

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Statement by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before

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

20-28 February 2024-New York

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to deliver this statement in our national capacity. Please allow me to express our congratulations upon your election as the Vice-Chair of the Special Committee. I would also like to commend the work of the Secretariat for its dedicated and tireless efforts in the preparation of this meeting.

My delegation would like to align itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement as well as the Statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chair.

The Charter of the United Nations remains the most unique foundational framework forming the very basis of our organization, inspiring and guiding us all to promote international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian character, to maintain international peace and security and to develop friendly relations among nations. Such noble objectives laid down in the Charter of the United Nations reflect the very important status and task that the Special Committee has been entrusted with in promotion of the Charter and strengthening the role of the United Nations.

At the present critical juncture that we witness encroachment upon the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the meeting of the Special Committee are more relevant and essential than ever as it rekindles the very aspirations shared by our predecessors upon the basis of this founding framework of the organization to promote and uphold its objectives. As such, my delegation attaches great importance to the work of the Special Committee and reaffirms its continued support of the Committee while reiterating the need to pursue the mandates of the Committee in the spirit of cooperation and constructive engagement.

Mr. Chair.

Unilateral coercive measures are among the daunting challenges that run counter to the Charter of the United Nations and undermine its purposes and principles. Unilateral coercive measures constitute flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the principles set forth within the Charter of the United Nations, in particular, sovereign equality and non-intervention. Such illegal measures also violate and impede the realization of human rights including the right to development while negatively affecting the enjoyment of human rights. Given the deleterious impacts of such unlawful measures and the very fact that unilateral coercive measures are also in contravention of the purpose and principles of the Charter, we find it quite opportune to discuss the various aspects of these illegal measures in the Special Committee.

In view of the necessity of addressing the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures including on the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations, we have presented to the Special Committee in recent years a proposal titled “obligations of Member States in relation to unilateral coercive measures: guidelines on ways and means to prevent, remove, minimize and redress the adverse impacts of unilateral coercive measures”. This year we have submitted a revised version of the said proposal to the Secretariat for issuance as a document of the Committee. We invite Member States to review this proposal and constructively engage in discussion with a view to countering the adverse impacts of unilateral coercive measures. We request the Secretariat to reflect the said proposal in the report of the Committee and also to annex the proposal to the report of the Special Committee.

Mr. Chair.

Given that the topics of peaceful settlement of disputes and the subtopic on good offices as well as international peace and security are among the topics within the purview of the Special Committee to consider as per relevant resolutions, we would like to touch upon a few points in this regard. We appreciate the particular attention of the Special Committee to various means of peaceful settlement of disputes and in highlighting the importance of resolution of disputes through peaceful means and in accordance with international law. We underline the centrality of consent of parties for peaceful settlement of disputes and also for the choice and means of such settlement. Along the same lines, good offices, which is a voluntary means could only be resorted to with the consent of parties to a dispute and it could not in any manner be imposed on parties. Employing good offices should also be in compliance with and with due respect for the fundamental principles international law, in particular, sovereign equality, non-intervention, and territorial integrity. We look forward to fruitful discussions on the topic during this session of the Special Committee, including on the subtopic related to good offices.

Regarding the UN Security Council sanctions, we reiterate that such sanctions may be introduced only as a last resort; after definite determination of the existence of an actual threat to peace or breach of peace and based on valid evidence and not mere speculations and misinformation. More importantly, sanctions should be adopted only after peaceful measures have been exhausted or proven to be inadequate and should not be punitive in nature. In so doing, the Security Council shall act in strict conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and avoid exceeding its authority and competence under the Charter or acting in breach of the principles of international law. Sanctions imposed pursuant to arbitrary and politically motivated determinations of the notion of threat to the peace and security, could not be seen as legitimate and lawful.

In the event that a situation met with pre-established criteria related to UN Security Council sanctions and all avenues for peaceful measures have been exhausted and the imposition of such sanctions is considered by the UN Security Council, due regard shall be had to the humanitarian effects as well as negative impacts of such sanction on the enjoyment of human rights of nations and to the crucial need for addressing these aspects of such sanction. By the same token, the imposition and enforcement of UN Security Council sanctions should not in any manner amount to violation of international law including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The effects of *inter alia* special economic problems and hardship for people arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the UN Security Council on the third States should also be addressed. Where a person would no longer need to be subjected to UN Security Council sanctions, termination of the said sanctions should not be prolonged and should not be driven by the political interest and will of a small number of Member States rather it should be based on objectivity and factual grounds.

Mr. Chair.

My delegation appreciates proposals that contribute to strengthening and promoting the role of the Committee that could ultimately strengthen the United Nations. As for the proposals and working papers presented to the Committee, we would like to take this opportunity and express our continued support for the proposal of Cuba on strengthening the role of the UN and enhancing its effectiveness. We also reiterate our support to the joint proposal of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus to seek, through the General Assembly, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the resort to the use of force without authorization by the Security Council, except in the exercise of the right to self-defense.

My delegation also welcomes the consideration of the Working Paper submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic entitled “Privileges and immunities enjoyed by representatives of the Members of the United Nations and officials of the Organization that are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization” which was presented within this Committee in 2020. We appreciate the consideration of the Working Paper submitted by Mexico entitled “Analysis of the application of Articles 2 (4) and 51 of the Charter of the United Nations”.

We also express our gratitude to the delegation of the Russian Federation for presenting the joint working paper on behalf of by a group of states titled “Challenges to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations arising from initiatives promoting enhanced NGOs participation in the work of the United Nations”.

Mr. Chair.

The Special Committee entrusted with highly important tasks in relation with the Charter of the United Nations cannot and should not lose sight of the persistent violation of the very purposes and principles of the Charter itself resulting from genocidal attacks against Palestinian people. Over the past months, the world has been witnessing in anguish and anger the horrific scenes of the Israeli regime’s deliberate killing of Palestinians, deliberate infliction of severe conditions of life upon the Palestinian population, forced displacement of millions of Palestinians, systematic and widespread attacks on hospitals, medical centers and schools and deprivation of Palestinians of access to medicines and food.

As the catastrophic humanitarian situation is unfolding, the Israeli regime continues appalling attacks against Palestinian people, it remains intransigent to the persistent call of the international community requiring immediate cessation of its attacks and actively demonstrates total disregard to the Charter of the United Nations, international law including international humanitarian law and international human rights law and to the order of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Earlier today, the United Nations Security Council, due to double standards of few, failed the conscience of world once again in taking decisive decision to stop the war against Palestinian people, nevertheless, the international community as a whole should not acquiesce to such double standards and should step up its efforts to require the occupying regime to cease forthwith all its attacks against Palestinians and to end its war waged against the Palestinian population and also to require the supporters of the occupying regime to desist and refrain from aiding or assisting it in perpetration of genocide against Palestinian population.

Mr. Chair.

We would like to commend South Africa for its laudable decision to institute proceedings before the International Court of Justice for violation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to bring the occupying regime to justice for atrocious crimes it has perpetrated against Palestinian people. We call on the international community to continue to support South Africa for its decision to resort to the International Court of Justice on this urgent matter.

Mr. Chair.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our support for the Special Committee and look forward to fruitful discussions and constructive engagement of all Member States in the works of the Committee with a view to enhancing and positively contributing to the work and status of the Committee and to upholding the Charter of the United Nations and strengthening the role of the United Nations.

I thank you.