

**General Assembly**Distr.: General
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Fifty-seventh session**Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session****Observer status for the Asian Development Bank in the General Assembly****Letter dated 1 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Asian Development Bank in the General Assembly". A letter from the Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank, is enclosed, together with an explanatory memorandum (annex I) in support of the above request, a copy of the summary of the annual report (annex II) and a draft resolution (annex III).

I further have the honour to request that the present letter, the letter from the Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China, and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) **Wang Yingfan**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations

Enclosure

Letter dated 1 May 2002 from the Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank, through the office of the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, and in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the Secretary-General to include in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Observer status for the Asian Development Bank in the General Assembly", taking into account the decision taken by the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and subsequently endorsed to me by its President.

An explanatory profile of ADB (annex I) in support of the above request, a summary of the annual report (annex II) and a draft resolution (annex III) are attached to this letter, in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

ADB has cooperation agreements, memorandums of understanding and other cooperative working arrangements with other economic bodies, agencies and organizations in the United Nations system, including the World Bank, UNDP, FAO, IFAD, ESCAP and IMF (protocol agreements on poverty analysis); memorandums of understanding with ILO and WTO are under preparation and are expected to be concluded shortly. ADB has cooperated closely with these and other United Nations agencies in the execution of its loans and technical assistance grants. ADB has also participated from time to time in the preparatory processes of a variety of United Nations-sponsored conferences and committees on development issues. However, it has become increasingly apparent that ADB is disadvantaged by its exclusion from many United Nations conferences and committees relevant to its development mandate and shared mission with the United Nations, to which observer status in the General Assembly would give it access.

Through the office of the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, I would request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly for its consideration.

(Signed) **Xiang** Huaicheng
Minister of Finance
People's Republic of China
and Chairman of the Board of Governors of ADB

Annex I

Profile of the Asian Development Bank, 2002

Annex II

**Summary of the annual report of the Asian Development
Bank, 2001**

Annex III

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Asian Development Bank in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank,

1. *Decides to invite the Asian Development Bank 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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