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

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security” which took the form of a briefing. Council members also held three open videoconferences in connection with this item. More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers, is given in table 1 below. Additional information on the videoconferences is given in table 2 below. The Council also issued two presidential statements in connection with this item.

On 30 January 2020, at the initiative of Viet Nam which held the Presidency for the month, the Council held a meeting focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). At the meeting, the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of ASEAN briefed the Council. In his remarks, the Secretary-General noted that since the formalization of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the United Nations and ASEAN in 2011, the two organizations were today focusing on how to strengthen their cooperation in addressing threats to peace and security. Looking ahead, he said that there were multiple potential areas of practical cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations in the areas of peace and security. In this regard, he highlighted the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations on peacekeeping, implementing the women and peace and security agenda, the youth and peace and security agenda, human rights and counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism, as well as on addressing cross-border security threats and transnational organized crime, and exploring early-warning arrangements and threat analysis. With regard to the climate crisis and natural disaster management, he suggested strengthening the ties with ASEAN nations to strengthen adaptation and build resilience to
disasters and to forge strategic synergies, collaborations and paths forward for future work.\footnote{Ibid.}{993} In his intervention, the Secretary-General of ASEAN touched upon two matters, namely ASEAN’s contributions to peace, security and prosperity, and ASEAN’s relations with its external partners, including the United Nations. On the former, he spoke about a number of areas such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, by which ASEAN member States committed to maintaining peaceful relationships with one another, guided by the principles of mutual respect, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs and the peaceful settlement of disputes. He also highlighted the unique contribution of ASEAN to nurturing a conducive environment for peace and stability including its ability to initiate and be the driving force on regional mechanisms and frameworks for promoting dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building, bringing together not only its member States but also external partners, including key players in the region and major global powers. On ASEAN’s relation with the United Nations, he noted that tangible results had been achieved since the five-year Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration was put in place in 2016 which he deemed a testament to the commitment of the two organizations in sustaining a comprehensive partnership. He also looked forward to commencing work on crafting the next plan of action of the ASEAN-United Nations comprehensive partnership for the period 2021-2025. In closing, he said that the 75th anniversary of the United Nations provided an opportune time for the States Members of the United Nations, including ASEAN countries, to work closely together towards the strengthening of the United Nations.

Following the briefings, Council members recognized the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, with some urging a greater reflection on such issues as how to strengthen coordination and coherence between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations regarding peace and security matters.\footnote{For further details on the discussion, see part VIII, sect. I.B.}{994} Several Council members also discussed specific situations in the South East Asia region, such as the situation in the South China Sea, and the Rohingya refugees in Myanmar, including the judicial proceedings initiated at the

International Court of Justice by the Gambia against Myanmar. Council members also acknowledged the role played by ASEAN in conflict prevention, resolution and management as well as in the area of peacekeeping and praised the progress achieved in relation to the women and peace and security agenda. Council members also highlighted areas where the two organizations could further cooperate such as on the fight against terrorism and organized crime and climate change. In closing, the representative of Viet Nam expressed the hope that the momentum created by the meeting would be carried into the future to forge a more robust cooperation between the United Nations and ASEAN.995

On 28 May 2020, Council members held an open videoconference in connection with this item focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union. At the videoconference, Council members were briefed by the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.996 In his intervention, the High Representative outlined areas of action of the European Union on matters of international peace and security, particularly in the Sahel, Libya, as well as the Middle East and Europe. He also informed Council members regarding the launch of the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI with the core task of implementing the United Nations arms embargo on Libya. The High Representative further noted that the COVID-19 pandemic risked unravelling the progress in recent years towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it could exacerbate existing conflicts and generate new geopolitical tensions. He closed his briefing with some broader strategic reflections on the need to recommit to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and to support putting the climate and security nexus on the Council’s agenda.997

In their statements, Council members addressed and highlighted some of the main contributions of the European Union to international peace and security, including on peacekeeping, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, human rights, and humanitarian assistance. In addition, some Council members made reference to the launch of the European

995 See S/PV.8711.
996 See S/2020/489.
997 Ibid.
Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI. A number of Council members also reaffirmed their commitment and expressed support to deepening international cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 8 September 2020, at the initiative of Niger which held the Presidency for the month, Council members held a videoconference in connection with this item focused on the role of the International Organization of la Francophonie. Council members were briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, in his capacity as Chair of the Ministerial Conference of the International Organization of la Francophonie. In her briefing, the Assistant Secretary-General noted that it was a particularly opportune time to look at the partnership between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie at their 75th and 50th anniversaries respectively. She also noted that the two organizations were currently cooperating to promote international peace and security, sustainable development, good governance, democracy, rule of law, human rights, and the inclusion of women and youth. In her briefing, she highlighted the cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in the areas of early warning and conflict prevention, electoral assistance and observation of electoral processes, as well as in the areas of peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding. The Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie highlighted the organization’s three main areas of action in support of international peace and security, namely peacekeeping, crisis prevention and management, and supporting democratic processes of its Member States. She further reported about the launch, on 25 September 2019, of a francophone platform in the Council to provide a framework for regular dialogue on international peace and security issues, with a view to amplifying the francophone voice in the Council as well as to develop convergences between francophones on issues on the

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998 Ibid., Belgium, France, Niger, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States.
999 Ibid., China, France, Niger (also on behalf of South Africa, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom and United States.
1000 A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 1 September 2020 (S/2020/880).
1002 Ibid.
Council’s agenda, and to continue the organization’s actions to promote the French language and linguistic diversity in the work of the Council. In his briefing, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie and noted that at a time when the negative consequences of the COVID-19 crisis were likely to weigh particularly heavily on developing countries and on the most vulnerable people, the two organizations needed to strongly affirm their willingness to promote peace, cooperation, solidarity and the values of living together in harmony. He added that it was in that regard that the International Organization of la Francophonie strongly supported the call of the Secretary-General for a global ceasefire and Council resolution 2532 (2020).

Following the briefings, Members States praised the work of the International Organization of la Francophonie in promoting democracy, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. In addition, some speakers noted that many peacekeeping operations took place in French-speaking countries and in this regard, the representative of France argued that proficiency in French was a guarantee of effectiveness and needed therefore to be a precondition for deployment, while other speakers noted that multilingualism and communicating in French with local actors and civilians promoted increased confidence in the personnel of United Nations missions and builds trust, better understanding and engagement with the local community.\textsuperscript{1003}

On 4 December 2020, Council members held a high-level open videoconference in connection with this item and focused on the cooperation with the African Union. At the videoconference, Council members were briefed by the Secretary-General as well as by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.\textsuperscript{1004} The Secretary-General stated that cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the African regional economic communities and other regional mechanisms had gained in depth and scope, particularly since the 2017 signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and, in 2018, the African Union-United Nations Framework

\textsuperscript{1003} Ibid., Dominican Republic, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, Côte d'Ivoire, Ireland, Romania, and Senegal.

\textsuperscript{1004} See S/2020/1179.
for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He added that African Heads of State and Government had presented a compelling vision for peace and security through the flagship initiative of Silencing the Guns in Africa and the Lusaka Master Roadmap 2016. In this regard, he elaborated on the several ways in which the United Nations had sought to support these initiatives, including through technical assistance to mediation and disarmament capacities, partnering with the African Union to create the African Women Leaders Network and investment in youth-empowerment activities. The Secretary-General also highlighted other areas of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, and signalled that their action in Africa would benefit from a number of concrete steps, namely, the further institutionalization of the cooperation at every level, which would also require a stronger collaboration between the Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, and ensuring the predictability of financing African Union peace support operations through assessed contributions and doing much more to involve and engage women and young people in the peace and security agenda.\footnote{1005}{Ibid.}

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission stated that cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union was not only a necessity for both organizations but a prerequisite for the implementation of their mandates of promoting and upholding international peace and security and also supported predictable, sustainable and flexible financing for African Union-led or African Union-authorized peace support operations, based on the principle of the use of United Nations assessed contributions. He also stated that the annual consultative meetings between the Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council since 2007 had been key in strengthening Council-to-Council engagement, and noted that the two organizations had also increased operational cooperation and coordination by working hand in hand to support peace processes. Several Council members called for deeper cooperation between the Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council,\footnote{1006}{Ibid., South Africa, Niger, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belgium, Germany, Indonesia, and Dominican Republic.} and others expressed support for United Nations-assessed contributions to African Union-led peace support operations.\footnote{1007}{Ibid., South Africa, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and United Kingdom.}
On 4 December 2020, the Council also issued two presidential statements in connection with this item which were announced simultaneously at an open videoconference. In the first of the two presidential statements issued that day (S/PRST/2020/11), the Council commended the increasing contribution of the African Union to the maintenance of peace and security and expressed its willingness to continue its cooperation and collaboration with the African Union Peace and Security Council on issues of peace and security in Africa.\textsuperscript{1008} It also recognised that since the strengthening of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, significant gains had been made in finding sustainable solutions to African armed conflicts and moving the continent onto a path towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.\textsuperscript{1009} In the statement, the Council further continued to encourage 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 in line with their Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and, also, emphasized the need for joint action between the two organizations to end sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations.\textsuperscript{1010} The Council also acknowledged the need for more support to enhance African Union peace operations and encouraged further dialogue between the United Nations and the African Union to achieve this.\textsuperscript{1011}

In the second of the two presidential statements issued on 4 December 2020 (S/PRST/2020/12), the Council took note of the improved security situation in Burundi and of the six principal priorities presented by President Ndayishimiye for his Government in his inauguration speech on 18 June 2020, following the broadly peaceful elections.\textsuperscript{1012} The Council also called upon the United Nations, the African Union, the East African Community, the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and the Guarantors of the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi to coordinate their efforts in assisting Burundian stakeholders in the implementation of the Arusha Agreement, which had helped to

\textsuperscript{1008} S/PRST/2020/11, sixth and fifteenth paragraphs.
\textsuperscript{1009} Ibid., fifth paragraph.
\textsuperscript{1010} Ibid., eleventh and eighteenth paragraphs.
\textsuperscript{1011} Ibid., tenth paragraph.
\textsuperscript{1012} S/PRST/2020/12, first paragraph.
sustain a decade of peace in Burundi. Finally, noting that the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Burundi had completed his assignment on 30 November 2019, the Council requested the Secretary-General to cease periodic reporting on the situation in that country and looked forward to the Secretary-General covering the situation in Burundi as part of his regular reporting on the Great Lakes region and Central Africa.

Table 1
Meetings: Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting record and date</th>
<th>Sub-item</th>
<th>Other documents</th>
<th>Rule 37 invitations</th>
<th>Rule 39 and other invitations</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S/PV.8711, 30 January 2020</td>
<td>Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
<td>Letter dated 9 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2020/30)</td>
<td>Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
<td>Secretary-General, 13 Council members, invitee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia (also on behalf of Niger and South Africa), United Kingdom, United States, and Viet Nam.

Table 2
Videoconference: Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Videoconference date</th>
<th>Videoconference record</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 May 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/489</td>
<td>Letter dated 2 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1013 Ibid., fifth paragraph.
1014 Ibid., sixth paragraph. See for further information on the Great Lakes region, part I, sect. 3. See also part IX, sect. VI for further information on Special Advisers, Envoys and Representatives.

Part I – Overview of Security Council Activities in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security


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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Videoconference date</th>
<th>Videoconference record</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 September 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/893</td>
<td>Letter dated 10 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the Security Council</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 December 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/1179</td>
<td>Letter dated 8 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the Security Council</td>
<td>S/PRST/2020/11</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>S/PRST/2020/12</td>
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