

4 November 2021

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
76th SESSION**

**Briefing by the Chief 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***

Esteemed Chair, 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 the Security Council* and related activities. By way of introduction, I wish to refer you to the Report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire* (A/76/223) of 23 July 2021.
2. Since our last briefing to the Committee on 23 October 2020, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch has continued to make very significant progress in the preparation of the *Repertoire*. This year our work focused on the simultaneous completion of the 23rd Supplement and the preparation of the 24th Supplement to the *Repertoire*, respectively covering the years 2020 and 2021.
3. I am happy to report that the advance version of the 23rd Supplement was completed and posted on the website of the Council, as scheduled, in October 2021. Moreover, consistent with our contemporary approach to the

coverage of the practice of the Council, the Branch is well advanced in the research and drafting of the 24th Supplement.

4. Regarding the status of the publication process, to date all published versions of the Supplements covering the period from 1989 to 2018 are available in hard copy in English and online in all six official languages. The 22nd Supplement, covering the year 2019, has been published in hard copy and online in English (hard copies have been dispatched to all permanent missions and copies are available here today), while the online editions in the other five official languages are expected to be available in the second quarter of 2022. Thanks to our efficient collaboration with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, we have successfully maintained the minimum required 22-month schedule from the closing of the reporting period to the final, hard copy, publication of each Supplement.
5. Moreover, in order to shorten the time between the publication of the English version and those in the other UN official languages, in late 2020, the Branch launched an appeal for additional contributions to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire*. Contributions made to the appeal have allowed for dedicated resources to expedite the editing of the *Repertoire* with a view to having the publication available earlier in all languages.
6. The Branch has also considerably expanded the use of modern technologies to develop a broad range of visual and interactive information datasets on the practice of the Council, all of which are available on the website of the Council. In addition to the 2020 edition of the Highlights of Security Council Practice, released in early January, the Branch has developed three new

datasets, namely on the representation of women in the work of the Council, the history of membership in the Council, and the chairs and vice-chairs of subsidiary organs. In May, in response to requests from Council members for regular information on the Council's work, we launched the first issue of a monthly newsletter entitled "The UN Security Council in Review," providing an overview of the activity of the Council activity each month. It is currently being distributed widely among Member States and will soon be made available directly on the website of the Security Council.

7. The aforementioned appeal was also focused on the enhancement of the online search for the *Repertoire*. Contributions made to the appeal have allowed us to initiate a project to enhance the *Repertoire* search engine with the objective of improving the accessibility of information for users and the accuracy of search results. This is a project in which the Branch is actively collaborating with the Office of Information and Communications Technology.
8. During the past year, the Branch has been actively engaged in promoting the *Repertoire* beyond traditional channels and has leveraged social media to increase awareness and improve the knowledge and quality of data about the Security Council, available to Member States and the public at large.
9. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates**, as I mentioned, the progress made in the preparation of the *Repertoire*, the development of research tools and the maintenance of the website would not have been possible without the strong support of Member States through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire*.

10. Established by the General Assembly in resolution 54/106 of 9 December 1999, the Trust Fund has been centerpiece to the Branch's efforts to overcome a decades-long backlog in the publication of the *Repertoire* and its drive to make the rich historical and contemporary practice of the Council more readily available.
11. In this regard, we would like to express our gratitude to China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom for their generous contributions since our last briefing in 2020. Equally important has been the sponsorship of junior professional officers in the Branch by Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Sweden. Their work has been central to our achievements over the past year.
12. To sustain our ambitious goals going forward, continued financial support from Member States remains critical, particularly given the financial constraints faced by the Organization. The focus of our appeal in late 2020 was to enhance the multilingualism of the *Repertoire* as well as the accessibility and quality of the information made available on our website. This year we will be launching a new appeal deepening our partnership with DGACM, DGC and OICT and focusing on enhancing the information available on cross-cutting themes such as women and peace and security, as well as on emerging topics such as youth, peace and security and climate and security.
13. Further contributions to the Trust Fund and the work of the Branch will help us provide more and better information to Member States and to do so

more quickly, in all six official languages. Moreover, the progress achieved in the past several years, as well as the very significant increase in requests for information and research from Council members and the membership at large, have proven that the *Repertoire*, conceived in 1950s, has stood the test of time and is very much an essential tool to understand the dynamics and complex work of the Council.

14. **Esteemed Chairperson, distinguished delegates,** I invite you to visit the website of the Security Council and the pages devoted to the *Repertoire* and the array of corresponding research tools available. The Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch remains at the disposal of Member States to provide insight and guidance on all aspects of the current and past practice of the Council and to respond to any questions that you may have.

Thank you.