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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia and Slovenia:
draft resolution**

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [66/111](#) of 9 December 2011, by which it granted observer status to the Central European Initiative,

Recalling also its resolutions [67/7](#) of 19 November 2012, [69/8](#) of 11 November 2014, [71/13](#) of 21 November 2016 and [73/10](#) of 26 November 2018, in which it invited the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Initiative in order to continue joint activities for the achievement of common objectives,

Recalling further the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation to promote the goals and objectives of the United Nations,

Appreciating the active involvement of the Initiative in establishing cooperation with the United Nations system and relevant international and regional organizations, aimed at the furthering of political and socioeconomic development by covering all its relevant dimensions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution [73/10](#),¹

1. *Notes with appreciation* the joint declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central European Initiative member States, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Initiative, in Trieste on 12 June 2019 under the presidency of Italy, reiterating the importance of the interaction between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative;

¹ See [A/75/345-S/2020/898](#), sect. II.



2. *Welcomes* the important role consistently played by the Central European Initiative as a promoter of political dialogue and as a flexible and pragmatic platform for regional cooperation, thus supporting peace, stability, security and the economic progress of its member States, including through the upholding of democratic values, the rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as good-neighbourly relations, and through the implementation of tangible projects and programmes in priority fields;

3. *Reaffirms* that regional cooperation is an effective form of multilateralism contributing to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

4. *Recognizes*, in this context, the Initiative's response to global challenges, such as to the recent coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, which has caused enormous health, economic and social consequences to the entire world population, through the establishment of a joint Central European Initiative-World Health Organization task force as well as through self-standing initiatives and actions under the 2020 presidency of Montenegro for effectively tackling the challenges in the Central European Initiative region;

5. *Appreciates* the joint statement on solidarity and cooperation of the Central European Initiative member States in the face of the challenges posed by COVID-19, adopted by the Heads of Government of the States members of the Initiative at their virtual meeting held on 15 May 2020 under the presidency of Montenegro;

6. *Values* the ongoing commitment of the States members of the Central European Initiative to the implementation of the Central European Initiative Plan of Action 2018–2020, adopted at the Central European Initiative summit held in Minsk in December 2017 during the presidency of Belarus, aimed at promoting the connectivity and valorizing the diversity in the region;

7. *Acknowledges* that the Central European Initiative Plan of Action 2018–2020 was elaborated in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² and thus bears in mind that interconnectivity in sustainable development can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the regional and national levels;

8. *Values*, in this context, the efforts made so far in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the continuous commitment of the Initiative to contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda, especially in the context of this last decade of action, also with the Plan of Action 2021–2023, under preparation;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the organization, under the presidency of Italy, by the Central European Initiative during the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019 of a side event, “The contribution of regional cooperation and partnerships to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: the experience of the Central European Initiative”, in New York on 17 July 2019, aimed at exchanging knowledge and experiences with all relevant stakeholders regarding best practices of regional partnership;

10. *Appreciates* the outcome of the meeting of the ministers responsible for research, innovation and higher education in the Central European Initiative member States held on 13 December 2019 in Trieste under the presidency of Italy, stressing the importance of enhanced cooperation between the Initiative and the United Nations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

² Resolution [70/1](#).

11. *Notes* the continuous efforts of the Initiative to promote an effective multilateralism, recalling that transnational threats can be successfully addressed only through cooperation and joint actions, recognizing the need for strong and innovative leadership to manage crises such as COVID-19 at the local, national and international levels, including by empowering women leaders;

12. *Recognizes* the activities of the Initiative aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in such priority fields as good governance, including migration, digitalization and anti-corruption; economic growth, including in transport, research and innovation, the bioeconomy and blue growth, and sustainable development and entrepreneurship; environmental protection, including climate change, energy, in particular renewable energy and energy efficiency, and biodiversity; intercultural cooperation, including social integration; media freedom; and scientific cooperation and education, including lifelong learning;

13. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to elaborate and implement concrete regional projects in these fields;

14. *Calls for* greater cooperation between the Initiative and international financial institutions, with a view to exploring possibilities for co-financing regional projects;

15. *Welcomes*, in this context, the Initiative's relations with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development through the Central European Initiative Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, entirely financed by Italy, which provides mainly grant-type assistance for specific components of technical cooperation projects, linked to large operations of the Bank in States members of the Central European Initiative that are not members of the European Union;

16. *Also welcomes* the financing of small-scale multilateral projects in the priority fields by the Central European Initiative Cooperation Fund, to which all member States contribute, and of projects related to capacity-building and the sharing of good practices between States members of the Central European Initiative that are members of the European Union and those that are not, through the Know-how Exchange Programme, financed by Italy;

17. *Appreciates* the vigorous efforts of the Initiative to support, elaborate and realize joint regional projects in strategic areas in cooperation with other important regional and international players;

18. *Acknowledges*, in this context, the fruitful cooperation between the Central European Initiative and the European Union, as one of the main co-funders of such projects, and supports the efforts of the Initiative to take concrete steps to establish other mutually beneficial partnerships with the European Union;

19. *Also acknowledges* the efforts undertaken by the Initiative in intensifying cooperation with other international and regional organizations and initiatives, thus remaining committed to fostering broad multi-stakeholder partnerships in the region;

20. *Notes* the ongoing contributions of the Central European Initiative bodies, in particular the Central European Initiative Parliamentary Assembly, to the strengthening of the multifaceted regional cooperation in the region;

21. *Also notes* the continuous efforts within the Initiative, and its Executive Secretariat, aimed at increasing its efficiency and effectiveness;

22. *Values* the commitment of the Initiative to promoting fruitful cooperation with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, with the aim of achieving mutual

participation in events and meetings of common interest and developing practical and results-oriented joint projects and actions;

23. *Welcomes*, in this context, the cooperation established between the Initiative and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, through the establishment of a joint task force in response to the COVID-19 emergency in the Central European Initiative region with the support of the 2020 presidency of Montenegro;

24. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to establish cooperation with the Initiative through common action aimed at achieving the shared goals;

25. *Invites* the Secretary-General to intensify the exchange with the Initiative in order to continue the fruitful cooperation and to facilitate coordination between the secretariats;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”, the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative”.
