



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

Sixth Committee of the 75th UNGA

*Debate on agenda item 90 “Strengthening and Promoting the
International Treaty Framework”*

*Statement of Italy on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Italy and
Singapore*

October 15th, 2020

Mr. Chairman,

It is an honor for me to deliver this statement on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Brazil and Singapore, as well as of my own country, Italy, under the agenda item "Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework".

In 2018 our delegations requested that this item be included in the agenda of the 73rd session of the General Assembly,

in order to create a dedicated platform for a long overdue review of the regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations and to adapt the requirements and processes for registration and publications of treaties to developments in practice, as well as to the available technological and electronic means of the 21st century. At the same time, we aimed at creating a specific agenda item to encourage exchanges of views among Member States regarding their treaty-making practice and to serve as a platform for the identification of trends and the sharing of best practices in the registration and publication of treaties and deposit of treaty instruments. Another key element of our proposal was that of enhancing the important role of the Treaty Section in support of Member States in this area.

Mr Chairman,

Resolution 73/210 managed to bring the regulations into tune with present day realities. This included the explicit recognition of the treaty registration role of depositaries

other than the United Nations, the codification of the established practice of the Treaty Section regarding procedural requirements for registration and making acceptable the submission of treaties in electronic format for registration. At the same time, certain discussions on important elements of the regulations – for instance on the question of the backlog in the publication of the United Nations Treaty Series - remained open and did not translate into revisions of the regulations.

While this year's Report of the Secretary-General still shows that the obligation to register treaties is not met with universal compliance and it remains geographically imbalanced, the amendment to the regulations in 2018 has substantially facilitated the process. The provision for electronic registration, in particular, has proved essential in the current times of pandemic, where ordinary obstacles have been amplified by the difficulties associated with the limitation in in-person meetings and in access to physical resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The report presented by the Secretary-General this year in accordance with resolution 73/210 , which draws on the comments and observations of a significant number of delegations that include Argentina and Austria, is of great value as it identifies several areas where further reform is possible. It is also of great relevance as it highlights the important role that the Treaty Section plays in supporting Member States and ultimately enhancing legal certainty in international relations. Our countries see with particular interest the possibility of making progress in any of the areas identified by the Report of the Secretary-General.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

The inclusion of this agenda item in 2018 in the agenda of the Sixth Committee has proved timely and it has produced tangible results. While cognizant of the impact of the

COVID-19 pandemic on the working methods of the Sixth Committee in the current session, we hope that additional concrete and practical results can be achieved. We stand ready to engage with other delegations in order to identify the best way forward. Lastly, we would like to recall that this agenda item should be used as a forum to discuss further issues related to international treaties and treaty law and we are looking forward to do so at future sessions.

Thank you.