Statement at the 78th General Assembly Sixth Committee Agenda Item 82: Report on the UN Charter and Strengthening the Role of the Organization Dorothy Patton Attorney-Adviser United States Mission to the United Nations October 19, 2023

Thank you, Chair.

The United States commends the Secretariat for its diligent work supporting the Special Committee on the UN Charter and Strengthening the Role of the Organization. The United States would like to offer several observations about the work of the Committee.

First, the United States affirms its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, including its purposes and principles. The United States participated this year in the annual thematic debate on regional organizations and arrangements as a means of the peaceful settlement of disputes. The U.S. remarks focused on the increasingly significant role that regional organizations have played in securing peace and preventing the escalation of disputes into violence and in serving as a potential source of compliance frameworks, including for human rights, international humanitarian law, and trade. The U.S. delegation looks forward to continuing robust discussions among Member States to share perspectives on the means of peaceful settlement of disputes between states.

The U.S. delegation appreciated the annual briefing on sanctions. As we continually emphasize, we see carefully targeted sanctions adopted by the Security Council as a vital instrument in furtherance of its mandate under the UN Charter to maintain international peace and security. The United States continues to support international engagement on implementation of sanctions. In addition, sanctions imposed directly by Member States outside of the UN framework remain an appropriate, effective, and legitimate tool of foreign policy, enabling states to address threats to national security and issues of international concern such as human rights abuses. The United States has also taken concrete actions to minimize unintended consequences of sanctions, including advancing, along with Ireland, the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 2664, adopted in December 2022, which created a carveout for humanitarian efforts in all UN sanctions regimes.

With respect to the proposal of new subjects for consideration by the UN Charter Committee, the United States reiterates its longstanding view that the Committee should welcome practical, non-political, and non-duplicative proposals. The United States notes with regret the use of the Special Committee as a venue to air disputes that would be more productively addressed through bilateral engagement or that would be more appropriately handled in other UN fora. Finally, the U.S. delegation again expresses its disappointment that the Special Committee could not adopt a substantive report accurately memorializing the contributions and deliberations of Member States. This failure was largely due to one delegation's continued refusal to allow language accurately characterizing denunciations made by Member States of acts which violate the Charter that the Special Committee is tasked to uphold. It is natural that Member States disagree on important matters before the Special Committee. Yet the integrity of the historical record and the continuity of work of the Special Committee require that such divergent positions be accurately and clearly indicated. We urge a return to the wellestablished tradition of the Special Committee to accurately represent the exchange of views by Member States.

Thank you.