

***Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*****17th Supplement****2010-2011**Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch**Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security****Overview**

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings and adopted one presidential statement in connection with cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. The Council focused on strengthening relations between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, particularly the European Union, in the areas of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

A table lists the meetings held in consideration of this item, as well as related information, including invitees, speakers and decisions adopted.

13 January 2010: strengthening relations between the United Nations and regional organizations

On 13 January 2010, the Council held an open debate taking stock of the current practice of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and exploring ways to enhance such cooperation. With a view to improving cooperation between the various organizations, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (LAS) called for agreed working methods or a code of conduct to govern relations between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations as well as the establishment of a cooperation and coordination mechanism among the

various multilateral bodies.¹ The Deputy Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) proposed that it might be useful to have a pool of liaison officers from various organizations posted at the United Nations Headquarters to enable better cross-coordination. Also, staff exchanges, both at Headquarters and in the field, particularly at the senior level, would be a practical way to encourage cooperation.² The representative of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) underlined the need to foster stronger partnerships between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in responding to both traditional and non-traditional security issues.³ The representative of Austria called for a clear division of labour and distribution of roles and tasks between the United Nations and regional organizations, while the representative of the Bosnia and Herzegovina suggested a flexible but systemic approach in which coordination mechanisms ensured the optimal use of time and resources.⁴ Noting that such cooperation had yet to reach its full potential and the diverse mandates and capacities of the regional organizations, the representative of Mexico cautioned against a single template for cooperation and coordination and called for developing common principles and making more rational and effective use of the comparative advantage of each organization.⁵

Following the discussion, the Council issued a presidential statement by which it acknowledged the important contribution of regional and subregional organizations to the peaceful settlement of local disputes and preventive diplomacy, as they were well positioned to understand the root causes of many conflicts and other security challenges. The Council also recognized the role that regional and subregional organizations could play in post-conflict peacebuilding, recovery, reconstruction and development processes. It expressed its intention to consider further steps to promote closer and more operational cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the fields of early warning, prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

¹ [S/PV.6257](#), p. 6.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 27 (Austria); and p. 38 (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 24-25.

Moreover, the Council recognized the need for close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, for the coherent and effective implementation of its resolutions, including those on thematic issues applicable to a wide range of conflict situations.⁶

May 2010 to February 2011: briefings on the role of the European Union in maintaining international peace and security

On 4 May 2010, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union briefed the Council on the European Union's strong commitment to an active partnership with the United Nations. She informed the Council that work was advancing on the creation of the European External Action Service, which would lead to more integrated policy-making and delivery by bringing together all the instruments of the European Union's global engagement.⁷ Council members welcomed the fruitful cooperation with the European Union, commended its broad and multifaceted contributions to peace and security, particularly in the Balkans and in Africa, and expressed their hope that cooperation would grow further.⁸ Several speakers emphasized that the Lisbon Treaty provided tools for further improving the role of the European Union as an international partner.⁹

On 8 February 2011, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union briefed on the European Union's involvement in North Africa, the Middle East, South Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Haiti in promoting peace and security. She emphasized that security, development, democracy, good governance and respect for human rights were all interlinked. To that end, she underlined the need of addressing the wider root causes of conflict and developing the appropriate tools to address them.¹⁰ Speakers

⁶ [S/PRST/2010/1](#).

⁷ [S/PV.6306](#), pp. 2-4.

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6 (Austria); pp. 6-7 (France); pp. 7-8 (United Kingdom); pp. 8-9 (Turkey); p. 9 (Russian Federation); p. 10 (Japan); pp. 10-11 (China); p. 11 (Brazil); pp. 11-12 (Uganda); p. 13 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); pp. 13-14 (Mexico); p. 14 (Nigeria); and p. 15 (Gabon).

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6 (Austria); p. 7 (France); p. 7 (United Kingdom); p. 8 (Turkey); p. 11 (China); p. 13 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); and p. 15 (Gabon).

¹⁰ [S/PV.6477](#), pp. 2-4.

commended the partnership of the European Union with the United Nations and the contribution that it had made in the maintenance of international peace and security.¹¹

Meetings: cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision</i>
6257 13 January 2010	Letter dated 4 January 2010 from the representative of China to the United Nations to the Secretary-General (S/2010/9)	11 invitees ^a	Secretary-General, all Council members and all invitees	S/PRST/2010/1
6306 4 May 2010	European Union	High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union	All Council members and invitee	
6477 8 February 2011	European Union	High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union	Council members and invitee	

^a Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, Viet Nam (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Head of the External Cooperation Department of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Australia (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum) and Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5 (France); pp. 5-6 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); pp. 6-7 (Portugal); pp. 8-9 (Russian Federation); pp. 9-10 (Germany); p. 10 (China); p. 10 (South Africa); pp. 11-12 (United States); pp. 12-13 (Nigeria); p. 14 (Lebanon); p. 15 (India); p. 16 (Gabon); and p. 18 (Brazil).