



**73rd Session of the General Assembly  
Sixth Committee**

**Agenda Item 91: Strengthening and Promoting the International Treaty Framework**

**Statement by Ms. Nadia Kalb  
Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations**

**New York, 5 October 2018**

Austria fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union as well as the statement delivered by Brazil on behalf of the group of sponsors of this new agenda item.

Austria is traditional supporter of strengthening international law and the rule of law, including multilateral treaties. We share the views expressed earlier today that international treaties must be respected and implemented.

We would like to commend the **Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs** for its important role regarding depositary functions, registration of Treaties under Article 102 of the Charter as well as many other matters, such as the Treaty Handbook, treaty event, and capacity building seminars – which my delegation has also benefitted from. I also would like to welcome the Chief of the Treaty Section, Mr. Santiago Vilalpando, and I look forward to his valuable contributions during our informal consultations.

Austria is very diligent in registering its treaties and also benefits from exchanges with the UN Secretariat in view of its own role as depositary. Therefore, Austria is delighted to work with Brazil, Argentina, Italy and Singapore to bring about necessary **modernization and efficiency measures** for the registration of treaties. I understand the draft resolution has been circulated just moments ago.

Allow me just highlight a few points which are very important to us, and which are also highlighted in the SG's report on the review of the regulations to give effect to Art 102 of the Charter, A/72/86.

Austria welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendations to:

- consider measures to address the current shortcomings in treaty registration, through **capacity building, publications or technical assistance**;
- consider the opportunity for an exchange of views among States regarding their treaty making practice, and analytical studies;
- to modernize the regulations and recognize the role of information technology
- to consider amendments to recognize the role of depositaries other than the SG;
- to provide **reliable guidelines for registration** and the required documentation;
- consider measures to **enhance accessibility** of the register;
- to consider whether the **current publication policy meets the requirements of member states**, in light of pressure on limited resources;
- to consider whether to remove current requirements of translation and consider alternative measures, such as **publication of translations** only when they have been provided by the registering entity and to reiterate the call on Member States to provide translations of treaties provided for registration; and
- to consider broadening the policy of **limited publication**, in light of the wide range of sources where texts of multilateral treaties are available.

Austria wishes to reiterate the importance of maintaining the multilingual nature of the Treaty Series which already contains texts of treaties in about 100 languages. Considering a **review of the translation and publication policy** would be a most effective measure to reduce costs, address the backlog in the Treaty Series and enhance efficiencies.

Austria looks forward to working with all delegations to render the regulations useful and relevant and to make good use of the opportunity to discuss, in the future, issues relating to strengthening and promoting the international Treaty Framework.

Thank you.