

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY GHANA DURING THE SESSION OF
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED
NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE
ORGANISATION - TUESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 2019, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the Committee and the other members of the bureau for this session and to assure you of my delegation's cooperation and support.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and The Gambia on behalf of the African group.

Mr. Chairman,

Ghana welcomes the report of the Committee and, as always, attaches great value to the work of this committee, particularly its contribution to the revitalization and the strengthening of the United Nations. My delegation, therefore, urges the Committee to engage in deliberations on the proposals before it with a view to advancing the work of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

As you may recall, Ghana proposed for consideration, the addition of a new topic to the Committee's agenda under Identification of New Subjects. Subsequently, my delegation proposed and it was accepted by members states that to benefit from in-depth discussion, Ghana's proposal entitled "Strengthening the Relationship and Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Organizations/Arrangements in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes" should be considered under the subject Maintenance of Peace and Security.

Mr. Chairman,

During the last session of our debate, some delegations raised concerns about duplication of work as the Security Council was the only body authorized to deal with issues proposed by my delegation in the paper. My delegation wishes to state that such concerns have been taken on board and would wish to suggest some Principles and Mechanisms to Enhance Cooperation between the UN and Regional Bodies as a way of bridging some gaps in the cooperation arrangements between the UN and such regional arrangements and agencies.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation recognizes the fact that it is neither possible nor appropriate to establish a universal guideline defining the ideal relationship between the UN and regional, sub regional organizations and arrangements in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes for several reasons. For one, different levels of cooperation are required in different types of Peaceful Settlement of Disputes. The characteristics of each regional, sub regional organization and arrangement differ considerably, as do their resource availability and institutional capacity. Nevertheless, it is possible to identify certain general principles on which cooperation could be based. It is in this context that the following principles cited from the Lessons Learned Unit Department of Peacekeeping, March 1999 of the United Nations, to enhance cooperation between the UN and regional, sub regional organizations and arrangements in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes have been further identified, including those submitted in the revised paper during the last session.

- The Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter, and it is in this context that effective cooperation must take place. The use of regional, sub regional organizations and arrangements cannot be seen as diluting this responsibility. Constancy of engagement by the Security Council is crucial to the credibility of the UN.**

- **Regional organizations and arrangements have a responsibility under the Charter to address regional conflicts; at the same time, the Security Council must be kept informed regularly of the measures that are being taken or being contemplated by regional, sub regional organizations and arrangements. Peaceful Settlement of Disputes by regional organizations and/or arrangements command greater consensus if authorized by the Security Council before they are established.**
- **Cooperation between the UN and regional, sub regional organizations and arrangements should be an ongoing and dynamic process so that the benefits of the cooperation can be reaped in preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace support and later, in post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building.**
- **Cooperation is enhanced if the mandates given to UN operations and those led by regional, sub regional organizations and arrangements are concise and clear. The adequacy of the mandates, particularly the humanitarian and human rights aspects, given to UN operations as well as those provided to regional and sub regional entities is also critical.**

- **Early and comprehensive consultation and effective information sharing between the UN and respective regional, sub regional organizations and arrangements is a sine qua non for good cooperation and should begin before any peaceful settlement of disputes mechanisms are established.**
- **A framework for cooperation should be agreed to between the UN and the concerned regional, sub regional organization and arrangement before the respective operations are established. This framework should clearly spell out the responsibility of each entity in the mission area.**
- **Cooperation should be based on comparative advantages the UN and relevant regional, sub regional organizations and arrangements possess, leading to complementarity of efforts and elimination of duplication and competition.**
- **The effectiveness of and the political support for a regional or sub regional in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes effort can be enhanced if all members of the region or sub-region make a direct contribution to the effort. Such commitment tends to strengthen**

the unity of purpose of the entire membership of the regional, sub-regional organization and arrangement.

- **Given that the maintenance of international peace and security is primarily the responsibility of the Security Council, assisting in capacity building and funding for in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes efforts of regional, sub regional organizations and arrangements that lack resources for such efforts should be a concern of the Council. The international donor community should also try to assist.**

- **The UN and regional or sub regional bodies, with the support of the local authorities, could seek ways to strengthen civil society for the purpose of improving capacity in countries in conflict. A coordinated and comprehensive public information strategy, targeting not only the local population but a regional and international audience as well, would assist in that goal.**

Mr. Chairman,

The revised text is, therefore, largely based on General Assembly A/RES/49/57 of 17 February 1995 with some initial proposed guidelines

submitted for the consideration of the meeting and my delegation looks forward to further discussions on the paper towards developing guidelines based on consensus. My delegation welcomes further inputs from members with a view to enriching the paper.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to convey its appreciation to delegations for the support for Ghana's proposal and looks forward to a fruitful and concrete outcome in the deliberations of the session of this Committee. We wish to also call for the inclusion of the revised paper in the next session of the Committee.

I thank you.