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البعثة الدائمة لدولة إريتريا لدى
الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

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**Statement Delivered by Amanuel Giorgio
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the UN
General Debate**

**Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations
and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
21 February 2023, New York**

Chair,

- 1. From the outset my delegation wishes to convey its warmest congratulations to you Chair and the other members of the Bureau. Rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the successful deliberation and conclusion of the Special Committee's session. My delegation wishes also to thank the UN Secretariat for preparing all the necessary documents for the consideration of the Committee.**
- 2. Eritrea aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM, and Venezuela on behalf of the Group of Friends in defense of the UN Charter. The Special Committee has an important contribution to make which is mandated to consider proposals for an effective functioning of the United Nations. Since its establishment, the Special Committee has negotiated several texts, including the Manila Declaration which elaborated on the importance of settling international disputes through peaceful means.**
- 3. Eritrea attaches great importance to the peaceful settlement of disputes as provided for in Chapter VI of the Charter, in particular Article 33. Eritrea in its brief history, had to resort to the International Court of Justice, arbitration and mediation mechanisms to peacefully settle disputes. From Eritrea's experience, it cannot be overemphasized the importance of acting in good faith by the parties concerned**

throughout the entire process whichever mechanism they choose to undertake to successfully end their disputes.

Chair,

4. **In the maintenance of international peace and security, it is imperative that the adherence to the full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the domestic affairs is maintained. These principles, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, ought to be respected by all at all times to ensure peace and security, socio-economic progress and justice.**

5. **One of the box tools often employed by the UNSC in its effort to promote international peace and security is the imposition of sanctions. The measures by the Council should be used as a last resort and should be based on solid evidence, unlike the sanctions on Eritrea which were imposed in 2009 on trumped-up charges by the authors of the sanction regime. The Council's credibility is hinged on whether the procedure it employs in the imposition and lifting of sanctions is fair and clear. This is a concern shared widely as pointed out in the outcome document of the 2005 UNGA summit.**

6. **While the UNSC has the primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, including using sanction as a tool, the most concerning and one that is increasingly becoming a common pattern is the overreliance by some powerful states on unilateral coercive measures against fellow members in violation of the UN Charter, including the sovereign equality of states, a principle enshrined in article 2 (1).**

7. **This illicit act, which also regrettably affects Eritrea, has become the preferred tool of foreign policy of some countries mostly against developing states. Most of the affected countries already face enormous challenges in the economic, social and environmental areas, including the overarching goal of addressing and eliminating poverty in all its shapes and forms. Yet, the obligation to demonstrate solidarity and remove all obstacles to the implementation of the SDGs inconsistent with international law is missing. The application of unilateral coercive measures cannot and should not be outside the realm of international law. These measures are ill intended, far reaching and punitive in nature designed to undermine peace and security as well as to create impediments in the achievement of SDGs. This is clearly contrary to the rule of law at the international level, and it should be seriously and expeditiously addressed to build trust and confidence on multilateralism and its**

institutions with the UN at the center to promote international cooperation for a better world.

- 8. Finally, my delegation looks forward to a productive and meaningful session of the Special Committee of the Charter of the UN in its consideration of the valuable proposals before it, and this year's thematic discussion on "Exchange of information on State practices regarding the resort to regional agencies or arrangements" in the context of peaceful settlement of international disputes in accordance with the UN Charter.**

I thank you chair