

Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

Statement by the Republic of Turkey

24 February 2022

Mr. Chair,

We appreciate this opportunity to participate in the annual debate on peaceful settlement of disputes. We trust that this year's exchange of views on the sub-theme of "State practice with regard to judicial settlement" will be a very fruitful one, like the discussions held in previous sessions.

Turkey gives its full support to the United Nations in its efforts to maintain international peace and security, including through the promotion of the peaceful settlement of disputes.

This principle is fundamental to safeguarding the United Nations and the rules-based international order.

Mr. Chair,

We must all acknowledge the value of each of the means of dispute settlement laid out in Article 33 of the UN Charter.

In the peaceful settlement of disputes, good faith, free choice of means, conformity with the principles of equity, justice and international law, as well as the principles of sovereign equality and good neighbourliness must guide our efforts.

States should resolve their disputes in accordance with the Charter and, when necessary and appropriate, seek the method of international adjudication based upon mutual consent of the parties.

We applaud the invaluable contributions the International Court of Justice has made to international law and to the conduct of international relations since more than seven decades.

Indeed, Turkey has a long history of utilizing judicial settlement. One of the most striking examples is 1927 *Bozkurt/Lotus Case* (Turkey v. France), which contributed significantly to the development of international maritime law.

We were a co-sponsor of the General Assembly resolution adopted in December 2020 regarding the establishment of a trust fund for the Judicial Fellowship Programme of the ICJ. The newly established trust fund will facilitate increased participation from developing countries to this important programme.

We further refer to the Secretary-General's trust fund to assist States in the settlement of disputes through the ICJ.

Mr. Chair,

The onus is on us to make sure that the Charter prevails.

This document must remain as the constitution of the relations among Member States.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Turkey's support to multilateralism and the work of the UN.

Mr. Chair,

We consider the military operation launched by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation against Ukraine unacceptable and reject it.

This attack, beyond destroying the Minsk agreements, is a grave violation of international law and poses a serious threat to the security of our region and the world.

Believing in the necessity to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of countries, Turkey is against changing of borders by use of arms.

We call on the Russian Federation to immediately stop this unjust and unlawful act.

Our support for the political unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine will continue.

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine, a founding member of the United Nations, is faced with yet another act of aggression.

And the global community is faced with yet another threat to regional and international peace and security.

But above all, this is an aggression against the fundamental principles of international law and the UN Charter.

We all need the rules-based international order.

It is our duty as Member States to defend legality.

It is our obligation to ensure that conflicts are resolved through peaceful means.

We must make sure that the founding principles of the UN are upheld. This is the only way to save ourselves from the scourge of war.

Thank you.