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STATEMENT

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE GAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

OPENING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED
NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK
TUESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2019

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation 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 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. The African Group has over the years trust the potential of the Charter Committee to play an exceedingly important role in this Organization. However, the Committee has not lived up to its full potential mainly because of the method of work and the tendency to allow mere ideologies to stifle the true legal work we are here to represent.

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 Organization 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 Organization – 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 this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group fully supports Ghana's revised working paper on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional Organizations or Arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes. 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. We are satisfied by the support of delegations to the working group during the last year's session, noting that the subject is topical and could help to fill gaps in the work of the United Nations.

We continue to support NAM proposal entitled "Pacific settlement of disputes and its impact on the maintenance of peace". As such, it has been decided to undertake an annual thematic debate under the agenda item relating to "Peaceful settlement of disputes", so to discuss ways and means to peacefully settle disputes under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter.

This year first thematic debate will focus on the subtopic entitled "Exchanges of information on States practices regarding the use of negotiation and enquiry".

In conclusion, the African Group looks forward to a fruitful discussion during this session

I thank you for your attention.