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Agenda item 87

Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework

Draft resolution

Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 23 (I) of 10 February 1946, 97 (I) of 14 December 1946, 364 B (IV) of 1 December 1949, 482 (V) of 12 December 1950, 32/144 of 16 December 1977, 33/141 A of 19 December 1978, 51/158 of 16 December 1996, 73/210 of 20 December 2018, 75/144 of 15 December 2020, 76/120 of 9 December 2021 and 78/236 of 22 December 2023,

Recalling also its resolutions 71/328 of 11 September 2017, 73/346 of 16 September 2019, 76/268 of 10 June 2022 and 78/330 of 6 September 2024, which reaffirm that multilingualism is a core value of the Organization that contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, and requesting the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts to ensure that multilingualism is not undermined by the measures taken in response to the liquidity situation,

Conscious of the obligations resulting from Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations and the importance of treaties in the development of international law and the international legal order,

Noting with appreciation the role of the Secretariat, in particular the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, in the implementation of Article 102 of the Charter,

Noting that the considerable increase in the number of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General and treaties submitted for registration over the past years has led to the growth in the volume of work carried out by the Treaty Section,

Noting also that, while the authentic texts of registered treaties are promptly made available online through the electronic treaty database, there is currently a significant backlog in the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series* due to the limited resources available for the translation and publication process, contributing to the accumulation of unpublished treaties,

Recognizing the importance of the expeditious processing, registration and publication of treaties and treaty-related actions,



Supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General to increase the efficiency of the registration and publication process within available resources and to enhance the role played by the Treaty Section in assisting Member States in this area,

*Welcoming the measures taken by the Treaty Section to expedite the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series* and to provide electronic access to all of its publications on the website of the United Nations Treaty Collection, and recognizing the role that new technology can play in the accessibility of the United Nations *Treaty Series*,*

Recognizing that practice and technology have developed considerably over the past years, and acknowledging the importance of maintaining consistency with treaty-making practice in the international community,

Recognizing also the important role performed by depositaries of multilateral treaties,

Noting with appreciation the role of the Treaty Section in discharging the functions entrusted to the Secretary-General as depositary of over 600 multilateral instruments,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, adopted on 22 May 1969 by the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties,¹

Convinced of the need to further gather and exchange views on practice relating to the strengthening and promoting of the international treaty framework,

1. *Recalls Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirms the importance of the registration and publication of treaties, as well as their accessibility, and stresses that the regulations to give effect to Article 102 should be useful and relevant to Member States and should be kept updated to assist States in implementing their obligations thereunder;*

2. *Notes that some Member States continue to consider that there remain outstanding issues where the regulations may need further consideration;*

3. *Reaffirms its support for the annual treaty event organized by the Secretary-General;*

4. *Welcomes the organization of workshops on treaty law and practice by the Treaty Section at Headquarters and at the national and regional levels as an important capacity-building initiative, commends the efforts of the Treaty Section to continue to organize these workshops as regularly as possible, including through the use of information and communications technology when necessary owing to extraordinary circumstances, and invites States and interested international organizations and institutions to continue to support this activity;*

5. *Also welcomes the holding in 2024 and 2025 of regional workshops on treaty law and practice for member States of the Central American Integration System, for African States and for member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;*

6. *Expresses its appreciation to El Salvador, Ethiopia and Singapore for hosting the regional workshops on treaty law and practice in San Salvador, Addis Ababa and Singapore;*

7. *Also expresses its appreciation to the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the Centre for International Law of the National University of Singapore for their contribution to the organization of the regional workshops on treaty law and practice*

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1155, No. 18232.

for African States, for member States of the Central American Integration System and for member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, respectively;

8. *Notes* that the delivery of workshops on treaty law and practice at the national and regional levels is subject to the availability of funds, and invites States and interested organizations and institutions to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of Legal Affairs to support the promotion of international law, towards the financing of such workshops, or otherwise to assist in their implementation and possible expansion, as a complement to workshops on treaty law and practice held at Headquarters;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Member States and interested organizations and institutions that have made voluntary contributions towards the financing of the workshops on treaty law and practice at the national and regional levels;

10. *Welcomes* efforts to build the capacity of States in treaty law and practice, and invites Member States to consider providing targeted technical assistance, upon request, at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, in particular to developing countries, in order to develop and enhance their treaty practice, including in the use of information and communications technology;

11. *Also welcomes* the efforts made to develop and enhance the United Nations electronic treaty database, which provides online access to comprehensive information on the depositary functions of the Secretary-General and the registration and publication of treaties under Article 102 of the Charter, and encourages the continuation of such efforts in the future, while bearing in mind the challenges that many developing countries face in accessing information and communications technology;

12. *Notes* that most submissions of treaties for registration are in electronic format, and encourages the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with and on the basis of feedback from Member States and within available resources, an online treaty registration system to facilitate submissions of treaties for registration, as an additional option to the existing ways of submission in electronic or hard-copy format;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of the legal publications prepared by the Treaty Section, and stresses the need to update the *Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties* in the light of new developments and practices;

14. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the depositaries in the registration of treaties under Article 102 of the Charter, and encourages the continuation of such efforts in the future;

15. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure the expedited publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series*, in accordance with the regulations, through the prompt provision of editorial and translation services, to enable effective dissemination of and access to treaties;

16. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Treaty Section to perform its responsibilities and functions under the Charter, multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General and relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as to meet the increasing demands in the performance of these functions;

17. *Welcomes* the thematic debate on “The role of technology in shaping treaty-making practice”;

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of technology in shaping treaty-making practice,² submitted pursuant to its resolution [78/236](#) to support the thematic debate on that subtopic;
19. *Also takes note* of the subtopics suggested by some Member States for consideration for future thematic debates, and requests the Secretariat to maintain a non-exhaustive indicative list of such subtopics and circulate it sufficiently in advance of the meetings of the Sixth Committee on the agenda item;
20. *Decides* to undertake a regular thematic debate in the Sixth Committee to foster a technical exchange of views on practice relating to the strengthening and promoting of the international treaty framework, and in that regard invites Member States to focus their comments during the debate at the eighty-second session of the General Assembly on the subtopic “The role of international cooperation, including in the use of technology and capacity-building, in strengthening the international treaty framework”, and requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments and international organizations to submit information on their practice in this regard, and to provide, at its eighty-second session, a report with information on practice related to the subtopic taking into account these submissions;
21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-second session the item entitled “Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework”.

² [A/80/132](#).