
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 continued to encourage and strengthen cooperation with regional arrangements, pursuant to Chapter VIII, in particular with the African Union and the European Union. The Council also addressed the question of complementarity between the activities of the Council and regional arrangements in the maintenance of international peace and security.

In connection with the pacific settlement of disputes by regional arrangements, and with particular reference to the Sudan, the Council reiterated its full support for the joint African Union-United Nations mediation and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel.² The Council also welcomed the signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and commended the expanded efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development-Plus configuration.³

With regard to peacekeeping operations led by regional organizations, during the period under review, the Council authorized the European Union to deploy an operation to support the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic.⁴ The Council subsequently transferred authority from the International Support Mission to the newly established United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.⁵

The International Security Assistance Force deployed in Afghanistan concluded its mandate at the end of 2014.⁶ The Council renewed the mandates of other missions led by regional arrangements that remained active, namely, the African Union Mission in Somalia,⁷ and the European Union Force-Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁸

The practice of the Council under Chapter VIII of the Charter, in 2014 and 2015, is illustrated below in five sections. Each section covers both the decisions adopted by the Council and the discussions held during Council meetings. Section I examines the practice of the Council regarding cooperation with regional and subregional arrangements in the maintenance of international peace and security in connection with items of a thematic nature. Section II deals with 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 deals with the practice of the Council in connection with cooperation with regional organizations in the area of peacekeeping. Section IV describes the practice of the Council in authorizing enforcement actions 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.

² Resolution [2138 \(2014\)](#), eleventh preambular paragraph.

³ Resolution [2241 \(2015\)](#), third and fourth preambular paragraphs.

⁴ Resolution [2134 \(2014\)](#), paras. 43 and 44.

⁵ Resolution [2149 \(2014\)](#), para. 21.

⁶ Pursuant to resolution [2120 \(2013\)](#), para. 1.

⁷ Resolutions [2182 \(2014\)](#), para. 23; and [2232 \(2015\)](#), para. 3.

⁸ Resolutions [2183 \(2014\)](#), para. 10; and [2247 \(2015\)](#), para. 3.

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 Security Council in 2014 and 2015 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 organized under two headings: (a) decisions on thematic items relating to Chapter VIII of the Charter and (b) discussions under thematic items concerning the interpretation and application of Chapter VIII of the Charter.

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

During the period under review, the Council explicitly recalled and referred to Chapter VIII in a number of decisions on thematic items.⁹ Specifically, the Council reiterated that the growing contribution made by regional and subregional organizations could usefully complement the work of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security,¹⁰ and that cooperation with regional and subregional arrangements, consistent with Chapter VIII, could improve collective security.¹¹ The Council cited Chapter VIII in seeking to further strengthen cooperation in particular with the European Union¹² and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.¹³ The Council recognized that regional organizations were well positioned to understand the root causes of conflicts owing to their knowledge of the region.¹⁴

By resolution 2167 (2014), the Council expressed its determination to take effective steps to further enhance the relationship between the United Nations

and regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union, in accordance with Chapter VIII, and encouraged the continuing involvement of regional and subregional organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes.¹⁵ In resolution 2171 (2014), the Council expressed its commitment to consider and use the tools of the United Nations system to ensure that early warning of potential conflicts would translate into early, concrete preventive action, including towards the goal of protecting civilians, by or in coordination with the most appropriate United Nations or regional actor; the Council encouraged the peaceful settlement of local disputes through regional arrangements in accordance with Chapter VIII, and called for enhanced cooperation and capacity-building with regional and subregional organizations and arrangements to help to prevent armed conflicts.¹⁶

The importance of partnerships and cooperation with relevant regional and subregional arrangements and organizations in supporting security sector reform¹⁷ and peacekeeping operations¹⁸ was also underlined by the Council. In reference to Africa, the Council encouraged the ongoing efforts of the African Union and the subregional organizations to strengthen their peacekeeping capacity and to undertake peacekeeping operations on the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII.¹⁹

As in previous years, the lack of predictable, sustainable and flexible funding was acknowledged as a major constraint for some regional organizations,²⁰ but the Council maintained its view that regional organizations had the responsibility to secure human, financial, logistical and other resources.²¹

In addition to explicit references to Chapter VIII, the Council implicitly recognized and referred to the role of regional and subregional arrangements in its decisions adopted under thematic items. Some of those decisions dealt with issues concerning women and peace and security,²² and some with the contribution of regional organizations to protecting children affected

⁹ Resolutions 2151 (2014), para. 16; 2167 (2014), first and third preambular paragraphs and paras. 1, 2 and 4; and 2171 (2014), paras. 21 and 22; S/PRST/2014/4, second paragraph; S/PRST/2014/27, fourth and fifth paragraphs; and S/PRST/2015/22, seventh paragraph.

¹⁰ Resolution 2167 (2014), para. 1.

¹¹ S/PRST/2014/4, second paragraph; S/PRST/2014/27, fifth paragraph; and S/PRST/2015/22, seventh paragraph. For decisions in which the Council reiterated its primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security in relation to the role of regional arrangements, see part V.

¹² See S/PRST/2014/4.

¹³ S/PRST/2014/27, fourth paragraph.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, sixth paragraph.

¹⁵ Resolution 2167 (2014), paras. 2 and 3.

¹⁶ Resolution 2171 (2014), paras. 20–22.

¹⁷ Resolution 2151 (2014), para. 16.

¹⁸ Resolution 2167 (2014), para. 1.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 4.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, eighteenth preambular paragraph; and S/PRST/2014/27, thirteenth paragraph.

²¹ S/PRST/2014/27, twelfth paragraph.

²² Resolution 2242 (2015), paras. 2 and 15; and S/PRST/2014/21, twelfth and thirteenth paragraphs.

by armed conflicts.²³ The Council further underlined the importance of partnerships and cooperation with regional, subregional and international partners in delivering rule of law activities, and highlighted that these arrangements could contribute to accountability through support for enhancing the capacity of national justice systems.²⁴ The role of regional organizations was highlighted by the Council in connection with emerging issues, such as the protection of journalists in armed conflict²⁵ and the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.²⁶ The Council, further, called on relevant regional organizations to support the development and strengthening of the capacities of national and regional institutions to address terrorism benefiting from transnational organized crime.²⁷ The Council also referred to the role of regional and subregional organizations in connection with threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.²⁸

B. Discussion under thematic issues concerning the interpretation and application of Chapter VIII of the Charter

At a number of Council meetings held in 2014 and 2015, speakers discussed the role of regional and subregional organizations, in the areas of, inter alia, security sector reform,²⁹ conflict prevention and resolution,³⁰ and the maintenance of international peace and security.³¹ In the discussions, speakers urged the Council to deepen the progress made in terms of cooperation with regional arrangements under Chapter VIII and concentrated also on the respective roles and

responsibilities. The case studies below feature the key elements of such discussions under the following items: Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (case 1), Maintenance of international peace and security (case 2), and Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (case 3).

Case 1 Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

At its 7112th meeting, held on 14 February 2014 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, with a particular focus on the European Union, the Council heard interventions by the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union. In the discussion, many speakers explicitly referred to Chapter VIII of the Charter.³² The representatives of Argentina and Australia stated that cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security was an integral part of the collective security envisioned in the Charter.³³ The representative of Lithuania emphasized that the interaction and synergies of the United Nations, the European Union and other regional and subregional organizations were “critical” in solving conflicts and also “key” for prevention, as regional organizations could be particularly helpful in the early identification of potential crises and mediation.³⁴ Underlining that the contributions of regional and subregional organizations complemented the work of the United Nations, bringing to bear, as they did, knowledge of specific regional circumstances and an understanding of the causes of conflicts, the representative of Argentina noted in particular the contribution made by such organizations to the maintenance of international peace and security under Chapter VIII through the deployment of peacekeeping operations authorized by the Council. She spoke also of the important role that regional and subregional organizations could play in prevention, resolution and mediation processes, as well as in post-conflict peacebuilding, recovery,

²³ Resolutions 2143 (2014), para. 25; and 2225 (2015), paras. 5 and 9.

²⁴ S/PRST/2014/5, seventh and twelfth paragraphs.

²⁵ Resolution 2222 (2015), twentieth preambular paragraph and paras. 15 and 16.

²⁶ Resolution 2220 (2015), paras. 1, 5, 11, 17, 18 and 21.

²⁷ Resolution 2195 (2014), para. 16.

²⁸ Resolutions 2133 (2014), paras. 6 and 8; 2161 (2014), seventh preambular paragraph and para. 69; 2170 (2014), seventh preambular paragraph; 2178 (2014), sixteenth and seventeenth preambular paragraphs and para. 11; and 2199 (2015), ninth preambular paragraph and paras. 14 and 24.

²⁹ See S/PV.7161, S/PV.7343 and S/PV.7402.

³⁰ See S/PV.7112, S/PV.7247, S/PV.7343, S/PV.7402, S/PV.7505, S/PV.7527 and S/PV.7561.

³¹ See S/PV.7105, S/PV.7161, S/PV.7161(Resumption1), S/PV.7361, S/PV.7389, S/PV.7432, S/PV.7499, S/PV.7505, S/PV.7508, S/PV.7527, S/PV.7531, S/PV.7561, S/PV.7564 and S/PV.7585.

³² S/PV.7112, p. 7 (Lithuania); p. 9 (Argentina); pp. 11–12 (Australia); pp. 12–13 (Nigeria); p. 13 (Jordan); p. 14 (Rwanda); p. 16 (Chile); p. 18 (Chad); p. 19 (Russian Federation); and p. 20 (China).

³³ *Ibid.*, p. 9 (Argentina); and p. 11 (Australia).

³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

reconstruction and development.³⁵ The representative of Nigeria described Chapter VIII of the Charter as “visionary” since it had laid the foundation for the United Nations and regional organizations to work together to prevent, manage and resolve crises. He said that it had been demonstrated that regional and subregional organizations could contribute their usually proximate understanding of local and regional conflicts and their root causes, as well as their capacity to respond.³⁶ The representative of Chad called for further strengthening the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention and peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, noting that the activities of the organizations in those areas could effectively complement those of the United Nations, in accordance with Chapter VIII. He emphasized that strengthening regional capacities in maintaining international peace and security should enable regional and subregional organizations to develop the skills needed to deal with issues involving human rights, impunity and the protection of children and women, and called on the United Nations and the European Union to provide their expertise and financial support to the African Union in such areas.³⁷

The representative of Australia underlined that, although drafted decades before the emergence of regional organizations such as the European Union and the African Union, Chapter VIII had proved to be “prescient and utilitarian”, and concluded by saying that the European Union–United Nations relationship showed the continued relevance, utility and adaptability of Chapter VIII.³⁸ The representative of Rwanda said that cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union was one of the most advanced cooperation schemes in place between the United Nations and regional organizations, and covered the vast array of activities related to the maintenance of peace and stability. He stated that, nevertheless, cooperation had yet to reach its full potential. He said that, increasingly, European Union missions were deployed where the United Nations was already engaged, citing Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia as examples, but the two organizations did not necessarily coordinate with each other, which in some situations created “parallel or co-located missions”, where cooperation was minimal or even non-existent. He expressed the

belief that enhancing cooperation between the two organizations would increase efficiency and avoid the duplication of efforts.³⁹

The representative of the Russian Federation stated that the cooperation of the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations must be based on the firm foundation of the Charter, in particular Chapter VIII, and noted that, despite the increasing need for effective mechanisms for the division of labour between the United Nations and regional organizations, including the European Union, the primary role of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security remained “unshakeable”, since it was enshrined in the Charter and could not be reviewed.⁴⁰ On a similar note, the representative of China stated that while regional and subregional organizations were playing an increasingly significant role in maintaining peace and security and promoting the economic development of their respective regions, the Council bore the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. He expressed support for the efforts of the United Nations and the Council, in accordance with Chapter VIII, to deepen cooperation with the European Union and other regional and subregional organizations, and declared that attention had to be paid to coordination and harmonization so as to give full play to their respective comparative advantages.⁴¹

Case 2 Maintenance of international peace and security

At its 7161st meeting, on 28 April 2014, the Council held a debate on the topic “Security sector reform: challenges and opportunities”, under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. In the discussion, the representative of China affirmed that the United Nations should strengthen its cooperation with and support for regional and subregional organizations in the area of security sector reform through workshops, training courses and personnel exchange.⁴² The representative of Slovakia expressed support for the “forging of partnerships” between the United Nations and regional organizations, noting that it was natural to seek ways for fostering cooperation in the domain of security sector reform between the United Nations and the African Union, as well as the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Organization for Security and

³⁵ Ibid., p. 9.

³⁶ Ibid., p. 12.

³⁷ Ibid., p. 18.

³⁸ Ibid., pp. 11–12.

³⁹ Ibid., pp. 14–15.

⁴⁰ Ibid., pp. 19–20.

⁴¹ Ibid., p. 20.

⁴² S/PV.7161, p. 19.

Cooperation in Europe.⁴³ The representative of Chile stressed that security sector reform initiatives should incorporate coherent and integrated planning and implementation, including general guidelines, civilian capacity-building and strengthened mechanisms for coordination and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII.⁴⁴ The representative of Guatemala stated that the United Nations, in cooperation with bilateral, regional and subregional partners, could provide technical assistance for security sector reform through peacekeeping operations.⁴⁵ The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania stressed the importance of regional actors in conflict prevention, resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and encouraged the international community and the countries concerned to make effective use of the enormous resources that regional actors could offer to neighbouring countries in terms of knowledge and skills in the area of security sector reform and other areas.⁴⁶ The representative of Turkey stressed that collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations, was essential to preventing duplication and to making optimal use of scarce resources.⁴⁷ The representative of Pakistan expressed the view that the United Nations should deepen its partnerships with international and regional financial institutions to make security sector reform more resilient and self-sustaining.⁴⁸

The representative of Norway emphasized the importance of strengthening regional ownership of security sector reform processes, and encouraged the United Nations to further develop its partnerships with regional organizations, such as the African Union.⁴⁹ The representative of Indonesia stated that regional networks of like-minded countries were vital to understanding the local culture, and could greatly enable programmes to support security sector reform. He therefore called for regular and more frequent interaction on security sector reform issues between the United Nations system and regional organizations.⁵⁰ Reaffirming the importance of close collaboration with regional organizations, the representative of Switzerland said that the contributions of regional organizations must be better

linked to the efforts of the United Nations.⁵¹ Similarly, the representative of the Czech Republic stated that successful security sector reform was possible only by adhering to the principles of national ownership and deepening cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and civil society.⁵²

At its 7247th meeting, on 21 August 2014, the Council held a debate on “Conflict prevention”, under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. Following interventions by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, several speakers mentioned the relevance and importance of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in the area of conflict prevention.⁵³ The representative of Jordan stressed the importance of cooperation with international and regional arrangements in the context of Chapter VIII, affirming that there was no competition among such organizations and the United Nations. She referred to their role as a “catalyst” and “complementary” to that of the United Nations. She noted however that one element that limited the Council’s ability to prevent conflicts was the absence of timely and accurate information, and encouraged the holding of Arria-formula meetings and the consideration of new mechanisms in order to receive information from the field.⁵⁴ The representative of Ethiopia said that the Council should act with flexibility in providing an early and effective response based on early warning signals in potential crisis and conflict situations, and highlighted the need for the Council to have closer coordination and complementarity of efforts with regional organizations and mechanisms in accordance with Chapter VIII, since regional organizations and mechanisms were closer to potential crisis and conflict situations.⁵⁵ The representative of Namibia also stressed the importance of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII, in support of conflict-prevention and peacebuilding activities, stating that those organizations were closer

⁴³ Ibid., p. 23.

⁴⁴ Ibid., p. 12.

⁴⁵ Ibid., p. 28.

⁴⁶ S/PV.7161 (Resumption 1), p. 19.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 2.

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 10.

⁴⁹ S/PV.7161, p. 23.

⁵⁰ S/PV.7161 (Resumption 1), p. 12.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 13.

⁵² Ibid., p. 18.

⁵³ S/PV.7247, p. 6 (United Kingdom); p. 9 (China, Chile); p. 12 (Chad); p. 13 (Rwanda); p. 14 (Lithuania); p. 15 (Argentina); pp. 16-17 (Nigeria); p. 18 (Australia); p. 19 (Russian Federation); p. 21 (France); pp.23-24 (Pakistan); p. 26 (European Union); p. 29 (Guatemala); p. 32 (Morocco); p. 36 (Switzerland); p. 38 (Denmark); p. 40 (Indonesia); p. 43 (Slovakia); p. 45 (Colombia); p. 47 (Thailand); p. 48 (Ireland); p. 52 (Montenegro); p. 54 (Viet Nam); p. 55 (Qatar); p. 56 (Turkey) and pp. 58-59 (Zimbabwe).

⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 20.

⁵⁵ Ibid., pp. 39-40.

to erupting situations and that they understood the dynamics of the conflict in any given region. He expressed support for the “principle of complementarity” between the Council and regional and subregional organizations, and commended the cooperation agreement reached between the Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, which aimed at enhancing and strengthening closer cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations in conflict prevention and resolution in Africa.⁵⁶

Case 3
Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

At the 7391st meeting, on 24 February 2015, the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) briefed the Council, and recalled that OSCE was the world’s largest regional security arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter. He stated that the crisis in and around Ukraine continued to dominate security considerations in Europe as it had in 2014 and that its impact was greater. He emphasized that the OSCE response to that crisis had once again demonstrated its relevance to European security, as the Organization had proved itself capable of substantive engagement under Chapter VIII. He emphasized that the activities of OSCE in Ukraine and in areas affected by protracted conflicts underlined the fundamental role of regional organizations in maintaining peace and security in their respective regions, precisely as envisioned in Chapter VIII.⁵⁷

In the discussion, the representative of the Russian Federation underlined that the cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE was consistent

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 60.

⁵⁷ S/PV. 7391, pp. 2–4.

and multilateral in nature, and encompassed all dimensions of security, including cross-dimensional issues. He said that OSCE should complement the United Nations in dealing with global issues and assist in the implementation in the areas of its regional responsibility.⁵⁸ The representative of Spain recognized the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and the regional security organizations and expressed the belief that, under Chapter VIII, such cooperation would contribute in a marked manner to the maintenance of international peace and security. In that context, he observed that there was broad “manoeuvring room” for cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE in the fostering of collective security in the OSCE region.⁵⁹

The representative of Chad reiterated that the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter defined the framework for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, especially OSCE, which played an essential role in maintaining peace and security in Europe.⁶⁰ The representative of Nigeria highlighted the noteworthy progress made by OSCE as a regional organization and its close cooperation with the United Nations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in accordance with Chapter VIII.⁶¹ The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that, under Chapter VIII, effective measures could be taken on the ground through the contribution of regional and subregional organizations and OSCE. He added that such work would always be in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter, under a system of coordination and complementary actions.⁶²

⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 5.

⁵⁹ Ibid., pp. 6–7.

⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 13.

⁶¹ Ibid., p. 14.

⁶² Ibid., p. 16.

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

Note

Section II deals with recognition by the Security 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: (a) decisions

concerning efforts of regional arrangements in the pacific settlement of disputes; and (b) discussions concerning the pacific settlement of disputes by regional arrangements.

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

In a number of decisions adopted in 2014 and 2015 described in further detail below, the Council commended, welcomed, encouraged and supported the efforts undertaken by a wide range of regional and subregional organizations in the pacific settlement of disputes. The Council also called upon parties to engage in the political process led by regional and subregional arrangements, independently or jointly with the United Nations. In those decisions, there was no explicit reference to Article 52 of the Charter.

With regard to the situation in Burundi, the Council welcomed the resumption of the dialogue between all the Burundian parties, under the facilitation of the African Union, the United Nations, the East African Community (EAC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and re-emphasized the importance of those mediation efforts.⁶³ Acknowledging that the parties needed to take further steps to adhere to the decisions of EAC and the African Union Peace and Security Council, the Council called upon the Burundian parties to urgently participate in an inclusive dialogue on the measures to be taken to create conditions conducive to the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections.⁶⁴ Subsequently, by resolution 2248 (2015) the Council called for the reinforcement of the mediation efforts led by the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, on behalf of EAC and as endorsed by the African Union, and urged the Government of Burundi to cooperate with the mediation in order to find a consensual and nationally owned solution to the crisis in the country.⁶⁵

In connection with the Central African region, the Council strongly reiterated its calls for the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to continue to work together to further develop and maintain a common operating picture of the Lord's Resistance Army's current capabilities and areas of operation, as well as to investigate its logistical networks and possible sources of military support and illicit financing; and commended the role of the ECCAS Heads of State in the ECCAS-led international

mediation process.⁶⁶ In addressing the situation in the Central African Republic, the Council emphasized that the continued role of the region, including the Secretary-General of ECCAS and its mediator, as well as of the African Union, together with the United Nations, was critical for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the country.⁶⁷

In its decisions concerning the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the Council commended the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for their efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the country, and encouraged them to continue to support the Ivorian authorities in addressing key challenges, especially the underlying causes of conflict and insecurity in the border area, and in promoting justice and national reconciliation.⁶⁸

In connection with the situation in Liberia, the Council expressed appreciation to the international community, including ECOWAS, the African Union and the Mano River Union, for their support to consolidate peace, security and stability in the country, welcoming, in particular, the contributions that supported the efforts of Liberia on security sector reform, the rule of law and national reconciliation, as well as in the post-Ebola recovery period.⁶⁹

With respect to the situation in Libya, the Council encouraged the Arab League, the African Union and all those with influence on the parties to support an immediate cessation of hostilities and constructive engagement with a peaceful and inclusive political dialogue.⁷⁰

In connection with the situation in Mali, the Council commended the efforts of all regional and international actors to solve the crisis in Mali, including those who facilitated discussions with the signatory and adherent armed groups of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement, as well as the efforts of Burkina Faso as ECOWAS mediator; welcomed the signing of the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014, brokered under the auspices of the Chairperson of the African Union and President of Mauritania, Mohammed Ould Abdel Aziz, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali; and commended the role and contribution of the

⁶³ S/PRST/2015/13, fifth paragraph; and S/PRST/2015/18, seventh paragraph.

⁶⁴ S/PRST/2015/13, sixth paragraph.

⁶⁵ Resolution 2248 (2015), fifteenth preambular paragraph and para. 3.

⁶⁶ S/PRST/2014/25, tenth and fifteenth paragraphs.

⁶⁷ S/PRST/2014/28, thirtieth paragraph; see also S/PRST/2015/17, fifteenth paragraph.

⁶⁸ Resolutions 2162 (2014), twenty-second preambular paragraph; and 2226 (2015), twentieth preambular paragraph.

⁶⁹ Resolution 2239 (2015), twelfth preambular paragraph.

⁷⁰ Resolution 2174 (2014), fourth preambular paragraph.

African Union, ECOWAS and the neighbouring countries to the stabilization of Mali.⁷¹

With respect to South Sudan, by resolution 2155 (2014), the Council commended the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), as supported by the United Nations and the African Union, in establishing a forum for political and security dialogue; expressed its expectation that all parties would participate in that process and respect the decisions reached by the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government on 13 March 2014; and encouraged the efforts of IGAD and the United Nations to reach a peace agreement between the parties.⁷² By resolution 2156 (2014), the Council expressed its full support for the efforts of the African Union to ease tension, facilitate the resumption of negotiations on post-secession relations and the normalization of relations between the Sudan and South Sudan; recalled that, pursuant to resolution 2046 (2012), the parties must resume negotiations to reach agreement on the final status of Abyei under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel; and called upon all parties to engage constructively in the process mediated by the Panel.⁷³ The Council, further, commended the work of IGAD in leading the mediation since the onset of the crisis, and the initiatives by the African Union.⁷⁴ In 2015, by resolution 2206 (2015), the Council welcomed the China-mediated “Five-Point Plan” agreed upon by the Government of South Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition), which included speeding up the pace of negotiations towards the formation of a transitional government, taking concrete steps to relieve the humanitarian situation in conflict-affected areas, and providing strong support for and taking active part in the IGAD-led mediation efforts; recognized the work of the African Union Commission of Inquiry in investigating and documenting violations as well as abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in South Sudan; and welcomed the further engagement of the African Union to ensure justice and accountability, as well as healing and reconciliation for South Sudan.⁷⁵ The Council commended IGAD, as supported by the United Nations and the African Union, for its relentless work in

establishing a forum for political and security dialogue, establishing and operationalizing the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism for the cessation of hostilities agreement, and leading multi-stakeholder political negotiations to establish a Transitional Government of National Unity; and welcomed the intention of IGAD to implement a common plan and to table a reasonable and comprehensive solution to end the crisis in South Sudan.⁷⁶ By resolution 2223 (2015), the Council welcomed the decision of 24 March 2015 by the African Union Peace and Security Council, by which was formed the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan, and encouraged continued close cooperation between the United Nations, IGAD and the African Union in mediation efforts and peace negotiations.⁷⁷ The Council commended the efforts of the “IGAD-Plus” configuration, involving 19 nations and organizations including the United Nations, to develop and achieve a comprehensive solution to deliver a peace to South Sudan, and urged the continued close engagement of IGAD and IGAD-Plus partners.⁷⁸ By resolution 2241 (2015) the Council welcomed the signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, by President Salva Kiir Mayardit, the Chairman of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition) and other stakeholders, and recognized those signatures as a commitment by the parties to implement the Agreement.⁷⁹ In this regard, the Council commended the expanded efforts of the IGAD-Plus configuration in facilitating the signing of the Agreement, and urged enhanced support by the international community, in particular IGAD and the African Union, during the peace implementation.⁸⁰

During the period under review, in connection with the Sudan, the Council reiterated its full support for the joint African Union-United Nations mediation and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, and expressed strong support for the political process under the African Union-United Nations-led mediation.⁸¹ It encouraged the Joint Special Representative to continue his efforts to increase the inclusiveness of the political process, guided by the framework for African Union and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur peace process, and to coordinate with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan to

⁷¹ Resolution 2164 (2014), seventh, tenth and twenty-fourth preambular paragraphs.

⁷² Resolution 2155 (2014), seventh preambular paragraph and para. 2.

⁷³ Resolution 2156 (2014), eighth and twelfth preambular paragraphs.

⁷⁴ S/PRST/2014/26, fourth paragraph.

⁷⁵ Resolution 2206 (2015), sixteenth and twenty-second preambular paragraphs.

⁷⁶ S/PRST/2015/9, fourth and sixth paragraphs.

⁷⁷ Resolution 2223 (2015), thirteenth preambular paragraph.

⁷⁸ S/PRST/2015/16, second paragraph.

⁷⁹ Resolution 2241 (2015), third preambular paragraph.

⁸⁰ Resolution 2252 (2015), fifth preambular paragraph.

⁸¹ Resolution 2138 (2014), eleventh preambular paragraph.

synchronize mediation efforts.⁸² The Council also underlined, without prejudice to its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the importance of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, consistent with Chapter VIII, with regard to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa, particularly in the Sudan.⁸³

⁸² Resolution 2148 (2014), thirteenth preambular paragraph.

⁸³ Resolutions 2173 (2014), seventeenth preambular paragraph; and 2228 (2015), nineteenth preambular paragraph.

By resolution 2228 (2015) the Council reiterated its support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as a viable framework for the peace process in Darfur and for its accelerated implementation, as well as for the peace talks mediated by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel.⁸⁴

Table 1 lists provisions of decisions in which the Council referred to regional or subregional organizations in relation to the pacific settlement of disputes.

⁸⁴ Resolution 2228 (2015), fourteenth preambular paragraph.

Table 1
Decisions concerning the pacific settlement of disputes by regional arrangements, 2014–2015

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Regional organizations mentioned</i>
The situation in Burundi	S/PRST/2015/13 26 June 2015	fifth paragraph	African Union, East African Community, International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
	S/PRST/2015/18 28 October 2015	seventh paragraph	African Union, East African Community
	Resolution 2248 (2015) 12 November 2015	fifteenth preambular paragraph and para. 3	East African Community
Central African region	S/PRST/2014/25 10 December 2014	tenth and fifteenth paragraphs	African Union, Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
The situation in the Central African Republic	S/PRST/2014/28 18 December 2014	thirtieth paragraph	African Union, ECCAS
	S/PRST/2015/17 20 October 2015	fifteenth paragraph	African Union, ECCAS
The situation in Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution 2162 (2014) 25 June 2014	twenty-second preambular paragraph	African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
	Resolution 2226 (2015) 25 June 2015	twentieth preambular paragraph	African Union, ECOWAS
The situation in Liberia	Resolution 2239 (2015) 17 September 2015	twelfth preambular paragraph	African Union, ECOWAS, Mano River Union
The situation in Libya	Resolution 2174 (2014) 27 August 2014	fourth preambular paragraph	African Union, League of Arab States
The situation in Mali	Resolution 2164 (2014) 25 June 2014	seventh, tenth and twenty-fourth preambular paragraphs	African Union, ECOWAS
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2138 (2014) 13 February 2014	eleventh preambular paragraph	African Union, African Union High-level Implementation Panel
	Resolution 2148 (2014) 3 April 2014	thirteenth preambular paragraph	African Union, Implementation Panel

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Regional organizations mentioned</i>
	Resolution 2155 (2014) 27 May 2014	seventh, eighth and twentieth preambular paragraphs and para. 2	African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
	Resolution 2156 (2014) 29 May 2014	eighth and twelfth preambular paragraphs	African Union, Implementation Panel A
	Resolution 2173 (2014) 27 August 2014	seventeenth preambular paragraph	African Union
	S/PRST/2014/26 15 December 2014	fourth paragraph	African Union, IGAD
	Resolution 2206 (2015) 3 March 2015	sixteenth and twenty-second preambular paragraphs	African Union, IGAD
	S/PRST/2015/9 24 March 2015	fourth and sixth paragraphs	African Union, IGAD
	Resolution 2223 (2015) 28 May 2015	thirteenth preambular paragraph	African Union, IGAD
	Resolution 2228 (2015) 29 June 2015	fourteenth and nineteenth preambular paragraphs	African Union, Implementation Panel
	S/PRST/2015/16 28 August 2015	second paragraph	IGAD
	Resolution 2241 (2015) 9 October 2015	fourth and thirtieth preambular paragraphs and paras. 2, 5 and 11	African Union, IGAD
	Resolution 2252 (2015) 15 December 2015	fifth preambular paragraph	African Union, IGAD

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

During the period under review, a number of Council members referred to the role of regional organizations in the pacific settlement of disputes. Of particular constitutional interest was the discussion in connection with the conflict in South Sudan in the light of the mediation efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (see case 4).

Case 4

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

At its 7396th meeting, held on 3 March 2015 under the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#), by which

it imposed targeted sanctions against designated individuals. Speaking after the adoption of the resolution, the representative of the United States noted that resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) supported the mediation efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) by laying the framework for targeted sanctions, and that under its terms the parties must meet the IGAD deadlines for the resolution of all outstanding issues of the conflict and begin the process of establishing a transitional Government of national unity.⁸⁵ The representative of China noted that the parties to the conflict in South Sudan were holding political negotiations in Ethiopia, under the auspices of IGAD, and expressed support for IGAD in playing its mediation role to alleviate the humanitarian situation in South Sudan.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ [S/PV.7396](#), p. 2.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

At its 7532nd meeting, held on 9 October 2015, the Council adopted resolution [2241 \(2015\)](#) by 13 votes in favour, with 2 abstentions (Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan until 15 December 2015. Speaking after the vote, the representative of China stated that under the active facilitation efforts of IGAD and other international partners, parties to the conflict in South Sudan had signed the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. He said that the peace process in South Sudan had entered a new stage and praised the efforts of the African Union and IGAD.⁸⁷ In explaining the reasons for abstaining, the representative of the Russian Federation said that the resolution contained wording in the form of an ultimatum regarding sanctions against South Sudan, and added that the main purpose of the resolution was

⁸⁷ [S/PV.7532](#), p. 3.

to supplement the mandate of the peacekeeping mission with tasks aimed at facilitating the peace process, rather than to frighten the parties with sanctions. He also expressed disagreement with the wording regarding the Council's intention to formulate any kind of assessment of the hybrid court in South Sudan, since the establishment and activities of that judicial body were the "exclusive prerogative" of the African Union Commission.⁸⁸ The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, while expressing support for the work done by the regional authorities, such as IGAD and the African Union, in "seeking African solutions to African problems", said that the mention of the hybrid court for South Sudan could create confusion over the provisions of the Agreement promoted by IGAD and the African Union.⁸⁹

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 3–4.

III. Peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements

Note

Section III deals with the practice of the Security Council in connection with the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the area of peacekeeping under Chapter VIII of the Charter. The material in this section is covered under two headings: (a) decisions concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements; and (b) discussions concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements.

A. Decisions concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements

During the period under review, the Council authorized the European Union to deploy an operation to support the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic.⁹⁰ By resolution [2149 \(2014\)](#) of 10 April 2014, the Council decided to establish the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, and that authority would be transferred from the International Support Mission to the United Nations Mission on 15 September 2014.⁹¹

⁹⁰ Resolution [2134 \(2014\)](#), para. 43.

⁹¹ Resolution [2149 \(2014\)](#), paras. 18 and 21.

The European Union operation concluded its mandate on 15 March 2015.

The Council renewed the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia until 30 May 2016,⁹² and that of the European Union Force-Althea, for Bosnia and Herzegovina, until 10 November 2016.⁹³ On 31 December 2014, the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan concluded its mandate and ceased to exist.⁹⁴

During the period under review, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization force in Kosovo continued its mandate,⁹⁵ but no decisions were adopted by the Council in this regard.⁹⁶

Table 2 lists the decisions of the Council concerning the mandates of peacekeeping missions led by regional organizations during the reporting period. A detailed account of the practice of the Council in relation to peacekeeping missions led by regional organizations is also provided below.

⁹² Resolutions [2182 \(2014\)](#), para. 23; and [2232 \(2015\)](#), para. 3.

⁹³ Resolutions [2183 \(2014\)](#), para. 10; and [2247 \(2015\)](#), para. 3.

⁹⁴ Resolution [2120 \(2013\)](#), para. 1.

⁹⁵ The Kosovo Force was originally authorized by resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).

⁹⁶ For discussions held during the period under review in this regard, see [S/PV.7108](#), [S/PV.7183](#), [S/PV.7257](#), [S/PV.7327](#), [S/PV.7377](#), [S/PV.7448](#), [S/PV.7510](#) and [S/PV.7563](#).

Table 2
Decisions concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional organizations, 2014-2015

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Peacekeeping operations</i>
The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2189 (2014) 12 December 2014	eighth preambular paragraph	International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Resolution 2183 (2014) 11 November 2014	paras. 10 and 15	European Union Force (EUFOR)-Althea, NATO
	Resolution 2247 (2015) 10 November 2015	paras. 3 and 6	EUFOR-Althea, NATO
The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014) 28 January 2014	nineteenth preambular paragraph and paras. 43 and 44	African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), European Union operation
	Resolution 2149 (2014) 10 April 2014	paras. 18, 21, 22 and 37	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), MISCA
	S/PRST/2014/28 18 December 2014	tenth paragraph	MINUSCA and European Union operation
The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2158 (2014) 29 May 2014	sixth and eighth preambular paragraphs, and paras. 1 (b), 4 and 5	African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)
	Resolution 2182 (2014) 24 October 2014	paras. 6, 11 and 23	AMISOM
	Resolution 2232 (2015) 28 July 2015	paras. 3, 6 and 24	AMISOM
	Resolution 2244 (2015) 23 October 2015	para. 18	AMISOM

International Security Assistance Force

By resolution [2120 \(2013\)](#), the Council had extended the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan until 31 December 2014.⁹⁷

In its resolution [2145 \(2014\)](#) the Council took note of the efforts of the Afghan authorities to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan National Police, and stressed the importance of international assistance through financial support and provision of trainers and mentors, citing, inter alia, the contributions of the European Union Police Mission and the Training

Mission-Afghanistan of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and noting the importance of a sufficient and capable police force for the long-term security of Afghanistan.⁹⁸ By resolution [2189 \(2014\)](#), the Council noted the conclusion of the ISAF mandate at the end of 2014, and looked forward to the completion of the security transition at that date, after which the Afghan authorities would assume full responsibility for security in the country.⁹⁹ In 2015, the Council underlined the importance of operationally capable Afghan National Defence and Security Forces and stressed the commitment of the international

⁹⁷ Resolution [2120 \(2013\)](#), para. 1.

⁹⁸ Resolution [2145 \(2014\)](#), para. 26.

⁹⁹ Resolution [2189 \(2014\)](#), eighth preambular paragraph.

community to their further development; it acknowledged the contribution of Afghanistan's partners to peace and security in the country, and welcomed the agreement between NATO and Afghanistan that had led to the establishment on 1 January 2015 of the non-combat Resolute Support Mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces.¹⁰⁰

European Union Force — Althea

With regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council renewed twice, for a period of 12 months each time, the authorization of the European Union Force (EUFOR)-Althea.¹⁰¹ The Council 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; and recognized the right of both EUFOR-Althea and the NATO presence to take all necessary measures to defend themselves from attack or threat of attack.¹⁰²

African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic and European Union operation

In connection with the situation in the Central African Republic, by resolution [2134 \(2014\)](#) of 28 January 2014, the Council welcomed the strong engagement of the European Union, in particular the decision to contribute financially to the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA); authorized the European Union to deploy an operation in the Central African Republic, and authorized the European Union operation to take all necessary measures within the limits of its capacities and areas of deployment.¹⁰³ The Council requested the European Union to report on the implementation of the operation's mandate, and called upon Member States to take appropriate measures to support the action of the European Union, in particular by facilitating the transfer to the Central African Republic, without obstacles or delay, of all personnel, equipment, provisions, supplies or other goods intended for the European Union operation.¹⁰⁴

By resolution [2149 \(2014\)](#) of 10 April 2014, the Council decided to establish the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), and that the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA would take place on 15 September 2014.¹⁰⁵ The Council requested the Secretary-General, in close coordination with the African Union, to deploy a transition team to set up MINUSCA and prepare the seamless transition of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA and, after a joint mission with the African Union, to update the Council no later than 15 August 2014 on the preparation for the transition; the Council decided, further, that, for the implementation of their mandates, MISCA, MINUSCA and the European Union operation were exempt from the arms embargo imposed on the Central African Republic.¹⁰⁶

In a presidential statement, the Council commended MISCA and the European Union operation for the work done in laying the foundation for increased security ahead of and in support of the deployment of MINUSCA; in the light of the continuous cycle of provocations, reprisals and threats of violence by armed groups, the Council encouraged MINUSCA and the European Union operation to use, within their respective mandates, all necessary means to effectively protect civilians and to restore a lasting security.¹⁰⁷

After nearly a year, the mandate of the European Union operation ended on 15 March 2015, and on 28 April 2015, in its resolution [2217 \(2015\)](#), the Council commended the transition of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA on 15 September 2014, and urged countries formerly contributing troops and police to MISCA to expedite the procurement and deployment of remaining additional contingent-owned equipment, to comply with United Nations standards.¹⁰⁸

African-led International Support Mission in Mali

In connection with the situation in Mali, on 25 April 2013, by resolution [2100 \(2013\)](#), the Council had established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and had decided to transfer the authority from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to MINUSMA on 1 July 2013.¹⁰⁹ By resolution [2164 \(2014\)](#), the Council requested the

¹⁰⁰ Resolution [2210 \(2015\)](#), nineteenth preambular paragraph.

¹⁰¹ Resolutions [2183 \(2014\)](#), para. 10; and [2247 \(2015\)](#), para. 3.

¹⁰² Resolutions [2183 \(2014\)](#), para. 15; and [2247 \(2015\)](#), para. 6.

¹⁰³ Resolution [2134 \(2014\)](#), nineteenth preambular paragraph and paras. 43 and 44.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 45 and 46.

¹⁰⁵ Resolution [2149 \(2014\)](#), paras. 18 and 21.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 26, 27 and 37.

¹⁰⁷ S/PRST/2014/28, ninth and tenth paragraphs.

¹⁰⁸ Resolution [2217 \(2015\)](#), paras. 20 and 25.

¹⁰⁹ Resolution [2100 \(2013\)](#), para. 7.

Secretary-General to accelerate the disbursement of the United Nations trust fund established pursuant to resolution 2085 (2012) in support of AFISMA, including to enable the new force laydown of MINUSMA.¹¹⁰

African Union Mission in Somalia

During the period under review, the Council welcomed the positive relationship between the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSAM) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), underlining the fundamental importance of both missions working closely together in accordance with their respective mandates.¹¹¹ By resolutions 2182 (2014) and 2244 (2015), the Council reaffirmed the ban on the import and export of Somali charcoal, and reiterated its request to AMISOM to support and assist the Somali authorities in its implementation.¹¹² The Council encouraged UNSAM, AMISOM and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to continue to develop and implement joint activities, in accordance with their respective mandates, in support of peacebuilding and State-building in Somalia.¹¹³

In its resolutions 2182 (2014) and 2232 (2015), the Council authorized the States members of the African Union to maintain the deployment of AMISOM, until 30 May 2016, in line with its request to the African Union for a maximum level of 22,126 uniformed personnel, and as part of an overall exit strategy for AMISOM, after which a decrease in the force strength of the Mission would be considered; and decided that AMISOM should be authorized to take all measures necessary to carry out its mandate, in full compliance with the obligations of Member States under international humanitarian law and human rights law, and in full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.¹¹⁴ The Council requested the Somali National Army and AMISOM to document and register all military equipment captured as part of offensive operations or in the course of carrying out their mandates; and to give the utmost priority to securing key supply routes essential to improving the humanitarian situation in the most affected areas.¹¹⁵

In 2014 and 2015, the Council reiterated its call for new donors to support AMISOM by providing additional funding,¹¹⁶ as well as helicopters for the authorized aviation component.¹¹⁷ The Council stressed the critical need to source contingent-owned equipment,¹¹⁸ and renewed its call to the African Union to address critical logistical gaps within AMISOM troop-contributing countries.¹¹⁹

The Council underlined the need for AMISOM troops to continue to receive appropriate information and predeployment training in relation to human rights principles, including gender equality and sexual violence, and to be informed of the accountability mechanisms in place; encouraged AMISOM to strengthen the mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual violence and sexual exploitation and abuse; and condemned all violations and abuses committed against children by all parties in Somalia and called for their immediate cessation.¹²⁰

On 28 July 2015, by resolution 2232 (2015), the Council acknowledged that conditions in Somalia were not appropriate for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission until the end of 2016 at the earliest; underlined that the security strategy for the following 18 months should aim to create and preserve an enabling environment for the political and peace and reconciliation processes to unfold in Somalia; and agreed with the objective of supporting the delivery of security for the Somali people, including through the gradual handing over of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali National Army and subsequently to the Somali police force.¹²¹ By the same resolution, the Council requested the African Union to undertake a structured and targeted reconfiguration of AMISOM to enable a surge in its efficiency, and also requested the African Union to develop its new concept of operations for AMISOM by 30 October 2015, in close collaboration with the United Nations; and agreed with the Secretary-General that a joint AMISOM-United Nations-Somali planning mechanism should assess and facilitate the delivery of the security strategy, as well as the implementation of stabilization priorities, ensuring thorough coordination.¹²²

¹¹⁰ Resolution 2164 (2014), para. 24.

¹¹¹ Resolution 2158 (2014), eighth preambular paragraph.

¹¹² Resolutions 2182 (2014), para. 11; and 2244 (2015), para. 18.

¹¹³ Resolution 2158 (2014), para. 4.

¹¹⁴ Resolutions 2182 (2014), para. 23; and 2232 (2015), para. 3.

¹¹⁵ Resolution 2182 (2014), paras. 6 and 29.

¹¹⁶ Resolutions 2182 (2014), para. 37; and 2232 (2015), para. 16.

¹¹⁷ Resolutions 2182 (2014), para. 30; and 2232 (2015), para. 14.

¹¹⁸ Resolution 2232 (2015), para. 14.

¹¹⁹ Resolution 2245 (2015), para. 11.

¹²⁰ Resolution 2182 (2014), paras. 33–35.

¹²¹ Resolution 2232 (2015), paras. 1, 5 and 5 (iii).

¹²² *Ibid.*, paras. 6 and 9.

The Council encouraged regional engagement to be carried out jointly by AMISOM-UNSOM teams; agreed that the deployment of civilian planning capacity in regional capitals should be a priority in order to improve joint planning between military and civilian components; and requested AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces to take appropriate measures to protect UNSOM personnel, facilities, installations, equipment and mission and to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel.¹²³

B. Discussion concerning peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements

During the period under review, the deliberations of the Council in relation to peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements focused on their impact in supporting the principle of national ownership and deepening cooperation and coordination with the United Nations, as illustrated in the case studies below, relating to the situation in Afghanistan (case 5); the situation in the Central African Republic (case 6); and the Central African region (case 7).

Case 5 The situation in Afghanistan

At the 7347th meeting of the Council, held on 18 December 2014 under the item entitled “The situation in Afghanistan”, several speakers referred to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), whose mandate ended on 31 December 2014. The representative of Australia stated that Afghanistan’s security transition would be complete at the end of 2014, when the ISAF mission concluded, and added that over the past 13 years ISAF and the Afghan national security forces had substantially reduced the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates.¹²⁴ The representative of Chile commended the increase in the capacities and competencies of the Afghan national defence and security forces in preparation for the conclusion of the ISAF mandate at the end of 2014, and expressed the hope that the Afghan authorities would be able to effectively take over responsibility for the security of their country.¹²⁵ The representative of the United States recalled that, over 13 years, troops and civilian personnel from more than 50 countries had worked alongside Afghan partners to “root out terrorism and try to build a more stable and a more secure

Afghanistan”. She said that Afghanistan continued to face serious threats to security, and that NATO and its partners would continue to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces through the Resolute Support Mission.¹²⁶ The representative of Germany, while expressing concern about the rise in terrorist acts in Kabul, expressed the belief that Afghanistan’s security forces were up to the task: over the past months they had been “in the front lines” and had also successfully secured two rounds of presidential elections.¹²⁷ The representative of Japan said that Afghanistan was at a critical juncture, and that, in the area of security, the drawdown of ISAF would mark a “watershed in Afghanistan’s road to self-reliance”.¹²⁸

On a separate note, the representative of the Russian Federation emphasized that the report of NATO contained “nothing concrete” about what ISAF had actually done in terms of assisting Afghan law enforcement officers in the counter-narcotics area.¹²⁹

At the 7403rd meeting of the Council, on 16 March 2015, several speakers commented on the situation in Afghanistan, following the departure of ISAF. The representative of New Zealand said that it was a critical time for Afghanistan, as the national unity Government sought to establish itself and the country adjusted to what could be described as “post-ISAF realities”, and noted that, in the short term, it would be necessary to help to mitigate the severe economic impacts of the ISAF withdrawal.¹³⁰ The representative of Chad welcomed the end of the transition process, which had allowed the Afghan forces to shoulder full responsibility for national security and had enabled the beginning of the new, non-combat NATO support mission. He called on the Afghan Government and its partners to enhance their vigilance so as to avoid, after the departure of ISAF, a situation such as that in Iraq, in particular given the allegiance of certain groups to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the presence of foreign fighters on Afghan soil.¹³¹

Case 6 The situation in the Central African Republic

At its 7103rd meeting, held on 28 January 2014 in connection with the situation in the Central African Republic, the Council adopted resolution [2134 \(2014\)](#), by which it authorized the European Union to deploy

¹²³ Ibid., para. 24.

¹²⁴ [S/PV.7347](#), p. 9.

¹²⁵ Ibid., p. 19.

¹²⁶ Ibid., p. 22.

¹²⁷ Ibid., p. 32.

¹²⁸ Ibid., p. 29.

¹²⁹ Ibid., p. 21.

¹³⁰ [S/PV.7403](#), pp. 11–12.

¹³¹ Ibid., p. 17.

an operation to support the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA). Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of the Russian Federation expressed the hope that the European Union operation would contribute to the stabilization of the political and social situation and to the protection of civilians in the country. He stated that, given the leading role of MISCA, it would have been “suitable and logical” for the European Union to have entered into a formal agreement with the African Union before the adoption of resolution 2134 (2014), because the Council needed to have all the relevant information on the parameters of future cooperation. He stressed that the resolution of those issues would have a great impact on the effectiveness of the African Union’s activities and the normalization of the situation in the country.¹³² The representative of the European Union emphasized that the end goal of the European Union operation would be to make a contribution, together with MISCA, to the regional and international efforts to protect the most vulnerable populations and to facilitate the movement of civilian stakeholders, adding that this would create conditions conducive to providing humanitarian assistance to those in need. He highlighted the need for close cooperation with partners, in particular with the authorities of the Central African Republic, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations and France, so as to ensure high quality cooperation and complementarity in the efforts undertaken to restore stability in the country.¹³³

¹³² S/PV.7103, p. 2.

¹³³ Ibid., p. 3.

Case 7 Central African region

At the 7171st meeting of the Council, held on 12 May 2014 in connection with the Central African region, the representative of Chile encouraged coordination between the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and the African Union Regional Task Force until the transfer of responsibility from MISCA to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), on 15 September 2014.¹³⁴ The representative of the United States called on MINUSCA to coordinate closely with MISCA, the French and European Union forces, and the African Union Regional Task Force, and urged Member States to support MISCA and the African Union in their efforts to protect civilians alongside France and the European Union.¹³⁵ Similarly, the representative of Luxembourg underlined that coordination between the United Nations, the African Union and the States affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army was essential, as was knowledge-sharing and cooperation between the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and MISCA.¹³⁶

¹³⁴ S/PV.7171, p. 7.

¹³⁵ Ibid., p. 10.

¹³⁶ Ibid., p. 15.

IV. Authorization of enforcement action by regional arrangements

Note

Section IV concerns the practice of the Security Council in utilizing regional and subregional arrangements for enforcement action under its authority, as stipulated under Article 53 of the Charter, not covered under section III above. Cooperation by regional arrangements in the implementation of measures adopted by the Council under Chapter VII, other than the use of force, is also covered in this section. The use of force by peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements during the period under review is covered in detail in section III. The present section is divided into two subsections: (a) decisions concerning the authorization of enforcement action by

regional arrangements; and (b) discussions concerning the authorization of enforcement action and implementation of other Chapter VII measures by regional arrangements.

A. Decisions concerning the authorization of enforcement action by regional arrangements and requests for cooperation in implementation of Chapter VII measures

During the reporting period, the Council did not explicitly refer to Article 53 of the Charter in its decisions.

In 2014, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council reiterated its support to the initiatives taken by the United Nations and the African Union to facilitate regional action against the Lord's Resistance Army in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.¹³⁷

Also acting under Chapter VII, the Council renewed its call upon Member States and regional organizations to take part in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, by deploying naval vessels, arms and military aircraft, by providing basing and logistical support for counter-piracy forces, and by seizing and disposing of boats, vessels, arms and other related equipment used in the commission of piracy and armed robbery at sea, or for which there were reasonable grounds for suspecting such use.¹³⁸ Moreover, the Council twice renewed, for a period of 12 months each time, the authorization granted, including the use of all necessary means, to States and regional organizations cooperating with Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, for which advance notification had been provided by Somali authorities to the Secretary-General.¹³⁹

In connection with the item entitled "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan", acting under Chapter VII, the Council imposed targeted sanctions measures against designated individuals,¹⁴⁰ in cooperation with regional arrangements.¹⁴¹

B. Discussion concerning the authorization of enforcement action by regional arrangements

During the period under review, Council members discussed the role of regional arrangements in connection with enforcement action and other Chapter VII measures in relation to the reports of the

Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan (see case 8).

Case 8 Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

At its 7396th meeting, on 3 March 2015, the Council adopted resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#), by which it imposed targeted sanctions in order to support the search for an inclusive and sustainable peace in South Sudan. After the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Nigeria emphasized that "African leaders were not standing by" while the situation in South Sudan continued to deteriorate, and referred to the efforts of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).¹⁴² On the other hand, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that, in further considering the South Sudan dossier, it would be necessary to "refrain from rash decisions", especially because negotiations between the South Sudanese sides were ongoing, and any comprehensive measure taken by the Council would have to take into account how the truce plan, agreed upon with the African Union at the end of January, was being implemented. He added that the Council's decision to implement sanctions was being taken without a clear and unambiguous signal of support from key African players, IGAD and the Africa Union, which was a break with the "practice" whereby primacy in such matters was given to Africans themselves. He concluded by saying that, given the lack of unified support for sanctions against South Sudan by the African countries, the implementation of a Council sanctions regime might be difficult, which could negatively impact the Council's credibility.¹⁴³

At the 7532nd meeting of the Council, on 9 October 2015, the representative of Angola affirmed that the question of sanctions remained very sensitive, and that the Council would need to address it "with extreme care" in order to avoid creating problems rather than resolving them. He said that the actions of the Council should be in support of the discussions of the African Union Peace and Security Council, as the main partner of the Security Council in matters related to international peace and security and stability in the African continent.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁷ Resolution [2147 \(2014\)](#), para. 30.

¹³⁸ Resolutions [2184 \(2014\)](#), para. 11; and [2246 \(2015\)](#), para. 12.

¹³⁹ Resolutions [2184 \(2014\)](#), para. 13; and [2246 \(2015\)](#), para. 14.

¹⁴⁰ Resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#), paras. 9 and 12. For more information on decisions concerning sanctions measures, see part VII, sect. III.

¹⁴¹ Resolutions [2206 \(2015\)](#), ninth, thirteenth and fifteenth preambular paragraphs and para. 19; [2241 \(2015\)](#), nineteenth preambular paragraph and para. 20; and [2223 \(2015\)](#), eighteenth preambular paragraph and para. 15.

¹⁴² S/PV.7396, p. 3.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

¹⁴⁴ S/PV.7532, p. 5.

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

Note

Section V examines reporting by regional arrangements on their activities in the maintenance of international peace and security within the framework of Article 54 of the Charter, under two headings: (a) decisions concerning reporting by regional arrangements; and (b) discussions concerning reporting by regional arrangements.

A. Decisions concerning reporting by regional arrangements

During the period under review, the Council made no explicit reference to Article 54 of the Charter in its decisions. In resolution 2167 (2014), however, it stressed the need for regional and subregional organizations at all times to keep the Council fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation for the maintenance of international peace and security.¹⁴⁵ In a presidential statement, the Council encouraged regional and subregional organizations involved in peace processes to keep the Council informed of developments, where relevant.¹⁴⁶ Specifically, the Council requested reporting on peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements and on enforcement action undertaken by regional arrangements within the framework of measures adopted by the Council under Chapter VII.

Pursuant to resolution 2120 (2013), in connection with the situation in Afghanistan, the Council had requested the leadership of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to keep the Council regularly informed on the implementation of its mandate, including through quarterly reports. During the period under review, the Council received regular reports from ISAF pursuant to that resolution.¹⁴⁷

In connection with the situation in Somalia, the Council requested the Secretary-General and the African Union to review jointly the impact of the temporary surge authorized in resolution 2124 (2013) and to set out recommendations on next steps in the military campaign by 30 May 2015, taking into due

consideration the political situation in Somalia.¹⁴⁸ By resolutions 2184 (2014) and 2246 (2015), Member States and regional organizations cooperating with Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea were requested to inform the Council and the Secretary-General in nine months of the progress of actions undertaken.¹⁴⁹

By resolution 2134 (2014), the Council requested the European Union to report on the implementation of its mandate in the Central African Republic and to coordinate its reporting with the reporting by the African Union.¹⁵⁰ The Council also requested the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, the European Union operation, the African Union Regional Task Force and the French forces operating in the Central African Republic to report on measures taken in regard to the arms embargo imposed by resolution 2127 (2013), from which they were exempt.¹⁵¹

In connection with the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the European Union and the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were requested to report to the Council on the activity of the European Union Force-Althea and the NATO Headquarters presence, respectively, through the appropriate channels and at least at six-monthly intervals.¹⁵²

During the period under review, on 21 August 2014, by resolution 2171 (2014) the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on actions taken by him to promote and strengthen conflict prevention tools within the United Nations system, including through cooperation with regional and

¹⁴⁸ Resolution 2182 (2014), para. 24.

¹⁴⁹ Resolutions 2184 (2014), para. 30; and 2246 (2015), para. 32. See S/2015/776 of 12 October 2015 and S/2016/843 of 7 October 2016.

¹⁵⁰ Resolution 2134 (2014), para. 45. For a report submitted during the period under review, see S/2014/858 (17 November 2014).

¹⁵¹ Resolutions 2149 (2014), para. 37; 2196 (2015), para. 1 (b); and 2217 (2015), para. 42.

¹⁵² Resolution 2183 (2014), para. 18. For reports submitted during the period under review, see S/2014/187 (27 February 2014); S/2014/531 (14 July 2014); S/2014/702 (11 September 2014); S/2016/299 (14 March 2016); and S/2016/663 (20 July 2016).

¹⁴⁵ Resolution 2167 (2014), para. 1.

¹⁴⁶ S/PRST/2015/22, seventh paragraph.

¹⁴⁷ See S/2014/179 (6 March 2014), S/2014/421 (13 June 2014), S/2014/678 (11 September 2014) and S/2014/856 (24 November 2014).

subregional organizations.¹⁵³ At the end of 2014, the Secretary-General was further requested to present an annual report to the Council on ways to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa.¹⁵⁴

By resolution 2241 (2015), the Council requested the Secretary-General to report within six months on the technical assistance provided to the African Union and to the Transitional Government of National Unity with respect to the implementation of the Agreement

on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.¹⁵⁵ In this regard, the Council subsequently invited the African Union to share information on progress made with the Secretary-General to inform his report.¹⁵⁶

Table 3 lists all decisions adopted during the period under review in connection with the obligation to keep the Council informed of activities undertaken by regional arrangements for the maintenance of international peace and security.

¹⁵³ Resolution 2171 (2014), para. 25. The report was submitted on 27 July 2015 (S/2015/580).

¹⁵⁴ S/PRST/2014/27, last paragraph.

¹⁵⁵ Resolution 2241 (2015), para. 30.

¹⁵⁶ Resolutions 2241 (2015), para. 30; and 2252 (2015), para. 28.

Table 3

Decisions concerning reporting of activities by regional arrangements, 2014–2015

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Reporting from</i>
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security	S/PRST/2014/27 16 December 2014	last paragraph	Secretary-General
Maintenance of international peace and security	Resolution 2171 (2014) 21 August 2014	para. 25	Secretary-General
	S/PRST/2015/22 25 November 2015	seventh paragraph	Regional and subregional organizations, Secretary General
United Nations peacekeeping operations	Resolution 2167 (2014) 28 July 2014	para. 1	Regional and subregional organizations
The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Resolution 2183 (2014) 11 November 2014	para. 18	Member States acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, Member States acting through or in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134(2014) 28 January 2014	para. 45	European Union
	Resolution 2149 (2014) 10 April 2014	para. 37	African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), European Union operation, African Union Regional Task Force, French forces
	Resolution 2196 (2015) 22 January 2015	para. 1 (b)	MISCA, MINUSCA, European Union operation, African Union Regional Task Force, French forces
	Resolution 2217 (2015) 28 April 2015	para. 42	MISCA, MINUSCA, European Union operation, African Union Regional Task Force, French forces

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Reporting from</i>
The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2182 (2014) 24 October 2014	para. 24	Secretary-General, African Union
	Resolution 2184 (2014) 12 November 2014	para. 30	Member States, regional organizations
	Resolution 2246 (2015) 10 November 2015	para. 32	Member States, regional organizations
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2241 (2015) 9 October 2015	para. 30	Secretary-General, African Union
	Resolution 2252 (2015) 15 December 2015	para. 28	African Union

B. Discussion concerning reporting by regional arrangements

During the period under review, no reference was made to Article 54 of the Charter in any of the discussions held during the meetings of the Council. At some meetings, Council members did nevertheless refer to information-sharing by regional arrangements, and other kinds of reports to the Council.

At the 7117th meeting of the Council, on 24 February 2014, under the item entitled “Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe”, the representative of Nigeria said that, since transnational crimes were not limited by territorial boundaries, combating them required complete cooperation. He urged the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

Europe (OSCE) to continue to create opportunities for cooperation and information exchanges with regional security agencies, including the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa.¹⁵⁷ At the 7391st meeting, held on 24 February 2015 in connection with the same item, the representative of New Zealand said with respect to the situation in Ukraine that, in the absence of mandated reporting from the ground by the Secretary-General, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission was best placed to provide accurate reporting on the implementation of the ceasefire, and was an important source of information which enabled the Council to remain properly seized of the situation.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁷ S/PV.7117, p. 14.

¹⁵⁸ S/PV.7391, p. 10.