STATEMENT

PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Mr Chairman

Thank you for affording South Africa the floor. My delegation, once again, has the honour to deliver this statement speaking on behalf of the African Group. The African Group attaches great importance to this agenda Item 82 "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organisation". Allow me to begin by reiterating what the African Group has been saying over the years that the Charter Committee has the potential to play an exceedingly important role in this Organisation. However, the Committee has not lived up to its full potential mainly because of our method of work and our tendency fo allow ideological battles to prevent us from performing our function which is legal analysis.

Mr Chairman

The Committee has, currently on its agenda, several topics that could benefit from careful scrutiny. The African Group has expressed the support for a consideration of these topics and we are also supportive of the new topics proposed by several delegations.

The African Group wishes, in the context of new topics, to say a word or two about the proposal that was submitted by Ghana entitled "Principles and practical measures/mechanisms for strengthening

Mr Chairman

It is the African Group's view that the work of the Committee should primarily be directed at ensuring that the organization lives up to the goals of the rule of law and justice. As the African Group has stated before, the organization cannot demand of its members to adhere to the rule of law while itself makes no attempt to demonstrate or reflect this important principle. The work of this Committee should therefore contribute to protecting the Organisation from being labeled hypocritical.

Mr Chairman