



**Statement
on
behalf of the African Group**

by

Ambassador Jerry Matjila

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the
United Nations**

in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

under Agenda Item 84

**“Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United
Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organisation”**

11 October 2016

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 speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

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 begin by reiterating 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.

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 it 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.

Mr Chairman

As the premier organ mandated to ensure that 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 Committee has, currently on its agenda, several topics that could benefit from careful scrutiny. The African Group will examine them constructively. As such, the Group is calling for their meaningful consideration by the Committee. 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. 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.

Mr Chairman

The African Group also looks forward to holding inter-sessional informal meetings with interested delegations with a view to finalizing the proposal of the Non-Aligned Movement entitled "Pacific settlement of disputes and its impact on the maintenance of peace" as well as the proposal submitted by Ghana entitled "Working paper by Ghana on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies, at the next session of the Charter Committee.

I thank you for your attention.