

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

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”. Two of the meetings took the form of briefings and one was an open debate.⁶¹⁷ The Council did not adopt any decisions. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

On 18 July 2018, the Council held a meeting to consider the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union gave a briefing to the Council on the collaboration between the two organizations. She focused on three aspects of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union.⁶¹⁸ Firstly, with regard to the complex peace and security challenges facing Africa, she stated that the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union was a necessity, while recognizing also the critical role played by subregional organizations. Secondly, regarding the need for partnership and recognizing the imperative of even closer collaboration with the African Union, she noted that the increasing number of joint missions, joint briefings, joint reports and declarations and joint messages illustrated progress in that sense. Concerning conflict prevention, she called for more joint analyses and assessments and for the two organizations to align their early warning indicators. Thirdly, regarding the issues of predictable and sustainable financing for peace support operations of the African Union, she affirmed that it was essential that they be framed within the context of a common political strategy.⁶¹⁹ The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union highlighted the significant progress made in the partnership between the two organizations and the coherence in their decision-making. He focused on the commitment to enhance collaboration,

cooperation and coordination and made reference to the agreement to enhance consultations prior to decision-making. He noted, however, that despite the progress achieved, challenges remained, particularly with regard to the relationship between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Security Council: more work was needed to achieve greater coherence and coordination when dealing with crisis situations. He also recalled the consistent advocacy of the African Union for predictable and sustainable financing through United Nations-assessed contributions for African Union-led peace operations and expressed his hope that the meeting would serve as impetus for the Council to move forward in that regard.⁶²⁰ Also at the meeting, speakers noted the strengthening of the collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union and expressed support for the Council’s consideration of increased funding for the peace operations of the African Union.⁶²¹ In addition, some speakers made reference to the need to enhance cooperation in the area of conflict prevention and resolution.⁶²²

On 5 September 2018, the Council held a meeting, for the first time under the item, in relation to the situation in Nicaragua. At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Chief of Staff to the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the efforts that the General Secretariat of OAS had undertaken in Nicaragua and on the situation from the perspective of a regional organization. He reported on the consequences of the crisis, as well as on the actions taken by the various organs of OAS to address the crisis since 18 April 2018. He asserted that there could not be a genuine solution for Nicaragua without heeding the voice of its people through the holding of free, fair, democratic and transparent elections. In that regard, he reiterated the invitation of the General Secretariat to the Government of Nicaragua to resume and accelerate the work to ensure the completion of

⁶¹⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁶¹⁸ S/2018/678.

⁶¹⁹ S/PV.8314, pp. 2–4.

⁶²⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 4–5.

⁶²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 6 (Sweden), p. 9 (Netherlands), pp. 10–11 (Plurinational State of Bolivia), pp. 11–12 (Kuwait), pp. 13–14 (Russian Federation), p. 15 (China), p. 16 (Poland), p. 17 (United Kingdom), p. 18 (France) and p. 19 (Kazakhstan).

⁶²² *Ibid.*, p. 6 (Sweden), p. 8 (Equatorial Guinea), p. 10 (Plurinational State of Bolivia), p. 12 (Kuwait), p. 14 (Peru), p. 16 (Poland), p. 17 (United Kingdom) and p. 19 (Kazakhstan).

electoral reforms by January 2019.⁶²³ Also at the meeting, Council members expressed differing views about the holding of the meeting.⁶²⁴ While some argued that the internal crisis in the country posed no threat to international peace and security and called for respect for sovereignty and for refraining from interfering in domestic affairs,⁶²⁵ other Council members maintained that considering the situation in Nicaragua was consistent with the primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.⁶²⁶ Council members further recognized the

key role played by regional organizations in that regard.⁶²⁷

On 6 December 2018, the Council held an open debate on the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts further to the concept note circulated by Côte d'Ivoire.⁶²⁸ At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States.⁶²⁹ The Secretary-General stated that, for the United Nations, prevention was an end in itself and should never be seen as the instrument of any other political agenda. He noted that prevention saved lives and made economic sense. He also focused on collaboration by the United Nations with regional organizations and on the key role played by them in implementing a global multidimensional strategy to meet the challenges ahead.⁶³⁰

⁶²³ S/PV.8340, pp. 2–3.

⁶²⁴ For more information on discussions concerning the agenda, see part II, sect. II.C.

⁶²⁵ S/PV.8340, pp. 6–7 (Russian Federation), p. 7 (Kuwait), p. 14 (Kazakhstan), p. 15 (Ethiopia), pp. 16–17 (Plurinational State of Bolivia) and p. 18 (China). For further details on the discussion, see part VIII, sect. I.B, “Discussions on thematic issues concerning the interpretation and application of Chapter VIII of the Charter”.

⁶²⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 8–9 (United Kingdom), p. 10 (France), p. 11 (Netherlands) and p. 19 (United States). For further details on the discussion, see part VIII, sect. I.B.

⁶²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 7 (Kuwait), p. 8 (United Kingdom), p. 9 (Peru), p. 11 (Netherlands), p. 13 (Poland) and p. 15 (Sweden).

⁶²⁸ S/2018/1064, annex.

⁶²⁹ See S/PV.8414.

⁶³⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 2–4.

Meetings: cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8314 18 July 2018	African Union Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2018/678)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union	13 Council members, ^a all invitees	

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8340 5 September 2018	The situation in Nicaragua		Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Chief of Staff to the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, civil society leader and former Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence of Nicaragua	All Council members, all invitees ^b	
S/PV.8414 6 December 2018	The role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts Letter dated 28 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/1064)		42 invitees ^c	Chairperson of the African Union Commission, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, Acting Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members, ^d all invitees ^e	

^a Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Equatorial Guinea, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, United States and United Kingdom. Sweden (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. Equatorial Guinea spoke also on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia.

^b Nicaragua was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^c Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

^d Côte d'Ivoire was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^e Ireland was represented by its Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. Norway spoke on behalf of the five Nordic countries; and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Acting Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.