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Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie in the General Assembly

Letter dated 5 September 2023 from the Permanent Representatives of Canada, Djibouti and Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-eighth session of an additional item entitled “Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie in the General Assembly”.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached to the present letter. We should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the Assembly.

(Signed) Robert **Rae**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

(Signed) Mohamed Siad **Doualeh**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti
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(Signed) Cornel **Feruță**
Ambassador

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

I. Introduction

The Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie (APF) is a multilateral interparliamentary organization comprising 92 sections formed by parliaments and international organizations that are located on all five continents and share the use of the French language.

As the Consultative Assembly of la Francophonie, the mission of APF is to support and defend the French language at international organizations and in legislative chambers, and to promote multilingualism on the international stage. The Assembly is also a forum for debate, proposals and the sharing of information on all topics of common interest to its members. It is based on fundamental values related to the promotion of solidarity, cultural diversity, education, peace, equality among citizens and dialogue among peoples.

The Assembly also aims to contribute to international debates on contemporary issues from the perspective of parliamentarians. The elected representatives whom it brings together are in the best position to act on those issues, as they provide the peoples concerned with a voice. APF is involved in the fight against climate change, gender equality, the promotion of the civic engagement of young people in the French-speaking world, efforts to combat disinformation, the regulation of the digital space, access to education, and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Those matters, which are part of the much broader range of economic, social and environmental problems addressed through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are considered by the committees of APF; such consideration is followed by the adoption of declarations, resolutions and recommendations that may be discussed in national parliaments.

In this way, the Assembly strives to contribute actively to the efforts of the United Nations system entities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 16, on the promotion of peaceful and open societies for sustainable development, is essential to the mandates of several of the Assembly's bodies, which regularly perform concrete actions relating to the priorities defined by the United Nations. Since its establishment in 1967, the Assembly has followed the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, considered to be the founding text of the multilateral system.

As a privileged partner of the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), and as an institution included in the Charter of la Francophonie, the Assembly is an integral part of the ecosystem of la Francophonie and works alongside States to defend the values of la Francophonie.

II. Presentation

A. History

In the long process of building a French-speaking community, parliamentarians were the first to foster the establishment of an international association of French-speaking parliamentarians that would, on the basis of a common language, enable the voice of States, particularly African States, to be heard more loudly on the international stage.

On 17 and 18 May 1967, the Consultative Assembly of the International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians was held, attended by 50 parliamentarians from 21 countries in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. Their aim was to contribute to the influence, promotion and defence of French at international organizations.

In 1989, the Association, which was renamed the International Assembly of French-Speaking Parliamentarians, obtained the status of an international organization and was recognized as the French-speaking interparliamentary body at the Summit of la Francophonie, held in Dakar.

In 1993, the institution became the Consultative Assembly of la Francophonie. That status was confirmed in the Charter of la Francophonie, adopted in Hanoi in 1997. To reflect its new political role in the institutional framework of la Francophonie, the Assembly renamed itself the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie in July 1998 in Abidjan.

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the role of the Assembly was to promote democracy on all five continents, considering new issues such as gender equality, new technologies, cultural diversity and civic engagement.

B. Objectives

The Assembly is a forum for debate, proposals and the sharing of information on topics of common interest to all its members. It has four objectives.

The first is to promote the use of the French language at international organizations and parliamentary institutions. With a view to promoting cultural and linguistic diversity, the Assembly actively advocates respect for multilingualism on the international stage, in order to ensure that all stakeholders can participate efficiently and equitably in international debates.

The second objective is to strengthen the legal and technical capacities of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. Through thematic seminars and training courses, the Assembly helps to equip its member parliaments to play their role and perform their tasks as well as possible.

The third objective of the Assembly is to inform international debates on contemporary issues from the perspective of French-speaking parliamentarians. The Assembly is involved in the fight against climate change, political equality between women and men, and the advancement of young people.

The fourth objective is to promote democracy and human rights throughout the French-speaking world through the parliamentary diplomacy of APF. The Assembly helps to prevent crisis situations and, when necessary, to restore stability and peace. It organizes and participates in good offices missions and electoral observation missions.

C. Members

1. Changes in the composition of the Assembly

The member parliaments of the Assembly are organized into sections. In accordance with article 5.1 of the Statutes of the Assembly, a section comprises all or some of the members of the parliament in which it originates. The section's political composition tends to reflect the composition of that parliament.

The sections are formed by or within the parliaments of States or communities in which French is an official language, a language of administration or a commonly used language.

In 1967, 21 parliaments participated in the first meeting, held in Luxembourg.

Very quickly, the Assembly began to aspire to become universal in character. In the years that followed, many countries sent representatives to its meetings. Ten years after the establishment of the Assembly, its membership had doubled, which greatly expanded its influence.

Over the past two decades, the Assembly has attracted parliaments from outside its natural linguistic area and has continued to increase its membership in all regions of the world.

The Assembly currently has 92 members, representing French-speaking peoples on all five continents.

2. Composition of the Assembly

The Assembly has three types of section: member, associate and observer.

Member sections are formed by parliaments or legislative assemblies in which French is an official language, a language of administration or a commonly used language.

The Assembly currently has the following member sections:

Armenia, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, French Polynesia, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Jersey, canton of Jura, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Manitoba, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, New Brunswick, New Caledonia, Niger, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Vallée d'Aoste, Vanuatu, canton of Vaud, Vietnam, and Wallis and Futuna.

Associate membership is granted only if strict conditions are met. Associate sections are formed by parliaments or legislative assemblies of States or communities that share the values of la Francophonie, use French, particularly in international meetings, and encourage the use, teaching and dissemination of French.

The Assembly currently has the following associate sections:

Albania, Alberta, Andorra, British Columbia, Bulgaria, Catalonia, canton of Geneva, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Lithuania, Moldavia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Prince Edward Island, Serbia and canton of Valais.

Observer status is granted to international parliaments or parliamentary assemblies in which no section exists. Delegations are composed of French-speaking parliamentarians.

The Assembly currently has the following observer sections:

Benelux Parliament, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, Croatia, Czech Republic, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States, Forum des francophones of the European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Latvia, Louisiana, Maine, Mexico, New Hampshire, Pan-African Parliament, Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, Saskatchewan, West African Economic and Monetary Union, and Ukraine.

The Assembly attaches particular importance to the accession of national parliaments, which currently account for 62 of the 92 sections.

3. Accession procedure

New applications for associate or full membership must be submitted in a letter from the presiding officer of the parliament, assembly or organization concerned, addressed to the President of the Assembly.

Applications must include a list of the members of the parliament, the composition of its bureau, its internal organization, the name of its main premises, and information on the status of French in the State or community concerned (for example, any legislative or regulatory measures concerning French, an estimate of the percentage of French speakers in the population, the provision of education in French, educational reforms concerning the use of French, legal cooperation programmes with French-speaking countries, the commitment in principle to use French in international forums, and events relating to la Francophonie). Information on the cultural, economic, legal and international context must also be provided.

All applications for membership must be submitted to the General Secretariat of the Assembly at least six months before a session in order to be considered. Once received by the Bureau, the application is forwarded to the Political Committee for examination. The Political Committee declares whether the application is acceptable, in the form of a recommendation transmitted to the Bureau. The Bureau decides, after discussion, whether to put the candidacy to a vote at a plenary session.

Observer and associate sections may change their status. An observer can become an associate section and an associate section can become a full member. Such changes of status require a formal request addressed directly to the President of the Assembly in his or her capacity as Chair of the Bureau.

D. Organizational structure

The democratic life of the Assembly is based on various decision-making bodies.

1. The plenary session

All sections represented in the Assembly meet annually at the plenary session. Member, associate and observer sections send delegations to represent them at the session.

At the plenary session, the Assembly adopts the resolutions prepared by the four committees, the Network of Women Parliamentarians and the Network of Young Parliamentarians. It elects the members of the Bureau and decides on the admission of sections, changes in their status, their suspension and the granting of observer status.

The general debate at the plenary session is the most important moment in the life of the Assembly. The theme of the general debate is of common interest to all sections of the Assembly, which contribute to that debate. Debates at the plenary session of the Assembly are public and a list of the decisions taken is issued.

2. The Bureau

The Bureau, which is composed of 29 parliamentarians, has general responsibility for the organization and internal functioning of the Assembly. It meets

twice a year. Its July meeting precedes the plenary session of the Assembly by a few days. The other meeting is usually held between December and February.

3. The four committees

Like the Bureau, the committees meet twice a year, including once during the session, at the initiative of their chairs. They identify topics of interest within their remit, taking into account the priorities set by the Summit of la Francophonie. They issue reports on the matters that they have considered. They may propose to the Assembly, at its plenary session, resolutions, opinions or recommendations, which are presented by the chair and rapporteur of the committee concerned. They may adopt declarations by consensus between plenary sessions of the Assembly.

3.1 *Parliamentary Affairs Committee*

The Parliamentary Affairs Committee is responsible for considering matters relating to laws; the monitoring and evaluation of public policies; the organization of parliaments; ethics and deontology; civic engagement in public life; partnership agreements; guidelines and programmes relating to parliamentary cooperation; and the monitoring of electoral observation missions.

3.2 *Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee*

The Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee considers matters relating to human development, sustainable development and economic development, in terms of cooperation, democracy and solidarity.

3.3 *Education, Culture and Communication Committee*

The Education, Culture and Communication Committee considers matters relating to cultural expression in French; education; training; communication; information and communications technology; and broadcasting.

Its priorities are cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. In addition, it is currently considering education for sustainable development and work-and-learn training, and it constantly monitors the Vademecum on the Use of French in International Organizations.

Parliamentary Network to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Pursuant to the resolution on intensifying efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa, adopted in Yaoundé on 7 July 2000, the Assembly, in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), established the Parliamentary Network to Fight HIV/AIDS. On the authority of the Education, Culture and Communication Committee, the Network's mandate was extended to the fight against tuberculosis and malaria in 2014.

The Network provides a forum for raising awareness and promoting action in the fight against the three diseases. It is an information and advocacy tool for parliaments. It meets once a year and works closely with UNAIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Health Organization, the Global TB Caucus, Global Health Action and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria.

3.4 *Political Committee*

The Political Committee considers political matters and the rule of law in the French-speaking world, relations with the institutions of la Francophonie, the overall direction of the Assembly, and legal issues relating to the rules of procedure and their application.

The Committee focuses, in its work, on monitoring crisis situations in the French-speaking world and on supporting States that are emerging from crises or in democratic transition. The Committee also monitors the protection and promotion of human rights within la Francophonie.

The Committee monitors the implementation of the decisions of Summits of la Francophonie and of the Bamako Declaration on practices related to democracy in the French-speaking world.

Lastly, the Committee issues opinions on the overall direction of the Assembly and considers legal matters relating to the rules of procedure of the Assembly and their implementing provisions.

4. The Networks

The Assembly also has two networks to promote civic participation by women and young people in the French-speaking world.

4.1 Network of Women Parliamentarians

Established in 2002, the Network of Women Parliamentarians promotes women's participation in political, economic, social and cultural life, both at the national level and throughout the French-speaking world.

The Network strengthens the status and role of women in the member parliaments and international organizations, promotes the sharing of experiences, encourages solidarity among women parliamentarians and, last but not least, helps to defend women's and children's rights.

4.2 Network of Young Parliamentarians

In July 2018, the Assembly established the Network of Young Parliamentarians to bring together parliamentarians under the age of 40 around the values of la Francophonie and the French language. The Network encourages participation by young, elected representatives in the decision-making process, and develops their skills and influence in national parliaments and on the international stage.

5. Regional assemblies

The members of APF are on every continent and can meet in regional assemblies. There are four regions: Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

Each regional assembly ensures that the objectives of APF are met in the corresponding region. The regional assemblies are also forums for proposals and debates, the conclusions of which are communicated to the Bureau and to APF at a plenary session by the regional delegates and the Secretary-General of the Assembly.

5.1 African Regional Assembly

Of all the APF regions, Africa has the largest number of member sections, with 27 parliaments represented. At meetings of the Regional Assembly and the Conference of Presiding Officers, parliamentarians consider matters of common interest to continental actors, such as the fight against terrorism, migration, democratic transitions and the role of parliaments in governance in francophone Africa.

5.2 Regional Assembly of the Americas

The Americas region has the oldest of the four regional assemblies. Established in 1981 at the initiative of the Canadian section of the International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians, the Regional Assembly of the Americas brings together 15 sections of APF.

The Regional Assembly aims to promote the spread of French, and to defend and illustrate francophone culture in the wholly or partially francophone regions of the Americas.

5.3 Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly

The Asia-Pacific region was established in 2005. Composed of seven sections, the Regional Assembly meets every two years. Its members discuss the regional activities of APF and the strengthening of the influence of la Francophonie in the region. Since the Regional Assembly's first meeting, the Asia-Pacific parliamentarians have worked on issues such as poverty reduction, environmental protection and interparliamentary cooperation.

5.4 European Regional Assembly

The European Regional Assembly aims to identify the "European francophone reality". The number of sections in the European region has increased from four member sections in 1983 to 12 member sections, 15 associate sections and 6 observers today. The European francophone parliamentarians have worked on the status of French in the European institutions, new areas of cooperation for la Francophonie and the prospects for sustainable tourism. The European Regional Assembly meets each year as a plenary and as the Conference of Presiding Officers.

6. Interparliamentary cooperation

In addition to playing a political role, APF contributes a great deal to solidarity in the service of parliaments. It has been performing cooperation activities since the mid-1980s. Paying particular attention to parliaments whose membership has changed significantly following elections and to parliaments that are emerging from crises, APF provides sections with high-quality training and capacity-building upon request. Through a range of cooperation activities covering all the topics necessary for the smooth functioning of parliamentary work, the Assembly gives high priority to training parliamentarians and parliamentary staff.

Since 1994, the General Secretariat of APF has organized around ten seminars a year, in conjunction with OIF. At the request of the beneficiary parliaments, these seminars enable parliamentarians to enhance their skills, particularly in sections emerging from crises or newly elected assemblies, or in relation to topical issues.

The major themes addressed at the seminars include all the tasks of the legislative power: legislative functions, the role and powers of parliament and parliamentarians, law-making mechanisms, parliamentary oversight of government activities, questions of parliamentary ethics and deontology, and respect for procedure.

7. Funding

Pursuant to article 20 of the Statutes of APF, the Assembly is funded by the sections. Member and associate sections pay a statutory membership fee calculated on the basis of a cost-sharing scale established by the Bureau. Every year, APF receives grants from ministries of foreign affairs and international organizations.

Some of the grants are earmarked for the implementation of specific projects, while others are not.

III. Relations with other international organizations

A. Relations with the International Organization of la Francophonie

Although both APF and OIF are political bodies of la Francophonie, and are linked by numerous institutional and cooperation relationships, they are two organically distinct institutions.

Very soon after the establishment of the International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians, the parliamentarians began to consider setting up an intergovernmental agency that would intensify cultural and technical cooperation among French-speaking countries and be the main body of institutional Francophonie. In 1970, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation was founded in Niamey. The Agency became the Intergovernmental Agency of la Francophonie in 1998 and the International Organization of la Francophonie in 2005.

APF participates in all the standing committees of OIF, the Permanent Council of la Francophonie and the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, to which it presents the views of French-speaking parliamentarians on the various issues discussed by those bodies.

The Assembly also participates in the Summits of the Heads of State and Government of la Francophonie; it provides an opinion on the theme of the Summit and a series of recommendations, which are presented by its President to the Heads of State and Government.

In addition, APF participates in the Cooperation Council alongside the direct operators of la Francophonie, under the presidency of the Secretary-General of la Francophonie. The purpose of the Council is to review the cooperation programmes implemented by its members and identify opportunities for developing synergies.

Each year, OIF and APF sign a financial memorandum of understanding for the implementation of cooperation activities that help to achieve their common objectives.

Each year, APF invites the Secretary-General of la Francophonie to present his or her work and exchange views with parliamentarians at the plenary session of the Assembly. The APF Bureau also periodically hears statements by the Administrator of OIF.

Lastly, because of their membership requirements and specific characteristics, the two organizations do not have exactly the same members. The number of members of APF therefore differs from that of OIF.

B. Links with the United Nations

Since its establishment, APF has monitored and participated in the work of various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. Through its activities, APF enhances the scope of the activities of the United Nations and helps to implement reforms in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Assembly clearly contributes to the achievement of three Goals: gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Goal 5); the promotion of peaceful societies through the establishment of inclusive, effective, accountable and

transparent institutions (Goal 16); and environmental protection and sustainable resource management, as well as the fight against climate change and its impacts (Goal 13). The work of the specialized bodies of APF has, for example, resulted in the adoption of a resolution on the economic empowerment of women in the French-speaking world, a resolution in which the Assembly refers to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, thus reaffirming the commitments it made to women's economic empowerment at its plenary session in Brussels in 2012. In addition, one of the objectives of the 2023–2030 Strategic Framework of APF is to make the institution more environmentally responsible and transparent. In relation to Goal 13, the Assembly is currently working on the adoption of a legislative corpus on climate change in the French-speaking world, for use by its member parliaments. The work of the Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee has also resulted in the adoption of a resolution on avenues for international cooperation on climate change.

The Assembly has also held several meetings of its own bodies and conducted cooperation activities at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on themes aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, United Nations Headquarters serves as a forum for consideration and debate for the Network of Women Parliamentarians, which has been organizing events as part of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women since 2015. The holding of a conference on the Sahel in 2019 was also an opportunity to consider the means available to parliamentarians to mitigate the impact of the security threat and strengthen resilience in the region.

Over the past two decades, APF has also followed a number of bodies and/or specialized agencies of the United Nations system. In particular, it has followed the work of the regional commissions for Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe, to whose meetings it has sent representatives. The Assembly maintains very close relations with UNAIDS, through its Parliamentary Network to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as with the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). At UNESCO, the Assembly actively participates every year in meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) is one of the major tasks of the Education, Culture and Communication Committee of APF. In 2011, it adopted the Québec Declaration on the Commitment of the Parliamentarians of La Francophonie to Implement the Convention, a commitment that was subsequently included in the Assembly's various strategic frameworks.

Since 2021, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and APF have been linked by a partnership agreement in which the two organizations commit to strengthening the capacities of parliamentarians through training and workshops, and through the development of teaching materials for the development of adequate legal frameworks in the technical areas of food waste, access to land, agroecology and digital innovation in agriculture, as well as to disseminating information on joint activities for political advocacy and for awareness-raising among parliamentarians regarding FAO campaigns.

Lastly, since 2018, APF has been contributing to a workshop organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva on strengthening the role of parliamentarians from the States members of la Francophonie in the universal periodic review process. By contributing to the workshop, APF is actively promoting human rights and raising awareness among

parliamentarians of the importance of their role in this field, given that 80 per cent of the recommendations made during the review require parliamentary action.

IV. Reasons for requesting observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie and benefits to the United Nations of granting such status

The Assembly and the United Nations have maintained cooperative relationships since the 1970s, confirming the mutual benefits of cooperating on matters of common interest.

Aware that the international community is facing challenges that require the commitment of all political stakeholders to revitalize multilateralism, and to ensure that activities are sustainable and that international cooperation is enhanced, APF could prove to be a valuable ally for the United Nations in consolidating peace, stability and well-being in accordance with the 2030 Agenda.

The Assembly consistently endeavours to contribute actively to the work and efforts of the United Nations system in order to achieve common goals. Many of the strategic objectives of APF are in line with the activities of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of peace, security, human rights, gender equality, the importance of multilateralism and civic engagement. Since 5 of the 11 peacekeeping operations led by the Department of Peace Operations are based in countries whose parliaments are members of APF, the Organization can rely on the Assembly to accelerate the implementation of those operations' objectives, including facilitating political processes, promoting human rights, supporting the organization of free elections and protecting citizens.¹

By drawing up parliamentary reports on subjects relating to the work of the United Nations in the French-speaking world, particularly in Africa, such as peacekeeping missions, activities for young people and the fight against climate change, APF can provide valuable lessons on the state of parliamentarism; the situation of States in transition, particularly from the perspective of local elected representatives; multilingualism; and cultural and linguistic diversity. Sharing this work would enable the United Nations to carry out its activities in French-speaking countries more effectively.

The forthcoming adoption by APF of a legislative corpus on climate change would be a strategic enabler for the achievement of the objectives set in the Paris Agreement. The corpus, which will include political, legal and technical analyses, examples of laws already in force in the French-speaking world, and a proposed method for adapting those laws to the domestic law of other countries wishing to legislate in the area, would help to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 13.

The work and advocacy of APF in defence of the status of French and multilingualism in international organizations could be promoted in United Nations bodies to ensure understanding and inclusion for all, as well as equity between States and better access to information and communication among stakeholders. The analyses and concrete recommendations of APF could help to ensure that the United Nations upholds the status of all the Organization's official languages in its bodies.

¹ See "L'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie s'imprègne de l'état des lieux de l'organisation administrative de l'Assemblée nationale centrafricaine" (The Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie evaluates the administrative organization of the National Assembly of the Central African Republic), available at <https://apf-francophonie.org/l-assemblee-parlementaire-de-la-francophonie-s-impregne-de-l-etat-des-lieux-de-l-organisation>.

APF respects the spirit of Our Common Agenda, established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to foster a more inclusive multilateralism that functions as a network and includes stakeholders such as parliamentarians.

The capacity to follow the deliberations of the General Assembly would open the door to networks and information to which APF does not currently have access.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Noting the aspiration of the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie to develop its cooperation with the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to invite the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
 2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.
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