
Part VIII

Regional arrangements

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Introductory note

Article 52

1. *Nothing in the present Charter precludes the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for 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.*

2. *The Members of the United Nations entering into such arrangements or constituting such agencies shall make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies before referring them to the Security Council.*

3. *The Security Council shall encourage the development of pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies either on the initiative of the states concerned or by reference from the Security Council.*

4. *This Article in no way impairs the application of Articles 34 and 35.*

Article 53

1. *The Security Council shall, where appropriate, utilize such regional arrangements or agencies for enforcement action under its authority. But no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council, with the exception of measures against any enemy state, as defined in paragraph 2 of this Article, provided for pursuant to Article 107 or in regional arrangements directed against renewal of aggressive policy on the part of any such state, until such time as the Organization may, on request of the Governments concerned, be charged with the responsibility for preventing further aggression by such a state.*

2. *The term enemy state as used in paragraph 1 of this Article applies to any state which during the Second World War has been an enemy of any signatory of the present Charter.*

Article 54

The Security Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations provides the constitutional basis for the involvement of regional arrangements in the maintenance of international peace and security.¹ While Article 52 encourages the engagement of regional arrangements in the pacific settlement of disputes prior to their referral to the Security Council, Article 53 allows the Council to utilize regional arrangements for enforcement action under its authority and with its explicit authorization. Article 54 stipulates that regional arrangements should inform the Council of their activities at all times.

¹ Chapter VIII of the Charter refers to “regional arrangements or agencies”. For the purposes of the *Repertoire*, the term “regional arrangements” is understood to encompass regional and subregional organizations as well as other international organizations.

During the period under review, the Council underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in the fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, conflict prevention and mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter. The Council reaffirmed the progress made in the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and further encouraged their collaboration on issues of peace and security in Africa, building on the annual joint consultations between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. The two Councils held their fifth joint informal seminar and fourteenth annual joint consultative meeting, which were conducted by videoconference on 29 and 30 September 2020, respectively.² In addition to the engagement with the African Union and the European Union, engagement with other organizations, such as the League of Arab States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), featured prominently in the discussions at the Security Council.

As described in further detail in section II below, during 2020, the work of the Council was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Faced with the absence of meetings in the Security Council Chamber, Council members initiated the practice of holding videoconferences and as of 14 July 2020, the Council developed a hybrid model, alternating in-person meetings with videoconferences. Therefore, part VIII of the present Supplement features discussions of constitutional relevance to Chapter VIII of the Charter held in the context of both meetings and videoconferences.

In 2020, Council members considered ways to further enhance cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention and mediation, collectively address emerging threats, such as climate security risks, and promote collective security mechanisms in the Persian Gulf. In addition, participants at meetings and videoconferences continued to discuss the modalities of ensuring predictable and sustainable funding for peacekeeping operations led by the African Union and African subregional organizations.

In connection with the pacific settlement of disputes, the Council continued to highlight in its decisions the important role played by regional and subregional arrangements, particularly subregional economic communities, including the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community, to promote reconciliation, mediation and good offices to end conflicts and ensure successful peace processes. The Council underlined the mediation efforts of regional and subregional arrangements in connection with political crises and the implementation of peace agreements in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Central African region and West Africa and the Sahel.

Concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional organizations, the Council renewed the authorization of two existing missions, namely the African Union Mission in Somalia and the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea),³ while the Kosovo Force of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization continued to operate without any decisions having been taken with respect to its mandate. The Council supported the continued efforts of the African Union to enhance its peacekeeping role and that of African subregional organizations, and underlined the importance of progress in increasing the

² See [A/75/2](#). For information on prior practice concerning the informal joint meetings of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2008–2009 to 2019*, part II, sect. I.C.

³ Resolution [2520 \(2020\)](#), para. 9, and resolution [2549 \(2020\)](#), para. 3.

autonomy of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. As in previous periods, the Council authorized enforcement action by regional and subregional organizations beyond the framework of peacekeeping operations, such as in relation to Libya, Somalia and South Sudan, and continued to request reporting by regional organizations, particularly on the implementation of mandates of relevant regional peacekeeping operations and cooperation with the United Nations.

The practice of the Council under Chapter VIII of the Charter in 2020 is illustrated below in five sections. Each section covers both the decisions adopted by the Council and the discussions held during Council meetings and videoconferences. Section I examines the practice of the Council regarding cooperation with regional and subregional arrangements in the maintenance of international peace and security concerning items of a thematic nature. Section II deals with the recognition by the Council of the efforts of regional arrangements in the peaceful settlement of disputes, within the framework of Article 52 of the Charter. Section III covers the practice of the Council relating to its cooperation with regional organizations in the area of peacekeeping. Section IV describes the practice of the Council in authorizing enforcement action by regional organizations outside the context of regional peacekeeping operations. Section V refers to the reporting on the activities of regional arrangements in the maintenance of international peace and security.

I. Consideration of the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations under thematic items

Note

Section I examines the practice of the Council in 2020 in cooperating with regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, within the framework of Chapter VIII of the Charter, in connection with items of a thematic nature. The section is divided into two subsections. Subsection A covers decisions on thematic issues relating to Chapter VIII, and subsection B covers discussions on thematic issues concerning the interpretation and application of Chapter VIII.

A. Decisions on thematic issues relating to Chapter VIII of the Charter

During the period under review, the Council explicitly referred to Chapter VIII of the Charter in three of its decisions, adopted under the thematic items entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security” and “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The text of those provisions is included in table 1.

Table 1

Decisions adopted in 2020 containing explicit references to Chapter VIII

<i>Decision and date</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Provisions</i>
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security		
S/PRST/2020/11 4 December	Second paragraph	The Security Council reiterates its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, and recalls that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations can improve collective security
Maintenance of international peace and security		
S/PRST/2020/1 9 January	Sixth paragraph	The Security Council underlines the importance of the role of regional and subregional organizations and arrangements and of cooperation with them, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, with regard to maintaining international peace and security, contributing to international efforts to uphold the Charter. The Council welcomes the contribution by regional and subregional organizations in promoting and undertaking activities in accordance with the Charter. In this connection, the Council urges them to further strengthen awareness of the Charter and uphold the Charter in all their activities relating to international peace and security. The Council invites regional and subregional organizations to consider providing assistance to Member States, upon their request, in their efforts to uphold the Charter in their undertakings, and strengthening their cooperation with the United Nations and other organizations in solidifying Member States’ adherence to the Charter, including through promoting partnership, dialogue and exchange of views
Resolution 2553 (2020) 3 December	Para. 21	Underlines the importance of partnerships and cooperation with regional and subregional arrangements and organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and in supporting security sector reform, as well as fostering greater regional engagement

In other decisions adopted under various thematic items, the Council, without making explicit reference to Chapter VIII of the Charter, recognized and referred to the role of regional and subregional arrangements. Under the item entitled “Children and armed conflict”, the Council issued a presidential statement on

12 February in which it, inter alia, encouraged the Secretary-General, including through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to broadly disseminate the practical guidance to United Nations entities, Member States, regional and subregional organizations and

other relevant actors involved in peace and mediation processes and to promote the use of the practical guidance in United Nations-supported, -sponsored and -facilitated peace and mediation processes.⁴ In the same presidential statement, the Council encouraged United Nations entities, Member States and regional and subregional organizations involved in peace and mediation to strengthen cooperation and collaboration to promote the integration of child protection issues in peace processes, and urged Member States, United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and other parties concerned to ensure that child protection provisions relating to the release and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups were integrated into all peace negotiations, ceasefire and peace agreements, and in provisions for ceasefire monitoring.⁵ Under the same item, the Council issued a presidential statement on 10 September in which it, inter alia, expressed concern at regional and cross-border violations and abuses against children affected by armed conflict, and called upon Member States, United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and political missions and United Nations country teams, and regional and subregional bodies, within their respective mandates and in close cooperation with the Governments of the countries concerned, to continue efforts to establish and implement appropriate strategies and coordination mechanisms for information exchange and cooperation on child protection concerns.⁶

In connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”, the Council issued a presidential statement on 4 December in which it made several references to the important role of the African Union, and, inter alia, continued to encourage the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen their efforts to coordinate their engagement in a mutually supportive manner.⁷ The Council also expressed its willingness to continue its cooperation and collaboration with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, and encouraged the United Nations and the African Union to continue to make use of their annual consultations to encourage the implementation of the

women and peace and security agenda as it related to their specific contexts.⁸

Under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, the Council adopted resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#) on 1 July, in which it, inter alia, underscored that combating the pandemic required greater national, regional and international cooperation, and recognized efforts and measures proposed by the Secretary-General concerning the response to the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to conflict-affected countries.⁹ In resolution [2535 \(2020\)](#), adopted on 14 July, which focused on the participation of youth in building sustainable peace, the Council, inter alia, acknowledged the ongoing work of national Governments and regional and international organizations to engage youth in building and maintaining peace,¹⁰ and encouraged Member States and regional and subregional organizations to develop and implement policies and programmes for youth and to facilitate their constructive engagement, including through dedicated local, national and regional road maps on youth and peace and security, with sufficient resources.¹¹ The Council also called upon Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations system, including peacekeeping and special political missions, to coordinate and increase their engagement in the implementation of resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#), [2419 \(2018\)](#) and [2535 \(2020\)](#) through inclusive partnerships with young people, and to ensure dedicated capacities with regard to youth and peace and security.¹²

In connection with the item entitled “United Nations peacekeeping operations”, the Council adopted resolution [2518 \(2020\)](#) on 30 March, in which it, inter alia, reaffirmed its determination to take effective steps to further enhance the partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in relation to the safety and security of peacekeepers, and encouraged partnerships to support the African Union’s efforts to continue to develop policy, guidance and training to ensure the safety and security of its peacekeepers.¹³ In resolution [2538 \(2020\)](#), adopted on 28 August, the Council, inter alia, called upon Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and regional organizations to strengthen their collective efforts to promote the full, effective and meaningful participation of uniformed and civilian women in peacekeeping

⁴ [S/PRST/2020/3](#), tenth paragraph.

⁵ *Ibid.*, twelfth and sixteenth paragraphs.

⁶ [S/PRST/2020/8](#), twenty-first paragraph.

⁷ [S/PRST/2020/11](#), first, third, fifth, sixth and eleventh paragraphs.

⁸ *Ibid.*, fifteenth and sixteenth paragraphs.

⁹ Resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#), sixth and eighth preambular paragraphs.

¹⁰ Resolution [2535 \(2020\)](#), nineteenth preambular paragraph.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 14.

¹² *Ibid.*, para. 16.

¹³ Resolution [2518 \(2020\)](#), para. 7.

operations at all levels and in all positions, including in senior leadership positions.¹⁴ In the same resolution, the Council encouraged Member States to develop strategies and measures to increase the deployment of uniformed women to peacekeeping operations, including by supporting the capacities of regional organizations in training uniformed women.¹⁵ The Council also encouraged cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in advancing greater participation and the role of women in peacekeeping operations.¹⁶

B. Discussions on thematic issues concerning the interpretation and application of Chapter VIII of the Charter

In 2020, at meetings and open videoconferences, Council members and other participants discussed the role of regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security in connection with a wide variety of items, including “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”,¹⁷ “Maintenance of international peace and security”,¹⁸ “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”,¹⁹ “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”,²⁰ “United Nations peacekeeping operations”,²¹ “Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe”,²² “Briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees”,²³ “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)”,²⁴ “The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security”,²⁵ “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”²⁶ and “Women

and peace and security”.²⁷ Discussions held in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” served to highlight the importance of Chapter VIII of the Charter (see case 1), enhancing cooperation with regional and subregional organizations to effectively reduce the humanitarian risks of climate security issues (see case 4) and promoting collaboration with regional actors for a collective security mechanism to reduce tensions in the Persian Gulf (see case 5). Under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”, participants exchanged views on the importance of promoting closer ties between the Council and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (see case 2), the important role of OIF in peacekeeping and peacebuilding (see case 3) and the importance of enhancing the Council’s cooperation with the African Union (see case 6).

Case 1 Maintenance of international peace and security

At its 8699th meeting, held on 9 January at the initiative of Viet Nam, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,²⁸ the Council held a ministerial-level debate under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and the sub-item entitled “Upholding the Charter of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security”.²⁹ At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General and by the Chair of the Elders, and several speakers³⁰ explicitly invoked Chapter VIII of the Charter. In his briefing, the Secretary-General described the Charter as visionary in imagining a world in which the United Nations worked dynamically with regional organizations to maintain international peace and security.³¹ While Chapter VIII predated most of the Organization’s regional partners, it set a framework for cooperation and division of labour. The United Nations was investing in regional partnerships in crucial new ways, and the Secretary-General had placed a significant emphasis on a

¹⁴ Resolution 2538 (2020), para. 1.

¹⁵ Ibid., para. 2 (f).

¹⁶ Ibid., para. 5.

¹⁷ See S/PV.8711, S/2020/489, S/2020/893 and S/2020/1179.

¹⁸ See S/PV.8699, S/PV.8699 (Resumption 1), S/PV.8699 (Resumption 2), S/2020/346, S/2020/751, S/2020/897, S/2020/929, S/2020/953, S/2020/1037 and S/2020/1176.

¹⁹ See S/PV.8723, S/PV.8723 (Resumption 1), S/2020/799 and S/2020/1090.

²⁰ See S/2020/340, S/2020/465 and S/2020/930.

²¹ See S/2020/514, S/2020/674, S/2020/911 and S/2020/1092.

²² See S/PV.8714.

²³ See S/2020/560.

²⁴ See S/2020/418.

²⁵ See S/2020/1286.

²⁶ See S/PV.8716, S/2020/791 and S/2020/836.

²⁷ See S/2020/727 and S/2020/1084.

²⁸ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 31 December 2019 (S/2020/1).

²⁹ See S/PV.8699, S/PV.8699 (Resumption 1) and S/PV.8699 (Resumption 2).

³⁰ Secretary-General, South Africa, Indonesia, Tunisia, Singapore, Egypt and Romania (see S/PV.8699); Kuwait and United Arab Emirates (see S/PV.8699 (Resumption 1)); and Angola and Senegal (see S/PV.8699 (Resumption 2)).

³¹ See S/PV.8699.

strategic partnership with the African Union, including through its Silencing the Guns in Africa initiative and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The European Union continued to provide strong support across the agenda of the United Nations. The Organization was also working to strengthening ties with all other regional organizations, including ASEAN.

The representative of South Africa said that the Charter was explicit on the role of regional organizations, as reflected in Chapter VIII, which made provisions for regional arrangements to address matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. Chapter VIII was currently even more relevant in terms of regional organizations, particularly the African Union and regional economic communities on the African continent, as they had established peace and security mechanisms, including those dealing with mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. He called for continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination with regional arrangements to ensure that the efforts were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Several other speakers explicitly referred to Chapter VIII of the Charter. The representative of Indonesia said that, in line with Chapter VIII, his delegation recognized the important role of regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam emphasized the need to enhance the role of regional organizations and expand their collaboration with the United Nations and the Council in the maintenance of peace and security in their respective regions and beyond. He explained that the Charter of the United Nations had been the source of inspiration for the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which had become the legal framework of a stronger, more cohesive ASEAN community. In that regard, ASEAN had affirmed its central, indispensable role in the regional security architecture and in addressing regional challenges and maintaining regional and international peace and security.

Several Council members emphasized the importance of regional organizations in conflict prevention and mediation. The representative of Tunisia, noting the particular importance of preventive and proactive work for maintaining peace and security, called upon the Council to address crises in their initial phases while benefiting fully from Chapter VIII of the Charter by encouraging regional organizations to play their role in preventing conflicts and settling crises. The representative of Kuwait emphasized that the Council must give more attention to precautionary measures aimed at preventing disputes by addressing

them at an early stage, highlighted the constructive role that could be played by regional and subregional organizations in maintaining peace and security at the regional and international levels in accordance with Chapter VIII, and called for greater cooperation between the Council and regional organizations.³²

The representative of Angola said that Chapter VIII of the Charter recognized the value of regional arrangements and agencies as a first resort to the pacific settlement of local disputes.³³ Regional perspectives were critical to understanding the challenges faced, while regional capacity-building was crucial for rapid deployment. She further emphasized that regional ownership was essential for effective solutions to take root. The representative of Senegal said that in view of the significant regional dimensions of most conflicts and the essential role that neighbouring States must play in any peace process, his delegation believed that it was appropriate to place regional organizations at the heart of peace efforts, in accordance with Article 52 (1) of the Charter.

Participants at the meeting also focused on the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Underlining that regional and subregional organizations had played an increasingly important role in maintaining peace and security in recent years, the representative of Singapore noted that their efforts could complement the actions of the Council, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter.³⁴ He welcomed the increasing number of meetings that the Council had had with regional organizations in the past few months and looked forward to the meeting on cooperation with ASEAN. The representative of Egypt opined that the relations between the Council and regional organizations must be strengthened in accordance with Chapter VIII. He recalled that during its presidency of the African Union, Egypt had worked to enhance the relationship between the African Union and the United Nations regarding peace and security while building on the comparative advantages of each of them.

The representative of Romania affirmed that Chapter VIII of the Charter provided the basis for the involvement of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. In that regard, he recalled that, during its non-permanent membership of the Council in 2005, Romania had promoted the first resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. The representative of the United Arab Emirates noted that

³² See [S/PV.8699 \(Resumption 1\)](#).

³³ See [S/PV.8699 \(Resumption 2\)](#).

³⁴ See [S/PV.8699](#).

regional and subregional organizations could play a greater role in addressing regional tensions and achieving security and stability.³⁵ In that regard, she called upon the Council to strengthen coordination with the League of Arab States (LAS) and the African Union to address the sensitive security situation in the region. She argued further that Chapter VIII of the Charter included a framework to build on the comparative advantages at the regional, subregional and international levels in dealing with current complex crises.

Case 2

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

At its 8711th meeting, held on 30 January at the initiative of Viet Nam, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,³⁶ the Council held a briefing under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security” and the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations”.³⁷ At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Several Council members³⁸ made explicit reference to Chapter VIII of the Charter as the framework provided for the Council’s partnerships with regional arrangements and expressed support for further strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and ASEAN.

Speakers highlighted the contributions and comparative advantages of regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. The representative of Tunisia, speaking also on behalf of the Niger and South Africa, highlighted the importance of regular engagement between the Council and regional organizations on ways to encourage the peaceful settlement of disputes and maintain peace and security in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. He further emphasized that on several occasions, regional and subregional arrangements had proved to be highly knowledgeable and efficient in dealing with local issues. Their understanding of local dynamics and deep insight into the history of events sometimes made all the difference. Through stronger cooperation, the United Nations and regional organizations could leverage their

respective comparative advantages in seeking effective solutions to the increasingly complex peace and security challenges all over the world. The representative of Tunisia further noted that greater consultation in the decision-making of the Council with regional organizations such as ASEAN, LAS, the European Union and the African Union was essential for achieving strategic convergence and coherence with a view to addressing current complex peace and security challenges. He noted that cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations was still far from delivering on its promises, and that greatly enhanced efforts were needed if the Council was to fully utilize that tool, under Chapter VIII. There was a need to reflect more on such issues as how to strengthen coordination and coherence between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations regarding peace and security matters, how to develop a joint decision-making framework to make their joint action more effective and, most importantly, how to support peace efforts initiated by regional organizations through secure, sustainable and predictable resources. In that regard, he echoed the request of the African Union to endorse access to United Nations assessed contributions to fund its peace support operations, which were undertaken on behalf of the United Nations, in particular, the Council. The representative of Indonesia highlighted the contributions of ASEAN to peace and security and to emerging non-traditional security challenges. He also highlighted the contribution of ASEAN within the framework of the women and peace and security agenda. In that connection, he mentioned that it had established the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry, a pool of ASEAN women experts that sought to promote gender perspectives in peace and reconciliation processes in the Association. He also referred to his country’s work to establish the South-East Asian network of women peace negotiators and mediators and his delegation’s hope that the two forums could be part of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks.

The representative of Germany said that it had become increasingly clear that regional partnerships were important and that the ASEAN-United Nations partnership was also very important and could still be strengthened, from security to climate change to disaster management, as noted by the representative of Indonesia. He recalled the adoption in April 2019, when Germany held the monthly presidency of the Council, of resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#) on sexual violence in conflict and accountability for perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence, expressed his strong support for the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and encouraged ASEAN member States to seek further avenues, by way of regional

³⁵ See [S/PV.8699 \(Resumption 1\)](#).

³⁶ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 9 January 2020 ([S/2020/30](#)).

³⁷ See [S/PV.8711](#).

³⁸ United States, Tunisia, France, Estonia, China and Viet Nam.

cooperation, to effectively address such events in their region and to prevent their recurrence.

The representative of France recalled that United Nations coordination with regional organizations was a key tool in accomplishing the Organization's mission of fostering peace and security. In that regard, she referred to that partnership as part of the framework provided for in Chapter VIII and without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, and added that geographical proximity and the awareness of local situations bestowed full legitimacy on subregional and regional organizations to be stakeholders in the resolution of crises close to them. Recalling Chapter VIII, the representative of Estonia expressed support for the deepening of United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in order to ensure more effective conflict prevention and mitigation. He also commended the work of ASEAN on addressing emerging non-traditional security issues, such as climate change, and recognized its interest in promoting cybersecurity. The representative of China also expressed support for the United Nations deepening its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in line with Chapter VIII, with a view to consolidating and strengthening collective security mechanisms and jointly safeguarding international peace and security.

The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines noted that regional and subregional organizations acted as conduits that linked the global governance structure to the local and contextual realities. She added that threats to international peace and security, including climate change, cross-border terrorism and mass human displacement, were transnational in character and necessitated collective action for just and equitable outcomes, and that the sharing of such burdens on a regional basis was the only feasible option for small States like hers. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that close cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations such as ASEAN made possible a stronger and more effective multilateral international system based on diversity, mutual cooperation and shared international principles. She referred to various examples of cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations in the areas of climate change, food security and shared strategies for peace in Myanmar. With regard to the climate crisis, she added that there was a need to continue to foster complementary regional and multilateral strategies to avert greater adverse effects and that joint action was the only way to do so. Commending ASEAN for its work in the area

of preventive diplomacy, the representative of Belgium underlined that regional organizations were often the best placed to understand and overcome the specific challenges of their respective regions. He also highlighted the contribution of ASEAN countries to peace and stability beyond their borders through the provision of peacekeepers to United Nations missions. The training work carried out at the regional level, in accordance with the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asia Nations and the United Nations (2016–2020), was of paramount importance in that regard. He looked forward to the new ASEAN-United Nations plan of action, which envisaged, among the many areas of activity, climate change, transnational organized crime and human rights. He expressed support for the engagement of the United Nations with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. He also addressed two specific issues in which ASEAN could play a positive and decisive role, namely, the resolution of disputes concerning the South China Sea and resolving the crisis in Rakhine State in Myanmar.

Several Council members took note of the negotiations and efforts of the ASEAN member States and China on a code of conduct for the South China Sea.³⁹ The representative of China underlined that China and ASEAN members were jointly committed to maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea. Other members expressed support for the continued collaboration between the United Nations and ASEAN in resolving the situation in Myanmar, including through mediation and shared strategies for peace.⁴⁰

However, the representative of the Russian Federation considered that territorial disputes in the South China Sea must be resolved between the States or the parties in question on a bilateral basis; it was unacceptable to impose a particular vision of the resolution and settlement of disputes and of thorny issues on the basis of narrow national interests, especially if it was being done by States that were located thousands of kilometres from the region. He nevertheless stated that his country welcomed the mediating role played by ASEAN and China in resolving the situation in Myanmar and that it shared the priorities of Viet Nam with regard to ASEAN,

³⁹ United States, Belgium, France, United Kingdom and Estonia.

⁴⁰ Germany, Belgium, France, Dominican Republic and United Kingdom.

including on increasing its contribution to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

The representative of the United Kingdom noted that since its establishment, ASEAN had played a key role in maintaining peace and security in South-East Asia and the wider Asia-Pacific region, and that ASEAN also made a tangible and valuable contribution to global peace and security in three areas of particular relevance to the Council's work, namely, peacekeeping; women and peace and security; and climate change. The representative of Viet Nam emphasized the importance of, and continued support for, the centrality of ASEAN in the regional architecture and the central role of the United Nations in the global multilateral system, adding that it was necessary to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and ASEAN in the various areas agreed upon, including the peaceful settlement of disputes, preventive diplomacy, disarmament and non-proliferation, maritime cooperation, maritime security and disaster management. As the Chair of ASEAN in 2020 and a non-permanent member of the Council, Viet Nam called for the support of the Council to achieve the three priorities set for 2020 concerning peacekeeping operations, women and peace and security and the implementation of the Complementarities Road Map (2020–2025) between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

Case 3

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

On 8 September, at the initiative of the Niger, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,⁴¹ Council members held an open videoconference in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations”, focused on the role of OIF.⁴² During the videoconference, Council members heard briefings by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations; the Secretary-General of OIF; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, in his capacity as Chair of the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie. In addition to statements by

Council members, statements were delivered at the videoconference by eight Member States.⁴³

In her briefing, the Secretary-General of OIF noted that OIF was a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter, but was in fact transnational, bringing together 88 States and Governments, including 54 full members from five continents, united by a common language and common values. She emphasized that the actions of OIF in support of international peace and security consisted of three main areas, namely, peacekeeping, crisis prevention and management and support for the democratic processes of its member States, including electoral processes. In that regard, she underlined that OIF was the first international organization to volunteer to formally assume the role of champion of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. She also made reference to the work of OIF on capacity-building for French-speaking troops, as well as to the mobilization in the Central African Republic to support the peace process, her encouragement to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth to make a tripartite visit to Cameroon to spur and support Cameroonian partners in the search for a solution to the crisis in the North-West and South-West regions of the country, and the efforts to end the crisis and restore constitutional and democratic order to Mali. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, in his capacity as Chair of the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, recalled the numerous partnerships between the United Nations and OIF based on shared values, a common will to work to strengthen international peace and security and a joint determination to fight against the scourge of terrorism and in favour of the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity. Against the backdrop of the negative consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, particularly on developing countries and on the most vulnerable, the United Nations and OIF must strongly affirm their willingness to promote peace, cooperation, solidarity and the values of living together in harmony. In that connection, he noted the strong support of OIF for the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire and resolution 2532 (2020), in which the Council demanded a cessation of hostilities during the COVID-19 crisis.

Other speakers also made explicit references to Chapter VIII of the Charter, underscoring the value of the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the area of peace and

⁴¹ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 1 September 2020 (S/2020/880).

⁴² See S/2020/893.

⁴³ Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ireland, Romania, Senegal, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates.

security.⁴⁴ The representative of the Niger noted that Chapter VIII of the Charter enshrined the principle of subsidiarity and the comparative advantages of partner organizations. Within that framework, cooperation between the United Nations and OIF was carried out, in particular on the importance of early-warning and conflict prevention mechanisms, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and support for networks of women and youth involved in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The representative of South Africa said that, as a member of the African Union and of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), his country recognized the positive and complementary relations between the United Nations and regional organizations. He also stressed the importance of the principles of subsidiarity and comparative advantage in the resolution of conflicts, which entrusted regional and subregional organizations with taking the lead in finding a solution to a conflict situation owing to their geopolitical situation and/or familiarity with the crisis. The representative of South Africa also underlined that the Council remained the only international body with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and hence must work closely with regional organizations whose activities included the promotion of peace and security. Cooperation among regional organizations was equally important, primarily in instances where there was overlapping membership, and he encouraged closer cooperation and coordination between OIF and other regional organizations, such as the African Union, subregional organizations, such as SADC, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and other similar organizations, such as the Commonwealth. The delegation of the United Arab Emirates made three recommendations. First, the Council should strengthen its cooperation with regional organizations in the area of preventive diplomacy in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. In this regard, it highlighted success stories, particularly with regional organization on the African continent, including, most recently, the decisive role played by ECOWAS in the Gambia. Second, it encouraged continued progress in enhancing consultation and coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations on peacekeeping, welcoming the collaboration between the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Operational Support and OIF in promoting multilingualism in field operations. Third, the United Arab Emirates believed that regional organizations should step up their efforts aimed at mainstreaming and highlighting the positive work of young people on issues of peace and security. In this

regard, it commended the work of OIF in supporting youth networks involved in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

With regard to peacekeeping, many participants expressed support for the partnership between OIF and the United Nations and noted the importance of multilingualism as a fundamental tool in developing peacekeeping operations.⁴⁵ The representative of Estonia acknowledged that the access and ability of peacekeepers to communicate with the local population in the francophone countries was a powerful tool for building trust and, through that, the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping. The representative of the United Kingdom echoed the view that language skills facilitated engagement with the local population, led to better situational awareness and helped peacekeepers to deliver on mandated responsibilities, such as the protection of civilians, while ensuring their own safety and security.

Speakers noted the important collaboration between OIF and the United Nations in the fields of conflict prevention, peace processes and electoral support.⁴⁶ The representative of Belgium suggested that, given that thematic issues important to OIF, such as the prevention of violence, conflict resolution, democratic transition, transitional justice and the role of women, and many countries in the French-speaking world were considered by the Council, it could be appropriate to explore ways to further strengthen such cooperation through joint actions, such as setting up joint field missions or missions involving special envoys of the two organizations. Citing the meaningful actions of OIF regarding the situations in Mali and Guinea, the representative of France highlighted that OIF could play an opportune role, in cooperation with the United Nations, in the long-term support for the electoral process in those countries. In the field of conflict prevention, the representative of Indonesia said that the diverse experience of OIF was a great asset for all United Nations members in their collective effort to promote international peace and security and called for the broadening of the United Nations cooperation with other regional cooperation bodies, such as ASEAN. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines shared the view that regional and subregional organizations occupied a critical space in the multilateral system as intermediaries that linked the international community to the local and contextual realities found within States. In

⁴⁵ Dominican Republic, Belgium, Indonesia, France, Viet Nam, United Kingdom, Germany, South Africa, Estonia, United States, Ireland, Romania, Senegal, Switzerland and United Arab Emirates.

⁴⁶ Dominican Republic, Indonesia, France, Viet Nam, United Kingdom, Estonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates.

⁴⁴ Niger, South Africa and United Arab Emirates.

that regard and among other proposals, she encouraged OIF to strengthen the institutional relationships with regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union, ECOWAS and the Group of Five for the Sahel, which were at the forefront of the international community's efforts to promote lasting peace and security on the African continent, and to increase cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission in francophone countries to bolster the sustaining peace agenda of the United Nations.

Member States made specific proposals for further developing the role of OIF in connection with international peace and security. The representative of the United Kingdom encouraged OIF, along with the United Nations, the African Union, ECCAS and the Commonwealth, to continue to support efforts to end violence and restore peace in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon. The representative of Viet Nam said that the United Nations and OIF should make concerted efforts to promote multilateralism and find peaceful solutions to conflicts on the basis of international law, and thus contribute to the alleviation of hotspots on the Council's agenda. In that connection, he suggested that OIF might consider creating a network of francophone members in West Africa and the Sahel to share experience and best practices in the implementation of United Nations programmes such as the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and the recent United Nations Support Plan for the Sahel. He also suggested that OIF and the United Nations enhance triangular cooperation with the African Union and other regional organizations. The representative of Canada highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration between OIF and the United Nations to ensure the inclusion of women and youth in conflict prevention and resolution and in peacebuilding.

Case 4

Maintenance of international peace and security

On 17 September, at the initiative of the Niger, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,⁴⁷ Council members held an open videoconference in connection with the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security" focused on the humanitarian effects of environmental degradation and peace and security.⁴⁸ At the videoconference, Council members heard briefings by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations

Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, a civil society representative and the representative of Canada in her capacity as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. Representatives of all Council members delivered their statements during the videoconference,⁴⁹ while the representatives of 19 non-Council members and the European Union submitted their statements in writing.⁵⁰ In his briefing, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross stated that it was starkly evident that people affected by conflict were also disproportionately impacted by climate shocks, and added that while many would agree in general terms on the linkages between peace, security and climate and environment, the "how" of the response still needed more critical analysis and sharing of experiences. The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission brought to the Council's attention some of the Commission's observations and recommendations in the context of different regions on its agenda, including the Lake Chad basin, the Sahel and the Pacific islands. She noted that environmental and climate-related challenges were considered as factors that could have a negative impact on peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts, and addressing those challenges in country-specific or regional contexts could therefore also contribute to those efforts aimed at peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In particular, she noted that many Governments in the Pacific region had requested additional support from the international community in order to address those issues. For regions such as the Lake Chad basin, a collective and coordinated effort by Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society and, where relevant, the private sector was required to fully realize the African Union-Lake Chad Basin Commission Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region.

During the videoconference, several speakers highlighted the importance of regional organizations in addressing the challenges relating to climate and security.⁵¹ The representative of Indonesia noted the

⁴⁷ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 1 September 2020 (S/2020/882).

⁴⁸ See S/2020/929.

⁴⁹ The Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the United Kingdom were represented at the ministerial level. For information on high-level meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵⁰ The following countries submitted written statements: Brazil, Denmark (on behalf of the five Nordic countries), Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Ukraine.

⁵¹ Indonesia, South Africa, Viet Nam, Denmark, Ethiopia, Portugal and Senegal.

adverse impacts of environmental degradation and climate change, which affected people and livelihoods and had become an aggravating factor that not only could prolong conflicts, but also threatened to reverse economic growth and development. Against that backdrop, he outlined three main points: the need for enhanced partnership, cooperation and information-sharing; the importance of mainstreaming environmental degradation and climate change throughout the peace continuum; and the crucial role of regional organizations. In that regard, he recognized the efforts of the African Union and ECOWAS, as well as the leadership of countries in West Africa and the Sahel, in spearheading initiatives to address the security challenges in the region. Recognizing that climate change represented an existential threat to humankind and all other species, the representative of South Africa encouraged the Council to support the lead United Nations organizations and processes, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the work of relevant regional organizations, such as the African Union, to ensure that it obtained information on the potential impact of climate or environment-related security risks in conflict settings. The representative of Viet Nam said that the Council's response to climate change needed to be coordinated with other parts of the United Nations system and all its partners, and highlighted the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in building regional resilience and adaptation capabilities. He referred to the strengthening of human and institutional capacity in implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation by ASEAN, adding that the cooperation between the United Nations and ASEAN in that regard could be further explored.

The representative of Denmark, who submitted his statement on behalf of the five Nordic countries, called for urgent action to address climate-related security risks in a coherent and interlinked manner. He noted that a prerequisite for effective climate-sensitive conflict prevention and response was context-specific analyses. In that regard, he observed that the United Nations must collaborate with Governments, regional organizations, climate actors, including meteorological services, and civil society to improve early warning tools and conflict-forecasting models that systematically integrated climate information into conflict analyses and operational plans. The representative of Ethiopia noted that the health and future of the environment depended on the collective and coordinated efforts of Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations, and that regional

efforts to combat desertification and drought, such as the African Union-led Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, should be encouraged and supported. The representative of Portugal said that better coordination among United Nations agencies on the ground, other international and regional organizations, host Governments and civil society was needed to respond pre-emptively to climate risks and to build resilience. Similarly, the delegation of Senegal stated that the establishment of an analytical and early warning tool should also be considered to centralize data from the United Nations, regional organizations and States and various other partners on the effects of climate change and biodiversity degradation on peace and security. It also suggested that such a tool could even be used by the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the Council that took stock of the situation and made useful recommendations on the issue.

Case 5

Maintenance of international peace and security

On 20 October, at the initiative of the Russian Federation, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,⁵² Council members held an open videoconference in connection with the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security" focused on a comprehensive review of the situation in the Persian Gulf region.⁵³ Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Crisis Group, the President of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Secretary-General of LAS. In addition, representatives of all Council members delivered their statements during the videoconference,⁵⁴ as well as the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq and Qatar, which also submitted written statements.⁵⁵ In his briefing, the Secretary-General described the situation in Yemen as a local conflict that had become regionalized over time, and that looking at the wider Persian Gulf region, it was clear that tensions were running high and confidence was low. Consistent with the Charter and his own good offices role, he stood ready to convene any form of regional dialogue that could garner the necessary consensus of all the relevant parties. He also expressed

⁵² The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 14 October 2020 (S/2020/1013).

⁵³ See S/2020/1037.

⁵⁴ China, the Niger, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Viet Nam were represented at the ministerial level. For information on high-level meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵⁵ Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq and Qatar were represented at the ministerial level.

his full support for the efforts to promote dialogue and resolve tensions between members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The President of the International Crisis Group said that many reasons lay behind the intense polarization that had infected the Gulf region, but what had made matters worse had been the absence of any institutional mechanism for parties to air their grievances, nor any single regional organization that embraced all Gulf actors that could serve as a framework for confidence-building and de-escalation measures. The President of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences recalled the Helsinki process and the success achieved by opposing blocs of States that had managed to agree and develop an effective system of confidence-building measures and create the still-functioning Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). He added that it was no coincidence that a number of politicians and experts spoke figuratively about the creation of an OSCE for the Persian Gulf. He also noted that discussions had been held on various approaches to possible first steps towards the creation of a collective security system in the subregion. The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council said that the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations had been incorporated into the statute of his organization. The Gulf Cooperation Council had engaged proactively with the international community and cooperated in the pursuit of just causes, also extending the hand of cooperation to all peace-loving countries, United Nations agencies and other international groups and organizations to promote the principles of tolerance and coexistence among nations and peoples, achieve stability and well-being for all and reinforce regional and global peace and security. In his briefing, the Secretary-General of LAS acknowledged that building a system of collective security in the Arabian Gulf region was an ambitious goal that remained distant, and that confidence-building measures must be based on mutual appreciation by both sides of each other's security concerns. He further noted that the Arab side continued to feel that is security concerns were not adequately understood or appreciated by the other party in the context of widespread conflicts in the region and across the world, which formed the most important barrier to establishing a sustainable system of collective security in the Arabian Gulf region.

During the videoconference, Council members and participants exchanged views on the growing tensions in the Persian Gulf and the collective security arrangement in the region that could help to diffuse those tensions. Several speakers⁵⁶ highlighted the

importance of regional cooperation and arrangements such as the Gulf Cooperation Council and LAS. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation argued that his country's concept of collective security in the Persian Gulf was aimed at creating a reliable structure for regional security, with the participation of the coastal countries of the Gulf and including the Islamic Republic of Iran and its Arab neighbours. He also proposed to involve the five permanent members of the Council, LAS, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other influential and interested parties in practical steps to implement the creation of a reliable structure for regional security.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Living Abroad of the Niger stated that notwithstanding certain episodes of violence in the region, the Persian Gulf must be equipped with an inclusive mechanism for cooperation and dispute settlement, with a strong involvement on the part of LAS, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations. He added that the Council could support such a regional initiative, which would constitute a strong signal of recognition of the key role that regional organizations played in the peaceful settlement of conflict.

The State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of China stated that the United Nations should be allowed to fully carry out good offices and encourage dialogue, and that mediation efforts by the Gulf Cooperation Council and other regional organizations should be supported. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa noted that the Council should support any initiative by States in the Gulf region to work collectively to address the security situation and instability in the region and affirmed that, on the basis of her country's own experience, regional and intergovernmental organizations remained critical partners in resolving conflict and should remain impartial in the drive towards the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Similarly, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam stated that the changing regional political landscape made the time ripe for further exploration and to turn the idea of a collective security arrangement in the Persian Gulf into concrete action. Such a mechanism should be customized to regional circumstances and anchored in the principles of the Charter. He further underlined the importance of strengthening the collaboration between regional and subregional organizations in the Gulf and the Middle East and the United Nations and the Council in conflict prevention, mediation and preventive diplomacy in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter. He noted that the role of regional

⁵⁶ Russian Federation, China, Niger, South Africa, Viet Nam, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia and Qatar.

organizations was indispensable for a comprehensive security approach, as vividly drawn from the experience in which ASEAN played a central role in its regional security architecture and had helped to transform South-East Asia from a region of hostilities into a cohesive, integrated and people-centred community.

The representative of Belgium encouraged all regional approaches based on dialogue, cooperation, integration and the defence of common interests and values, and highlighted the importance of regional ownership of those initiatives. In that connection, he believed that the European Union and other actors had a historical experience of regional integration and cooperation that could be a source of inspiration, and OSCE had also built up a remarkable inventory of confidence- and security-building measures. Similarly, the representative of Estonia underlined the importance of ensuring that the initiatives for security and stability in the Middle East would come from the region itself, and noted that only a broader regional security dialogue among the countries of the region could lead to a long-term solution and enable the full potential of the societies in the region.

The representative of Qatar said that sustainable peace in the region could only be achieved through an approach to crisis resolution that operated within collective frameworks. Qatar was a strong supporter of the Gulf Cooperation Council as a model subregional framework for cooperation and coordination, and disputes and conflicts between its members were settled under its aegis, which was one of the reasons it had originally been established. In connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the representative of the Dominican Republic expressed the hope that parties would refrain from taking any action that might further undermine it. Failure to do so would have detrimental effects on non-proliferation, security and stability in the region, as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was the only mechanism to guarantee the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. While addressing and resolving those aspects was the responsibility of the States of the region, the collaboration and assistance of the international community, the United Nations and regional organizations were paramount.

Case 6

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

On 4 December 2020, at the initiative of South Africa, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,⁵⁷ Council members held an open

videoconference in connection with the above-referenced item, with a special focus on the further strengthening of the Council's cooperation with the African Union.⁵⁸ At the videoconference, Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. In addition, representatives of all Council members delivered their statements during the videoconference,⁵⁹ as well as the President of Somalia.

In his briefing, the Secretary-General said that the cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the African regional economic communities and other regional mechanisms, such as ECCAS, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, ECOWAS and SADC, had never been stronger, and their joint work had gained in depth and scope. He commended the African Union and its members for establishing a strong partnership between the World Health Organization and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission noted the deepening cooperation of the African Union with the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, particularly with respect to consolidating its activities to maintain regional peace and security and continuing to make joint efforts to ensure that the Silencing the Guns in Africa initiative worked. He underlined the importance of enhancing strategic partnerships with the European Union and reinforcing cooperation with other key member-driven organizations, including LAS, in order to strengthen strategic cooperation and better address shared threats.

⁵⁸ See [S/2020/1179](#).

⁵⁹ The Niger was represented by its President; South Africa was represented by its President; and Tunisia was represented by its President. Belgium was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade; China was represented by its Special Representative of President Xi Jinping, State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Estonia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; Indonesia was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was represented by its Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, National Security, Legal Affairs and Information; the United Kingdom was represented by its Minister for Africa; and Viet Nam was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. For information on high-level meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵⁷ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 25 November 2020 ([S/2020/1146](#)).

Several speakers⁶⁰ explicitly invoked Chapter VIII of the Charter, while others⁶¹ affirmed the importance of the United Nations assessed contributions for peace support operations led by the African Union and authorized by the Council, such as the African Union Mission in Somalia and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. The President of South Africa recalled that the United Nations and the African Union had deepened their relationship, with partnership agreements on peace and security, development and capacity-building, adding that the most advanced cooperation between the two organizations was on peace and security, as provided for in Chapter VIII of the Charter. Africa was taking responsibility for the complex challenges to its peace, security and development and was working with the United Nations and other international partners in supporting African-led solutions to problems on the continent. He affirmed that while the United Nations, through the Council, had the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, it was necessary to acknowledge the important role played by regional organizations, such as the African Union, to address threats to peace and security. In this regard, the African Union had recognized the nexus between peace and development and had aligned the African Peace and Security Architecture with Agenda 2063, the blueprint for Africa's development. He called upon the United Nations and the African Union to expedite deliberations to ensure that peace support operations led by the African Union and authorized by the Council were financed through United Nations assessed contributions and underlined the need to strengthen the strategic cooperation between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

The President of the Niger welcomed the outcomes of the fourteenth annual joint consultative meeting between the members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, presided over by the Niger in September 2020, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the two bodies through the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.⁶² He highlighted the importance of operational collaboration between regional organizations and the United Nations for the establishment of development agencies focused on the primary goal of tackling the root causes of security problems

in crisis-affected areas, adding that security issues should not only be resolved but also prevented. He also proposed strengthening cooperation between the two Councils by emphasizing the coordination of their agendas and goals through an increase in the number of regularly scheduled meetings, and advocated for African countries to play a central role in the discussions and decision-making process of the Security Council, as African issues constituted the majority of the subjects it dealt with. Similarly, the President of Tunisia called for greater collaboration between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on joint assessments of conflict situations, formulating early and joint response plans, strengthening coordination and integration in mediation efforts to ensure that the parties to the conflict attained the results they sought, further developing the partnership in peacekeeping operations and managing the transitions between United Nations missions and African Union missions. He also said that for crisis responses, intervention by the African Union and subregional groups must be given priority, as illustrated by the recent intervention by ECOWAS to resolve the crisis in Mali.

The Special Representative of President Xi Jinping, State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of China said that the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union must build on their annual consultative meeting mechanism to enhance their level of cooperation, and called upon the Security Council to assume its responsibility to help Africa to improve its independent capabilities in peacekeeping, stability and counter-terrorism, accelerate the establishment of the African Standby Force, a rapid response force and an early warning mechanism, and to support sustainable and predictable financing for the peace and security operations of the African Union. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade of Belgium welcomed the enhanced role of the African Union in promoting a positive regional dynamic and supporting United Nations efforts. She expressed the hope that the African Union would also be closely involved in the further implementation of the new Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework of the United Nations. While new conflicts on the African continent deserved an initial response from the African Union or its subregional organizations, the principle of subsidiarity should not imply inaction. She emphasized that greater synergy between the African Union and subregional organizations, as well as the optimum complementarity between the African Union and the Council, was essential to accelerating progress towards common objectives.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam opined that the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union

⁶⁰ Chairperson of the African Union Commission, South Africa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, France and Russian Federation.

⁶¹ South Africa, Niger, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, China, United Kingdom and France.

⁶² See the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2020/860).

could be further strengthened by supporting the coordination efforts of the African Union on regional issues, strengthening strategic cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union at both the institutional and operational levels and expanding interregional cooperation to help Africa and other parts of the world cope with global problems that affected all nations alike. He said that it would be of significant benefit to ASEAN and the African Union, for instance, to explore more opportunities for sharing experiences and best practices in addressing common challenges and realizing regional goals. The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany added that the African Union and the United Nations were natural partners in the fight against climate change, as droughts, hunger and displacement were catalysts for conflict in Africa.

The representative of France said that the Council must support the commitment of the African Union to the prevention and resolution of crises on the continent, a principle that was at the heart of Chapter VIII of the Charter. The partnership between the United Nations and the African

Union was also of strategic importance in security matters, as the African contribution to peacekeeping was invaluable. He also expressed support for the development of sustainable and predictable financing for African peace operations, including through United Nations assessed contributions. Several Council members⁶³ emphasized the importance of further enhancing the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in relation to the women and peace and security agenda, including the participation of women in peacekeeping operations. The representative of the Russian Federation said that it was important that Africans were increasingly taking the initiative in dealing with peace and security issues on their continent, and that United Nations cooperation with African regional organizations should be based on the understanding that regional actors should be the ones to take the lead in defining the paths to settling disputes on the African continent, based on Chapter VIII of the Charter.

⁶³ Niger, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, United States, Dominican Republic and France.

II. Recognition of the efforts of regional arrangements in the pacific settlement of disputes

Note

Section II deals with recognition by the Council of the efforts of regional and subregional organizations in the pacific settlement of local disputes, within the framework of Article 52 of the Charter. The section is divided into two subsections. Subsection A covers decisions concerning efforts of regional arrangements in the pacific settlement of disputes, and subsection B covers discussions concerning the pacific settlement of disputes by regional arrangements.

A. Decisions concerning efforts of regional arrangements in the pacific settlement of disputes

During the period under review, in several of its decisions, the Council welcomed, commended or encouraged the engagement of regional and subregional arrangements in the pacific settlement of disputes. The Council, however, did not explicitly refer to Article 52 of the Charter in any of its decisions. The Council appealed to regional organizations to support

peace processes,⁶⁴ to provide political support to the strengthening of State institutions,⁶⁵ to sustain and promote peace, stability and development,⁶⁶ to support United Nations efforts to foster intranational reconciliation⁶⁷ and to continue further mediation efforts.⁶⁸ The Council referred to efforts of regional arrangements in the pacific settlements of disputes in relation to a wide variety of items on its agenda, as featured in more detail in table 2 below. The decisions are organized in alphabetical order by item.

⁶⁴ See, for example, in relation to the situation in the Central African Republic, resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#), sixth preambular paragraph.

⁶⁵ See, for example, in relation to the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, resolution [2556 \(2020\)](#), para. 3.

⁶⁶ See, for example, in relation to the situation in Guinea-Bissau, resolution [2512 \(2020\)](#), ninth preambular paragraph.

⁶⁷ See, for example, in relation to the situation in Libya, resolution [2510 \(2020\)](#), sixth preambular paragraph, and resolution [2542 \(2020\)](#), twenty-fifth preambular paragraph.

⁶⁸ See, for example, in relation to the situation in Mali, [S/PRST/2020/10](#), second paragraph; and in relation to the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan, resolution [2519 \(2020\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph, and resolution [2550 \(2020\)](#), fifth preambular paragraph and para. 10.

Table 2
Decisions concerning the pacific settlement of disputes by regional arrangements

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decision and date</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Regional organizations mentioned</i>
Peace and security in Africa	S/PRST/2020/5 11 March 2020	Fifth, twenty-third and twenty-fifth paragraphs	African Union
The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2552 (2020) 12 November 2020	Sixth preambular paragraph and para. 5	African Union, ECCAS
The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2556 (2020) 18 December 2020	Paras. 3, 6, 14, 16 and 26	African Union, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, SADC
The situation in Guinea-Bissau	Resolution 2512 (2020) 28 February 2020	Fifth, sixth and ninth preambular paragraphs and paras. 2 (a) and 16	African Union, Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, ECOWAS, European Union
The situation in Libya	Resolution 2510 (2020) 12 February 2020	Sixth preambular paragraph	African Union, European Union, LAS
	Resolution 2524 (2020) 3 June 2020	Para. 13	African Union
	Resolution 2525 (2020) 3 June 2020	Fourth preambular paragraph	African Union
	Resolution 2542 (2020) 15 September 2020	Twenty-fifth preambular paragraph and para. 1 (vi)	African Union, European Union, LAS
	Resolution 2550 (2020) 12 November 2020	Fifth preambular paragraph and para. 10	African Union
The situation in Mali	Resolution 2541 (2020) 31 August 2020	Fourth preambular paragraph	African Union, ECOWAS
	S/PRST/2020/10 15 October 2020	Second and third paragraphs	African Union, ECOWAS
The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2520 (2020) 29 May 2020	Fifth preambular paragraph and para. 25	African Union, European Union
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2514 (2020) 12 March 2020	Fourth, fifth, twenty-second and twenty-third preambular paragraphs and paras. 11, 17 and 36	African Union, IGAD
	Resolution 2519 (2020) 14 May 2020	Fourth preambular paragraph	African Union
	Resolution 2521 (2020) 29 May 2020	Third preambular paragraph	IGAD
	Resolution 2524 (2020) 3 June 2020	Para. 13	African Union
	Resolution 2525 (2020) 3 June 2020	Fourth preambular paragraph	African Union
	Resolution 2550 (2020) 12 November 2020	Fifth preambular paragraph and para. 10	African Union

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decision and date</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Regional organizations mentioned</i>
Peace consolidation in West Africa	S/PRST/2020/2 11 February 2020	Eleventh paragraph	African Union, ECOWAS
	S/PRST/2020/7 28 July 2020	Ninth, tenth and thirteenth paragraphs	African Union, ECOWAS

Abbreviations: ECCAS, Economic Community of Central African States; ECOWAS, Economic Community of West African States; IGAD, Intergovernmental Authority on Development; LAS, League of Arab States; SADC, Southern African Development Community.

B. Discussions concerning the pacific settlement of disputes by regional arrangements

During the period under review, the discussions among Council members highlighted the mediation efforts of the African Union, the European Union and LAS in Libya, with many Council members reiterating their support for the cooperation between the United Nations and these regional organizations to continue mediation efforts and find a lasting and peaceful solution to the crisis in Libya.⁶⁹ Council members also discussed the cooperation between the United Nations and subregional economic institutions, such as the Economic Community of Central African States, with regard to institutional reform and conflict prevention in the Central African region.⁷⁰ In addition, various Council members referred to the role of regional and subregional organizations in the pacific settlement of disputes in connection with the role of the African Union relating to the construction of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the trilateral discussions between Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan (see case 7).

Case 7

Peace and security in Africa

On 29 June, Council members held an open videoconference in connection with the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”.⁷¹ At the videoconference, Council members heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. In addition, all Council members delivered statements, as well as the representatives of

Egypt and Ethiopia.⁷² In her briefing, the Under-Secretary-General explained that the Blue Nile was an important transboundary water resource that was critical for the livelihoods and development of the people of Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan. She further explained that construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, a major hydropower project located on the Blue Nile in the Binshangul Gumuz region of Ethiopia, began in April 2011. Various initiatives had been undertaken by the Blue Nile riparian countries, which recognized the need for cooperation on the Renaissance Dam to fully realize its benefits and mitigate its potential negative effects on the downstream countries. She also reported on the most recent initiatives since 2018, which had led to trilateral negotiations and the agreement to appoint observers to the talks, including South Africa, the United States and the European Union, whose representatives had been observers at the recent meetings. She reported that further to inconclusive negotiations in February 2020, the Bureau of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union had convened on 26 June 2020 with South Africa as Chair of the African Union, and had agreed to a process led by the African Union aimed at resolving outstanding issues. She commended the parties for their determination to negotiate an agreement and applauded the efforts of the African Union to facilitate a process to that end.

Many speakers⁷³ welcomed the peaceful settlement led by the African Union and the parties’ subsequent commitment to finding a peaceful negotiated solution to outstanding issues. The representative of the Dominican Republic noted that resolving outstanding key issues, such as water sharing, drought mitigation and the establishment of a dispute

⁶⁹ See [S/2020/371](#) (China and Niger); [S/2020/421](#) (China, South Africa, Tunisia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, France, Indonesia and Viet Nam); [S/2020/879](#) (Viet Nam, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, China, Indonesia and Niger); and [S/2020/1108](#) (China, France and Niger).

⁷⁰ See [S/2020/542](#) and [S/2020/1188](#).

⁷¹ See [S/2020/636](#).

⁷² The representative of Germany spoke also on behalf of Belgium. Egypt was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

⁷³ United States, South Africa, Russian Federation, Estonia, Niger, Germany, Viet Nam, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Indonesia and France.

resolution mechanism, would set an excellent regional and international precedent for future disputes on those issues. The representative of Estonia expressed the hope that the parties could reach an agreement over the coming weeks, as envisioned by the African Union process. The representative of France said that the African Union had a major role to play in facilitating and supporting those negotiations and, in that regard, the discussions held between the parties were a step in the right direction and must continue in a constructive spirit in order to reach an agreement.

The representative of Indonesia noted that settling the issue in the regional context was always one of the best options and welcomed the fact that all parties had renewed their commitment to finding a peaceful, negotiated solution to all the outstanding issues as well as to establishing a tripartite committee. The representative of the Niger welcomed the appeal made to the Council by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to take note of the fact that the African Union was seized of the issue, a point that was also raised by the representative of South Africa. The representative of the Niger further said that the Council could support that regional initiative, as it would send a strong signal of recognition of the essential role played by regional organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes of that nature. He added that regional organizations such as the African Union had a better understanding of regional dynamics and could detect the early warning signs of impending conflict and, through that knowledge, promote dialogue and reconciliation among the parties. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expressed encouragement at the parties' determination, as demonstrated at the Extraordinary Meeting held on 26 June 2020, to continue their trilateral negotiations, in good faith and in the spirit of solidarity, towards an agreement that was reasonable, equitable and amicable, and urged them to take the requisite bold political steps to conclude those negotiations. Similarly, the representative of South Africa noted that the Extraordinary Meeting had been characterized by a positive and constructive spirit, with all parties showing their willingness to find a mutually acceptable agreement on all outstanding issues. The representative of Viet Nam welcomed the important role of the African Union in promoting negotiations and mediating among the three parties, and emphasized the need to promote best practices on transboundary watercourses, including the exchange of data and information,

notification, consultations and negotiations to address any concerns, and the full implementation of legal frameworks among the countries concerned.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt stated that it was incumbent upon the Council to take note of and welcome the outcomes of the Extraordinary Meeting and to call upon the three countries to comply with their commitments and pledges. He added that filling the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam unilaterally, without an agreement with Egypt and the Sudan, would jeopardize the interests of downstream communities, cause disastrous socioeconomic effects, expose millions to greater economic vulnerability leading to increasing rates of crime and illegal migration, reduce water quality, disrupt the riparian ecosystem, damage biodiversity and aggravate the dangers of climate change, all of which represented a serious threat to international peace and security. He called upon the Council to encourage the parties to negotiate in good faith to reach an agreement on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and to refrain from any unilateral measures until such an agreement was reached.

The representative of Ethiopia, however, said that he did not believe the issue being discussed had a legitimate place in the Council. He noted that the Agreement on Declaration of Principles between The Arab Republic of Egypt, The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia And The Republic of the Sudan On The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project provided for dispute-resolution mechanisms; furthermore, the African Union had the necessary goodwill and expertise to help the three countries in bridging their differences and reaching a mutually acceptable solution. He considered it lamentable that the principle of complementarity and subsidiarity between the United Nations and regional organizations had been ignored when the issue related to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam had been unjustifiably brought to the attention of the Council, contravening Article 33 of the Charter, which stipulated that parties to any dispute shall first, among other things, "resort to regional agencies or arrangements". The involvement of the Council on the issue risked hardening positions and making compromise even more difficult. Instead of pronouncing itself on the matter, the Council should defer to the African Union and encourage the three countries to return to the tripartite negotiations as the only means of finding an amicable solution to the remaining outstanding issues.

III. Peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements

Note

Section III describes the practice of the Council in connection with the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter in the area of peacekeeping. The section is divided into two subsections. Subsection A covers decisions concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements, and subsection B covers discussions concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements.

A. Decisions concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements

During 2020, the Council renewed the authorization of two peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements, namely, the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea)⁷⁴ and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).⁷⁵ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Kosovo Force, established pursuant to Council resolution 1244 (1999), continued to operate, and no decisions were taken with respect to its mandate.⁷⁶ The Council also commended the efforts of African Member States and subregional organizations in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, notably with the deployment of AMISOM, the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.⁷⁷

The Council also commended the continued efforts of the African Union to enhance its peacekeeping role and that of African subregional organizations to prevent, mediate and settle conflicts on the African continent, paying tribute in that regard to the courage and sacrifice of those serving in African-led peace operations.⁷⁸

The Council further commended the efforts of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), including through the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges in West Africa and the Sahel region, and encouraged Member States to support those efforts by providing the necessary assistance and resources.⁷⁹ The Council also welcomed the increased engagement from the African Union and ECOWAS and, in that regard, also welcomed the initiative to deploy an African Union-led force in the Sahel.⁸⁰

The Council encouraged partnerships to support the efforts of the African Union to continue to develop policy, guidance and training to ensure the safety and security of its peacekeepers.⁸¹ The Council also acknowledged the need for more support to enhance African Union peace operations and encouraged further dialogue between the United Nations and the African Union to achieve that goal.⁸²

Furthermore, in its decisions in 2020, the Council called upon United Nations peace operations to cooperate with several regionally led military and police training missions, namely, the NATO Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan,⁸³ the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic,⁸⁴ the European Union training mission in Mali⁸⁵ and the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau.⁸⁶

The decisions by which the Council authorized peacekeeping operations led by regional organizations in 2020 are listed in table 3.

⁷⁴ Resolution 2549 (2020), para. 3.

⁷⁵ Resolution 2520 (2020), para. 9.

⁷⁶ For more information on the international security presence in Kosovo, see *Repertoire, Supplement 1996–1999*, chap. VIII, sect. F.

⁷⁷ S/PRST/2020/11, eighth paragraph.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, sixth paragraph.

⁷⁹ S/PRST/2020/2, eleventh paragraph. See also S/PRST/2020/5, twenty-third paragraph, and S/PRST/2020/7, tenth paragraph.

⁸⁰ Resolution 2531 (2020), ninth preambular paragraph. See also S/PRST/2020/7, tenth paragraph.

⁸¹ Resolution 2518 (2020), para. 7.

⁸² S/PRST/2020/11, tenth paragraph.

⁸³ See, for example, resolution 2543 (2020), para. 6 (k).

⁸⁴ See, for example, resolution 2552 (2020), eleventh preambular paragraph.

⁸⁵ See, for example, resolution 2531 (2020), para. 42.

⁸⁶ See, for example, resolution 2512 (2020), para. 16.

Table 3

Decisions by which the Security Council authorized peacekeeping operations led by regional organizations

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decision and date</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Peacekeeping operations</i>
The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Resolution 2549 (2020) 5 November 2020	Paras. 3 and 5–6	EUFOR-Althea
The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2520 (2020) 29 May 2020	Paras. 9–12	AMISOM
	Resolution 2540 (2020) 28 August 2020	Para. 2	AMISOM
	Resolution 2551 (2020) 12 November 2020	Paras. 8, 20 and 24	AMISOM

Abbreviations: AMISOM, African Union Mission in Somalia; EUFOR-Althea, European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan

In relation to the situation in Afghanistan, the Council authorized the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan to closely coordinate and cooperate, where relevant, with the non-combat Resolute Support Mission agreed upon between NATO and Afghanistan.⁸⁷

European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic

Concerning the situation in the Central African Republic, the Council welcomed the work carried out by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic.⁸⁸ The Council also decided that the mandate of MINUSCA would include providing enhanced planning and technical assistance and limited logistical support for the progressive redeployment of a limited number of units of the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic trained or certified by the European Union Military Training Mission.⁸⁹

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Concerning the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the Council underlined the importance of the partnership between the

United Nations and the African Union.⁹⁰ In addition, the Security Council supported the call by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for extreme caution in the withdrawal of UNAMID.⁹¹ The Security Council also underlined that a continued strategic and political partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the Sudan remained critical, including through UNAMID, and encouraged the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS), UNAMID and the African Union to ensure coherence, coordination and complementarity of their support for the Sudan.⁹² Furthermore, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue transition planning and management in order to ensure that the eventual transition from UNAMID to UNITAMS was phased, sequenced and efficient, and further requested, in that regard, that UNITAMS and UNAMID establish a coordination mechanism to determine the modalities and timelines for the transition of responsibilities.⁹³ UNAMID was terminated effective 31 December 2020.⁹⁴

Operation Althea of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina

During the period under review, the Council welcomed the readiness of the European Union to maintain EUFOR-Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina from November 2020,⁹⁵ and also renewed its authorization of the mission for a period of

⁸⁷ Resolution [2543 \(2020\)](#), para. 6 (k).

⁸⁸ Resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#), eleventh preambular paragraph.

⁸⁹ Ibid., para. 32 (a) (iv).

⁹⁰ Resolution [2559 \(2020\)](#), fifth preambular paragraph.

⁹¹ Resolution [2525 \(2020\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph.

⁹² Resolution [2524 \(2020\)](#), para. 13.

⁹³ Ibid., para. 14.

⁹⁴ Resolution [2559 \(2020\)](#), para. 1.

⁹⁵ Resolution [2549 \(2020\)](#), para. 2. See also resolution [2549 \(2020\)](#), eleventh preambular paragraph.

12 months.⁹⁶ The Council reiterated its authorization to Member States to take “all necessary measures” to effect the implementation of and to ensure compliance with annexes 1-A and 2 to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and stressed that the parties would be held equally responsible for compliance with those annexes and would be subject to such enforcement action by EUFOR-Althea and the NATO presence as might be necessary.⁹⁷ The Council also authorized Member States to take “all necessary measures”, at the request of either EUFOR-Althea or NATO headquarters, in defence of EUFOR-Althea or the NATO presence, respectively, and to assist both organizations in carrying out their missions. In addition, the Council recognized the right of EUFOR-Althea and the NATO presence to “take all necessary measures” to defend themselves from attack or threat of attack.⁹⁸

African Union Mission in Somalia

In 2020, the Council adopted resolutions 2520 (2020) of 29 May, 2540 (2020) of 28 August and 2551 (2020) of 12 November, in connection with AMISOM. In its decisions, the Council renewed once the authorization of the member States of the African Union to maintain the deployment of AMISOM, initially authorized in 2007, until 28 February 2021.⁹⁹

By its resolution 2520 (2020), the Council maintained the force levels of AMISOM, with a view to supporting security preparations for the elections scheduled to be held at the end of 2020 or early 2021, conducting tasks in line with the updated Somali-led transition plan and transferring security responsibilities to Somali security forces.¹⁰⁰ In addition, the Council authorized AMISOM to “take all necessary measures” to carry out its mandate.¹⁰¹

Concerning its mandate, the Council maintained the primary strategic objectives of AMISOM within the context of the transition plan, which set out the progressive transfer of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security institutions and forces.¹⁰² The Council underlined its intention to assess security

support needed to prepare Somalia towards taking on the leading role for its security by the end of 2021 and post-2021, and take decisions on the reconfiguration of AMISOM on the basis of, inter alia, information shared by the African Union, the Federal Government of Somalia, the European Union and relevant international partners.¹⁰³ The Council reiterated the importance of AMISOM and the Somali security forces working jointly with the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) on the delivery of logistics support, including ensuring convoy and airfield security, protection of civilians and protecting main supply routes.¹⁰⁴ In addition, the Council requested the African Union and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia to provide additional support to AMISOM in its provision of combat mentoring support to the Somali National Army and underlined the importance of deploying the Somali National Army forces for the delivery of the tasks set out in the updated transition plan.¹⁰⁵

Concerning security, the Council welcomed the progress made over the past year, including the recovery of additional territory from Al-Shabaab, the training of Somali security forces and the finalization of the Somali-African Union-United Nations joint threat assessment.¹⁰⁶ In that regard, the Council called upon the Federal Government, the federal member states, AMISOM and the United Nations to deepen cooperation to take a comprehensive approach to security that was collaborative, gender-responsive and stabilizing.¹⁰⁷

In addition, the Council called upon AMISOM, the United Nations and the African Union to increase comprehensive joint planning, coordination, information-sharing and strategic communications, and the Federal Government, AMISOM and UNSOS to undertake inclusive and integrated planning on transition locations, joint operations and stabilization activities in line with the tasks in an updated Somali-led transition plan.¹⁰⁸

Concerning logistical and financial support, the Council urged the African Union to finalize its equipment review by September 2020 with the support of the United Nations to, inter alia, strengthen the operational capabilities of AMISOM.¹⁰⁹ In reference to Chapter VIII of the Charter, the Council underlined the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Council, and

⁹⁶ Ibid., para. 3. For information on the establishment of EUFOR-Althea, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2004–2007*, chap. XII, part III.C.

⁹⁷ Resolution 2549 (2020), para. 5.

⁹⁸ Ibid., para. 6.

⁹⁹ Resolution 2520 (2020), para. 9. For information on the establishment of AMISOM, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2004–2007*, chap. XII, part III.C.

¹⁰⁰ Resolution 2520 (2020), para. 9.

¹⁰¹ Ibid., para. 10.

¹⁰² Ibid., paras. 11 and 12. See also resolution 2472 (2019), para. 9.

¹⁰³ Resolution 2520 (2020), para. 5.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid., para. 21.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., para. 8.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid., sixth preambular paragraph.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid., para. 3.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid., para. 6 (c).

¹⁰⁹ Ibid., para. 15.

encouraged the Secretary-General, the African Union and Member States to continue efforts to explore in earnest funding arrangements for AMISOM in order to establish secure future funding arrangements for the Mission.¹¹⁰

In resolution 2540 (2020), the Council welcomed the strong relationship between the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, UNSOS, the United Nations country team and AMISOM and underlined the importance of all entities continuing to strengthen the relationship at all levels.¹¹¹ In addition, in resolution 2551 (2020), the Council reaffirmed that the Federal Government, in cooperation with the federal member states and AMISOM, should document and register all weapons and military equipment captured as part of offensive operations or in the course of carrying out their mandates, including facilitating inspection by the Panel of Experts on Somalia of all military items before their redistribution or destruction. The Council also reiterated its request that AMISOM support and assist the Federal Government and the federal member states in implementing the total ban on charcoal exports from Somalia and called upon AMISOM to facilitate regular access for the Panel of Experts to charcoal exporting ports.¹¹²

Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel

In 2020, the Council reaffirmed the importance of continuing the fight against terrorism and expressed its support for the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, which was established in February 2017 by the Group of Five for the Sahel, comprising Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger. The Council also welcomed international and regional support to the Joint Force.¹¹³ The Council also welcomed the Pau Summit of 13 January 2020 and the creation of a Coalition for the Sahel, whose aim included strengthening the military capabilities of the Sahelian States.¹¹⁴ In addition, the Council encouraged the Group of Five for the Sahel States to ensure that the Joint Force continued to scale up its level of operation, underlined the importance of progress in the operationalization of the Force's police component and encouraged support for it, including through the

training of the component's specialized investigative units. The Council welcomed the increased autonomy of both the executive secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the Joint Force as steps towards self-sufficiency.¹¹⁵ The Council also stressed that operational and logistical support from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), in line with the conditions set in resolution 2391 (2017), was a temporary measure, and called upon the Joint Force to continue to develop its own capacity to support itself.¹¹⁶ In addition, the Council expressed its support for the use of life-support consumables provided by MINUSMA to the Joint Force on the basis of both resolution 2391 (2017) and the technical agreement between the United Nations, the European Union and the Group of Five for the Sahel, stressing that the support of MINUSMA to the Joint Force continued to be subject to full financial reimbursement to the United Nations through the European Union-coordinated financing mechanism. The Council requested the Secretary-General to include in his April 2021 report on the Joint Force an assessment of the implementation of paragraph 13 of resolution 2391 (2017), including on the prospects of the executive secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the Joint Force improving their autonomy and setting up their own procurement system.¹¹⁷

The Council further requested the Secretary-General to continue to ensure close coordination and information-sharing between MINUSMA, the Joint Force, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and subregional organizations, including ECOWAS and the Group of Five for the Sahel.¹¹⁸

B. Discussions concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements

During the period under review, the Council discussed the role of regional peacekeeping operations such as EUFOR-Althea,¹¹⁹ AMISOM¹²⁰ and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.¹²¹ With regard to the Joint Force, Council deliberations focused on the importance of its role in combating terrorism in

¹¹⁰ Ibid., para. 25.

¹¹¹ Resolution 2540 (2020), para. 3.

¹¹² Resolution 2551 (2020), paras. 8 and 24. See also resolution 2520 (2020), para. 12 (i).

¹¹³ S/PRST/2020/10, seventh paragraph. For more information on the deployment of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2016–2017*, part VIII, sect. III.

¹¹⁴ Resolution 2531 (2020), ninth preambular paragraph. See also S/PRST/2020/7, tenth paragraph.

¹¹⁵ Resolution 2531 (2020), para. 36.

¹¹⁶ Ibid., para. 37.

¹¹⁷ Ibid., para. 38.

¹¹⁸ Ibid., paras. 26, 30 and 39.

¹¹⁹ See S/2020/379 and S/2020/1103.

¹²⁰ See S/PV.8731, S/2020/436, S/PV.8755 and S/2020/1136.

¹²¹ See S/2020/286, S/2020/515, S/2020/541, S/2020/1126, and S/PV.8765.

Africa and on the need to provide it with the necessary support, including financially (see case 8).

Case 8 **Peace and security in Africa**

At its 8743rd meeting, held on 11 March, convened at the initiative of China, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,¹²² the Council held an open debate under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa” and in connection with the sub-item “Countering terrorism and extremism in Africa”.¹²³ At the meeting, the briefers, Council members and other Member States¹²⁴ underlined the importance of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel with regard to combating terrorism in Africa and the need to provide support to it against the backdrop of the Pau Summit of 13 January 2020, which brought together the Heads of State of the Group of Five for the Sahel and their main multilateral partners, namely, the United Nations, the African Union and the International Organization of la Francophonie.

In addition, on 16 November, Council members held an open videoconference in connection with the same item to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Joint Force submitted pursuant to Council resolution 2391 (2017).¹²⁵ Council members heard briefings from the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, the Managing Director for Africa at the European External Action Service, on behalf of the European Union, and the Permanent Representative of Canada in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. In addition to the 12 Council members who spoke, a statement was made by the representative of Mali.¹²⁶

In his remarks, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations underscored that the Joint Force remained a vital part of the security responses addressing extremist armed groups in the Sahel. He also reported that the Joint Force had continued to rise in operational strength and that its units had increasingly acquired practical experience and efficiency in their operations. Going forward, the Under-Secretary-General observed that strengthening the police component of the Joint Force would be an

important step in improving, inter alia, the oversight of military operations. In addition, he stated that the responsive operational and logistic support of MINUSMA remained critical to the operations of the Joint Force. The Under-Secretary-General added that, further to the Council’s authorization of MINUSMA to engage commercial contractors to deliver life-support consumables to Joint Force contingents operating outside Mali, the Mission had begun to make appropriate arrangements to implement such support. The Under-Secretary-General emphasized that the issue of predictability of funding remained of concern and that the United Nations, together with the Group of Five for the Sahel and other partners, continued to call for more predictable funding.

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union reported that the Peace and Security Council of the African Union had renewed the mandate of the Joint Force for 12 months from 13 July 2020, and underscored that the African Union was grateful for the efforts of the international community in supporting the endeavours of the Joint Force. He further stated that the African Union welcomed the extension of the mandate of MINUSMA, which continued to provide logistical support to the Joint Force. The Commissioner also underlined the position of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union that it was of utmost importance for the United Nations to consider taking the necessary steps that would guarantee sustainable and predictable funding for the Joint Force from the United Nations assessed contribution.

The Managing Director for Africa at the European External Action Service recalled the support of the European Union for MINUSMA, in support of the Joint Force, while noting the challenges faced in providing supplies to its troops. He reaffirmed that the European Union was doing everything to ensure the sustainability of support for the Joint Force, noting that the financial support provided by the European Union to the Joint Force had resulted in the delivery of 46 armoured personnel carriers equipped with radios.

Council members welcomed the progress in the operationalization of the Joint Force,¹²⁷ and its progress in the fight against terrorism during the reporting period.¹²⁸ Some Council members¹²⁹ also

¹²² The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 26 February 2020 (S/2020/161).

¹²³ See S/PV.8743.

¹²⁴ Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Indonesia, Egypt, Côte d’Ivoire and Togo.

¹²⁵ See S/2020/1074.

¹²⁶ See S/2020/1126.

¹²⁷ Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, United Kingdom and Russian Federation.

¹²⁸ France, Germany, Viet Nam (also on behalf of Indonesia), China, and Russian Federation.

¹²⁹ Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia) and Russian Federation.

welcomed the establishment of a joint coordination mechanism between the Joint Force, MINUSMA and other military presences in the region. Other Council members expressed support for the assistance provided to the Joint Force by MINUSMA in line with resolution 2531 (2020),¹³⁰ or took note of the formation of the Coalition for the Sahel.¹³¹ The representative of China said that his country was actively implementing initiatives to provide assistance to the Joint Force for security and counter-terrorism operations. He further underlined that the presidential statement on counter-terrorism in Africa (S/PRST/2020/5) must be effectively implemented, and expressed the hope that the Council would give priority to the needs of the Group of Five for the Sahel and offer more sustainable and predictable financial support to the Joint Force.

The representative of the Dominican Republic stated that it was encouraging to hear of the implementation of several needed regional and international security initiatives launched to support the Joint Force and counter-terrorism efforts in the Sahel region, as well as efforts by the African Union, ECOWAS and the Group of Five for the Sahel to increase troop numbers. He also emphasized that challenges remained and should be promptly addressed to pave the way for the full operationalization of the Joint Force, which demanded greater coordination at the tripartite level between the European Union, the Joint Force and MINUSMA to tackle shortcomings with regard to the support model of MINUSMA. The representative of Estonia commended the Joint Force for its efforts and encouraged it to continue to take ownership of making peace a reality in the Sahel. He also underlined that the role of the African Union and ECOWAS in coordinating and mobilizing joint counter-terrorist operations was crucial. The representative of Germany encouraged the continued ownership and efforts by the Joint Force, especially with a view to developing its logistical capacities and increased efficiency. He particularly welcomed the ongoing and future support from bilateral partners and the African Union, and stated that Germany was ready to consider ways to increase United Nations support for the Joint Force. In addition, he encouraged MINUSMA to make full use of available funds, such as European Union funding, in its support for the Joint Force.

The representative of the Niger, speaking also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South

Africa and Tunisia, welcomed the improvement of the situation in the Liptako-Gourma region as a result of ongoing operations by the Joint Force. He added that the operations of the Joint Force carried out in the past 10 months had made it possible to, inter alia, neutralize and arrest terrorists; arrest traffickers; seize, recover or destroy motorcycles and vehicles; and destroy several logistics depots or sites for manufacturing improvised explosive devices. He further stated that the restructuring of the executive secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel had made it more operational, enabling it to provide more effective support to the Joint Force. He stressed that the mode of support for the Joint Force from MINUSMA was neither adequate nor sufficient in the context of the fight against terrorism, and that the recommendations of the assessments relating to support for the Joint Force would have to be ultimately implemented if it was eventually to become self-sustaining.

The representative of the Russian Federation stressed that the full-fledged functioning of the Joint Force depended on two important factors, namely, ensuring stable and predictable funding and providing appropriate transport and logistical support.

The representative of the United Kingdom said that his country would welcome more detail on the measures of success of the Joint Force beyond operational reporting, including an update on how the Joint Force was working with the United Nations country team to create an enabling environment for development and for monitoring the return of national armed forces and local authorities.

The representative of the United States said that his country agreed that the Joint Force and its civilian component were key to addressing some of the root causes of the conflict. He added that the United States, like others, remained committed to bilaterally supporting the Joint Force with equipment, training, supplies and advisers, and encouraged other partners to both honour their pledges to the Joint Force and to consider additional bilateral support to individual countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel. He also reiterated that United Nations assessed contributions were not a viable source of funding and underscored that the United States expected to see the Joint Force fully leverage the support mechanism of MINUSMA in the near term.

The representative of Viet Nam, speaking also on behalf of Indonesia, said that the Joint Force had played an important role in maintaining peace, security and stability in the Sahel region and reaffirmed his country's support for the regional force. He also

¹³⁰ Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), Belgium, United States and Russian Federation.

¹³¹ France, Dominican Republic and Germany.

commended the significant support that had been given to MINUSMA, which had enabled the Joint Force to implement its tasks more effectively, adding that it was essential that the Joint Force continued to receive sustainable support so that it could provide better protection for its soldiers, security forces and civilians,

and fulfil its mandates. The representative of Mali called for more financial support to the Joint Force and reiterated the call of the Group of Five for the Sahel for a robust mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter and for predictable and sustainable funding, including through the United Nations.

IV. Authorization of enforcement action by regional arrangements

Note

Section IV concerns the practice of the Council in utilizing regional and subregional arrangements for enforcement action under its authority, as provided for in Article 53 of the Charter. The present section focuses on the authorization of enforcement action by regional and other organizations outside the context of regional peacekeeping operations; authorizations to use force accorded by the Council to regional peacekeeping operations are covered in section III above. Cooperation with regional arrangements in the implementation of measures adopted by the Council under Chapter VII not involving the use of force is also covered in the present section. The section is divided into two subsections. Subsection A covers decisions concerning the authorization of enforcement action by regional arrangements, and subsection B covers discussions concerning the authorization of enforcement action and the implementation of other Chapter VII measures by regional arrangements.

A. Decisions concerning the authorization of enforcement action by regional arrangements

In 2020, the Council did not explicitly refer to Article 53 of the Charter in its decisions. The Council did, however, authorize the use of force by regional arrangements beyond the context of regional peacekeeping operations.

With regard to the situation in Libya, the Council welcomed the measures that had been taken to implement resolution 2240 (2015), encouraged the continuation of those measures and, in this regard, also took note of the deployment of the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI (Operation IRINI).¹³² Acting under Chapter VII, the Council extended for a further 12 months the authorizations to Member States “acting nationally or through regional

organizations” to inspect vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya suspected of carrying arms and or related materiel to or from Libya in violation of previous Council resolutions and to use “all measures commensurate to the specific circumstances” to carry out those inspections, as set out in resolution 2473 (2019).¹³³ Also acting under Chapter VII, the Council renewed the authorizations, set out in paragraphs 7 to 10 of resolution 2240 (2015) to Member States “acting nationally or through regional organizations” to inspect on the high seas off the coast of Libya vessels believed to be used for the smuggling of migrants or trafficking in persons from Libya, and to seize those that were confirmed as being used for those purposes, and authorized Member States to use “all measures commensurate to the specific circumstances” in confronting smugglers of migrants or traffickers in persons in carrying out the aforementioned activities.¹³⁴ In both cases, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the measures within 11 months of the adoption of the resolutions on their implementation.¹³⁵

Concerning the situation in Somalia, the Council commended the efforts of Operation Atalanta and the counter-piracy activities of the African Union onshore in Somalia to suppress piracy and to protect ships transiting through the waters off the coast of Somalia. Acting under Chapter VII, the Council renewed for a further period of 12 months the authorizations as set out in paragraph 14 of resolution 2500 (2019) granted to States and regional organizations cooperating with Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.¹³⁶

Acting under Chapter VII, the Council adopted several decisions not involving the use of force, such as requesting the support of regional and subregional

¹³² Resolution 2546 (2020), fifth preambular paragraph.

¹³³ Resolution 2526 (2020), para. 1. See also resolution 2292 (2016), paras. 3–4.

¹³⁴ Resolution 2546 (2020), para. 2.

¹³⁵ Resolutions 2526 (2020), para. 2, and 2546 (2020), para. 3. See also resolution 2240 (2015), paras. 17–18.

¹³⁶ Resolution 2554 (2020), ninth preambular paragraph and para. 14.

organizations in implementing sanctions measures, or calling for the cooperation of regional and subregional organizations with the various sanctions committees and panels of experts, as outlined in table 4.

In addition, in connection with the situation in South Sudan and acting under Chapter VII, the Council took note of the steps taken by the African Union towards the setting up of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, and welcomed the formal invitation of the African Union for the United Nations to provide technical assistance towards setting up the Court. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to continue to make available technical assistance to the

Commission of the African Union and to the Government of South Sudan in setting up the Court and the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority. The Council further took note of the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union dated 8 February 2018 and, in this regard, called upon the Government of South Sudan to sign without further delay the memorandum of understanding with the African Union to establish the Court.¹³⁷

¹³⁷ Resolution 2514 (2020), paras. 36–37. See also resolution 2521 (2020), sixth preambular paragraph.

Table 4

Decisions by which the Security Council requested the cooperation of regional arrangements in the implementation of enforcement action

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decision and date</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2514 (2020) 12 March 2020	Thirteenth preambular paragraph and para. 24
	Resolution 2521 (2020) 29 May 2020	Para. 20
The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2511 (2020) 25 February 2020	Para. 10

B. Discussions concerning the authorization of enforcement action and the implementation of other Chapter VII measures by regional arrangements

In 2020, following established practice, the Council heard two semi-annual briefings under the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan” by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on the Court’s investigation into alleged crimes committed in Darfur.¹³⁸ In the context of those briefings, the representative of China discussed issues related to the implementation of resolution 1593 (2005) by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII, had referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court. In this regard, the representative of China noted that the Court needed to attach importance to legitimate appeals of the Government of the Sudan and the African Union regarding its engagement on Darfur.¹³⁹

In addition, under the item entitled “The situation in Mali”, Council members discussed the decision by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union to impose various sanctions measures on Mali following the coup de force of 18 August 2020, including the closure of borders, an air embargo and the suspension of financial transactions by ECOWAS. In addition, they discussed the lifting of the sanctions measures.¹⁴⁰

In relation to Libya, discussions in the Council also focused on the launch of Operation IRINI on 1 April 2020 by the European Union to support the implementation of the United Nations arms embargo on Libya, in line with resolution 2292 (2016), with several speakers expressing support for the Operation.¹⁴¹ In

¹⁴⁰ See S/PV.8765 (Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSMA, France, Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), China, Viet Nam, Estonia, Dominican Republic, Russian Federation and Mali).

¹⁴¹ See S/2020/421 (Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Niger, France, United States, Dominican Republic and Libya); S/2020/489 (High Representative of the European Union for Foreign

¹³⁸ See S/2020/538 and S/2020/1192.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

addition, the representative of Libya stressed that resolution 2292 (2016) stipulated that implementation should be done in coordination with the Government of Libya, emphasized that any international operation carried out without proper coordination with the Government was considered illegal and not founded on

Affairs and Security Policy, United States, Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Belgium and France); S/2020/509, (Germany and Russian Federation); and S/2020/879 (Belgium, Germany, Estonia and Niger).

relevant Council resolutions, and in that regard stated that Libya had announced its rejection of Operation IRINI in its current form.¹⁴² The representative of the Russian Federation emphasized that the Operation should fully comply with international law as well as with the framework established by resolution 2292 (2016), and that any modifications to its activities beyond the scope of resolution 2292 (2016) would require the consent of the Council.¹⁴³

¹⁴² See S/2020/421.

¹⁴³ See S/2020/509.

V. Reporting by regional arrangements on their activities in the maintenance of international peace and security

Note

Section V examines the reporting by regional arrangements on their activities in the maintenance of international peace and security within the framework of Article 54 of the Charter. The section is divided into two subsections. Subsection A covers decisions concerning reporting by regional arrangements, and subsection B covers discussions concerning reporting by regional arrangements.

A. Decisions concerning the reporting by regional arrangements

During the period under review, the Council made no explicit reference to Article 54 of the Charter in its decisions. The Council did, however, request reporting from regional organizations, particularly the African Union, either directly or through the Secretary-General, on issues such as cooperation on peace and security between the United Nations and the African Union, particularly with respect to peace support operations, such as the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and support for the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms in South Sudan, as described in further detail below.

With regard to the situation in Mali, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every three months after the adoption of resolution 2531 (2020) on 29 June, on the coordination, exchange of information and mutual operational and logistical support between the Joint Force, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA),

the Malian Defence and Security Forces, the French forces and the European Union missions in Mali.¹⁴⁴

On Somalia, in resolution 2520 (2020), the Council requested the Secretary-General to keep it regularly informed on the implementation of the resolution through his regular reports, which had been requested in resolution 2461 (2019). The Council further requested the Secretary-General to assess in his regular reports the progress achieved on the priority measures, the implementation of the human rights due diligence policy and the support provided by the United Nations Support Office in Somalia to AMISOM, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and the Somali security forces.¹⁴⁵ The Council also requested the African Union to keep the Council informed every 90 days on the implementation of the mandate of AMISOM. In that regard, the Council requested the African Union to report to the Council through the provision of no fewer than three written reports, with the first report submitted no later than 15 August 2020. The Council further requested specific reporting on the progress of joint operations in support of the transition plan, including the use and effectiveness of coordination mechanisms; proposals for revised tasks in accordance with the reconfiguration of AMISOM; accountability measures taken to address underperformance, including command and control, and conduct and discipline; measures taken to protect civilians; equipment review outcomes and the use of force assets; and the staffing of the civilian component, and encouraged timely reporting to allow the Council to take into account the perspectives of the African Union on the situation in

¹⁴⁴ Resolution 2531 (2020), para. 62 (ii).

¹⁴⁵ Resolution 2520 (2020), para. 37. For more information on the authorization of enforcement action by regional organizations in Somalia, see sect. IV.A.

Somalia.¹⁴⁶ Concerning the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia, in resolution [2554 \(2020\)](#), the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to it, within 11 months of the adoption of that resolution, on the situation with regard to piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia, including an assessment of national coast guard capabilities, as well as voluntary reports by cooperating States and regional organizations.¹⁴⁷

In connection with the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”, the Council invited the African Union to share information on progress made in the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan with the Secretary-General, to inform his report, and expressed its intention, upon receipt of the report of the Secretary-General, to assess the work that had been done with regard to the establishment of the Hybrid Court in line with international standards.¹⁴⁸ On the situation in Darfur, the Council requested the Secretary-General and

the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to provide a special report no later than 31 October that included an assessment of the situation on the ground and recommendations on the appropriate course of action regarding the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴⁹ In its resolution [2559 \(2020\)](#), the Council requested the Secretary-General to keep it regularly informed about all relevant developments in relation to the drawdown and withdrawal of UNAMID through the inclusion of an annex to the regular reporting requested on the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan in resolution [2524 \(2020\)](#), and the provision of an oral briefing by 31 July 2021 on the completion of the drawdown and closure of UNAMID.¹⁵⁰ The Council also requested the Secretary-General to provide it with an assessment on lessons learned from the experience of UNAMID no later than 31 October 2021.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁶ Resolution [2520 \(2020\)](#), para. 36.

¹⁴⁷ Resolution [2554 \(2020\)](#), para. 29.

¹⁴⁸ Resolution [2514 \(2020\)](#), para. 42.

¹⁴⁹ Resolution [2525 \(2020\)](#), para. 11.

¹⁵⁰ Resolution [2559 \(2020\)](#), para. 14.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, para. 15.

Table 5
Decisions concerning the reporting of activities by regional arrangements

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Reporting from</i>
The situation in Mali	Resolution 2531 (2020) 29 June 2020	para. 62 (iii)	Secretary-General
The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2520 (2020) 29 May 2020	para. 36	African Union
	Resolution 2520 (2020) 29 May 2020	para. 37	Secretary-General
	Resolution 2554 (2020) 4 December 2020	para. 29	Secretary-General, voluntary reporting by cooperating States and regional organizations
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2514 (2020) 12 March 2020	para. 42	Secretary-General, African Union
	Resolution 2525 (2020) 3 June 2020	para. 11	Secretary-General, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
	Resolution 2559 (2020) 22 December 2020	paras. 14–15	Secretary-General

B. Discussions concerning the reporting by regional arrangements

During the period under review, Article 54 of the Charter was explicitly referenced once in the context of discussions of the Council. During the 8714th meeting, held on 6 February 2020,¹⁵² the representative of South Africa said that Article 54 of the Charter, under which the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe was briefing the Council, envisaged strong cooperation between the Council and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, as every regional organization faced a unique set of peace and security challenges that were determined by the regions in which they operated and the manner in which such threats were addressed. He further noted that the efforts of regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security and the Council's Charter-mandated responsibilities complemented each other.

¹⁵² See [S/PV.8714](#).

In addition, of relevance for the application and interpretation of Article 54 of the Charter were some of the references made in 2020 by Council members to the reporting by regional organizations. For example, during an open videoconference held on 28 April 2020, under the item entitled "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan",¹⁵³ the representative of Germany encouraged regional actors to actively engage the parties on the question of Abyei, and requested more detailed reporting in the reports of the Secretary-General on the engagement of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and of the Special Envoy. During an open videoconference held on 10 June under the same item,¹⁵⁴ the representative of France observed that the Council had renewed the mandate of UNAMID, which continued to play a major role in protecting civilians in Darfur and reporting on human rights violations.

¹⁵³ See [S/2020/351](#).

¹⁵⁴ See [S/2020/538](#).