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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the seventy-fourth session

Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly

Letter dated 16 August 2019 from the representatives of China, Cambodia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to jointly request the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly".

The Boao Forum for Asia is a non-profit international organization dedicated to providing a high-level venue for dialogue among Governments, businesses and academic leaders in Asia and other regions on major Asian and global issues. The Forum strives to promote economic exchanges, interaction and cooperation within the region, as well as between the region and other parts of the world in the pursuit of common development. It holds its annual conference in Hainan Province, China, organizes regional and international conferences to discuss the economic and social development of Asia and beyond, as well as key issues concerning technology and innovation, education, health, culture and the media, and to propose initiatives to strengthen cooperation between Governments and businesses.

Twenty-nine countries, namely, the Commonwealth of Australia, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the State of Israel, Japan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, New Zealand, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kingdom of Thailand,



Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam are initial countries of the Forum. Membership is open to all members of the United Nations. The Forum signed a cooperation agreement with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in 2019 to advance their shared goals.

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 enclosed.

We have the honour to request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations

(Signed) **Sovann Ke**
Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

(Signed) **Majid Takht Ravanchi**
Permanent Representative of the
Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

(Signed) **Mirgul Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of the
Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

(Signed) **Khiane Phansourivong**
Permanent Representative of the
Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations

(Signed) **Baasankhuu Purev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations

(Signed) **Hau Do Suan**
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations

(Signed) **Amrit Bahadur Rai**
Permanent Representative of the
Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to the United Nations

(Signed) **Maleeha Lodhi**
Permanent Representative of the
Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations

(Signed) **Burhan Gafoor**
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Singapore to the United Nations

(Signed) **Bakhtiyor Ibragimov**
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

The Boao Forum for Asia is an international organization jointly initiated by 29 Asia-Pacific countries (see the attached list). The objectives of the Forum include (1) to promote and deepen economic exchange, interaction and cooperation within Asia as well as between Asia and other parts of the world; and (2) to provide a high-level venue for dialogue among Governments, businesses, experts and scholars to discuss economic, social, environmental and other issues important for Asia and the world.

On the proposal of Fidel V. Ramos, former President of the Philippines, Bob Hawke, former Prime Minister of Australia, and Morihiro Hosokawa, former Prime Minister of Japan, representatives of 25 countries met in Hainan Province, China, on 19 November 2000, and agreed that the Boao Forum for Asia would be established and its headquarters permanently located at Boao. On 27 February 2001, the Charter of the Boao Forum for Asia was unanimously adopted by the representatives of all the participating countries, and 26 countries including China became initial countries of the Forum. In 2006 and 2016, upon the requests of their Governments, the Forum accepted Israel, New Zealand and the Maldives as initial countries in addition to the original list.

The Boao Forum for Asia consists of the General Meeting of Members, the Board of Directors, the Secretariat, the Research and Training Institute and the Council of Advisers. The General Meeting of Members is the ultimate authority of the Forum, and includes 234 political and business leaders, government agencies, companies and think tanks from 36 countries and regions around the world (as at 31 July 2019). The Board of Directors functions as the supreme executive body of the General Meeting. The 19 board members include former political leaders, business leaders and former heads of international organizations, who are nominated by Governments of relevant countries and approved by the General Meeting. The incumbent Chair of the Board of Directors is Mr. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In accordance with the Charter of the Boao Forum for Asia and the laws of China, the host country, the Forum possesses full juridical personality and has full capacity to contract, to acquire and to dispose of immovable and movable property, and to institute legal proceedings. In 2005, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Chinese Government and the Forum, which ensures for the Forum treatment as an intergovernmental international organization with regard to premises, tax concessions, entry and exit and the like.

To help Asian countries to achieve common development and deepen economic cooperation with other regions, the Boao Forum for Asia holds its annual conference in Boao in the spring. State leaders, business elites and opinion leaders from various countries are invited to discuss key issues on the economic and social development of Asia and the world, such as finance, trade, investment and the environment. During the annual conference, consensus is reached, and regional and international initiatives are launched through exchanges on an equal footing.

At the invitation of Governments, businesses and think tanks, the Boao Forum for Asia organizes conferences in various countries in Asia and beyond to forge partnerships between the public and private sectors and promote trade and investment facilitation.

The Boao Forum for Asia works closely with the United Nations specialized agencies and major international economic organizations in co-hosting conferences

in specialized areas, conducting joint studies and releasing reports on regional and global economic trends. In 2019, the Forum signed a cooperation agreement with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and held the Global Health Forum with the World Health Organization to advance their shared goals.

We believe that the Boao Forum for Asia, which is based in Asia and with a global outlook, provides intellectual support for the sustainable development of the Asian economy and actively promotes economic globalization. It commits to safeguarding the international system with the United Nations at the core and to upholding a multilateral trading system that is open, transparent, inclusive, just and equitable. As an international public good and a platform for exchange of ideas, the Forum is jointly initiated and operated by Asian countries and receives support from around the world. Its activities are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations in the socioeconomic fields.

We are convinced that granting the Boao Forum for Asia observer status in the General Assembly will help to facilitate deeper and long-term cooperation between the Forum and the United Nations. This will not only support the collaboration between the Asian countries in the pursuit of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, but also promote the robust, inclusive and sustainable growth of the world economy.

List of initial countries of the Boao Forum for Asia

1. The Commonwealth of Australia
2. The People's Republic of Bangladesh
3. Brunei Darussalam
4. The Kingdom of Cambodia
5. The People's Republic of China
6. The Republic of India
7. The Republic of Indonesia
8. The Islamic Republic of Iran
9. The State of Israel
10. Japan
11. The Republic of Kazakhstan
12. The Kyrgyz Republic
13. The Lao People's Democratic Republic
14. The Republic of Maldives
15. Malaysia
16. Mongolia
17. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
18. The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
19. New Zealand
20. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
21. The Republic of the Philippines
22. The Republic of Korea
23. The Republic of Singapore
24. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
25. The Republic of Tajikistan
26. The Kingdom of Thailand
27. Turkmenistan
28. The Republic of Uzbekistan
29. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Noting the aspiration of the Boao Forum for Asia to develop its cooperation with the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to invite the Boao Forum for Asia 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 action necessary to implement the present resolution.
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