

Statement on behalf of the African Group by Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, on the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organisation

22 October 2015

Mr Chairman

South Africa has the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr Chairman

It is the African Group's view that the work of the Committee should primarily be directed at ensuring that the organization lives up to the goals of the rule of law and justice. As the African Group has stated before, the organization cannot demand of its members to adhere to the rule of law while itself makes no attempt to demonstrate or reflect this important principle. The work of this Committee should therefore contribute to protecting the Organisation from being labeled hypocritical. As the premier organ mandated to ensure there is peace, security and stability in the world, the Security Council first and foremost needs to become more representative. Equally, it needs to address the problems in its working methods. Maintaining the status quo will only contribute to the further erosion of its credibility and legitimacy and will lead to the weakening of the Organisation – the precise opposite of the purpose of this Committee.

Mr Chairman

The African Group attaches great importance to the work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. Allow me to reiterate what the African Group has been saying over the years that the Charter Committee has the potential to play an exceedingly important role in this Organisation. However, the Committee has not lived up to its full potential mainly because of our method of work and our tendency to allow ideological battles to prevent us from performing our function which is legal analysis. The Committee has, currently on its agenda, several topics that could benefit from careful scrutiny. The African Group

has expressed the support for a consideration of these topics and we are also supportive of the new topics proposed by several delegations. These includes a revised proposal submitted at the 1998 session by Libya with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security; a working paper submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela during the 2011 session, containing a further revised version of the proposal submitted by the same delegation at the 2010 session, entitled "Open-ended working group to study the proper implementation of the Charter of the United Nations with respect to the functional relationship of its organs"; a further revised version, submitted at the 2014 session, of the revised working paper submitted by Belarus and the Russian Federation at the 2005 session containing a draft General Assembly resolution; a working paper submitted by Cuba on the strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness: adoption of recommendations; and a concept paper submitted by Ghana entitled "Strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations or arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes".

Mr Chairman

The African Group wishes, in the context of new topics, to say a word or two about the concept paper that has been submitted by Ghana entitled "Strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations or arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes". The African Group fully supports Ghana's proposal and this is a topic which the Group believes could really benefit from an in-depth discussion and analysis. The African Group notes that on 11 January 2012, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2033 on this topic which, amongst other things, called for the "establishment of a more effective relationship between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council". However, even the resolution noted that much more work needed to be done in this area. This Committee could contribute meaningfully to this development and this could allow us to break free from the ideological chains which so often burden the work of this Committee and our deliberations.

I thank you for your attention.