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

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### 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 300th and 301st meetings of the Special Committee, on 22 February, and at the 3rd meeting of the Working Group of the Whole, on 25 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 in keeping the institutional memory of the Organization and providing analytical studies of the application and interpretation of the Articles of the Charter was recalled. Several delegations noted with concern that the backlog in the preparation of volume III of the *Repertory* had not been eliminated and called upon the Secretary-General to address the issue effectively and as a priority. The Secretariat was commended for making the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire* available electronically and accessible on their respective websites. The need to publish the two publications in all official languages of the United Nations was noted.
3. Support was expressed for the use of the internship programme and for cooperation with academic institutions in the preparation of studies.
4. Recognizing that the Secretariat lacked adequate resources and the capacity to prepare the publications, a call was made to Member States to make additional contributions to the trust funds established for the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire* or to sponsor experts.
5. At the 3rd meeting of the Working Group, the representatives of the Secretariat gave a briefing on the status of the preparation of the *Repertoire* and the *Repertory*.



6. With regard to the status of the *Repertoire*, it was reported that very significant progress continued to be made in the preparation of the publication, with a focus on the simultaneous completion of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth supplements, covering the years 2020 and 2021, respectively. More specifically, it was noted that, despite the major disruption caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the advance version of the twenty-third supplement had been completed and posted online in October 2021, as scheduled, and that the advance version of the twenty-fourth supplement was on track to be released by October 2022.

7. Developments were then outlined in three areas. First, with regard to publication, it was noted that all published versions of the supplements covering the period from 1989 to 2018 were available online in all six official languages. The twenty-second supplement, covering the year 2019, had been published in hard copy and online in English, while the online editions in the other five languages are expected to be available in the second quarter of 2022. A 22-month schedule had been maintained from the closing of the reporting period to the final publication of the hard-copy version of each supplement. In 2022 an ambitious goal was set to reduce the gap between the end of the year and the publication of the supplements to 20 months for the English version and 21 months for the other languages.

8. Second, with regard to innovation, it was underlined that modern technologies were being used more extensively to develop a broad range of visual and interactive information data sets on the practice of the Security Council, all of which were available on its website. Some of the data sets were also posted in the “Peace and security” data hub. It was noted that the “Women and peace and security” dashboard and the “Protection of civilians” dashboard were expanded to include information dating back to the inception of the agenda items in the years 2000 and 1999, respectively. In addition, a new data set “Chairs and Vice-Chairs of subsidiary organs” dashboard was released in June 2021. In January 2022, the 2021 edition of the *Highlights of Security Council Practice* containing additional information on Arria-formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues was released. Furthermore, in May 2021, a new monthly newsletter entitled “UN Security Council in Review” was launched.

9. Third, with regard to outreach, efforts continued to be made to actively promote the *Repertoire* and the various data sets outlined above on social media, in order to raise awareness and improve the availability of knowledge and the quality of data on the work and practice of the Security Council.

10. Gratitude was expressed for the enhanced support of Member States through their voluntary contributions to the trust fund for updating the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*. It was noted that the resources under the trust fund had enabled the deployment of an upgrade to the search engine, which improved access to the more than 73 years of history contained in the pages of the *Repertoire*, advanced the development of fully searchable data on Security Council decisions, and secured additional editorial capacity to accelerate the availability of the *Repertoire* in its final form. The generous contributions made by China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland since the previous briefing in 2021 were also noted.

11. Gratitude was further expressed to Japan and Sweden for their recent sponsorship of junior professional officers.

12. It was noted that, to sustain the very ambitious strategy with regard to the publication of the *Repertoire*, continued financial support from Member States remained critical. In December 2021, an appeal for contributions to the trust fund had been launched, with the aim of maintaining the ambitious plan for the preparation and

release of the *Repertoire*, on a predictable schedule, and preventing the forming of a backlog. The trust fund would also serve to strengthen the infrastructure for data collection, analysis and visualization, thereby increasing access to real-time data relating to the work of the Security Council. It was also noted that the progress achieved in previous years, as well as the very significant increase in the number of requests for information received from the Council members and the Member States at large, had proved that the *Repertoire*, which had been conceived in the 1950s, remained an essential tool for understanding the increasingly dynamic and complex work of the Security Council.

13. Concerning the status of the *Repertory*, a briefing was given on the main developments since the issuance of the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/76/223), with a focus on two main areas.

14. First, with regard to new studies in preparation, it was reported that progress had been made in relation to three supplements, Supplements Nos. 10, 11 and 12. In relation to Supplement No. 10 (2000–2009), research and drafting work on Articles 43 to 47 of the Charter for volume III was being carried out by Korea University. In relation to Supplement No. 11 (2010–2015), it was noted that a study on Article 11, prepared with the assistance of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa, was to be finalized by its author department, the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In addition, a study on Article 58, drafted by a consultant and reviewed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, had been completed and was shortly to be posted on the *Repertory* website. In relation to Supplement No. 12 (2016–2020), the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa had undertaken the research work required to prepare 13 studies on Articles 2 (4), 2 (7), 12, 14, 27, 34, 35, 39, 41, 50, 52, 53 and 96.

15. Second, with regard to the participation of academic institutions in the research and drafting of studies for the *Repertory*, gratitude was expressed to the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa and Korea University for their continued and valuable support.

16. In addition to those developments, it was also underlined that, further to the appeal by the General Assembly for Member States to consider sponsoring associate experts to work on the *Repertory*, which had been relayed to all delegations in a note verbale of 10 January 2022, one delegation from the Asia-Pacific region had recently requested additional information on that initiative.

17. The attention of delegations was also drawn to the call for contributions to the trust fund to eliminate the backlog in the preparation of the *Repertory*. In that regard, it was noted that, as at 30 January 2022, the Fund's available balance was \$95,102.

18. Delegations were once again invited to increase the interest of academic institutions in their countries or regions in participating in the preparation of studies for the *Repertory*, while taking into account the importance of geographical diversity in that respect.

19. Following the reports by the representatives of the Secretariat, the Secretariat was again requested to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory*, considering that all of its volumes were affected. The Secretariat reiterated its commitment to do that, while noting the scarcity of available resources.

20. The Special Committee recommends that the General Assembly:

(a) Commend the Secretary-General for the progress made in the preparation of studies for the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, including the use of the internship programme of the United Nations and cooperation with academic

institutions for this purpose, as well as the progress made towards updating the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*;

(b) Further encourage Member States to identify academic institutions that have the capacity to contribute to the preparation of studies for the *Repertory* and to provide the contact details of such institutions, and in this regard further welcome the initiative of the Secretariat also to invite members of the International Law Commission to recommend academic institutions that the Secretariat could contact for this purpose;

(c) Note with appreciation the contributions made by Member States to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory* and to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire*, as well as other contributions, including the sponsoring of associate experts to assist in the updating of the *Repertoire*;

(d) Reiterate its call for voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory* so as to further support the Secretariat in carrying out the effective elimination of that backlog; voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire* so as to sustain the annual publication schedule; and the sponsoring, on a voluntary basis and with no cost to the United Nations, of associate experts to assist in the updating of the two publications;

(e) Call upon the Secretary-General to continue his efforts towards updating the two publications and making them available electronically in all their respective language versions, and encourage the continued updating of the websites for the *Repertory*<sup>1</sup> and for the *Repertoire*;<sup>2</sup>

(f) Note with concern that the backlog in the preparation of all volumes of the *Repertory*, in particular volume III, although slightly reduced, has not been eliminated, and call upon the Secretary-General to address that issue effectively and on a priority basis, while commending the Secretary-General for progress made in reducing the backlog;

(g) Reiterate the responsibility of the Secretary-General for the quality of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*, and with regard to the *Repertoire* call upon the Secretary-General to continue to follow the modalities outlined in paragraphs 102 to 106 of his report dated 18 September 1952;<sup>3</sup>

(h) Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on both the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://legal.un.org/repertory>.

<sup>2</sup> [www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/structure](http://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/structure).

<sup>3</sup> A/2170.