



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

by

**Romi Brammer
State Law Adviser (International Law), Department of International
Relations and Cooperation of South Africa**

before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

under Agenda Item 174

**“Request for observer status for the New Development Bank in the
General Assembly”**

12 October 2018

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 commends the initiative of China in facilitating the request for observer status for the New Development Bank. We also thank the delegations of Brazil, Russia and India for their support of the initiative.

South Africa is one of the Member States co-sponsoring the draft resolution requesting observer status for the New Development Bank. As such, we welcome the accession to the request for the inclusion of this item in the agenda of this Session.

Chair

My delegation attaches great importance to this agenda item. South Africa is one of the founding members of the New Development Bank and participates actively in its activities.

South Africa supports the request of the New Development Bank for observer status for the following reasons:

The New Development Bank 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, as the Bank is an intergovernmental organisation dealing with matters of interest to the General Assembly.

The New Development Bank was established through an international agreement among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and its membership is open to members of the United Nations. The New Development Bank mobilises resources for infrastructure and sustainable development in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries which complements the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development.

According to its General Strategy 2017-2021, the Bank will dedicate approximately two-thirds of financing commitments in its first five years to sustainable infrastructure development. The Bank's key areas of operation include: clean energy; transport infrastructure that enhances connectivity between people, markets and services; irrigation, water resource management and sanitation; sustainable urban development; economic cooperation and integration.

These areas all fall within the Sustainable Development Goals and the projects funded by the New Development Bank contribute towards the fulfilment of Agenda 2030.

In conclusion, Chair, it is on this basis that South Africa appeals to the Sixth Committee to accede to the request to have the New Development Bank granted observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

I thank you for your attention.