

- acknowledging both the value of regional organizations, especially in early warning, and their limitations which stem from differing histories, mandates and resources;
- stressing that regional bodies' effectiveness will ultimately depend on the degree of engagement of their members' political will. At a time when the UN is overburdened, solutions will often have to rest on regional and local leadership on conflict management issues;
- emphasizing that the goal is resolving real or potential conflict, not institution-building. The most effective instrument for solving the problem should be supported, whether a formal organization, an ad hoc grouping or some other arrangement;
- encouraging the appropriate division of labour among the regional bodies and the UN. To this end, there should be more coordination between their secretariats and other internal agencies and units;
- stressing that regional organizations take an integrated approach to resolving conflict, one which helps to mobilize diplomatic, economic and other resources and is not unduly focused on peacekeeping/military resources;
- insisting that all conflict-related activities, including enforcement action, be consistent with international law, including the UN Charter. In this connection, it should be emphasized that regional organizations should not be used as a cover for the assertion - or re-assertion - of local hegemony by a dominant regional power;
- developing or enhancing regional leadership with a view to establishing working partnerships with selected countries and institutions on peace and security issues;
- coordinating international support and approaches to regional bodies, to avoid duplication of efforts and, among other things, to emphasize the importance of transparency and accountability within regional bodies.