## 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 four meetings and issued one presidential statement under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security". Two of the meetings took the form of briefings and two took the form of debates. <sup>1324</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and outcomes, is provided in the table below.

In 2022, the Council continued to hold its annual meetings on cooperation with the African Union and European Union, while also meeting to discuss relations with the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the League of Arab States. The Council further adopted a presidential statement addressing its cooperation with the League. The four meetings featured briefings by the Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the CSTO, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. 

At the meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, the Council was also briefed by a civil society representative on peace and security challenges in the Arab region. 

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Addressing the Council in the context of a debate on 16 February on cooperation between the United Nations and the CSTO, the Secretary-General stated that the two organizations were continuously strengthening their ties and deepening their responses to regional challenges in Central Asia since the signing of the Joint Declaration on Cooperation between their Secretariats in 2010. The Secretary-General reflected on the three priorities for strengthening their relations across the peace and security spectrums which had been identified at the tenth anniversary of the Joint Declaration in 2020. First, on conflict prevention, counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics, he stated that the good working relations between the CSTO and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) enabled

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1324</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1325</sup> See S/PV.8967, S/PV.9001, S/PV.9065 and S/PV.9149.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1326</sup> See S/PV.9001.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1327</sup> See S/PV.8967.

constructive early warning exchanges and regular contacts during security-related events in the region. Second, with regard to peacekeeping, the Secretary-General expressed the view that further cooperation would help to advance the Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus initiatives and noted that he looked forward to receiving more pledges from the CSTO to the United Nations Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System. Third, the Secretary-General opined that close coordination with the CSTO was critical in helping to defuse evolving threats from terrorism and illicit drugs and arms flows stemming from the situation in Afghanistan, preventing spill-over, promoting stability and saving lives. He concluded by recalling that one of the main goals of his "Our Common Agenda" report was to build, by encouraging partners, a more inclusive and effective multilateralism that operated like a network and noted his intention to continue holding annual meetings with all leaders of regional organizations.

The Secretary-General of the CSTO observed that, at the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Collective Security and the twentieth anniversary of its establishment, the CSTO had become an effective international organization that protected its member States from existing threats on a collective basis. He underlined that the United Nations was the main international partner of the CSTO and expressed interest in further developing relations in all areas based on the Joint Declaration, including counter-terrorism and peacekeeping. The Secretary-General noted that the CSTO had developed practices to deprive international terrorist organizations of their "breeding grounds" to cut off channels of recruitment and financing and the spread of terrorist ideology and propaganda. He further noted that, under the auspices of the United Nations, the aim was to develop universal rules, norms and principles for proper conduct in the information sphere. He expressed the readiness of the CSTO to share its experience in conducting rapid response prevention operations to combat international terrorism and extremism and encouraged international and regional organizations and individual States to participate in them. He recalled that the United Nations and the CSTO established a working group on peacekeeping in December 2021 and that the CSTO received beneficial assistance in conducting certification procedures for various programmes and methodology for the training of its peacekeepers. Moreover, he added that the CSTO was reviewing the possibility of having its peacekeepers join United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General concluded by reaffirming the commitment of the CSTO to developing friendly and mutually acceptable relations with third countries and international organizations to maintain peace and stability based on the principles of international law, the rejection of confrontation and an embrace of lasting solutions through political and diplomatic means, in line with the provisions and aims of the Charter of the United Nations.

In the subsequent discussion, Council members and participating Member States exchanged views on the challenges facing the Central Asian region, ways of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the CSTO and the principles that should underly such cooperation. 1328 They further reflected on the deployment of the CSTO peacekeeping forces following the civil unrest in Kazakhstan in January 2022 and the security threats emanating from the conflict in Afghanistan. Many speakers opined that the United Nations and the CSTO could further develop their joint work on conflict prevention, early warning, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, counter-terrorism, and countering the trafficking in persons, arms and narcotics. In terms of concrete proposals, several speakers called for increased engagement, consultation and information-sharing between the two organizations. <sup>1329</sup> The representative of Ghana opined that regular consultations could help bridge conceptual differences in the understanding of the security challenges of the Eurasian region and improve harmonized responses. He added that the wealth of experience of the United Nations in preventive diplomacy should be enhanced in its engagement with the CSTO, particularly through the UNRCCA. The representative of Kenya recommended for the two organizations to undertake joint horizon-scanning and analysis to inform strategic actions that drew support from Member States in the region. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed the shared desire of CSTO member States to resolve emerging problems through political and diplomatic means under international law.

In his remarks at the briefing on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States held on 23 March, the Secretary-General stated that strengthening cooperation with regional organizations was a sine qua non for strengthening multilateralism globally. <sup>1330</sup> He stated that the League was critical across the spectrum of the work of the United Nations and that

<sup>1328</sup> For more information on the discussion in this meeting on the principles of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter, see part VIII, sect. I.B.
1329 See S/PV.8967, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1330</sup> See S/PV.9001.

the two organizations remained united in their pursuit of multilateral answers to the cascading challenges that the Arab world and the world beyond were facing. Those efforts, according to the Secretary-General, had an added urgency in the face of the profound global ramifications of the war in Ukraine which were hitting the poorest the hardest and planting the seeds of political instability and unrest across the globe. The Secretary-General highlighted the joint engagement of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to address the situations in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and between Israel and Palestine. He noted that ever-closer cooperation was vital to achieving all the goals in relation to those situations and that the United Nations looked forward to strengthening those ties, including through its Liaison Office to the League. He further noted that the two organizations were expanding their cooperation on youth, peace and security, women and peace and security, as well as disarmament, mediation and peacebuilding.

In his briefing, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States stated that the international order was perhaps at its most critical juncture since the end of the Cold War and that the escalation of conflict between global powers was bringing several security, political and economic risks. He expressed hope that that situation would not have a negative impact on the Council's attention to other issues and crises worldwide, particularly in the Arab region. In that regard, he noted that the region continued to suffer from the significant shock of 2011 and that internal conflicts continued in the Syrian Arab Republic, Libya and Yemen. Further, while noting that developments in the international arena led many in the Arab region to consider the suffering of the Palestinian people differently, he reminded the Council that it had endorsed the principle of land for peace and the two-State solution as a basis for resolving the historic conflict. In that regard, he called on all international powers to shoulder their responsibilities, as set forth in the Charter, to address all issues and crises alike in full respect for international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter. The Secretary-General also referred to what he described as Iranian intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States, stressing the need for an agreement to establish a zone free from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and for good and neighbourly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran based on respect for sovereignty and non-interference. Regarding overall cooperation with the United Nations and the Council, the Secretary-General welcomed the convening of the ministerial-level meeting with the Arab Summit Troika on the margins of the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly high-level segment in September 2021 in accordance with the presidential statement issued on 29 January 2021.<sup>1331</sup> He also called for the implementation of other provisions of the presidential statement such as conducting joint field visits and working to increase the participation of women and young people in international peace and security efforts. He concluded by reiterating the commitment of the League to the strategic partnership with the Council in order to achieve their common goals.

Noting that she spoke on behalf of Arab youth who represented 60 per cent of the population in the Arab region, Ms. Alaqil presented several recommendations to the Council. 1332 Specifically, she stressed the need to ensure the participation of youth at all levels of the United Nations, including all three pillars of the Organization's work, and in the formulation and implementation of national and regional policies. Furthermore, she noted that youth participation could never be complete without the participation of women in all efforts. Finally, she pointed to the need to address the main Arab challenges which were before the Council so that financial and human resources could be directed towards the development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that regard, she emphasized that the roles of the Council and the League of Arab States were pivotal.

Following the briefers, Council members and the representative of Yemen, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, exchanged views on how to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States with a view to addressing the conflicts in the Arab region, as well as cross-cutting issues such as counter-terrorism, climate and security, women and peace and security, youth, peace and security and children and armed conflict. <sup>1333</sup> Speakers called for institutionalizing the relationship through regular consultations and information exchange. Multiple delegations also underlined the importance of further strengthening the trilateral cooperation between the United Nations, the League and the African Union.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement by which it reiterated its intention to consider further steps to promote closer cooperation and strategic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1331</sup> See <u>S/PRST/2021/2</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1332</sup> See S/PV.9001.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1333</sup> For more information on the discussions within the framework of Chapter VIII of the Charter, see part VIII, sect. I.B.

coordination between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in the fields of conflict early warning and prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, sustaining peace, promoting respect for international law and the Charter, addressing root causes of conflicts and enhancing safety and security at sea, preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, and building resilience to resist incitement. <sup>1334</sup> The Council also recognized the importance of cooperation in sustainable development, comprehensive risk assessments and risk management strategies, including poverty eradication, food security and water management, disaster risk reduction, and desertification and drought management in the Arab region. <sup>1335</sup> The Council reaffirmed the important and positive contribution of youth to the efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and stressed the importance of creating policies for them that would positively contribute to peacebuilding efforts in the Arab region. <sup>1336</sup> The Council expressed its intention to consider holding further joint consultation meetings with the Council of the League and requested the Secretary-General to provide a brief report on the implementation of the presidential statement and on further ways of strengthening institutional relations and cooperation between the two organizations. <sup>1337</sup>

At the annual briefing on cooperation with the European Union which was held on 16 June, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy noted that the multilateral system was under pressure as never before, especially as there was a strong demand for an approach to global problems based on multilateralism, the supply of which was insufficient given the scale of cooperation needed to manage the global commons. He stated that the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine was an attack on the foundations of the United Nations and the Council by one of its permanent members and urged all Council members to help end it, restore the sovereignty of Ukraine and ensure that the global fallout was contained, especially the increasing food crisis affecting millions of people around the world. He added that the European Union fully supported the efforts of the United Nations so that Ukraine

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1334</sup> S/PRST/2022/1, seventh paragraph.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1335</sup> Ibid., eighth paragraph.

<sup>1336</sup> Ibid., sixth paragraph.

<sup>1337</sup> Ibid., ninth and twenty-first paragraphs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1338</sup> See S/PV.9065.

could resume its deliveries of grain to the world and in dealing with the global consequences of the war.

Beyond the war in Ukraine, the High Representative noted that the United Nations and the European Union worked closely together at headquarters and field level in a number of areas, starting with crisis management operations such as the European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (Operation IRINI) in support of the implementation of the Council's arms embargo on Libya; the European Union Naval Forces Operation Atalanta to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia; and the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea). Further, he noted that the European Union made large contributions to the work of the United Nations on mediation, peacebuilding and transitions and underlined the strategic nature of cooperation on peace and security between the European Union and the African Union. Lastly, the High Representative commented on the efforts of the European Union, together with the United Nations, to address the crises in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sahel, Afghanistan and with respect to the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the subsequent discussion, Council members widely recognized the contribution of the European Union to international peace and security and multilateralism, including in cooperation with the United Nations. They particularly noted and called for strengthening cooperation in conflict prevention, crisis management and humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, counterterrorism, development, human rights, climate and security, and the implementation of the women and peace and security and children and armed conflict agendas. Most Council members expressed grave concern regarding the war in Ukraine and its geopolitical and humanitarian impact in Europe and beyond. Council members recognized the role of the European Union in efforts to alleviate the consequences of the conflict, particularly to ensure global food security. The representative of the United States stated that the European Union had clearly demonstrated its support for the values enshrined in the Charter, with its actions to uphold the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity after the war of the Russian Federation on Ukraine. The representative of Norway underlined the need for a strong European Union working together with the United Nations and the Council to contribute to advancing the causes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1339</sup> Ibid., United States, Ghana, Ireland, India, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

of peace and prosperity. The representatives of China and Ghana further encouraged the European Union to play a mediation role to end the conflict.

The representative of the Russian Federation took a different view regarding the role of the European Union in relation to the war in Ukraine, maintaining that the organization was circumventing the Council by imposing illegitimate unilateral sanctions. He added that a collective western policy on sanctions had helped to provoke the food and energy crisis. The representative of Brazil urged the European Union to consider in advance the possible consequences of unilateral sanctions. Several Council members, in contrast, asserted that the sanctions imposed by the European Union did not impact the provision of humanitarian aid or the ability of the Russian Federation to export agricultural products, and that the negative impact on global food security was the result of the actions of the Russian Federation. The representative of France stated that the sanctions measures had only one objective which was to bring the Russian Federation back into compliance with the Charter.

More generally, the representative of China stated that the European Union should take the lead in upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter, complying with international law and the universally recognized fundamental norms of international relations, earnestly respecting the sovereignty and political independence of all countries, and committing to the principle of non-interference. He further added that the European Union was expected to play an active and constructive role in international affairs by rejecting any revival of the idea of confrontation between camps or blocs and by encouraging all countries to strengthen unity and achieve shared progress under the banner of multilateralism. With respect to peacekeeping, the representative of Brazil stated that European Union missions should always be aligned with the mandates established by the Council and act in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter.

At the debate held on 11 October, the Secretary-General presented his annual report on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union including the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union. <sup>1341</sup> He noted that, at the twentieth anniversary of the creation of the African Union, the cooperation between the two organizations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1340</sup> Ibid., France, Ireland and United Kingdom.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1341</sup> See S/PV. 9149. See also S/2022/643.

had never been stronger, although challenges remained. In this regard, the Secretary-General opined that the use of force was too often seen as the only method of resolving disputes and further noted the rise of unconstitutional changes of government, the efforts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) to extend its reach in the Sahel, protracted conflicts in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, the Sudan and Libya, as well as violence against women and the use of misinformation and hate speech as weapons of war. In order to address those challenges, the Secretary-General stressed the need for States to develop the capacity to detect and pre-empt conflicts at the earliest signs, address the governance deficit, and for the Council to ensure predictable funding for African Union operations which it authorized. Second, the Secretary-General stated that climate change was a matter of survival for countries in Africa and urged leaders, especially those of the Group of 20 (G-20), which were responsible for 80 per cent of greenhouse-gas emissions, to finally take the urgent action needed. Third, he called for a Sustainable Development Goals stimulus, led by the G-20, to massively boost development assistance. He further stressed the need for international financial institutions and multilateral banks to remove the barriers that prevented developing countries from accessing the financing they needed and for an effective global debt relief mechanism. Finally, the Secretary-General called on all leaders – in the Council, on the African continent and beyond – to spare no effort in supporting the African Union in achieving its goals for an integrated, peaceful and prosperous continent.

In his statement, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission stated that the main issue that the African Union and United Nations faced in their cooperation no longer had to do with normative mechanisms but the need to consider the profound transformations that had occurred throughout African development and, secondly, the conservatism that governed the doctrine in force at the United Nations since the Second World War. Given that Africa was home to 1.4 billion people, 70 per cent of United Nations peacekeeping missions were in Africa and that African issues were at the forefront of debates at the Organization, the Chairperson questioned why it was the only true continent excluded from the benefits of permanent membership in the Council. In that regard, he called for a specific timeframe to discuss and decide on Africa's role in that forum for world peace. He further emphasized the need to ensure the primacy of establishing and safeguarding peace in the mandates of African missions, to

secure funds and financial structures for preventing and combating pandemics, to ensure that investment on climate issues was no longer the small portion of financing allotted to Africa, and that the unlimited universe of science and new technologies was generously opened to Africa. According to the Chairperson, if the Council chose that path, it would find the entire continent mobilized around it. If not, its credibility could suffer irreversibly. He concluded by commending the achievements in the cooperation between the two organizations and called for deepening partnerships between their specialized agencies, special envoys and, especially, the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.

In their statements, members and participating non-members of the Council underscored the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter and discussed the progress and challenges in relations between the Organization and the African Union since the signing of the Joint Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in 2017. In that regard, several speakers underlined the importance of the principles of subsidiarity, complementarity and the use of comparative advantages in their cooperation. <sup>1342</sup> In particular, speakers noted their joint efforts to prevent and address conflict, especially through mediation, in the Central African Republic, Libya, Somalia, the Sahel, the Sudan, as well as the important role of the African Union in the resolution of the conflict in Ethiopia. Participants further highlighted the cooperation on conflict prevention, early warning, mediation, disarmament, counter-terrorism, countering maritime piracy and security sector reform and called for strengthening joint action on peacebuilding and addressing the root causes of conflict, climate and security, countering misinformation and countering the proliferation of small arms, among other areas. <sup>1343</sup>

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1342</sup> See S/PV. 9149, Gabon, India, Egypt and South Africa.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1343</sup> For more information on the discussion within the framework of Chapter VIII of the Charter, see part VIII, sect. I.B.

S/PV.8967 16 February 2022	Collective Security Treaty Organization	Five Member States <sup>a</sup>	Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization	Secretary- General, all Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees <sup>c</sup>	
S/PV.9001 23 March 2022	League of Arab States  Letter dated 17 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2022/240)	Yemen	Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, civil society briefer	Secretary- General, all Council members <sup>d</sup> , all invitees <sup>e</sup>	<u>S/PRST/2022/1</u>
<u>S/PV.9065</u> 16 June 2022	European Union		High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy	All Council members <sup>f</sup> , invitees	7
S/PV.9149 11 October 2022	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 the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2022/643)  Letter dated 3 October	Seven Member States <sup>h</sup>	Chairperson of the African Union Commission	Secretary- General, all Council members <sup>i</sup> , all invitees <sup>j</sup>	
	2022 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2022/736)				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> The Russian Federation was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> The Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization participated in the meeting by videoconference from Moscow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> The United Arab Emirates was represented by its Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. India was represented by its Foreign Secretary.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>e</sup> The representative of Yemen spoke on behalf of the Arab Group.

f Albania was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

g The High Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>h</sup> Egypt, Germany, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal and South Africa.

<sup>j</sup> The Chairperson of the African Union Commission participated in the meeting by videoconference.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> Gabon was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. The United States was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet. The United Arab Emirates was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Political Affairs.