



# MALDIVES

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## Sixth Committee

Agenda Item 83: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations  
and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Statement by His Excellency Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Permanent Representative of the  
Maldives

10<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Mr Chair,

Let me start by thanking the Chair of the Special Committee, Mr. Ruslan Varankov for the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. The Special Committee continues to be an important medium for coordinating the efforts to strengthen and revitalize the role of the United Nations.

Madam Chair,

In the seven decades since the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations, this Organisation has stood up to inspire nation-states and individuals in their pursuit of freedom, happiness, and prosperity. The UN has been, and will continue to be, the chief facilitator of peace, sustainable development, and democratic governance.

As the Report of the Special Committee notes, the UN remains the most important medium for the peaceful settlement and resolution of disputes. One instrument that is often employed in managing conflicts is embargoes. Article 41 of the UN Charter is quite clear and explicit in the use of instruments such as embargoes or sanctions, which should not be employed as punitive measures, but rather, should be used as incentives to support and encourage countries to take the difficult decisions to defuse situations which might threaten international peace and security. As the Declaration of 2005 World Summit emphasises, and as provided for in the UN Charter, it is extremely important to ensure that embargoes or interventions are explicitly approved by the Security Council. Let us be very clear: unilateral sanctions or interventions without the explicit mandates from the Security Council have no place in the Charter and are therefore, illegal.

Mr Chair,



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The Report of the Special Committee has reiterated the view of several Member States on the need to strike the right balance of functions and parallel activities among the principal organs of the United Nations. While the roles of the respective organs of the United Nations have been defined and clearly laid out in the Charter and subsequent Resolutions, we must be vigilant in protecting the functions and competences of the most universal organ; the General Assembly. It is the General Assembly that is the most representative body in the UN system, symbolically and figuratively demonstrating the sovereign equality principle enshrined in the UN Charter. The privileged position of the Assembly within the UN system should, therefore, be respected by all, at all times.

The UN Charter envisions an intergovernmental organisation that works with, and for, the Members States, who are politically independent and sovereign States. We have seen time and again, that the sovereignty and political independence of small states are compromised, there is a need to step up our efforts, as provided for by the General Assembly in its Resolutions 44/51 of 1989, and 46/43 of 1991, to ensure that the security of small states are protected and enhanced. As a small state, with limited material resources to mobilise for our defence, the Maldives relies on international law, and in particular, on the Charter of the UN, as the ultimate guarantors of our political independence.

The challenges that we face today are new, and the trials and tribulations are diverse. We may not find the solutions we seek in the institutional memory of this Organisation, nor can we expect other Member States to find the solutions for us. As we begin crafting shared solutions for a shared destiny, we must be willing to undertake innovative approaches and accept the emerging shift that is already underway.

I thank you.

