



General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

New York, 18–26 February 2025

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Eliza Grisle (Latvia)

III. Peaceful settlement of disputes

B. Proposal by the Russian Federation to recommend that the Secretariat be requested to establish a website on the peaceful settlement of disputes and update the *Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States*

1. During the general exchange of views held at the 312th and 313th meetings of the Special Committee, on 18 February, and at the 2nd meeting of the Working Group of the Whole, on 20 February, the proposal by the Russian Federation to recommend that the Secretariat be requested to establish a website on the peaceful settlement of disputes and update the *Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States*, as revised in 2014 ([A/69/33](#), para. 52), was considered. The sponsor delegation reiterated the importance of its proposal, highlighting that the *Handbook* was a valuable source. It recalled that the *Handbook* had been prepared at the initiative of the Special Committee in 1992 and had not since been updated. The sponsor delegation emphasized the need to reflect the developments in the field of the peaceful settlement of disputes, in particular in the light of the statements made in the context of the annual thematic debate on the means for the settlement of disputes in the Special Committee, as well as to create a dedicated website. The sponsor delegation welcomed the support expressed by some delegations for the revised proposal, while questioning statements made by other delegations regarding the potential strain on the budget of the Organization should the proposal be implemented. The sponsor delegation requested information from the Secretariat on the availability of resources to implement the proposal or parts thereof. It noted the absence of objections by delegations to asking the Secretariat to provide estimates, for the next session of the Special Committee, of the costs involved in implementing the proposal.

2. During the general exchange of views and in the Working Group of the Whole, several delegations voiced support for the proposal, reiterating that the *Handbook* was



a valuable document. It was stated that the Special Committee was instrumental in the preparation of the *Handbook* and that updating it would be useful, in particular taking into account the best practices shared by Member States in the Special Committee during the annual thematic debate on the means for the settlement of disputes. It was also stated that establishing a dedicated website and updating the *Handbook* would have a crucial impact on the popularization of international law and a positive impact on efforts to strengthen the work of the Organization.

3. Other delegations continued to question the added value of the proposal, given the availability of online resources on the peaceful settlement of disputes, reiterating their concern that it would not be a proper prioritization of the existing limited resources allocated to the Secretariat. Some delegations indicated their openness to considering additional information from the Secretariat on how the *Handbook* could be updated within existing resources.

4. The Secretary of the Special Committee clarified that any information on the possibility of implementing the proposal within existing resources would depend on the precise scope of the proposal.
