



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

By
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**at the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening
of the Role of the Organization**

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— CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY —

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, the Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina* align themselves with this statement.

We are pleased to participate in the thematic debate on the resort to regional agencies or arrangements as a peaceful means of dispute settlement.

As staunch supporters of the rules-based international order, the EU and its Member States attach great importance to all peaceful means of dispute settlement under Article 33 of the UN Charter. The rules-based order is premised on respect for international law, including the UN Charter, and the obligation to settle international disputes by peaceful means.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Regional organizations play an important role in the peaceful settlement of disputes. As provided for in Article 52 of the Charter, regional organizations are not precluded from dealing with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, provided that such organizations and their activities are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The 1994 ‘Declaration on the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security,’ adopted by resolution 49/57 of the General Assembly, attests to that role. The Declaration recognizes that regional organizations can play an important role in preventive diplomacy and in enhancing regional and international cooperation.

The UN and regional organizations can work together in synergy and complementarity. While regional organizations have a deep understanding of the country situations in their particular region, the UN can contribute with its comprehensive approach to disputes resolution.

The UN – EU Strategic Partnership on Crisis Management is an example in this regard. Our close cooperation in peacekeeping and crisis management helps the UN and EU missions and operations to act more effectively to ensure impact on the ground, and to foster innovative approaches. It has thus a multiplier effect. Initiated in the Western Balkans in 2003, co-operation has since expanded to include a number of theatres in Africa and the Middle East. Today, we closely coordinate our activities in Somalia, Central African Republic, and Libya, and work side-by-side in support of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. We will continue to engage in a practical and principled way in peacebuilding, and foster human security through an integrated approach.

The EU-UN Global Terrorist Threat Facility is another example of a partnership that has created important synergies between our missions on the

ground. As an EU-funded initiative, the Facility provides support to Member States faced with terrorism and violent extremism, including through assistance, training, and mentoring, tailored to the needs of requesting recipient countries.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The European Union is a regional organization that has brought a significant contribution to international peace and security. Today, as we speak, under the agenda item ‘Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations’, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell is briefing the Security Council on the EU cooperation with the UN.

The European project has brought unprecedented peace, prosperity and democracy on the European continent. In 2012, the European Union was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace as a recognition of its – back then – 60 years of peace on the European continent. We must bring peace back on the European continent and everywhere in the world!

For the European Union, regional integration and cooperation is not just about some technical arrangements. It is part of our history and a way of giving space for dialogue, for solutions. We are ready to support our partners on this as an expression of the values of democracy, human rights and peace, which are the very values the UN stands for. Our cooperation through effective multilateralism remains the best way to advance national as well as

collective interests. We will continue to promote multilateral solutions with the UN at its core.

In concluding, Mr./Madam Chair, the European Union values the partnerships with the UN and other regional organizations. We believe that cooperation between the UN and regional organizations contributes greatly to a peaceful world.

I thank you.