

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: DSG,

Please find attached for your approval the draft biennial report of the SG on “United Nations cooperation with regional and other organizations”, which will be submitted to the GA and the SC.

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Political Unit
31 July 2014

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Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS COOPERATION
WITH REGIONAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

1. Please find attached, for the Secretary-General's approval, the draft biennial report of the Secretary-General on "United Nations cooperation with regional and other organizations", which will be submitted to the General Assembly and the Security Council.
2. This report is prepared further to a number of General Assembly resolutions adopted in 2013 and 2014 on United Nations cooperation with specific regional organizations. Only those organizations listed under item 125 of the provisional agenda of the 69th session of the General Assembly (A/69/50) are included in the report.
3. As in its previous two versions, this report will also be submitted to the Security Council, which in 2008 requested the Secretary-General to "include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations" [Resolution 1809 (2008)]. More recently, in 2013, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to include, in this biennial report, recommendations on ways to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and sub-regional organizations.
4. All United Nations Departments, Agencies, Funds and Programmes as well as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were requested to provide inputs for this report on their cooperation with regional and sub-regional actors. Over 25 entities provided information. The only regional organization for which we received no inputs was the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization
5. The report presents factual information on ongoing collaboration with our regional partners and does not contain any sensitive analysis or commentary.
6. The deadline for submission of this report to DGACM for editing and translation is 1 August 2014.


Jeffrey Feltman
28 July 2014

cc: Ms. Malcorra

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TO SG/GENERAL

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Jan Eliasson

Date:

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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
African Union

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Caribbean Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Collective Security Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Council of Europe

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Economic Community of Central African States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Eurasian Economic Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the
International Organization of la Francophonie

Security Council

* Reissued for technical reasons on 21 October 2010.

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the
League of Arab States**

**Cooperation between the United Nations
and the Organization for the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons**

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Organization for Security and Cooperation
in Europe**

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Organization of American States**

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Organization of the Islamic Cooperation**

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Pacific Islands Forum**

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive
Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the
Southern African Development Community**

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is prepared pursuant to the most recent requests of the General Assembly that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of the above referenced resolutions at its sixty-ninth session. As requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 4 (l) of the annex to its resolution 58/316, this is a consolidated report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.

The present report covers the period since the most recent consolidated report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations was issued on 9 August 2012 (A/67/280 - S/2012/614).

In its resolution 1809 (2008), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. In its Presidential Statement of 6 August 2012, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to include, in this report, recommendations on ways to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations.

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I. Introduction

1. Section II of the present report has been prepared pursuant to the most recent resolutions in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the cooperation between the United Nations and a number of regional and other organizations.
2. In its resolution 1809 (2008), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. In its Presidential Statement of 6 August 2012, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to include, in this report, recommendations on ways to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations.
3. The activities and achievements described in this report demonstrate the depth of cooperation achieved between the United Nations and its regional partners across the full range of mandate areas, from the maintenance of international peace and security and humanitarian assistance to development and the protection of human rights.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

African Union (AU)

4. The Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council held their seventh and eighth annual consultative meetings in 2013 and 2014. The UN-AU Joint Task Force on Peace and Security continues to meet twice a year, contributing to efforts by both organizations to develop a common understanding of the causes and drivers of conflict in Africa and promote joint approaches to resolve those conflicts.
5. In the past two years, the AU, supported by the United Nations, deployed two new peace support operations: AFISMA in Mali and MISCA in the Central African Republic. UNOAU provides critical support to planning and managing the start-up, deployment and operation of those missions, as well as to ensuring more effective communication between the AU and the UN in preparing for an eventual hand-over of these missions to the UN. UNOAU has placed additional emphasis on making its collaboration with the AU more systematic and sustained through all stages of the conflict cycle. This includes a renewed focus on strengthening the UN-AU partnership in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention and mediation, including through enhanced exchange of information and joint analysis, and systematic engagement towards coordinated, timely and effective action based on the principles of added value and complementarity. UNOAU has also continued to provide support to the AU in the operationalization of the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework and has enhanced its engagement on the Continental Early Warning System. The United Nations continues to provide electoral advice and support to the AU's Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit through UNOAU.
6. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), which is the focal point for United Nations efforts in the fight against the Lord's Resistance

Army (LRA), has worked closely with the AU towards the implementation of the United Nations regional strategy on the LRA and has supported the AU's Regional Cooperation Initiative against the LRA.

7. In November 2013, the UN, the AU, the EU, the World Bank and the African Development Bank **undertook** their first joint visit to the Sahel, a first step towards providing more effective and targeted support to the region. On the margins of the joint visit, Ministers from the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb regions agreed to establish a regional mechanism to enhance coordination, mobilize resources and prioritize regional initiatives. The mechanism is supported by a Technical Secretariat co-chaired by the AU and the UN.

8. In Somalia, UNOAU contributed to enhancing the ability of AMISOM to address the situation. DFS delivers the logistic support package to AMISOM through the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia. With the establishment of the UN Assistance Mission to Somalia in June 2013, cooperation with AMISOM on the ground has been strengthened, at the strategic and operational level.

9. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Sudan and South Sudan, has provided technical and advisory support to AU High-Level Implementation Panel on the negotiation between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, which has led to the signing of agreements on 27 September 2012 and the subsequent operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism on 16 June 2014.

10. In Guinea Bissau, the AU and the CPLP have been key UN partners in efforts to restore constitutional order following the coup d'état of 12 April 2012.

11. The United Nations and the AU are partners in the implementation of the African Solidarity Initiative, and have initiated a dialogue on coherent strategies to sustain international attention to the peacebuilding needs in three countries on the Peacebuilding Commission's agenda: Burundi, CAR and Guinea-Bissau.

12. The UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament provided substantive advice to the Steering Committee on the implementation of the AU Strategy on the Control of the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the AU Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Capacity Building Programme. The Centre also provided support to African Member States in their preparations of the 5th Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action.

13. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the AU for the development of policies and tools, notably the transitional justice policy framework, the aide-mémoire on protection of civilians, and the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration operational guidelines. OHCHR also provided technical advice on setting up commissions of inquiry in line with relevant international standards, further to the AU Peace and Security Council's establishment of a commission of inquiry in South Sudan.

14. OHCHR facilitated interaction between the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and between the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. The special procedures of the Human Rights Council and of the African Commission on Human

and Peoples' Rights continued to strengthen their collaboration under the framework of the Addis Ababa Roadmap.

15. UNODC is supporting the AU Commission to implement the Plan of Action on Drug Control 2013-2018, which was adopted by the AU Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Addis Ababa in October 2012.

16. In 2013, the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict signed a declaration of intent with the AU's Peace and Security Department setting out joint priorities to enhance the mainstreaming of child protection within AU's policies and operations.

17. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) has supported the AU Commission, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in their task to improve international trade statistics in Africa. Among other events, a Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics was organized in May 2014 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

18. ECA provided capacity development support to the AU in the elaboration of its 50-year development vision, the AU Agenda 2063, including the establishment of baselines, preparation of perspective studies and forecasts. ECA coordinates UN system-wide support to Agenda 2063.

19. ECA collaborated with the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Secretariat and other regional stakeholders to increase the number of countries that acceded to the APRM process. Technical support was provided for the integration of National Programme of Actions arising from the APRM process into national plans and development strategies. In 2014, the 15th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa was co-chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and the AU Chairperson.

20. IAEA works closely with the African Energy Commission on developing energy planning capabilities, including in nuclear power. IAEA supports the African Union Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign and collaborates with the AU's Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre on the Joint FAO-IAEA Animal Production and Health Subprogramme.

21. FAO provides technical assistance, capacity development, human resource and programme funding in the agriculture and food security sectors, most notably with the AU's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency. In 2013, FAO partnered with the AU in a project on a "Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025".

22. UNCTAD is working with the AU to increase intra-African trade and support the establishment of the continental free trade agreement. UNCTAD organized a visit by the AU Commission to its headquarters to strengthen statistical capacity in the areas of international merchandise and services trade statistics; Foreign Direct Investment statistics; production of statistical publication; and data collection.

23. UNDP collaborates with the AU in the preparation of the annual progress report on the MDGs in Africa and provided support to the AU High-Level Committee in articulating its Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda. UNDP supported the development of the African Charter on the Principles and Values of Public Service and Administration as an anti-corruption strategy for the public service.

24. UNEP and the AU, through the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, work jointly to support ministerial forums such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Ministers' Council on Water. UNEP assisted the development of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, in close cooperation with the NEPAD Secretariat and the AU.

25. WMO supported the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology, which convenes every two years to discuss matters related to the development of meteorology and its applications.

26. DPI disseminates information about NEPAD's objectives and achievements, such as in the celebrations of the annual Africa Week at the United Nations and a commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the APRM.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

27. Following the "Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations", adopted at the 4th UN-ASEAN Summit in 2011, the first formal review was conducted in 2013. The two Secretariats produced a joint report on the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership and made recommendations to ASEAN Member States.

28. At the 5th ASEAN-UN Summit held in 2013, the two entities proposed two concrete outcomes: drafting a Roadmap for the ASEAN-UN partnership in 2014-2015 and enhancing liaison functions with each other. Two ASEAN-UN workshops were held in 2013 and 2014, on "Conflict Prevention and Preventive Diplomacy" and "Conflict Prevention and Maintenance of Peace and Stability in Multi-cultural and Pluralistic Societies". DPA continued to convene yearly Secretariat-to-Secretariat dialogues between the two organizations, and also convened the first ASEAN-UN Senior Officials Meeting in 2013.

29. The Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide has held yearly consultations since 2010 with ASEAN and some of its Member States. In 2013, the Office attended the General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. In March 2014, the Office organized a seminar with ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights. The Office has also engaged with representatives of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

30. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific contributed to the ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on United Nations Security Council **Resolution** 1540 implementation, held in Bangkok in May 2013.

31. The UNSD and ASEAN organized an International Seminar on Trade and Tourism Statistics in October 2013 in Jakarta, aimed at enhancing the knowledge of countries in Asia on various areas related to trade and tourism.

32. In November 2013, ASEAN participated in the Regional Forum on Transboundary Fire Management organized by ECE and FAO. Experts from ASEAN have participated in ECE capacity-building events on issues related to regional cooperation in trade facilitation and the Single Window.

33. ESCAP convenes the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, which coordinates the UN system's collaboration with ASEAN on a number of issues. A thematic working group worked with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management and the ASEAN Secretariat on the development of the ASEAN-UN

Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management (2011-2015). ESCAP also works closely with ASEAN in the areas of transport linkages between the countries in the region, connectivity and technological infrastructure, energy security and efficiency, climate change, food and water security.

34. UNCTAD has assisted ASEAN in identifying key activities to strengthen regional investment cooperation and to realize the investment objectives of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

35. The IMF prepared background materials for the 2012, 2013 and 2014 ASEAN Financial Integration Monitoring Reports and delivered technical briefings at ASEAN Financial Integration Working Committee meetings on capital market development and capital account liberalization in Myanmar in February 2014.

36. UNEP has been working with the ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism to develop a joint United Nations-ASEAN roadmap for cooperation as agreed at the ASEAN-UN Summit in October 2013. UNEP, in cooperation with ASEAN, has organized the annual ASEAN +3 Leadership programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production. UNEP and ASEAN are also supporting the policy dialogue on Sustainable Consumption and Production via the ASEAN Forum on this topic.

37. Under the auspices of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, WFP supports ASEAN's plan to grow into an efficient regional responder. WFP has dispatched ASEAN operational support equipment and relief items in response to earthquakes in Myanmar and the Philippines, monsoon floods in Cambodia, and most recently in response to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in the Philippines.

38. ASEAN and the WHO Regional Offices for South-East Asia and the Western Pacific are in the process for signature of a renewed joint Memorandum of Understanding 2014-2017. ASEAN and WHO collaborate through a number of different forums, in particular the ASEAN Mechanisms for Health Cooperation, ASEAN Senior Officials on Health Development, ASEAN Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and the ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety.

39. In 2012, FAO and ASEAN formalized a Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry. FAO collaborates with ASEAN on food security and sustainable agriculture. In 2013-2014, FAO's cooperation with ASEAN focused on the development of a new Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security (2015-2019) and on the development of a Post-2015 ASEAN Vision, Goal and Objectives for Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC)

40. DPA continued to follow the priorities of successive BSEC chairmanships related to promoting greater regional cooperation, development and prosperity across the Black Sea region.

41. ECE cooperates with BSEC in a number of transportation-related areas, including border crossing procedures, the TIR Convention, and the standardization and implementation of the international vehicle weight certificates. ECE and BSEC have organized a regional seminar on trade facilitation and promoting best practices in Port Community Systems/Single Window in the Black Sea area.

42. UNEP works closely with BSEC to enhance the current structure of environmental governance in the Black Sea region, and to integrate environmental considerations into national and regional policy dialogue. UNEP facilitates environmental discussions between Member States and offers expertise on transboundary issues of concern.

43. The FAO Director-General visited the BSEC Headquarters in 2012. The two entities started drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with technical areas for collaboration, including agricultural development and food security, food safety for trade facilitation, consumer protection, and harmonization within the BSEC region. FAO participates as an observer in the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

44. The Seventh General Meeting between CARICOM and the United Nations system was held in New York in July 2013, with the participation of both Secretaries-General. The meeting reviewed the progress made in implementing the new Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean-led mechanism and discussed issues identified as priorities by the CARICOM Secretariat. Among the thematic priorities discussed were climate change, Small Island Developing States, the post-2015 development agenda, citizen security and transnational organized crime, as well as agricultural development, and NCDs.

45. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin American and Caribbean cooperated with CARICOM in implementing the Caribbean Assistance Programme on Strengthening the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

46. In April 2014, UNODC launched a Regional Programme 2014-2016 in support of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy, developed by the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS). An UNODC-IMPACS Memorandum of Understanding was signed to facilitate collaboration between the two entities.

47. UNDP collaborated with CARICOM in coordinating 13 national consultations with SIDS on issues such as debt, fiscal crises, and youth unemployment, producing inputs for the Third International Conference on SIDS. UNDP also provided support for the preparation of a best practices manual to manage free and fair elections in the Caribbean Community.

48. The UNSD intensified its cooperation with CARICOM in the areas of national accounts, integrated economic statistics, international trade and tourism statistics as well as environment statistics. UNSD and CARICOM organized a training workshop on compilation issues of Travel and Tourism Statistics for the Caribbean countries in 2013, as well as statistical seminars on the System of National Accounts 2008 and on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in 2014.

49. In 2013, ECLAC supported Caribbean Forum and the Caribbean preparatory meeting for the above referenced Third International Conference on SIDS. ECLAC cooperated with CARICOM in a number of other meetings, such as the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the

CARICOM High Level Ministerial Meeting on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean.

50. CARICOM is a member of the IMF's Steering Committee of the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre and provides input into the Fund's technical assistance program for the region.

51. UNEP participates in the Council for Trade and Economic Development on Environment and Sustainable Development meetings, and facilitates the work of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean. UNEP is implementing the European Community Programme on Capacity building for Multilateral Environment Agreements, in which the CARICOM Secretariat is the Regional Hub for the Caribbean.

52. WFP and ILO have coordinated the United Nations system's support to CARICOM in the area of human security. A project proposal has been prepared on "Acceleration of Human Development in the Caribbean", seeking to develop a regional human security observatory for CARICOM Member States.

53. In November 2012, the CARICOM Secretariat requested FAO's technical assistance to strengthen the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency in the areas of plant and animal health and food safety. FAO and the Chile International Cooperation Agency agreed to diagnose the state of food safety in CARICOM countries and developing a series of recommendations.

54. DPI, CARICOM and the AU collaborated for the 2013 and 2014 commemorations of the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Commemorative activities included a Global Student Videoconference. In addition, DPI regularly highlights on its news platforms cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community.

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

55. As a follow up to the first DPA visit to the CSTO Secretariat Headquarters in late 2012, jointly organized with DPKO, DPA organized and supported a series of high-level visits, meetings and discussions between various UN departments and CSTO counterparts working on issues related to peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, Afghanistan, mediation, etc. This series of meetings culminated in 2013 in the first DPA-CSTO VTC Dialogue, which discussed deepening expert-level cooperation on key issues of mutual interest including conflict prevention, early warning and capacity building in the Eurasian region.

56. Furthermore, the Secretary-General met with the Secretary-General of CSTO in the margins of the 67th session of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General welcomed the progress in enhancing practical cooperation between the two Secretariats with the recent launch of the UN-CSTO Dialogue and the finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation on peacekeeping-related issues between the DPKO and the CSTO.

57. In Central Asia, the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy continued to engage and meet regularly with the CSTO, with the CSTO also frequently participating in the Regional Centre's activities.

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP)

58. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, in partnership with the AU, maintained close cooperation with the CPLP to support international efforts to assist Guinea-Bissau in addressing political challenges and to conduct a peaceful political transition.

59. UNODC supported activities related to the adoption of the Declaration and Action Plan on the Establishment of Common Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption by Civil Servant Agents in International Commercial Transactions as well as the Declaration and Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons, which were signed in 2013. UNODC was one of the partners of the first International Conference on Drug Policies in African Portuguese-Speaking Countries, held in 2014.

60. The United Nations Radio Portuguese Unit facilitated coverage of issues of concern to the United Nations and the CPLP. The United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels holds "Cine-ONU" in Lisbon, in partnership with the Portuguese NGO platform and the CPLP Secretariat. In January 2013, a session was dedicated to the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Council of Europe (CoE)

61. In the margins of the first World Forum for Democracy in 2012, the Secretary-General met with the CoE Secretary-General to exchange views on how to strengthen further cooperation on democracy, as well as developments in the Middle East and North Africa and the situation of Roma, minorities and migrants in Europe. During their meeting in Brussels held in early 2014, they discussed the engagement of both institutions in Ukraine.

62. The UNSD has served as a member of the Steering Committee and the Management Group of the International Monitoring Operation on the Population and Housing Censuses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, established by the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

63. In 2012, the CoE participated in the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Vienna. The ECE Population Unit and the CoE's Committee for Social Cohesion participated in the Human Rights Council's Social Forum in April 2014. The CoE, through its European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement, is a key partner in the Team of Specialists on Forest Fires and has funded the establishment of Regional Fire Monitoring Centres in Southeast Europe, the Caucasus, and in Eastern Europe.

64. In September 2013, OHCHR and the CoE Secretariat signed a Joint Declaration defining a general framework to enhance their cooperation through consultations, exchange of information and joint activities at the country level. OHCHR and the CoE held an annual coordination meeting in November 2013.

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

65. In 2012, UNOCA and ECCAS signed a framework of cooperation agreement that defines the priority areas of this partnership, such as political governance,

mediation support, the fight against the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, and the reinforcement of institutional capacity. In an effort to reinvigorate their partnership in light of new developments and challenges facing the sub-region, the aforementioned framework of cooperation is currently being reviewed and should be finalized shortly.

66. In 2013, UNOCA worked closely with Central African States and ECCAS in convening the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea to develop a regional anti-piracy strategy. UNOCA is currently supporting the operationalization of the strategy and of the Interregional Coordination Centre on Maritime Safety and Security for Central and West Africa.

67. Since assuming the secretariat functions of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee for security questions in Central Africa in 2011, UNOCA has been working closely with ECCAS in the preparation of the biannual ministerial meetings. The United Nations supports the ECCAS-led mediation in the Central African Republic.

68. The UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa is cooperating with ECCAS in developing a legislation guide to support ECCAS Member States in harmonizing their national legislation with the Kinshasa Convention on small arms and light weapons and the Arms Trade Treaty. The Centre substantively contributed to a workshop on border control and small arms and light weapons organised by CTITF for countries in the region.

69. In March 2014, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's Central African Republic configuration visited Bangui to consult with representatives of ECCAS, as well as other key stakeholders.

70. FAO is supporting ECCAS in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme in seven of its Member States.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

71. The UNSD and ECO Secretariat organized training workshops in the area of national accounts and integrated economic statistics. This included, a Training Workshop on the System of National Accounts 2008 held in 2012 for ECO Member States and a regional seminar on the System of National Accounts 2008 held in 2013.

72. In 2014, the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) and the ECO Secretariat organized the first regional workshop on harnessing climate change financing for sustainable forest management. The UNFFS, ECO and FAO will support the development of a regional strategy in this area.

73. ECO is an active partner of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport. ECO was involved in the reactivation of the ECE's TIR convention in Afghanistan and is actively promoting TIR in Pakistan.

74. ECO participated in the ESCAP Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Transport Connectivity among South and South-West Asian Countries held in 2013, and the First Meeting of the Regional Network of Legal and Technical Experts on Transport Facilitation in 2014. In 2013, ESCAP visited the ECO Secretariat to discuss transport facilitation issues in railway transport and the implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement.

Eurasian Economic Community (EEC)

75. Under its Memorandum of Understanding with the EEC, the ECE has been working on trade facilitation and the Single Window. In 2013-2014, two conferences, one seminar and six advisory missions took place. As a result, the Integrated Information System for Mutual and Foreign Trade was developed, and a second edition of the English-Russian Glossary of Trade Facilitation Terms was published.

76. A Memorandum of Understanding between the secretariats of ESCAP, ECE and the EEC Integration Committee was signed in 2013. The agreement focuses on strengthening cooperation between the EEC Secretariat and the two regional commissions to promote internationally agreed development goals. EEC participates in projects undertaken by the two regional commissions in areas such as water, energy and trade.

77. The IMF works with the Eurasian Development Bank on country work with some Member States (e.g., Armenia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan). In addition, IMF has made initial contacts with the Eurasian Commission on issues related to the Eurasian Customs Union and the formation of a Eurasian Single Economic Space from 2015.

78. UNCTAD cooperates with the EEC on non-tariff measures. Two working meetings in this connection took place in 2014.

79. A joint FAO-EEC Round Table on Food Security and Trade in the Region was held in 2013. The Round Table concluded with a set of recommendations on potential area of collaboration between FAO and EEC. A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between FAO and EEC was signed in 2013.

International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF)

80. The United Nations and the IOF coordinated their good offices and mediation efforts in several countries, including Mali and the Central African Republic. In the Central African Republic, the Mediator and the IOF Special Envoy consulted closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. DPA also worked with IOF at the technical level to reinforce cooperation and increase information sharing and exchange of best practices.

81. In December 2013, the UN participated in the Junior Professional Francophone meeting convened at the IOF headquarters, which discussed the establishment of a network of experts focusing on peace, security and development challenges facing countries on the IOF's agenda. In June 2014, a follow-up meeting was convened by the Permanent Observation Office of the OIF to discuss ways to enhance collaboration and **synergy** with the Secretariat on issues of common interest.

82. In 2013, OHCHR and the IOF renewed their cooperation agreement for 2014-2015. The agreement included support to French-speaking countries' engagement with the Universal Periodic Review and other human rights mechanisms, and implementation of projects, particularly in the areas of anti-discrimination, the rule of law and transitional justice. In 2013, eight projects were implemented in the framework of the agreement.

83. As part of the "Remember Slavery" commemoration, DPI, IOF and the Bureau de la Martinique organized a poetry recital to honour the 100th anniversary of the birth of Aimé Césaire in 2013. DPI and the IOF also cooperated on a number of other cultural events throughout the period, including in a series of annual roundtable discussions on multilingualism.

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)

84. SELA participated in a Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide workshop organized by ECE in cooperation with ECLAC in 2013. ECE was invited by SELA to participate in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting on International Trade Single Windows in Mexico in 2013.

85. The IMF participated in a meeting of experts organized by SELA entitled "Debt Burden and Fiscal Sustainability in the Caribbean Region" in 2013.

86. In 2012, WFP participated in the XXIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors of Latin America and the Caribbean: Cooperation on Regional Food Security, organized by SELA, IICA and FAO.

League of Arab States (LAS)

87. The United Nations and the LAS have taken steps to review of their overall cooperation. DPA implements a project to help the LAS develop its capacity in conflict prevention and resolution, mediation and elections, particularly. This is achieved through staff visits, teleconferences and communication exchanges. Cooperation in the political, humanitarian, economic and social fields was discussed during the UN-LAS general cooperation meeting in June 2014. A new Matrix of cooperation was adopted to guide joint activities in the next biennium.

88. In the past two years, DPA, in cooperation with UNDP, has strengthened its electoral partnership with the LAS, including through BRIDGE trainings on electoral matters and technical advice for the establishment of LAS electoral databases.

89. The annual discussions between the UN and the LAS regularly address the issue of counter-terrorism, in order to ensure enhanced cooperation and coordination of CTITF's counter-terrorism activities.

90. ODA participated in three consultative meetings with the LAS and Member States regarding the Helsinki Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. A number of LAS Member States participated in regional workshops, including in Pretoria (2012), Addis Ababa (2013) and Astana (2014). In June 2013, the LAS Secretariat and ODA held a two-day joint conference for LAS small arms focal points.

91. UNRWA cooperates with the LAS on various areas. In September 2013, the Secretary-General and the LAS Secretary-General co-chaired a Special Meeting of a Group of Supporters of UNRWA in the margins of the General Assembly, which focused on consolidating Arab countries' contributions to the UNRWA regular budget. A LAS delegation visited Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon in January 2013 as part of a fact-finding tour of areas affected by the Syria crisis. The LAS

hosts an annual high level strategic meeting in Cairo of Directors of Education and other officials and civil society representatives from UNRWA's host states.

92. UNODC and the LAS cooperate within the framework of the Regional Programme for the Arab States 2011-2015. In addition to promoting the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, UNODC has focused on international and regional cooperation to combat transnational organized crime in North Africa and the Middle East.

93. ECE and the LAS Centre of Water Studies and Arab Water Security organized a workshop on legal frameworks for cooperation on transboundary waters in 2014. The Arab Ministerial Water Council adopted a resolution in June 2013 inviting the Center to cooperate with ECE on a workshop to discuss the ECE Water Convention.

94. The IMF works with the Arab Monetary Fund on regional policy coordination, training, Arab Statistics and Arab debt markets.

95. OHCHR provided technical advice on the modalities of the Arab Court of Human Rights which were adopted at the Arab summit in Doha, in March 2013. Furthermore, OHCHR has been supporting the LAS to strengthen its human rights mechanisms. In 2014, OHCHR and the LAS organised a regional conference on the promotion and protection of human rights in the Arab Region.

96. UNDP assisted the LAS in the establishment of a Regional Crisis Response Centre and Early Warning System. UNDP also supports the Aid for Trade regional project, launched in 2012 to support institutional capacity building of the LAS Secretariat Economic Integration Department. UNDP, ESCWA, and UNEP co-chaired the LAS-UN consultations on Economic, Social, and Cultural Affairs, which resulted in an agreement on joint activities for 2013-2014.

97. UNEP works with the LAS, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region. Under the UNEP-LAS memorandum of understanding, UNEP contributes to the implementation of the follow-up activities to Rio+20.

98. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean continues the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the LAS in 2009. WHO supports the establishment of the Arab Committee for coordination in combating counterfeited drugs, and advocacy for development of national medicines and good governance for medicines in Arab countries.

99. WMO supports the LAS Permanent Committee for Meteorology and its Working Groups, which met in 2014 to consider capacity development issues for meteorological and hydrological services in the Arab States.

100. In 2013, the FAO Regional Office for the Near East hosted a high-level meeting with a LAS delegation. FAO collaborates with the Arab Center for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands in the formulation of the action plan for the implementation of the Arab Water Strategy.

Organization for Democracy and Economic Development GUAM

101. DPA visited the GUAM Headquarters in Kyev in 2013 to discuss deepening of DPA-GUAM cooperation with the GUAM Secretary-General.

102. The ECE has worked with GUAM in 2013-14 in assisting the Organization with a simplified customs transit data exchange.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

103. In the annual UN-OSCE staff meeting in 2013, the two institutions discussed options for closer cooperation, in particular with regard to conflict prevention and mediation in the OSCE area. Two staff exchanges were piloted successfully, focusing on Moldova and mediation support, respectively. In 2014, the UN and the OSCE co-organized a training course to enhance reconciliation skills of staff from headquarters, regional and national UN and OSCE offices. Partnership in the electoral field is yet another area of discussions.

104. The United Nations and OSCE have cooperated closely in South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. In Central Asia, DPA and UNRCCA work closely with the OSCE, including through regular desk-to-desk contacts and visits. The OSCE is also participating in a project run by UNRCCA and CTITF on the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, in particular the Action against Terrorism Unit of the Transnational Threats Department of the OSCE. Cooperation strengthened significantly in the context of the crisis in Ukraine, with frequent contacts between the UN and OSCE at all levels.

105. In 2014, DPA participated in the Annual Security Review Conference on "Fostering Security and Stability" as well as in the OSCE Security Days Conference. The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General met with the OSCE Secretary-General on several other occasions in the reporting period. The Swiss Chairperson of the OSCE briefed the UN Security Council early in the year.

106. ECE supports the OSCE Border Management College in Dushanbe in training courses for senior border management staff from almost all Central Asia countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan. In November 2012, ECE and OSCE jointly published a Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings. The OSCE was a co-sponsor of the ECE/FAO Regional Forum on Transboundary Fire Management in 2013.

107. In 2014, OHCHR and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights signed a joint agreement to strengthen cooperation in the Euro-Atlantic region.

Organization of American States (OAS)

108. DPA and the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions of the OAS hold yearly desk-to-desk dialogues, the last one having taken place in October 2013. The two departments held a three-day workshop in Panama in March 2014 on conflict prevention and resolution, bringing together UN and OAS field representatives. The United Nations and OAS coordinated activities in the electoral field in Latin America, including in joint activities aimed at sharing comparative experiences with other regional organizations. In the case of Honduras, the two organizations co-organized an international forum to promote democratic values and discuss the code of ethics adopted by all political parties before the elections of November 2013.

109. The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism collaborates closely with a number of CTITF entities on key counter-terrorism and security issues. The substantive expertise of the OAS in topics related to infrastructure protection, countering the financing of terrorism and the security of aviation, maritime, travel document, tourism sectors and the internet is a valuable resource to the UN system.

110. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean collaborated with the OAS in supporting the 1540 Committee to conduct in-country specific activities in July 2013.

111. In August 2013, the Joint Office of the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect and the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide briefed the Inter-American Juridical Committee on regional developments related to the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The Office also provided training on genocide prevention at the annual Course on International Law of the OAS.

112. UNODC and the OAS, through the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2011, recently extended until 2015. In 2014, the two entities agreed on a work plan for collaboration in 2014-15, with emphasis on capacity-building to monitor synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

113. In response to Security Council Presidential Statement of 28 October 2013, the United Nations has strengthened its collaboration with the OIC in the area of peace and security, including by developing mechanisms of political consultations on matters of mutual interest, deepening the mediation partnership and engaging in electoral cooperation. UN representatives attended important OIC meetings, such as the OIC summit in Cairo in 2013 and two recent sessions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in December 2013 and June 2014.

114. The biennial UN-OIC General Meeting on Cooperation was hosted by the OIC in May 2014. Following an extensive exchange of views on issues related to peace and security, development and human rights, the two sides adopted a new matrix of joint activities which will serve as guidance for effective cooperation in the next biennium.

115. DPA and OIC cooperate in the electoral field, including through a BRIDGE training workshop and a roundtable discussion on election monitoring for OIC representatives in 2014. Representatives from OIC and other regional organizations shared experiences, lessons learned and good practices on election monitoring.

116. IAEA collaborates with the OIC on various areas, including supporting comprehensive cancer control across the African region, with specific focus on radiation medicine services; and conducting a feasibility study on the suitability of the sterile insect technique as a strategy for the integrated control of *Anopheles arabiensis* in Northern Sudan.

117. In July and December 2012, OHCHR organised a visit to Geneva and New York for the then newly elected commissioners of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, to enhance

their knowledge of the United Nations human rights mechanisms and explore possible areas of cooperation.

118. UNCTAD continued to cooperate with the OIC in various areas. UNCTAD has contributed to publications of the OIC Trade Centre and with the training of staff.

119. WHO is a member of the OIC Steering Committee on Health and has supported the development of the OIC Strategic Health Plan of Action 2014-2023. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is the Secretariat for the Global Islamic Advisory Group on Polio.

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

120. On 27 September 2013, the Secretary-General met with the PIF Leaders on the margins of the 68th session of the General Assembly to discuss recent developments in the region and ways to enhance cooperation. During the meeting, Pacific Islands Forum leaders and the Secretary-General affirmed the need for stronger political will to address climate change as well as the United Nations' post-2015 development framework.

121. ESCAP is a member of the Sustainable Development Working Group tasked to co-ordinate regional efforts in support of sustainable development in the Pacific. ESCAP is also engaged in the Forum-led Cairns Compact on promoting coherence in development cooperation and aid effectiveness in PIF countries. ESCAP has also undertaken joint work in nine PIF countries to review and revise national disability policies and convene the Pacific Disability Forum.

122. The UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific provided substantive support to the Pacific Islands Forum Technical Capacity Building Workshop for the United Nations Programme of Action National Points of Contact organized by PIF in Suva in December 2013.

123. The PIF Secretariat recently requested FAO to carry out a study on agriculture, tourism and the opportunity to reduce foreign exchange 'leakage' from the tourism sector. In addition, FAO has also collaborated with Pacific Islands countries through the Forum Fisheries Agency in the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

124. The IMF maintains a close cooperation with PIF, which is regularly invited to participate in high-level Pacific island conferences hosted by the Fund in the Pacific region.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

125. In March 2013, the Secretary-General met with the SCO Secretary-General and agreed to continue strengthening of the cooperation between the two organisations. The UN, represented by two Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, attended the Council of the Heads of States of the SCO in Bishkek in September 2013.

126. Cooperation between the United Nations and SCO extends to areas such as counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics. SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure participate in the counter-terrorism project organized by UNRCCA and

CTITF in Central Asia, aiming to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy under the structure of the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia.

127. SCO Member States, with technical and financial assistance from ESCAP, concluded their negotiations on the draft agreement on facilitation of international road transport and its annexes in June 2012. Initially, about 15,500 kilometres of roads are to be opened as a consequence of this agreement, and two seaports can now be used by transit traffic from landlocked Central Asian countries.

128. In 2013, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP attended the 12th Meeting of the Council of SCO Heads of Governments and reached broad agreement with the SCO Secretary-General on the ways to enhance collaboration. SCO participated in the ESCAP Regional Seminar on Development of Efficient and Effective Logistics Systems in 2013. SCO also participated in an Expert Consultation on the Asian Information Superhighway and Regional Connectivity organized by ESCAP in 2013.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

129. In 2013, DPA, following a request from the SADC Secretariat, re-established the DPA-SADC Liaison Team based in Gaborone. In collaboration with UNOAU, DPA seeks deeper cooperation between the UN and the SADC Secretariat in strengthening regional capacity in areas of electoral support, conflict prevention and mediation, in accordance with the 2010 Framework of Cooperation signed between the SADC Secretariat and DPA. DPA, the SADC Secretariat, the Namibian government and UNDP have organized an Interactive Dialogue in Namibia in July 2014 to explore ways of strengthening UN-SADC regional cooperation and share regional good practices on conflict prevention and mediation.

130. The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region has been working closely with the AU, ICGLR and SADC to advance the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Great Lakes region, signed in February 2013. The UN has also been cooperating with the AU and SADC in its efforts to eradicate illegal armed groups operating in eastern DRC, notably the M23 and the FDLR.

131. UNCCT is engaging with SADC on the development of a regional counter-terrorism strategy to be based on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Efforts in this regard will continue in 2014 and 2015 in close consultation with DPA-SALT.

132. UNODC and SADC jointly developed the Regional Programme for Southern Africa 2013-2016 on crime and drugs. UNODC has supported SADC Member States to strengthen their capacity to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the additional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

133. The UNSD and the SADC Secretariat organised a seminar on the implementation of the SNA 2008 in 2012 and an International Workshop on Sharing Implementation Experiences of Water Accounts and Statistics for Better Policy Making in Southern African Countries in 2013.

134. IMF and SADC Secretariat staff held a teleconference in November 2012 to discuss SADC's effort to harmonize regulation for the insurance sector. The Botswana Article IV missions in both 2013 and 2014 continued the dialogue and met with the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone to discuss common areas of interest.

135. FAO assisted SADC with the preparation of a Regional Agriculture Policy, approved in June 2013. In partnership with WFP, FAO supported the United Nations Development Group Food and Nutrition Security Working Group for Southern Africa to organise a technical consultative meeting, discuss programmatic approaches and associated strategic information needs for effective integration of HIV, nutrition and gender priorities into regional and national food security, agriculture and disaster risk reduction interventions.

III. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; and Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

136. Further to Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and OPCW Executive Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1, the UN and OPCW established the Joint Mission for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic in October 2013.

137. OPCW is a member of the CTITF, and co-chair of the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Attacks. In this connection, the OPCW will spearhead a CTITF project to ensure interoperability of relevant UN agencies and international partners in the event of a chemical or biological attack or incident.

138. With the support of OPCW, ODA's Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit and the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific organized the Workshop on National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2014.

139. WMO collaborates with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, principally in area of numerical simulation of atmospheric transport and dispersion, in "backtracking" mode. Nine Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres are presently involved.

IV. Observations and recommendations

140. As this report illustrates, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations now touches virtually every area of the Organization's mandate, from peace and security and human rights to economic and social affairs, development and humanitarian assistance. **The United Nations should continue to strengthen its partnership with regional and sub-regional actors, as a means to implement the Organization's mandates and the overall objectives enshrined in the Charter.**

141. This report further shows that regional and sub-regional organizations are highly diverse, with distinct approaches, structures, priorities, thematic areas of work and expertise. A one-size-fits-all approach to such cooperation would not be conducive for success. **In this regard, the United Nations should continue to develop context-specific approaches to cooperation with its regional and sub-regional partners, taking into account the specificities of each region, the**

mandate and objectives of the institution concerned and the overall interests of Member States.

142. As varied as the United Nations' cooperation with regional actors may be, a common principle across all of the partnerships described in this report is the recognition that more interaction and coordination are beneficial for the international community at large. This has translated into more cooperation agreements, high-level contacts, staff exchanges, joint training, common publications and, more broadly, strategic coordination across a breadth of mandates. **The United Nations, regional and sub-regional actors should continue to explore ways in which their cooperation can be better articulated at the strategic and technical levels.**

143. The Secretary-General remains committed to further strengthening this cooperation in the future, taking into account the different needs and demands of each partnership.