



**Committee: Security Council**

**Issue: Cooperation between the UN Security Council and regional and sub-regional organizations in preventing and resolving conflict**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Since its establishment in 1945, the UN has formed an operational structure, where the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) holds a position of vital importance. The Security Council still remains the only council, whose decisions can be legally binding and it practically bears the responsibility of taking drastic actions to resolve any immediate dangers that could destabilize or endanger world peace and security. However, to what extent can such a difficult and truly universal task be handled by a single organisation even if that organisation is the UN?

Cooperation between the UN and other organisations is a subject of major importance, with an entire Chapter of the UN Charter dedicated to this matter (Chapter VIII). However, since the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and up until today, this value of cooperation has been challenged in various ways, even leading to divisions between member states inside the UN and the Security Council. Events such as the intervention of organisations, such as NATO in the "Yugoslavian war" or the actions of the African Union throughout the Somali crisis have shaped the geopolitical status of the world and led to the criticism and reform of the Security Council.

The debate on the effectiveness of cooperation with other organisations has many times challenged the Security Council's standing, with a stable and standard plan of approach for important occasions not always forced, in spite of requests to other organisations for assistance. Thus, the matter at hand is significant, interesting and yet challenging. Its effective resolution could prove extremely positive towards the strengthening of the UN's effectiveness and unity.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Regional Organisations

Regional Organisations or Regional Arrangements (ROs) are legal economic or non-economic bodies consisting of multiple nations and/ or other legal entities, which aim at improving cooperation and strategic planning, focused on a specific region.

### Sub-Regional Organisations

Sub-Regional Organisations or Sub-Regional Arrangements (SROs) are legal economic or non-economic bodies consisting of multiple nations and or other legal entities, which aim at improving cooperation and strategic planning at a sub-regional and or global level.

### Conflict

Conflicts can be classified into many different types, each one reflecting the form of the conflicting parties and/ or the area of action.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) “an armed conflict is a contested incompatibility that concerns territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in one calendar year.”<sup>1</sup>. Overall armed conflicts as defined above, are going to be the main type of conflict concerned in the debate.

However, it should be noted that conflicts can also be classified as non-state based (when no governments are included). Intrastate (when the conflict is confined inside the recognised borders of a state and one of the parties consists of state forces). Interstate (when the conflict takes place across multiple states’

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1. <sup>1</sup> “Definitions.” *Charts, Graphs and Maps - Department of Peace and Conflict Research - Uppsala University, Sweden*, [www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/definitions/#incompatibility\\_2](http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/definitions/#incompatibility_2).

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borders and both sides are states using their respective national forces). Extrastate (when one of the conflicting sides is a state whereas the other is a not internationally recognised political entity, with action taking place outside of the recognised state's borders)

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

When considering the issue of cooperation between the UNSC and regional and sub-regional organisations in preventing and resolving conflict, it is of utmost importance that the application of Chapters VII and VIII of the UN Charter are considered. On the one hand, Chapter VII regulates and clearly states when, how and to what extent force may be used, in order to ensure the application of any binding decisions taken by the UN. On the other hand, Chapter VIII defines and regulates the cooperation of the UN with "regional arrangements", yielding authority to the UNSC. At this point of the study guide, a brief overview of certain key cases relating to the cooperation between the UNSC and other organizations will be provided, as a means for delegates to further their understanding of the subject.

## The Case of Former Yugoslavia

### Basic Information

When referring to the case of former Yugoslavia, we refer to the violent events ranging from non-peaceful protests, to full out conflict that took place from approximately 1989 to November 2001 in the wider region of the former Yugoslavia. These events formed part of and led to the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFR). Violence first escalated when Slovenia declared its secession from the Federation on June 26 1991, a decision met with opposition from the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA). The latter, however, did not enter full scale combat and finally withdrew from the region after 4 months of fairly limited skirmishes.



Picture 1: Map of the republics that formed in the Yugoslav region

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Apart from that, even prior to the events described above, fighting in Croatia had erupted, when the majority of the Serbian population in the area opposed the secession of the province from the Federation. This time a large number of soldiers under the administration of the SFR entered the province and although formally keeping a non-aligned stance, the JNA acted along the Serb militant forces, practically confronting the Croatian army. During the battles that followed (Battle of Borovo Selo, Battle of Bukovar and the Siege of Dubrovnik), which lasted for more than one year (1991-1992), thousands of Croatian ethnics were forced to leave, while many atrocities from both sides were reported to have been committed. However, after major involvement of the international community, the conflict began to de-escalate. As the JNA began to withdraw, the war shifted with the Croatian side reclaiming most of their land apart from UN controlled area, which were also finally reintegrated to the Croatian state by 1998 as the Erdut agreement stated (1995).

A year after the escalation of the conflict in Croatia, the "Bosnian war" erupted, as again the mainly Serb JNA forces along with militant Serb forces tried to stop citizens from voting in the referendum for Bosnian independence (1992). With their attempts having failed and the results of the referendum being overwhelmingly positive towards the secession of Bosnia, the somewhat minor clashes were escalated by the Serbian side, into a full-scale conflict. With Bosnian-Serbs fighting against the army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Croat Serbs engaging the former allied Bosnia-Herzegovinian army (1992-1994), the area was scarred by crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing attempts (e.g. Srebrenica) and by one of the longest sieges in modern history (the Siege of Sarajevo). Again, only after the heavy involvement of the international community and the decisive outcome of some final major operations did the conflict de-escalate. As a result, the independent state of Bosnia-Herzegovina was formed, the Serbian forces withdrew and the "Republika Srpska" was formed as an autonomous entity inside Bosnia-Herzegovina representing the majority of the Bosnian Serb population.

The last, key crisis within the region involved the Kosovo War, starting in 1999. Internal conflicts within the country between different segments led to

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increased violence, a significant death toll and ultimately the severe involvement of the International Community.

## **The involvement of the UN and its cooperation with regional organisations**

The Yugoslavian crisis challenged the UN's capabilities to effectively resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, with internal and external clashes sometimes leading to controversial decisions taken by the UNSC. Some of the actions that defined the UN's involvement in the conflict, were reportedly the early decision for a full arms trade embargo on the concerned region (1991), the decision for the creation of a "no fly zone" over the area of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the decision to form the UNPROFOR and establish the infamous UNPA areas. Furthermore, it is important to note that apart from the latter decision, the UNSC in several of its resolutions regarding the subject quoted the following: "calls upon States, nationally or through regional agencies to ensure strict implementation"<sup>2</sup> of the decisions described. Practically this meant, that the UNSC acting on Chapters VII and VIII of the UN Charter authorised regional organisations to use force if deemed necessary, authorisation which it then extended to greater part. In this context the two major organisations that were involved were NATO and the OSCE.

NATO was the organization which mainly took responsibility long with the European Community, in order to establish the no-fly zone and provide air protection to the UNPROFOR. Furthermore, at the request of peacekeeping forces and UNSC (Res 836), NATO conducted two main operations spanning across almost six months, (Operation Deadeye and Operation Deliberate Force), with the aim of weakening the Bosnian Serb's fighting capability and further pushing for a diplomatic resolution of the conflict. NATO's actions could be described as drastic and impactful, as 2 and a half months after the conclusion of the operations diplomatic talks began, with the signing of the Dayton agreement (14 December 1995) finally resolving the conflict. In the Kosovo crisis, NATO took on an even more important role, launching the Operation Allied Force; a series of air strikes with a significant number of civilian casualties. Here,

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<sup>2</sup>"Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council." *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/regional\\_arrangements.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/regional_arrangements.shtml).

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NATO operated for the first time without the approval of the UNSC, following the possibility of a veto by Russia and China within the UNSC. Altogether, the unclear UNSC mandate, the relatively high number of confirmed casualties, coupled with reported errors in communication and strategic planning between UN peacekeeping forces and NATO forces, show how stricter and solid guidelines defining the cooperation between the UN and regional organisations were needed. It is important to note here that NATO doesn't consider itself a regional arrangement, as this is discussed within the relevant Article.

The OSCE on the other hand, holding a not so active position in the combat part of the conflict, proved to be as an organisation quite helpful and relevant to the endeavours of the UN to resolve the Kosovo crisis concerned. The CSCE, which is the predecessor of the permanent OSCE, overall managed to reach some of its objective goals, working as a mediator and host of diplomatic talks between the belligerents. The partly successful outcome of this organisation's involvement could also prove how communication through formal briefings, letters, correspondences and reports is a mostly safe, organised and effective way of cooperation between the UNSC and an organisation, although, it requires great amounts of time spent in planning before any joint decision can be properly implemented, something quite difficult to be handled during especially quickly escalating situations.

## **The Case of Somalia**

Following several months of economic and political instability, in 1969 a military coup took place, leading to the removal of the elected president from office and the installation in power of the major-general of the gendarmerie of the country Siad Barre. Whilst the first decade of his rule was fairly peaceful, his increasingly dictatorial style sparked opposition towards the government. By 1991, rebel forces, mainly led by the United Somali Congress (USC), took control of Mogadishu, overthrowing the Barre regime. Ever since, a number of various conflicts between major rebel groups and tribes have emerged, sinking Somalia into a civil war of significant length and consequences. Within this, a clash between the international community, the legitimate interim government of Somalia and various extremist Islamic groups including the Al-Qaeda and ISIL has also emerged, rendering the issue particularly relevant to the UN and UNSC.

## The involvement of the UN and its cooperation with regional organisations

Even before the actual fall of the Siad-regime, the international community was deeply concerned by the events that took place in the Somali region. The first immediate action taken by the UNSC in 1992 was the authorisation of an arms embargo on Somalia under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, along with a request for all member states and organisations concerned for a report on the situation. Immediately after, in several of its sessions in

1992 the UNSC decided to deploy peacekeeping forces assisted by the US military, in order to safeguard humanitarian missions and attempt to deescalate the situation. Thus, from 1992 to 1995, conflict between UN peacekeepers and the rebel groups opposed to the USC took place. Following developments in 1993 and 1994, the mandate of the UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia (UNISOM II) wasn't



extended, leading to the withdrawal of UN forces in 1995. During the following years the UN, along with LAS and the AU, continued however their endeavours to stabilise Somalia; refraining from direct intervention in the ground, achieving the formation of an interim government in 2000. The re-escalation of conflict in 2006 and 2007 led ultimately to the re-establishment of UNSC authorised AU mission to Somalia (AMISOM). Along with the extension of its mandate, AMISOM supporting the federal government of Somalia, continued to effectively push back the Islamist insurgents until today.



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The events of the Somalian humanitarian and political crisis are a clear sign of the importance of a multilateral approach towards the resolution and even prevention of a conflict. Indeed, it may be argued that military level regional agencies tend to be more effective in long-term situations, as opposed to single state operations (US operation compared to AMISOM). Furthermore, studying the situation in Somalia we can identify the importance of regular reports submitted by organisations to the UNSC in the effective planning of operations. The importance of regional arrangements as mediators and hosts of diplomatic procedures is also stressed in this case, with the example of the decisions adopted by both LAS and the AU (leading to the conferences of Addis Ababa and the clan leaders meeting in Djibouti respectively). However, it also becomes evident that the cooperation of the UN with other organisations creates a need for prioritisation of operations. More specifically, further cooperation was needed, so as to clearly define the role of each organisation as part of a single compact action plan (e.g. differentiation between humanitarian and peacekeeping missions). Overall, especially during the first period of the crisis, the UN's capability to respond in accordance with other organisations was reportedly lacking and led to major short-term problems. Throughout the whole period, the need for more trust and willingness for cooperation with regional arrangements should have been shown, while a better balance between quick and drastic plans and long-term and non-immediate actions should have been sought.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### United States of America (USA)

The USA's foreign policy, has at a certain level shaped the outcome of conflicts all around the world throughout the years. The USA is a founding member of the OSCE and of NATO. Regarding the issue at hand, the USA seem to have adopted a quite positive stance towards the cooperation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) with other regional and sub-regional organisations. However due to its strategic interests and foreign relations, it has also shown



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reluctance towards the involvement of specific organizations, such as the LAS.

## United Kingdom (UK)

The UK, throughout its history has claimed an important role in the resolution of conflicts at a global scale. It is a founding member of NATO, of the OSCE and a member of the EU (officially at least until March 29 2019). In recent years and especially after the end of the cold-war era, the UK has kept a positive stance towards the cooperation of the UN with other regional and sub-regional organisations in a variety of subjects. It is important to note that the UK up until now has steadily commended the involvement of NATO, of the OSCE, of the EU and of the OIC in various cases of peacekeeping and post conflict support.

## Russian Federation

The Russian Federation as a successor to the Soviet Union holds an especially important role in a number of regional and sub-regional organizations, including the OSCE, BRICS, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

### Current members

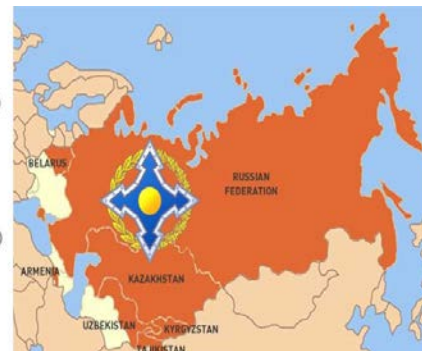
- Armenia (2002)
- Belarus (2002)
- Kazakhstan (2002)
- Kyrgyzstan (2002)
- Russia (2002)
- Tajikistan (2002)

### Observers

- Afghanistan (2013)
- Serbia (2013)

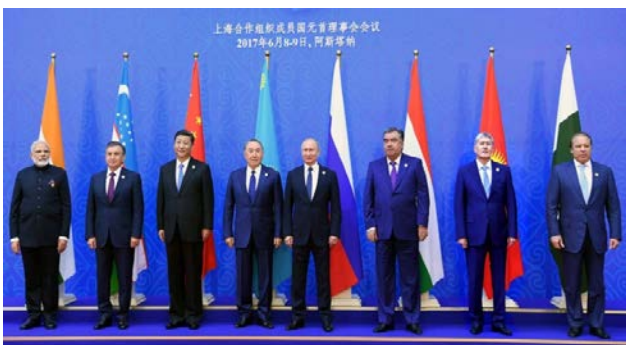
### Possible candidates

- Iran



As it can be seen above, the Russian Federation has practically shown a focus on Eurasian international organisations. The Russian Federation (as well as its predecessor) has in various occasions shown a quite negative stance towards the involvement of NATO in matters of peacekeeping, especially in the Eastern European region, the Asian and the African Continent. However, in the beginning of the 21st century it has made some minor steps towards improving its relations with the

mentioned organisation, as well as with the EU.



## People's Republic of China (PRC)

picture 5: The presidents of the SCO member

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The People's Republic of China, as a member of BRICS and of the SCO, also plays an important role in shaping the UN's cooperation with regional and sub-regional organisations. The PRC, also practically shows a focus on Eurasian organisations and throughout its history been reluctant to support full cooperation between the UN and NATO, especially in matters of peacekeeping in Asia and Africa. Having built strong relations with the Russian Federation, the two permanent members of the UNSC overall hold a relatively more critical stance towards the cooperation of the UN with other regional and sub-regional organisations, being sceptic about the idea of constant and standard cooperation between the UN and other regional and sub-regional organisations in matters of peacekeeping.

## **The UNSC Military Staff Committee (MSC)**

In February 1946, the Security Council gained a new subsidiary body, the “Military Staff Committee”. When it was first established, the MSC had the role “of advising and assisting the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council’s military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament.”<sup>3</sup> However after almost seven decades of evolutionary changes, the MSC’s current role in the UN is vastly different from that envisioned in its establishment, with the UN’s focus on peacekeeping operations readapting the body’s functionality. More specifically, with the establishment of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), along with the Department of Field Support (DFS) and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the UN has developed a very different mechanism to handle its military issues, leaving the MSC in a clearly advisory role.

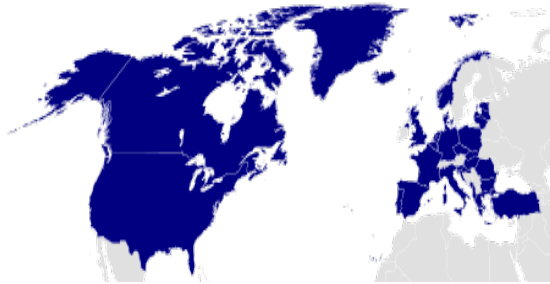
## **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**

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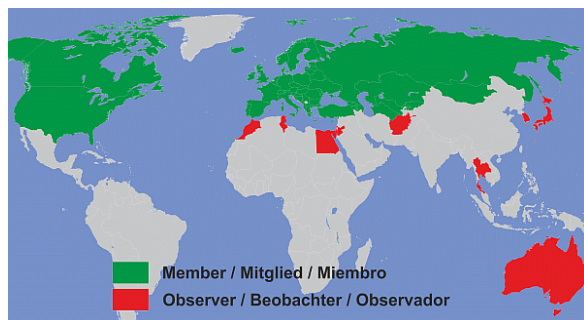
<sup>3</sup> “United Nations Military Staff Committee Security Council Subsidiary Organs.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/subsidiary/msc](http://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/subsidiary/msc).

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The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is a sub-regional organization first established in April 1949 after countries from both the North American and European region signed its Charter, which was formed officially in accordance to the UN Charter's provisions for pacific resolution of conflicts. NATO was first formed for the purpose of cooperated responses to any threats projected by the Warsaw Pact. In the aftermath of the Cold War, it transformed, taking a leading role in peacekeeping operations all around the globe. NATO's involvement, however in many cases, such as the conflicts in former Yugoslavia and the invasion of Iraq in Kuwait have been an extremely controversial subject.



Picture 6: The member states of NATO



Picture 7: Members of the OSCE

## Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe was first established as CSCE in the 3 July 1973 and later renamed and reorganised as OSCE a permanent council in 15 December 1994. The OSCE is currently the largest peacekeeping regional

organisation in the world numbering 57 members. Its involvement in various conflicts, from the situation in Former Yugoslavia to the Crimean Crisis, have shown its dedication to the pacific resolution of conflicts and proven its effectiveness in managing complex matters while cooperating with other organisations and especially the UN.

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## **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations was first established in 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand after Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, signed its founding declaration. ASEAN bears as its main aims the promotion of economic and cultural growth in the region, as well as the cooperation for the maintenance of peace and the resolution of conflicts in the area with respect towards the UN Charter's provisions. Its involvement in the resolution of the South China Sea crisis, as well as its treaties regarding this and other subjects, make it a fairly important regional organisation in the concerned subject. It should be noted that ASEAN currently does not directly handle any active peacekeeping operations in areas of conflict.

## **League of Arab States (LAS)**

"The League of Arab States, or Arab League, is a voluntary association of countries whose peoples are mainly Arabic speaking or where Arabic is an official language"<sup>4</sup>. The league has taken important measures to culturally shape the Middle Eastern and North African regions. While its role is in peacekeeping and peace building, it has been characteristically limited to the creation of non-binding declarations and the deployment of monitoring forces in areas of constant unrest and or conflict, such as in Syria, Iraq and Libya. Indeed, the region covered by the league has been affected by constant conflicts since the previous century.

## **The African Union**

"Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity issued a Declaration (the Sirte Declaration) calling for the establishment of an African Union, with a view, inter alia, to accelerating the process of integration in the continent to enable it play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded as they are by certain negative aspects of globalisation."<sup>5</sup> The African Union has taken active

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2. <sup>4</sup> "Profile: Arab League." *BBC News*, BBC, 24 Aug. 2017, [www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15747941](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15747941).

<sup>5</sup> "AU in a Nutshell." *AU in a Nutshell | African Union*, [au.int/en/history/oau-and-au](http://au.int/en/history/oau-and-au).

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positions in various crises in related areas, showing willingness for cooperation with the UN in accordance to its Charter. It has throughout its mandate established various development programmes in a lot of regions across the African continent and is the main intergovernmental body related to the area.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
22/3/1945	After extensive negotiations, the League of Arab States is formed with 7 original members
26/6/1945	The UN Charter is signed, defining the importance of regional arrangements in the attempt for pacific resolution of conflicts
4/2/1946	The United Nations Military Staff Committee holds its inaugural meeting leading the way to becoming the longest running subsidiary body of the UNSC.
4/4/1949	The North Atlantic treaty is signed, signalling the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisations (NATO)
8/8/1967	The Association of Southeast Asia (ASA) is transformed and expanded leading to the formation of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
25/9/1991	The UN Security Council for the first time authorizes the use of force by regional and sub-regional organisations in order for the implementation of its actions under Article 41. A full arms trade embargo is setup on Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina
1992	A full arms trade embargo is enforced on Somalia under the authorization of the UN Security Council.
1992	The UNs' Department of Peacekeeping Operations is established
26/8/1992	The UN Secretary General co-chairs along with the President of the Council of Ministers of the European Community the International Conference of Former Yugoslavia, actively



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	endorsing the major involvement of the European Community in the resolution of conflicts in the concerned area.
1993	Un troops assisted by US troops land in Somalia
12/1994	The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is transformed to a permanent organisation the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
1995	The last peacekeeping forces of UNISOM II are withdrawn from Somalia, after the reported failure of the mission
26/6/2001	The African Union is established
2007	The African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) commences with troops led by the AU being deployed in Western Somalia
2013	Cooperation with regional and sub regional organisations considered mainstay of international relations, after day-long briefings of organisations to the UNSC
2016	In a press conference the Secretary-General affirms the Security Council's commitment to cooperation with regional bodies

## **UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS**

Chapter VIII of the UN Charter has been the basis of any action taken by the UNSC regarding the issue covered by this study guide. However, throughout various resolutions, its implementation has been challenged.

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One of the landmark resolutions including Chapter VII has been [S/RES/713 \(1991\)](#), in which for the first time in its history, the UN authorised the use of force if necessary by any relevant regional organisation or agency.

Throughout each period of operations of the UNSC, official reviews have been created, regarding its respect towards the provisions of the articles of Chapter VIII of the Charter. Each review contains studies of cases during the concerned period, where the implementation, explicit or implicit mentioning of the relevant Chapter has occurred. However, apart from very limited commenting on the importance of each case, the reviews do not offer anything else. Apart from that, several talks and press conferences including the Secretary-General and most of the times heads of regional agencies and organisations have been held in recent years, offering some interesting and valuable concepts towards the improvement of the situation. Nevertheless, it is important to note that very limited dedicated discussions regarding the issue have taken place in the UNSC.

Some of the resolutions regarding regional arrangements are listed below:

- 28 May 1998 S/RES/1170
  - The creation of a working group is proposed, in order for the preparation of a ministerial level meeting. The importance of cooperation and coordination with the African Union in the resolution of conflict in the African continent is thoroughly stressed.
- 16 September 1998 S/RES/1196
  - This resolution, which mainly revolved around the issue of various arms trade embargoes in the African continent, endorsed the contributions and actions of various regional and sub-regional arrangements, including the OAU (later AU) and others such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
- 18 September 1998 S/RES/1197
  - The resolution strived to cover matters of cooperation between the UN and the OAU. More specifically the resolution invited the Secretary-General to actively assist the OAU and other African sub-regional organisations at setting up sophisticated logistics and support networks.



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Apart from that the resolution also supported the establishment of more typical and strong communication between the UN and the OAU and ECOWAS in a variety of fields.

- 4 February 2003 S/RES/1464
  - The Security Council, acting on Chapter VII and VIII, authorised peacekeeping forces deployed by the ECOWAS in Cote d' Ivoire to use all means necessary, in order to protect the civilians threatened by the ongoing conflict in the region.
- 1 August 2003 S/RES/1497
  - This resolution attempts to address the situation in Liberia by authorising the deployment of a multinational force, while also taking measures to balance the contribution of a regional organisation (ECOWAS) in accordance to other participating national forces.
- 14 September 2005 S/RES/1625
  - This resolution, while addressing the overall role of the Council in conflict resolution around the globe, stresses the importance of regional organisations' involvement in matters of demobilisation, demilitarisation and reintegration. Overall this resolution supports pacts formed by regional organisations which attempt to resolve post conflict situations and or even prevent conflict.
- 17 October 2005 S/RES/1631
  - This resolution encourages high level meetings between the UN and other regional and sub-regional organisations, while also stressing the importance of regional peacekeeping forces in attempts to tackle illegal arms trade. The Secretary-General is also requested to include the issue of cooperation with regional arrangements in their regular report in matters of peacekeeping and peacebuilding.
- 24 March 2006 S/RES/1663
  - This resolution regarding the situation in Sudan, supports the transition from an AU mission in the area to a UN one.
- 8 August 2006 S/RES/1699
  - This resolution supports the cooperation between the Interpol and the UN.

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- 31 July 2007 S/RES/1769
  - This resolution established the joint African Union-United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur, in order to address the cases of violence in the aforementioned Sudanese region.
- 16 April 2008 S/RES/1809
  - This resolution was adopted after a high-level debate including a variety of African leaders. The resolution stressed the effectiveness of stable cooperation between the UN and the AU.
- 12 January 2012 S/RES/2033
  - The resolution emphasises the review of the effectiveness of the cooperation between the UN and the AU.
- 28 July 2014 S/RES/2167
  - This resolution reaffirms and aims to strengthen the importance of regional and sub-regional organisations, especially in cases of post conflict peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- 18 September 2014 S/RES/2177
  - This resolution revolves around the Ebola outbreak, calling for the support of the AU the ECOWAS and the European Union, in order to resolve the situation, and highlighting the importance of cooperation with the WHO.
- 22 December 2014 S/RES/2195
  - This resolution stressed the importance of multinational cooperation through regional and sub-regional organisations, in the fight against international crime.
- 18 November 2016 S/RES/2320
  - This resolution supported the AU's willingness to actively, financially support peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations in the African continent.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

As stated before, previous attempts to resolve the issue mostly include the archival of several challenges that have arisen during the cooperation of the UNSC with other organisations, along with multiple discussions held at both an informal and formal level. The previous Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon, had repeatedly supported the creation of long-term cooperative bonds between the UN and regional organisations, highlighting however the importance of their strict compliance to the UN Charter. However, this stance was also met with criticism by some due to the alleged vagueness of articles 52 and 53 of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

Furthermore, it has been observed several times that regional organisations had asked the establishment of offices in or close to the premises of the UN, so as to practically strengthen communication and support coordinated action between the two. These requests have sometimes been met with approval and other times have been rejected due to the reluctance of some member states to cooperate with the according organisations.

Overall this subject, has not been studied thoroughly nor has it been debated in a dedicated and formal manner due to its occasionally divisive nature.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

Since, as stated before, the issue has been covered in a fairly limited way, delegates will be asked to cover a variety of aspects of the subject, taking decisions based on several dilemmas that have risen (always according to their nations policy).

While assessing the possible outcome of the cooperation of the UN with other regional and sub-regional organisations, delegates should keep in mind the specific mandate, history of every organisation along with its approval by the various member states of the UNSC.

Delegates should consider whether it is important for the UNSC to seek long-term systematic and typical cooperative relations with other major sub-

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regional and even regional organisations. Or whether it would be more beneficial if short-term periodical and situational cooperation between the UNSC and other organisations would be more practical and beneficial for the causes of the council. Additional reflection is required on the effects of such a choice on the function of the UNSC and on what changes could be made, in order to support them. Indeed, bearing in mind the pros and cons of each of the sides, delegates could also form a more complex yet balanced model to tackle this dilemma.

Further into the subject of creating guidelines, another aspect that should be covered, is to what extent can regional agencies act without the full authorisation of the UNSC. Should organisations involved in the resolution of a conflict be able to carry out several military operations without specific authorisation for each one from the SC? Additionally, should organisations be obliged according to the importance of a situation to report systematically to the UNSC? Should the council define a limit to the armaments, personnel and length of every mission carried out by an organisation before authorising it? Should the UNSC be able to interrupt an already undergoing operation by another organisation and order its immediate withdrawal or integration to another operation?

Another important issue faced in the SC during attempts for cooperation with regional arrangements has been the reluctance of some member states to accept the involvement of an organisation due to its composition, aims or general strategic position (such as the threat of the Russian Federation and China to veto a resolution regarding the authorisation of a NATO operation in Former Yugoslavia, or the recent veto of the USA posed towards LAS drafted and backed resolution condemning Israeli abuse of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip).

Finally, during the debate, the subject of regional and sub-regional organisations as hosts of diplomatic talks and treaties could be discussed. The fact that regional organisations throughout modern history have proven to be fairly effective in leading warring parties to the diplomatic table should be taken under consideration. Although it is important to note that delegates should not forget the fact that regional arrangements do not always act objectively and impartially.

Of course it should be noted that throughout its existence the UN has developed a mechanism for assessing peacekeeping operations and other military

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issues, with the inclusion of bodies, such as the MSC or the DPKO, in resolutions considered key for strengthen their resolutions (e.g. by including them as a primary source of advice on whether cooperation between the UN and a regional arrangement could be necessary in the attempts for the resolution of a conflict).

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