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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

75th SESSION

***Briefing by the Chief of the Security Council Practices and Charter Research
Branch, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on
the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council***

18 February 2021

1. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished members,** I am most grateful for this opportunity to provide the members of the Charter Committee with an update on the status of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and related activities. By way of introduction, I wish to refer you to the report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire* (A/75/145) of 24 July 2020.
2. Since our last briefing to the Committee on 20 February 2020, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch has continued to make very significant progress in the preparation of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*. This year we have focused on the simultaneous completion of the 22nd Supplement of the *Repertoire* and the preparation of the 23rd, respectively covering the years 2019 and 2020.
3. I am happy to report that the advance version of the 22nd Supplement was completed and posted online, as scheduled, in October 2020. Despite the major disruption posed by COVID-19 on the Division and the Council's

working methods and documentation, the Branch remains on course to release the advance version of the 23rd Supplement by October 2021. In addition, consistent with our contemporary approach to the coverage of the practice of the Council, the Branch already commenced the monitoring, research and drafting of the 24th Supplement covering the year 2021.

4. In my presentation today, I will be focusing on three main areas of progress.
5. On the publication front, to date all published versions of the Supplements covering the period from 1989 to 2017 are available online in all six official languages. The 21st Supplement, covering the year 2018, has been published in English and is expected to be released in the other five official languages by April 2021. Thanks to our efficient collaboration with the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, we have implemented an ambitious 22-month schedule from the closing of the reporting period to the final, hard copy, publication of each Supplement.
6. On the innovation front, the Branch has deepened the utilisation of modern technologies to develop a broad range of visual and interactive information datasets on the practice of the Council, all available on the website of the Security Council. In addition to the 2020 edition of the *Highlights of Security Council Practice*, released in early January, the Branch has also released two other datasets, namely, the Security Council membership dashboard as well as the Women at the Security Council dashboard. The Branch has also enhanced the visualization of the

information on Women and peace and security, Protection of civilians in armed conflict as well as Children and armed conflict. All datasets have been developed on new data platforms providing a more engaging and interactive experience.

7. On the outreach front, conscious of the utility of these tools for Member States and the public at large, the Branch has actively promoted the *Repertoire* and the various datasets outlined above on social media to increase awareness and improve the knowledge and quality of data available on the work and practice of the Security Council.
8. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished members,** none of this would have been possible without the enhanced support of Member States through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire*. Established by the General Assembly in resolution 54/106 of 9 December 1999, the Trust Fund has been centrepiece of the Branch's strategy to overcome the decades-long backlog as well as its drive to pursue excellence through innovation. With an ever-decreasing regular budget, the Trust Fund resources have enabled the Branch to utilize additional human resources to consolidate an annual publication with an ambitious and predictable schedule. We would like to express our gratitude to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and China for their generous contributions since our last briefing in 2020.
9. Equally important have been the recent contributions of Associate Experts. In this regard, we are particularly grateful to Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Sweden for their sponsorship of Junior Professional Officers. Their work remains invaluable for the advancement of the important

mandate of the Branch.

10. This notwithstanding, to sustain this very ambitious strategy, continued financial support from Member States remains critical given the deepening financial constraints faced by the Organization, aggravated by the very serious liquidity crisis. For that reason, we have launched an urgent appeal for funding to replenish the Trust Fund.

11. The aim of the appeal is to secure sufficient funds to allow the Branch to modernize and enhance the access to the wealth of data contained in the pages of the *Repertoire* and to expedite the editing and quality assurance of all data generated in the preparation of the *Repertoire*. This will result in more and better information made available to Member States and for this information to be made available faster in all six official languages. The progress achieved in the past years, as well as the very significant increase of requests for information from the Council membership and the membership at large, have proven that the *Repertoire*, conceived in the 1950s, remains an essential tool for the understanding of the increasingly dynamic and complex work of the Security Council.

12. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished members,** I invite you to visit the website of the Security Council and the pages devoted to the *Repertoire* and the other research tools that I referred to earlier. The Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch remains at the disposal of Member States to provide insight and guidance on all aspects of the current and past practice of the Security Council and to respond to any questions that you may have.

Thank you.