EU and UN boost practical cooperation on peace operations and crisis management

In the face of rising instability and violent conflict, EU and UN will further reinforce their cooperation. They have identified a new set of priorities for the next three years on peace operations and crisis management.

Close cooperation on the spot such as between the UN-led operation MINUSMA and the EU-led military training mission (EUTM Mali) in the spirit of exchanging information and expertise ensure complementarity of action.

The European Union and the United Nations have a successful track record of close cooperation in many countries and regions around the world. Peacekeeping, civilian and military crisis management
are highly visible and eminent areas of this cooperation. EU and UN will now further reinforce this strategic partnership.

Eight new priority areas have been identified in this context.

1. Establish a UN-EU collaborative platform on **Women, Peace and Security**
2. **Strengthen cooperation between missions and operations in the field.**
3. Assess how best to act in complementarity during the planning and execution of **transitions** of missions and operations, considering the development of common guidelines
4. Further **facilitate EU Member States' contributions and support** to UN peace operations and the UN Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (**A4P** **Initiative**).
5. **Strengthen the use of preventive instruments** such as mediation, early warning and security sector reform (**SSR**), coordinate political messages and strategic communication in response to early signs of conflict.
6. Intensify cooperation on **policing, the rule of law and SSR** and assess possibilities for cooperation on civilian rapid response.
7. To enhance **cooperation with and support to African-led peace operations.**
8. Efforts to enhance performance of peace operations on the ground will be taken forward through strengthened **cooperation on training and capacity building**, including exercises.
These eight priority areas build on previous EU-UN achievements and seek to ensure that UN and EU missions and operations complement and reinforce each other while at the same time increasing coordination with other regional and international organisations for effective results on the ground. Across all the priority areas, human rights and fundamental freedoms, International Humanitarian Law and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda are key. The priority areas complement other UN-EU partnerships to prevent and overcome crisis (including counterterrorism).

**Background: The overarching EU-UN partnership in a nutshell:**

- Defending human rights;
- Preventing and overcoming crises;
- Protecting those at risk from war, disease and natural disasters;
- Supporting non-proliferation and disarmament;
- Tackling hunger and malnutrition;
- Building democratic and inclusive societies;
- Delivering essential services;
- Helping sustainable economic growth and decent jobs;
- Combatting climate change;
- Aiding sustainable management of natural resources.

**The EU and the UN are working together in more than 170 countries on a broad range of issues:**

The EU’s commitment to effective multilateralism, with the UN at its core, is a central element of the EU’s external action. EU and UN work together, amongst many other issues, to prevent conflicts, preserve peace and resolve crises. Together, the EU Member States are the largest contributors to the UN’s peacekeeping budget, providing almost 32% in 2017.

More generally EU and its Member States as a whole make up for the largest financial donor to the UN system. They provide almost one quarter of all financial contributions to the UN’s funds and programmes, whilst the EU Member States also provide almost one third of the UN’s regular budget.

**See also**

UN-EU Joint Press statement on reinforcing the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management
Factsheet: The EU at the United Nations
Factsheet: EU-UN Partnership: Facts and Figures
Council Conclusion on EU priorities at the United Nations and the 73rd United Nations General Assembly
www.eeas.europa.eu

**Source URL:**