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UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement of the United States of America Sixth Committee

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

67th United Nations General Assembly
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Mr. Chairman:

We welcome consideration of the report of the Charter Committee, which last met early
this year. We appreciate the opportunity to provide a few observations on the Committee's recent work.

We believe the report reflects some positive movement in the work of the Charter
Committee.

First, a good part of the Committee's time during its last session was spent discussing a
worthy proposal on which a wide range of delegations seriously engaged - that of the Philippines aimed at commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Manila Declaration that deals with the peaceful settlement of disputes. The U.S. joined other delegations in supporting the draft resolution ultimately arrived at, including its recommendation that it be considered by the General Assembly with a view to its adoption in connection with the November 15, 2012 anniversary date.

Second, there were positive developments in the areas of Special Committee efficiency
and working methods.

A key aspect of Committee efficiency is the fact that the Charter Committee has a
number of longstanding proposals before it. We believe - as we have stated many times before - that many of the issues these proposals consider have been taken up and addressed elsewhere in the United Nations. There is also a considerable degree of overlap in these proposals. These are reasons why the Committee has shown little enthusiasm for acting on or discussing these proposals in depth.

UN system. The Committee's past consideration of work in the area of dispute prevention and settlement mechanisms comes to mind.

Finally, we welcome the Secretary-General's report A/67/189, regarding the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. We commend the Secretary-General's ongoing efforts to reduce the backlog in preparing these works. Both publications provide a useful resource on the practice of United Nations organs, and we much appreciate the Secretariat's hard work on them.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.