

**Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the  
Strengthening of the Role of the Organization Statement by the**

**Permanent Mission of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations  
On behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)**

**New York, 20 October 2023**

Mr. Chair,

My delegation has the honor to speak on behalf of the 33 Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

CELAC attaches particular importance to the work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on Strengthening the Role of the Organization and welcomes its annual report A/78/33 and the report of the Secretary-General on the Repertory of the Practice of the Organs of the United Nations and the Security Council A/78/296.

The Member States of CELAC underscore that the fulfillment of the mandate of the Special Committee depends on the political will of the Member States and the full implementation and optimization of its methods of work. For that purpose, given the important functions of the Committee, it is imperative that Member States make genuine efforts to define a solid thematic agenda, based on both existing and newly identified subjects. This would allow, at the same time, an optimum use of the resources assigned to the Committee by the General Assembly.

The Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States reiterates the importance of the obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means and recalls - as recognized by delegations at the Special Committee - that the Charter of the United Nations provides the basic framework for its implementation. In this regard, it is important that the Committee continues its consideration of all issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security, as they contribute to strengthening the role of the United Nations.

Therefore, CELAC welcomes the recommendation made by the Special Committee to undertake a thematic discussion under the item "Peaceful Settlement of Disputes", in order to examine the means for the settlement of disputes, in accordance with Chapter VI of the United Nations, in particular those contained in article 33, and in accordance with the Manila Declaration on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.

Mr. Chair,

CELAC considers that the issue of UN imposed sanctions, including due process, is in the interest of the whole membership. CELAC therefore wishes to reiterate that, to be effective and contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, sanctions should be enforced in accordance with the Charter and other relevant rules of international

law. This means, inter alia, that the listing of designated individuals and entities should be based on reasonable evidence and comply with due process standards.

In this vein, the Security Council must bear in mind, when designing sanctions regimes, the need to avoid unintended adverse consequences for the civilian population, including their potential humanitarian impact. CELAC voices its concern over the impact on the availability and costs of food and energy resources that ill-devised sanctions may entail. At its 64th session, and on the recommendation of this Committee, the General Assembly took note of the document "Introduction and Implementation of Sanctions Imposed by the United Nations" annexed to Resolution 64/115. The Group reiterates the relevance of that document and calls upon the Security Council to observe these methods of work.

Likewise, and in line with Resolution 67/96, we believe it is necessary to continue to consider the question of the application of the provisions of the Charter on the assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII, along with the proposals submitted on the question. The fact that no State has yet requested this kind of assistance does not suggest that the issue should be discontinued from the Special Committee's agenda.

In this regard, we also take note that the Security Council, in most of the cases, has decided to adopt exceptions to allow States to request an authorization of access to frozen funds for a variety of basic and extraordinary expenses.

CELAC also takes note of the proposal made by Mexico during the 73<sup>rd</sup> session (2018) of the Special Committee to consider the interpretation and application of Article 51 and welcomes the written proposal submitted for the consideration of the Committee. It also welcomes the revised document presented during the last session - document A/AC.182/L.159 - and supports that this proposal be allocated to the substantive agenda of the Special Committee in its next session for its consideration.

CELAC notes that the recent reports of the Secretary General recognized the critical roles played by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance provided by the international community and the United Nations system to third states affected by the application of sanctions. It should also be highlighted, in this regard, the work done by the Secretariat in continuing to monitor and evaluate the information related to the economic and social problems faced by some states as a consequence of the application of sanctions, in order to offer solutions and to evaluate the requests made by third states to the Security Council under the provision of Article 50 of the Charter.

CELAC takes note of the Secretary-General report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations contained in document A/78/114.

Mr. Chair,

CELAC acknowledges the notable contributions made by the Repertory of Practice of the UN and the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council to international law and to

the international system. We also recognize the work of the Secretariat in updating these important documents, as well as the efforts and progress achieved regarding the incorporation of the Repertory volumes into the United Nations website.

We also appreciate the progress made over the years in addressing the backlog of the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council and the Organs of the UN, and encourage increased efforts, in this regard, with a view to ending the existing gap. Likewise, we are grateful to those Member States that have contributed to the Trust Fund.

Mr. Chair,

CELAC expresses its concern over the situation that arose in the Committee at its last two sessions, due to the impossibility of the adoption of the report of the committee in its entirety, due to the lack of consensus among its members. We consider this impasse to be unacceptable and urge all member states to resume the normal practice of the Special Committee in adopting its report during the next session.

We conclude by reaffirming our responsibility in relation to the revitalization of the work of the Special Committee so that it can effectively exercise its mandate as an organ of the General Assembly and the most important of the Charter. Thank you.