

Agenda Item 21(f): Observer Status for the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the General Assembly

Statement by Mr. Narinder Singh, First Secretary on November 19, 2001

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express our appreciation to the General Committee and the General Assembly for agreeing to our suggestion that agenda item 21(f) on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union" be referred, as a procedural modality, to the Sixth Committee. This would allow the Committee to consider the question of grant of observer status to the IPU and send its recommendations to the General Assembly before December 6, when the agenda item comes up in the plenary. This requirement of the consideration of the grant of observer status by the Sixth Committee before its consideration by the plenary of the General Assembly is laid down in resolution 54/195.

Mr. Chairman,

2. As the country representing the Presidency of the IPU, it gives me pleasure to introduce the draft resolution A/C.6/56/L.24. It is based on the wide consultations which my delegation has held with various member States on the recommendations contained in the Secretary General's report A/55/996. It has been our endeavour to put forward a draft which would enjoy consensus support -as has been the case with all other resolutions granting observer status to other organizations.

3. PPI refers to GA decision 49/426, which, inter alia, states that grant of observer status in the General Assembly should in future be confined to States and inter-governmental organizations. The IPU has a unique status. It is presently classified as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). However, as noted in the Secretary General's report (A/55/996), this classification dates back to 1947 and no longer corresponds to the status of the world organisation of parliaments, a unique inter-State organisation representing 141 parliaments. The Secretary General has also recommended the grant of observer status to the IPU as an exception to the criteria established in decision 49/426, in recognition of its unique status. PP1 and PP2 read together are meant to capture the spirit of our decision - which is that we wish to proceed further given the status of the IPU while fully cognizant of the requirements of 49/426.

4. PP3 reflects a desire to promote cooperation between the UN and the IPU.

5. OP1 and OP2 are in accordance with the language used in other recent resolutions granting observer status in the General Assembly.

6. My delegation invites all interested delegations to co-sponsor the resolution which has been tabled.