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**STATEMENT
BY
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AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF NAMIBIA**

**The Sixth Committee of the
71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

On Agenda item 84:

**“Report of the Special Committee on the
Charter of the United Nations and on the
Strengthening of the Role of the Organization”**

New York, 14 October 2016

Mr. Chairman

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement and South Africa on behalf of the African Group. We welcome the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on Strengthening the Role of the Organization.

Namibia attaches great importance to the work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations. We believe that the Committee plays a key role given the ongoing efforts to reform the United Nations.

It is through the work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and the Strengthening of the Role of Organization, that the international law would be enlightened and strengthened. It is also through the same Committee that the relevancy of the provisions of the United Nations Charter could be upheld. Therefore the Committee could be considered as a forum to clarify and promote the general international law and the provisions of the Charter.

Mr. Chairman

The United Nations is the central forum for addressing issues relating to international cooperation, economic development and social progress, peace and security, human rights and the rule of law, based on dialogue, cooperation and consensus-building among States. For this reason Namibia wishes to highlight the importance of strengthening the role of the United Nations and calls for efforts to develop its full potential.

It is imperative that in reforming the United Nations, consideration should be given to the democratization of its principal organs and respect for the General Assembly's role and authority. This includes questions related to international peace and security.

The General Assembly being the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and given its intergovernmental and democratic nature has contributed extensively to the promotion of the purpose and principles of the United Nations Charter and its objectives.

Like many other States, Namibia reiterates its concern over the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General

Assembly and those of the Economic and Social Council through addressing issues which fall within the competence of these organs.

Namibia strongly believes that the reform of the Organization should be undertaken in accordance with the principles and procedures established by the Charter and should preserve the legal framework of this legitimate instrument. Therefore, the Special Committee on the Charter and on the Strengthening of the Role of the organization should contribute to the examination of the legal matters in the reform process. In this regard, we reiterate that it is vital that the Special Committee continues to study the legal nature of the implementation of Chapter IV of the Charter, particularly the Articles 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 which deal with the functions and powers of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman

The Security Council-imposed sanctions remain of concern to us. It is our view that sanctions should be considered as a last resort. Sanctions may be imposed only when there exists a threat to international peace and security or an act of aggression, in accordance with the Charter. They should not be applied as a preventive measure in any or all instances of violation of international law. The objectives of sanctions are not to punish or otherwise exact retribution on the populace.

In this regard, the objectives of sanction regimes should be clearly defined, based on reasonable legal grounds, and their imposition should be for a specified timeframe. They should be lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved. The conditions demanded of the State or party on which sanctions are imposed should be clearly defined and be subject to periodic review.

Mr. Chairman,

We have noted with satisfaction that the meeting of the Charter Committee early this year was successful in terms of agreeing on rationalization and improving its working methods.

We look forward to hold intercessional informal meetings with interested delegates with the aim to finalizing the proposal of the Non-Aligned Movement entitled "Pacific settlement of disputes and its impact on the maintenance of peace" as well as the proposal submitted by Ghana entitled "Working paper by Ghana on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies, at the next session of charter committee. We also call on all Member States to constructively engage on other proposals with a view to making substantive progress at the next session of the Special Committee.

Finally, Namibia has taken note of the progress made by the Secretariat since the last report in updating the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. However, we are concerned that the backlog in the preparation of volume III of the repertory is not eliminated. We join other delegations in calling upon the Secretariat to address this issue effectively and on a priority basis.

I thank you!