

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION
(16 February 2021)**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

The Charter of the United Nations has served as the constitution for the functioning of the world order since more than seventy-five years, authoritatively guiding the international community in preserving and ensuring peace, security, freedom, justice and development. This visionary and living document embodies the fundamental and timeless principles, purposes and values that underpin our humanity.

2020 brought about yet another unprecedented global challenge that put us to the test. The Charter has, and will continue to be our anchor and point of departure in overcoming the traditional as well as the contemporary challenges that the global community faces, whether it be pandemics, climate change, terrorism or rising xenophobia and racism. Needless to say, multilateralism and the rule of law have to be at the core of this endeavor.

The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations last year served as a compelling opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to multilateralism, and to reflect thoroughly on how we can realize our responsibility to ensure that this organization enjoys the capacity to address current challenges, and to enhance its effectiveness and adaptability as the main international platform to fulfill the key mandates enshrined in the Charter.

With its focus on various aspects of the maintenance of international peace and security, peaceful settlement of disputes, and the annual reports documenting the practice of UN organs, the Special Committee occupies an important place in the UN architecture, and has made significant contributions in these areas.

As part of its broader efforts to preserve international peace and security, Turkey has taken on a leading role in the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts. In addition to serving as the co-chair of the groups of friends of mediation within the UN, the OSCE and the OIC, Turkey has been hosting the annual Istanbul Mediation Conferences, the seventh of which was held online in September 2020, under the theme of “Peace Mediation in the New Normal”. This theme was also in line with the “Digital Diplomacy” initiative that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey announced the previous year. We are grateful to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who set the tone of this in 2020, just like the year before.

In line with the foregoing, we continue to follow with interest the annual debate on peaceful settlement of disputes held within the Special Committee, and look forward to this year’s exchange of views on the sub-topic of “arbitration”.

Mr. Chair,

Turkey commends the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat in the preparation of the "*Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*" and the "*Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council*". We note with appreciation the Secretary General's report of last year, which confirmed that contemporaneous coverage of the Council's practice -a milestone development recorded in 2019- continued in 2020, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

We have provided support for these publications in the last decade, and we encourage other states to do likewise, whether through financial contributions or the sponsoring of experts.

Mr. Chair,

In carrying out its mandate, it is important that the Special Committee continue to consider ways and means of improving its working methods, as has been requested by the General Assembly in its relevant annual resolutions. These efforts should be guided, among others, by the aim to avoid duplication with processes and discussions that take place elsewhere in the UN system, to ensure that the competence of relevant UN organs is duly respected, and to contribute to the efficient and effective utilization of available resources.

With regard to proposals to add new topics to the Committee's agenda, we believe that the likelihood that such proposals will enjoy consensus should also be considered, so that the topics eventually included will result in practical steps that will contribute to the strengthening of the organization, as per the mandate of this Committee.

In view of the mentioned elements, it seems that some of the proposals we have before us may not be fit for the Committee's consideration, or may require further deliberations.

Mr. Chair,

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our support for the proposal by the Philippines regarding the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes.

As a founding member of the UN, one of the top contributors to its budget and a consistent contributor to its peacekeeping operations, and as a regional hub for significant UN presence, including organizations such as the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, Turkey remains committed to strengthening the role of this noble organization and preserving the integrity of its founding document, in a manner that will enable the international community to address the current challenges in an effective, sustainable, innovative and inclusive manner.

We look forward to a fruitful session of the Special Committee.

Thank you.