

**STATEMENT BY TÜRKİYE
AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION
(21 February 2023)**

Mr. / Madam Chair,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We also thank the United Nations Secretariat for the preparations of the 2023 Session of the Special Committee.

The Charter of the United Nations provides the essential principles for international peace and security since 1945. Today, it is the primary document embodying the shared goals and aspirations of the international community of peoples and nations. As member states, we bear the responsibility to ensure that the United Nations upholds its capacity to address current challenges, and to enhance its effectiveness as the main international platform for peace and security. The challenges we face today require concerted efforts to find innovative and sustainable solutions, based on multilateralism, the rule of law and human rights.

The devastating earthquake that took place two weeks ago in Türkiye, a catastrophe with an unprecedented magnitude in our history, demonstrated once again that international solidarity and multilateralism is our first and best line of defense. We are grateful for the support and solidarity of the international community and the United Nations.

We believe that a spirit of collaboration and responsibility is key in our quest for international peace and security, through the effective use of the Charter, and the valuable contributions of the Special Committee. It is our task to ensure that the Charter remains a living document, so that it can continue to guide and assist the global community in addressing contemporary challenges in a principled, coordinated, and effective manner.

Mr. / Madam Chair,

The peaceful resolution of conflicts and mediation is a cornerstone in Türkiye's foreign policy. We have been playing a pioneering role at both regional and international fora in raising awareness and creating capacity, especially on peace mediation. We are the only country to simultaneously co-chair the Groups of Friends on Mediation at the UN, the OSCE, and the OIC. We are pleased with the growth of the UN Group of Friends of Mediation, members of which has now reached 61. Most recently, we hosted the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the Group under the theme "Avoiding Humanitarian Crises Through Mediation." We would like to take this opportunity to thank Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo for her participation and her remarks.

The 8th İstanbul Mediation Conference we hosted on 10 March last year was a big success. The Black Sea Grain Initiative that followed, as a result of Türkiye's efforts together with the Secretary General, proved to be a landmark agreement to limit the suffering of those dependent on fertilizer and grain exports for food security. Henceforth, millions of metric tons of grain and food was successfully moved and global food prices were brought down. Türkiye will continue to support the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the operations of the Joint Coordination Center, in order to mitigate the effects of hunger and to prevent famine.

The Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF) is another global diplomacy initiative from our part to promote peaceful dialogue. The first two editions of the Forum presented an efficient platform to discuss global and regional matters comprehensively. We had intended to hold this year's edition next month. Unfortunately, after the devastating earthquakes, the third edition had to be postponed.

We hosted the most recent meeting of the OSCE Group of Friends in Vienna. Looking ahead, we are also working towards the adoption of the 5th Council of Foreign Ministers Resolution on Mediation by the OIC in March. The negotiations are ongoing.

We continue to share our views and priorities for the preparation of the Secretary-General's "New Agenda for Peace." We are looking forward to working closely with the Secretary-General on this matter, and supporting him in his endeavors.

Mr. / Madam Chair,

As every year, we also look forward to the Secretariat's annual briefing, which always provides a proficient overview of the United Nations sanctions regimes, as well as valuable information on recent developments on this topic.

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 importance to the work on updating both publications and will continue to support efforts to this end.

As called for in previous General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee should continue to consider ways and means of improving its working methods. On this note, we underline the need to ensure the efficient and effective use of time and resources allocated to the Committee and the importance of avoiding duplication by respecting the competence of other United Nations organs. We believe that the Committee should continue to focus its time and efforts to proposals on which the likelihood of reaching consensus is more feasible.

We look forward to a fruitful session.

Thank you.