

Statement on behalf of the African Group by His Excellency, Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, in the Meeting of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organisation

16 February 2016

Mr Chairman

South Africa has the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Group wishes to congratulate you and the bureau on your appointments respectively. The Group also wishes to extend its gratitude to the previous Chair and the bureau for the job well in steering the sessions of the Charter Committee last year.

Mr Chairman

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. Allow me to begin by reiterating what the African Group has been saying over the years that the Charter Committee has the potential to play an exceedingly important role in this Organisation. However, the Committee has not lived up to its full potential mainly because of our method of work and our tendency to allow ideological battles to prevent us from performing our function which is legal analysis.

Mr Chairman

It is the African Group's view that the work of the Committee should primarily be directed at ensuring that the organization lives up to the goals of the rule of law and justice. As the African Group has stated before, the organization cannot demand of its members to adhere to the rule of law while itself makes no attempt to demonstrate or reflect this important principle. The work of this Committee should therefore contribute to protecting the Organisation from being labeled hypocritical.

Mr Chairman

As the premier organ mandated to ensure that there is peace, security and stability in the world, the Security Council first and foremost needs to become more representative. Equally, it needs to address the problems in its working methods. Maintaining the status quo will only

contribute to the further erosion of its credibility and legitimacy and will lead to the weakening of the Organisation – the precise opposite of the purpose of this Committee.

Mr Chairman

The Committee has, currently on its agenda, several topics that could benefit from careful scrutiny. The African Group will examine them constructively. As such, the Group is calling for their meaningful consideration by the Committee. The Group further welcomes the request from the Delegation of Ghana to place its proposal titled *"Strengthening the Relationship and Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Organisations or Arrangements in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes"* under agenda item, "Maintenance of International Peace and Security in all its Aspects in an effort to strengthen the Role of the United Nations.

Mr Chairman

The African Group fully supports Ghana's proposal and this is a topic which the Group believes could really benefit from an in-depth discussion and analysis. This Committee could contribute meaningfully to this development and this could allow us to break free from the ideological chains which so often burden the work of this Committee and our deliberations.

I thank you for your attention.