

GHANA



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STATEMENT BY GHANA

ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL CHARTER

COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND

ON

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE

ORGANIZATION, ITEM 82

18TH OCTOBER, 2019 AT THE UN HQ, NEW YORK

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor to make some remarks on agenda item 82 in my national capacity.

My delegation would like to join others in thanking Ambassador Maria Theofili of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the strengthening of the Role of the Organization for her report as contained document A/74/33.

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished delegates of the Islamic Republic of Iran and The Gambia on behalf of the NAM and the African Group respectively. We note, in particular, the reference to Ghana's working paper on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and Regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes in paragraphs 41 to 47 of the report and by the African group.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to reiterate Ghana's appreciation to various delegations for their cogent views and useful suggestions for our working paper during the 2019 Session of the Special Committee of the Charter which was held from 19th to 27th February. We have taken note the concerns expressed about the possible duplication in terms of existing legal

frameworks as well as possible programme budget implications relating to the revised draft paper on guidelines for cooperation between the United Nations and Regional arrangements or agencies. I wish to assure those delegations that their concerns have been well noted and will reflect in the next revised paper that will be submitted for discussions at the Special Charter Committee meeting next year.

Mr. Chairman

Ghana has always demonstrated its commitment to the tenets of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly, the peaceful settlement of disputes among nations as enshrined in Article 33 of the Charter. In that connection, Ghana is calling for the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and Regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of such disputes. Ghana believes that such Regional arrangements or agencies are much closer to the areas of conflict and as such often better placed to understand the dynamics of such conflicts, appreciate the specific needs for intervention and its operationalization. Again, the fluidity of conflict imposes a greater burden on Regional arrangements or agencies to act quickly to prevent conflict in one country spreading to contiguous states. Consequently, a partnership between the United Nations and those Regional arrangements or agencies would be beneficial to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

In calling for cooperation between the United Nations and Regional arrangements or agencies, Ghana is not oblivious of the fact that the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes of 1982 (approved in General Assembly resolution 37/10 of November 1982) provided a more detailed exposition, as it defined the substantive duties of states in peaceful dispute settlement, as well as the competencies of relevant UN organs. Ghana is also mindful of the fact that Article 33 of the UN Charter leaves scope for the referral of a dispute to 'regional agencies or arrangements,' which refers to both regional treaties and regional organizations. Furthermore, Chapter VIII is devoted to 'regional arrangements,' and their role in dispute settlement addressed specifically in Article 52.

However, Ghana's proposed guidelines is calling for a more structured engagements between the United Nations and the Regional arrangements or agencies. If this attempt is to succeed, two main issues must be addressed: the clarity of roles, the capacity of the Regional arrangements or agencies to engage with the UN, and the capacity of the UN to absorb the capacities of these arrangements or agencies in their responses to security situations in their regions. In the light of the aforesaid, my delegation wishes to reiterate the relevance of Ghana's draft guidelines and our belief that it can be further revised to take into account the comments received from delegations during the February, 2019 deliberation for consideration during the next Session of the Charter Committee meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, I wish to convey my delegation's appreciation to all delegations for the continuous support for our proposal.

I thank you.