



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

2024 Session of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
20 February 2024 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Conference Rooms 2, United Nations Headquarters

Mister Chair,

Thank you, Mister Chair, and our sincere congratulations on your election as the Chair of this Committee (*Germany*). You have our full support as you fulfill your important mandate. I also take this opportunity to thank Ambassador and Permanent Representative Zéphyrin Maniratanga of Burundi, the Chair of last year's session, for his valuable work. The Philippines, through its legal adviser, Ms. Azela Arumpac-Martel, is honored to have been part of his Bureau.

At the outset, the Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

As a founding member of the United Nations and an original signatory of the Charter of the United Nations, we hold the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization in high regard. The Special Committee, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, has a unique mandate of considering all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations.

The 1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes is a milestone achievement of the Special Committee and a testament to what it can achieve as a forum for meaningful engagement of Member States in questions related to, *inter alia*, the UN Charter and international law.

At the sidelines of last year's session, and consistent with the General Assembly resolution encouraging the commemoration of the anniversary of the Manila Declaration, the Philippines, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, conducted an interactive dialogue on "The Role of International Tribunals in the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes." In revisiting the Declaration – an initiative of non-aligned states – through a dialogue with jurists, we collectively recalled how the Special Committee has contributed significantly to enhancing common understanding of principles and rules of the peaceful settlement of international disputes and the ways and means that the Charter provides.

The Philippines works with all nations to promote the rule of law underpinned by the Charter – advocating the peaceful settlement of disputes, promoting the role of international tribunals and legal bodies to foster greater solidarity around values that underpin the UN. We welcome the UNGA's adoption by consensus of the resolution to celebrate the 125th anniversary

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of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in recognition of its contribution to settlement of international disputes.

Mister Chair,

At last year's session, during the thematic debate on resort to regional agencies or arrangements as peaceful means of dispute settlement, we shared perspectives on the ASEAN way. We look forward to this session's thematic discussion on the subtopic regarding good offices as an opportunity to share our views.

The annual thematic debate in the Special Committee provides us all with a forum for the discussion of the means for the settlement of disputes. Although there is a recommendatory list of "other peaceful means" to settle disputes, this does not preclude discussion of other means, including those previously discussed in the annual debate. Given the recent developments in international tribunals, relevance, rather than novelty, is the key criterion in the consideration of topics. Our annual debate should not be an academic exercise: we should strive to remain relevant by focusing on topics that truly matter to us all.

Mister Chair,

On the maintenance of international peace and security, we reiterate our view that sanctions should be imposed only as a measure of last resort, when there exists a threat to international peace and security, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression, and always in accordance with the Charter. We do not subscribe to the imposition of unilateral sanctions in violation of international law. While we recognize sanctions are an important tool for the Security Council, they should be in the form of accurately targeted measures. The objectives of sanctions regimes should be clearly defined, based on tenable legal grounds, imposed with a clear time frame, subject to monitoring and periodic review and lifted as soon as the objectives have been achieved.

We thank Mexico for its proposal on the "Analysis of the application of Articles 2 (4) and 51 of the Charter of the United Nations" in the agenda of the Special Committee and look forward to the discussions on the operation, scope and limits of the right to self-defence.

We continue to support efforts to improve the work methods of the Special Committee, noting its vital role in the assisting in the revitalization and strengthening of the organization, and we look forward to the substantive discussions on the proposals.

Thank you.