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

MR. AMADOU JAITEH

**FIRST SECRETARY
OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE GAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
OF THE
73RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**UNDER AGENDA ITEM 85
“REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED
NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION”**

NEW YORK, 12TH OCTOBER 2018

Mr. Chair,

The Gambia has the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

I would like to thank the Chair of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, as well as members of the Bureau, for the comprehensive report (A/73/33) presented on the work of the Special Committee before this committee, this morning.

Mr. Chair,

The African Group attaches great importance to the work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. 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 Organization. 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. Chair,

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 Organization from being labeled hypocritical.

Mr. Chair,

As the premier organ mandated to ensure that there is peace, security and stability in the world, the Security Council first and foremost needs to become more representative. Equally, it needs to address the problems in its working methods. Maintaining the status quo will only contribute to the further erosion of its credibility and legitimacy and will lead to the weakening of the Organization – the precise opposite of the purpose of this Committee.

Mr. Chair,

The Committee has, currently on its agenda, several topics that could benefit from careful scrutiny. The African Group will examine them constructively. As such, the Group is calling for their meaningful consideration by the Committee.

The African Group supports the revised working paper on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes, by Ghana at the 2018 session of the Special Committee. This is a topic which the Group believes could really benefit from an in-depth discussion and analysis. The Special Committee on the Charter 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. We are satisfied by the support of delegations to the stated working paper during this year's session, noting that the subject is topical and could help to fill gaps in the work of the United Nations.

We welcome with great appreciation the Charter Committee's consideration of the item entitled "Pacific settlement of disputes" during the general exchanges of views held at its 287th and 288th meeting of 20th February, and during the 2nd meeting of the Working Group of the Whole on 22nd February this year. As such, it has been decided to undertake an annual thematic debate under the agenda item relating to "Peaceful settlement of disputes", so to discuss ways and means to peacefully settle disputes under Charter VI of the United Nations Charter. We look forward to the first thematic exchange this year, which we envisaged will focus on the subtopic entitled **"Exchange of information on States practices regarding the use of negotiation and enquiry"**.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, the African Group looks forward to holding fruitful discussion during the first annual thematic debate on peaceful settlement of disputes this year, as well as a positive consideration of the revised working paper by Ghana on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies, at the next session of the Charter Committee.

I thank you.