Bank is *inter alia* to foster sustainable economic development by investing in infrastructure and other productive sectors. The Bank offers financing for sustainable projects in energy and power, transportation and telecommunications, rural infrastructure and agriculture development, water supply and sanitation, environmental protection and urban development and logistics.

The purpose of the Bank thus aligns with Agenda 2030 and its work contributes towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The purpose of the Bank is such that it deals with matters of interest to the Assembly.

In conclusion, it is on this basis that South Africa supports the request of the Bank for observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

I thank you.