

17 October 2019

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
74<sup>th</sup> SESSION**

**Briefing by the Senior Political Affairs Officer, Officer-in-Charge of the  
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch/Security Council  
Affairs Division/Department of Political and Peacebuilding 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*

3. **Distinguished delegates**, by its resolution 686 (VII) of 5 December 1952, the General Assembly mandated the Secretary-General to undertake the publication of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* as one of the ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available. At the time, it was anticipated that within ten years of

General Conference to review the Charter of the United Nations, pursuant to Article 109 of the Charter, and that the *Repertoire*, among other documents, would provide a useful basis in this regard.

4. Although the Charter review conference was never held, since its first volume was published in 1954, the *Repertoire* has provided an authoritative overview of the Security Council's contribution to the advancement of customary international law. The *Repertoire* provides comprehensive analytical summaries of the Council's interpretation and application of the

*Repertoire* for the benefit of Member States and the public at large, made  
alphabetically and systematically, both chronologically and historic. The

members alike, and for new delegates as well as for seasoned diplomats.

6. **Distinguished delegates**, today, as a result of our progress over the past several years, for the first time in its 67-year history, the *Repertoire* is being produced on a contemporary basis. With the recent publication of the 20<sup>th</sup> Supplement of the *Repertoire* covering the years 2016 and 2017, the main

addition, we have mobilized resources to develop a new database that will, once launched, greatly facilitate and automate our research and drafting of the *Repertoire*.

8. In terms of publishing, to date, all Supplements covering the period from 1989 to 2015 are available online in all six official languages. We are expecting to make all translated versions of the 20<sup>th</sup> Supplement, covering the years 2016 and 2017, available in early 2020. Thanks to our enhanced collaboration with DGACM, we are succeeding in shortening the time lag

publication with statistical information on the evolving practice of the Security Council relating to meetings, missions, agenda, decisions and voting patterns, as well as on its subsidiary bodies. With the help of an external consultant and in collaboration with OICT and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), we are developing a new layout utilizing a new technological platform and new data visualization for the upcoming 2019

~~dition of the publication~~

11. Most recently, in August 2019, we launched a new interactive information platform, the Field Missions Dashboard, which is now available on the Security Council website. The Dashboard allows users to navigate the mandates of active United Nations peace operations. The Dashboard is a collaborative project between DPPA, DPO and the United Nations Volunteers

~~and the result of a meeting convened in the Department of Peace Operations~~

14. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates**, the progress made in the preparation and publication of the *Repertoire* would not have been possible without the contributions received to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire* established by the General Assembly in resolution 54/106 of 9 December 1999. Thanks to the funds available in the Trust Fund, the Branch

was able to utilize additional resources to those of the regular budget to

outcomes presents an ever-growing challenge for the Branch in preparing the *Repertoire*.

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 the wider membership with information and guidance on all procedural and constitutional aspects of the current as well as past practice of the Security Council.

Thank you.