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At the General Assembly 48th Plenary Meeting Joint Debate on
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other
organizations:

Mr. President,

At the outset, we thank the Secretary General for his latest report
on the on-going co-operation between the United Nations and regional
and other organisations, as contained in relevant documents of this
session, including document (A/69/228). The Report is a good overview
of the depth of co-operation and mutually reinforcing activities of
the United Nations and its regional partners embracing the full
mandate of the UN on the one hand, and respective mandated areas of
competence at the regional and sub-regional levels, including, most
importantly peace, security, development and human rights.

No country is effective in pursuing its national agenda without
engagement with others. It is particularly obvious for countries with
modest capacities. The regional and sub-regional levels of co-
operation provide effective platform for pursuing specific common
objectives for countries bound by common security goals, common
values, or by mere geographic proximity. In the context of the
present debate, the global level of co-operation here in the United
Nations, amongst other things, is a critical forum of inter-regional
engagements.

As member of numerous regional organisations, including the OSCE, the
CSTO, the Council of Europe, the CIS, the BSEC, Armenia benefits
strongly from the institutional strength and effectiveness of the
European regional and sub-regional landscape of co-operation,
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, peaceful resolution of conflicts on the
basis of the norms and principles of international law without
exception are of specific significance, given the on-going
negotiations for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh
conflict within the internationally supported format of the OSCE
Minsk Group Co-chairmanship. This format by far is a most effective regional arrangement for this particular case on several accounts, not least due to its capacity to sustain focus on a compromise solution and to defuse tensions and escalations. Consolidated support to these negotiations by the international community, including this body 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 of the Secretary General earlier in August in support of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs to urge respect of the cease-fire agreement and commitment to immediate de-escalation and continuing dialogue in the pursuit of a rapid and peaceful political solution in light of the surge of tensions at the time.

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

Armenia is a proud member of the Council of Europe, the oldest European organisation based on common values of democracy, the human rights and the rule of law. In our case the Council of Europe has been a principal body to assist Armenia in the reform process to entrench the national legal foundations and establish sustainable institutions of democracy. This co-operation successfully continues to this date by means of legal advice and practical implementation of specific action plans. Of course, we complement such co-operation with other relevant organisations, specifically the OSCE and the UN. The European Union is a principal contributor to the implementation of such reform agenda. The present resolution on the co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe outlines the broad scope of mutually reinforcing mandates of both organisations. It also serves a useful guideline for the ways to augment the benefits for the member states benefiting from respective expertise of the two organisations. At the same time, Armenia is sensitive to situations, when actions of the two organisations 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 sub-regional organisations to which it is member, or
with which it has close co-operation. Any intergovernmental organisation 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 proliferating threats, disagreements and conflicts prompts particular effort to double the efforts towards seeking common solutions and sustainable dialogue. Smaller states are particularly vulnerable and sensitive to situations, when disagreements at the regional and global level risk the emergence of dividing lines. Armenia is not an exception to such vulnerabilities and sensitivities. Co-operation and dialogue among states from sub-regional to regional to global levels has been and remains the modus operandi for sustainability of peace, security and co-operation. This agenda item is as relevant as ever.

Thank you