STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Item 169 - Observer Status for the International Conference
of Asian Political Parties in the General Assembly
Sixth Committee, 71 st session of the United Nations General Assembly
Monday, 10 October 2016

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

As one of the sponsors of this proposal, the Philippines fully supports
the statement delivered earlier by the Republic of Korea.

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties was founded
in Manila in the year 2000. Its objective is to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among political parties in Asia. Since then, ICAPP has grown, counting about 360 political parties in over 50 countries.

We continue to believe that ICAPP can be an effective and efficient channel between the General Assembly and the governments in the region, as follows:

• ICAPP and its members play an important role in promoting and
consolidating emerging democracies, a priority for the General Assembly.

• In addition to political work and governance, ICAPP members have
been working closely together on areas like environmental protection, natural disasters, and poverty alleviation. These are also priorities and matters for and matters of interest to the General Assembly.

• Finally, ICAPP can substantially contribute to the overall work of the
General Assembly in peace and security, in human rights, and in development in the region.

As the other sponsors have said, ICAPP satisfies the criteria in Resolution 49/426. We would like to stress the fact that members of ICAPP belong to different parties and are government officials, members of

parliament or the Cabinet, hence, part of their respective governments and can satisfy the criterion of having "intergovernmental" character.

Together with the other sponsors, the Philippines requests the favorable consideration and support of this Committee, to finally give due course to this proposal. Granting observer status now will allow ICAPP to forge closer