



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**U.S. Remarks at a Meeting of the Sixth Committee on Agenda Item 170:
Observer status for the International Parliamentarians' Congress
(A/78/141) (proposed by Pakistan)
Dorothy Patton
Attorney Adviser
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Thank you, Chair, and thank you to the proponents of this application.

In its decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994, the General Assembly decided to limit eligibility for observer status in the General Assembly “to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly.” Although the United States welcomes the goals of the International Parliamentarians’ Congress (IPC), the IPC is ineligible for observer status in the General Assembly because it is not an intergovernmental organization. In particular, its membership is not made up of states, but rather serves as a platform for individual members of national Parliaments. The IPC was also created by a resolution of the Senate of Pakistan and not as part of an international agreement between sovereign states.

In its resolution 71/156, the General Assembly did not intend to create a new, potentially limitless category of exceptionally “unique” organizations. To the contrary, the General Assembly emphasized that the eligibility criteria in decision 49/426 remain unchanged. The United States is concerned that additional exceptions would eventually render the General Assembly’s decision meaningless, essentially changing the rule without debate on the merits of abandoning the criteria.

We voice our support for the objectives of the IPC “to bring together parliamentarians of different countries to achieve peace, prosperity and progress through cooperation; mutual understanding; sharing and exchange of ideas as well as experiences.” We also voice our support for taking those perspective into account in UN deliberations, but we cannot support the request for observer status.

Thank you.