

**Statement by the Republic of Turkey
on Agenda Item 90
(Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework)
at the Sixth Committee
19 October 2020**

Mr. Chair,

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report titled “Review of the regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations”.

The report was indeed prepared upon broad consultations with Member States, taking into account the outstanding issues identified by them, as was requested by the General Assembly in 2018.

We are pleased to see that the changes that were adopted in 2018 with regard to the Regulations, after the detailed examination and discussions that year, have already yielded positive results.

On the other hand, the Secretary-General’s report makes clear that there is a serious geographical imbalance when it comes to submitting treaties for registration. According to the report, treaties submitted by only two of the five geographical groups constitute almost eighty percent of the entire set of treaties that have been submitted to date. We would be open to considering appropriate measures and means to address this challenge, including especially those aimed at awareness raising, capacity-building and technical assistance.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Office of Legal Affairs for the seminars on treaty law and practice that they regularly organize at the UN Headquarters. We believe that seminars and workshops, including those conducted online, are indeed very helpful for countries to learn about various aspects of the matter. In this regard, re-energizing the seminars that the Office of Legal Affairs provided in previous years at national and regional levels, could pave the way for a change in the positive direction.

With regard to the backlog in the publication of treaties, it is noted in the Secretary-General’s report that the Secretariat rarely receives courtesy translations in English or French of treaties submitted for registration. In view of this fact, inclusion of the invitation to Member States to provide such courtesy translations in the text of the Regulations could be a useful step at this stage. Likewise, adaptation of the Treaty Series to a new digital format could enhance the accessibility of treaties by Member States, and directly serve the purpose of Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Lastly, in his previous report, the Secretary-General made clear that, through the consistent application of the regulations, a significant body of practice has emerged among States and within the Secretariat, leading to a common understanding of the instruments considered to be registrable under Article 102. We agree with the Secretary-General’s determination and

the Secretariat's established practice as regards registration of treaties, including memorandums of understanding that constitute treaties, bearing in mind that registration of treaties is indeed an obligation for Member States under the Charter of the United Nations.

Thank you.