STATEMENT BY DELIVERED BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY JOINT DEBATE UNDER ITEM 124(V) COOPERATION BETWEEN UNITED NATIONS AND THE REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

AT THE UNITED NATIONS
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Mr President,

At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his reports on the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.

Mr President,

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations has long been the central to the work of the United Nations. This is because of the fundamental understanding that the United Nations will have limited success in implementing its mandate without close cooperation with regional and other organizations. Therefore cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organisation is important and should be based on the principle of subsidiarity and on the firm foundation of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and as reaffirmed by numerous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Mr President,

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

My delegation notes with appreciation the improved cooperation between the United Nations and African Union. 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 for both Organizations to develop a common and deeper understanding of the root causes of conflict in Africa and to develop a common solution to a particular security challenges. We believe that the cooperation between the UN and AU should draw on the comparative strengths and advantages of each organisation as is illustrated in the AU’s ability to mobilise quickly into conflict areas to create stability and pave the way for longer term UN Mission.

In the Southern African Development Community (SADC), my delegation has noted the recent interactive dialogue held in Namibia in July 2014 between the United Nations and SADC convened with a view to share regional good practices with respect to conflict prevention and mediation. Such interaction are encouraged and will go a long way in strengthening partnership between the UN and SADC especially in strengthening sub-regional capacities in the areas of electoral support and conflict prevention and mediation

Mr President,

The Secretary General’s report poignantly points out regional and subregional organisation are distinct and often confronted with different challenges where one-size-fits all approach to such cooperation would not be conducive for success. The case in point is the SADC–ICGLR
decisions on the establishment of a Force Intervention Brigade under MONUSCO in the DRC to neutralise all negative forces. The results are evident as there is relative stability and the lives of the population in the eastern Congo have greatly improved. We acknowledge that such arrangement are exceptional rather than a norm.

Mr President,

Despite all these positive developments mentioned above, in the Middle East, we have not seen such an approach. There has been swift international reaction to some while in others, this cooperation is lacking and as a result there has not been significant movement towards resolving these conflicts. Cooperation between the UN and the Arab League on the Middle East Peace Process has been most disappointing. The Arab League has consistently played a significant role in trying to find a resolution to the conflict including by the adoption of the Arab Peace Initiative. Unfortunately, the Security Council is yet to provide effective and meaningful support to the League’s efforts.

In conclusion Mr President, 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 diverse and priorities of each region as well as to explore ways in which their cooperation can be better articulated at the strategic and technical level.

I thank you.