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

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Draft report

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III. Peaceful settlement of disputes

1. The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization considered the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes during the general exchange of views held at its 312th and 313th meetings, on 18 February 2025, and during the 2nd meeting of the Working Group of the Whole, on 20 February.
2. During the general exchange of views and in the Working Group of the Whole, delegations expressed their support for all efforts to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes. Delegations recalled that States should refrain from the threat or use of force and instead settle disputes by peaceful means pursuant to Articles 2, paragraph 3, and 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.
3. Delegations highlighted the significance of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes¹ and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.² Several delegations emphasized the right of States to choose freely a peaceful means to settle international disputes and maintained that those means should be used in good faith and on the basis of the mutual consent of the parties to the dispute, and should not be subject to abuse.
4. Several delegations asserted the importance of preventive diplomacy in conflict prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Several delegations also pointed out the importance of multilateralism and the role of regional arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes.
5. Several delegations reaffirmed the role of the International Court of Justice, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in promoting the peaceful

¹ General Assembly resolution 37/10, annex.

² General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.



settlement of disputes. The usefulness of the Court's advisory opinions on legal questions was also noted. Some delegations expressed their views on particular proceedings before the Court and stressed the importance of the implementation of the decisions of international adjudicative bodies.

6. A number of delegations stated that the annual thematic debate on the means for the settlement of disputes contributed to the more efficient and effective use of peaceful means and promoted a culture of peace among Member States, and they voiced their support for the Special Committee's continuing to analyse all means envisaged in Article 33 of the Charter. A number of delegations encouraged Member States to actively take part in the annual thematic debate and share their best practices and successful examples regarding the use of peaceful means of dispute settlement.

7. Delegations reiterated their preference that, in accordance with the mandate of the Special Committee, the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes remain on its agenda.

A. Means for the settlement of disputes: exchange of information on State practices regarding the use of procedures envisaged in the Charter and other international instruments

8. In accordance with paragraph 5 (a) of General Assembly resolution [79/125](#), delegations focused their debate on the subtopic "Exchange of information on State practices regarding the use of procedures envisaged in the Charter and other international instruments". Reference was made to the document entitled "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](#)" ([A/AC.182/L.162](#)).

9. Delegations reiterated the importance that they attached to all peaceful means for the settlement of international disputes and supported efforts in promoting such means. Several delegations observed that the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 33, and the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes of 1982 provided a comprehensive toolkit of non-judicial means for the peaceful settlement of disputes. It was recalled that the list of means in Article 33 of the Charter was not an exhaustive one. General Assembly resolution [57/26](#), entitled "Prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes" was also recalled. Several delegations underscored the freedom of choice of means of peaceful settlement of disputes, as recognized in Article 33 of the Charter. The importance was highlighted of the principles of State consent, sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-use of force, non-interference and good faith in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

10. Several delegations highlighted instances in which they had used or participated in non-judicial means of international dispute settlement, including negotiation, conciliation, mediation and good offices. The contributions of international organizations, including both the United Nations and regional organizations, in facilitating the settlement of international disputes were underscored.

11. Delegations also generally recalled the importance of judicial means of dispute settlement. The view was expressed that non-judicial means of dispute settlement complemented rather than replaced judicial dispute settlement. The possibility to pursue non-judicial means while judicial proceedings were pending in respect of the same dispute was noted. The relevance of the advisory function of international courts and tribunals was also highlighted. Furthermore, some delegations emphasized the

importance of the International Criminal Court to the rule of law at the international level.

12. The importance of the prevention of international disputes was also emphasized, and the relevance of early warning systems, preventive diplomacy, development cooperation and peace-building initiatives was highlighted. The importance of the participation of women in conflict resolution was also underscored.
