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البعثة الدائمة لدولة إريتريا لدى
الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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**Statement by the Delegation of Eritrea
On the “Exchange of Information on State Practices Regarding the Resort to Regional
Agencies or Arrangements”
Before the “Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations
and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization”
23 February – 1 March 2023, New York**

Mr. Chair,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM.
2. The inclusion of the subtopic on the “Exchange of Information on State practices regarding the resort of regional agencies or arrangements” in this thematic debate indeed adds up the impetus to our deliberations and perspectives on the very crucial agenda item on the peaceful settlement of disputes.
3. While the sole mandate of maintaining international peace and security lies under the purview of the Security Council, Article 53 of the UN Charter states that the Security Council “*shall where, appropriate, utilize such regional arrangements or agencies for enforcement action under its authority*”. The proximity of such agencies or arrangements—geographically and politically— arising within specific regions could ideally lead to significant leverage in detecting, preventing, and settling peacefully.
4. However, it is apparent that such regional agencies or arrangements are often confronted with practical, institutional and capacity challenges. Some regional organizations have poor organizational structure, with very limited resources at their disposal to address conflicts of complex genesis. Evidently, the lack of adequate human, financial and material resources remain the main constraint of such endeavor. Additionally, regional agencies or arrangements face exogenous political interventions that weaken them in fulfilling the *raison d'etre* of their foundation.

Chair,

5. It is very unfortunate that Africa hosts most of the conflicts – inter and intra-state—preoccupying the works of the Security Council. The regional or sub-regional security architectures are evidently short of enabling resources to tackle these disputes ravaging the continent. Consequently, a large sum of their funding comes from external sources, compromising their independence and impartiality. Some Security Council members are seen to take hostage of certain African files in the name of penholdership, through which they attempt to dictate their own interests while complicating the peaceful settlement of disputes. The selective approach of the Council in ‘accommodating’ regional security concerns has been further undermining the pacific settlement of disputes through regional arrangements. The tragic situation in Libya, instigated under the pretext of ‘civilian protection,’ is an illustrative case that is threatening the peace and security of the country and the region.
6. To briefly share my country’s experience, guided by a safe and cooperative regional policy, Eritrea’s resolve to the pacific settlement of disputes and adherence to the principles of international law are matters of public record. Even on those disputes imposed upon her, Eritrea had consistently sought pacific settlements and had faithfully and invariably implemented the decisions of international arbitrations. The Eritrea-Yemen Arbitration Decision of 1998/9 and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission delimitation and demarcation decisions of 2002 are cases for reference.
7. Finally, for the regional arrangement to be effective it is clear that the development and the strengthening of a strategic partnership that is based on the principle of mutual respect and comparative advantages is critical. In this connection, in the regional context of Africa, the signing of the Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security could open better opportunities for closer collaboration, more regular exchange of information and consultations, resulting in **coordinated** action to effectively contribute to the peaceful settlement of many of the current disputes in the african region.

I Thank You, Mr. Chair!