

19 October 2023

**SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
78th SESSION**

**Briefing by the Officer-in-Charge 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 further to the Report of the Secretary-General (A/78/296) of 8 August 2023. In today's remarks, I will focus on the progress made in the preparation and publication of the *Repertoire*, the latest research tools on the practice of the Council and the status of the resources available to support our work.
2. Since our last briefing to the Committee on 3 November 2022, the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch of the Security Council Affairs Division has continued to make progress in the preparation of the *Repertoire*. Over the past year, we focused on the simultaneous completion of the 25th Supplement and the preparation of the 26th Supplement, respectively covering the years 2022 and 2023.

3. As of today, except for Parts I and VI, all parts of the 25th Supplement have been completed and posted on the website of the Council, in accordance with the set schedule. The Branch is in the process of finalizing Parts I and VI of the 25th Supplement, which will be completed in the coming weeks. In line with our contemporary approach to the preparation of the *Repertoire*, the Branch has also begun work on the 26th Supplement and we expect the advance versions of this edition to start being uploaded on the website during the second quarter of 2024, as each part is completed, with a view to all parts being available in October 2024 on time for the newly elected members of the Council as they commence to observe proceedings.
4. In terms of past Supplements, the final (edited) versions of the publication covering the period from 1989 to 2020 are available in hard copy in English and online in all six official languages. The 24th Supplement, covering the year 2021, was published in English in July 2023 and will be available in all other official languages in the second quarter of 2024. Copies of the 2021 volume have been sent to all Permanent Missions and are available at the entrance of this chamber today.
5. During the past year, the Branch continued to bring innovation to the information available on the work of the Council and to enhance data collection and analysis. At the beginning of the year, we released the annual “Highlights of Security Council Practice” covering 2022. The latest edition featured an expanded analysis of trends in the work of the Council and further enhanced the design of the online platform on which it is presented. Meanwhile, we continued to regularly issue the “UN Security

Council in Review” online newsletter, providing the membership at large with a snapshot of procedural and substantive developments in the Council on a monthly basis.

6. In June, with the support of the Permanent Mission of Japan, we launched the *Interactive Handbook of the Working Methods of the Security Council*. This was a collaborative project which involved also the current and former Chairs of the Informal Working Group and Other Procedural Questions since 2017, namely, Albania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Kuwait. The *Interactive Handbook* is a new online version of the “Green Handbook,” which Japan originally published in hard copy in 2006 (reedited in 2010, 2017 and 2021), and which compiles the Charter of the United Nations, the Council’s Provisional Rules of Procedure, the so-called “Note 507” (Note by the President of the Security Council of 30 August 2017 S/2017/507) and all subsequent notes by the President of the Council on its working methods. We hope that having all relevant information on the Council’s working methods available on a single webpage will contribute towards a better understanding and the further enhancement of those methods. The *Interactive Handbook* includes useful tools such as a topical index and a search engine building on the work of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as Chair of the IWG in 2021. These tools allow to search through all relevant notes relating to the working methods of the Council.

7. In addition to our work on innovation, the Branch further enhanced its advisory role vis-à-vis both Council members and the membership at large by providing information and conducting research at the request of Member States on various aspects of the Council's procedural and substantive practice. We have also continued to engage in outreach programmes aimed at familiarizing the membership of the United Nations with the work of the Council, with a particular focus on the incoming elected members of the Council as they prepare to take up their new roles.

8. **Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates**, the consolidation of the *Repertoire* as a publication issued every year in accordance with a predictable schedule, while maintaining the highest levels of quality, would not have been possible without the support of Member States. Voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Updating of the *Repertoire* have enabled the Branch to hire temporary staff and UN Volunteers to assist in the research and drafting of the publication, as well as to provide editorial and IT expertise to improve efficiency in its preparation. Indeed, since its establishment by the General Assembly in 1999, the Trust Fund has been the centerpiece of the Branch's efforts to overcome a decades-long backlog in its publication and enable the rich historical and contemporary practice of the Council become more readily available.

9. In this regard, we would like to express our gratitude to Albania, China, France, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates for their contributions to the Trust Fund over the past year. In addition, we thank Germany for its upcoming sponsorship of a Junior Professional Officer in our Division.

10. Moreover, since 2021, the Branch has launched annual appeals to Member States for the replenishment of the Trust Fund. Contributions have been used on a rolling basis to fund, usually one to two temporary staff, in accordance with specific objectives set each year. As customary, a new annual appeal will be presented to Member States for the year 2024 before the end of this year to encourage them to contribute to the Trust Fund to sustain the publication schedule of the *Repertoire*.
11. Notwithstanding these efforts and the generous contributions from Member States, the levels of funding for 2021, 2022 and 2023, amounting to, on average, less than 35 per cent of the amounts requested, have not met the targets set in the appeals and unfortunately do not suffice to ensure a sustainable long-term strategy to maintain the schedule of the *Repertoire* and avoid backlog. As we noted in our briefing to the Committee last year, it is only through a predictable and sustained budgetary support structure, that the Branch will be able to sustain the progress and timely delivery of its mandate.
12. **Esteemed Chairperson, distinguished delegates**, before closing, I would like to thank delegates who attended the Branch's information session held yesterday on the *Repertoire* and its contribution to the development of international law. Conceived in the 1950s, the *Repertoire* has stood the test of time and is very much an essential tool to understand the dynamics and complex work of the Council.

13. For those who would like to know more about the various resources available on the Council's practice, 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. I also invite you to reach out to us.

14. 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.

15. Thank you.