

23 October 2020

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

Briefing by the Chief of the Security Council Practices and Charter Research

Branch/Security Council Affairs Division/ Department of Political Affairs/ Office of the Secretary-General

Committee with an update on the status of the Security Council and related activities. I refer you to the Report of the Secretary-General (A/75/145) of 24 July 2020.

2. My remarks today will focus on the practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division in the Department of Political Affairs. I last had the honour of briefing the Sixth Committee in 2018. I would also like to briefly reflect on the current situation and plans for the way forward.

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. Since the first volume was published in 1954, the Repertoire has provided an authoritative overview of the Council's contribution to the advancement of international law through the interpretation and application of the Charter and its own Provisional Rules of Procedure.
4. The rich content of the publication offers a unique insight into the 75-year history of the Council, how the organ has given life to the Charter and how it has interpreted its powers and duties in the face of complex and evolving challenges to international peace and security. I invite delegates to visit the website of the Security Council, where these proceedings have been duly chronicled in the Repertoire for the benefit of Member States and the public at large, made searchable and systematized – both chronologically and by topic. The Repertoire constitutes a fundamental tool for Council and non-Council members alike, and for new delegates as well as for seasoned diplomats.
5. Distinguished delegates, over the past year, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch continued to make significant progress in the preparation of the Repertoire. The Branch has successfully adapted its methodology to enable the contemporaneous coverage of the practice of the Council, a milestone in the 68-year history of the publication.

6. The focus of our work in the past twelve months was the simultaneous preparation of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Supplements of the Repertoire, respectively covering the years 2019 and 2020. The initial parts of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Supplement were made available in their advance form on the website of the Security Council in August 2020. The remaining parts are being added to the website as they become available, all of which are expected to be online by

8. The objective of this ambitious schedule has been to ensure that the invaluable information on the practice of the Council is accessible to the broader membership as soon as possible. In order to ensure the sustainability of the contemporaneous coverage of the Council's practice, additional financial support from Member States has been and remains absolutely critical.
  
9. Indeed, the voluntary contributions of Member States have enabled us to use efficiency-enhancing

11. Utilizing the wealth of information collected in the preparation of the Repertoire, the Branch has continued to use modern technology to develop a broad range of visual and interactive resource tools on the practice of the Council and to publish them on the website. In early January 2020, we launched a revamped edition of the Highlights of Security Council Practice covering the year 2019. As most of you know, the Highlights is an annual online publication which has been published since 2011, offering the most comprehensive snapshot of the activities of the Council related to its agenda, meetings, decisions, voting patterns, and the work of its subsidiary bodies. With the help of an external consultant and building on our close collaboration with OICT and DPO, the 2019 edition of the Highlights features a new design and technological platform, providing enhanced interactivity and visualization of data. The Branch also released a revamped version of the T

have also commenced work on enhancing the accessibility of the ever increasing number of resource tools on the Council's website.

13. As in the past and subject to the availability of resources, we will continue to make more information products available to enable Member States and the public at large to become better acquainted with the work of the Council and the central role it exercises in the maintenance of international peace and security.

14. 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 from the Trust Fund, the Bureau (W/t F)- bgy6.9

These funds have allowed the Repertoire team to close the gap between coverage of past and contemporary Council practice. They have also enabled the Branch to provide both Council members and the wider membership with real time advisory and research support on procedural and substantive issues arising in the Council. Additional funding would allow us to fuoo