



BANGLADESH

Statement under Agenda Item 83: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organizations at the Sixth Committee of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly

Statement by: Mr. Mohammad Humayun Kabir, First Secretary
Date and venue: Tuesday, 10 October 2017 at Trusteeship Council Chamber

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We take note of the report of the Charter Committee presented by the Chair this afternoon and also the development with the repertory of practice of UN organs and repertoire of the practice of the Security Council.

Pacific settlement of disputes should be one of the core issues of interest as far as the Charter Committee's work is concerned. The Committee had a seminal role in the adoption of the Manila Declaration on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes in 1982. Bangladesh notes with satisfaction that this year the Committee has decided to undertake an annual thematic debate on the subject. Our delegation looks forward to participating in the *exchange of information on the state practices regarding the use of negotiation and enquiry* at the thematic debate next year. This development in the Committee bears testimony to the possibility of reinvigorating its work provided Member States exerted sufficient political will for the purpose.

Bangladesh believes that the renewed focus on UN reform, including in its peace and security pillar, creates an opportunity for infusing further momentum into the work and outcomes of the Charter Committee. Some of the issues under the remit of the Committee are already being addressed sporadically in other forums, yet the potential for the Committee to deal with various issues in a cohesive fashion remains largely untapped. This needs to be reversed with the demonstration of sufficient political will of all member states.

It is worth noting that the role of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security is one of the issues being discussed in the

context of both the Ad-hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the General Assembly and the inter-governmental negotiations on the Security Council reform. We would ideally consider such discussions to be taking place in a holistic manner under the purview of the Charter Committee. These discussions in the Committee should also address the vexed question often raised about the growing encroachment of the Security Council into issue under the remit of the General Assembly. It would serve the purpose of meaningful UN reform to acknowledge these issues and allowing them to be discussed in the light of the Charter provisions that this Committee is eminently qualified to undertake.

We believe the Charter Committee had the potential to add value to the ongoing deliberations on the merits and demerits of sanctions regimes, especially when they hurt the interest of civilians of the target state or third parties. The sanctions regimes are often couched in legal and technical provisions that pose different layers of challenges in compliance, depending on the legal and administrative contexts at the national level. We stress that sanctions be used by the Security Council as a last resort when there exists a serious threat to international peace and security, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression. It is also critical to pursue the pathway for dialogue and negotiation while applying targeted sanctions. We underscore the need for considering sanctions in a non-biased manner in case of any serious threat to international peace, a breach of peace or an act of aggression in order to keep them above the charge of being used as a politically motivated tool.

Bangladesh reiterates that it should be the substance of the Committee's work that should guide its working methods. If there is sufficient proof of our collective will to take forward the work of the Committee there should not be any major difficulty in further streamlining its working methods in a corresponding manner. The frequency of the Charter Committee's meetings should be related to question of making optimum use of its scope to the satisfaction of all Member States.

To conclude, we urge the Charter Committee to consider all outstanding proposals in a constructive and decisive manner in the interest of harnessing its mandate and full potential.

I thank you.