



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

By

**Ms. Simona Popan, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the
United Nations**

at the Sixth Committee

on the 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"**

United Nations

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– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania* and the Republic of Moldova, as well as Georgia, Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Unlike in previous years, on 2 March this year, the Special Committee on the Charter concluded its work without the adoption of a substantive report. Therefore, we cannot comment much on its work in 2022.

Many delegations still remember vividly the debates in the Charter Committee of February.

On 24 February, while we were sitting in the Charter Committee to discuss issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security, as we spoke, fundamental principles of the Charter were blatantly violated by a permanent member of the Security Council. The very same morning, the Russian Federation started its war of aggression against its sovereign neighbour Ukraine, a war that rages on today.

24 February 2022 remains a dark day in history. A day when the very foundation of the UN Charter - the prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State enshrined in Article 2(4) - was violated by one of its members.

During the debates in the Charter Committee in February, many delegations condemned in the strongest possible terms the unprovoked and unjustified aggression launched by Russia. Others disavowed the discussions as politicized. Ironically, while on the 2nd March the Charter Committee failed to reference the debate in its report, the very same day, with an overwhelming majority, the General Assembly deplored in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. An aggression that is a breach of international law and of an obligation owed to the international community as a whole.

Mr./Madam Chair,

We do not take pleasure in recalling those unfortunate events and we do not want to load the debate of today.

We do, however, need to acknowledge that the Charter Committee was unable to deliver on one of the key aspects of its mandate: the maintenance of international peace and security.

This reinforces our belief that the Charter Committee must seriously reflect on its agenda and working methods, as we have stated on previous occasions.

A number of proposals remain for years, if not decades, on its agenda without concrete progress. This defies the aim of the Charter Committee and calls for rationalization of its work.

Thank you.
