

Security Council Open Debate on the Cooperation Between the UN and Regional and Subregional Organizations, August 6th 2013, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Mr. Çevik, Permanent Mission of the Turkey to the United Nations.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Argentina for assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month and to wish you, Madam President, every success. I would also like to express our appreciation for the scheduling of this important debate. And I thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of the regional organizations for their statements.

As encouraged in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is of crucial significance in maintaining international peace and security. Although the primary responsibility remains with the Security Council, regional and subregional organizations also play an important role in that regard. That role is clearly spelled out in the Charter, and its importance has been emphasized in various Council resolutions and presidential statements.

We welcome the regional organizations' keen interest in working with the United Nations and further strengthening their cooperation. We hope the Security Council will seize this opportunity to benefit from the insightful perspectives from various regional viewpoints in better facing the urgent challenges that confront us all.

Building upon that renewed commitment, we should explore new and practical patterns of enhanced cooperation and introduce the necessary mechanisms for their implementation. After all, in today's volatile security environment, the United Nations is not capable of dealing alone with all the problems threatening international peace and security. Addressing them entails strong and influential regional partners.

That is particularly the case for peacekeeping and peacebuilding endeavours. Any contribution by regional organizations in those areas is of great importance, not only for burden-sharing purposes but also to ensure regional ownership. In that regard, we are particularly grateful to organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the African Union and the European Union for their determined efforts and exemplary commitment.

Furthermore, cooperation should not be limited to peacekeeping efforts. Conflict prevention through early warning, political mediation, cooperative interaction, confidence-building, post-conflict peacebuilding, reconstruction and the protection of civilians, including women and children, are as central as peacekeeping.

Regional organizations have unique perspectives on and a local understanding of conflicts, cultural norms and security challenges in their region, giving them a comparative advantage. In that context, they are making a growing contribution to effectively complementing the work of the United Nations in preventing and resolving conflicts, including through mediation. Turkey, as co-Chair, with Finland, of the Group of Friends of Mediation and its 45 members, recognizes the key role such organizations play in mediation. We therefore welcome the collaboration on mediation, and specifically capacity-building, between the secretariats of the United Nations and the regional organizations as a concrete example of fruitful interaction. The technical assistance provided by the Mediation Support Unit of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs to such organizations has contributed to enhancing their capacities in this very important area.

Turkey is a proud member or has observer status in many of the organizations represented here

today. We firmly support the United Nations policy of intensified engagement with regional organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, the League of Arab States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations and the Organization of American States.

We applaud the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, bearing in mind that two-thirds of the work of the Security Council is on issues related to Africa. We commend the remarkable efforts of the African Union and such subregional organizations as the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Southern African Development Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to ensure peace, security and stability throughout the continent.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which has members on four different continents, plays a particularly unique role in helping to consolidate the foundation of global peace and creating a better understanding between different cultures and religions.

This platform has once more been abused in order to make total misrepresentations that Turkey has already categorically rejected. They cannot dissuade us from standing firmly by the Syrian people, whose voice, unfortunately, cannot be heard here. Before I conclude, I would like to express Turkey's earnest commitment to making every effort to further advance cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. It is in that same spirit that we fully support the draft presidential statement prepared by Argentina.