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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**

76th SESSION

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

24 February 2022

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/76/223) of 23 July 2021.
2. Since our last briefing to the Committee on 18 February 2021, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division has continued to make significant progress in the preparation of the *Repertoire*. This year we have focused on the simultaneous completion of the 23rd Supplement and the preparation of the 24th Supplement of the *Repertoire*, respectively covering the years 2020 and 2021.
3. I am happy to report that the advance version of the 23rd Supplement was

completed and posted online, as scheduled, in October 2021.

Additionally, and despite the difficulties posed by the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of the Council during 2021, the Branch remains on course to release the advance version of the 24th Supplement by October 2022. Moreover, consistent with our contemporary approach to the coverage of the practice of the Council, the Branch has already commenced the monitoring, research and drafting of the 25th Supplement covering the year 2022.

4. In my presentation today, I will briefly focus on three main areas of progress.

5. Regarding the status of the publication process, to date all published versions of the Supplements covering the period from 1989 to 2018 are available in hard copy in English and online in all six official languages. The 22nd Supplement, covering the year 2019, has been published in hard copy and online in English, while the online editions in the other five languages are expected to be available in the second quarter of 2022. Thanks to our efficient collaboration with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, we have successfully maintained a 22-month schedule from the closing of the reporting period to the final, hard copy, publication of each Supplement.

6. For this coming year, and thanks to the optimisation of resources in DGACM, we will be aiming at further reducing the gap between the end of the year and the publication of the Supplements in all official languages. At this stage, our goal will be to release final versions of the respective Supplements within 20 months for the English version and 21

months for the rest of the languages, reducing in 6 months the time gap for final versions other than English.

7. With regard to innovation and in line with the Secretary-General's New Technologies and Data Strategies and our long-standing approach, the Branch has continued to expand and improve the use of technology and visualizations to offer important datasets on the practice of the Security Council. In late February 2021, we expanded the Women and Peace and Security Dashboard to include information dating back to the inception of the agenda item in the year 2000. In June 2021, we released an entire new dataset, on Chairs and Vice-chairs of subsidiary organs. In October 2021, we expanded the Protection of Civilians Dashboard to include, like for WPS, information dating back to the inception of the agenda item in 1999. And as recently as January 2022, we released the 2021 edition of the Highlights of Security Council Practice containing additional information on Arria-formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues, now also available in a comprehensive manner in separate datasets on the Council's website.
8. Furthermore, in response to requests from Council members for regular information on the Council's work, in May 2021, we launched a new monthly newsletter entitled "The UN Security Council in Review", which provides an overview of the activity of the Council each month. The newsletter has received positive feedback from Member States and is now also available in a dedicated section of the Council's website where the broader public can also subscribe to it.
9. Consolidating the collaboration within the Peace and Security Pillar,

several datasets generated by the Branch are now also being made available in the Peace and Security Datahub. A joint project of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations, the Peace and Security Datahub is a free public library of datasets on peace and security published by the United Nations to empower data consumers across the world.

10. Concerning our outreach and information efforts, during the past year, the Branch has deepened its engagement in promoting the *Repertoire* beyond traditional channels and actively leveraging social media, through the handle #SCAD, to increase awareness and improve the knowledge and quality of data about the Security Council, available to Member States and the public at large. The overall result has been extremely positive and our analysis of the social media engagement seems to validate the approach followed.

11. **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*. In fact, in 2021, we observed a a favorable response to the appeal launched in 2021 (the highest since 2006 and the second highest since the establishment of the Trust Fund). This response is a testament to the value that Member States attach to the work for the *Repertoire* and the criticality of the Trust Fund to maintain the good progress. 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.

12. By means of the funds contributed in 2021, and optimising the use of regular budget resources, the Charter Research Branch was able to (i) deploy a first revamp of the existing search engine which improves access, in all official languages, to the more than 73 years of history contained in the pages of the *Repertoire* in collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology; (ii) advance the development of fully searchable data on Security Council decisions in collaboration with DGACM; and (iii) secure additional editorial capacity to accelerate the availability of the *Repertoire* in its final form with a view to reducing the time lag between the publication of the English version of the *Repertoire* and those in other official languages, as described earlier.

13. We would like to express our gratitude to China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Portugal, Switzerland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom for their contributions since our last briefing in 2021. Equally important has been the sponsorship of junior professional officers in the Branch by Japan and Sweden. Their work has been central to our achievements over the past year.

14. To sustain our work moving forward, continued financial support from Member States remains critical. In December 2021, the Security Council Affairs Division launched a new appeal for contributions to the Trust Fund with the objective of enabling us to maintain the ambitious and predictable schedule for the preparation and release of the *Repertoire*, and to prevent the forming of back-log. Support through the Trust Fund will also serve to strengthen the infrastructure for data collection, analysis and visualization, thereby increasing access of Member States, including members of the

Security Council, to real time data relating to its work.

15. Contributions to the Trust Fund and the work of the Branch will help provide the kind of information that Member States are demanding, in all six official languages, and at the pace that is required to engage effectively at the United Nations. The progress achieved in the past several years, combined with the significant increase in requests for information and research have proven that the *Repertoire*, conceived in the 1950s, has stood the test of time and is very much an essential tool for understanding the dynamics and complex work of the Council.

16. **Esteemed Chairperson, distinguished delegates,** I invite you to visit the website of the Security Council and the pages devoted to the *Repertoire*, as well as the relabelled Research and analysis section of the website containing useful research tools for your day-to-day work in relation to the Council. 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 Council and to respond to any questions that you may have.

17. I thank you.