



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 April 2015

Excellency

I refer to my letter dated 24 February 2015 forwarding the Concept Note for the High- Level Thematic Debate on Strengthening Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations. I have the honour to submit a draft Declaration that will be negotiated as the outcome of the high-level debate.

The first informal meeting at experts' level to discuss the draft Declaration is scheduled for 20 April 2015. The time and venue will be communicated in the Journal.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam K. Kutesa

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

Draft Political Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and sub-regional organizations

President's text

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and resolutions and presidential statements of the Security Council related to cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Adopts the following political declaration:

Draft Political Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and sub-regional organizations

We, high-level representatives of Member States and observers meeting in New York on 4 May 2015, declare that the High-Level Thematic Debate on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations constitutes an important opportunity to further build upon and enhance the strategic partnership between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations. *We therefore:*

1. *Welcome* the ongoing efforts to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations towards a more effective and efficient partnership.
2. *Underscore* the important role that regional and sub-regional organizations play, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights. *Recognize* that these organizations are well positioned to understand the challenges and dynamics facing their respective regions given their geographic, cultural and historical proximity, as well as information about specific local and conflict situations within their mandates, and contribute to the prevention and resolution of such conflicts.
3. *Underscore also* that the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations has over the years produced tangible results. Strengthening these partnerships is strategic for promoting the principle of comparative advantage and complementarity.

4. *Reaffirm* our determination and commitment to support efforts to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in addressing challenges facing their respective regions and the international community. *Recognize* that fostering cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations is a common and shared objective requiring an integrated and balanced approach in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and particularly with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.
5. *Encourage* all Member States to promote and support strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations given the magnitude and complexity of challenges facing the international community and, *inter alia*, galvanize international support towards building the capacities of regional and sub-regional organizations in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, peacemaking and peacebuilding.
6. *Recognize* that in cases when regional or sub-regional organizations deploy peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, they contribute towards maintenance of international peace and security, consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and *underscore* the need to support such efforts through provision of predictable and sustainable financing on a case-by-case basis.
7. *Reiterate* strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and *call upon* the United Nations in cooperation with the regional and sub-regional organizations to enhance partnership and support efforts to combat terrorism in its forms and manifestations.
8. *Reaffirm* that regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as the United Nations regional commissions and their sub-regional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions. In this regard, *encourage* increased cooperation among regional and sub-regional organizations, including in the area of technical assistance and information sharing.

9. *Invite* Member States, the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations to further intensify their efforts to promote freedom and respect for all human rights, gender equality and women empowerment, rule of law and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies.

10. *Reaffirm* our commitment to strengthening international cooperation to address the persistent challenges related to sustainable development, through achieving sustained and inclusive growth, the promotion of social equity and eradication of poverty as well as the environmental sustainability, in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. *Underscore* the need to support regional and sub-regional organizations, including through the United Nations system, in the effective operationalization and implementation of sustainable development.

11. *Stress* the importance of cooperation and partnerships of regional and sub-regional organizations with the United Nations as well as with each other and *encourage* them to regularly hold dialogue on how to further strengthen cooperation, exchange views, information and lessons learned and to improve cooperation, coordination, coherence and complementarity within their mandates.

12. *Commend* the President of the General Assembly at its 69th session for convening this high-level meeting and all Member States and regional and sub-regional organizations for their contributions and participation in the high-level thematic debate.