

Translated from French

Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

ShG/Secpol



Delicate, time-consuming and expensive endeavours should be emphasized that the requirement to translate instruments into English and French makes an important contribution to the goals of transparency, accessibility of the law and multilingualism.

France considers that other concrete, consensual measures that respect the principles of transparency, accessibility of the law and multilingualism should be viewed to reduce the time taken to publish and translate treaties registered with the Secretariat. Such measures could include the following:

- Further easing of the constraints associated with the publication of the *Treaty Series*. In particular, the publication of monthly statements, which are no longer referred to in the regulations as amended by resolution 73/210, could be discontinued. It could be replaced by publication of a treaty in only electronic form, in its English and French language versions, as well as related information once all these elements are available for a registered treaty. The Secretariat would no longer have to wait until these elements for all treaties registered in a given month before proceeding with publication.
- An expansion of the scope of limited publication, provided for in article 12(2) of the regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter, to new categories of treaties. For Member States to be able to take decisions regarding any new categories proposed by the Secretariat, it would be useful if capacity so permits to have information on the number of treaties likely to be affected by such a measure, by category (including an estimate of the number of treaties already registered but not yet published that might be covered by the different categories).

In conclusion, France believes that there should be no change in the obligations for depositaries, as currently set out in article 1(3) of the regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter, which merely states that when a treaty or international agreement designates a depositary, the depositary is encouraged to effect registration unless otherwise provided in the treaty or international agreement or agreed by its parties. Registration of treaties by the depositary should remain encouraged and not required, in line with article 7(1) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which gives the parties to a treaty the right to have it registered by a body other than a depositary.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Office of Legal Affairs the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 6 March 2020

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