



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-seventh session

Agenda item 127 (u)

### **Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative**

**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine:\* draft resolution**

### **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [66/111](#) of 9 December 2011, by which it granted observer status to the Central European Initiative,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [67/7](#) of 19 November 2012, [69/8](#) of 11 November 2014, [71/13](#) of 21 November 2016, [73/10](#) of 26 November 2018 and [75/7](#) of 23 November 2020, in which it invited the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Central European Initiative in order to continue joint activities for the achievement of common objectives,

*Recalling further* the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation to promote the goals and objectives of the United Nations,

*Appreciating* the active involvement of the Central European Initiative in establishing cooperation with the United Nations system and relevant international and regional organizations, aimed at the furthering of political and socioeconomic development by covering all its relevant dimensions,

*Acknowledging* the contribution of the Central European Initiative, at the intergovernmental, parliamentary, economic and local levels, to strengthening multilateralism, promoting solidarity and building a united, cohesive, secure and stable Europe without dividing lines and with shared values, as well as to advancing the political project of the Initiative for European integration and cooperation for the sustainable development of all its member States,

*Noting* the efforts of the Central European Initiative in addressing the current challenges related to climate and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as

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\* Any changes to the list of sponsors will be reflected in the official record of the meeting.



well as those triggered by the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, a member State of the Initiative, causing human tragedy and posing unprecedented risks to the world's economies, including for energy and food security,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 75/7,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the joint statement adopted by the Summit of the Heads of Government of the States members of the Central European Initiative in Budva, Montenegro, on 3 December 2021 under the Presidency of Montenegro, underlining that the sustainable development of all States members of the Initiative can be achieved only through joint commitments, regional partnerships under global multi-stakeholder partnerships, shared responsibilities and collective efforts for making tangible contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> and its Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Notes* the activities of the Central European Initiative in mitigating the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for its member States, and welcomes the Initiative's response capacity for effectively tackling health-related challenges, including through consolidated cooperation with the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization, and in particular the joint endorsement of the World Health Organization road map for health and well-being in the Western Balkans (2021–2025) at the Summit of the Heads of Government of the States members of the Central European Initiative under the Presidency of Montenegro in 2021;

3. *Also notes* the contribution of the Central European Initiative to alleviate the serious consequences, caused by the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, through increased political support and concrete assistance to Ukraine and its people;

4. *Further notes* the activities of the Central European Initiative in addressing the growing challenges related to climate and the environment and takes note, in this regard, of the joint statement by the Ministers of Environment under the Presidency of Montenegro in 2021 on cooperation in the field of sustainable waste management in the Central European Initiative region, the efforts made to strengthen collaborative research in the field of solid earth science, as well as the projects and activities to support a smooth transition towards a sustainable circular bioeconomy;

5. *Notes* the activities of the Central European Initiative under the Presidency of Bulgaria, aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in the areas of economic and social recovery from the pandemic; enhanced connectivity with a focus on transport; young people and their perspectives, including with regard to employability; development of entrepreneurship and skills for the green and digital transitions; and promoting the local dimension of the Initiative;

6. *Acknowledges* the Plan of Action 2021–2023 adopted by the Central European Initiative, noting that it was elaborated in line with the 2030 Agenda, as well as the efforts made so far in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and the continuous commitment of the Initiative in keeping up with the pace towards achieving the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Encourages* further stocktaking activities related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the States members of the Central European Initiative, such as the conference organized by the Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative in 2021 on “Sustainable Development Goals decade of action – exchange of experiences, best practices and current challenges in Sustainable Development Goal implementation, role of regional cooperation and partnerships”, as well as to the

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 70/1.

exchange of experience and best practices for mutual learning and tackling challenges, including in the framework of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

8. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Central European Initiative in engaging young people in the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals through a dedicated programme entitled “‘IMAGINE’: active young citizens for sustainable development in Central European Initiative and Adriatic and Ionian Initiative areas”, and encourages further initiatives with a focus on young people;

9. *Notes* the commitment of the Central European Initiative in the cultural and media fields, especially fostering intercultural dialogue and media freedom, and also notes the commitment to science diplomacy;

10. *Also notes* the continuous efforts of the Central European Initiative to promote effective multilateralism, recalling that transnational threats can be successfully addressed only through cooperation and joint actions, and recognizing the need for strong and innovative leadership to manage crises;

11. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the role assumed by the Central European Initiative as a promoter of a project-oriented perspective aimed at enhancing the economic growth and the stability of its member States, in addition to the political dialogue;

12. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Central European Initiative to develop and implement joint regional and transregional projects, in cooperation with other important international players, and to foster broad multi-stakeholder partnerships in the region;

13. *Acknowledges*, in this context, the fruitful cooperation between the Central European Initiative and the European Union, as one of the main co-funders of such projects, as well as the positive results of these projects, and supports the efforts of the Initiative to take concrete steps to establish additional mutually beneficial partnerships with the European Union;

14. *Welcomes* the Central European Initiative’s relations with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development through the Central European Initiative trust fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, entirely financed by Italy, which provides mainly grant-type assistance for specific components of technical cooperation projects, linked to large operations of the Bank in States members of the Initiative that are not members of the European Union, and of projects related to capacity-building and the sharing of good practices between States members of the Initiative that are members of the European Union and those that are not, through the Initiative’s know-how exchange programme;

15. *Also welcomes* the financing of small-scale multilateral projects in the priority fields by the Central European Initiative Cooperation Fund, to which all member States contribute, and notes that the activities supported by the Cooperation Fund and their practical outcomes also contribute to sharing experiences and good practices on European integration, including on policies and measures to support sustainable development, and further welcomes the efforts to strengthen this instrument by reinvigorating the Cooperation Fund;

16. *Notes* the ongoing contributions of the Central European Initiative bodies, in the framework of the Initiative’s parliamentary, economic and local dimensions, to the strengthening of multi-stakeholder cooperation in the region;

17. *Also notes* the efforts of the Central European Initiative to include stakeholders, such as academia and civil society, in the implementation of its activities, thus strengthening multilevel partnerships;

18. *Further notes* the efforts undertaken by the Central European Initiative in intensifying cooperation with other international and regional organizations and initiatives, thus remaining committed to fostering broad multi-stakeholder partnerships in the region;

19. *Appreciates* the intention of the Central European Initiative to intensify cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, with the aim of achieving mutual participation in events and meetings of common interest and developing practical and results-oriented joint projects and actions, and especially welcomes, in this context, the cooperation established between the Initiative and the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization;

20. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to establish cooperation with the Central European Initiative through common action aimed at achieving the shared goals;

21. *Invites* the Secretary-General to intensify exchanges with the Central European Initiative in order to continue the fruitful cooperation and to facilitate coordination between the secretariats;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative".

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