

(Check against delivery)
11 October 2013

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
68th SESSION**

**Briefing by the Chief of the Security Council Practices and Charter
Research Branch/Security Council Affairs Division/DPA, on the
*Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council***

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

1. I am grateful for this opportunity to update members of the Sixth Committee on the status of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and related activities. Since Member States have the report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire* before them (A/68/181), I shall be brief today.
2. Distinguished delegates, in 2013 the Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs continued to make good progress in the updating of the *Repertoire*. The Branch simultaneously worked on the preparation of the 17th and 18th Supplements to the *Repertoire* in order to expedite its coverage of the contemporary practice and procedure of the Security Council. This past year, the Branch focused on completing the 17th Supplement to the *Repertoire*, covering the period from 2010 to 2011. We expect the entire volume to be available in its advance version by the end of October 2013.

3. Actual drafting of the 18th Supplement covering the two-year period from 2012 to 2013 will commence in early 2014. Groundwork for this Supplement has been systematically laid down in the last two years through recording the most contemporary practice of the Security Council in an internal database.
4. Progress in the preparation of the *Repertoire* is mostly due to efficiency-enhancing initiatives, such as the specialized training of staff, the review of editorial processes, the automation of data collection, the increased use of internal databases and the continuous up-dating of *Repertoire* drafting guidelines. However, future progress will very much depend on the availability of resources which I will address later.
5. A few words about the status of the drafted Supplements to the *Repertoire* covering the period from 1993 to 2009. While the English-language version of the 12th and 13th Supplements covering the period 1993 to 1999 was published in 2011, the remaining languages are expected to be published shortly. As far as the 14th Supplement, covering the period 2000 to 2003, is concerned, the entire volume has been completed and the English-language version is to be published this month with the other languages to follow in 2014. The indexing of the 15th Supplement is at its final stage, and work on editing of the 16th Supplement started earlier this year. We continue to work with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) to shorten the time lag between the completion of a Supplement and its eventual publication in all six official languages.
6. Mr. Chairman, during the last year, upon request, the Branch continued to respond to requests for information from Member States, United Nations staff, students,

academic scholars and researchers on questions relating to the current and past practice of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

7. I invite you to explore frequently the *Repertoire* section of the Security Council website where we regularly post new studies. The *Repertoire* section includes a comprehensive historical list and short descriptions of all agenda items discussed as well as information on all subsidiary organs established by the Council since 1946. The website also contains tables and graphs providing an overview of historical trends relating to the work of the Security Council. Presently, we are working on some revisions to make the website even more user-friendly. As a next step, we are aiming to expand the search functions in order that Member States can access the wealth of information on the practices of the Security Council in an even more targeted manner.
8. Aside from its work on the *Repertoire*, the Branch, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/96 contributed to addressing the backlog in the preparation of volume III of the *Repertory* by submitting all outstanding studies on various Charter Articles for the period 1985 to 1999. We are now preparing studies covering the period 2000 to 2009 which we expect to complete and submit to the Office of Legal Affairs by the end of October 2013.
9. Mr. Chairman, 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 contributions received to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire*. In this context, we are truly grateful for the contributions made to the Trust Fund in 2012 by China and Turkey. Furthermore, we are very grateful to Switzerland for its sponsorship of an

Associate Expert who has already made a valuable contribution to advancing our work.

10. Nonetheless, the Branch faces a heavy workload in sustaining a regular publication schedule for the *Repertoire* to prevent new backlogs from forming in updating the *Repertoire* section of the Council website in all languages and in continuing to improve the quality and accessibility of information about the Security Council. Besides regular budget resources, we are also dependent on voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established by the General Assembly in resolution 54/106. We are grateful to those Member States who have generously contributed to the Trust Fund over the years, and we would encourage all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund or to consider sponsorship of an Associate Expert for the Branch, as was done in the past.

11. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, your feedback on our work is very much appreciated. The Branch continues to stand ready to assist you with information and guidance on all procedural and constitutional aspects of the current as well as past practice of the Security Council.

12. Thank you.