



General Assembly

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Official Records

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 New York

President: Mr. Kutesa (Uganda)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 123

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Report of the Secretary-General (A/69/228)

Notes by the Secretary-General (A/69/164 and A/69/171)

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| <p>(a) Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union</p> <p>(b) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization</p> <p>(c) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations</p> <p>(d) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
Draft resolution (A/69/L.14)</p> <p>(e) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community</p> <p>(f) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative
Draft resolution A/69/L.8</p> <p>(g) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization
Draft resolution (A/69/L.13)</p> | <p>(h) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries</p> <p>(i) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe</p> <p>(j) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States</p> <p>(k) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
Draft resolution (A/69/L.11)</p> <p>(l) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community</p> <p>(m) Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie</p> <p>(n) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System</p> <p>(o) Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
Draft resolution (A/69/L.9)</p> <p>(p) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM</p> <p>(q) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Draft resolution (A/69/L.16)</p> |
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- (r) **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**
- (s) **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States**
- (t) **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation**
- (u) **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum**
- (v) **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**
Draft resolution (A/69/L.15)
- (w) **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization**
Draft resolution (A/69/L.12)
- (x) **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community**
- (y) **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States**
Draft resolution (A/69/L.10)

The President: Before we proceed, I would like to inform members that with regard to sub-items (k) and (v) of agenda item 123, entitled respectively “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization” and “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization”, the consideration of draft resolutions A/69/L.11 and A/69/L.15 is postponed to a later date to allow their sponsors to conduct further consultations.

Statement by the President

Regional and subregional organizations have been important actors in their respective regions for many years. As is clearly recognized and articulated in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as in several General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, regional cooperation is an important aspect of the work of the United Nations. The Secretary-General’s report (A/69/228) illustrates how cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations now plays a critical role in virtually every area of the Organization’s mandate. In particular, the report highlights the depth

of cooperation achieved between the United Nations and its regional partners across the full range of mandate areas, from humanitarian assistance and the maintenance of international peace and security to development and the protection of human rights.

The challenges facing the United Nations in today’s world are indeed complex and multidimensional, and the Organization cannot deal successfully with most of them alone. Furthermore, there is increasing involvement by non-State actors in international affairs. In these changing times, the unique role that regional and subregional organizations have to play in addressing some of the world’s most persistent problems is as important as ever. Those organizations are diverse, with distinct approaches, structures and priorities. The international community at large stands to benefit a great deal from increased interaction and coordination between such organizations and the United Nations in the implementation of their respective mandates. Strengthening those partnerships is strategic for promoting the principles of comparative advantages, complementarity and burden-sharing.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations already has a proven track record of tangible results. In that context, the General Assembly has taken proactive steps to enhance such partnerships through a number of initiatives. To date, some 25 different regional and subregional organizations have established formal cooperative relationships with the United Nations. I am convinced of the critical importance of strengthening our strategic partnership with those organizations, which is why it is one of my key priorities for this General Assembly session. Indeed, I am heartened to note that support for such cooperation has gained momentum and relevance in recent times.

As we formulate the post-2015 development agenda, regional and subregional organizations are uniquely placed to contribute to and support the work of the United Nations in that process. In the area of peace and security, regional and subregional organizations are distinctly positioned to understand the root causes and dynamics of issues in their regions, while often possessing a greater depth of knowledge of the parties involved. That expertise is critical to conflict prevention, mediation, the peaceful settlement of disputes and peacebuilding efforts. The specialized knowledge that regional and subregional organizations can bring to the forefront also has an instrumental

role in the provision of humanitarian assistance, the promotion of development and the advancement of critical infrastructure.

There are many examples of successful cooperation with regional and subregional organizations that we can draw on, including several from my own home continent of Africa. For Africa, partnerships with the United Nations in the area of peace and security are some of the most visible. Collaborative efforts to promote peace and security in the Sudan, Somalia, Mali and the Central African Republic have already yielded some positive results. Recently the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States undertook a joint mission in response to the situation in Burkina Faso. The benefits of such cooperation are further illustrated by the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, and the same is true of the formulation of the African Union's Agenda 2063, which is expected to chart Africa's 50-year strategic vision and action plan for socioeconomic transformation.

Beyond Africa, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has forged a strong partnership with the United Nations, thanks to the active commitment of both partners, especially in the context of comprehensive partnerships. The Caribbean Community and the United Nations are also working on a strategy for future coordination efforts, taking up a number of shared thematic priorities, including climate change and transnational organized crime. The United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have also adopted a matrix on joint activities that will serve as a guide for effective cooperation over the next biennium.

Those experiences, along with many other examples, can provide useful lessons on how more predictable and mutually reinforcing partnerships can be established going forward. In my view, those lessons include, first, respect for regional ownership and priority-setting, secondly, the flexible and innovative application of the principle of subsidiarity, thirdly, mutual respect and adherence to the principle of comparative advantage, and fourthly, a division of labour underpinned by complementarity.

It is essential that the United Nations continue to strengthen its partnerships with regional and subregional actors to foster the implementation of the Organization's mandates and the overall objectives enshrined in the Charter. Those efforts should take

into account the specifics of each region, the mandates and objectives of the organizations involved and the interests of Member States.

We must take the following important steps: first, work for closer cooperation between the Secretariat and regional organizations to explore ways to establish more responsive partnerships; secondly, enhance consultations between the organs of the United Nations and regional organizations; and thirdly, effectively and systematically address the issue of predictable, sustainable and flexible funding through United Nations assessed contributions for peace-support operations undertaken by regional organizations such as the African Union, with the authorization of the Security Council. Beyond their cooperation with the United Nations, regional and subregional actors could also greatly benefit from enhanced partnership and the sharing of experiences among themselves.

With so many success stories to draw on, this is an opportune time to explore ways to further harness the benefits of strengthening United Nations partnerships with regional and subregional organizations. In that context, I am pleased to inform the Assembly that in May 2015 I will convene a high-level thematic debate on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. I urge all members to participate in that event, which will be an opportunity to examine past successes while laying the foundations for fruitful cooperative efforts in the future.

I now give the floor to Mr. Randy Bell, Director of the International Data Centre Division of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to present the report of the Preparatory Commission.

Mr. Bell (Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization): I am honoured to address the Assembly under the agenda sub-item "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization". I am also pleased to speak today on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Mr. Lassina Zerbo, who is currently engaged with the Integrated Field Exercise 2014 (IFE14), which is under way in Jordan. When the IFE14 is complete, it will represent the largest and most comprehensive on-site inspection exercise we have ever conducted. I

will address that important activity in further detail later.

The United Nations has worked tirelessly to maintain international peace and security through collective action. Reducing the threat of weapons of mass destruction through multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament measures, such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), has been a crucial part of these efforts. Active and sustained cooperation among States and between States and international organizations is vital to success in advancing these objectives.

Since the CTBT was opened for signature in 1996, the United Nations has consistently supported its effective implementation and its steady progress towards entry into force. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's leadership on the CTBT has been instrumental in strengthening the cooperative security structures that promote international peace and stability and has reinforced the Treaty as a rallying point for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The draft resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Commission (A/69/L.15) is an embodiment of the importance of such cooperation. It is a necessity if we are to realize the longstanding international objective of a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

I represent the organization whose mission is to bring an end to nuclear test explosions once and for all, by anyone, anywhere — a goal that has been on the international agenda for more than six decades. During the Cold War, strategic competition among the nuclear Powers drove scientists and technicians to develop smaller and more destructive weapons, to be delivered by bombers and all types of missiles, some of which carried multiple warheads. The development of those sophisticated weapons systems necessitated extensive nuclear testing programmes to validate the designs of the warheads and delivery vehicles. Between 1945 and 1990, more than 2,000 nuclear tests were carried out, at a rate of nearly 500 per decade. However, the conclusion of the CTBT and the steadily reinforced global norm against nuclear testing have all but completely relegated that dangerous legacy of the Cold War to the annals of history.

However, the CTBT has yet to enter into force. The good news is that the Treaty is working. The verification system has the proven capability to detect nuclear explosions at a fraction of the yield of the first

nuclear weapon test in the desert near Alamogordo in July 1945. The international community forcefully condemns any violation of this norm today, as has been the case with each of the announced nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — the only State to conduct a nuclear test in this millennium.

With 183 signatory States and 163 ratifying States, the CTBT is one of the most adhered-to instruments in its field. Nearly 90 per cent of the Treaty's verification system is complete, giving it a truly global reach. Nonetheless, the eight remaining annex 2 States must ratify the Treaty for its entry into force. Without a legally binding and effectively verifiable test ban in place, the international community has no insurance against a return to an era of unrestrained nuclear testing, which would have disastrous implications for regional stability and international peace and security.

The final chapter on nuclear testing must be brought to a close through the codification of the Treaty into international law. We have to draw that irrevocable line in the sand. History teaches us that voluntary moratoriums are inadequate. Between 1958 and 1961, the United States and the Soviet Union adhered to a voluntary moratorium on nuclear-weapon tests. A breakdown in test-ban negotiations and rising geopolitical tensions resulted in the two super-Powers carrying out more nuclear tests in 1961 than in the whole of the previous decade.

Without the CTBT in force, there is no firm legal barrier preventing the resumption of unrestrained nuclear testing that could potentially trigger a new arms race, which would inevitably involve more players than during the Cold War. That would dramatically increase tensions and instability in the international system. We must not allow that to happen. As an organization, we are doing everything we can to prevent such an outcome. As outlined in the Preparatory Commission's midterm strategy 2014-2017, we are focused on two overarching missions: establishing a credible and trustworthy verification system and providing support and preparation for the Treaty's entry into force.

I am pleased to report that, in the two years since the previous Executive Secretary addressed the General Assembly (see A/67/PV.40), there has been substantial progress in the development of the Treaty's verification system. The Commission has come within sight of fulfilling its mandate. The commitment and hard work by a relatively small but determined group of people

has resulted in bringing the CTBT verification system close to full readiness. To date, there are 278 certified stations in the international monitoring system (IMS) and another 40 installed or under construction, bringing the verification system close to 90 per cent complete. Importantly, we have also exceeded 90 per cent data availability in the first half of 2014.

The International Data Centre (IDC) — the division that I head — continuously processes and analyses the data registered at monitoring stations. These data are shared with 1,300 institutions in 120 countries in an all-inclusive, democratic, transparent and non-discriminatory manner, thereby fostering trust in and credibility of the system and its data. Alongside the steady instalment and certification of IMS stations, the IDC has continued to strengthen its capabilities, resulting in lower detection thresholds for events worldwide.

Member States have made enormous investments in the system. Not only have member States invested nearly \$1 billion, they have also collectively invested the time, energy and intellect of thousands of their scientists and experts. It is imperative that those investments be protected. Moreover, as more stations come online and the volume of data increases, it is critical that the international community continue to recognize the importance of sustaining the IMS and IDC operations in order to improve the provision of data, products and services.

Maintaining readiness to provide a timely response to suspicious events directly supports the overall objective of achieving the Treaty's entry into force. In other words, continuing to demonstrate the effective and efficient detection capabilities of the verification system shows the added value that the Treaty provides to ratifying States as well as to those considering its ratification.

That has been demonstrated by the performance of the system in detecting the nuclear tests announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In 2006, the identified test-area error ellipse was approximately 880 square kilometres, whereas in 2013 the increased accuracy of our system allowed us to narrow the test area down to only 181 square kilometres, well within the 1,000 square kilometres that the Treaty mandates for an on-site inspection. In addition, analysis of xenon gases detected by the IMS noble gas station in Japan 55 days after the 2013 nuclear test announced by the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea was consistent with a late release of gas from that test site. Even with a comparatively small estimated yield, the 2013 event was detected by 94 IMS seismic stations and two infrasound stations. Eighty-eight of those stations were used in determining the event location. The more stations that are used in locating, the smaller the size of the error ellipse, and that results in an increased probability of a successful on-site inspection.

As previously mentioned, consistent progress has also been made in the area of on-site inspection, which is the CTBT's ultimate verification measure. We are well under way to meeting our strategic goal to achieve on-site inspection readiness at entry into force.

The second fully fledged on-site inspection simulation, the Integrated Field Exercise 2014, is under way on the shores of the Dead Sea in Jordan as I speak. This exercise is unprecedented in a number of ways. Almost 150 tons of equipment was shipped to Jordan, and more than 200 experts have travelled from all over the globe to take part in the event. An exercise of such scope can be carried out only through concerted efforts from across the entire organization. I also wish to highlight that this enormous undertaking would not have been possible without the critical support of Jordan, the voluntary contributions by Member States of equipment and expertise and the Member States' decision to make available more than \$10 million for the exercise.

When the IMS is combined with an effective on-site inspection regime, no potential violator would be confident that a nuclear test could go undetected. We have proven that the Treaty is verifiable through an international monitoring system that is unique, reliable and efficient. And we have built a deterrent that gives States peace of mind.

In order to ensure that the verification regime remains current, we must also strive to identify key scientific and technological developments that could affect its future operations. We have sought to strengthen our relationship with the broader scientific community through the Science and Technology Conferences that are organized for scientists and experts from a broad range of disciplines related to nuclear test monitoring. The conferences attract participants from national agencies involved in the CTBTO's work, as well as those from independent academic and research institutions. Members of the diplomatic community, international

media and civil society are also actively participating. Four such conferences have been held to date in Vienna, and the next will take place in June 2015.

We recognize the true value of the investment with which we were entrusted. As an organization operating at the cutting edge of scientific and technological knowledge, we are determined to share that knowledge with our member States. This unique verification system offers a host of opportunities for scientific research. Whether it is in the area of tsunami warning, aviation safety, climate monitoring or marine-life research, the Treaty's monitoring technologies provide obvious benefits. We see this investment as a platform for scientific knowledge and capacity development.

I would like to stress that this scientific use of IMS data is not merely altruistic; it helps us do our monitoring mission better. When scientists and technologists make use of IMS data for other purposes, they discover better ways to remove noise and interference from our data so that those involved in nuclear test monitoring can look deeper into the data and detect ever smaller events.

The Commission is also providing assistance on the legislative issues arising from the Treaty and is working closely with member States to set up their national data centres. Through the provision of the necessary training, technical infrastructure and equipment, we ensure that member States enjoy the benefits of this unique organization. Such capacity-building enhances the scientific and technical capabilities of member States, and that has a spillover effect into other areas of development.

Another key focus of our organization is empowering the next generation of CTBT experts to ensure the Treaty's verifiability well into the twenty-first century and beyond. That is the predominant vision behind the Commission's integrated capacity-building activities, which promote active engagement with current and next-generation CTBT experts, particularly in the developing world and among women. That vision is committed to applying science for peace.

The Executive Secretary has been holding extensive consultations over the last few months with senior officials from nearly all States that have not yet ratified or signed the Treaty, including all but one of the annex 2 States. He has found greater engagement with regard to the establishment and operation of the verification system, and greater political commitment. In addition, we have seen steady progress in the Treaty's

universalization. Brunei-Darussalam, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Niue and, more recently, the Republic of the Congo have all ratified since the last time this agenda item was addressed in the General Assembly. Several other countries, including Angola and Yemen, are close to completing their ratification processes. On behalf of the Executive Secretary, I would like to commend them for their commitment to the vision of a nuclear-test-free world. Nonetheless, the longer it takes for the Treaty to enter into force, the longer it remains in legal limbo and the more difficult it will become to sustain the momentum so many have fought hard to achieve. The more time that passes without sustained progress on entry into force, the greater the likelihood that States will be less inclined to honour their commitments to the Treaty or to the organization.

For that reason, the Executive Secretary has established a group of eminent persons, which is identifying and seizing opportunities to advance the Treaty's entry into force, thus complementing the article XIV process, currently co-chaired by Indonesia and Hungary. The group is leveraging the wealth and experience of its members to advise on ways to promote the Treaty in the remaining annex 2 States. The group is also utilizing regional understanding and expertise to facilitate dialogue among leaders in the various regions and to advance the message of the CTBTO in international conferences and other events.

The value of the CTBT verification regime has become more and more evident. The human and security benefits of the test ban continue to be appreciated. A growing number of countries, institutions and people are demonstrating leadership in promoting the Treaty's entry into force. The CTBT is edging closer towards universality.

Let us together strengthen our resolve and build on recent achievements. The goodwill and momentum generated in recent years need to be met with equally good action on the part of Member States — the stakeholders and owners of this process. The vision of a test-free world certainly deserves our full determination, commitment and combined strengths in the pursuit of our final and noble goal.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Austria to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.8.

Mr. Riecken (Austria): Austria is honoured to address the General Assembly in its capacity as current

Chair of the Central European Initiative, and it is a pleasure to introduce the draft resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative (CEI) (A/69/L.8) on behalf of the 18 member States. Since December 2011, when the Initiative obtained observer status in the General Assembly pursuant to the adoption of resolution 66/111, this is the second time that the Initiative addresses the General Assembly. We are eager to continue our work leading to a dynamic and substantive partnership between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative.

Regional cooperation has to be seen in a global context, since regional aspects are crucial elements for international efforts on a global scale. The need for more cooperation, more synergies, more interaction among those involved in the endeavour to strengthen regional cooperation is obvious. Therefore, in January, the Austrian presidency of the CEI organized a meeting of some 20 international and regional organizations in Vienna to sound out more synergies and cooperation. Let me underline what the CEI is doing in the context of enhanced regional cooperation.

In carrying out its mission and objectives, the CEI promotes initiatives and programmes aimed at fostering cohesion and integration among the countries of its region by serving as a forum for political dialogue and a platform for exchanging best practices, capacity-building and cross-border cooperation. That unique working methodology, which is a combination of multilateral diplomacy and project management, has made the CEI, which is celebrating its twenty-fifth birthday this year, a champion of regional cooperation. In most cases, that has been done in partnership with others.

Cooperation between the CEI and United Nations specialized entities over the past years has been substantive and widespread and has covered various areas. For example, the CEI cooperates with the Economic Commission for Europe in the area of enterprise and sustainable development, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the area of agriculture and with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of culture. The CEI has a memorandum of understanding and other types of agreements with some of those organizations, which has led to the implementation of several joint projects, as well as common events and other activities.

It is worth pointing out that the CEI also strives to cooperate with the most important European organizations and institutions, such as the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Last but not least, the CEI also cooperates with all major regional organizations and forums operating within and beyond the Initiative's region, such as the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Regional Cooperation Council and the South-East European Cooperation Process.

We firmly believe that we should further explore ways to enhance cooperation with regional organizations active in the various parts of the world. The fact that the majority of the most important regional initiatives are present here today provides us with a unique opportunity to work on a truly strategic partnership between us and the United Nations in pursuit of world peace, security, development and democracy.

In conclusion, I would like to use this opportunity to sincerely thank the CEI member States for their engagement, and all the other countries that are supporting draft resolution A/69/L.8. I would like to convey to the General Assembly our joint plea to adapt by consensus the draft resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Belarus to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.10.

Mr. Dapkiunas (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): As Chairman of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) for 2014, the Belarusian delegation has the honour of introducing the draft resolution entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States" (A/69/L.10).

The CIS, established in 1991, brings together 11 States parties. The Commonwealth seeks to develop mutually advantageous cooperation between the States parties in the political, economic, humanitarian, cultural, environmental and other fields. In accordance with resolution 48/237, in March 1994 the Commonwealth was granted observer status in the General Assembly.

Cooperation between the CIS and the various United Nations bodies is progressively developing. The CIS Executive Committee supports working contacts with a number of specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. We have established treaty relations with the executive bodies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. As of July 2013, we have a focal point for cooperation with the Security Council in our CIS Executive Committee, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). And that list is far from exhaustive.

In recent years we have accumulated solid experience in multilevel cooperation between the United Nations and the CIS to deal with common challenges of a social, economic and humanitarian nature. In order to strengthen the practical component of that cooperation and upgrade its effectiveness, it is vital to have a systemic foundation for such cooperation, which will help develop and deepen the ties of the CIS with the United Nations specialized agencies. That, in fact, is the purpose of the draft resolution that we have submitted on cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States. In particular, the draft resolution urges the specialized agencies and other organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system, as well as the international financial institutions, to develop their cooperation with the CIS.

Belarus is convinced that efforts to develop the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, including the CIS, should seek objectively to achieve the fullest and most effective resolution possible of the broadest range of issues, exchange best practices in various sectors and implement them in practice.

The delegation of Belarus would like to thank interested States for participating in the work on the text of the draft resolution. We have tried to take into account their comments and suggestions as much as possible.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.9.

Mr. Hilale (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): In my capacity as Chair of the Arab Group for the month of November, I am extremely honoured to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.9, which pertains to cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. I am doing so on behalf of the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen..

The draft resolution that is being introduced today concerns an important topic, itself enshrined in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which encourages the Organization to cooperate with regional organizations, particularly on joint matters relating to international peace and security. The draft resolution takes account of the recommendations resulting from the meeting between the United Nations and the League of Arab States held in Geneva from 17 to 19 June. In the wake of the recent events and the rapid global changes and crises taking place around the world, we must strengthen our cooperation and our reach, and work to bring the efforts of the two organizations closer.

Through the draft resolution, the General Assembly invites the United Nations and its agencies, along with the countries of the Arab League, to strengthen their cooperation in order to achieve their common goals. In that context, in the draft resolution the Assembly also requests that the United Nations and the League of Arab States review their existing coordination mechanisms and introduce new recommendations and suggestions, with the goal of strengthening and accelerating their implementation. It also requests an acceleration of the review of the 1989 cooperation agreement between the two organizations, in order to adapt it to current developments and challenges.

I therefore call on the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/69/L.9 unanimously and without a vote.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation to introduce draft resolutions A/69/L.12 and A/69/L.13.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I have the honour to speak today on three sub-items on today's agenda: 123 (l), entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community", 123 (g), entitled

“Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization”, and 123 (w), entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”.

In my national capacity, I would like touch on the issue of cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC).

Over the past few years, EURASEC has collaborated actively with the United Nations on a wide range of issues, including trade, transport, communications, energy, tourism, environmental protection, disaster emergency management, migration, education and much more. We are pleased with the results of that work, which has been carried out in full accord with United Nations priorities for sustainable development and has contributed in many ways to establishing an extensive architecture of multilateral cooperation in Eurasia. Through their complementary roles, EURASEC and the United Nations have helped to find the best possible solutions to problems facing the countries of the region, based on the individual countries’ specific characteristics, thereby contributing to international practical experience in responding to current social and economic challenges.

In the 14 years of its existence, EURASEC has become a capable, dynamically evolving and effective organization with a developed legal and institutional framework that fully reflects its relevance and maturity. The mechanisms that it has created provided reliable support to its members during the recent global economic crisis. The Community has accomplished much and has now achieved the important goal of bringing Eurasian integration to a new level with the establishment, starting on 1 January 2015, of the Eurasian Economic Union. With that, according to the decision of the Heads of its member States, EURASEC will cease its activities, while issues relating to the future development of economic integration will be turned over to the jurisdiction of the constituent bodies of the Eurasian Economic Union.

The Eurasian Economic Union is being created as an international organization for regional economic integration and with an international legal identity. It is consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognized standards of international law, including the rules of the World Trade Organization. Within the Union, the four freedoms — the freedom of movement

of goods, services, capital and the workforce — will be observed, with a coordinated, coherent and unified policy on the key branches of the economy.

The Eurasian Economic Union currently includes Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, but membership is open to any State sharing its goals and principles. At the beginning of October, the Republic of Armenia signed an agreement to join. An action plan for membership in the Union for the Kyrgyz Republic has been approved. In addition, the Eurasian Economic Union’s agreement provides for a mechanism whereby interested countries can receive observer State status in the Union, and many countries and regional organizations have already expressed interest in cooperating with it.

We believe that the goals and objectives that the Eurasian Economic Union has set itself not only resonate with its member States, but also reflect global trends in development. The Eurasian integration process is reaching a new level, and there is much more to be done to enable its economic union to function at full strength in order for its member States and partners to feel its real impact. We firmly believe that, as the Eurasian Economic Union develops, its potential and experience will be sought out by the international community, particularly in the context of formulating a new agenda for post-2015 development, which will become the new system of coordinates for defining the likely specific parameters for practical cooperation between the Union and the United Nations.

I now have the honour to speak on behalf of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO): the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan.

It is generally recognized that the activity of regional organizations is an integral feature of modern international relations. Their effective work on the ground is an important component in ensuring security and the development of trading and humanitarian ties between nations. The Collective Security Treaty Organization makes a substantial contribution to those processes.

Today, the CSTO is a multifaceted structure capable of reliably responding to the wide range of challenges and threats that its member States may encounter. It also has the capacity to conduct peacekeeping operations, including under United Nations auspices. The CSTO

carries out regular anti-drug activities. Within the framework of its ongoing regional anti-drug campaign – Operation Kanal, designed to fight Afghan opiate smuggling – the organization combats the flow of narcotic products to both European and Asian countries, as well as the activities of organized criminal groups.

The aim of the CSTO is to strengthen peace and international and regional security in accordance with principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international legal norms. It is those elements that are reflected in draft resolution A/69/L.13. We are grateful to all the delegations that have participated constructively in agreeing on that document. Its adoption should give a new impetus to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two organizations.

I now turn to my third statement.

I would first like to welcome the Secretary-General's recent report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations (A/69/228), which enables us to take a look at the latest trends in that important area of United Nations activities.

Today, on behalf of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization — the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan — I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.12, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization". The draft resolution is based on resolutions 64/183, adopted on 18 December 2009; 65/124, adopted on 13 December 2010; and 67/15, adopted on 19 November 2012.

In the past few years, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has become a cornerstone of regional security in all its dimensions. Its activities are aimed at promoting mutual trust and encouraging cooperation in the areas of the economy, education, energy, the environment, information security and other fields. Our member States make a significant contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. The SCO promotes effective counter-terrorism cooperation, including through its regional counter-terrorism bodies and the fight against drug trafficking and other types of transnational crime. We are also making a significant contribution to stabilization efforts in neighbouring Afghanistan. The

draft resolution before the Assembly is the outcome of informal consultations convened by the Russian Federation in its capacity as the current Chair of the SCO. We would like to thank all the delegations that participated and seek to work constructively to further strengthen the existing ties between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Greece to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.14.

Mr. Spinellis (Greece): On behalf of the member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.14, submitted under sub-item (d) of agenda item 123 and entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization". Allow me, at the outset, to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the valuable support and positive spirit evidenced by all countries sponsoring the draft resolution.

The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, with a lifespan of almost 23 years, is the most inclusive and institutionally mature regional economic organization in the wider Black Sea area. It seeks to promote enhanced cooperation among its member States in many areas and to ensure peace and stability in the Black Sea region. In recent years, the wider Black Sea area has attracted considerable attention as an energy and transport hub between Europe and Asia. Hence, the activity of BSEC has increased, which is testimony to the importance of regional initiatives, joint projects and enhanced coalitions as important assets in addressing regional challenges and achieving sustainable development.

Under the current Greek chairmanship, which runs from 1 July until 31 December 2014, the BSEC also seeks to enhance its support-building capabilities and economic cooperation with other regional and international organizations, while at the same time advancing the emergence of the organization as the appropriate forum for cooperation through concrete project implementation in the Black Sea region. In that respect, the BSEC reaffirms its commitment to strengthening its cooperation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies in fields of work that are of common interest to both organizations.

That cooperation will be instrumental in bringing the wider Black Sea area closer to its neighbours and

the world, and will encourage concrete efforts, common initiatives and the implementation of joint projects. To that effect, priority areas already existing within BSEC — such as the environment, transport, energy, institutional reform, good governance, trade, economic development, agriculture and the fight against organized crime — constitute the necessary basis for developing additional joint projects in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to express the sincere hope that this year's draft resolution will be adopted without a vote, as has been the case in past years. I also express my conviction that, once adopted, it will further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the BSEC, thus contributing to the promotion of the principles and objectives of the United Nations and the purposes and goals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Malaysia to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.15.

Mr. Haniff (Malaysia): Malaysia, as Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), has the honour to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.15, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization."

The objective of the draft resolution is to ensure that the important Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) issue remains on the agenda of the General Assembly. That is particularly necessary in the light of the crucial work being carried out by the CTBT verification regime in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

My delegation would like to thank Mr. Randy Bell, Director of the CTBTO International Data Centre (IDC), for the comprehensive and informative briefing that he made earlier in relation to the report on the work of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission (see A/69/164). We would also like to express our appreciation to the previous Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Mr. Tibor Tóth, for his good work. Malaysia takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the CTBTO Preparatory Commission (see A/69/228).

The CTBT is one of the most important multilateral instruments needed for the advancement of international peace and security, as it establishes an international norm on nuclear testing in all environments, whether for military or civilian purposes. The Preparatory Commission therefore plays a vital role in strengthening the CTBT verification regime in preparation for the Treaty's entry into force and in promoting the Treaty's universality.

A key element of the CTBT verification regime is the Vienna-based International Data Centre, which collects and processes monitoring data from the International Monitoring System (IMS). At present, around 300 stations worldwide transmit information to the IDC, providing the IMS with a truly global reach. In addition to enhancing the detection of nuclear explosions, that flow of data will also benefit disaster mitigation and scientific research. That illustrates how the work of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission has spillover benefits, and my delegation calls for the international community to continue to support that infrastructure.

On the universality of the CTBT, my delegation believes that positive developments on that track would provide much-needed momentum towards a successful outcome of the upcoming 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In that regard, we welcome the Republic of the Congo as the one hundred and sixty-third State to ratify the CTBT, bringing the total number of State signatories to 183. We continue to urge countries, especially those listed in annex 2, to sign and ratify the Treaty at the earliest opportunity to ensure its entry into force.

In the light of the important work carried out by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Malaysia reaffirms our appreciation and full support to the Commission's Executive Secretary, Mr. Lassina Zerbo, and the efforts of the Provisional Technical Secretariat.

In that connection, Malaysia is pleased to submit draft resolution A/69/L.15 for the consideration of the General Assembly. We would like to invite all delegations to demonstrate their support by sponsoring the draft resolution. They can do so by approaching Secretariat officials in the Hall or at the General Assembly Affairs Branch office in the Secretariat Building. As in previous years, we hope that the draft resolution will continue to enjoy the consensus and support of all Member States.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.16.

Mr. Beenen (Netherlands): I have the honour to take the floor to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.16, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons". The Netherlands, which is host country to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), does so on behalf of approximately nearly 40 sponsors. The aim of the biennial draft resolution is to highlight the importance of continued cooperation between the United Nations and the OPCW.

The OPCW contributes to international peace and security by verifying the destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles, by working, through industry inspections, to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons and by promoting the peaceful use of chemistry for activities not prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention through, inter alia, international cooperation and assistance. For the past year, the United Nations and the OPCW have been cooperating effectively with regard to the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

At present, 190 States are party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and thus are members of the OPCW. There is good hope that further steps towards universalization will be taken in the near future. The OPCW is preparing to commemorate, on 22 April 2015, the one hundredth anniversary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons, at Ypres, Belgium.

The draft resolution makes reference to those events, in addition to taking note of the annual reports of the OPCW. It is our hope that, as on previous occasions, the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus, as it is a factual and rather technical text. That might not be the case, as we were informed this morning. We are confident that the draft text in front of the Assembly, which is general in nature and factual, commands the largest possible support from the General Assembly, and we look forward to the Assembly's support for the text as it is.

Mr. Boubacar (Mauritania) (*spoke in Arabic*): I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/69/228).

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union is founded on the Charter of the

United Nations, in particular Chapter VIII, which focuses on cooperation with regional organizations. The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union is not new. In recent years, it has grown and improved in various areas, including in the peaceful settlement of conflicts, mediation, electoral assistance and institution-building, which have greatly enhanced the cooperation between the two organizations. I would like to reaffirm the need to continue that cooperation through the provision of resources, exchanges of experience and the strengthening of human capacities in the African Union.

The positive impact of the partnership between the two organizations, as exemplified in the support for peace and stability on the African continent, is a clear indication of the usefulness and effectiveness of that cooperation. Positive relations between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the continued consultations between the two bodies are also a clear expression of the intention of both organizations to promote institutional cooperation between them.

As we are discussing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that strengthening the relationship between the African Union and the United Nations is now more urgent than ever, considering the great challenges facing the African continent. In addition to security and development challenges, the African Union is now prey to the scourge of a ghastly epidemic that has taken many lives and that requires the international community to shoulder its responsibility side by side with Africa. The Ebola epidemic is an international threat that Africa cannot confront alone. Therefore, the international community must stand together with Africa by providing material and equipment support in order to contain the epidemic. We value and appreciate the initiative of the Secretary-General in creating the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response as a provisional step aimed at providing assistance to confront the Ebola epidemic, and we emphasize the importance of cooperation between United Nations agencies and the affected countries. We call upon the international community to provide all the forms of support necessary for those States.

The African Group highly values the various forms of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, especially concerning the maintenance

of peace and the settlement of conflict, in addition to social and economic cooperation. We also reaffirm that there are various opportunities to strengthen and deepen that cooperation, and we expect there to be more next year when the post-2015 development agenda is adopted. The adoption of the new agenda will be a new opportunity to deepen all forms of cooperation, especially in the economic field, between the two organizations. In that context, the African Group reaffirms the need for a strategic approach and vision, because the difficult conditions throughout the world make it important and necessary to build relations between the two organizations on the basis of clearly defined principles and priorities and the flexible and creative implementation of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, including consultations before decision-making and the sharing of responsibilities.

The nature of international challenges today require greater cooperation between the United Nations and other international bodies and between it and regional organizations in dealing with the security, economic and development dimensions of various regional conflicts. The regional nature of current conflicts has increased the importance of regional organizations, given their knowledge of the specific details of the conflicts and crises.

Along with the productive cooperation between the two organizations, we reiterate that African needs and interests should be taken into consideration, because they cannot be separated from the comprehensive reform of the Security Council. That would end the historical harm inflicted upon Africa in terms of the membership and structure of the Security Council. The African Group will return to the General Assembly with regard to the draft resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and Africa before the end of this session.

We look forward to having this debate as a contribution to the promotion of the ongoing partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, because that partnership plays a crucial role in the success of our joint efforts to promote international peace and security and to fulfil the legitimate aspirations of all nations to security and sustainable development.

Mr. Zehnder (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): The collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations has grown in importance in recent years. With growing demand for support before, during and

after conflicts and with parallel increasing pressure on budgets, strong partnerships and a well-thought-out division of labour among various actors have become ever more necessary.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and one of the main partners of the United Nations. Based on Switzerland's experience as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, I would like to make some remarks on the cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE. Switzerland has made the strengthening of this cooperation one of its priorities during its chairmanship. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has also placed similar emphasis on this important partnership.

The United Nations and the OSCE are connected through a long-standing and successful record of cooperation, which includes regular exchanges at all levels in numerous areas. The statement made by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon before the OSCE Permanent Council on 4 November, at the invitation of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Didier Burkhalter, is but the most recent evidence thereof.

The two organizations have been cooperating closely on regional issues for several years now. Throughout South-East Europe, OSCE field operations coordinate their activities with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. In Kosovo, where the OSCE Mission is part of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, the OSCE has taken over the monitoring of and provision of support to non-majority mechanisms at the municipal level, thereby contributing to early-warning and conflict-prevention efforts on the ground.

Cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations is also necessary and useful for all actors in Ukraine. The daily reports from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission are complemented by comprehensive monthly reports from the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. Furthermore, the United Nations has provided operational support to OSCE mediation efforts by putting at its disposal members of the Standby Team of Mediation Experts. The United Nations also has the lead on humanitarian issues, while the OSCE has taken on new tasks in the area of ceasefire-monitoring.

The two organizations' activities thus complement and reinforce each other.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE extends to thematic areas. This includes the strategic partnership between the OSCE and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the area of organized crime and counter-terrorism, in the framework of which the OSCE supports the implementation of United Nations anti-terrorism instruments. Thanks to that partnership, the ratification rate in the OSCE region has increased from 65 per cent in 2001 to almost 85 per cent this year. The OSCE also collaborates closely with UNODC in the field of combating corruption and money-laundering. Joint workshops and training sessions are being conducted in the OSCE region for public officials and civil-society and private-sector representatives, in order to raise awareness of and facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Another important area is mediation. In order to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre completed a work plan with the United Nations Mediation Support Unit in June. In addition, regular exchanges take place at the strategic and operational level. That partnership combines the international and global expertise of the United Nations with the OSCE's in-depth local and regional knowledge. This represents a valuable combination of the two organizations' strengths and clearly illustrates the tremendous potential of partnerships under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Based on Switzerland's experience in its Chairmanship of the OSCE, we are convinced that it is in the interest of both the United Nations and the OSCE to further nurture and strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations. The United Nations peace operations review announced by the Secretary-General will focus, *inter alia*, on partnerships. That review will provide an opportunity to reflect on the role of regional organizations such as the OSCE.

Furthermore, the OSCE has long-standing experience in several areas covered by the post-2015 agenda and could therefore provide input to current discussions and contribute to the implementation of a number of initiatives, including in the area of disaster risk reduction and water. The current Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and the incoming Serbian Chairmanship

have both put the topic of water on the list of priorities of the OSCE agenda this year and next year. Various events have been held throughout the year on the topic of water diplomacy, best practices in the field of water management and water cooperation. Next year the incoming Chairmanship will dedicate its Economic and Environmental Forum process cycle to water governance. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe has been closely associated with most meetings.

The promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies is another area in which the OSCE has long-standing implementation experience. Mechanisms such as the High Commissioner on National Minorities are instruments to strengthen human rights and could thus play an important role in the implementation of the goal of peaceful and inclusive societies. These instruments could also provide a basis for a discussion on the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front initiative, which addresses a shared priority of both organizations. An exchange of information between the United Nations and the OSCE on these issues and other topics of general interest would therefore be most welcome.

Switzerland will remain committed to strong cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE.

Mrs. Borges (Timor-Leste): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), whose member States are Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and my own country, Timor-Leste. I wish to remind members of the General Assembly of the relevance of the Portuguese language in international affairs, as it unifies 240 million people in nine countries and on four continents, and to highlight the CPLP's political commitment to promoting the use of Portuguese in international and regional organizations, including in the United Nations and its agencies, funds and programmes.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the cooperation between the United Nations and the CPLP (see A/69/228), which reflects the positive effects of the joint actions that have materialized over the past two years. Resolution 67/252, sponsored by 75 Member States and adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, in 2013, noted with appreciation that this dynamism also reflected the strengthened partnerships

among the member States of the Community and the United Nations, including its agencies.

The United Nations system continued to be an important partner, actively pursuing its cooperative ties with our Community through concerted political and diplomatic actions. Similarly, that cooperation is expressly visible in several vital areas that contribute greatly to the development of our countries, particularly in the sectors of human rights, health, education, science and culture, food and agriculture, public administration, and science and technology, among others.

One example of such partnerships is the support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the establishment of common measures to prevent and combat corruption by civil-servant agents in international commercial transactions, as well as a declaration and action plan on trafficking persons in the Community. Another example is the Portuguese Unit of United Nations Radio, which continues to play a fundamental role in facilitating daily coverage of issues of concern to the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

The Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries welcomes the establishment earlier this year of a legitimate Government in Guinea-Bissau and notes with satisfaction the positive steps already taken by the democratically elected authorities there, remaining mindful of the considerable challenges that still lie ahead. As part of its political coordination, the Community and its member States are deeply involved in coordinating efforts with the United Nations and other international partners to support the priorities set by the Government, with a view to promoting stability, respect for human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law, and social and economic development. In that regard, we recall Security Council resolution 2157 (2014) and the importance of convening an international pledging conference on the recovery of Guinea-Bissau, to which the CPLP remains fully committed, as well as the need to renew and strengthen the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

In that regard, the relaunching of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau is an essential instrument for the effective coordination of international assistance in the country. The International Contact Group would also have the role of assisting with the organization of the pledging conference and of

supporting the security sector reform and national reconciliation efforts. The Contact Group is currently co-chaired by the CPLP and the Economic Community of West African States and will hold its tenth meeting in New York on 18 November.

The Community also welcomes the appointment of the former President of Sao Tome and Principe, Mr. Miguel Trovoada, as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau. We acknowledge and congratulate the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. José Ramos-Horta, for his achievements in Guinea-Bissau and welcome his appointment to chair the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, which will examine both peacekeeping operations and special political missions.

In July of this year, Timor-Leste hosted the CPLP Heads of State and Government Summit in Dili under the theme “CPLP and Globalization”, where the leaders, *inter alia*, recognized the need for a strategy on economic and entrepreneurial cooperation and reiterated their commitment to reinforcing the human right to adequate food in national and community policies. At the Summit, we were also pleased to welcome Equatorial Guinea as our ninth member, and Turkey, Georgia, Namibia and Japan as associate members. I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Assembly of the intention of the CPLP member States to submit, during the current session of the General Assembly, a draft resolution entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the CPLP”, for which we again respectfully seek the Assembly’s support, which we were able to secure at the sixty-seventh session.

I wish to conclude by reiterating the determination of the CPLP to strengthen its partnership with the United Nations in the pursuit of common objectives, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as our commitment to continuing to play a positive role in shaping the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations under the framework reached at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): I would like to express our appreciation to you, Sir, for convening today’s joint debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on this agenda item (A/69/228).

While my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Mauritania, who spoke on behalf of the Group of African States, I now wish to make a statement on behalf of Ethiopia in my national capacity.

The cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations has become increasingly critical in the maintenance of international peace and security. I would like to take this opportunity to commend you, Mr. President, for making this issue one of the priorities of your presidency and to welcome your intention to convene a high-level thematic debate on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the second quarter of 2015.

The cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements is obviously governed by Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, but the nature, scale and scope of that cooperation has evolved over the past decades. The ever-changing international peace and security environment in particular has made that cooperation absolutely imperative in addressing the new and complex challenges that we face — the emergence of new conflicts and relapses in post-conflict countries, the threat of terrorism and extremism, the spread of small arms and light weapons, and the danger posed by pandemics like Ebola, among many other challenges.

Regional organizations no doubt have the comparative advantage of geographic proximity in addressing some of those challenges. They could therefore play, and are actually playing, a meaningful role in that regard. We are pleased to note that the United Nations has recognized that fact, showing thereby a greater willingness and commitment to work with regional organizations and coordinating efforts with them in the advancement of international peace and security. That is indeed a step in the right direction, and we fully support it.

We are encouraged to note that the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and its constituent bodies has been further intensified in recent years on a wide range of issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security. In that context, we welcome the regular interaction and dialogue between the Security Council and the African Peace and Security Council. We hope that cooperation will be further enhanced and strengthened through the adoption of an innovative and flexible approach and the

effective utilization of comparative advantages in the advancement of common objectives.

The cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peacekeeping and peacebuilding has also expanded and deepened in recent years. We hope that the comprehensive review of peacekeeping and the peacebuilding architecture will take into account the views and concerns of the African Union, which is playing an increasingly important role in those areas, in collaboration with the United Nations.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Secretary-General for his commitment to strengthening the relations and dialogue between the United Nations and subregional organizations in Africa in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach, not only to peace and security but also to development in the continent. In that connection, we express satisfaction with his visit to the Horn of Africa subregion, leading a high-level delegation composed of the President of the World Bank and senior officials of the African Union, the European Union and the African Development Bank, as part of his trip to various regions of the continent. We also welcome the outcome of his dialogue with the Council of Ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the announcement of the Horn of Africa Initiative.

Finally, we strongly believe that the cooperation and partnership between the United Nations and regional and other organizations have become so much more vital than ever before, and we have full confidence that greater efforts will be deployed in that regard. Strengthening regional organizations such as the African Union and subregional organizations such as IGAD must be part of those efforts. Global and regional challenges have become more complex and more daunting. We must all rise to the occasion.

Mr. Lupan (Republic of Moldova): We welcome and support the adoption of draft resolution A/69/L.14, entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization”, to be adopted today by the General Assembly. Promoting multilateral economic cooperation and sustainable development is our concrete contribution to peace, stability and prosperity in the Black Sea region, thus preserving the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.

There is a shared understanding of the importance of interaction between the Black Sea Economic

Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and the United Nations and its agencies. We consider it a valuable opportunity for cooperation, with the potential of contributing further to the economic and political stability of the Black Sea region.

In the first half of 2015, the Republic of Moldova will take over the Chairmanship-in-Office of the BSEC. In that context, the Republic of Moldova will continue to be firmly engaged in contributing to the strengthening of the dialogue between the BSEC and the United Nations and its agencies. In practical terms, there are vast possibilities for valuable interaction between the two organizations in the fields of the development of economic cooperation and trade in the BSEC area, sustainable energy, transport, entrepreneurship, health, environment and other areas already agreed upon in the BSEC, as mentioned by our colleague currently chairing the BSEC.

During our chairmanship, we will endeavour to hold consultations with both the BSEC secretariat and United Nations agencies in order to initiate joint programmes pertaining to the fields of common interest to both organizations.

Mr. Mnatsakanyan (Armenia): At the outset, we thank the Secretary-General for his latest report on the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations (A/69/228). The report provides a good overview of the depth of cooperation and mutually reinforcing activities of the United Nations and its regional partners embracing the full mandate of the United Nations, on the one hand, and the respective mandated areas of competence at the regional and subregional levels, including, most important, peace, security, development and human rights.

No country can be effective in pursuing its national agenda without engaging with others. That is particularly obvious for countries with modest capacities. The regional and subregional levels of cooperation provide an effective platform for pursuing specific common objectives for countries bound by common security goals, common values or simply by geographic proximity. In the context of the present debate, cooperation at the global level, here in the United Nations and elsewhere, provides a critical forum for interregional engagement.

As a member of numerous regional organizations — including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization — Armenia benefits greatly from the institutional strength and effectiveness of the European regional and subregional landscape of cooperation, including in the fields of political dialogue, security, human rights, democratic transformation and the strengthening of the rule of law, trade and economy, culture and youth.

In our national context, the peaceful resolution of conflicts on the basis of the norms and principles of international law without exception is of special significance, given the ongoing negotiations for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the internationally supported format of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship. That format is by far the most effective regional arrangement for that particular case for several reasons, not least of which is its capacity to sustain focus on a compromise solution and to defuse tensions and escalation. Consolidated support for those negotiations from the international community, including the United Nations and its Secretary-General, is critical in deflecting attempts to pursue mediation shopping and lopsided, often highly biased, definitions of the causes and consequences of the conflict. Armenia welcomed the statement by the Secretary-General in August in support of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, which urged respect for the ceasefire agreement and commitment to immediate de-escalation and continuing dialogue in the pursuit of a rapid and peaceful political solution in the light of the surge in tensions at that time.

As a member of the CSTO, Armenia will continue to deliver on its commitment to forge stronger cooperation with the United Nations so as to contribute to international peace and to United Nations peacekeeping capacities. As a troop-contributing State, Armenia has gathered considerable national experience from its engagements in NATO-led peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo and, previously, in Iraq. Armenia will soon acquire experience in a United Nations-led operation in Lebanon. Armenia has been investing its experience in strengthening the preparedness for peacekeeping within the CSTO. In that context, we welcome the expanding cooperation of the United Nations with the CSTO, including between their respective secretariats. We also thank all partners who

will support the draft resolution on United Nations-CSTO cooperation (A/69/L.13).

Armenia is a proud member of the Council of Europe, the oldest European organization based on common values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. For us, the Council of Europe has been a principal body in assisting Armenia in the reform process aimed at consolidating national legal foundations and establishing sustainable democratic institutions. That cooperation successfully continues to this date in the form of legal advice and the practical implementation of specific action plans. Such cooperation is of course complemented by cooperation with other relevant organizations, specifically the OSCE and the United Nations. The European Union is a principal contributor to the implementation of our reform agenda.

The existing resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe (resolution 67/83) outlines the broad scope of the mutually reinforcing mandates of both organizations. It also serves a useful guide for augmenting the benefits for member States, benefiting from the respective expertise of the two organizations. At the same time, Armenia is sensitive to situations where actions by the two organizations may result in duplication and undue competition in delivering assistance to beneficiaries.

Armenia attaches equally high importance to its work within all other regional and subregional organizations of which it is a member or with which it has close cooperation. Any intergovernmental organization is an aggregate of its member States, able and willing to pursue a political dialogue and common goals for the benefit of their national and common interests. The present international agenda, with its proliferating threats, disagreements and conflicts, calls for particularly concerted efforts to redouble work towards common solutions and sustainable dialogue.

Smaller States are particularly vulnerable and sensitive to situations in which disagreements at the regional and global level risk leading to the emergence of dividing lines. Armenia is not an exception to such vulnerabilities and sensitivities. Cooperation and dialogue among States, from the subregional to the regional and global levels, have been and remain the modus operandi for the sustainability of peace, security and cooperation. This agenda item is as relevant as ever.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt): I would like to associate my statement with those delivered by the representatives of

Mauritania and Morocco, on behalf of the African and Arab Groups, respectively.

The success of the efforts of the United Nations would not have been possible without the direct support of regional stakeholders and the regional organizations that represent them. Synergy and coherence among international, regional and subregional organizations are a prerequisite for the success of peace and security efforts.

Full regional, subregional and national participation in Security Council peace and security efforts is necessary so as to provide a sufficient level of ownership and familiarity to regional parties to conflicts. The engagement of the relevant regional organizations is crucial for the success of United Nations peace efforts in the various stages of conflicts, including early warning, conflict prevention and mediation, as well as post-conflict peacebuilding.

There is a need to expand African capacity to achieve United Nations goals. That could be achieved through greater streamlining and coordination between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), in accordance with the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union, which was signed in 2006 by the United Nations and the AU. There is an urgent need to fully operationalize the AU Peace and Security Architecture, especially the Continental Early Warning System.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States is also indispensable. The establishment of the mission of the Joint Special Representative for Syria is an example of the potential for cooperation between the two organizations that should extend to conflict prevention and resolution. Such cooperation can also help to find lasting solutions to the two major chronic problems of the region that negatively impact regional and international peace and security, namely, the Palestinian question and the issue of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

When it comes to peacekeeping, a shared role for the United Nations and regional organizations is both desirable and achievable. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur stands out as the most prominent example of cooperation between the United Nations and a regional organization in the field of peacekeeping. We should have more hybrid operations with a predominantly African character. The Prodi panel's 2008 report on African Union-United

Nations cooperation (see A/63/666) recommended the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund to support peacekeeping in Africa based on African ownership. Five years on, that recommendation has yet to be implemented. That call remains valid — indeed, it is more valid today than ever.

Mr. Mbalati (South Africa): At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations (A/69/228). Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations has long been central to the work of the United Nations. That derives from the fundamental understanding that the United Nations would have limited success in implementing its mandate without close cooperation with regional and other organizations. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations should be based on the principle of subsidiarity and on the firm foundation of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, as reaffirmed by numerous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General. We concur with the Secretary-General that relationships between the United Nations and regional and other organizations have deepened and expanded the activities of the Organization, from peace and security and human rights to economic and social affairs, development and humanitarian issues. In that regard, my delegation underscores the importance of the United Nations continuing to strengthen its partnerships with regional and subregional organizations as a means to implement its mandate.

My delegation notes with appreciation the improved cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU). We are pleased that the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security has continued to meet twice a year. Such interaction should be encouraged so that both organizations can develop a common and deeper understanding of the root causes of conflict in Africa and develop common solutions to our particular security challenges. We believe that the cooperation between the United Nations and AU should draw on the comparative strengths and advantages of each organization, as is illustrated in the AU's ability to mobilize quickly into conflict areas in order to create stability and pave the way for longer-term United Nations missions.

As part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), South Africa has noted the recent interactive dialogue, held in Namibia in July between the United Nations and SADC, which was convened with a view to sharing regional good practices with respect to conflict prevention and mediation. Such interactions are to be encouraged and will go a long way towards strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and SADC, especially in strengthening subregional capacities in the areas of electoral support and conflict prevention and mediation.

The Secretary-General's report significantly points out that regional and subregional organizations are distinct and are often confronted with different challenges, where a one-size-fits-all approach to such cooperation would not be conducive to success. A case in point is the SADC-International Conference on the Great Lakes Region decision on the establishment of a Force Intervention Brigade under the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to neutralize all negative forces. The results are evident, as there is relative stability and the lives of the population in eastern Congo have greatly improved. We acknowledge that such arrangements are exceptional rather than the norm.

Despite all of the positive developments I have mentioned, we have seen no such approach in the Middle East. There has been swift international reaction to some situations, while such cooperation is lacking with respect to others, and as a result, there has not been significant movement towards resolving those conflicts.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Arab League on the Middle East peace process has been most disappointing. The Arab League has consistently played a significant role in seeking a resolution to the conflict, including through the adoption of the Arab Peace Initiative. Unfortunately, the Security Council has yet to provide effective and meaningful support to the League's efforts.

My delegation agrees with the Secretary-General's recommendations that the United Nations should develop context-specific approaches to cooperation with its regional and subregional partners, taking into account the diversity and priorities of each region, and should explore ways in which cooperation can be better articulated at the strategic and technical levels.

The President: I now give the floor to the Observer of the League of Arab States.

Mr. Fathalla (League of Arab States) (*spoke in Arabic*): As this is the first time that I take the floor during this session, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, upon your election to preside over the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his leadership in guiding the work of the Organization and to recognize my colleagues from the Arab States.

The League of Arab States was established in 1945, and its cooperation with the United Nations has been regulated by an agreement signed between the two organizations in 1989. Since then, our cooperation has taken on various forms, adapting to each change that has occurred. The two organizations must take into account, in their cooperation, the range of changes that take place, such as those in the Middle East since 2010. We must take into account the many problems resulting from those changes, particularly in the area of humanitarian assistance. Those changes require that we adapt our methods of cooperation between the two organizations to suit the task, whether it be humanitarian assistance, assistance to refugees or assistance to victims of war, conflict and natural disasters. The efforts of both organizations must also deal with peacebuilding and capacity-building in the civilian sector and civil institutions. After war and crises, countries pass through sensitive stages in the post-conflict phase, and if the assistance provided to them is not adapted to the situation, they risk relapsing into conflict.

We addressed this agenda item most recently two years ago. I will give the Assembly a brief overview of some of the projects and types of cooperation in which the two organizations engage.

In a sectoral cooperation meeting held in Cairo on 11 and 12 June 2013, the League of Arab States and the United Nations addressed building cooperation in order to reinforce post-conflict civilian capacities. That meeting included the participation of Sarah Cliffe, United Nations Special Adviser and Assistant Secretary-General of Civilian Capacities. The Arab League, working with the United Nations, has decided to deal with the issue in the framework of a comprehensive and integrated vision. It has therefore established three key approaches that are complementary and parallel.

The first approach has to do with strengthening the relations between the two organizations in order to exchange experience and information and to determine needs and establish frameworks that will allow for complementarity in the provision of services to countries in the region. The second approach is to interact with countries in the region to help them build their own capacities and identify their needs so that they will be able to fulfil their role in conflict prevention in the region. The third approach is one that we would like to implement in cooperation with civil society organizations that are active in the areas of security and environmental development. It aims to strengthen civil society during the post-conflict phase and strengthen the primacy of the rule of law and accountability, as well as to take measures that will prevent a resumption of conflicts.

In the past couple of years, the Secretariat's Department of Political Affairs, together with the United Nations Development Programme, has helped strengthen cooperation with the League of Arab States through training sessions in the context of the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections programme. We have also received advice on the establishment of electoral databases for the League of Arab States. In that context, the Department of Political Affairs is now implementing a project aimed at assisting the League of Arab States in capacity-building in the areas of conflict prevention, arbitration and mediation. Those issues were debated during the twelfth meeting between the two organizations, held in Geneva in June. It would be useful to note that part of the meeting on cooperation was dedicated to the assessment of projects that have been conducted in the context of our cooperation. Those projects resulted from our eleventh meeting, which was held in Vienna in 2012.

Another part of the meeting on cooperation was dedicated to thinking about how the shared work would be handled by four committees — the political, economic, environmental, and cultural and social committees. Many general decisions were prepared during the meeting and many recommendations were adopted at the general meeting in 2014. Those efforts led to a new model for cooperation — one that serves as a reference for the shared projects and activities in all areas for the next few years.

It would be difficult to cite here all the decisions adopted and activities and recommendations put forth in the most recent conference on cooperation,

but I would like to say that, in addition to the recommendations adopted on maintaining international peace and security — including the situation in the Middle East with regard to the Palestinian cause and security in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Yemen, the Sudan and Somalia — recommendations were also made with regard to the areas of intellectual property, the protection of heritage, women's rights, climate change programmes, scientific research policy, post-2015 development programmes, the rights of disabled persons and programmes on the quality of education. We also decided to appoint a special coordinator for all Arab organizations and the United Nations to improve communication among the various bodies. Moreover, we agreed to appoint two coordinators for each of the four committees in order to ensure follow-up to the agreements commonly reached.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs participated in three consultative meetings with the League of Arab States 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 member States of the League of Arab States participated in regional workshops, including in Pretoria in 2012, Addis Ababa in 2013 and Astana in 2014. In June 2013, the League of Arab States secretariat and the Office for Disarmament Affairs held a two-day joint conference on small arms and light weapons.

The League of Arab States is preparing to enter the second stage of its implementation of the Crisis Response Centre and the Early Warning System, a project that was established in cooperation with the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme. We would like to note the ongoing productive cooperation between the League and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs during the second stage of the project. I also underscore the importance of establishing an Arab mechanism for humanitarian affairs.

We firmly believe in the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing protection, assistance and essential services to Palestine refugees until we have a just and lasting solution to that issue. We also have concerns with regard to the difficulties encountered by UNRWA on account of the increased demand for its services and the deteriorating social, economic and humanitarian conditions in the region.

Those difficulties make UNRWA's task in the five regions it serves more difficult.

In response to that situation, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States co-chaired a special meeting of a group of supporters of UNRWA at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, which focused on the consolidation of the contributions of Arab countries to the UNRWA regular budget. I would also note that the League's Secretary-General hosts an annual high-level strategic meeting of directors of education and other officials and civil society representatives from UNRWA host States. During those meetings we talk about services for Palestinian refugees to mitigate their suffering and to allow them to have a sustainable subsistence.

With regard to the protection of children in the Arab world, the League of Arab States and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict met on 22 September on the margins of a high-level meeting during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and signed an agreement on children who are victims of armed conflicts. The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations also signed a cooperation agreement. This is an important stage for preparing the Arab world to help those children so that they can live in conditions of peace, given the difficult conditions that we have seen in our part of the world for several years.

In May 2013, the secretariat of the League of Arab States, UN-Women and the Arab Labour Council worked together on a strategy for peace and security. An important stage of their work was educating officials and all stakeholders regarding international and regional decisions, with a view to helping them implement the adopted texts and to encouraging them to renew their commitments in that area.

At the beginning of this year, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the League also held a conference on the protection of human rights and the strengthening of those rights in the region. Subjects under consideration included the ongoing cooperation between the Office of the Commissioner and the secretariat with regard to technical advice, working methods and the Arab Human Rights Tribunal, established by a decision of the Arab Summit in Doha in March 2013.

I have noted just a number of aspects of the cooperation between our two organizations in the past two years. That cooperation is solid and supported. It involves a number of projects in various areas — combating drug trafficking, crime, corruption, terrorism and human trafficking. We also cooperate in the legal, political, economic, social and cultural areas.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Moroccan Ambassador, Omar Hilale, who presented draft resolution A/69/L.9. I join others in the request that the draft resolution be adopted by consensus.

The President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/5 of 8 October 1999, I now give the floor to Mr. Victor Tvircun, Secretary General of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

Mr. Tvircun (Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation): I am very pleased and deeply honoured to address the General Assembly as the representative of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). I wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the invitation and for his extensive report on the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, including BSEC (A/69/228). We highly appreciate that cooperation, and we want to see it enhanced in all areas of common interest. We are also very glad that draft resolution A/69/L.14, introduced for adoption by the General Assembly, both testifies to increased interaction between our two organizations and provides useful guidelines for our future common endeavours.

In recent months, our region has been the focus of international attention, as we have been experiencing an international crisis, the most significant one in decades. In the BSEC we hope for a swift normalization of the situation, and we stay focused on our work, in the firm belief that our efforts will help enhance what is positive, dynamic and constructive in the wider Black Sea region. Promoting multilateral economic cooperation in accordance with the Charter of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation is our concrete contribution to peace, stability and prosperity, and we consider that in the current situation, the BSEC's practical, results-oriented approach has gained in importance.

We intend to continue in the same mode, with the valuable and necessary support of all BSEC member States in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our organization and to produce

tangible results for the benefit of all of the peoples in our region. In that context, I should like to briefly inform the General Assembly of some of the BSCE's main priorities in the current period.

Our first priority is to accelerate the implementation of the "BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership", a strategic document endorsed by the member States in 2012, reflecting their commitment to enhancing the economic mission of the BSEC. In that context, our priority objectives in strategic regional cooperation fall into various fields of activity, including transport, institutional renewal and good governance, trade and economic development, banking and finance, environmental protection, sustainable development, and energy, including renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Our second priority is to proceed with the activation of a Project Management Unit within the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat. That mature initiative is gradually taking shape and will help improve the organization's position in the elaboration of projects, competition for funding and cooperation with partner organizations in joint activities. Through the activity of the Project Management Unit, utilizing human resources already available in the BSEC, we aim to help in the formulation and elaboration of project proposals in the areas mentioned and, after endorsement by our member States, to support their development and implementation, also through securing funding from third parties.

A third priority on our agenda is to consolidate the activities of the BSEC working groups, which form the core of BSEC functions. Within the same framework, we aim to increase cooperation with the BSEC-related bodies, as a necessary step for enhancing the effectiveness and visibility of our organization. It must be remembered that the BSEC is a multifaceted organization that also includes a Parliamentary Assembly and the BSEC Business Council, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies. It is also through the activities of its related bodies that the BSEC proves its usefulness, resilience in the changing political landscape and ability to promote regional economic cooperation.

The next objective is to increase cooperation and coordination with similar regional organizations, such as the Central European Initiative, the Danube

Commission, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference and others. Another objective involves increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat. This year marked the twentieth anniversary since the March 1994 creation of the secretariat as an institution aimed at furthering the principles and objectives of the BSEC and providing support to the organization's activities.

The BSEC is committed to promoting fruitful cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, in particular to developing practical and results-oriented projects in areas of common interest. In that regard, we are very pleased with the increasing cooperation between BSEC and the following organizations: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Wildlife Fund. We are similarly pleased with our working contacts with the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the World Tourism Organization, which are aimed at promoting sustainable development in the Black Sea region.

In that context, we are also very satisfied with the results of the Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme, the first partnership project between BSEC and UNDP, launched in 2006 with the support of Greece and Turkey. It is a good example of concrete cooperation between two organizations. The relocation of the UNDP Regional Centre to Istanbul will provide more opportunities for interaction and enhanced cooperation.

In the field of transport, BSEC is undertaking measures to improve the road transport of goods, in close cooperation with the International Road Transport Union and UNECE. In that context, I want to refer in particular to the introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate project, which will significantly decrease waiting times at the borders of the countries involved and facilitate the bilateral and transit transport of goods. With reference to those documents, I would like to extend special congratulations to the Republic of Moldova, the first country among the BSEC member States to introduce that certificate.

Our cooperation with UNECE is particularly well developed within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed between the two organizations in 2001. We continue our activities aimed at fully implementing the 2002 Cooperation Agreement between BSEC and UNEP and the 1997 Relationship Agreement between UNIDO and BSEC. We are also pleased that cooperation between BSEC and the UNIDO International Centre for Hydrogen Energy Technologies has been established, with an emphasis on energy and environment.

In combatting crime, we continue our fruitful cooperation with UNODC, following the elaboration and adoption of the 2008 BSEC Regional Action Plan for Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in the Black Sea Region, within the framework of a joint BSEC-UNODC project.

This year, we were also able to open a new era of cooperation with the United Nations specialized agencies, finalizing the framework for our cooperation with the World Tourism Organization and signing the relevant memorandum on the sidelines of the BSEC Meeting of Ministers of Tourism, organized by the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office on 23 October 2014.

BSEC also became a member of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in 2009. That enabled it to contribute to realizing the Alliance's objectives through the promotion of projects designed to build bridges among diverse cultures and communities and to foster cross-cultural exchange and cooperation. In the emerging world landscape, international organizations, and regional organizations in particular, are playing an important role. Each have their own specificities, which are determined by their respective regions and membership.

I want to take this opportunity to re-emphasize the importance of our cooperation with the European Union and to pledge our readiness to take concrete steps for the development of a mutually beneficial partnership. I would also like to invite the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to strengthen their cooperation with the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation in order to continue programmes and create synergies aimed at preparing and implementing joint projects.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my thanks and pay a well-deserved tribute to the Hellenic Republic for its guidance and support as Chairperson-in-Office

of BSEC during the past six months and for preparing the draft resolution in document A/69/L.14 that this Assembly is about to adopt. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to all BSEC member States and to the other United Nations Member States who have co-sponsored the draft resolution.

The President: We have heard the last speaker on the debate on agenda item 123 and its sub-items (a) to (y).

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolutions A/69/L.8, A/69/L.9, A/69/L.10, A/69/L.12, A/69/L.13, A/69/L.14 and A/69/L.16.

Before giving the floor to the speakers in explanation of vote before the vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to ten minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Pavlichenko (Ukraine): Before the General Assembly proceeds to the adoption of draft resolution A/69/L.10, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States", I would like to make the following statement.

Right from the outset, it has to be stressed that the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has demonstrated its complete reluctance and failure to take appropriate and political measures in response to the aggression against Ukraine being carried out by a leading member of that regional organization, an aggression that has resulted in the occupation of part of our territory. CIS keeps pretending that no conflict is being waged by the Russian Federation against a neighbouring State in brutal violation of both the Charter of the United Nations and the CIS Charter. For that reason, we cannot consider CIS as being able to advance appropriately and effectively the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the region, particularly in the context of Chapter VIII. We would also like to point out that Ukraine does not coordinate its foreign policy with that regional organization. Contrary to the language in the explanatory memorandum accompanying the draft resolution, which is contained in document A/69/141, Ukraine is not a member State of the CIS, as we did not sign and ratify the CIS Charter.

Ukraine did not sign the decision of the Council of Heads of States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, adopted on 24 December 1993 in Ashgabat, concerning certain measures to ensure international

recognition of the Commonwealth of Independent States and its statutory bodies with regard to granting observer status for the Commonwealth in the General Assembly. In not signing, Ukraine acted on the basis of the declaration of 20 December 1991 of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, its parliament, concerning the conclusion of the agreement on the Commonwealth of Independent States, which stated that Ukraine declined to grant the Commonwealth the status of a subject of international law.

The delegation of Ukraine would like to draw attention to the fact that the basic documents of the Commonwealth of Independent States — that is, the Agreement on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Alma-Ata Protocol and the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States — do not endow the Commonwealth with a status possessing the features of a subject of international law. The Commonwealth of Independent States is a special international interregional formation that not only lacks a definite status but in fact includes a military and political alliance established on the basis of the Collective Security Treaty, signed in Tashkent on 15 May 1992, which binds only some members of the Commonwealth.

Under those circumstances, Ukraine will abstain from voting on draft resolution A/69/L.10, specifically based on the understanding that the Commonwealth of Independent States, in its cooperation with the United Nations, legally represents only those countries in the Commonwealth that have signed and ratified the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 22 January 1993.

Taking all of those facts into account, Ukraine considers that the adoption of draft resolution A/69/L.10 should not be interpreted as recognition of the Commonwealth as a regional arrangement as defined in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, i.e. one that can be considered responsible for dealing with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly regarding enforcement action under the authority of the Security Council.

Mr. Ibrahim (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation would like to speak in explanation of vote before the vote on draft resolution A/69/L.16, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons".

My country, Syria, is a full member of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). We attend its meetings and take part in its discussions, just as other member States do. Since becoming a member of the OPCW, Syria has abided by all the rules and requirements governing membership and by the resolutions of its Executive Council. It has fulfilled all its obligations before the scheduled deadline and has cooperated with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Mission for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic and with the OPCW's team. It has cooperated and coordinated in every way, despite the fact that the environment in which it was operating was not ideal, as we are all aware. The successful and total elimination of Syria's chemical weapons programme would not have been possible without the constructive cooperation of the Syrian Government.

The preparation of draft resolution A/69/L.16 was carried out selectively. It is typical of the technical resolutions that we have voted on regularly in previous years, except that it now contains a paragraph that was drafted without consulting us, as would be necessary and legitimate. That raises questions and doubts about the intentions of the drafters and sponsors in targeting Syria and addressing this subject politically in the General Assembly, as the discussion in the draft resolution is supposed to be limited exclusively to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Since the draft resolution is supposed to be a purely technical one, not directed at any particular country, doing so sets a precedent and intentionally targets my country, which my Government rejects.

All draft resolutions relating to regional cooperation are supposed to be free of any mention of specific States, and the mention of my country in draft resolution A/69/L.16 raises the question of why my country, which has cooperated with the international community to an unprecedented extent, has been thus targeted. My country therefore reiterates its request that the politicization of this topic be stopped. There are no more chemical weapons programmes in my country. The subject is now over and done with. Syria continues to cooperate constructively with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and we therefore see absolutely no reason for the inclusion of paragraph 2 in the draft resolution, since it reflects the subjective and political targeting of our country and the continued

pursuit of certain countries' well-known practices. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic will accordingly abstain from voting on draft resolution A/69/L.16.

Mr. Robotjazi (Islamic Republic of Iran): I would like to explain my delegation's position before the vote on draft resolution A/69/L.16, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons".

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the main victim of the use of chemical weapons in recent history, attaches great importance to the full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In that context, Iran has always supported and contributed to the effective work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and will continue to do so.

Based on that principled position, my delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/69/L.16 as a whole. However, my delegation would like to express its strong dissatisfaction with the fact that the draft resolution's sponsor has totally ignored and overlooked established practice and traditional working methods in preparing this year's version of the draft resolution. The draft was prepared and circulated without conducting any transparent, inclusive consultations. Moreover, the draft resolution, which was circulated only a few days ago, contains some substantive references regarding ongoing developments in the implementation of the Convention in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Given the lack of sufficient time for the consideration by the relevant authorities in our capital of the draft resolution's new and substantive provisions, we requested, in a spirit of goodwill, that the sponsor of the draft resolution postpone action on it in order to enable concerned delegations to consult their capitals and get appropriate instructions. We regret that the sponsor has ignored that request and has decided to proceed to take action on the draft resolution. My delegation is therefore not in a position to vote in favour of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, which includes new, substantive provisions. We call on the sponsor to review and change its approach to drafting and introducing this draft resolution next year and to refrain from turning a resolution that has long been adopted by consensus into a substantive and controversial text.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

We shall now proceed to the vote on draft resolutions A/69/L.8, A/69/L.9, A/69/L.10, A/69/L.12, A/69/L.13, A/69/L.14 and A/69/L.16.

Draft resolution A/69/L.8 is entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative”.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since the submission of the draft resolution, and in addition to those delegations listed on the document, Georgia has become a sponsor of A/69/L.8.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/69/L.8?

Draft resolution A/69/L.8 was adopted (resolution 69/8).

The President: Draft resolution A/69/L.9 is entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States”.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/69/L.9, entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States”, I wish to put on the record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly.

In paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/69/L.9, the General Assembly would reaffirm the importance of holding the thirteenth general meeting on cooperation between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States during 2016, for which the dates and venue will be agreed upon in due course between the two secretariats. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 7, the thirteenth general meeting between the United Nations and the League of Arab States is to be held in 2016. It is understood that all issues related to the meeting, including the date, format, organization and scope, are yet to be determined.

Accordingly, in the absence of the modalities for the meeting, it is not possible at the present time to estimate

the potential cost implications of the requirements for meetings and documentation. Upon the decision on the modalities, format and organization of the meeting, the Secretary-General would submit the relevant costs of such requirements in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly. Accordingly, the adoption of draft resolution A/69/L.9 would not give rise to any financial implications under the programme budget.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/69/L.9?

Draft resolution A/69/L.9 was adopted (resolution 69/9).

The President: Draft resolution A/69/L.10 is entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States”. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/69/L.10?

Draft resolution A/69/L.10 was adopted (resolution 69/10).

The President: Draft resolution A/69/L.12 is entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/69/L.12?

Draft resolution A/69/L.12 was adopted (resolution 69/11).

The President: Draft resolution A/69/L.13 is entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization”. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/69/L.13?

Draft resolution A/69/L.13 was adopted (resolution 69/12).

The President: Draft resolution A/69/L.14 is entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization”.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since the submission of the draft resolution, and in addition to those delegations listed on the document, the following countries have become sponsors of draft

resolution A/69/L.14: Germany, Hungary, Montenegro and Spain.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/69/L.14?

Draft resolution A/69/L.14 was adopted (resolution 69/13).

The President: We now turn to draft resolution A/69/L.16, entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons”.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since the submission of the draft resolution, and in addition to those delegations listed on the document, the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/69/L.16: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The President: A recorded vote has been requested on paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/69/L.16 and on draft resolution A/69/L.16 as a whole. I shall first put to the vote paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/69/L.16.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia,

Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Bahamas, Belarus, Cameroon, Egypt, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libya, Syrian Arab Republic

Operative paragraph 2 was retained by 93 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegations of Egypt, Guyana, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Libya and the Philippines informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/69/L.16 as a whole, entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons”. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea,

Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Guyana

Draft resolution A/69/L.16 was adopted by 108 votes to none, with 1 abstention (resolution 69/14).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Cambodia, Guyana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Philippines informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: Before giving the floor to the speakers in explanation of vote on the resolutions just adopted, I would like to remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mrs. Jakubonė (Lithuania): Lithuania would like to make a statement in explanation of its position after the adoption of resolution 69/12 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Time and again, we have seen the important role that regional organizations can play in promoting conflict resolution, peace negotiations and mediation, and other matters of international peace and security. The European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the African Union, the Economic Community of Western African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and many others have been working closely with the United Nations for years now. We therefore welcome the adoption of resolutions on United Nations cooperation with regional organizations and support the development of United Nations relations with them.

At the same time, we would like to underline that the promotion of United Nations purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and respect for international legal norms and internationally accepted principles of behaviour must

lie at the core of United Nations partnerships with regional organizations. Those principles and norms have been repeatedly violated by one member of the CSTO, which annexed a part of its neighbour and continues to finance and support illegal military activities against that neighbouring State. Such behaviour runs counter to everything for which United Nations cooperation with regional organizations stands.

We reiterate our profound concern over Russia's attempt to redraw the borders of twenty-first-century Europe and therefore note our strong unease with the text adopted today with regard to the United Nations cooperation with the CSTO. We call on Russia to cease its hostile actions against Ukraine and to abide by international law and the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of its neighbours. Russia cannot have any claims on a peacekeeping or peacebuilding role in the region, since its actions are the core cause of the conflict in Ukraine.

We urge CSTO members to call on Russia to return to the internationally accepted norms of behaviour and to put an end to its attacks on the territory of a neighbouring State.

Mr. Ceylan (Turkey): Turkey is committed to the ultimate goal of the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. It fulfils its commitments under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction as the sole international legally binding instrument that bans an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. Turkey pursues effective cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Turkey is also convinced that enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the OPCW is an important tool for addressing various disarmament and non-proliferation challenges. Based on that understanding, we co-sponsored resolution 67/8, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons," which was adopted by consensus in 2012. However, the very worrisome developments that have been taking place in Syria — namely, the systematic and persistent use of chemical weapons against civilians by regime forces — since the General Assembly adopted that resolution oblige us to view the issue from a different perspective.

From Turkey's standpoint, greater focus on cooperation between the United Nations and the OPCW with respect to Syria has become all the more crucial and must be more rigorous and effective in order to prevent the continued use of chemical weapons and compel the regime to fully comply with its obligations. More has to be done in Syria pertaining to United Nations-OPCW cooperation. We therefore believe that resolution 69/14 should have made clearer reference to those pending issues, which would have certainly secured Turkey's sponsorship once again. We nonetheless supported the resolution, bearing in mind that effective cooperation between the United Nations and the OPCW will advance disarmament and non-proliferation goals in the field of chemical weapons. It is incumbent on all Member States to enhance such cooperation. However, we deem it necessary to make the following remarks.

First, the resolution makes no reference to the continued use of chemical weapons in Syria, which must be seen as the most pressing issue within the context of United Nations-OPCW cooperation. According to our information, as recently as 5 November regime forces in Jobar conducted another chlorine attack against civilians, causing death and injuries.

Although the resolution mentions the Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, which was dispatched to look into the attacks that took place in Quetta in August 2013, and Joint Mission of the OPCW and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, it does not refer to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission, whose mandate is still active and whose second report contains important findings and conclusions about the persistent chemical weapons threat in Syria. Given the explicit mandate of the OPCW to inform the relevant United Nations organs on non-compliance cases in Syria under the provisions of resolution 2118 (2013), Turkey is convinced that the transmission of that report to the Security Council would be an important sign of cooperation between the United Nations and the OPCW.

Last but not least, the resolution, while mentioning that the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission ended on 30 September 2014, does not make any reference to the remaining Syrian chemical-weapon production facilities and the issue of the inaccurate and incomplete declarations made by the regime with regard to the dismantlement of its chemical-weapons programme. Turkey therefore firmly believes that until those gaps,

discrepancies and inconsistencies are thoroughly addressed in a credible manner, which is incumbent on the regime, no one can say that United Nations-OPCW cooperation has achieved its ultimate goal in Syria. We should not forget that every delay and every loophole in the destruction of Syria's remaining chemical-weapons capabilities give the regime a free hand to further increase its brutal oppression against its own people.

The Syrian regime's remaining chemical-weapon capabilities and the use of chemical agents against civilians constitute flagrant violations of international law and continue to undermine international peace and security. As such, they will continue to occupy the international security agenda, and the Syrian case will remain open.

Mr. Agasandyan (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to the delegation of the Netherlands for the preparation of resolution 69/14, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons".

Based on the spirit of cooperation and constructive interaction, we supported the consensus adoption of the document. However, we would like to emphasize that such general and technical resolutions should not contain references to any specific country issues. Otherwise, we would need to put in the text other measures, just as important, to investigate cases of the use of chemical weapons. In our view, it would have been much more effective to talk about the facts surrounding the award to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) of the Nobel Prize in December 2013. We regret that our request was ignored.

With respect to cooperation between the United Nations and the OPCW on the so-called Syrian dossier, we would like to note that this investigation was initiated by Damascus itself, which provided maximum cooperation to the international experts' mission. If there had been an issue, this would have been objectively reflected in the draft resolution.

Ms. Xiao Yue (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation voted in favour of resolution 69/14, on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). China appreciates the effective cooperation between the United Nations and the OPCW. At the same time, we believe that the OPCW should have played a

leading role in the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote after the voting.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply. May I remind members that statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Ibrahim (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Apparently the representative of Turkey and of the Turkish regime is quite used to violating the general procedures of the General Assembly. As a sponsor of resolution 69/14, he should not be allowed to speak in explanation of vote after the voting.

Apparently he also has knowledge about locations involving the use of chemical weapons against members of the Syrian army and civilians in Syria, but he intentionally overlooks the fact that his Government and regime provide terrorist organizations, including the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, with various forms of weapons, including chemical weapons. Since the incident involving the use of sarin gas against Syrian civilians in Khan al-Assal

in 2013, this has been confirmed by the presence of terrorist elements possessing two litres of Sarin gas in Turkish territory, which were overlooked by the authorities in Ankara, even with cooperation by these authorities.

The Turkish representative overlooks all reports about the use of terrorist organizations in Syria and in Iraq of chemical weapons. This policy of overlooking those facts is an indication of the policy of cooperation and partnership between the Turkish regime and those terrorist organizations, which use Turkish territory for their activities.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to clarify for the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic that Turkey was not a sponsor of resolution 69/14.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-items (d), (f), (g), (o), (q), (w) and (y) of agenda item 123?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.