



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
“THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE  
ORGANIZATION”**

**16 FEBRUARY 2021**

## **Chairperson**

Let me begin by congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election to preside over the 2021 session of the Special Committee. We assure you of our delegation's full cooperation and support.

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. However, I wish to make a few remarks in our national capacity.

**First**, it is important that all Member States acknowledge that the UN represents the collective resolve of all Member States in advancing, among other issues, justice, respect for the UN Charter and international law; international cooperation; peaceful settlement of disputes; and maintenance of international peace and security. Hence, it is important for Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the UN Charter and multilateralism.

**Second**, Zimbabwe fully supports the enhancement of the relationship and cooperation between the UN and regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes. Regional organisations are closer to the areas of conflict and hence appropriately positioned to better understand the dynamics of the conflicts. By virtue of their proximity to the conflicts, regional organizations also appreciate the specific intervention requirements that would be needed to end the conflict. However, partnership and cooperation between the UN and the regional organisations is critical and always necessary.

On that score, Zimbabwe supports Ghana's proposal on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the UN and regional organisations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, which calls for more structured engagements between the two. The roles of the UN and regional organisations should be clear,

and the capacities of the organisations to engage with the UN and the UN to work with these organisations in its responses to security situations, should be considered.

**Third,** Zimbabwe believes that sanctions should be introduced and applied in conformity with the provisions of the UN Charter and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law. Procedures to apply sanctions on States should be fair and clear, and should respect the rights of the sanctioned States. Also, sanctions should not be imposed indiscriminately or be used to inflict suffering on vulnerable groups in the targeted States. In cases where sanctions are applied, it is important to consider providing assistance to third States that would be affected in order to minimize the adverse impacts on the general public and third States.

My delegation is concerned about the imposition of unilateral sanctions in violation of international law and international humanitarian law. Such sanctions disregard the sovereignty of States and the principles of the UN Charter, and therefore should not be condoned and allowed to continue unabated.

**Fourth,** Zimbabwe affirms that peaceful settlement of disputes is a fundamental principle of international law embodied in Articles 2 (3) and 33 of the UN Charter. Thus, my delegation supports all efforts to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes. States must refrain from the threat or use of force and instead settle disputes by peaceful means. Preventative diplomacy is also important in conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes. The role of women in all stages of conflict resolution and the importance of multilateralism in the peaceful settlement of disputes can never be over-emphasized.

Zimbabwe fully support that the Special Committee continues to analyse all means envisaged in Chapter 6 on Pacific Settlements of Disputes, article 33, which states that parties to a dispute, which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international

peace and security, should seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means.

Considering the Special Committee's mandate, *inter alia*, to continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations, Zimbabwe supports that the issue of the peaceful settlement of disputes remain on its agenda.

### **Chairperson**

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to underline that the work of the Special Committee plays a fundamental role in reinforcing the adherence by Member States to the UN Charter and international law. However, more needs to be done to increase the visibility of the work of the Committee in strengthening the role of the UN.

I thank you for your attention.