

## **Explanation of Position (UN Programme of Assistance)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I requested the floor to express my delegation's position on OP28 of this resolution. We look forward to the ongoing contribution of the 25 members to the work of the Advisory Committee for the next four years. However, at the same time, I would like to note that this paragraph stipulates that members will serve for a period of four years.

According to current practice in the Advisory Committee, non-members must wait indefinitely to join until their regional groups' seats are vacated by the relinquishing members. When the Advisory Committee was established 54 years ago, it seems unlikely that the practice of members claiming such vested rights was envisaged. In our view, if there is any non-member willing to be newly appointed, such willingness should be given priority on the merit of their interest and contribution or at least considered on an equal basis with sitting members' intention to be re-appointed.

We see the merit in continuity of membership. But the merit of continuity alone cannot justify extraordinarily long-lasting or even permanent membership. The Advisory Committee should strike a balance between continuity and novelty in its composition every four years. In addition, the replacement of outgoing members should be determined in a transparent manner.

Membership on the Advisory Committee is largely symbolic and not unduly demanding. Like many other Member States, being a member of the Advisory Committee is not a vital question for us. I do not take issue with Ghana's unique status as the founding Chair of the Advisory Committee. The situation also might vary according to regional group. However, given that we are engaged in deliberations on international law and the Advisory Committee was tasked to help its dissemination, the established practice does not seem to be consistent with the spirit of the Advisory Committee and 6<sup>th</sup> Committee.

Nevertheless, we have joined the consensus on this resolution, including OP28, in the hope of positive change in four years.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. /END/