



**STATEMENT**

**TO BE DELIVERED**

**BY**

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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

**“REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF  
THE ORGANIZATION”**

**20-28 February 2024**

**Chairperson,**

Allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statements delivered by Uganda, on behalf of the Africa Group, Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and by Venezuela, on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter. I wish to make additional remarks in my national capacity.

**Chairperson,**

We are here to reaffirm the need for all Member States to recognize and respect the sovereign equality of all nations, big or small, as enshrined in the Charter of the UN. We, equally, should always abide by our solemn commitment to the Principles and Purposes of the United Nations, to multilateralism, with the United Nations at the centre, to the agenda for the peaceful settlement of disputes, to justice, to international cooperation, to solidarity, to the maintenance of international peace and security and to sustainable development.

As we prepare for the Summit of the Future and the Pact for the Future, we have to remember our duty to promote peace and development for the present and future generations. Our path to addressing the old, new and emerging different but interrelated challenges requires international cooperation, solidarity and multilateralism. No State or even a group of States can solve the challenges that our world faces. The COVID-19 pandemic, and indeed the effects of climate, have categorically taught us that no one is safe until everyone is safe. We rise and fall together. In that regard, we have to effectively and efficiently harness the convening power of the UN to provide us with a platform, to put our collective efforts and wisdom, together, in order to find durable solutions to the challenges bedeviling our world.

Zimbabwe fully supports efforts of regional organizations in furtherance of peace and stability in view of the inextricable relationship between peace and security and sustainable development, which are mutually reinforcing. The pacific settlement of disputes is a central pillar in preventative diplomacy and in complementing the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. That partnership and cooperation is very critical, inevitable, and imperative, to foster global peace.

Zimbabwe urges all States to adhere to the fundamental guiding principle of international law embodied in Articles 2 (3) and 33 of the UN Charter. States must, as the Charter of the UN clearly provides, refrain from the threat or use of force as a way of settling disputes. Emphasis should be on peace and the various alternative dispute mechanisms which should be provided with adequate and predictable funding have to be given pride of space. Particular emphasis should also be given to the role of women and youth at all the stages of conflict resolution.

**Chairperson,**

My delegation supports that the Special Committee should continue to analyze all means envisaged in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations. The alternative dispute settlement mechanisms are crucial in advancing de-escalation of disputes, addressing misconceptions and ensuring parties come to a mutual understanding. To that end, Zimbabwe supports that the peaceful settlement of disputes should remain on the agenda of the Special Committee.

## **Chairperson,**

My country is of the view that UN sanctions should be applied in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the UN and international law, including International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law and International Refugee Law. I wish to reaffirm that procedures used to apply sanctions on States should be transparent, fair and clear, and respect the rights of the sanctioned States and their citizens. Sanctions should not be imposed indiscriminately or be used to inflict suffering on vulnerable groups in the sanctioned States as that will be immoral and counter-productive. In cases where sanctions are applied, it is important to, also, consider providing assistance to third States that would be affected in order to minimize the adverse impacts on the general public.

My delegation remains concerned about the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, please note the word coercive, in violation of the Charter of the UN, International Law and International Humanitarian Law. The unwarranted, unjustified, illegal and cruel unilateral economic measures that were imposed on my country, by some Western countries, over the past two decades which have brought and continue to bring untold suffering to the generality of the people of Zimbabwe should be lifted urgently and unconditionally. The targeted States should be allowed to chart their developmental aspirations. My delegation supports the proposal by Iran regarding the need for a legal analysis on unilateral coercive measures to find innovative ways to mitigate, prevent, and minimize adverse impacts on the affected States and Third States. Evidence abounds to debunk the deliberate misrepresentation that the so called targeted UCMs do not affect the generality of the people.

**Chairperson,**

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to underline that unity, solidarity, commitment and cooperation, should underpin the basic elements to address the interconnected challenges confronting our world. We, equally, recognize that the Special Committee continues to play an important role in reinforcing adherence, by Member States, to the Charter of the UN and to International Law. We urge Member States to continue exploring and adopting new topics that advance the work of the Special Committee. Failure to address these topics in effect, impedes the Special Committee from executing its important mandate, to improve the efficacy of the United Nations in order to make it more responsive and adaptive to current and emerging challenges.

I thank you for your attention.