

STATEMENT
BY MS. MARIA THEOFILI (GREECE)
CHAIR OF THE 2019 SESSION OF
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF
THE ORGANIZATION
BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AGENDA ITEM 85

17 October 2019

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour and great pleasure to introduce the report of the 2019 session of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, contained in Supplement No. 33 (A/74/33).

The Special Committee met in New York from 19 to 27 February 2019 and continued its deliberations on the questions mandated by General Assembly resolution 73/206. It may be recalled that in operative paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Special Committee was requested:

“(a) To continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations and, in this context, to consider other proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security already submitted or which may be submitted to the Special Committee at its session in 2018, including strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations or arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes;

(b) To keep on its agenda the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States;

(c) To consider, as appropriate, any proposal referred to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the decisions of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the Assembly in September 2005 that concern the Charter and any amendments thereto;

(d) To continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency and utilization of resources with a view to identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation;”

Pursuant to the decision of the General Assembly in operative paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Special Committee also undertook an annual thematic debate, under the agenda item on the peaceful settlement of disputes, to discuss the means for the settlement of disputes, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, including in particular those contained in Article 33 thereof, and consistent with the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International

Disputes. This year, the Special Committee focused on the subtopic “Exchange of information on State practices regarding the use of mediation”.

Mr. Chair,

Allow me now to take you through the Report, which consists of five chapters and two annexes. The first of these chapters is entirely procedural. Paragraphs 11 to 13 list all items and proposals that were under consideration by the Special Committee.

Chapter II of the Report relates to the **maintenance of international peace and security**. Paragraphs 15 to 16 pertain to general comments on the topic. Sections A to E of Chapter II then set out the Special Committee’s consideration of a number of items under the topic.

Section A of Chapter II covers the work of the Special Committee on the question of the **introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations**. Paragraphs 17 to 21 of the Report reflect the consideration in the Special Committee on this question. As requested in paragraph 4 of resolution 73/206, the Special Committee was briefed by the Secretariat on the document entitled “Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations”, annexed to General Assembly resolution 64/115. A summary of the briefing and the following discussion in the Special Committee can be found at paragraphs 22 to 29 of the Report.

Section B of Chapter II, at paragraphs 30 to 32, reflects the Special Committee’s consideration of the revised proposal submitted by Libya with a view to **strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security**.

Section C of Chapter II, at paragraphs 33 to 36, summarizes the discussion on the revised working paper submitted by Belarus and the Russian Federation concerning the **request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice** as to the legal consequences of the

resort to the use of force by States without prior authorization by the Security Council, except in the exercise of the right to self-defense.

Section D of Chapter II, at paragraphs 37 to 40, deals with the consideration of the revised working paper submitted by Cuba on **the strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness: adoption of recommendations**. The revised working paper can be found in annex I to the report.

The last section of Chapter II, Section E, at paragraphs 41 to 47, covers the work of the Special Committee on the further revised working paper submitted by Ghana on **strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes**. The further revised working paper is reproduced in annex II to the Report.

Mr. Chair,

I turn now to Chapter III of the Report, which deals with the item on the **peaceful settlement of disputes**. Paragraphs 48 to 53 pertain to general comments on the topic.

Section A of Chapter III covers the Special Committee's **annual thematic debate on the means for the settlement of disputes**, on the subtopic, "Exchange of information on State practices regarding the use of mediation". A summary of the debate can be found at paragraphs 54 to 60. Paragraph 61 of the Report reflects the recommendation of the Special Committee that the thematic debate for the next session be on the subtopic "Exchange of information on State practices regarding the use of conciliation".

Section B of Chapter III, at paragraphs 62 to 64, summarizes the discussion on the Russian Federation's proposal recommending that the Secretariat be requested to establish a **website dedicated to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and update the 1992 Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States**.

Mr. Chair,

Chapter IV of the Report, from paragraphs 65 to 76, summarizes the Special Committee's discussion on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*. The Special Committee was briefed by the Secretariat on the status of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*. The recommendations of the Special Committee on this item are set out in paragraph 77 of the Report.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

Chapter V of the Report concerns the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda of the Special Committee. Section A, at paragraphs 78 to 82, reflects a summary of the discussion on the **working methods of the Special Committee**.

Section B, found in paragraphs 83 to 89, summarizes the views expressed on the **identification of new subjects**.

Mr. Chair,

Before concluding, I would like to convey my appreciation to the delegations for their cooperation, as well as to the members of the Bureau for their invaluable assistance and advice.

I would also like to wholeheartedly thank Mr. Huw Llewellyn, Director of Codification Division, and his team for the excellent cooperation in assisting me as Chair of the Special Committee. Judging from my own experience, the invaluable support of the Secretariat facilitates enormously the work of the Chair. I am sure that all the successive Chairs of this Special Committee can rely on Mr. Llewellyn in order to successfully complete their mandate.

Thank you.
