

**Statement at the 75th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 85: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the
United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
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Thank you, Chair.

To begin, we are proud to be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter this year. It has been an occasion to reflect on and reaffirm our commitment to the Charter and the spirit of multilateral cooperation embodied in that landmark occasion.

We welcome this opportunity to provide a few observations on the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and the work of the committee this year.

We thank the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for their continued work on the Repertory of Practice of the United Nations Organs and the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. Both publications provide a useful resource on the practice of the United Nations organs, and we much appreciate the Secretariat's hard work on them.

With respect to the agenda item on peaceful settlement of disputes, we participated with interest in the exchange of state practices in the annual thematic debate, which this year focused on the use of conciliation. The United States was an early proponent of conciliation as a means of peaceful dispute settlement and we hope its use will continue to be revived.

With respect to items on the Special Committee's agenda concerning the maintenance of international peace and security, we appreciated the annual briefing on sanctions, and the biannual briefing on Article 50. The United States emphasizes that targeted sanctions adopted by the Security Council in accordance with the UN Charter remain an important instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security. We would support further discussion on options to strengthen implementation. We reiterate, however, that the Committee should not pursue activities in the area of the maintenance of peace and security that would be duplicative or inconsistent with the roles of the principal organs of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter.

With respect to proposals regarding new subjects of consideration for the Special Committee, the United States continues to stand ready to engage on matters that have the potential to add value. These new items should be practical, non-political, and not duplicate efforts elsewhere in the United Nations. In addition, we would not wish the Special Committee to become a forum for the airing of bilateral concerns, or for meaningful discussion within its mandate to be displaced by consideration of topics more appropriately raised in other forums. For these reasons, we do not support advancement of the proposal concerning unilateral coercive measures, and also have serious doubts about the proposal concerning Article 51. In addition, concerns about the obligations of the host country should be raised in the dedicated Host Country Committee. We believe consideration of these topics has little prospect for generating consensus in the Charter Committee.

The United States has welcomed productive steps in recent years to streamline the agenda of the Special Committee and to close the discussion of proposals that failed to generate consensus. The Special Committee should take further steps in 2021 to improve its efficiency and productivity, and to make the best use of scarce Secretariat resources. Committee members should also give serious consideration to biennial meetings or shortened sessions. In the current reform-minded environment in which we operate, with tighter budgets and increased focus on efficiency, and particularly given the intense scheduling demands on the UN in the coming months, the Special Committee should recognize that these steps are reasonable and long overdue.

Thank you.