

(Check against delivery)
14 October 2014

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
69th SESSION**

**Briefing by the Chief of the Security Council Practices and Charter
Research Branch/Security Council Affairs Division/DPA, on the
*Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council***

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

1. I am grateful for this opportunity to update members of the Sixth Committee on the status of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and related activities. Since Member States have the report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire* before them (A/69/159), I shall be brief today.
2. Distinguished delegates, in 2014 the Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs continued to make good progress in the updating of the *Repertoire*. The Branch simultaneously worked on the preparation of the 17th and 18th Supplements to the *Repertoire* in order to expedite its coverage of the contemporary practice and procedure of the Security Council.
3. Early this year, the Branch focused on completing the 17th Supplement to the *Repertoire*, covering the period from 2010 to 2011. The entire volume was completed and made available in its advance version on the *Repertoire* website in June 2014.

4. Actual drafting of the 18th Supplement, covering the two-year period from 2012 to 2013, commenced in early 2014. Groundwork for this Supplement had been systematically laid down during the last two years through recording the most contemporary practice of the Security Council in an internal database. Several chapters of this Supplement will start appearing in the advance version on the *Repertoire* website towards the end of 2014.
5. Progress in the preparation of the *Repertoire* is mostly due to efficiency-enhancing initiatives, such as the specialized training of staff, the review of editorial processes, automation of data collection, increased use of internal databases and the continuous up-dating of the *Repertoire* drafting guidelines. However, future progress will very much depend on the availability of resources which I will address later.
6. A few words about the publishing status of the drafted Supplements of the *Repertoire*. I am glad to report that all English-language versions of the *Repertoire* up to the 15th Supplement have been published. The translated versions of the 12th, 13th and 14th Supplements are expected to be available electronically early next year while that of the 15th Supplement will be available towards the end of 2015. The English-language version of the 16th Supplement, covering the period 2007-2009, has now been edited and indexed and will be published in early 2015. The 17th Supplement, covering the period 2010-2011, will be submitted for editing in the coming weeks. The work involved in the publication of the *Repertoire* has proven to be time intensive and requires extensive coordination with outside offices. We continue to work with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) to

shorten the time lag between the completion of a Supplement and its eventual publication in all six official languages.

7. Mr. Chairman, during the last year, upon request, the Branch continued to respond to requests for information from Member States, United Nations staff, students, academic scholars and researchers on questions relating to the current and past practice of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

8. I invite you to explore frequently the *Repertoire* section of the Security Council website where we regularly post new studies. We are currently working on improvements to the search function with a view to guiding users more intuitively when researching the wealth of information on practices of the Security Council contained in the *Repertoire*. The website also offers a broad range of research tools such as tables and graphs featuring the mandates of all current peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as well as the relevant provisions of decisions of the Council in relation to cross-cutting agenda items, namely, Children and armed conflict, Women and peace and security, and the Protection of civilians. These tables and graphs enhance the ability of researchers and others interested in the work of the Council to analyse systematically the practice of the Council in the areas mentioned.

9. Aside from its work on the *Repertoire*, the Branch, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/115 contributed to addressing the backlog in the preparation of volume III of the *Repertory* by submitting all studies on various Charter Articles for the period 2000 to 2009. I understand that OLA has now made these studies available on the *Repertory* website.

10. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the progress made in the preparation and publication of the *Repertoire* as well as the updating of the *Repertoire* section of the Council website would not have been possible without contributions received to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire*. In this context, we are truly grateful for the contributions made to the Trust Fund recently by China and Turkey. Furthermore, we are very grateful to Switzerland for their sponsorship of an Associate Expert who has made a valuable contribution to advancing our work.

11. Nonetheless, the Branch faces a heavy workload in sustaining a regular publication schedule for the *Repertoire* to prevent new backlogs from forming, in updating the *Repertoire* section of the Council website in all languages and in continuing to improve the quality and accessibility of information about the Security Council. Besides regular budget resources, we are also dependent on voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established by the General Assembly in resolution 54/106. We are grateful to those Member States who have generously contributed to the Trust Fund over the years, and we would encourage all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund or to consider sponsorship of an Associate Expert for the Branch, as was done in the past.

12. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, your feedback on our work is very much appreciated. The Branch continues to stand ready to assist you with information and guidance on all procedural and constitutional aspects of the current as well as past practice of the Security Council.

13. Thank you.