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**STATEMENT OF H.E. Mr. FERNANDO CARRERA CASTRO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF  
GUATEMALA AT THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MAINTENANCE OF  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

**(New York, 6 August, 2013)**

Madame President,

Our gratitude goes to you and your delegation for organizing this timely debate, and many thanks for honoring us with your personal participation. In particular, receive a cordial and fraternal greeting from our President, Otto Perez Molina, who has asked me to reiterate his admiration for your national and regional leadership, which honors your country, Latin America and the women of the world. The long and fraternal relations between our peoples and Governments has been even more consolidated by Argentina and Guatemala sharing the Latin American and Caribbean presence in this Security Council during 2013, where we share strong commonalities in our actions aimed at maintaining international peace and security. We also value the presence of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and that of the representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations from all parts of the globe that have joined us.

Madame President,

I come from a country, Guatemala, and a sub-region, Central America, that has accumulated more than sixty years of successful experiences in the realm of intraregional cooperation, promoted by common multilateral organizations. The degree of economic interdependence between the countries that belong to the Central American Common Market and to the Central American Integration System (SICA) is high, measured in terms of trade and reciprocal investment, and the ever greater integration of our markets and our societies. Added to the above, we have assimilated a culture of intraregional cooperation, aimed at resolving common problems through joint actions, supported by a web of institutions and inter-governmental mechanisms. A reflection of the previously stated is found in the continuous communications between our Heads of State and other senior officials.

In addition, having overcome the internal conflicts which affected our Central American region so adversely in the seventies and eighties of the past century, the present accent in that culture of cooperation is found in spurring our economic and social development. Not only do we account for peace in our region as an irreversible achievement, but also the level of affinities and common interest that exist between the countries of our sub-region have contributed to strengthening respect of the principle of resolving all conflicts or misunderstandings between us through peaceful means and diplomatic-political dialogue.

I would further add that our culture of intra-regional cooperation has been made extensive to our entire region of Latin America and the Caribbean. It should be recalled that the so-called Contadora Group, which in time became the Rio Group, and today inspires the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), was born from the interest of brotherly neighboring countries in finding a resolution for conflicts in Central America.

Latin America contributed significantly with the United Nations in the establishment and maintenance of peacekeeping missions that supported El Salvador and my country in returning to the institutional and democratic path. At present, as is known, the only specific item from our region on our agenda, which certainly counts on an extraordinary support of Latin America and the Caribbean, gravitates around the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), where my own country has the honor of participating with its troops.

Madame President,

The fact that our region is no longer a threat to international peace and security does not mean that we are absent from the indispensable activities of this Council in the global arena. In that respect, since we have assumed our role as elected members we have supported, as a general proposition, cooperation between the Security Council and regional and sub-regional organizations, each in its respective purview, and based on their comparative advantages. The long and fruitful association between this Council and the African Union, which has even spawned joint efforts in peacekeeping, has provided tangible and valuable benefits. Those benefits are being reproduced at the sub-regional level with organizations such as the Economic Communities of West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa, as well as the International Conference of the Great Lakes. The same is happening in the Middle East, where the Council has joined the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council in other areas.

Naturally, the content and scope of the partnerships between the Council and other organizations varies from one situation to the next, and could even vary over time in the same situation, in accordance with changing circumstances. In other words, our general proposition of support to this type of partnership is nuanced by the acknowledgment that there are no formulas of universal validity in this matter. Rather, the exact characteristics of the partnerships must be defined on a case by case basis. In addition, it must be recognized that these partnerships are not always exempt from difficulties, which normally appear either from different perceptions on jurisdictional matters or from different criteria regarding a course of action to be followed. When no mechanisms exist that permit reconciling these differences through dialogue and understanding, they can become serious obstacles to the proper functioning of the joint activity. This suggests the need to reconcile decisions taken by regional organizations with those adopted by the United Nations, including those of the Security Council, in the light of the provisions contained in article 103 of the Charter.

What is clear in light of historical experience up to now is that both regional and global efforts must tend to acknowledge that overcoming of conflicts and the route to a sustainable peace, depend on a joint endeavor which intertwines the agendas of security, justice, the respect for human rights and sustainable development. In each of those areas there appear diverse strengths and complementarities between the United Nations and regional organizations, and the acknowledgment of those strengths and its complementarities permit a distinct and fruitful space for institutional cooperation at the multilateral level between regional and global entities.

The Twenty First Century is giving rise to a period of ever stronger and responsible regional institutions. The United Nations and the Security Council in particular should be pleased at this trend. It reflects a slow but firm path of transition from the post-war world, which gave birth to this Council, towards a multipolar world where dialogue and peace are increasingly urgent and basic to preserve our planet and life, human development and defeating poverty. The aforementioned, added to the

imperative of preserving a peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect and facing common challenges that threaten security and peace at the global level. The regional organizations are destined to be active partners in this multipolar world, by assuming their responsibilities towards the international community to assure peace and sustainable development, complementing the efforts made through the United Nations. It reflects a world with more shared responsibilities, and therefore poses greater demands on international cooperation. An inter-connected world, not a fragmented one.

Madame President,

I wish to close my statement thanking you for the lucid concept note circulated by your delegation, which helped give guidance to today's debate, and I am pleased to express our full support for the Presidential Statement adopted today, which reflects the content of our deliberations.

Thank you.