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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**

77th 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

23 February 2023

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 further to the report of the Secretary-General of 18 August 2022 (A/77/303). In today's remarks, I will focus on the progress achieved in the preparation and publication of the *Repertoire*, the latest research tools on the practice of the Council and the status of the resources available in support of our work.

2. Since our last briefing to the Committee on 24 February 2022, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division has continued to make progress in the preparation of the *Repertoire*. In line with our contemporary approach to the drafting of the publication, this year we have focused on the simultaneous completion of the 24th Supplement and the preparation of

the 25th Supplement, respectively covering the years 2021 and 2022.

3. I am happy to report that the advance version of the 24th Supplement was completed and posted on the website of the Council, as scheduled, in October 2022. The Branch is also advancing the drafting of the 25th Supplement which we are aiming at releasing in its advance copy in October 2023. As it is now common course, the Branch has commenced preparatory work on the 26th Supplement covering the current year, 2023.
4. In terms of past Supplements, I wish to recall that the final versions of the Supplements covering the period from 1989 to 2019 are available in hard copy in English and online in all six official languages. The 23rd Supplement, covering the year 2020, was published in English, in July 2022, and will be available in all other official languages by the end of March 2023.
5. In line with the goals of the Data and New Technology Strategies of the Secretary-General, the Branch continued to make efforts to bring innovation to the information available on the work of the Council and to enhance data collection and data analysis. In the summer, we updated the layout, maps and functions of the Field Missions Dashboard. This dashboard compiles and systematizes the existing mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, which is a useful tool in the context of mandate renewals and negotiations as well as for analytical purposes. In October, commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the format, we launched a new dataset on the Arria-formula meeting containing useful historical and analytical information on themes and

organisers since 1992. Also in October, we were able to complete the datasets available on Children and armed conflict, Protection of civilians, and Women and peace and security to include all Council decisions dating back to the inception of each of those items in 1998, 1999 and 2000, respectively.

6. At the beginning of this year, the Division released the annual *Highlights of Security Council Practice*. This edition further enhances the redesign of the platform in 2019 and features analysis of trends on the work of the Council. Meanwhile, we continued to issue the *UN Security Council in Review*, a monthly newsletter launched in May 2021, which has become a key resource for Council members and the membership at large offering a brief overview of procedural and substantive trends in the Council on a monthly basis.
7. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates,** the consolidation of the *Repertoire* as an annual publication issued every year in accordance with a predictable schedule while ensuring the highest levels of quality would not have been possible without the support of Member States. Voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire* since its establishment in 1999 have enabled the Branch to hire staff on temporary contracts and UN Volunteers to assist in the research and drafting of the publication, as well as editorial and IT expertise to improve the efficiency in its preparation. Indeed, since its establishment by the General Assembly, the Trust Fund has been instrumental to the Branch's efforts to overcome a decades-long backlog in the publication of the *Repertoire* and its drive to make the rich historical and contemporary practice of the

Council more readily available.

8. In this regard, we would like to express our gratitude to Albania, China, France, Ireland, Japan, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates for their contributions over the past year.
9. Continuing with the approach followed since 2021, early last month, the Branch launched an appeal for voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the year 2023 to help maintain course and avoid backlog as well as to ensure the continued timeliness, quality and in-depth coverage of the *Repertoire* in accordance with the 1952 mandate of the General Assembly. The appeal has been circulated to Member States and, just yesterday, we held an online information session to present the objectives of the appeal to the delegates of the Sixth Committee.
10. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates**, notwithstanding the support received from Member States through voluntary contributions, the current levels of funding through the Trust Fund, amounting to approximately 30% of the totals requested, do not suffice to ensure a sustainable strategy into the future to maintain the schedule of the *Repertoire* and avoid backlog. Only through a predictable and sustained budgetary support structure will the Branch be able to sustain the progress made, fully secure the contemporary approach to the *Repertoire*, and meet the demands of Member States for increased capacity and more in-depth and real-time analysis of the increasingly complex developments in the Council, and a further increase of activity.

11. In this regard, we intend to reach out to interested delegations to explore what options might be pursued in order to address the structural challenges that we have described.

12. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates,** we remain grateful for your support to deliver on the mandate set out by the General Assembly in 1952 and we count on the continued support by Member States to consider options to sustain the progress and prevent backlog from forming.

13. The progress achieved in the past several years, as well as the very significant increase in requests for information and research from Council members and the membership at large, have proven that the *Repertoire*, conceived in 1950s, has stood the test of time and is a key resource for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available and an essential tool to understand the contemporary dynamics and complex work of the Council.

14. In this regard, I invite you to visit the website of the Security Council and the pages devoted to the *Repertoire* and reiterate that 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.

15. I thank you.