



# 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

18–26 February 2020

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Alis Lungu (Romania)

#### 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 293rd and 294th meetings of the Special Committee, on 18 February, and during the 2nd meeting of the Working Group of the Whole, on 20 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. Support was expressed for the use of the internship programme and the cooperation with academic institutions for the preparation of studies.
3. Delegations expressed appreciation to those Member States that had contributed to the 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 or to sponsor experts.
4. At its 2nd meeting, the representatives of the Secretariat informed the Working Group of the Whole about the status of the preparation of the *Repertoire* and the *Repertory*.



5. With regard to the *Repertoire*, it was reported that, for the first time in its 68-year history, the publication was being produced on a contemporary basis. Over the preceding year, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division had simultaneously prepared Supplements 21 and 22, the first single-year editions of the publication, covering the years 2018 and 2019, respectively. The advance version of Supplement 21 had been posted online in October 2019 and the advance version of Supplement 22 was scheduled to be completed by October 2020. Throughout 2020, the Branch would be releasing the parts as they became available. In line with the new methodology for covering contemporary practice, the Branch had already begun its preparatory research and drafting work on Supplement 23, covering the year 2020.

6. Work was also continuing on translating the *Repertoire* into all the official languages and publishing the completed Supplements. Published versions of the Supplements covering the period from 1989 to 2015 were available online in the official languages. It was expected that Supplement 20, covering the period 2016–2017, would be available in early 2020.

7. Attention was drawn to the website of the Security Council, which contained a broad range of information sources in addition to the *Repertoire*. The Branch had explored the use of modern technology with a view to enhancing information tools, in particular to improve visualization and user interaction. In August 2019, the Branch had launched a new interactive information platform on the Security Council website, the Field Missions Dashboard, in collaboration with the Department of Peace Operations and United Nations Volunteers. In early January 2020, the Branch had launched the fully revamped *Highlights of Security Council Practice*. In February 2020, the Branch had released a revamped version of the *Monthly Highlights of Security Council Practice*, enabling Member States and the public at large to monitor the activity of the Council with regard to meetings, consultations, hours spent and outcomes. The new platform allowed for a comparative year to date analysis dating back to 2012.

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 increasingly dynamic and complex practice 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, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had begun to recruit consultants with a view to preparing two studies, one on Article 58 for Supplement 11 (2010–2015) and one on Article 65 for Supplement 10 (2000–2009), the latter in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. Thanks to the continued support of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, six studies pertaining to Supplement 11 (2010–2015) were also at the research stage (studies on Articles 8, 36, 54, 94, 104 and 105). Two volumes had been published, volume II of Supplement 8 (1989–1994) and volume II of Supplement 9 (1995–1999). Both had been made available on the website. It was also recalled that the electronic version of the *Repertory* included a full-text search feature, providing users with the opportunity to search all the studies instantaneously for any word or combination of words in the three languages of the

<sup>1</sup> Donations had been made, or associate experts had been 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, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

publication (English, French and Spanish). Overall, of the 57 volumes that the publication should consist of, 44 had been completed, with 31 having been published and 13 having been finalized and submitted for translation and publication. Thus, work remained to be completed on 13 volumes.

10. In addition to its long-standing relationship with the University of Ottawa, the Secretariat was also assisted by the work of interns in preparing studies for the *Repertory* and had requested States to consider sponsoring associate experts to work on the *Repertory*. The Secretariat reiterated its appeal 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 \$188,000 had been received.<sup>2</sup> After the use of part of the funds for the preparation of *Repertory* studies, some \$72,000 remained available.

12. Following the reports by the representatives of the Secretariat, the suggestion was reiterated that the Security Council website should provide for easier access to documents issued or received by the Council, in particular notifications required under Article 51 of the Charter. The Secretariat was also requested to explore ways to distribute notifications required under Article 51 to Member States at large. The representative of the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch explained that the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs was working on ways to make the communications of the Council available to all Member States, but that additional resources were necessary in order to do so.

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