



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

350 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016
<http://www.china-un.org>

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(translation)

Statement by Ambassador WU Haitao

*Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations*

**At the General Debate of the 2019 Session of
the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations
and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization**

New York, 19 February 2019

Madam Chair,

The Special Committee is the standing mechanism for meetings within the UN framework to discuss the UN Charter and the strengthening of the role of the Organization. China always attaches great importance to the positive role of the Special Committee and supports the Committee in carrying out its work as mandated by the General Assembly and thereby making its contributions by safeguarding the purposes and principles of the Charter and strengthening the role of the UN.

Madam Chair,

“Peaceful settlement of disputes” is an important item on the Special Committee’s current agenda. China consistently advocates the proper settlement of international disputes by the parties concerned through peaceful means such as negotiations and consultation. The choice and application of the means of dispute settlement should be in line with the principle of state consent. The right of all countries to freely choose such means should be fully respected. China supports the Special Committee’s item-by-item

deliberations on the means of dispute settlement as provided for in Article 33 of the Charter. Such exchanges among member states are indeed of great significance.

In accordance with Resolution 73/206 of the General Assembly, the means of mediation will be discussed at this session. Mediation is an important means for the settlement of disputes under Charter provisions and is widely used in real practice. Being flexible in form, mediation can effectively accommodate the comfort level of all parties and thus plays an important and unique role in reducing tensions between parties to a dispute and creating conditions for dispute settlement and ultimately its resolution. As a means of settling disputes through third-party intervention, mediation should be applied in strict observance of the purposes and principles of the Charter and with state consent as a pre-condition. Important parameters including the mediator and mediation methods and procedures must be selected based on the consent of the states concerned without imposition on others. Doing so allows mediation to fully play its unique role in dispute settlement and thereby produce good results.

As a founding member of the United Nations and a Permanent Member of the Security Council, China is committed to promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes. In carrying out the related activities, China has adhered to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, respected the sovereignty and will of the countries concerned and upheld an objective and just position, which played an active role in the settlement of regional and international hot-spot issues.

Madam Chair,

"Maintaining international peace and security" is one of the UN's purposes and a solemn commitment of all countries under the Charter. In recent years, the Special Committee has carried out deliberations on the working papers submitted by relevant countries under this agenda item, with some progress achieved. China appreciates the efforts made by the related countries to advance deliberations on this item and the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by all parties.

On the question of sanctions, China wants to reiterate that

sanctions are the end but the means, and should serve political solutions to the problems, that sanctions should only be used on the premise that other peaceful means have been exhausted and should be in line with the UN Charter and relevant principles of international law, and that the impact of sanctions on the general population and third states minimized. China believes in the imperative need to strictly abide by and implement the Security Council resolutions on sanctions, and opposes the imposition of additional unilateral sanctions that are inconsistent with the Charter and that undermine the effectiveness and authority of sanctions imposed by the UN.

On the proposal of some states to ask the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the resort to the use of force by States without prior authorization of the Security Council, China believes that this proposal helps further clarify the rules in international law that prohibit the use of force and thus contributes to the understanding and implementation of the Charter. We therefore support further consideration of this proposal by the Special Committee.

Madam Chair,

China supports the Special Committee in playing a greater role by improving the methods and efficiency of its work. We hope that all parties will, based on the spirit of cooperation, explore new line of thinking and new measures that are practical and effective.

Last but not least, China appreciates the Secretariat of the UN for its efforts in preparing the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and updating the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. We look forward to the early publication of the Repertory and the Repertoire in all UN official languages.

Thank you, Madam Chair.