Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security

39. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

In 2019, the Council held five meetings, including three high-level meetings, in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”. Of the five meetings, two took the form of briefings, one was held as a debate and two took the form of open debates.699 In 2019, the Council adopted one resolution700 and issued one presidential statement in connection with this item.701 Two meetings were focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union on peace and security issues in 2019.702 In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Addis Ababa to hold the thirteenth annual joint consultative meeting with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on 21 and 22 October.703 More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 27 February 2019, at the initiative of Equatorial Guinea, which held the Presidency for the month,704 the Council held a high-level open debate to consider the partnership between the United Nations and the African

699 For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.
700 Resolution 2457 (2019).
702 See S/PV.8473 and S/PV.8650.
703 For more information on the mission, see part I, sect. 34.
704 The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 13 February 2019 (S/2019/169).
Union on silencing the guns in Africa.⁷⁰⁵ At the outset of the meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2457 (2019), in which it welcomed the African Union’s determination to achieve its goal of silencing the guns in Africa by 2020 and encouraged the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen their efforts to coordinate their engagement in a mutually supportive manner, across the range of possible responses to conflict.⁷⁰⁶ The Council also heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 and the Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes on the collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union and the means to achieve a conflict-free Africa through the Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative. The Under-Secretary-General stated that the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union had become a cornerstone of United Nations peace and security initiatives in Africa. She highlighted the work of the two organizations in the Central African Republic, the Sudan and Somalia. She further underlined that it was vital that the international community lend its support to Africa in achieving the silencing of the guns. The African Union High Representative noted the impressive progress made in consolidating the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, including the 2017 Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, while also recognizing that issues of governance and leadership continued to be a major source of instability and conflict in Africa. It was important for the Council to respond positively to the African Union’s calls concerning access to United Nations assessed contributions to fund African Union peace support operations. African Union-led operations were responding to threats on behalf of the United Nations and, in particular, the Council, which bore the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes cautioned that an initiative such as Silencing the Guns by 2020 was merely a mitigation tool that, in the absence of good governance and the urgent transformation of the structural drivers of conflicts, would be meaningless. He added that many parts of Africa were reaching a dangerous tipping point and called on Council members to take collective action. Council members acknowledged the ambitious nature of building a conflict-free Africa and focused on the importance of addressing the factors contributing to violence on the continent, such as poor governance, corruption and underdevelopment. In that regard, Council members called for greater cooperation and emphasized their respective contributions to it. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Equatorial Guinea, presiding over the meeting, spoke in his national capacity and called on the Council to continue to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. The representative of South Africa stated that the African Peace and Security Architecture should be the central framework of the Council’s Chapter VIII engagement with the African Union on peace and security matters. The representative of Kuwait, commending the exceptional cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union under Chapter VIII of the Charter, noted that robust Council mandates and sustainable and predictable funding were required for the preservation of the positive developments between the two organizations. Speakers also emphasized the importance of sustainable and predictable funding of African peace support operations through United Nations assessed contributions,⁷⁰⁷ as well as strong regional architecture through regional economic communities and regional mechanisms such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.⁷⁰⁸

On 12 March 2019, the Council heard a briefing by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the European Union’s support to the United Nations and its commitment to multilateralism.⁷⁰⁹ The High Representative highlighted the cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations, particularly in the peacekeeping missions in Africa, conflict resolution, reconciliation, support for global priorities including climate change, non-proliferation and disarmament. Council members acknowledged the commitment and contribution of the European Union to multilateralism and expressed appreciation for its cooperation with the United Nations. Several Council members underscored the importance of trilateral cooperation among the United Nations, the European Union and the African Union with regard to issues in Africa.⁷¹⁰ In addition, the representative of Kuwait suggested that tripartite cooperation among the United Nations, the European Union and the League of Arab States was an effective way of reaching effective solutions to existing conflicts in his region. The representative of the Russian Federation said that his

⁷⁰⁵ See S/PV.8473.
⁷⁰⁶ Resolution 2457 (2019).
⁷⁰⁷ See S/PV.8473 (Indonesia, Côte d’Ivoire, South Africa, China, Kuwait, Japan, Norway, Egypt, European Union, Italy and Canada).
⁷⁰⁸ Ibid., (Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Dominican Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, South Africa, United Kingdom, Kazakhstan, Djibouti, Slovakia and Republic of Korea).
⁷⁰⁹ See S/PV.8482.
⁷¹⁰ Ibid., (Germany, Côte d’Ivoire, Belgium, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea and France).
delegation shared the European Union’s determined focus on strengthening global multilateralism with the United Nations taking a leading role, but suggested that the European Union could not manage to define its own independent political direction. He expressed concern about the use of restrictive measures and sanctions as a key foreign policy instrument, noting that the effect of such unilateral steps was highly questionable and further weakened developing States. The representative of China focused on three areas of cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations, namely, upholding multilateralism, upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter by respecting the sovereignty of States, and promoting sustainable development.

On 13 June 2019, at the initiative of Kuwait, which held the Presidency for the month, the Council held a meeting to address cooperation between the Council and the League of Arab States. During the meeting, a presidential statement was issued, encouraging the holding of an annual briefing by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, as well as an annual informal meeting between the Security Council members and the members of the Council of the League of Arab States. In the presidential statement, the Council also emphasized the importance of trilateral cooperation and coordination among the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States and welcomed the opening of the United Nations liaison office at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo in June 2019. During the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States commended the initiative to elevate the level of partnership between the League of Arab States and the Security Council within the general framework governed by Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Noting the internal political dynamics in the Security Council, as well as the complications and tensions in the Arab system that curtailed its ability to respond collectively, he expressed the conviction that advancing the cooperative partnership with the United Nations was an indispensable means of enabling both the Security Council and the League of Arab States to assume their inherent responsibilities and better discharge their duties in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security in the region. In the ensuing discussion, Council members focused on the impact and benefits of increased cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States for advancing progress towards a peaceful Middle East, which was experiencing active conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, Libya and Yemen, as well as instability in the Sudan and Iraq. Speaking in his national capacity, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait stated that the meeting had been convened to consolidate the principle established in Chapter VIII, Article 52, of the Charter and could be considered as the beginning of a new stage in cooperation between the two organizations. Many Council members agreed on the importance of effective partnership between the two organizations in conflict prevention and mediation.

On 25 September 2019, at the initiative of the Russian Federation, which held the Presidency for the month, the Council held a ministerial debate on the contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in countering terrorist threats. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, as well as by the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Acting Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In their briefings, they described their respective frameworks developed to counter terrorism and transnational crime in Central Asia and Afghanistan and emphasized the importance of cooperation. Following the briefings, Council members focused on the importance of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in countering terrorism. Council members, as well as other speakers, made reference to a wide variety of organizations and their initiatives to counter terrorism in different parts of the world, including the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Southern African Development Community, the Economic Community of West African States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Organization of American States. Some Council members also stressed the need to fully respect obligations under international law and international human rights law in combating terrorism and violent extremism.

714 For more information on the discussion, see part VIII, sect. I.
715 See S/PV.8548 (Poland, France, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Peru, Côte d’Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea).
716 The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 31 May 2019 (S/2019/455).
717 See S/PV.8548.
718 See S/PV.8626.
719 Ibid., (Belgium, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom and United States).
On 30 October 2019, the Council heard a briefing on regional cooperation with the African Union, in particular on the growing strategic partnership between the two organizations based on a host of mechanisms, including the 2017 Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. Following briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Council members welcomed the growing collaboration between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in the areas of crisis response and conflict prevention, and spoke about the annual meeting of the two Councils held in Addis Ababa on 21 and 22 October. Council members also focused on the issue of financing African Union peace operations authorized by the Security Council through assessed contributions, underlining the importance of increasing the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of funding and support for African-led peace operations. Speaking also on behalf of Côte d’Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea, the Minister for Defence and Military Veterans of South Africa emphasized that the key principles that should direct and shape the partnership and cooperation between the two organizations going forward were meaningful and inclusive collaboration, shared and common approaches and effective consultative mechanisms, specifically between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council. In that regard, and further to the meeting in Addis Ababa, she emphasized the need to translate and elevate some of the commitments made by both Councils into tangible outcomes and to move away from generalities about partnership and cooperation towards decisive and practical steps that the Security Council, in particular, and the United Nations and the African Union, in general, could take to realize the full implementation of the strategic partnership.

719 See S/PV.8650.

Meetings: cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

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**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security**

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<td>Letter dated 31 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/455)</td>
<td>The contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in countering terrorist threats</td>
<td>13 Member States(^a)</td>
<td>Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Acting Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia</td>
<td>All Council members,(^i) 11 invitees under rule 37, all other invitees</td>
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<td>S/PV.8650 30 October 2019</td>
<td>African Union Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2019/759)</td>
<td>Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations(^i)</td>
<td>13 Council members,(^i) all invitees(^i)</td>
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\(^a\) Algeria, Angola, Belgium, Canada, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia and Ukraine.
Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020; Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes; Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations; Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations; Permanent Observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations; and Under-Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See.

Equatorial Guinea (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; and Germany was represented by its State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office.

Guatemala was represented by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Benin spoke on behalf of the Group of African States; the representative of Norway spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; the representative of Lebanon spoke on behalf of the Group of Arab States; and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Nicaragua was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Kuwait (President of the Council) was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Poland was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Belgium was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Development Cooperation; China was represented by its State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Equatorial Guinea was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; France was represented by its Minister of State attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Germany was represented by its Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office; Kuwait was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Poland was represented by its Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Russian Federation (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; and South Africa was represented by its Minister for International Relations and Cooperation.

The representatives of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan did not make statements. All speakers invited under rule 37 were represented at the ministerial level.

Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of Côte d’Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea), United Kingdom and United States. South Africa (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Permanent Observer of the African Union participated in the meeting by videoconference from Djibouti.