



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
20 February 2020

Original: English

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)

III. Peaceful settlement of disputes

B. Proposal by the Russian Federation to recommend that the Secretariat be requested to establish a website on the peaceful settlement of disputes and update the *Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States*

1. During the general exchange of views held at the 293rd and 294th meetings of the Special Committee, on 18 February, and at the 2nd meeting of the Working Group of the Whole, on 20 February, the sponsor delegation recalled its proposal, as revised in 2014 (A/69/33, para. 52), that the Special Committee consider requesting the Secretariat to establish a website, within existing resources, dedicated to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, which would include references to relevant United Nations documents, as well as to the United Nations and other organs active in the field, and to update the *Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States*, prepared by the United Nations in 1992. The sponsor delegation regretted that no consensus had been reached on the proposal, which had been on the agenda of the Special Committee for several years. It was recalled that the *Handbook* had been prepared on the basis of an earlier initiative of the Special Committee (see General Assembly resolutions 39/79 and 39/88 A of 13 December 1984). It was further emphasized that an updated *Handbook* and a website prepared by the Secretariat would provide the most reliable source of information on new developments in the peaceful settlement of disputes. The sponsor delegation proposed that work could first begin on the proposed website. It also requested that the proposal be retained on the agenda of the Special Committee.

2. Several delegations voiced support for the proposal in the general exchange of views and in the Working Group of the Whole. The view was reiterated that updating the *Handbook* and establishing a website on the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes as a reliable source of information would be useful to all Member States,



especially smaller States with limited resources. It was also suggested that the *Handbook* could be updated to take into account new developments, as well as the practice of Member States, including the best practices raised by Member States in the Special Committee during the annual thematic debate on the means for the settlement of disputes.

3. Other delegations reiterated their doubts regarding the added value of the proposal, given the availability of other sources of information online, and continued to maintain their concern that it would not be a proper prioritization of the limited resources allocated to the Secretariat.
