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**Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization**

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## **Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations is critical to maintaining international peace and security, promoting and protecting human rights and implementing the sustainable development agenda. This cooperation, foreseen in the Charter of the United Nations, has become more advanced and multi-layered over the past decade and is vital to a multilateral system that must rise to address multiple complex and overlapping challenges, from the deteriorating peace and security environment and the continuing effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic to climate change, technological disruption, human displacement and the ongoing global food and energy crisis.

The present consolidated report is prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 (l) of the annex to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#) and responds to a number of General Assembly resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations. The report is also being submitted to the Security Council, pursuant to Security Council resolution [1809 \(2008\)](#) and its presidential statement of 6 August 2013 ([S/PRST/2013/12](#)).

The present report covers the period since the issuance of the previous such report, on 11 September 2020 ([A/75/345-S/2020/898](#)).

## I. Introduction

1. The two years covered in the present report were amongst the most complex and volatile in the history of the United Nations. In a short period of time, the international community was confronted with a series of crises: the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its devastating aftermath; a generational economic crisis with significant socioeconomic consequences; the unrelenting march of climate change; and the armed conflict in Ukraine, with global repercussions that are still unfolding. These crises have affected virtually every country in every region.

2. In September 2020, in the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 75/1, Heads of State and Government recognized that the interconnected nature of these challenges can be addressed only through reinvigorated multilateralism. They stated unambiguously that multilateralism is not an option but a necessity as the international community builds back better for a more equal, more resilient and more sustainable world.

3. Increasingly close and effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations is essential to the vision for a networked multilateral system outlined in Our Common Agenda. Seventy-seven years ago, the Charter of the United Nations already articulated a clear role for global-regional partnerships underpinning international cooperation. Today, these partnerships are even more vital to ensure that the multilateral system can address multiple complex and overlapping challenges.

4. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations has continued to deepen over the past two years, guided by a shared commitment to maintaining international peace and security; respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights; and delivering on the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This cooperation has become increasingly multilayered and multifaceted, ranging from high-level political engagements between the Secretary-General and regional counterparts to joint activities and exchanges of expertise at the technical level to advance shared agendas. Owing to space limitations, not all activities have been included in the present report, but the report showcases their wide scope.

## II. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

### African Union

5. The United Nations maintained close coordination with the African Union at all levels to enhance and deepen joint engagements in line with the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027.

6. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General convened United Nations-African Union annual conferences to exchange views and monitor progress on matters related to peace and security, sustainable development and human rights in Africa. Similarly, United Nations senior officials were in close touch with counterparts in the African Union, including through the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force for Peace and Security. The Special Representative

of the Secretary-General to the African Union served as the main interface for such engagement, in particular with the senior leadership of the Commission and its Peace and Security Council. The United Nations Office to the African Union facilitated interactions between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Peace and Security Council also worked to expand their partnership, including through annual informal consultations.

7. Under the coordination of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the United Nations system has provided support to the African Union flagship initiative “Silencing the Guns in Africa”, which was extended to 2030, including on mediation, peace education, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the African Union Commission collaborated with 13 African countries in raising awareness on the negative impacts of the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

8. The United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission engaged in consultations and high-level joint field visits as well as other joint or coordinated engagements for conflict prevention and resolution, including in the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Libya, as well as the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions. The two entities also supported the peaceful conduct of electoral processes, in cooperation with the African regional economic communities concerned, including in Zambia in August 2021 and in Somalia during the 2021–2022 parliamentary elections.

9. In the Central African Republic, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic worked closely with the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to advance the 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. A joint delegation of the three entities, as well as the European Union, undertook a high-level visit to the Central African Republic from 2 to 5 June 2021 in the wake of the 2020–2021 election cycle to encourage inclusive dialogue towards a sustainable peace. The United Nations Office to the African Union supported the African Union in the deployment of its Military Observers Mission to the Central African Republic to support the implementation of the peace process.

10. In the Great Lakes region, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes, the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community worked closely together in the implementation of the 2013 Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region as an important vehicle to address the causes and drivers of conflict and instability in the region. In addition, the United Nations, the African Union and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region organized a five-day training session for approximately 30 members of the African Union Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa) on mediation and peacebuilding, held in September 2021.

11. In the Horn of Africa region, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs worked closely with the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel in implementing its mandate. The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa facilitated logistical support to the High Representative of the African Union for the Horn of Africa Region in his diplomatic efforts.

12. In line with Security Council resolutions [2524 \(2020\)](#) and [2579 \(2021\)](#), the United Nations and the African Union reinforced their strategic partnership in the Sudan. On 18 March 2022, the two organizations, together with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, established a trilateral cooperation mechanism to facilitate intra-Sudanese talks towards the restoration of the transition.

13. In South Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union continued to coordinate their actions to ensure timely and inclusive implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan.

14. On 7 March 2022, the African Union and the United Nations, together with the Federal Government of Somalia and the European Union, submitted to the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council a joint proposal on the reconfigured African Union Mission in Somalia in accordance with Security Council resolution 2568 (2021). That led to the establishment of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia on 1 April 2022 under Security Council resolution 2628 (2022). The United Nations Support Office in Somalia worked with the African Union Commission to support the reconfiguration of the Mission.

15. The United Nations and the African Union remained committed to supporting the Libyan political and electoral process, as well as the 2020 Ceasefire Agreement. The African Union co-chairs the security working group of the International Follow-up Committee on Libya, which works with Libyan counterparts to fully implement the Ceasefire Agreement, including the withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya. The United Nations and the African Union also continued to support the Libyan authorities in advancing a comprehensive national reconciliation process.

16. In 2021, the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism took part virtually in four hybrid assessment visits of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the region. The same year, the Office of Counter-Terrorism partnered with the Centre to organize workshops for African Member States on the threats to civil aviation security in the Southern African Development Community region and workshops for civil society organizations and law enforcement authorities in the Sudan on strategic communications regarding the role of civil society in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

17. In 2021 and 2022, the Department of Safety and Security organized the first two security symposiums to enhance collaboration on strategic security management issues, with the participation of various organizations, including the African Union.

18. The World Health Organization (WHO) continued to support the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to coordinate the COVID-19 continental response. The Organization, through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, engaged with the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team to harmonize vaccine procurement and delivery to its member States. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) worked with the African Union Commission to help inform its engagement with the 2021 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030 (see General Assembly resolution 75/284).

19. In October 2021, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the African Peer Review Mechanism organized a continental workshop on the theme “Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union in Africa: Building resilient institutions for the Sustainable Development Goals in the time of COVID-19”. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the African Union Commission have continued to co-chair a taskforce meeting to follow up on the implementation of commitments made by African Ministers of Agriculture, to mitigate the adverse effects of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition in Africa.

20. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided technical assistance to the African Union, including in building the capacity of the African Group of Negotiators and the Committee of African Heads of State and Government

on Climate Change, and through ecosystem restoration projects under the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.

21. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) partnered with the African Union in the delivery of technical assistance activities in the field of drug data and research and regularly co-organized capacity-building and technical assistance initiatives to support African Member States in strengthening epidemiological networks as well as drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation systems.

22. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the African Union Commission advanced ongoing programmes, including with respect to climate security, governance and contributing to crisis management initiatives. A notable example is the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad and support for the conduct of the Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa that led to the adoption of the Accra Declaration on 17 March 2022.

23. The Office for Disarmament Affairs further strengthened its partnership with the African Commission on Nuclear Energy in promoting global and regional dialogues on nuclear-weapon-free zones, reinforcing nuclear safety and security and enhancing the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa. In July 2021, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization concluded an agreement on practical arrangements with the African Commission on Nuclear Energy to enhance their cooperation through regular consultations and joint capacity-building events.

24. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued to work with the African Union Commission to support the integration of issues related to the rights and welfare of children and young people in African Union programmes, including through the Spotlight Initiative Regional Africa Programme. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict contributed to the annual meetings of the African Union Coordination Group on Children in Situations of Conflict.

25. The United Nations and the African Union worked to promote the women and peace and security agenda in Africa, in support of FemWise-Africa. In October 2021, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi participated in the virtual meeting of the African Women Leaders Network Steering Committee to review progress in the institutionalization of the Network. In November 2021, the Network, in partnership with the United Nations Office to the African Union, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the African Union, launched a young women's mentorship platform to facilitate intergenerational dialogue between young and senior African women leaders. UNDP and the African Union Commission continued to implement the African Young Women Leaders Fellowship Programme and other initiatives to promote the empowerment of young people in Africa. In 2021, UNFPA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) supported the African Union in developing its continental strategy on education, health and well-being for adolescents and young people in Africa for 2022–2030.

26. In December 2020, the United Nations and the African Union discussed the development of a draft joint human rights framework that identified thematic areas for cooperation, including early warning, protection of human rights and strengthening rule of law and accountability. The Department of Peace Operations enhanced its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Conditions of Detention of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on training,

visibility and force generation of Government-provided corrections personnel for United Nations peace operations. The African Union contributed to the advancement of the United Nations police training architecture programme.

27. The United Nations system entities and the African Union advanced regional cooperation and economic integration through the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. In November 2021, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the African Union Commission launched the *Handbook on Special Economic Zones in Africa: Towards Economic Diversification across the Continent*. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) supported the African Union in the formulation of the African commodity strategy and shared experiences on establishing integrated agro-industrial parks in Africa. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) strengthened its relations with the African Union to assist it in better using intellectual property in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

28. Through a series of joint discussions on advancing sustainable development in Africa in 2022, the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs and the African Union Commission identified energy as a priority area. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) provided technical support to the African Union in implementing the African Mineral and Energy Resources Classification and Management System to enhance sustainable management of natural resources.

29. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) supported the African Union in the implementation of the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa. The Universal Postal Union worked with the African Union Commission to develop a common approach on digital postal transformation in Africa. UNESCO worked with the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation in the design of an African continental platform for data management on science, technology and innovation. In December 2021, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the African Union Development Agency and the West African Economic and Monetary Union issued a white paper on safety and security in tourism.

30. In September 2021, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) supported the African Union in organizing the sixth Pan-African Forum on Migration and its inter-State consultation mechanism on migration. In July 2021, IOM and UNDP supported the African Union in developing the “African Integration Report 2021: Putting the Free Movement of Persons at the Centre of Continental Integration” and in organizing the first African Integration Forum. The report included a focus on the continental free movement of persons as essential to continental integration.

31. The World Food Programme (WFP), as co-chair of the home-grown school feeding cluster of the African Union, provided support to the African Union Commission in implementing its Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016–2025. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), ECA and the African Union developed a comprehensive issues paper on sustainable urbanization in April 2022. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to engage with the main African Union policy organs, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, in areas including the protection of rights of refugees and displaced persons in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

32. The Department of Global Communications, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and other United Nations entities collaborated with the African Union to organize media activities in support of the annual Africa Dialogue Series and “Africa Day” in 2021 and 2022.

### **Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization**

33. The United Nations cooperated with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, particularly in the work of the Sixth Committee and the International Law Commission. The Office of Legal Affairs maintained a close relationship with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization on subjects such as the codification and progressive development of international law, peacekeeping, ocean affairs, and international courts and tribunals.

34. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization delivered analytical papers in support of the Global Pact for the Environment, the Sustainable Development Goals, the global compact on refugees and the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. In 2020 and 2021, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization organized discussions and consultations on legal and policy issues related to sea-level rise, using satellite imagery for mapping maritime zones for protecting sovereign rights and resource development. The International Seabed Authority and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization continued to cooperate through information exchanges, awareness-raising, training programmes, workshops and seminars.

35. UNHCR collaborated with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization in supporting the development of national laws and policies related to refugees and statelessness.

### **Association of Southeast Asian Nations**

36. The Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations marked its 10-year anniversary in 2021. ASEAN and the United Nations adopted the second ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action (2021–2025) in October 2020.

37. At the eleventh ASEAN-United Nations Summit, held in November 2020, the Secretary-General recognized the effective action and commitment of ASEAN to international cooperation and regional solidarity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its support for the COVAX Facility. Briefings by the WHO Director-General at two ASEAN Summits supported the close technical cooperation between ASEAN and WHO.

38. ASEAN has expressed a strong commitment to developing its first regional plan of action on women and peace and security with the support of UN-Women. In November 2020, in collaboration with the United Nations, ASEAN held a Women Leaders' Summit in Viet Nam and a workshop on enhancing the role of ASEAN women in sustainable peace and security. With support of UN-Women, ASEAN launched its first regional flagship publication, *ASEAN Gender Outlook*, in March 2021.

39. ASEAN is advancing the youth, peace and security agenda, in close collaboration with the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. In 2021, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation organized virtual regional dialogues on climate-related security risks and on early warning capabilities and effective conflict prevention.

40. With the military takeover and the deterioration of the situation in Myanmar, ASEAN and the United Nations maintained close cooperation in several areas. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar worked in complementarity with

the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair, in accordance with Security Council press statement SC/14697, including in the implementation of the ASEAN five-point consensus. The United Nations continues to engage with ASEAN in pursuit of sustaining support and solutions for the Rohingya and to address the current crisis in the country.

41. Under the coordination of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations provided technical assistance to ASEAN under the Bali Workplan to Prevent and Counter Radicalization and Violent Extremism. The United Nations also supported the development of the ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Road Map, adopted on 29 September 2021. The International Maritime Organization has cooperated with the ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group on technical assistance on the protection of maritime environments. UNODC has worked closely with the ASEAN working group on wildlife and timber to promote joint enforcement investigations, intelligence-sharing, and cooperation with international law enforcement to address wildlife and forest crime in Southeast Asia.

42. In line with the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action for 2021–2025, the Department of Operational Support worked to strengthen the capacities of uniformed peacekeepers of troop-contributing countries in the ASEAN region.

43. United Nations system entities assisted ASEAN in developing a regional plan of action for the implementation of the 2019 ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration.

44. Under the coordination of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations worked with ASEAN in developing the Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management, which is currently in its third phase (2021–2025). The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction provided technical assistance to ASEAN in developing national disaster risk reduction strategies, the Sendai Framework monitor and the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative. UNICEF and WFP are supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Nutrition 2018–2030.

45. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is contributing to the assessment of the implementation of the Complementarities Road Map (2020–2025), which involves reviewing progress on the priority areas of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Sustainable Development Goals and the “complementarities” flagship initiatives. The International Labour Organization has collaborated with ASEAN bodies on skills development, green jobs labour migration, and social protection. UN-Habitat provided technical support to ASEAN in accelerating the implementation of its Sustainable Urbanization Strategy. FAO also supported ASEAN in implementing the ASEAN rural development and poverty reduction strategy.

46. The International Trade Centre has supported ASEAN in its regional economic integration and trade competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. UNCTAD provided technical assistance in the preparation of the *ASEAN Investment Report: Investing in Industry 4.0*, presented at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in October 2021. The United Nations Capital Development Fund supported the ASEAN Working Committee on Financial Inclusion by monitoring progress towards key financial inclusion targets in the region. ITU continued to cooperate with ASEAN on emergency telecommunication in the region, cybersecurity, digital innovation and the creation of an enabling environment for digital transformation. The International Civil Aviation Organization has supported the system-wide information management initiative in line with the ASEAN Air Traffic Management Master Plan.

47. In June 2021, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and United Nations system entities conducted a joint expert group meeting on human rights and the environment. UNEP supported the ASEAN Centre for Energy in developing a road map and toolkit on accelerating ASEAN renewable energy deployment. United Nations system entities are jointly providing technical assistance towards a regional framework agreement on environmental rights in ASEAN.

### **Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization**

48. From August to September 2021, senior officials from the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization participated in a training course on comprehensive in-depth analysis of modern diplomacy at the School of Modern Diplomacy at the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies. Officials of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization participated regularly in high-level meetings of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations.

49. The United Nations, led by ECE, continued its collaboration with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization across the entire spectrum of its work in transport.

### **Caribbean Community**

50. The eleventh general meeting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), its associated institutions and the United Nations took place virtually from 21 to 22 July 2021, with a record number of 130 participants. In a joint statement, participants highlighted opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations. Following the inauguration of a new Secretary-General of CARICOM on 15 August 2021, the two organizations discussed the follow-up of priorities identified at the eleventh general meeting. At the opening of the forty-third regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM on 3 July 2022, the Secretary-General welcomed the efforts by Caribbean leaders to safeguard biodiversity and nature, including through the efforts of the indigenous communities, and expressed full support for the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund and the establishment of a multidimensional vulnerability index.

51. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security and the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti cooperated to assist national authorities in the countries in the Caribbean region in completing a baseline assessment on small arms, weapons and ammunition, the revision of their firearms legislations and the development of national action plans.

52. In January 2021, the Office of Counter-Terrorism signed a memorandum of understanding with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security to establish a strategic partnership for the implementation of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme in the region to stem the flow of serious criminals and foreign terrorist fighters. UNODC and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security cooperated on building the capacity of law enforcement officials from CARICOM countries to address trade-based money laundering. UN-Women worked closely with the Agency to strengthen gender-responsive policing in line with *The Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence* developed by UN-Women.

53. WHO collaborated closely with CARICOM to facilitate the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines and related medical supplies to Caribbean countries. WFP continued to work with CARICOM to administer and publish a series of COVID-19 food security and livelihoods surveys, which helped to monitor the food security situation in the English-speaking Caribbean countries. UNAIDS collaborated with the

CARICOM Pan-Caribbean Partnership Against AIDS in supporting advocacy and community mobilization and the implementation of national AIDS programmes in line with the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030 and the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026.

54. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) continued to cooperate with CARICOM to support Caribbean small island developing States in addressing the rising inequality, poverty, increased informal economy, limited fiscal space and high indebtedness in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

55. In October 2021, UNICEF signed a contribution agreement with the CARICOM secretariat for the Spotlight Initiative Regional Caribbean Programme to strengthen the capacities and technical leadership of CARICOM to address violence against women and girls. In December 2021, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and CARICOM, together with other partners, co-hosted an online capacity-building workshop to support national authorities and civil society organizations in adopting a child rights-based approach to their work and in sharing good practices in engaging with human rights monitoring mechanisms.

56. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is supporting the CARICOM Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency in implementing the Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programming Framework 2014–2024 and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Caribbean initiative through a systematic risk approach.

#### **Central European Initiative**

57. WHO and the Central European Initiative strengthened their cooperation to address challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the existing task force between the two organizations, WHO and the Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative collaborated on a number of health-related programmes and events and convened a ministerial meeting on the theme “European Road Map for Health in the Western Balkans 2021–2025” in June 2021 and a joint high-level event in December 2021.

#### **Collective Security Treaty Organization**

58. The United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization continued to strengthen their cooperation through regular information exchanges, visits, conferences and training exercises. On 15 September 2020, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization issued a joint statement to mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the declaration between the Secretariats of the two organizations, reaffirming their shared commitment to enhancing the scope of their cooperation.

59. In January 2022, the Assistant Secretaries-General of the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations held virtual consultations with the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to exchange views on regional developments and to discuss ongoing efforts to enhance cooperation on early warning, conflict prevention and peacekeeping-related issues.

60. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia maintained regular contact with the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to discuss and coordinate preventive efforts in the region. The United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization have also cooperated in the

implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

61. In June 2021, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations met with the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in Moscow to discuss progress in cooperation between the two organizations to help advance the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, its implementation strategy and Action for Peacekeeping Plus. In December 2021, experts from the Collective Security Treaty Organization visited the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

### **Commonwealth of Independent States**

62. The United Nations continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs maintained regular contacts at multiple levels with CIS to exchange views on regional developments and to discuss ongoing efforts in enhancing cooperation in early warning, conflict prevention and conflict resolution. This included senior-level meetings in February and May 2021, followed by a working-level visit to CIS headquarters in Minsk in November 2021. The visit provided an opportunity for discussions with senior officials from the Executive Committee of CIS on peace and security issues and opportunities for further cooperation in the Eurasian region.

63. The Special Representative for Central Asia has maintained regular contact with the Executive Secretary of CIS and other senior officials on preventive efforts in Central Asia. The United Nations and CIS also engaged through regional workshops and projects in support of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the region. In addition, the Office of Counter-Terrorism collaborated with CIS to implement the Global Programme on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets.

64. ECE worked closely with the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States to implement a project on reinforcing statistical capacities in CIS countries to monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

65. WHO and the CIS Council for Health Cooperation renewed an existing memorandum of understanding in October 2021 for further collaboration on improving the quality and accessibility of health-care services, strengthening responses to public health emergencies and accelerating the digitalization of health systems, among other things.

### **Council of Europe**

66. In December 2020, the Secretary-General exchanged views with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on climate change, human rights and the environment, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

67. The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and his office strengthened their partnership with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. Through discussions with the representatives of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in February 2022, the President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals contributed to a report of the Council on justice and security for women in peace reconciliation.

68. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) held its annual exchange of views with Deputy Ministers of the Council of Europe, with the participation of experts from the member States of the Council of Europe, on the adverse human rights impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2021 and on human rights and the environment in February 2022. OHCHR co-developed with the Council of Europe a pilot global training of trainers course in human rights education with young people in 2020–2021. The Council of Europe and UNHCR organized 17 legal capacity-building training events for judges, lawyers, prosecutors, asylum decision-makers and non-governmental organizations on European Court of Human Rights case law and mechanisms.

69. The Special Representative on Violence against Children and UNICEF, as observers to the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child of the Council of Europe, engaged with the Council in the area of the rights of the child and child protection from violence and sexual abuse and exploitation. The Special Representative contributed to the development of the Council's Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027). WHO contributed to public hearings and sessions organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the health of persons living with disabilities and vaccine hesitancy.

70. The United Nations cooperated with the Council of Europe through the development of policy guidance to respond to trafficking in persons. UNODC and the secretariat of the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe worked together on a range of matters to strengthen anti-corruption efforts.

#### **Economic Community of Central African States**

71. The United Nations cooperated closely with ECCAS in line with the framework for cooperation agreement signed in June 2016 between the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the former ECCAS secretariat. UNOCA provided support to ECCAS, notably in establishing mechanisms and tools to more effectively address the persistent political and security challenges in the subregion and to contribute to its efforts to consolidate regional integration and build peace and security as well as advance sustainable development.

72. On 13 December 2020, the Special Representative for Central Africa and the President of the ECCAS Commission undertook a joint visit to the Central African Republic to engage in broad consultations with political actors ahead of the elections in the country. UNOCA and the ECCAS Commission also undertook joint technical-level visits to Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe in April 2021.

73. In December 2021, UNOCA supported ECCAS in the establishment of the Network of Women Mediators in Central Africa, which was approved at the twentieth ordinary session of the ECCAS Conference of Heads of State and Government, held in Brazzaville on 19 January 2022. From 8 to 10 November 2021, UNOCA worked with ECCAS on the organization of a technical subregional meeting to develop a governance programme for Central Africa, in line with the African Peer Review Mechanism. UNOCA has also contributed to the development of a regional ECCAS strategy against hate speech in Central Africa. Furthermore, with assistance from the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, which is part of the inter-agency climate security mechanism at the United Nations, UNOCA works closely with ECCAS to strengthen regional capacities to address the linkages between climate change and peace and security in the subregion.

74. On 1 and 2 February 2022, the President of the ECCAS Commission participated in the meeting of United Nations presences in Central Africa in Brazzaville. Upon his recommendation, it was agreed that this meeting should take

place every two years to coordinate efforts, share analysis and develop entry points for conflict prevention in the region.

75. IOM and the ECCAS secretariat continued to collaborate in the area of transhumance and the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Central Africa. UNODC and the ECCAS Commission worked together to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement, prosecutors and the judiciary to combat wildlife and forest crime and trafficking in natural resources. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs supported ECCAS in disaster and risk management. UNIDO assisted ECCAS in establishing the Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Central Africa, which was approved by ECCAS heads of State in July 2021. FAO and ECCAS also collaborated on food security and nutrition, fisheries and aquaculture governance as well as the promotion of the blue economy and health. In August 2021, UNFPA supported the President of ECCAS in organizing the ECCAS Youth Forum.

76. ECA supported ECCAS in the formulation of the Central Africa Regional Industrial Development and Economic Diversification Master Plan in March 2022. The Commission also assisted ECCAS in developing and implementing the subregional African Continental Free Trade Area strategy.

#### **Economic Cooperation Organization**

77. The Economic Cooperation Organization participated in the annual forums of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, which are supported by ESCAP and ECE. In November 2020 and November 2021, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization took part in the annual United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Economic Forum organized jointly by ESCAP and ECE, in collaboration with the Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, respectively.

78. In November 2021, ESCAP concluded a new memorandum of understanding with the Economic Cooperation Organization for the period 2021–2025, which focuses on areas such as sustainable development, trade and regional integration, transport, energy, and disaster risk reduction. ESCAP also contributed to the development of the Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Road Map (2021–2025) of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

79. ECE collaborated with the Economic Cooperation Organization in the field of border crossing facilitation. In January 2021, the two entities, together with the Islamic Development Bank, started a project on the implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the electronic consignment note. UNIDO is supporting the Economic Cooperation Organization in establishing the Clean Energy Centre for the Economic Cooperation Organization region by 2025.

#### **International Criminal Police Organization**

80. INTERPOL participated in all Counter-Terrorism Committee assessment visits. In November 2020, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and INTERPOL launched a joint global threat study on non-State actors and their potential use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials. INTERPOL chairs the Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, which provided the framework to begin the third phase of a project on enhancing inter-agency interoperability and public communications in the event of a chemical or biological attack. The project is being implemented jointly by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, WHO, INTERPOL, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice

Research Institute and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit.

81. UNODC and INTERPOL collaborated in the area of countering all forms of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, wildlife crime, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, terrorism, and trafficking in cultural property. The two entities also partnered in the Law Enforcement Assistance Programme to Reduce Tropical Deforestation in Latin America and South-East Asia. IOM and UNODC supported INTERPOL in conducting operations against the smuggling of migrants, including by enhancing networks of prosecutors to strengthen coordination with law enforcement in investigating human trafficking cases. IOM provided capacity-building and technical assistance to INTERPOL on the protection of survivors of human trafficking.

82. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean collaborated with INTERPOL to develop its specialized training course on combating the trafficking of arms and ammunition.

### **International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea**

83. United Nations entities collaborated with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, its subsidiary bodies and its member States on multiple issues. On the basis of the 2010 memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Executive Committee of the Fund, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia contributed to the development of regional initiatives aimed at addressing the environmental degradation of the Aral Sea area. In cooperation with the Fund's Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia, the Regional Centre helped to draft and distribute early warning hydrological bulletins on the Amu Darya and Syr Darya Rivers, as well as annual water yearbooks.

84. ESCAP supported the Fund by conducting an analytical study on a comprehensive economic, social and environmental assessment of the Aral Sea and assessing the latest scientific evidence on the climate crisis with a multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach. UNDP cooperated with the Fund and the Government of Uzbekistan to implement integrated solutions to the Aral Sea challenge. Under a renewed 2020–2022 memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development of the Fund, the two entities cooperated to support environmental protection and sustainable development in Central Asian countries.

### **International Organization of la Francophonie**

85. Since the first Security Council open debate on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) on peace and security, held on 8 September 2020, the two organizations continued to strengthen their cooperation. This included engagement around political transitions in Chad, Guinea and Mali; exchanges in support of the inter-Haitian dialogue and the eventual elections in the country; and support for credible presidential and legislative elections in Benin, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire and the Niger. At the fortieth extraordinary session of the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, held on 16 March 2022, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel briefed the participants on the democratic and security deficit in the francophone space, underscoring the importance of addressing governance issues, improving security and strengthening the trust of citizens in their institutions and leaderships.

86. In October 2021, OHCHR and OIF provided a joint training session to 30 parliamentarians from 16 francophone countries to strengthen their role in the implementation of the universal periodic review. OHCHR and OIF also organized three workshops for Haiti, Mauritania and Togo in advance of the presentation of their universal periodic review reports. In October 2021, UN-Women and OIF signed a memorandum of understanding for a joint initiative to strengthen the capacities of women candidates in the lead-up to elections in Haiti. The Department of Peace Operations closely collaborated with OIF, including in the development and delivery of a training curriculum for francophone police officers.

87. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization worked with OIF to promote the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty among its members. UNIDO cooperated with the Organization in the areas of poverty reduction, environment preservation and climate change, sustainable energy and economic structural transformation. The International Trade Centre and OIF held joint events and awareness-raising activities in several areas, including digital entrepreneurship and e-commerce opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises as well as the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. WHO signed a memorandum of understanding with OIF in April 2021 on joint efforts in such areas as universal health-care coverage and the fight against malaria. In 2020, the SDG Lab at the United Nations Office in Geneva collaborated with OIF to integrate the perspectives and knowledge of young people from francophone countries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

88. United Nations system entities and OIF organized the first senior mission leaders course in French in 2022 and rolled out the first female military officer course in French as well as the first training course on gender issues in French for military adviser gender focal points in 2021. They also started a pilot project to promote the French language among non-francophone military personnel in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. In addition, OIF and the International Criminal Court partnered in conducting French language training for International Criminal Court personnel.

### **Latin American and Caribbean Economic System**

89. In March 2022, the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System participated in the panel discussion on the theme “From development in transition to development for action: towards renewed international cooperation” during the fifth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin American and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of ECLAC. In February 2021, WHO and the Pan American Health Organization collaborated with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System on a webinar entitled “Response of Latin America and the Caribbean to the COVID-19 pandemic”.

### **League of Arab States**

90. The United Nations has further cemented its cooperation with the League of Arab States (LAS). The Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs briefed the Security Council on cooperation between the United Nations and LAS in January 2021 and March 2022, respectively. In September 2021, the first informal interactive dialogue on cooperation between the two entities took place in the Security Council, with the aim of developing closer coordination on regional issues of concern. The fifteenth United Nations-LAS General Meeting on Cooperation was held in Geneva in July 2022. The two entities discussed strategic and operational aspects of cooperation across a range of issues affecting the Arab world.

91. The United Nations and LAS further deepened dialogue and collaboration through the United Nations liaison office to LAS in Cairo, which focuses on peace and security issues. The United Nations provided support to LAS in developing a regional strategy on youth, peace and security. It further assisted LAS in improving its electoral database, holding virtual training sessions on gender and elections and organizing the third forum of election management bodies in the Arab States in June 2021.

92. The United Nations continued to consult with LAS on the work of special political missions in the region. Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General held meetings with LAS on Lebanon, Libya, the Middle East peace process, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. LAS and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan strengthened their engagement in support of the Secretary-General's good offices in the country.

93. The United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon worked closely with LAS as part of the efforts by the International Support Group for Lebanon to help strengthen Lebanon's stability. Close cooperation also continued in the context of the quadrilateral engagement of the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union and LAS on Libya. The four entities last met in this format in April 2021 and issued a joint communiqué stressing their commitment to supporting the Libyan democratic transition.

94. In May 2022, LAS officials participated in a training event on ceasefire mediation facilitated by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, UN-Women and LAS and supported the Arab Women Mediators Network in developing its strategy and action plan, which were adopted in March 2021. In 2021, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Office for Disarmament Affairs hosted the LAS Director of Arms Control and Disarmament in his visit to United Nations Headquarters.

95. The Office of Counter-Terrorism supported the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior in developing a new regional counter-terrorism strategy. UNODC assisted LAS in the development of a pan-Arab plan to prevent drug use among young people. In March 2022, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Secretary-General of LAS discussed how to advance regional disarmament and non-proliferation and build national capacities for technologies associated with the verification regime of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

96. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in coordination with LAS, organized the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in November 2021, at which the Rabat Declaration for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted. In June 2021, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in partnership with LAS, convened the seventh session of the Arab Climate Outlook Forum to discuss the importance of tailoring meteorological services and products to sectoral needs. Since December 2021, UNDP has deployed a climate security risk specialist in LAS to support its capacity to address the effects of climate change on peace and security.

97. The Secretary-General of LAS participated in the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, convened by ESCWA in March 2021 and 2022. UNDP supported LAS in upgrading and operationalizing the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, including in trade facilitation and trade in services. UNWTO supported the Executive Board and the Council of Arab Ministers for Tourism in drafting and implementing the Arab Tourism Strategy.

98. WFP and FAO supported the development of the Arab Initiative to End Hunger, a regional strategy that was launched in February 2022.

99. The United Nations system, led by IOM, and LAS coordinated the Regional Review Conference of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region, which was held online on 24 and 25 February 2021. In September 2021, UNHCR and LAS signed a plan of action for the period 2021–2022 deepening their cooperation to respond to the increased needs of forcibly displaced populations in the region, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued its cooperation with LAS, particularly on the welfare of Palestine refugees and their education.

#### **Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM**

100. The United Nations continued to engage with the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM. In 2021, ECE developed a pilot project with the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM in supporting further development of its digital transport documents that could provide seamless information flows accompanying cargo flows between countries along the transport corridor of the organization.

#### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**

101. The United Nations system engaged closely with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and its Development Assistance Committee in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. OECD participated actively in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, which the Secretary-General convened to follow up on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

102. In October 2020, United Nations system entities and the Development Assistance Committee established a United Nations-Development Assistance Committee dialogue, inviting United Nations agencies that have adhered to or formally endorsed the recommendations of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus on reducing vulnerability, risks and humanitarian needs. The United Nations partnered with OECD to develop a policy brief that sets out measures to improve funding and coordination of international assistance for security sector governance.

103. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and IOM collaborated with OECD on data collection to monitor Sustainable Development Goal indicator 10.7.2 on migration policies, while UNWTO and OECD coordinated data collection on Goal indicator 8.9.1 on tourism. UN-Habitat and OECD worked to implement the global national urban policy programme in Asia and Africa. WIPO participated in the OECD IP Statistics Task Force, which seeks to raise awareness of new databases and share statistical methodologies.

104. In May 2022, United Nations system entities, the OECD Development Centre and other partners conducted a joint production transformation policy review for least developed countries, at the request of Bangladesh. OECD and United Nations system entities also continued to actively participate in the Platform for Collaboration on Tax.

105. In October 2020, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and OECD opened a joint office in New York to enhance strategic collaboration with the United Nations.

## **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

106. Collaboration between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been guided by the 1993 Framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Secretariat and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the 2019 joint statement by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson-in-Office of OSCE. The United Nations Liaison Office to OSCE in Vienna has been instrumental in this partnership.

107. The United Nations and OSCE cooperated on conflict prevention and crisis management in Central Asia, the Republic of Moldova, the South Caucasus, Ukraine and the Western Balkans. In the Western Balkans, the United Nations and OSCE worked together to advance reconciliation. With regard to Ukraine, the United Nations continued its consistent support for the diplomatic efforts led by the Normandy format and the OSCE-led Trilateral Contact Group, in line with Security Council resolution [2202 \(2015\)](#). As tensions in the OSCE region increased, the United Nations and OSCE continued to maintain communication at all levels, including in the context of the war in Ukraine.

108. United Nations senior officials participated in the annual OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference on 21 April 2021. In March 2022, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, OSCE and the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies co-organized a high-level international conference on regional cooperation of Central Asian States on counter-terrorism.

109. The United Nations Office at Geneva, OHCHR and the OSCE Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities co-organized an event on the theme “Effective participation of minorities in economic life as a strategy for conflict prevention”, held on 12 November 2021. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights supported the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect in organizing a meeting on the theme “Addressing hate speech and preventing incitement to violence in Europe” in Vienna in March 2022.

110. Throughout 2021, UNHCR and OSCE organized a series of webinars on combating intolerance and discrimination against migrants and refugees. The Special Representative on Violence Against Children and IOM expert senior staff participated in the twenty-second Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons in April 2022 to promote a protection-sensitive approach to supporting survivors of trafficking.

111. ECE and OSCE cooperated on border crossing facilitation, transport connectivity, infrastructure development, transboundary river basins and implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

## **Organization of American States**

112. The United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) maintained regular consultations to discuss regional trends and issues of common interest. Prior to the general elections in Honduras in November 2021, the two organizations coordinated activities to promote the transparency of the electoral institutions and the participation of women, young people and politically underrepresented groups. The United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti and OAS jointly advocated for wider national consensus on key structural reforms and the creation of the security and political conditions necessary for holding elections. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and the OAS Special Representative for Haiti supported the efforts of national authorities to address corruption and promote good governance.

113. Since 2020, OHCHR and the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have collaborated on the creation of a “community of practice” among national mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders. UN-Women partnered with the OAS Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention to finalize the legal analysis of several documents, including laws and policies on cyberviolence and cyberharassment, to promote gender-related legal reforms and policies.

114. UNODC and the OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission supported Member States in the region to set up and strengthen national early warning systems on emerging drug threats.

### **Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

115. The United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) maintained a close relationship in search of common solutions, including regarding the situations in Afghanistan, Libya, Myanmar and Yemen as well as the Middle East Peace Process, in line with General Assembly resolution [75/16](#).

116. The United Nations and OIC engaged frequently at the senior level. The Secretary-General delivered a virtual message to the meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in March 2022. The United Nations-OIC General Meeting on Cooperation was held in Geneva in July 2022 with the participation of senior officials of both organizations. The two organizations reviewed their existing joint activities at the political, security, economic, social and cultural levels and agreed on strengthening their cooperation in those areas, acknowledging that regional organizations play important roles in addressing the current global challenges. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan has established a close relationship with the OIC Special Envoy for Afghanistan, following the opening of an OIC Office in Kabul on 4 March 2022. The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations participated in the forty-eighth session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on 22 March 2022, at which he addressed the issue of Islamophobia. The Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People also participated. The Secretary-General of OIC played a high-level advocacy role in mobilizing political support and financial contributions to UNRWA.

117. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs provided support to OIC in updating and strengthening its electoral database. The Department participated in the Fourth OIC Conference on Mediation, in Jeddah in June 2022. During a virtual meeting with regional organizations on mediation in November 2021, OIC organized a session on religion and mediation and discussed how religion was reflected in its own peacemaking efforts. United Nations system entities are providing technical support to the OIC Women Development Organization in the establishment of a multi-partner trust fund to finance activities in areas such as the advancement of women’s economic empowerment, the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, the prevention of extremism and countering terrorism, and the strengthening of the role of women in fighting corruption. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate supported OIC in its efforts to revise its existing instruments against terrorism, in close cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, UNODC and other entities.

118. In March 2021, UNHCR and the OIC International Islamic Fiqh Academy signed a five-year memorandum of understanding to support refugees and internally displaced persons through Islamic philanthropy tools and advocacy based on Islamic jurisprudence.

### **Pacific Islands Forum**

119. Cooperation between the Pacific Islands Forum and the United Nations continued to grow through regular meetings and exchanges. In response to the implementation of the multi-country office review, the United Nations increased its programmatic cooperation and physical presence in the Pacific region in support of small island developing States. In September 2021, the Secretary-General participated in a high-level online dialogue with Forum leaders, at which they addressed the need for urgent international action to combat the threat posed to the Pacific region by climate change, sea level rise and the COVID-19 pandemic.

120. The Peacebuilding Fund, in partnership with the Forum, is supporting a project to bolster regional understanding and responses to climate-related security risks, aligned with the 2018 Bore Declaration. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the Forum have also supported regular expert dialogues on different aspects of climate security for Permanent Missions of the Pacific countries and other small island developing States to the United Nations in New York. IOM, ESCAP and the Forum secretariat served as the secretariat for a joint working group that is drafting a regional framework on climate mobility. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and UNDP cooperated closely with the Forum secretariat by providing technical guidance to accelerate implementation at the country level of the risk governance component of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.

121. In April 2022, ESCAP and the Forum co-hosted the Pacific Regional Debt Conference, along with co-conveners Fiji and Tuvalu, to address the issue of debt sustainability in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. WHO worked with the Forum secretariat through the Joint Incident Management Team for health emergencies in the Pacific, a central body of the COVID-19 response in the Pacific. UN-Women and the Forum secretariat provided technical support to regional and international gender mechanisms in the region through the Gender Coordination Group.

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

122. The United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization pursued their cooperation, particularly in peace and security and sustainable development. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia maintained regular dialogue with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on political and security developments in the region. The United Nations liaison presence in Beijing has been a key factor in ensuring an ongoing dialogue between the two Secretariats. The first United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization “Secretariat-to-Secretariat dialogue” was held in May 2021 to enhance interaction on issues spanning from peace and security to socioeconomic development.

123. In July 2021, experts from the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization participated in the virtual component of the Counter-Terrorism Committee’s follow-up visit to Uzbekistan. In November 2021, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held the first regional training course aimed at strengthening cross-border cooperation to impede terrorist travel in the region.

124. The Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization participated in the seventy-seventh session of ESCAP, in April 2021, and delivered a statement at a session on subregional perspectives on building back better. FAO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization cooperated in various areas, including the use of digital technologies in agriculture and food security.

### **III. Observations and recommendations**

125. In the face of converging global threats, stronger and more effective international cooperation underpinned by global-regional partnerships is essential. The depth and breadth of United Nations cooperation with regional and other organizations continue to increase, as we work together to address common threats, from inequalities and climate change to renewed forms of conflict. Such cooperation has been particularly vital over the past two years, as we have worked together to build global responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftershocks. I also particularly welcomed how regional organizations have echoed my call for a global ceasefire and worked alongside the United Nations to encourage conflict parties to cease hostilities.

126. In a global environment that is increasingly polarized and a multilateral system that is struggling to respond to increasing needs, more must be done to strengthen these partnerships. My high-level dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations, held in a virtual format on 23 November 2020, was an effort in that direction. While each regional organization operates in a unique context, we all share common goals, not least the need to strengthen the basis for international cooperation.

127. Several of our regional partners have regularly expressed the need for the United Nations and regional and other organizations to have a forum for dialogue and exchange of ideas, which would create opportunities to recognize converging views on many issues. Those views informed my report on Our Common Agenda, in which I articulated a vision for how such partnerships should be at the heart of our efforts to put in place a more networked and inclusive multilateralism, with the United Nations playing a lead role as convener. The New Agenda for Peace, envisaged as part of my report, places an important emphasis on regional prevention, which is contingent on strengthened cooperation with regional organizations. To that end, I proposed to hold an annual meeting with heads of regional organizations to further enhance cooperation between the United Nations and regional bodies and to promote continuous active dialogue among the United Nations system, international financial institutions and regional development banks, as a complement to a biennial summit.

128. In the course of the informal thematic consultations convened by the President of the General Assembly in February and March 2022, Member States expressed support for the proposal on the dialogue and for the overarching goal of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations in accordance with their respective mandates and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It was also suggested that the annual forum should explore a possible bottom-up approach in sharing best practices from regional organizations to the United Nations. I have therefore requested the United Nations regional commissions, in consultations with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and other departments as appropriate, to take the lead in preparing for the organization of the first meeting of this annual forum in 2023. I will keep Member States informed through existing channels as appropriate.