

**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**

22 FEBRUARY 2022

Mr. / Madam Chair,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election.

The Charter of the United Nations embodies the shared goals and aspirations of the international community of peoples and nations; goals and aspirations that are as valid today as they were in 1945. It is the constitution above all constitutions, providing the principles, means and the essential framework to ensure a peaceful, just and sustainable world order based on multilateralism, the rule of law and human rights.

Today, the world faces challenges that know no boundaries; climate change, pandemics, terrorism, rising hatred and misinformation being some examples in this regard. Persecution persists and conflicts are increasingly more complex and protracted, forcing millions to flee their homes. Amongst such developments, the Charter stands as our moral anchor, and it is our responsibility to ensure that it remains a living document that will guide and assist the global community in addressing the contemporary challenges in a principled, coordinated, and effective manner.

The mandate of the Charter Committee allows it to make unique, practical contributions to strengthen the role of the United Nations and enhance the organization's ability to reach its purposes. Indeed, this Committee has been instrumental in the adoption by the General Assembly of important documents relating to overarching topics such as peaceful settlement of disputes, enhancing cooperation between the UN and regional arrangements, and introduction and implementation of sanctions by the UN. We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of one of those documents, namely the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes.

We have been following with interest the annual debates on peaceful settlement of disputes conducted during this Committee's sessions. We look forward to this year's thematical exchange of views on state practice with regard to judicial settlement.

Turkey assumes its own responsibility in promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes and preventing conflicts. We have been playing a pioneering role at regional and international fora in raising awareness and creating capacity specifically for mediation. We are co-chairing the Groups of Friends on Mediation at the UN, the OSCE, and the OIC. Earlier this month, the 11th Meeting of Ministers of the Group of Friends at the UN was held online under the co-chairmanship of Finland and Turkey. We thank Under-Secretary-General Dicarolo for her participation to this meeting which aimed to review the progress made since the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution on mediation more than ten years ago, and to discuss future work.

We have also been organizing the Istanbul Mediation Conferences and the "Mediation for Peace" Certificate Program. On March 10, we will be hosting the 8th Istanbul Mediation Conference, which has become a traditional gathering of practitioners, civil society experts and academics to discuss current issues and trends in the field of mediation and peaceful resolution of conflicts. This year's conference will review the changing peace landscape and will include among others a segment focused on the role of women and youth in mediation.

Considering the need to adapt our responses to the changing peace landscape in view of new information and communications technologies, a webinar was organized in May of last year with the theme of "Leveraging New Technologies for Peace in an Increasingly Digital World" under the co-partnership of the Istanbul Mediation Conferences, Antalya Diplomacy Forum, and the Innovation Cell initiative launched by the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA). Turkey is proud to be the first country to make a voluntary financial contribution to this unit within UN DPPA as part of our digital diplomacy initiative.

Mr. / Madam Chair,

As every year, we also look forward to the annual briefing by the Secretariat, which provides a very helpful overview of the UN sanctions regimes and architecture, as well as information on

recent developments pertaining to this topic, including information on the different kinds of support provided by the Secretariat.

Further, we thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the progress relating to the “Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs” and the “Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council”. We attach great importance to both publications, which not only help build a comprehensive institutional memory for the UN, but which also make this organization more accessible to audiences around the world.

We are pleased that, since a few years, the Repertoire is being updated so as to reflect contemporaneously the Security Council’s practice on a wide range of fields. We commend this milestone development and support its continuation. It is critical that the Repertory is also continued to be updated, and the backlog duly addressed. As a past financial contributor to the trust fund relating to these publications, we call on all States to share the responsibility of supporting the work undertaken to update these publications, whether through voluntary contributions or the sponsoring of experts.

Mr. / Madam Chair,

The Charter Committee should continue to consider ways and means of improving its working methods, as called for in previous General Assembly resolutions.

With regard to the inclusion of new topics on the Committee’s agenda, we remain convinced that our consideration should be guided by certain fundamental elements, namely, ensuring the efficient and effective use of the time and resources allocated to the Committee, the avoidance of duplication or repetition of discussions, respect for the competences of various organs of the UN, and the likelihood of reaching consensus or agreeing on a practical outcome that will serve the goal of enhancing the organization’s ability to reach its purposes. We are ready to consider the proposals on the agenda in view of these elements.

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

Thank you.