



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

16–24 February 2021

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Sarah Weiss Ma'udi (Israel)

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 297th meeting of the Special Committee, on 16 February, and at the 2nd meeting of the Working Group of the Whole, on 17 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*. The sponsor delegation once again regretted that no consensus had been reached on the proposal, which had been on the agenda of the Special Committee for several years. The sponsor delegation emphasized the need to update the *Handbook*, which had been prepared by the United Nations in 1992 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), in the light of developments over the previous two decades. The sponsor delegation reiterated its suggestion that work could first begin on the proposed website, which could contain relevant links and documents issued by the United Nations and other organizations. It also requested that the proposal be retained on the agenda of the Special Committee.

2. During the general exchange of views and in the Working Group of the Whole, several delegations voiced support for the proposal. 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 and, in particular, to smaller States. 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 and accessibility 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.
