

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York



بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
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Statement on behalf of the African Group
by H E. Ambassador Mohammed BESSEDIK,
Deputy Permanent Representative.

71st session of the General Assembly of the
United Nations

Opening of the Special Committee on the Charter
of the United Nations and on the Strengthening
of the Role of the Organisation

21 February 2017

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group which 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 done in chairing the session 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 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 be of benefit from careful scrutiny. The African Group is supportive of these topics proposed by several delegations. As such, the Group is calling for their meaningful consideration by the Committee. The Group further welcomes the convening of the informal meeting held on 2nd February of this year, which came as a result of the General Assembly resolution 71/146 of 13 December 2016. This meeting allowed the

consideration of the proposal of the Non-Aligned Movement entitled "Pacific settlement of disputes and its impact on the maintenance of peace", and the working paper submitted by Ghana on "Strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes".

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group fully supports Ghana's proposal and this is a topic that 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.

In conclusion, the African Group would like to acknowledge that last year's session of the Committee was marked by an exceptional dynamism and constructive spirit which permitted us to move forward. It is the Group's hope to see a similar spirit guiding our work during this session.

I thank you for your attention.

