



# General Assembly

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## Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

19–27 February 2019

### Draft report

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#### IV. *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

1. Reference was made to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* during the general exchange of views held at the 290th and 291st meetings of the Special Committee, on 19 February, and during the 2nd meeting of the Working Group of the Whole, on 21 February.

2. During the general exchange of views, delegations commended the Secretariat on its continuing efforts to update the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire* and to eliminate the backlog in their preparation. The significance of the two publications as sources of reference and as effective means of maintaining the institutional memory of the Organization, as well as their importance in the dissemination of the work of the Organization, were recalled. Several delegations emphasized the need to eliminate the backlog with regard to volume III of the *Repertory*. The Secretariat was also encouraged to continue its efforts to make the publications available electronically and to publish the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire* in all official languages of the United Nations at the same time.

3. Delegations expressed appreciation to those Member States that had contributed to the two trust funds established for the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*, which had facilitated the progress made in eliminating the backlog with regard to those publications, and encouraged Member States to make additional contributions.

4. At its 2nd meeting, the Working Group of the Whole was informed by representatives of the Secretariat about the status of the preparation of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*.

5. With regard to the *Repertoire*, it was reported that the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division had completed Supplement 20, covering the years 2016 and 2017, which was in the process of being published. An advance version was available on the website of the *Repertoire*. The



Branch had also made significant progress in the drafting of Supplement 21, covering the year 2018, which was scheduled for completion by October 2019. In parallel, the Branch had commenced work on Supplement 22, covering the year 2019. To achieve progress, the Branch had continued to develop efficiency-enhancing initiatives, including the progressive automation of data collection and the enhancement of data analysis, and had closely collaborated with other departments.

6. Work was also continuing on translating the *Repertoire* into all the official languages and publishing the completed Supplements. All Supplements covering the period from 1993 to 2013 had been made available online in all official languages. The publication of all translated versions of Supplement 19 (2014–2015) and Supplement 20 (2016–2017) was expected, respectively, by June 2019 and the beginning of 2020.

7. Attention was drawn to the *Repertoire* section on the new website of the Security Council, which was available in all six official languages. Modern technology continued to be leveraged to enhance the tools on the website and their interactive capabilities, and efforts were under way to improve users' visualization of and interaction with the available information. The Branch was also pleased that, with the support of the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the *Highlights of Security Council Practice 2018* had been released earlier than ever before.

8. It was emphasized that the preparation and publication of the *Repertoire* continued to rely on voluntary contributions to the trust fund and the sponsorship of associate experts. In the light of the increasing activity of the Security Council, future progress depended largely on the provision of additional resources.<sup>1</sup>

9. Concerning the status of the *Repertory*, it was reported that, in the past year, volume II of Supplement 8 (1989–1994) and volume I of Supplement 10 (2000–2009) had been published online. Studies on Article 33 for Supplements 7 to 9 (1985–1999) and Article 49 for volume III of Supplements 7 to 9 (1985–1999) and Supplement 10 (2000–2009) had been submitted to the lead department, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, for review. Studies on Article 23 for Supplements 7 to 9 (1985–1999) were under preparation. Work continued in the Office of the Legal Counsel on studies on Articles 104 and 105 for volume VI of Supplement 10 (2000–2009). With the assistance of the Codification Division, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had recruited a consultant to prepare a study on Article 58 for volume IV of Supplement 10 (2000–2009). Four studies on Articles 55 (c) and 56 for volume IV of Supplement 10 (2000–2009) and Supplement 11 (2010–2015) were under review or preparation by the responsible author unit, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Moreover, six studies, on Articles 33, 39, 50 and 51 for volume III and on Articles 92 and 99 for volume VI of Supplement 11 (2009–2015), were pending review. On the website of the *Repertory*, 51 completed volumes, together with advance versions of studies under review, could be searched through the website's full-text search function.

10. The Secretariat maintained its long-standing relationship with the University of Ottawa and was also assisted by the work of interns in preparing studies for the *Repertory*. The Secretariat had invited academic institutions to which members of the International Law Commission were affiliated to consider contributing to the preparation of studies, which had resulted in a cooperation agreement with Peking University. The Secretariat had also asked States to consider sponsoring associate

<sup>1</sup> Donations were made, or associate experts were sponsored, by Albania, Angola, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, China, the Congo, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

experts to work on the *Repertory*. The Secretariat reiterated its appeal, previously made in the Sixth Committee, that delegations convey expressions of interest by academic institutions for possible cooperation on the *Repertory*.

11. Since the establishment of the trust fund in 2005, more than \$170,000<sup>2</sup> had been donated. After the use of part of the funds for the preparation of *Repertory* studies, approximately \$42,000 remained available in the trust fund.

12. Following the reports by the representatives of the Secretariat, a suggestion was made that the new Security Council website should provide for easier access to documents issued or received by the Security Council, in particular notifications required under Article 51 of the Charter.

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<sup>2</sup> Donations were made by Albania, Chile, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Guinea, Ireland, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Turkey and the United Kingdom.