



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations
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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING

THE

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Thank you **Madam Chairperson,**

I congratulate you and other members of the bureau on your election and assure you of my delegation's cooperation and support as you guide the work of this Commission.

Kenya aligns itself with the statements read on behalf of the Africa Group by the distinguished delegate of the Gambia and by the distinguished delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In 1974 at its 29th session, the General Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Charter of the United Nations to consider any specific proposals that Governments might make with a view to enhancing the ability of the United Nations to achieve its purposes. 35 sessions later, this statement still holds true.

We consider the work of the "Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization" important. Its mandate is well placed to play an important role in the interpretation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations especially now when the need for making the UN fit for purpose has become even more pressing owing to the unique and dynamic challenges that the world faces.

Madam Chairperson,

We need to adapt to the changing reality and adopt necessary changes to the Organization's founding instruments and its current working methods. To this end, Kenya welcomes the trend of setting thematic debates based on identified sub topics so that Members can focus their contributions.

Kenya wishes to make its comments on two specific issues which are under consideration of the Special Committee, specifically the thematic debate on the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, and those contained in Article 33 thereof that require our attention and the preparation of the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council Repertory.

Kenya supports the revised working paper by Ghana which can aid in identifying possible guidelines that can be formulated to facilitate the cooperation of the United Nations with regional organizations without duplicating or prejudicing discussions in other forums of the United Nations.

Madam Chairperson

The question of the peaceful settlement of disputes among States, is an important issue for Kenya and we support all efforts in promoting peaceful settlement of disputes based on provisions of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. We express our support for all efforts to address the peaceful settlement of disputes which can prevent conflicts, save lives and play a critical role in maintaining international peace and security. We reiterate the important role that regional arrangements play in promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes, the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law in the maintenance of peace and security. We also support the call for the United Nations to explore urgent measures to improve their working relationship with regional arrangements towards the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Madam Chairperson

In our region, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has established a Mediation Support Unit (MSU) and is in the process of developing a Regional Reconciliation Framework and Dialogue Index as tools to assist mediation processes both in inter and intra-state conflicts as well as to help prevent and resolve conflicts and strengthen conflict transformation for a positive change.

Madam Chairperson

IGAD continues to play a critical mediation role in the negotiation of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) and is also mandated by the African Union (AU) and the broader international community, to lead the implementation of the ARCSS through the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC).

The MSU is also looking to enhancing gender responsive dialogue in the reconciliation process and engagement of youth to strengthen reconciliation processes. Partnerships and collaborations with other regional economic communities and mechanisms will be necessary to support the unit. The working paper could aid in identifying possible guidelines, which could be formulated during an intersessional dialogue that could guide regional mechanisms such as the IGAD MSU and the African Union Mediation Support Unit which currently provide capacity support to mediators, including through serving as the secretariat for the annual retreat of African mediators. Cooperation with the United Nations can also enhance capacity and provide technical expertise in designing, supporting and conducting mediation and related activities for Africa peace-building efforts.

My delegation therefore supports the call for the United Nations to confirm its commitment to working more closely with regional organizations by creating, through a collaborative process, a framework that defines the responsibilities of the United Nations and relevant regional organizations in a given conflict situation, while maintaining flexibility with regard to the rate of response and other peculiarities of varied conflict situations.

Madam Chairperson

My delegation commends the continuing efforts of the Secretariat in updating the Repertory and the Repertoire and the reduction of backlog in their preparation.

We welcome the contributions made by Member States to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog and updating the Repertory. We commend the Secretary-General for the progress made in the preparation of studies for the Repertory of Practice of United Nations and call upon him to continue his efforts towards updating the two publications and making them available electronically in all their respective language versions and encourage the continued updating of the website for the Repertory.

Finally, **Madam Chairperson**

Kenya reaffirms its commitment to remain engaged and constructively contribute to the work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

I thank you