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**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
73<sup>rd</sup> SESSION**

**Briefing by the Officer in Charge of the Security Council Practices and  
Charter Research Branch/Security Council Affairs Division/Department of  
Political Affairs, on the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council***

**Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,**

1. I am most grateful for this opportunity to provide the delegates of the Sixth Committee with an update on the status of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and related activities. By way of introduction, I wish to make reference to the report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire* (A/73/190) of 19 July 2018. My remarks today will serve to summarise the progress achieved thus far and provide you with relevant updates.
2. **Distinguished delegates**, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division in the Department of Political Affairs last had the honour of briefing this Committee on 10 October 2017. Since then, we have achieved very significant progress in the updating of the *Repertoire*.

3. In the past year we completed ~~the~~ 20th Supplement to the *Repertoire* covering the period 2016 to 2017. I am pleased to report that parts of the Supplement are already being made available in their advance form on the Security Council's *Repertoire* website and we are expecting to make all parts available online by November. Accordingly, our focus is now on the preparation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Supplement covering the year 2018.
4. As mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, we expect to complete the drafting process for the 21<sup>st</sup> Supplement (2018) in the third quarter of 2019, with a view to making it available online in its advance version immediately thereafter. To achieve this goal, the Branch has already commenced the drafting of parts of the Supplement.
5. The very significant progress in the preparation of the *Repertoire* has been made possible in large part by the contributions of Member States, which have enabled the use of efficiency-enhancing initiatives and the availability of additional human resources. Progress has been achieved through enhanced collaboration with other UN departments, namely, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM), the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Department of Management's Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT). In addition, we have mobilized resources to develop technological solutions for the progressive automation of data collection and the enhancement of data analysis, thereby significantly facilitating the research process and the drafting of the *Repertoire*.

6. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates**, let me first address the publishing status of those Supplements already available on the *Repertoire* website. To date, all Supplements covering the period 1989 to 2013 are available online in all six official languages of the United Nations.
  
7. Thanks to the extraordinary and enhanced collaboration with DGACM, we are succeeding in shortening the time lag between the completion of Supplements and their eventual publication in all six official languages. I am pleased to report that the 19<sup>th</sup> Supplement in English (covering the years 2014 and 2015) will be available in print by early 2019. We also expect to make available on the *Repertoire* website all translated versions of the 19<sup>th</sup> Supplement by early 2019. For the first time since General Assembly resolution 55/222 and in the history of the *Repertoire*, edited Supplements are now being made available online almost simultaneously in the six official languages of the United Nations.
  
8. In addition to the Supplements of the *Repertoire*, I invite you to explore the Security Council's *Repertoire* website in its entirety which is available in all official languages. The website includes relevant information with regards to the totality of items on the agenda of the Security Council, including on its subsidiary organs. We continue to collaborate with OICT and the UN Library to further enhance the Security Council's *Repertoire* website functions and effectiveness. Efforts to strive to improve the site to ensure a more reliable, accurate and user-friendly platform that improves access to the *Repertoire* and renders searches of its content faster and more efficient is also ongoing.

9. The website also offers a broad range of other information resources including tables, graphs, statistical data on the practice of the Council, the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as well as 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 initiatives contribute to further showcase the work of the Security Council and its critical contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.
  
10. In the past years, we have endeavoured to enhance these tools and their interactive capabilities through the use of modern technologies. A case in point is the *Highlights of the Security Council Practice*. This publication provides an annual review of Security Council activities and contains statistical information on the evolving practice of the Council relating to meetings, missions, agenda, decisions and voting patterns, as well as on its subsidiary bodies. The past three editions (2015, 2016 and 2017) have benefitted from our close collaboration with OICT. This partnership has enabled us to better inform and better present statistical information on the work of the Security Council using a new platform for the publication of the Council's data. Since September 2017, this same technology is being used to make available monthly statistics of the Security Council.
  
11. Subject to the availability of resources, we will continue to strive to make more research products available in the years to come. These products, are geared to enhance the ability of Member States and the public at large to become more acquainted with the practice and work of the Security Council and the central role it exercises in the maintenance of international peace

and security.

12. Consistent with the intention of General Assembly resolution 686 (VII) of 1952 to make the evidence of customary international law more readily available, and notwithstanding the limited resources available for its elaboration, we are currently exploring improvements to the website with a view to making the information on the *Repertoire* more promptly and easily accessible to Member States and other interested audiences.
13. Over the past year, additional measures have been identified to improve the publication of the *Repertoire*, as well as the tables and graphs made available on its website. While the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch continues to strive to introduce new efficiency and quality measures, future progress on this front will be largely dependent on the provision of additional resources.
14. **Esteemed Chair, 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 the contributions received to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire*. Thanks to the funds available in the Trust Fund, the Branch was able to hire the services of a consultant who was instrumental in advancing the completion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Supplement and in creating the conditions necessary for the preparation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Supplement (2018) on a one-year cycle.

15. We continue to be highly dependent on voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established by the General Assembly in resolution 54/106 (December 1999) in order to sustain the efforts and achievements of recent years, which have allowed the *Repertoire* team to significantly narrow the gap between coverage of past and contemporary Council practice. At this stage, unless the Trust Fund is replenished and resources are secured to reinforce the work of the Branch, the progress achieved so far may prove not sustainable. In this connection, I would like to inform of renewed efforts to generate new funds, including through a letter transmitted to Member States by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 28 September 2018. Indeed, the continued increase of activity of the Security Council in the form of meetings and outcomes presents an ever-increasing challenge for the Branch in preparing the *Repertoire*.
16. For that reason, whilst extremely grateful to those Member States who have contributed over the years, we strongly appeal to all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund. In this regard, we are truly thankful for the contribution made to the Trust Fund since our last briefing in 2017 by the People's Republic of China. We would also encourage Member States to consider the sponsorship of an Associate Expert for the Branch. In this connection, we are particularly grateful to Italy for its sponsorship of an Associate Expert since September 2017 whose contribution to advancing our work has been extremely valuable.
17. **Esteemed Chairperson, distinguished delegates,** we welcome and look forward to your feedback on our work. I would like to underscore that, beyond this briefing, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research

Branch stands ready to support you with information and guidance on all procedural and constitutional aspects of the current as well as past practice of the Security Council.

18. Thank you.