



General Assembly Sixth Committee

14 October 2014

Item: 81

The Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the
Strengthening of the role of the Organization

Statement delivered by

Gilles Marhic

Minister Counsellor

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

Check against delivery

Mr. Chair,

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

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland⁺, and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We have taken note of the report of the Special Committee contained in document A/69/33 and we thank the Secretary-General for his reports on two of the topics dealt with by the Committee, namely the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions and the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council.

With regard to the item “Maintenance of international peace and security”, we continue to firmly believe that sanctions remain an important instrument, under the UN Charter, for the

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

⁺ *Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.*

maintenance and restoration of international peace and security. The practice of the Security Council in recent years demonstrates that sanctions can be designed in a targeted way to minimize the possibility of adverse consequences for civilian populations as well as for third parties.

In this regard, we note that, this year again, the Secretary-General indicates in his report that neither the General Assembly nor the Economic and Social Council found it necessary to take any action related to assistance to third States affected by sanctions. The report also recalls that no States have appealed to the United Nations for relief of economic problems arising from sanctions since 2003.

In the light of the findings of this report and as expressed during the meeting of the Special Committee last February, we continue to hold the view that studying the question of assistance to third States affected by sanctions by the Special Committee is no longer relevant and should, as a result, be removed from its agenda.

Regarding the proposals to establish a UN website dedicated to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and to update the Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States, prepared by the United Nations in 1992, we have doubts as to the added value of either of those proposals in the light of multiple resources available online through comprehensive search engines. We call for a proper prioritization of the resources allocated to the Secretariat, in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

More broadly, we continue to strongly advocate for the implementation of the 2006 decision on reforming the working methods of the Special Committee. We note with concern that this year, again, a total of 7 working days was allotted to the Special Committee and its Working Group, while the discussions on the substance of the topics under consideration in fact required far less time. For the sake of efficiency, we consequently urge UN Member States, in line with the Japanese paper on the reform of the working methods (A/AC.182/L.108/Rev.3) adopted by the Special Committee in 2006 (cf. A/61/33, §72 and 73), to work together to explore ways and means to achieve a better use of resources and of the meetings of the Committee.

This could be done by considering whether items should remain on the agenda, looking into the usefulness of further discussing them, taking into account their continued relevance and the likelihood of reaching a consensus in the future, before examining proposals for new items, or by reexamining the duration and, as suggested by Mexico in 2010, the frequency of the sessions of the Committee.

We stand ready to participate constructively in this process and hope that the same spirit of cooperation will allow us to make progress on this issue.

Regarding the preparation of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the updating of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, we take note of the

progress made and of the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to reduce the backlog in the preparation and to update those two publications during the reporting period. We welcome the increased use of the internship programme of the United Nations and the further strengthening of the cooperation with academic institutions for the preparation of studies. Considering the importance of the Repertory and the Repertoire, both as research tools for the international community, particularly the diplomatic community and universities, and as a means to preserve the memory of the Organization, we call upon the Secretary-General to continue his efforts toward updating the two publications and making them available electronically in all language versions. We would also like to express our gratitude to those States which have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the Repertory, including one EU Member State, as well as to the trust fund for updating the Repertoire, and reiterate our call for other UN Member States to do likewise.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.