



# PHILIPPINES

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## STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations

### Agenda item 82

### Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

2 November 2023

78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Mr. Chair,**

At the outset, we align ourselves with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We thank the Secretariat for the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (A/78/33).

Mr. Chairman, as a founding member of the United Nations, we hold the Special Committee in high regard. The Special Committee, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, has a unique mandate of considering all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations and, in this context, to consider other proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Special Committee has many achievements – including the 1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes which is a testament to what the Committee can achieve as a forum for meaningful engagement of Member States in questions related to, *inter alia*, the Charter and international law.

At this year's session, we shared perspectives on the ASEAN way, during the thematic debate on resort to regional agencies or arrangements as peaceful means of dispute settlement.

At the sidelines of the session, and consistent with the General Assembly resolution encouraging the United Nations and member states to commemorate the anniversary of the Manila Declaration, the Philippines, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, an interactive dialogue on the Manila Declaration focusing on "The Role of International Tribunals in the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes."

In revisiting the Declaration – which is an initiative of non-aligned countries – through an interactive dialogue with jurists, we endeavored to collectively recall how the Special Committee

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has contributed significantly to enhancing common understanding of the UN Charter, particularly on the principles and rules of the peaceful settlement of international disputes and the ways and means that it provides.

**Mr. Chair,**

We remain firm in the belief that this Committee has a vital role in the reform process of the United Nations, particularly in the examination of the legal aspects of the process. We echo the point that there are proposals before this Committee that inform this process and, if discussed and debated, could lead to concrete outcomes.

We note the Secretary General's report on the Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions and look forward to further substantive reports.

Meanwhile, we note with appreciation progress made in the preparation of studies for the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and in updating the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, including the updates in the relevant websites.

Finally, the Philippines thanks Ambassador and Permanent Representative Zéphyrin Maniratanga (Burundi), the Chair of this year's session, for steering the Special Committee. We remain hopeful that the Committee will reach consensus on a full substantive report in the coming year. **END**