

**STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

**BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
OF THE
78th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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

NEW YORK, 19th October 2023

Chairperson,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group.

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, the members of the Bureau, as well as the Secretariat for the work undertaken during the 2023 session and for the report contained in document A/78/33/ on the work of the Special Committee during the 77th Session of the General Assembly. While we note that the latter does not reflect the extent of the work undertaken during the past session, we remain confident that at its next session the Committee will continue its important work.

Chairperson,

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 as it has the potential to play an important role within our Organization. However, due in part to our working methods and our tendency to let ideological battles take precedence over legal analysis, the Committee, which was created in application of the resolution 3499 (XXX) has over the years, not been able to exploit its full this potential.

In this context, we encourage the Special Committee to continue its in-depth consideration of the proposals on its Agenda. Indeed, the Committee currently has on its Agenda, several topics that could benefit from careful scrutiny and the African Group will continue to examine them constructively.

We also recommend that the Committee examine the necessary means to strengthen its role all while ensuring respect for the mandate given to each UN organ, as clearly stipulated in the UN Charter.

Chairperson,

We welcome discussions on ways and means to peacefully settle disputes under Charter VI of the United Nations Charter and would like to highlight the equally important role of preventive diplomacy in conflict prevention, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the promotion of a culture of peace.

Furthermore, Peaceful settlement of disputes is one of the fundamental pillars of the work of the United Nations and its principles and objectives, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, in particular the means set forth in Article 33. The African

Group stresses that it is important to resort to all peaceful means of settling disputes as stated in Article 33 of the United Nations Charter and voices its support for the Special Committee's willingness to continue analyzing all means there envisaged.

Chairperson,

It is also worth recalling that, among the major achievements of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations, is the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, which is celebrated its 40th anniversary this year.

As it constitutes a legal framework which contributes to a better understanding and promotion of international law and the provisions of the Charter, the African Group hopes this anniversary of the Manila Declaration will encourage delegations to revisit the peaceful settlement of disputes underscored under Article 33 of the United Nations Charter.

Chairperson, in conclusion, we look forward to the fruitful exchange this year, which will focus on the subtopic entitled "Good Offices".

I thank you for your kind attention.