General Assembly
Seventieth Session

19 October 2015

SiHth Committee

Agenda item 170:

Observer status for the Community of Democracies in

the General Assembly

Statement by Norway,

Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik

First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations

Norway is a co-sponsor of the draft resolution requesting observer status for the Community of Democracies. Norway was accepted as a new member of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies earlier this year and we look forward to contributing to the y -0.0183 Tc 12.1 0 Oyr

Democracy and respect for human rights are preconditions for securing peace and stability. The United Nations has long recognized this. It is also reflected in the Charter. Article 21 talks about how the will of the people is the source of legitimacy of sovereign states and thus confirms that legitimate government is based on the consent of those being governed.

It is important to note that the United Nations and Community of Democracies both advocate in favour of a holistic concept of democracy - there is not one single model of government that is promoted. Democracy does not mean the same thing to all people everywhere; it changes each time it translates into a different language and cultural context. The Community of Democracies recognizes this and works with governments and to assist states in developing their own democratic model based on inclusive and transparent institutions with respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Mr Chair,

Non-State applicants for General Assembly observer status must satisfy two criteria: that they are intergovernmental organisations whose activities cover matters of interest to the General Assembly.

Given the nature of work performed by the Community of Democracies, it should be unequivocally clear that the organization deals with matters of interest to the General Assembly.

There should also be no doubt that the Community of Democracies is an organization of an intergovernmental nature. A total of 106 UN Member States signed the founding document Warsaw Declaration 'Towards a Community of Democracies" of 27th of June 2000. Furthermore, its Governing Council consists of 28 states. Its organizational structure and decision-making process enables the Community to carry out its tasks afforded to it by participating states.

In conclusion, Norway is of the clear view the Community of Democracies meets the criteria for observer status set out in General Assembly Decision 49/426 and is in line with previous practice.

Thank you.