



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

at the Sixth Committee

on the 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"**

United Nations

New York

23 October 2020

– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

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

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

Mr./Madam Chair,

We thank the Special Committee on the Charter for its report on the work in 2020, and welcome the opportunity to provide our comments.

First, with regard to the agenda item "***Maintenance of international peace and security***", we consider that sanctions are an important tool for the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. A targeted approach to sanctions is not only a matter of effectiveness, but also embodies our core values and reflects key principles, such as compliance with international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law. Sanctions must be proportionate to their objectives.

Respect for fundamental human rights and due process guarantees is essential for the credibility and effectiveness of sanctions. In that regard, we underline the important role of the Ombudsperson to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions Committee and the need for the UN Security Council to enhance its due process standards in the implementation of all sanctions regimes.

The targeted nature of sanctions is intended to reduce as much as possible any adverse humanitarian effects or unintended consequences, especially on civilian population and humanitarian aid workers. The EU and its Member States reconfirm their continued commitment to preserving the humanitarian space, including inter alia through the development of best practices and the adoption of appropriate mitigating measures.

As regards *other topics under the maintenance of international peace and security* – such as the relationship between the different organs within the UN system or the relationship and cooperation between the UN and regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes -, they may be considered, provided that the Special Committee's work does not duplicate or prejudge discussions in other fora, in particular in terms of financing of peace-keeping operations.

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

Second, with regard to the agenda item "***Peaceful settlement of disputes***", we welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Special Committee's debate on the use of conciliation.

In respect to *other topics on this agenda item*, we consider that multiple resources and legal tools are already available online and easily accessible. We are therefore not favourable to duplicating efforts and allocating financial resources to initiatives that do not bring added value.

Third, with regard to the agenda item "***Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council***", we welcome the progress and efforts made by the Secretariat to reduce the backlog in preparing these works.

Lastly, while we are not opposed to discussing new topics under the agenda item "***New subjects for consideration***", we have doubts as to whether the Special Committee is the appropriate forum to analyse the specific communications submitted pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter, which would by definition arise when discussing the Mexican proposal. We are still studying the proposals submitted by Iran and Syria.

I thank you, Mr./Madam Chair
