



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by Nigeria**

**delivered**

**by**

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**on**

**THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE  
ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION  
(Sixth Committee)**

**At the Trusteeship Council Chamber,  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**13 October, 2016**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

Nigeria aligns itself with the statement of the African Group made by the distinguished representative of South Africa and we welcome the Secretary-General's report A/71/33 as well as other related documents tabled for consideration on this agenda item. Further to request by General Assembly resolution 70/117, it is noteworthy that the report also addressed issues on both the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council as well as on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

2. We commend the Chair and members of the Bureau of the Special Committee (on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization) for its commitment to the work of the Committee. It is remarkable that the Committee had its 281<sup>st</sup> to 283<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the UN Headquarters from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 during which it established the Working Group of the Whole, which had five meetings within the period. We take note of the deliberations on a number of important issues during the period, including proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations as well as proposals to strengthen the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations or arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

3. Nevertheless, my delegation has observed that although since its establishment, the Special Committee has negotiated several texts resulting in the adoption of some texts and instruments by the General Assembly, in recent times, the Committee has not come up

with similar instruments. Consequently, it is desirable that some of the views and proposals of Member States at this debate would be revisited by the Committee at its next Session with the aim of developing additional instrument(s) for consideration and adoption in-line with its mandate. Therefore, we like to underline the need for the Committee to continue to identify new subjects for consideration in its future work with a view to contributing to the revitalization of the work of the United Nations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

4. My delegation will like to address few of the issues of interest concerning this agenda item.

5. On the working method of the Special Committee, we commend the standing decision of the General Assembly, (by its resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995), that the Committee should be open to all Member States of the United Nations and that it would continue to operate on the basis of the practice of consensus. However, considering that the Special Committee plays an important role in the clarification and interpretation of provisions of the UN Charter, we like to stress the need to reinvigorate its work.

6. Turning to the Committee's mandate on the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, my delegation would like to emphasize its faith in the primacy of the United Nations as the global multilateral institution responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. Nigeria reaffirms its position on the respect for the sovereign equality of all nations as a key prerequisite for achieving international peace and security. Closely knit with this, international peace and security can only be attained in an environment that emphasizes and promotes the rights and

responsibilities of all States under equitable and just international system.

7. To this effect, we like to refer to Article 1 of the UN Charter, under which all members of the UN have pledged "to bring about peace by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to the breach of peace." Consistent with our abiding faith in this, Nigeria has constantly pursued a foreign policy that promotes global peace and security and has demonstrated its respect for the Rule of Law through her relations with other states and international organizations of which she is a member.

8. Furthermore, towards the attainment of international peace and security, we cannot overemphasize the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States. The role and significance of the International Court of Justice in the settlement of disputes through peaceful means should always be highlighted while compliance with its decision should become the norm. Therefore, we encourage Member States to recourse to this Court, when necessary, in the peaceful settlement of disputes and for those who are yet to do so, to recognize its jurisdictions.

9. On the overall, all hands should always be on deck to continue to strengthen the tools of multilateral engagement, including dialogue, by promoting cooperation and through consensus building among UN Member States. It important to ensure that all our engagements are done in conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. All these are panacea to attaining and promoting international peace and security.

**Mr. Chairman,**

10. With regards to the mandate of the Committee on the subject of Sanctions, Nigeria will continue to join other Member States in reiterating that the application of the use of sanction should be done within the ambit of the UN Charter and under the purview of the general principles of international law. Sanctions should not be used as means of punishing the population of the target country but rather to ensure compliance with international obligation from such country.

11. We also like to note that, not every violation of international obligation should attract sanctions, as there are several other peaceful means that can be explored. For this reason, my delegation urges Member States to make the most effective use of existing procedure and methods for the prevention of disputes and their pacific settlement, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Sanctions should only be employed after all these peaceful means of resolving dispute have been exhausted. Furthermore, we believe the International Law Commission should be requested to give due consideration to the legal consequences of sanctions affecting third States.

**Mr. Chairman,**

12. As a responsible member of the comity of nations, Nigeria will continue to fulfill her international obligations and respect the sovereign equality of nations as enshrined in Article 2 of the United Nations Charter. We shall not relent in our resolve to continue to promote regional and global peace and security through a well-focused foreign policy stance.

**I thank you**