



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework (Agenda item 88)

Madam Chair,

At the outset, Portugal wishes to highlight the numerous and rich contributions from Member States concerning the Regulations for the Registration and Publication of Treaties to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, in response to the call of the General Assembly in its Resolution 73/210.

One such contribution was the Proposal and Non-paper submitted by Spain on its own behalf and on behalf of seventeen other Member States¹, including my own - Portugal. That proposal contains an amendment to Articles 5 and 13 of the *Regulations for the Registration and Publication of Treaties to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations*.

Portugal considers that there is room for improving certain aspects of the system, including with a view to addressing the delay in the publication of treaties in the United Nations Treaty Series after their registration.

Madam Chair,

In particular, Portugal believes that the *Regulations for the Registration and Publication of Treaties* should allow for the possibility of Member States submitting, on a voluntary basis, courtesy translations of treaties into any of the six official languages of the United Nations.

¹ Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.



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This is the objective of the proposed amendment to Article 5 of the *Regulations*. It is based on the understanding that Member States and the UN Secretariat should work together and explore synergies whenever possible. This is especially so in relation to delicate, time-consuming, and expensive endeavors, such as the translation of treaties.

Moreover, the proposed amendment further enhances and promotes the understanding that multilingualism and linguist equality are key elements of the UN architecture.

Madam Chair,

In an increasingly digitalized world, information technologies and digital tools may contribute significantly to promoting transparency, predictability, and certainty.

This understanding is shared by many other Member States, as noted in the 2020 Report of the Secretary-General on the Review of the Regulations. In this spirit, the United Nations Treaty Section already makes available the text of the treaties upon registration, but before formal publication.

Portugal applauds the adoption of such practice and believes that more benefits would arise from ensuring that current practices are aligned with, and grounded on, the applicable rules. We thus believe that Article 13 of the *Regulations for the Registration and Publication of Treaties* should be amended to reflect that current practice.

Finally, Portugal agrees that the overall registration process would benefit from the development of an online registration tool. This would facilitate the submission of treaties for registration, and the work of the Office of Legal Affairs.

I thank you, Madam Chair.