Statement

For the General Assembly and Security Council Joint Debate on the
"Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and other Organizations"

Mr. President.

1. The success of the efforts of the United Nations is not possible without the direct support of the regional stake-holders and the regional organizations that represent them. In this regard, the synergy and coherence between international, regional and sub-regional organizations is a prerequisite for the success of peace and security efforts.

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

3. It is necessary to expand African capacity to achieve UN goals. This could be achieved through more streamlining and coordination between the United Nations and the African Union, in accordance with the Framework for the 10 year capacity building of the AU signed in 2006 between the UN and the AU. There is an urgent need to fully operationalize the AU Peace and Security Architecture APSA, especially the Early warning System.
4. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States is indispensable. The establishment of the mission of the Joint Special Representative for Syria is an example of the potential cooperation between the two organizations that should extend to conflict prevention and resolution. This cooperation can also help finding lasting solutions to the two major chronic problems of the region that negatively impact regional and international peace and security: the Palestinian question and the issue of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

5. A shared role between the UN and regional organizations for peace-keeping is both desirable and achievable. The United Nations African Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) stands out as the most prominent example of cooperation between the United Nations and a regional organization in the field of peace-keeping. We should have more hybrid operations, with a predominantly African character. The Prodi panel report in 2008 on African Union/United Nations cooperation, recommended a “multi-donor trust fund” to support peacekeeping in Africa, based on African ownership. After five years, this recommendation has yet to be implemented. That call remains valid today more than ever.