



**United Nations**

# **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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**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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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[29 February 2024]

1. The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization was convened in accordance with General Assembly resolution [78/111](#) and met at United Nations Headquarters from 20 to 28 February 2024.
2. In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [50/52](#), the Special Committee was open to all States Members of the United Nations.
3. The Special Committee held four meetings: the 308th and 309th meetings, on 20 February, and the 310th and 311th meetings, on 28 February. The Working Group of the Whole, established at the 308th meeting, held three meetings, from 21 to 23 February.
4. The session was opened by Melinda Vittay (Hungary), in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the previous session of the Special Committee.
5. At its 308th meeting, on 20 February, the Special Committee, bearing in mind the terms of the agreement regarding the election of officers reached at its session in 1981,<sup>1</sup> elected the following members of its Bureau:

*Chair:*

Michael Hasenau (Germany)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Nathaniel Khng (Singapore)

Matúš Košuth (Slovakia)

David Antonio Giret Soto (Paraguay)

*Rapporteur:*

Gloria Dakwak (Nigeria)

6. The Bureau of the Special Committee also served as the Bureau of the Working Group of the Whole.
7. The Director of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs acted as Secretary of the Special Committee. The Principal Legal Officer of the Division acted as Assistant Secretary of the Special Committee. The Division provided substantive services for the Special Committee and the Working Group.
8. At its 308th meeting, the Special Committee adopted the following agenda:
  1. Opening of the session.
  2. Election of officers.
  3. Adoption of the agenda.
  4. Organization of work.
  5. Consideration of the questions referred to in General Assembly resolution [78/111](#), in accordance with the mandate of the Special Committee as set out in that resolution.
  6. Adoption of the report.

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<sup>1</sup> [A/36/33](#), para. 7.

9. General statements touching on all or several items were made at the 308th and 309th meetings.

10. With regard to the question of the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General, entitled “Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions”,<sup>2</sup> and the report of 1998 on that topic, which contained a summary of the deliberations and main findings of the ad hoc expert group meeting convened pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 52/162.<sup>3</sup> The Special Committee also had before it General Assembly resolution 64/115 and the annex thereto, entitled “Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations”.

11. The Special Committee also had before it the following documents: a revised proposal submitted at the 1998 session by Libya with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security;<sup>4</sup> a further revised version, submitted at the 2014 session, of the working paper submitted by Belarus and the Russian Federation at the 2005 session on an advisory opinion to be requested from the International Court of Justice as to the legal consequences of the resort to the use of force by States without prior authorization by the Security Council, except in the exercise of the right to self-defence;<sup>5</sup> and a revised working paper submitted by Cuba at the 2019 session on the strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness: adoption of recommendations.<sup>6</sup>

12. With regard to the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes, the Special Committee undertook its annual thematic debate on the means for the settlement of disputes, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, including in particular those means referred to in Article 33 thereof, and consistent with the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes. During the debate, the discussions were focused on the subtopic “Exchange of information on State practices regarding the use of good offices”. The Special Committee had before it an explanatory note by the Non-Aligned Movement on the identification of “other peaceful means” of pacific settlement of disputes in Article 33 (1) of the Charter of the United Nations adopted in paragraph 5 (b) of General Assembly resolution 77/109.<sup>7</sup> The Special Committee also had before it a proposal, revised in 2014 by the Russian Federation, recommending that the Secretariat be requested to establish a website dedicated to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and to update the *Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States*.<sup>8</sup>

13. The Special Committee also had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.<sup>9</sup>

14. With regard to the question of working methods and identification of new subjects, the Special Committee also had before it a revised working paper on working methods;<sup>10</sup> a further revised version of the working paper submitted by Mexico, entitled “Discussion on the application of Article 51, in the light of its

<sup>2</sup> A/78/114.

<sup>3</sup> A/53/312.

<sup>4</sup> A/53/33, para. 98.

<sup>5</sup> A/69/33, para. 37.

<sup>6</sup> A/74/33, annex I.

<sup>7</sup> See A/AC.182/L.162.

<sup>8</sup> A/69/33, para. 52.

<sup>9</sup> See A/78/296.

<sup>10</sup> A/61/33, para. 72.

interrelation with Article 2 (4), of the Charter of the United Nations”;<sup>11</sup> a further revised proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran, entitled “Obligations of Member States in relation to unilateral coercive measures: guidelines on ways and means to prevent, remove, minimize and redress the adverse impacts of unilateral coercive measures”;<sup>12</sup> a working paper submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic, entitled “Privileges and immunities enjoyed by representatives of the Members of the United Nations and officials of the Organization that are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization”;<sup>13</sup> and a working paper submitted by the Russian Federation and other States, entitled “Challenges to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations arising from initiatives promoting enhanced non-governmental organization participation in the work of the United Nations”.<sup>14</sup>

15. At its 311th meeting, on 28 February, the Special Committee adopted its report on its 2024 session.

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<sup>11</sup> See [A/AC.182/L.159](#).

<sup>12</sup> See [A/AC.182/L.165](#).

<sup>13</sup> [A/75/33](#), annex III.

<sup>14</sup> See [A/AC.182/L.164](#).

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