Arria-Formula Meeting
United Nations Security Council

Collective Security through equitable burden sharing: strengthening regional arrangements for the maintenance of international peace and security

Date: 27 July 2022; 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Venue: ECOSOC Chamber with VTC access

Concept Note

I. Introduction and Objectives

In recent decades, regional arrangements have been assuming greater responsibility in addressing the challenges and threats of our world, including responding to violent extremism, large migration flows, inter-state territorial wars, intra-state civil strife, ethnic and social tensions, cyber-attacks, transnational crimes and other evolving threats to global security. The increased burden that regional arrangements have assumed and their potential as agency collaborators of the Council in maintaining international peace and security has however not been matched by the required actions to strengthen cooperation between the Council and regional organizations.

There is therefore the need to examine and synthesize the views of Member States on the Council’s cooperation with regional arrangements and how best such regional arrangements can be better equipped to deal with the challenges and threats of our world today, especially in relation to the logistical, human and financial capacity required for the maintenance of international peace and security.

II. Background

The important role regional arrangements and organizations play in collective security is established in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. In recognition of the collaborative partnerships required for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council adopted resolution 1631 (2005), resolution 2553 (2020) and subsequent decisions by the Council including S/PRST/2020/11 and S/PRST/2020/1, which acknowledges the complementary role of regional arrangements and Council’s determination to take appropriate steps to further the development of such cooperation in pursuit of the maintenance of international peace and security.
As the number of active traditional peace support operations mandated by the United Nations (UN) have stagnated, countries and regions around the world, especially in Africa, are grappling with violent and asymmetrical attacks by terrorists and other armed groups. In the absence of UN mandated peace support operations targeted at terrorist groups and violent extremists, regional arrangements and organizations as well as individual states are assuming increasing responsibility for international peace and security. In addition, the challenges of ensuring sustainable peace in regions affected by terrorist activities are undermined by financing gaps to address the root causes and drivers of conflict, which also facilitate radicalization and recruitment by terrorist groups. Building community resilience, addressing the climate change-security nexus, access to education, consistent with SDG target 4.7, and re-establishing state presence across countries are recognized as essential components to defeating terrorism and deserve more attention and support. There is, therefore, an urgent need to re-examine the arrangements of burden-sharing between the UN and regional organizations in facilitating sustainable peace.

Furthermore, strengthening the partnerships between the UN and continental and regional organizations such as the African Union, ECOWAS, SADC, ECCAS, European Union and the League of Arab States in conflict prevention, peacekeeping operations and special political missions would greatly improve the attainment of international peace and security. In this regard, it is critical to revisit the proposals for supporting regional arrangements and regional institutions through funding from assessed contributions of the UN and to provide logistical support to address conflicts at the regional level.

**III. Guiding Questions**

Participants during the meeting are invited to focus their interventions on the following:

- How can the Council in its primary responsibility of maintaining of international peace and security foster closer cooperation with regional organizations to enable them better respond to the various threats to peace and security in their regions?
- Specifically, how can the Council effectively and systematically address the issue of predictable, sustainable and flexible funding, including through the use of UN assessed contributions for peace support operations undertaken by regional organizations such as the African Union?
- Which other tools, besides the military options, can the UN system explore to support regional arrangements in a coherent manner for the maintenance of peace and security?

**IV. Format of the Meeting**

The Arria Formula meeting will be held in-person, with VTC access, and chaired by H.E Harold Adlai Agyeman, the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the UN.

The meeting will be briefed by the following:

- H.E. Dr. Donald Kaberuka, High Representative for the African Union (AU) Peace Fund;
• H.E. Ms. Damtien Larbli Tchintchibidja, Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission;

• Ms. Pernilla Rydén, Director of the Challenges Forum International Secretariat, and

• Ms. Lidet Tadesse Shiferaw, Associate Director/Peaceful Societies and Accountable Governance, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)

V. Participation

• The meeting is open for participation by members of the Security Council and the wider UN membership.

• Delegations are expected to restrict their statements to three (3) minutes for national statements and no more than five (5) minutes if a statement is made on behalf of a group. Additionally, member states are encouraged to submit their statements to the following email: ghanaunsc.pm@mfa.gov.gh to be used in the preparation of a summary report, which will be distributed as an official Security Council document after the meeting.

VI. Registration

• Member States are to register via the following link by 25th July 2022:

  CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

• For individuals outside New York, the event will also be livestreamed (subject to the approval of the members of the UNSC). You could follow the meeting live via the UN Web TV.