

Statement by the Delegation of Bangladesh at the General Debate Segment of the Regular Session of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organisation on Wednesday, 17 February 2016

Mr./ Madam Chair,

My delegation congratulates you and your colleagues in the Bureau on your election, and assures you of our continued support in discharging your responsibilities.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We would wish to supplement with five specific points:

First, the renewed focus on reinvigorating the work of the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly creates an opportunity for infusing further momentum into the work and outcomes of this Committee. Its work has for a considerable amount of time been held hostage to the rather irreconcilable views among Member States. What has palpably been missing is sufficient political will to allow the Committee to deliver on its potentials. As the ongoing discussions on the revitalization of the General Assembly, reform of the Security Council and Open Debates in the Council in relation to the Charter provisions on maintenance of international peace and security demonstrate, there is ample opportunity for using this Committee as a vehicle for concrete, results-based outcomes on a number of critical issues for the membership. Some of those issues are already being addressed sporadically in other forums, yet the potential for the Committee to deal with these various issues in a cohesive fashion remains largely untapped. This needs to be reversed.

Second, pacific settlement of disputes is the leitmotif for this Committee, reinforced by the Manila Declaration of 1982. As the various reviews of the UN's peace and security architecture reveal, the organization has not perhaps invested its expertise and resources to vigorously and creatively pursuing the Charter-stipulated means of pacific settlement of disputes to the extent that it has invested itself in firefighting after the outbreak or relapse into armed conflicts. We should collectively reflect how we can use this Committee to navigate and enhance our understanding and use of proven tools like mediation, conciliation, arbitration, international judicial opinions and others to promote peaceful settlement of disputes and thus strengthen the international rule of law. On the other spectrum, pacific settlement of disputes is often not the last word since there may be many internal and external spoilers working at unraveling the peace dividends. This Committee's work could also look into that aspect of sustaining the outcome of pacific settlements of disputes.

Third, there will continue to be some debate over the merits and demerits of sanctions regimes, especially when they potentially hurt the interest of civilians or third parties. Such debates should be seen in a positive light as they have paved the way for an avowed shift from blanket sanctions to targeted sanctions to avoid mitigating the consequences on people in general. It is, however, hard to deny that the sanctions regimes are couched in legal and technical provisions that pose different layers of challenges in compliance, depending on the legal and administrative contexts at the national level. The Panel of Experts monitoring the various sanctions regimes are doing useful work, but often find themselves in a position where they are not able to provide plausible or officially attributable responses

considering the frame of reference they operate within. The interface of UN sanctions with the unilateral ones is also an issue that often creates unwarranted confusion.

Fourth, it is perhaps time for the organization to start contemplating ways to acknowledge in the context of the Charter various elements in the UN peace and security architecture such as peacekeeping and peacebuilding. These have emerged over time as flagship activities of the organization, and perhaps deserve to be accommodated within the framework of the Charter in creative ways. The growing importance attached to the UN's partnership with regional arrangements and organisations also deserves to be elaborated further building on the Charter provisions, as reflected in the submission made by Ghana. Our delegation would be happy to engage in further discussions on these with any interested partners.

Lastly, it is perhaps useful to consider the working methods of the Committee to further focus its work on issues where it may add value to strengthening the role of the organization. It is our view that it should be the substance of the Committee's work that should guide its working methods. If there is sufficient proof of our collective will to take forward the work of the Committee in certain desired directions, there should not be any major difficulty in further streamlining its working methods in a corresponding manner.

I thank you, Madam Chair.