

Statementby Mr.

process”, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to examine the Regulations with a view to their possible updating (Res.39/90 of 13 December 1984), but this initiative was not followed up with the only exception of a further instruction given to the Secretariat in 1997 on the matter of limited publication of treaties (Res.51/185).

Last but not least, the support of the Assembly was instrumental in the first steps of the implementation of our electronic treaty database, which has become the essential tool by which the Treaty Section discharges its mandates. In the only resolution specifically devoted to this matter, adopted in 1996 in the framework of the Decade of International Law (Res. 51.158 of 16 December 1996), the Assembly welcomed the objective of developing a comprehensive electronic database containing all depositary and registration information and requested the Secretary General to continue to give priority to its implementation. Today, the United Nations treaty website is a unique resource which is updated almost in real time and provides authoritative information on the status of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary General, electronic access to all volumes of the United Nations Treaty Series and other publications on treaty law and practice, as well as circulation of all new depositary notifications.

Mr. Chairman Distinguished delegates,

I hope that this brief statement will have highlighted the important role that the General Assembly has played in this area, particularly in the implementation of the mandates of my Section. I also hope that it will have provided you with useful background information on the subtopic that you are about to consider.

I wish you a very productive debate and €D € |qñP!

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