

**Security Council Open Debate
Cooperation Between the UN and Regional and Subregional Organizations
Peace Operations: the UN-African Union Partnership and its Evolution
December 2014, Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mr. Haniff Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Sir, and Chad on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I also wish to address my delegation's appreciation to you and your team for having convened this important open debate and for the thought-provoking concept note on this issue (S/2014/879, annex). Allow me to also thank the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, His Excellency Mr. Pierre Buyoya, for their briefings on this issue.

Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. We wish to underscore the importance of developing partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant statutes of the regional and subregional organizations. In that regard, we are encouraged to note the progress made in the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), which is manifested in the ongoing capacity-building efforts in many important areas, including mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

We note the structured annual consultative meetings that have been established between the United Nations and the Peace and Security Council of the AU. We further acknowledge the need to strengthen cooperation and develop a more effective partnership with the Peace and Security Council of the AU to address the many security challenges facing Africa.

Over the last decade, the AU and subregional organizations have significantly bolstered their own role in building the architecture for peace and security on the African continent. Regional organizations, including the AU, are indeed well positioned to analyse the root causes of conflicts given their knowledge of the region. Such organizations can also provide useful information to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations efforts in the management of conflicts.

In our view, while cooperation has intensified in recent years, the AU and the United Nations must increase and improve collaboration in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa. As such, we fully support the efforts undertaken by both sides to harmonize their approach to crisis management and peacekeeping, as well as to mobilize their resources to bolster regional security, whether in political, civilian or military terms. The partnership can also be further enhanced in a number of ways, including by learning news lessons, developing new tools and intensifying engagement with civil society on issues related to mediation and conflict prevention.

In that regard, there is a need for the United Nations to build an innovative, flexible, action-oriented and balanced partnership with the AU so as to ensure that Africa's concerns and positions are taken into account when making decisions on matters of fundamental interest

to Africa. We also support the idea that there must be greater clarity on how the Security Council should best consult with the Peace and Security Council of the AU on major decisions relating to peace operations.

We furthermore note that the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security issues recently adopted recommendations to strengthen the exchange of information between the United Nations and AU and promote joint analyses of conflict in order to build a common understanding of the causes and drivers of organized violence in Africa. We believe that this could be a valuable forum to strengthen regional efforts and cooperation to combat terrorism and other peace and security challenges across Africa.

We also fully support the proposal to have a greater level of coordination between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the AU on their agenda of work, in particular in relation to African issues and related thematic discussions such as the protection of civilians, women and peace and security, and children in armed conflict. As such, we believe there should be greater engagement and interaction between the Presidents of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the AU, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Given that the maintenance of international peace and security is primarily the responsibility of the Security Council, assisting in the capacity-building and funding of peacekeeping efforts of regional, subregional and other organizations that lack resources for peacekeeping should also be a concern of the Council.

We believe that capacity-building and technical support for the AU in the area of peace and security is an important matter that should be addressed accordingly. The need for continuous operational and planning support as well as long-term capacity-building support is clearly established. This includes support to the planning and management of the ongoing peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations, as well as potential future operations and technical advice and support in the development of policies, guidelines, doctrines and training.

The importance of finding a lasting solution to the funding of AU-led peace support operations cannot be over-emphasized. There is clearly an urgent need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing the AU when undertaking peacekeeping missions under United Nations mandates. In that regard, the international community should consider the establishment of a financing mechanism that could be mobilized quickly as needs arise. The United Nations States Members could contribute significantly in this area by paying their annual assessed contributions to the Secretariat in full, on time and without conditions.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reaffirm its commitment to continue working together with all partners and stakeholders in our collective efforts to advance the cause of international peace and security in Africa and around the world through the United Nations' peacekeeping and peacebuilding agenda.