

Statement by Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative, Open Debate on “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security” at the United Nations Security Council on August 06, 2013

Thank you, Madam President.

Let me begin by congratulating you on presiding over this high-level meeting of the Security Council. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security is an important and topical issue. We commend the concept note prepared by the delegation of Argentina on the subject.

2. India supports the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as their cooperation with the United Nations under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. Article 54 of the Charter enjoins upon these organizations to keep the Security Council fully informed of their activities for maintenance of international peace and security.

We, therefore, welcome the participation of, and briefings by, representatives of various regional organizations in this meeting today.

3. Madam President, The Charter provides a broad framework for the UN’s cooperation with the regional organizations, while clearly underscoring the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

4. It is important to underline here that cooperation of the United Nations, particularly of this Council, with regional organizations should be in full compliance with all other provisions of the UN Charter. The principles of national sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity must be respected. It is important that peculiarities of each situation are kept in mind. Also, cooperation with one regional organization should not come at the cost of another.

5. We believe that the objective of peaceful resolution of conflicts should imbue the actions of the United Nations, in general, and of the Security Council, in particular. It is important that member-states guide all UN activities, including its cooperation with regional organizations.

6. While acting under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, regional and sub-regional organizations should make every effort to assist their member-states to achieve pacific settlement of disputes, in cooperation with the UN, as appropriate. Such cooperation should encompass all relevant issues related to international peace and security, including the fight against terrorism.

7. Madam President, as many as two-thirds of the active items on the Security Council’s agenda concern Africa. About three-fourth of the Council’s time is spent on African issues. It would, therefore, be no exaggeration to say that the success of this

Council's cooperation with regional organizations will be determined in significant measure by its cooperation with the African Union. In this connection, it is important for the Council to listen to Africa and its organizations so that the Council's activities are not only based on Africa's needs but also complement the efforts of African countries and organizations.

8. We think that such an important partnership should be based on long-term strategic and operational perspectives taking into consideration the complementarity of strengths of the UN and the African Union. Our focus should be on capacity-building of the African Union's peace and security architecture so that the AU becomes a more effective and capable partner of the UN system.

9. In conclusion, Madam President, we reiterate that there is a pressing need for further strengthening the existing capacity of the UN system to help regional and sub-regional organizations in order to significantly ensure the maintenance of international peace and security.

I thank you.

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