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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

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

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

**Security Council
Seventy-fifth year**

* [A/75/150](#).



Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States
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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. That relationship has assumed even greater importance in the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which demands a collective, coordinated and unified response from all regions.

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 17 August 2018 ([A/73/328-S/2018/592](#)).

The activities and accomplishments described in the report demonstrate the growing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations across a range of issues.

I. Introduction

1. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has plunged the world into an acute crisis that has exposed the fragility of humankind. It has brought a new level of complexity to global peace and security challenges and to collective efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and sustain peace. In that context, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations has assumed an even greater importance.
2. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and specific regional and other organizations, adopted at the seventy-third session of the Assembly, when it requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of those resolutions during its seventy-fifth session.
3. The Security Council, in its resolution [1809 \(2008\)](#), requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. Furthermore, in its presidential statement of 6 August 2013 ([S/PRST/2013/12](#)), the Council requested the Secretary-General to include in the report recommendations on ways to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements. The present report is, therefore, also being submitted to the Security Council.
4. This consolidated report, prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 (l) of the annex to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#), covers the period since the issuance of the previous such report, on 17 August 2018 ([A/73/328-S/2018/592](#)). It highlights some of the main accomplishments that respond to the relevant General Assembly resolutions, provides examples of how the United Nations and regional and other organizations are working together in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and includes areas for further enhancing multilateral cooperation.

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

African Union

5. In the reporting period, the United Nations and the African Union continued to enhance their cooperation on the basis of a consensus that a strong partnership is essential to advancing peace and security, sustainable development and human rights in Africa. In December 2018, I signed a joint declaration on cooperation with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for African Union-led peace support operations. We also continue to convene United Nations-African Union annual conferences, instituted in 2017, to monitor progress and exchange on matters related to peace, security, development and human rights in Africa.
6. The United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission engaged in consultations and joint field visits, including in the Central African Republic, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan, in support of conflict prevention and resolution efforts. We also facilitated peaceful elections, in cooperation with the relevant African regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, such as in Madagascar in late 2018.
7. The United Nations scaled up its support to the African Union flagship initiative on “Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020”. Following Security Council resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#), it established the Task Force on Silencing the Guns in Africa, under the

leadership of the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, to coordinate wide-ranging support from across the United Nations System. United Nations Resident Coordinators and Regional Directors of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes participated in the February 2020 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on “Silencing the Guns” in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. My Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict participated in the African Union summit high-level dialogue entitled “Stop the War on Children: Dividend of Silencing the Guns”.

8. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa launched the Africa Dialogue Series in October 2018 as a platform for amplifying the priorities of the African Union. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other agencies, funds and programmes provided support to the African Union for its 2019 theme of “Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards durable solutions to forced displaced in Africa”.

9. In March 2019, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs conducted a joint field visit to Libya. The African Union has been an active member of the International Follow-up Committee on Libya and co-chairs its security working group. On 11 and 12 March 2020, my Chef de Cabinet headed a delegation that included my Special Representative to the African Union and the Acting Special Representative for Libya at the inaugural meeting of the Contact Group of the African Union Ad Hoc High-level Committee on Libya, held in the Congo.

10. The United Nations continued to support the implementation of the African Union and Lake Chad Basin Commission’s Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region. My Special Representatives for Central Africa and for West Africa and the Sahel undertook joint visits in 2019 to the four Boko Haram-affected countries to mobilize political will for a comprehensive solution to the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin.

11. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) worked closely with the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States in support of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation, which resulted in the signing in February 2019 of a political agreement between the Government of the Central African Republic and 14 armed groups. This included the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, which contributed to a dialogue with armed groups to record grievances and inform discussions that led to the agreement. Regular consultations with women’s civil society organizations resulted in gender provisions being included in the interim text and final agreement.

12. The United Nations and the African Union continued to advance peace and stability in Darfur through the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, including through support to the peace talks in Juba mediated by South Sudan. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan and my Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa have been working with the African Union to assist the South Sudan peace process led by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development. This partnership translated into active political and operational support for the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, which led to the establishment in February 2020 of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity. Despite the sustained advocacy of women’s groups, there has been

negligible adherence to the 35 per cent quota for women laid out in the Revitalized Agreement.

13. The African Union has taken concrete steps to deepen the institutionalization of mediation support within the Commission, including by reinforcing the nascent Mediation Support Unit and the Network of African Women Mediators (FemWise). The United Nations, through the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, remains committed to working alongside the African Union to ensure a more holistic approach to mediation support through the reinforcement of technical and knowledge management capabilities.

14. The United Nations and the African Union continued to advance regional cooperation and economic integration of the African continent through the implementation of the African Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreement, which came into effect on 30 May 2019. The Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development continued actively to support the African Union in the negotiation and implementation of the agreement. In June 2019, the International Trade Centre and the African Union launched the African Trade Observatory to support the operationalization of the agreement. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization has proclaimed 2016 to 2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

15. The United Nations system and the African Union have continued to work together to advance their common priority of achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. The Deputy Secretary-General and the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security led the third joint United Nations-African Union high-level solidarity mission to the Horn of Africa in October 2019. The mission visited Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan with the aim of enhancing the participation and leadership of women in peace and political processes across Africa. The United Nations further collaborated with the African Union Commission in convening the African Women Leaders Network first intergenerational dialogue in Nairobi in August 2019. Under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, with support from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Office of the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, the Economic Commission for Africa launched, in January 2020, the African women's leadership fund, aimed at financing both first-time and experienced women fund managers. In 2019, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the African Union Commission joined forces to implement an African Young Women Leaders Fellowship programme to develop the next generation of young African women leaders and experts. In February 2020, the United Nations Office to the African Union and the African Union Commission jointly published a publication entitled "She Stands for Peace: 20 Years, 20 Journeys", featuring the stories of 20 African women and women's organizations that have made outstanding contributions to peace and security on the continent.

16. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs continues to work with the African Union on the establishment and operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights signed memorandums of understanding with the the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in 2019. The the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect provided technical assistance to the Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division. On 23 July 2019, my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict briefed the African Union Peace and Security Council in an inaugural open session on sexual violence in armed conflict in Africa. I welcome the African Union Peace and Security Council's decision to dedicate an annual open session to addressing

conflict-related sexual violence on the continent. In April 2020, the United Nations, the European Union and the African Union signed the Spotlight Initiative regional programme in Africa with the aim of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.

17. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) collaborated with the African Union Commission in 2019 to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. UNFPA has also supported the development of the call for action on ending female genital mutilation and child marriage.

18. The Office of my Envoy on Youth collaborated with the African Union Youth Envoy to strengthen youth empowerment within the socioeconomic nexus between peace and development efforts. This included the participation of my Envoy in April 2019 in the African Union Commission's Pan-African Youth Forum. In 2019, the United Nations Office to the African Union, along with other United Nations entities, supported the African Union Commission's newly established Youth for Peace Africa Program in conducting a continental study on the roles and contributions of young people to peace and security in Africa.

19. The Department of Operational Support continued to strengthen interoperability and complementarity between the United Nations and the African Union through the knowledge and expertise exchange programme and the enhanced training for high-level operational support programme. In January 2020, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support and the African Union Deputy Chairperson signed a memorandum of understanding to institutionalize the staff exchange programme.

20. The Economic Commission for Europe cooperates with the African Union on transboundary water management in Africa, in particular with the African Network of Basin Organizations, for the promotion of legal and institutional frameworks in Africa.

21. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission and its related organs have coordinated Africa's response to the pandemic, including calling for a \$100 billion "debt standstill", providing debt relief, and issuing a coordinated trade and investment response, which led to the African Export-Import Bank's announcement of a \$3 million grant and the appointment of the special envoys of the African Union to support the continental fight against COVID-19.

22. The Department of Global Communications coordinated with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to amplify messaging on the spread of the pandemic and the response efforts of African Governments. UNHCR has engaged the African Union to raise awareness of the impacts of COVID-19 on refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons. In March 2020, UNDP developed a regional project to support the implementation of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Outbreak, which focuses on enhancing support to the African Union. On 20 May 2020, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Chairperson of the African Commission issued a joint statement calling for global solidarity and urgent measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in Africa. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is also working with the African Union on customs, logistics and civil-military coordination. On 16 April 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the African Union organized a virtual ministerial meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on food security in Africa.

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

23. The United Nations has continued to cooperate 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 working relationship with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization on subjects such as codification and progressive development of international law, peacekeeping and ocean affairs.

24. 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 2018, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization organized discussions and consultations on legal issues involved in the immunity of heads of state.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

25. The United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have a longstanding and mutually beneficial relationship that has steadily developed over the past two decades. With more than 90 per cent of the agreed action lines in the first ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action (2016–2020) completed by the end of 2019, the second Plan of Action (2021–2025) is expected to include new and expanded areas of technical cooperation. During the tenth ASEAN-United Nations Summit, held in November 2019, I welcomed the commitment of ASEAN to multilateralism and called for the urgent upscaling of our efforts on sustainable development and climate action.

26. In December 2018, ASEAN and the United Nations held a workshop on ASEAN perspectives on conflict management and conflict resolution. In December 2019, the fifth ASEAN-United Nations regional dialogue on political-security cooperation was held in support of the efforts of ASEAN to further strengthen its conflict prevention capacities. In addition, members of my High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and UN-Women provided technical assistance to the first ASEAN symposium on women, peace and security in August 2019.

27. Under the leadership of my Special Envoy on Myanmar, the United Nations continued to pursue enhanced cooperation with ASEAN to support efforts to address the ongoing crisis in Rakhine State and alleviate the plight of Rohingya refugees. I welcome the important role of ASEAN in support of identifying comprehensive and durable solutions to address the root causes underlying the situation.

28. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations held two formal meetings in 2018 and 2019 to identify areas for cooperation, including on the environment and freedom of expression. The Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect has continued to engage in dialogue with ASEAN on the importance of integrating an atrocity prevention perspective. UNHCR engaged with ASEAN on the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration.

29. Under the leadership of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations provided technical assistance to the efforts of ASEAN to advance comprehensive approaches to counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism through multisectoral collaboration under the ASEAN Bali work plan, adopted in November 2019.

30. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has been working closely with ASEAN in implementing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. In 2019, the Office organized the first ASEAN technical consultation on risk-informed sustainable development. The United Nations University also collaborated with ASEAN on disaster management to implement a capacity-building programme for mid-level managers from all 10 ASEAN countries.

31. The ongoing support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to ASEAN in accelerating the implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy achieved a significant milestone in November 2018 with the launch of the Strategy. Within the ASEAN-United Nations Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change (2016–2020), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is assisting ASEAN member States in addressing marine debris issues under the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia's Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

32. In the context of COVID-19, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has intensified engagement to support the socioeconomic response of ASEAN member States to the pandemic, including through the ASEAN-ESCAP high-level policy dialogue focusing on building a resilient ASEAN Community post-COVID-19.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

33. The United Nations, led by the Economic Commission for Europe, has continued its collaboration with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization across the entire spectrum of its work in transport. Through its regional advisory services, the Commission has organized workshops on trade facilitation for the members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and has worked with experts to assist in the drafting of a regional trade facilitation strategy.

Caribbean Community

34. From 23 to 24 July 2019, the tenth general meeting between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations took place in Georgetown. In the joint statement issued after the meeting, participants outlined practical ways for enhancing CARICOM-United Nations cooperation.

35. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and UNDP provided support to the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security for the review of the CARICOM crime and security strategy, which was completed in 2019. That same year, the Office of Counter-Terrorism commenced a partnership with the Agency to support the implementation of the CARICOM counter-terrorism strategy. In addition, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with the Agency, led the drafting of the regional agreement for the return and sharing of recovered assets, which was adopted and opened for signature at the thirtieth intersessional meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, in February 2019.

36. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) continued to work closely with CARICOM to advance the implementation of the debt-for-climate-adaptation-swap initiative, aimed at addressing Caribbean countries' high levels of indebtedness and limited access to concessional funding due to their middle-income status, and move forward with the creation of a Caribbean resilience fund. As part of its COVID-19 response, ECLAC organized, with active participation of the CARICOM secretariat, a series of virtual dialogues on the impact of the pandemic with ministers and high-level authorities. FAO contributed to the preparation of the

CARICOM regional COVID-19 agri-food risk management framework and action plan to help mitigate anticipated disruptions in global food supply chains.

Central European Initiative

37. The United Nations and the Central European Initiative continued to enhance their cooperation. On 17 July 2019, the Central European Initiative organized an event in the margins of the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development to facilitate sharing of experiences and best practices in advancing cooperation in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthening partnerships.

38. In response to COVID-19, the Central European Initiative established a task force with the World Health Organization regional office for Europe to step up regional coordination to better respond to the impacts of the pandemic.

Collective Security Treaty Organization

39. The United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization engaged in regular information exchanges, visits, conferences and training exercises. In September 2019, I participated in a ministerial-level meeting of the Security Council held under the presidency of the Russian Federation on the role of regional organizations, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization, in combating terrorism.

40. In November 2018, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs held high-level consultations in Moscow with counterparts in the secretariat of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to discuss issues related to conflict prevention and resolution in the Eurasian region. In April 2019, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations held follow-up high-level consultations in Moscow with counterparts from the Secretariat of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on areas of possible practical cooperation.

41. My Special Representative for Central Asia 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 Central Asia. The United Nations and the Organization have also cooperated through regional workshops and projects in support of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

42. In December 2019, experts from the Collective Security Treaty Organization travelled to New York to better understand both United Nations and Collective Security Treaty Organization modalities for enhancing cooperation on peacekeeping. Following interest expressed by the Collective Security Treaty Organization and its member States to contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Department of Peace Operations has engaged in consultations with the Collective Security Treaty Organization on opportunities, requirements and available training. Subsequently, in a joint letter dated 23 March 2020, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support shared with the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization some of the areas where United Nations peacekeeping operations either have or anticipate capability shortfalls, and identified modalities for contributions.

Commonwealth of Independent States

43. The United Nations continued its cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). During consultations held in Moscow and Minsk in April and May 2019, respectively, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs engaged in discussions with the Executive Committee of CIS on peace and security issues in the Eurasian region and opportunities for further cooperation and coordination. In May 2019, the Deputy Executive Secretary of CIS participated in an expert meeting on regional experiences with conflict prevention and mediation, organized by the Department in Minsk.

44. My Special Representative for Central Asia and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia has maintained regular contact with the Executive Secretary of CIS to exchange views and coordinate preventive efforts in Central Asia. The United Nations and CIS have also cooperated through regional workshops and projects in support of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

45. UNODC has cooperated with CIS in the framework of the protocol signed in July 2005 with the Executive Committee of CIS. The protocol focuses on the exchange of information and cooperation in areas related to drug control, crime prevention and international terrorism in the context of sustainable development and human security.

46. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) works closely with the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS (CISSTAT) to implement a project on reinforcing statistical capacities in CIS countries to monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In November 2019, the Deputy Executive Secretary of CIS participated in the economic forum on sustainable transport and trade facilitation in Central Asia, organized jointly by ESCAP and ECE in Ashgabat as part of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

47. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) collaborated with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries in the fight against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. UNIOGBIS provided technical support to engagement between the Guinea-Bissau Judiciary Police and the Community on the launch of an inter-institutional cooperation agreement with the Federal Police of Brazil.

48. The United Nations University has collaborated with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries on a project focusing on digital public services in the African member States of the Community and Timor Leste and provided support for the analysis of electronic government strategies.

49. The United Nations and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries have further cooperated in strengthening multilingualism and respect for language diversity. In 2019, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's General Conference decided to proclaim 5 May as "World Portuguese Language Day".

Council of Europe

50. The United Nations has been in regular consultations with the Council of Europe. At the technical level, staff of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations held talks with their counterparts in the secretariat and other organs of the Council of Europe in December 2018 and 2019

in Strasbourg, France, establishing an informal practice of annual dialogue on matters related to the European region as well as on institutional cooperation.¹

51. In 2019, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations participated in the Lisbon Forum organized by the Council of Europe, highlighting the importance of building regional governance for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the realization of human rights.

52. In June 2019, the Office of Counter-Terrorism gave a briefing to the Council of Europe Member States on United Nations support to victims of terrorism. In the COVID-19 context, the Office partnered with the Council of Europe to organize a joint webinar in June 2020 on the theme “Cybercrime and terrorism: the criminal justice response”.

Economic Community of Central African States

53. The United Nations has regularly engaged with the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and its member States in line with the framework of cooperation agreement signed in June 2016 between the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the ECCAS secretariat. As requested by ECCAS in the ministerial-level Luanda Declaration from 6 December 2019, UNOCA is leading a comprehensive inter-agency effort by the United Nations system in partnership with ECCAS to analyse and address the security implications of climate change in the Central African region.

54. UNOCA has supported the ECCAS reform process. The new Commission, sworn in on 31 August 2020, will provide ECCAS with a mandate and adequate tools to respond more effectively to the challenges facing the region. The United Nations continues to support ECCAS in its efforts to consolidate regional integration and build peace, security and economic and social development throughout Central Africa. UNOCA has also contributed to the ECCAS strategy on addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

55. UNOCA and the ECCAS secretariat continue to work together in rallying regional support for the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. On 4 February 2020, UNOCA and the ECCAS secretariat met in Libreville to develop an updated common assessment of the situation in the country in advance of elections scheduled for December 2020. My Special Representative for Central Africa and the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States undertook a joint visit to the Central African Republic in April 2019 to demonstrate support for the abovementioned Political Agreement. They also jointly travelled to Cameroon in January 2020 ahead of the country’s legislative and municipal elections. ECCAS secretariat officials joined UNOCA staff members in a joint working-level visit to the Congo in March 2020.

56. In October 2019, OHCHR organized two capacity-building seminars on international human rights and humanitarian law indicators, in Libreville, for high-ranking officials from the Eastern Africa Standby Force and the early warning mechanism for Central Africa.

¹ The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations were established on 1 January 2019, succeeding the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, respectively, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/262 C. For the sake of simplicity, the present text refers only to the newly configured Departments.

Economic Cooperation Organization

57. The United Nations system continues to support the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization in respect of disaster risk reduction. In 2019, the Office for Disaster Risk Reduction facilitated capacity-building initiatives for the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization that led to the development of training-of-trainers programmes on the Sendai Framework monitor and the formulation of national disaster risk reduction strategies.

58. The Economic Commission for Europe collaborated with the Economic Cooperation Organization in the field of border crossing facilitation and exploring joint projects to support countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization in acceding to and/or implementing United Nations transport legal instruments to facilitate interregional transport connectivity.

59. FAO offered technical support to the Economic Cooperation Organization to prepare a 2019 overview of food security in the Organization's countries, which was shared in December 2019 at the fifth high-level experts meeting of the Organization on agriculture.

International Criminal Police Organization

60. The United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) continued their close collaboration. In December 2018, INTERPOL became one of two non-United Nations founding signatories of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. From 19 to 21 March 2019, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate of the Security Council and INTERPOL organized a regional expert workshop in Singapore on critical infrastructure and the protection of "soft" targets. In 2019, INTERPOL officially joined the Office's flagship Countering Terrorist Travel Programme as a partner to deliver comprehensive capacity-building assistance to Member States.

61. UNODC and INTERPOL collaborated in the field of countering illicit firearms trafficking, providing capacity-building to Member States on firearms trafficking investigations and the use of the Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System, in addition to planning and implementing joint operations in Latin America and the Caribbean and in West Africa to detect, trace and investigate illicit firearms flows.

62. UNIOGBIS and UNODC collaborated with INTERPOL to provide strategic support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau in combatting drug trafficking and transnational crime. In April 2019, INTERPOL and MINUSCA collaborated to provide training to national police and other law enforcement officers at the international airport of the Central African Republic.

International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

63. United Nations entities are continuing their collaboration with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, its subsidiary bodies and its member States on multiple issues and 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 continued to draft and distribute the early warning hydrological bulletins on the Amu-Daria and Syr Darya Rivers.

International Organization for Migration

64. In accordance with article 4 of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) annexed to General Assembly resolution 70/296, IOM may, if it decides it to be appropriate, submit reports on its activities to the General Assembly through me.

International Organization of la Francophonie

65. The United Nations continued to strengthen its partnership with the International Organization of la Francophonie. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations worked with the Organization on preventive diplomacy, support to elections and sustaining peace, particularly in Central Africa. This included multilateral efforts to promote a political solution to the conflict in the north-west and south-west regions of Cameroon. The United Nations has engaged with the Organization on major electoral processes in Central Africa, notably the December 2018 general elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Organization participated, as an observer, in meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in November 2019.

66. On 10 October 2018, my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Secretary General of the International Organization of la Francophonie signed a cooperation framework that aims at preventing and addressing sexual violence as a weapon of war and tactic of terrorism. OHCHR and the Organization collaborated in developing the capacity of the national human rights institution of Cameroon and Gabon on monitoring and reporting on human rights.

67. In 2019, UNFPA, in partnership with the International Organization of la Francophonie and bilateral donors, launched a joint forum in Haiti of UN-Women, UNDP, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and UNFPA on women, democracy and peace to increase women and youth participation in decision-making and the quota of women in the legislative elections.

68. The Department of Global Communication collaborated with the International Organization of la Francophonie to organize and host activities at United Nations Headquarters in French to celebrate the *Printemps de la francophonie*.

69. The Office of the Envoy on Youth has an ongoing strategic partnership with the International Organization of la Francophonie and their *Volontariat international de la francophonie* programme. The partnership is aimed at providing volunteering opportunities to young people from French-speaking countries within the institutions of the Organization and its partners in order to gain broader understanding of multilateral cooperation and global priorities.

70. In November 2019, UNCTAD and the International Organization of la Francophonie jointly organized a first training workshop for climate, commercial and digital negotiators from francophone countries. In February 2020, they also joined efforts to help women entrepreneurs in francophone Africa succeed in the digital economy.

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System

71. The United Nations has strengthened its cooperation with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System since the signing of a framework agreement in October 2017. In December 2019, ECLAC, jointly with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, the Latin American Center for Development Administration, and the CAF Development Bank of Latin America, organized a

seminar on the theme “Evaluation of policy impacts for disaster risk reduction and management”.

League of Arab States

72. The broad-based cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (LAS), including on issues of peace and security, was reflected in biennial general cooperation meetings, sectoral meetings, capacity-building exercises and staff exchanges. The United Nations continued to assist LAS through training in conflict prevention, disarmament and electoral preparedness. In 2019, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs established a liaison office to LAS in Cairo with the objective of further deepening dialogue and collaboration between the two organizations.

73. In March 2019, I participated in the LAS summit in Tunis, in which the critical importance was recognized of enhancing the cooperation between the United Nations and the Arab States. In June 2019, the Security Council conducted a discussion on issues of priority to the League of Arab States and outcomes of the Arab summit, at which the LAS Secretary-General and I gave briefings on issues of concern to the Arab world. On 12 and 13 January 2020, a sectoral meeting was held in Cairo between the United Nations and LAS and their specialized organizations on cooperation in the eradication of multidimensional poverty in the Arab States.

74. LAS has actively supported the efforts of the United Nations in Libya, including the three-step initiative towards achieving a sustainable ceasefire, the strict implementation of the arms embargo, a return to the political process, adherence to international humanitarian law and support for Libyan efforts on economic and security reforms. LAS is also an active member of the International Follow-up Committee on Libya, and co-chairs its political working group.

75. The Office of Counter-Terrorism has worked closely with the Arab Interior Ministers Council to support LAS member States in developing a regional counter-terrorism strategy for the Arab region, aligned with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Council and the Office organized two high-level meetings in Tunis in September 2019 and February 2020, as well as a regional consultative expert meeting on preventing and combating terrorism in February 2020. In addition, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has strengthened its working relationship with the secretariat of LAS in the field of disarmament and arms control through staff exchanges.

76. UN-Women and LAS have joined efforts to support LAS member States in developing and implementing national action plans for women, peace and security. The Office of my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict participated in April 2019 in the second regional conference for the Emergency Committee for Protection of Women during Armed Conflict, in the Arab Region. On 24 July 2020, LAS and UN-Women launched the Arab women mediators network to mobilize efforts to promote the participation of women in peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

77. On 28 and 29 July 2019, in collaboration with OHCHR, LAS organized the third Arab regional conference on the protection and promotion of human rights, which focused on the impact of occupation and armed conflict on human rights. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has also continued its cooperation with LAS, particularly on improving the quality of education services for Palestinian refugees.

78. In 2019, the Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in coordination with LAS, organized a regional partnership meeting to accelerate efforts to implement the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030.

79. UNEP facilitated the extraordinary session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment in preparation for the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. In October 2019, UNEP and LAS, along with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other partners, held the sixth Arab round-table meeting on sustainable consumption and production. UNDP launched a four-year inter-agency regional initiative entitled “SDG Climate Facility: Climate Action for Human Security” for the period 2019–2023, in partnership with LAS, the Arab Water Council, UNEP, the Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN-Habitat and WFP.

Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM

80. The United Nations has continued to engage regularly with the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM. In addition to maintaining contact with the office of its Secretary General, the United Nations has also continued to engage with Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM and other relevant stakeholders to share perspectives and to find sustainable solutions to the peace, security and other challenges affecting the region.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

81. Collaboration between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has continued to grow. On 10 December 2019, I issued a joint statement with the Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary-General of OSCE to supplement the 1993 Framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Secretariat and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which reflects our shared commitment to further enhance the partnership.

82. In September 2019, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and OSCE signed a biennial action plan for the period 2019–2020 with concrete steps to enhance counter-terrorism capacity of the OSCE participating States. The regional high-level conference on the theme “Addressing current challenges related to foreign terrorist fighters”, co-hosted by the Office and OSCE in February 2020, was the first deliverable of the action plan. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the Office have worked actively with OSCE to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

83. In line with the UNODC-OSCE joint action plans, both organizations actively collaborate in areas of combatting corruption, crime prevention, border security, firearms control, countering the financing of terrorism and countering trafficking in cultural property, human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants. ECE and OSCE have a longstanding cooperation in co-organizing the “Inland transport security discussion forum” and in promoting border crossing facilitation, transport connectivity and infrastructure development.

84. In February 2020, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the Parliamentary Assembly’s General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. The Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect has continued its engagement with OSCE to support civil society organizations address discrimination and xenophobia.

85. In March 2020, OSCE and UNHCR signed an addendum to the memorandum of understanding that was adopted in 1998 to further strengthen their cooperation. In

the context of the COVID-19 health crisis, UNHCR and the OSCE jointly organized a webinar on combating hate speech and toxic narratives on refugees and migrants.

Organization of American States

86. The United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) maintained regular consultations. In June 2019, a policy dialogue between the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions of OAS was held in Washington, D.C. to discuss regional trends and issues of common interest. The two organizations worked together in support of global electoral initiatives, such as the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. The United Nations and OAS continued to work together in Haiti, including through the Core Group on Haiti.

87. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism shared best practices to build State capacity to prevent and combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors.

88. OHCHR and the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights continued to cooperate on situations of concern, including by sharing information, conducting joint advocacy missions, and issuing joint press releases.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

89. The United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) continued to enhance their cooperation. In the context of supporting OIC efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, I joined the virtual interactive discussion with OIC member States on the theme “COVID-19 solidarity: promoting co-existence and shared responsibility” on 22 May 2020.

90. The Office of Counter-Terrorism and the General Secretariat of OIC signed a memorandum of understanding in September 2018 to collaborate on the provision of technical assistance to Member States, at their request. In March 2020, a technical mission of the Office travelled to Riyadh to give a briefing on respective counter-terrorism initiatives and explore joint capacity-building activities to operationalize the memorandum of understanding.

91. The Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect continued working with OIC in the context of the implementation of the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes.

92. OHCHR continued to strengthen its engagement with the OIC Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights. This included the co-organization of a seminar on promoting and protecting the human rights of young people for building peaceful democratic societies and sustainable development, held in Uzbekistan in October 2019, and a workshop on the universal periodic review, held in Saudi Arabia in November 2019.

93. UNCTAD worked closely in 2019 with the OIC International Islamic Trade and Finance Corporation to undertake an e-trade readiness survey for Iraq. ESCWA has also continued its substantive cooperation with OIC in the areas of statistics and standardization of data on Islamic banking.

Pacific Islands Forum

94. The United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum continued to deepen their partnership. In May 2019, I travelled to the Pacific region and participated in a high-level political dialogue with Forum leaders, held in Fiji. The dialogue considered the need for urgent international action to address the threat posed to the Pacific region by climate change. Following the visit, my Peacebuilding Fund, administered by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in collaboration with the Forum, the United Nations country team, the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs-UNDP-UNEP climate security mechanism and other partners, developed an innovative project to address climate-related security risks for low-lying atoll nations in the Pacific. The project, co-led by UNDP and IOM, launched in July 2020.

95. The United Nations is supporting the efforts of the Pacific Islands Forum and regional Governments to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the humanitarian disaster caused by Tropical Cyclone Harold. The United Nations has developed a Pacific humanitarian response plan to harness collective resources and assist Pacific countries in line with their national priorities. Elements of the plan are being supported through the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund and through extensive reprogramming of existing development initiatives in the Pacific. In July 2020, the Peacebuilding Commission held a wide-ranging debate on how the international community can further support peacebuilding in the Pacific, faced by the challenges of the pandemic and climate change.

96. IOM, ESCAP, ILO and OHCHR have launched a multi-country programme in close cooperation with the PIF Pacific Islands Forum and the Platform on Disaster Displacement to protect and empower communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region.

97. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific enhanced its work with the PIF Pacific Islands Forum secretariat on issues related to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

98. UNIDO provided technical support, as part of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway to establish the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

99. ESCAP and OHCHR, in collaboration with the PIF Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Disability Forum, have continued supporting Pacific countries with the implementation of the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

100. The United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization pursued their cooperation, particularly in the area of peace and security and sustainable development. In November 2018, I participated in the second high-level special event entitled “United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Cooperation Aimed at Strengthening Peace, Security and Stability”, highlighting the important contribution of the Organization in areas of regional diplomacy, promoting multilateralism and fostering cooperation to manage the most pressing peace and security issues in Eurasia. I also met with the Secretary-General of the Organization on several occasions to coordinate efforts to address challenges of mutual concern.

101. In September 2019, I addressed the Security Council during its debate on the contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, CIS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in countering terrorist threats. In November 2019, I participated in a United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization high-level

event entitled “Cooperation to promote peace, security and stability: preventing the linking of terrorism with organized crime and its financing through drug trafficking”.

102. In February 2020, the Office of Counter-Terrorism signed a memorandum of understanding with the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization that aims to support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In June 2019, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Bishkek. My Special Representative for Central Asia and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia maintained regular contacts with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization at various levels on political and security developments in the region.

III. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; and Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

103. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has been working with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, with a particular emphasis on empowering women. The two organizations welcomed fellows from the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme for intensive study visits in 2018 and 2019.

104. OPCW is a member of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and, in 2019, served as a vice-chair of the Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, which developed a project proposal on enhancing inter-agency interoperability and public communications in the event of a chemical or biological attack.

IV. Observations and recommendations

105. The United Nations and regional and other organizations continue to work together in evolving and innovative ways to advance Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in preventive diplomacy, mediation, countering terrorism, preventing violent extremism, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the promotion and protection of human rights, strengthening the rule of law, gender equality, combatting climate change and fostering economic, social and environmental development, and now in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Across all these areas, we are striving to do more to empower the voices of young people and to promote the meaningful participation of women. The complexity of the global challenges we face today, which spare no country or region, demands cohesive, collective action and effective global-regional collaboration.

106. The COVID-19 pandemic has rendered conflict resolution efforts – including our own – more difficult. To reinforce diplomatic action and help create conditions for the delivery of lifesaving aid and focus on the response to the pandemic, on 24 March 2020, I called for a global ceasefire. The call resonated across the world and has been endorsed by 180 Member States, regional partners and more than 800 civil society organizations. However, support for the call has not translated into concrete improvements on the ground. The Security Council’s reinforcement of my

call for a ceasefire in its resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#) of 1 July 2020 was an important step forward. I urge Member States and regional and other organizations to follow up on that resolution by using their leverage on conflict parties to help change their calculations and see the value of ceasefires in the context of broader efforts to combat COVID-19 and towards sustainable peace.

107. We share a deep commitment to an effective multilateral system, mindful that multilateralism is not only a matter of confronting shared threats, but also about seizing common opportunities. We now have the opportunity to build back better, with inclusive and sustainable economies and just and equal societies that protect diversity as our goal.

108. To do this, we need a networked multilateralism that can strengthen coordination among multilateral and regional organizations. As a demonstration of such networked multilateralism, I hosted the heads of regional and other organizations for a high-level interactive dialogue on peace and security in New York in June 2018 and intend to convene a virtual meeting to continue this conversation. At this critical juncture for international cooperation, and as the United Nations celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary, extending partnerships between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, has to remain at the forefront of our efforts to advance the interests of the peoples we collectively serve.
