



EGYPT

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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Statement by Egypt on behalf of the African Group
on Item 6 of the Agenda of the 61st Session of the
Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
New York, 11 October 2012

Mr. Chairman

Having the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group, I would like to emphasize, once again, the great importance that we attach to the Special Committee of the Organization and the important role we want to see it playing in the revitalization and the strengthening of the United Nations.

The African Group strongly supports the Outcome Document adopted by the High Level Panel of Experts in 2005 and the strengthening of the United Nations.

While taking into account the provisions of the 2005 Outcome Document on the

United Nations' Third African Group would like to discuss the issue of Sanctions that need to be discussed. We believe that the power of the Security Council to impose sanctions should be exercised in accordance with the United Nations Charter and that economic sanctions should be considered only if all other measures available under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter have been exhausted.

Furthermore, Sanctions should be imposed for a limited period and should be periodically reviewed. Sanctions should also be non-selective and targeted to mitigate the impact of the crisis.

The African Group is strongly opposed to the imposition of economic sanctions and perceives such measures as a violation of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group is open to discussing any proposals on an appropriate agenda of the Special Committee. The Group continues to take a keen interest in the revised proposal submitted by Libya with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

With regard to the identification of new subjects, the African Group emphasizes the right of all member states to present subjects for consideration by the Special Committee's consideration in accordance with its mandate. Not allowing the Committee to consider such proposals while at the same time criticizing its failure to do so, constitutes a paradox in itself. In this context, the African Group recalls the proposal for the institution of a new instrument, proposed by Libya, entitled "Principles and practical measures/mechanisms for strengthening and promoting more effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations on the matters relating to maintenance of international peace and security."

The African Group, while reaffirming its firm support for the United Nations Charter relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes, recognizes the important role played by judicial mechanisms, particularly the International Court of Justice. The group stresses the importance of the role of the International Court of Justice in the maintenance of international peace and security, and urges Member States to make the most effective use of existing procedures for the settlement of their disputes.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the Report of the Secretary-General on the Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, the African Group welcomes the conclusions of the Secretary-General in his report regarding those publications and other materials disseminated in the United Nations and Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, and its efforts towards publishing both the report and the annexes in the official languages of the United Nations.

I thank you.