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**STATEMENT  
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
BY**

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**IN THE SIXTH COMMITTEE  
OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER AGENDA ITEM 82:  
“REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE  
CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND ON THE  
STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANISATION”**

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*Check against delivery*

## **Mr Chairman**

Thank you for affording South Africa the floor. My delegation, once again, has the honour to deliver this statement speaking on behalf of the African Group. The African Group attaches great importance to this agenda Item 82 "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organisation". Allow me to begin by reiterating what the African Group has been saying over the years that the Charter Committee has the potential to play an exceedingly important role in this Organisation. However, the Committee has not lived up to its full potential mainly because of our method of work and our tendency to allow ideological battles to prevent us from performing our function which is legal analysis.

## **Mr Chairman**

The Committee has, currently on its agenda, several topics that could benefit from careful scrutiny. The African Group has expressed the support for a consideration of these topics and we are also supportive of the new topics proposed by several delegations.

The African Group wishes, in the context of new topics, to say a word or two about the proposal that was submitted 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 is aware that Ghana is still working on this proposal. This is a topic which the Group believes could really benefit from an in-depth discussion and analysis. The African Group notes that on 11 January 2012, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2033 on this topic which, amongst other things, called for the "establishment of a more effective relationship between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council". However, even the resolution noted that much more work needed to be done in this area. This Committee could contribute meaningfully to this development and this could allow us to break free from the ideological chains which so often burden the work of this Committee and our deliberations.

**Mr Chairman**

It is the African Group's view that the work of the Committee should primarily be directed at ensuring that the organization lives up to the goals of the rule of law and justice. As the African Group has stated before, the organization cannot demand of its members to adhere to the rule of law while itself makes no attempt to demonstrate or reflect this important principle. The work of this Committee should therefore contribute to protecting the Organisation from being labeled hypocritical.

**Mr Chairman**

As the premier organ mandated to ensure there is peace, security and stability in the world, the Council first and foremost needs to address the challenges within itself. Maintaining the status quo will only contribute to the further erosion of its credibility and legitimacy and will lead to the weakening of the Organisation – the precise opposite of the purpose of this Committee.

**I thank you for your attention.**