



The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
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Statement of the African Group  
on the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and  
on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization  
Item 82 – 11 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Having the honor to address this meeting on behalf of the African group, I would like, first, to emphasize, once again, the great importance that we attach to the work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the strengthening of the role of the Organization and the important role we want to see it playing in the revitalization and the strengthening of the United Nations.

The African group stresses on what was agreed by our leaders in the 2005 Outcome Document, particularly its parts dealing with Sanctions, the rule of law and the strengthening of the United Nations.

While taking into account the previous adoption by the Special Committee of the Document entitled "Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations," The African Group emphasizes that there are other aspects relating to Sanctions that need to be discussed by the Special Committee. We further stress that the power of the Security Council to impose sanctions should be exercised in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law. Sanctions should be considered only after all means of peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter have been fully exhausted.

Furthermore, sanctions should be imposed for a precise time frame, reviewed periodically and should be lifted as soon as the objectives are

achieved. Sanctions should also be non-selective and targeted to mitigate their humanitarian effects.

The African Group reiterates its serious concern over the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions against developing countries as an instrument of foreign policy and perceives it as a violation of international law and the right to development.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group is open to discussing all the proposals that remain on the agenda of the Special Committee. The Group continues to take keen interest in 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.

With regard to the identification of new subjects, The African Group emphasizes the right of all member states to present relevant new proposals for the Special Committee's consideration in accordance with its mandate. Not allowing the Committee to consider such proposals while, at the same time, criticizing it for the lack of results constitutes a paradox in itself. In this context, the African group recalls the proposal for the inclusion of a new item, presented by Ghana, entitled "Principles and practical measures/mechanisms for strengthening and ensuring more effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations on the matters relating to maintenance of international peace and security".

The African Group, while reaffirming the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes, recognizes the important role played by judicial mechanisms, *inter alia* the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The group stresses that the peaceful settlement of disputes is one of the essential goals of the United Nations and is the most efficient tool for the maintenance of international peace and security, and urges Member States to make the most effective use of existing procedures for the prevention and the peaceful settlement of their disputes.

As this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, which was initiated by

some African member countries and adopted by the General Assembly in 1982 on the basis of text prepared by the Special Committee, the African group seizes this opportunity to highlight once again the continued importance of this Declaration as a concrete accomplishment of the Special Committee. The Manila Declaration constitutes a consolidated legal framework of peaceful settlement of international disputes. The group supports the efforts to commemorate the Declaration's anniversary.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the Repertory of practice of United Nations and Repertoire of practice of the Security Council, the African Group welcomes the conclusions of the Secretary General in his report regarding these publications and also welcomes the progress made in eliminating the backlog in the publication of Repertory of Practice of United Nations and Repertoire of practice of the Security Council, and looks forward towards publishing, both the repertory and repertoire, on the United Nations site in all official languages of the United Nations.

I thank you.