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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**

78th SESSION

*Briefing by the 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*

22 February 2024

1. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished members,** first of all, 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 8 August 2023 (A/78/296). It is also a personal honour for me, as this is my first briefing to the Committee, having taken up my role as Chief of the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division earlier this month.
2. 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 Security Council and the status of the resources available to support of our work.

3. Since the last briefing to the Charter Committee on 23 February 2023, the Charter Research Branch has continued to make progress in the preparation of the *Repertoire*. Over the past year, we focused on the simultaneous completion of the 25th Supplement and the preparation of the 26th Supplement, respectively covering the years 2022 and 2023.
4. All ten parts of the 25th Supplement of the *Repertoire* were completed and posted on the website as of November 2023, which was only one month behind schedule, despite the challenge of staffing shortages faced during the reporting period. The Branch will do its utmost to maintain the schedule set for the 26th Supplement, the preparation of which is well underway. This entails starting to upload the advance versions of the edition during the second quarter of this year, as each part is completed, with a view to having the full publication available online by October 2024. As per our now well-established course of action, we have also commenced preparatory work on the 27th Supplement covering the current year, 2024.
5. Over the past year, the Branch continued to prioritize the use of innovation and the use of technology as a means of presenting the information available on the Council and finding ways of enhancing our data collection and analysis. We also continued to maintain and regularly update 11 distinct online information tools.
6. At the beginning of 2024, we released the latest edition of the annual *Highlights of Security Council Practice* covering the year 2023. The 2023 highlights paper provides a concise overview of the Council's activities

and corresponding trends, particularly in terms of meetings and decision-making as well as procedural developments. Furthermore, we continued to regularly issue the *UN Security Council in Review* online newsletter at the beginning of each month, providing a concise snapshot of the latest substantive and procedural developments in the Council immediately following the conclusion of each presidency.

7. In June 2023, with the support of the Permanent Mission of Japan, we launched the *Interactive Handbook of the Working Methods of the Security Council*. This was a collaborative project which also involved several former Chairs of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions since 2017, namely, Albania, Kuwait and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The *Interactive Handbook* represents a new online version of the “Green Handbook,” which Japan originally published in hard copy in 2006, with the objective of providing delegates with a concise and easily accessible compendium of all materials related to the Council’s working methods. The online version features both a search engine and index which have the objective of substantially simplifying the amount of time it takes to consult relevant sources and become acquainted with the Council’s fast-evolving procedures and practices.
8. In addition to our work on innovation, the Branch continued to enhance its advisory role vis-à-vis both Council members and all Member States by providing information and conducting ad hoc research at their request. We have also continued to engage in outreach programmes aimed at familiarizing Member States with the work of the Council, with a

particular focus on the incoming elected members of the Council as they prepare to take up their new roles each year.

9. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates,** these innovations, along with the consolidation of the *Repertoire* as an annual publication issued every year based on a predictable schedule, while maintaining 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* have enabled the Branch to hire temporary staff 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 in 1999, the Trust Fund has been instrumental to the Branch's efforts to overcome a decades-long backlog in its publication and to make the rich historical and contemporary practice of the Council more readily available.

10. As a means of securing sustained support, the Branch has launched appeals to Member States for the replenishment of the Trust Fund on an annual basis since 2021. We are grateful for the generous contributions of our donors in 2023, which have allowed us to partially bridge the staffing gap. Notwithstanding our concerted efforts and the generous support received from Member States thus far, the levels and overall predictability of funding remain a concern. The Trust Fund has received on average less than 35 per cent of the amounts requested in our annual appeals from 2021-2023.

11. The objective of the 2024 appeal, which was presented to Member States

in December 2023, is three-fold: (i) to maintain the annual publication schedule of the *Repertoire* for the 26th and 27th Supplements (covering 2023 and 2024) and prevent backlog; (ii) optimize data collection to delivery real-time information to Member States on developments in the Council; and (iii) expand the scope of existing datasets, such as the Field Missions Dashboard, to ensure the consistency and coherence of information presented.

12. Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates, before closing, I would like to invite those who would like to know more about the various resources available on the Council's practice, to visit the website of the Security Council and the pages devoted to the *Repertoire* and the array of corresponding research tools. We would welcome your questions and feedback on what additional types of information that would be useful to Member States. The Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division remains at the disposal of your delegations to meet, discuss and provide insight and guidance on all aspects of the current and past practice of the Council and to respond to any questions you may have.

13. Thank you.