



STATEMENT

by

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the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
to the United Nations, New York

On behalf of CARICOM

in the Sixth Committee on:

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations
and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
Item 84

October 14, 2013
United Nations, New York

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago has the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on Agenda item 84. We also align with the Statement delivered by Cuba on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) as well as the Statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

CARICOM welcomes with appreciation the Report of the Special Committee (“the Committee”) on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, which addresses several issues concerning the implementation of the Charter consistent with General Assembly resolution 67/96 from which the Committee derives its mandate.

We continue to be supportive of the work of the Committee and commend it on its ongoing work. Nevertheless, we agree with others who have advocated that the Committee needs to examine its working methods with a view to utilizing its full scope in tackling important issues. We share the view that more time could be spent on addressing new areas, including, legal matters dealing with the reform and revitalization of the UN and its organs; legal aspects of the arrangements concerning interactions with new actors on the international stage, such as civil society and non-governmental organizations; as well as the consideration of reform proposals that would enhance the effectiveness of the UN system.

Mr. Chairman

CARICOM commends the Committee on its work concerning questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. We, however, are of the view that the Committee should remain seized of measures adopted by the Security Council (“the Council”) acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to ensure that such actions are not *ultra vires* and are consistent with the Charter.

In this regard, CARICOM recognizes the role of the Council in prescribing measures including, the application of sanctions concerning any threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression in order to maintain international peace and security. We submit that the Committee must continue to be vigilant on the question of the application of sanctions to ensure that they are consistent with the Charter and other non-derogable norms of international law. CARICOM also agrees with the views expressed in the Committee that sanctions should only be utilized as a last resort when all other actions have failed.

Correspondingly, CARICOM also submits that it is important to consider the questions of implementing the provisions of the Charter to provide assistance to third States affected by the application of the sanctions. CARICOM recognizes the fatal affect sanctions may have on vulnerable groups in target countries, which raises fundamental ethical questions on those who suffer directly from the implementation of such sanctions.

Mr. Chairman

We also find merit in the position expressed by other delegations that have advanced that assistance should be provided to third States affected by the application of the sanctions.

Additionally, CARICOM recognizes that sanctions could have a negative impact on vulnerable groups in target countries, and consequently, efforts should be made to provide relief to these groups who suffer directly from the implementation of such sanctions, and who may not have contributed to any breach of international peace and security. On the other hand, CARICOM also acknowledges the usefulness of sanctions as an instrument in safeguarding international peace and security when implemented in keeping with the international law.

CARICOM reaffirms its position that all international disputes must be settled by pacific or peaceful means in accordance with the Charter. In this regard, we acknowledge the important role being played by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and other international tribunals which contribute to this process. It is also our view that the prevention of international disputes is an important component to preservation of international peace and security and the promotion of good neighborliness, between and among States. Consequently, we assert the importance of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes thirty years after its adoption.

Mr. Chairman

The provision of information to the international community on the work of the United Nations is important for a greater understanding of the mandate of the premier global multilateral institution. Accordingly, CARICOM congratulates the Secretariat for its efforts in tackling the publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.

CARICOM reiterates its support for calls for the Secretariat to have both publications published on the UN website in all official languages of the Organization. We also acknowledge and are appreciative of those entities that have contributed to the Trust Fund established to assist in the preparation of the Repertory of Practice.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, CARICOM pledges to participate in the future work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the UN with a view to making our contribution to ensure that the UN operates within its mandate established under the Charter, as well as to strengthen the role of the Organization as it seeks to respond to the complexity of issues in an ever-changing global environment.

I thank you.