



## **STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**delivered by**  
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### **Item 182: Observer Status for the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly Sixth Committee**

#### **75<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

06 November 2020, General Assembly Hall  
UN Headquarters New York

The Philippines thanks the Republic of Korea for introducing this resolution inviting the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer.

As one of the 13 countries party to AFoCO along with its two (2) observer countries, namely Malaysia and Singapore, the Philippines is pleased to co-sponsor this resolution.

We believe that the work of AFoCO cover matters of interest to the General Assembly, and hence meet the criteria set out in General Assembly decision 49/426 of 09 December 1994 regarding the granting of observer status.

As an intergovernmental regional organization, AFoCO aims strengthen forest cooperation by transforming proven technology and policies into concrete actions in the context of sustainable forest management to address the impact of climate change.

The AFoCO projects and programs are developed and implemented based on the needs and policy direction of the member-countries, which include forest rehabilitation and reforestation, prevention of forest degradation, biodiversity conservation, livelihood improvement through non-timber forest products and high value species, and capacity development.

In this light, we ask that the Sixth Committee positively consider this resolution granting AFoCO Observer Status to the General Assembly.

Thank you.