



# General Assembly

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## Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

19–27 February 2019

### Maintenance of international peace and security

#### **Further revised working paper by Ghana on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes**

#### **Guidelines on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations or arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes**

*Recalling* the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the role of regional arrangements or agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular in Chapter VIII,

*Recalling also* that resort to regional arrangements or agencies is among the means referred to in Chapter VI of the Charter for the peaceful settlement of disputes,

*Recognizing* that regional arrangements or agencies can play an important role in preventive diplomacy and in enhancing regional and international cooperation,

*Recognizing also* the importance of the role of regional arrangements or agencies in dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

*Taking into account* the experience gained and the favourable results achieved by regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes in different parts of the world,

*Bearing in mind* the variety in mandate, scope and composition of regional arrangements or agencies,

*Considering* that action at the regional level can contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security,



*Emphasizing* that respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and of non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State is crucial to any common endeavour to promote international peace and security,

*Emphasizing also* that peacekeeping activities undertaken by regional arrangements or agencies should be conducted with the consent of the State in whose territory such activities are carried out,

*Stressing* the primary responsibility of the Security Council, under Article 24 of the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Emphasizing* that the efforts made by regional arrangements or agencies in their respective fields of competence, in cooperation with the United Nations, can usefully complement the work of the Organization in the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Stressing* the need to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Considering* that such enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies would promote collective security in accordance with the Charter,

*Considering also* the lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in such cooperation arrangements,

*Considering further* the lack of partnership agreements between the United Nations and all regional organizations or arrangements, as such partnerships are largely ad hoc,

*Considering* the lack of clarity on approach for engagement with a Member State belonging to multiple regional arrangements,

*Now, therefore, propose the following guidelines:*

1. *Create* a United Nations liaison office similar to the United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa, to help in the development of the relationship between the United Nations and organizations or arrangements taking into consideration regional specificities;

2. *Also create* a council on peace and security within each regional organization or arrangement, having a close relationship with the Security Council, similar to the one that exists with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

3. *Strengthen* the role of civil society in order to enhance its input in conducting research, by providing expertise to the regional organizations or arrangements and assisting in the implementation of stated goals in diverse areas of peace and security;

4. *Ensure* that the organizations or arrangements partner with universities and other educational and training institutions to establish training programmes specifically targeted at developing, especially among the youth, the knowledge and skills needed to enhance capacity for conflict management;

5. *Enhance* the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a Security Council mandate;

6. *Develop* a common strategic vision, underpinned by a common understanding in order to strengthen and better coordinate actions in the peaceful settlement of disputes;

7. *Establish* a mechanism for monitoring and for periodic evaluation, which should be accompanied by a framework for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations or arrangements to ensure that all the parties fulfil their responsibilities;

8. *Take* concrete action to hold consultations on, and finalize, partnership agreements between the United Nations and regional organizations by the General Assembly.

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