



How does the EU work at the United Nations



More than ever, our partners are looking to the European Union to stand up exactly for multilateralism and the rules-based international order with a strong United Nations at its core: as European Union, we are determined to preserve it. Investing in our partnership with the UN is natural as we share the same fundamental values and goals. Together, we join forces in our work around the world and in Europe, for sustainable development, peace and security, and humanely and respectfully managed migration. And together we fight for education for all, gender equality and human rights."

High Representative / Vice-President Mogherini, on the United Nations Day, 24 October 2018

HOW DOES THE EU WORK AT THE UNITED NATIONS?

Cooperation between the EU and the UN system, including the UN Secretariat and the various UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, spans across all policy areas.



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. The General Assembly is the UN's main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ. Since 2011, the EU is an observer member with enhanced status at the UN General Assembly. This allows the EU to present common positions, make interventions, present proposals and participate in the general debate each September. The added value of the EU is to coordinate among its 28 Member States to present a unified position. The EU coordinates its voting within the UN General Assembly's six main committees, as well as other bodies and agencies such as the Economic and Social Council.



UN SECURITY COUNCIL. Article 34 of the Lisbon Treaty stipulates that EU members at the UN Security Council must act in concert and foster the interests of the EU. The strong presence of EU Member States at the UN Security Council and an effective coordination among them as well as with other partners contributes to the promotion of EU interests in a cooperative way.

In 2019



More than 400 coordination meetings have been held at the EU Delegation in New York to develop a common EU stance and speak with one voice.



72 EU statements delivered in the UN General Assembly and in other UN fora, including those at high-level events and meetings.



24 EU statements delivered in the UN Security Council

WHAT ARE THE EU'S PRIORITIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS?

This year the EU's priorities at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly are:



ADVANCING A COMMON POSITIVE AGENDA

- Pushing for more ambitious climate action and implementation of the Paris agreement
- Strengthening international ocean governance and protecting biodiversity
- Working towards a Global Pact for the Environment
- Accelerating action on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- Promoting and protecting human rights, fostering a positive human rights narrative
- Stepping up partnerships with civil society and the private sector
- Supporting the UN Human rights system



ENGAGEMENT ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- Addressing migration and forced displacement
- Improving the humanitarian response system
- Supporting effective and inclusive digital cooperation
- Promoting responsible State behaviour in cyberspace
- Fighting terrorism and violent extremism
- Countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction



CONFLICT PREVENTION, PEACE AND SECURITY

- Operationalizing conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the sustaining peace agenda
- Linking early warning to early action
- Strengthening mediation efforts
- Implementing the UNSG's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative
- Enhancing cooperation with UN missions and operations on the ground
- Promoting the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda
- Advancing the Youth, Peace and Security agenda
- Supporting African-led peace operations

Supporting the implementation of UN Reform

The best way to preserve and reinforce the credibility of the UN system is to make it more effective. The EU's priority is to uphold, strengthen and reform the UN and to empower the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to deliver on his ambitious **reform package**. The EU has committed **€30 million** for the UN's 2030 Agenda Fund to support the Development System reform and will continue to support the implementation of the UN reform process politically and financially.

Reform implementation is linked to **the sustainable financing of the UN**. As the largest financial contributor to the UN, promoting the sound and stable financial footing and management of the United Nations is one of the priorities of the EU and its Member States.

Global Security Provider

The EU has been enhancing its capacity to act as a security provider, its strategic autonomy and ability to cooperate with partners.

- Together EU Member States contribute to one-third of the UN peacekeeping budget, which is more than any other global leader.
- The EU supports mediation efforts by providing a voluntary contribution of **€3 million** for 2019-2021 to the UN Standby team mediation experts.
- In 2019, the EU will provide for the first time a direct **€2 million contribution to the Peace Building Fund**.
- The EU has contributed **€0.5 million** to support the work of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.

Major contributor

Collectively, the EU and its Member States are the single largest financial contributor to the UN system. At a time when others have reduced their contributions or failed to pay, the EU has continued and stepped up its funding to the UN system.

- The **contributions of the 28 EU Member States amount to almost one third of the regular UN budget**.
- The EU and its Member States also provide about a quarter of all the voluntary contributions to UN funds and programmes.

The European Commission alone contributed over **€2.9 billion** to support UN external assistance programmes and projects in 2018.

From 2013 to 2018, the EU has committed €13.7 billion to UN agencies– out of which **20.55%** went to the WFP, **13.46%** went to UNICEF, **13.52%** to UNDP, **12.10%** to UNHCR, **6.50%** to FAO and **5.66%** to UNRWA.

Compared to 2013, the annual European Commission's funding to the UN increased by **53%** in 2018.

FUNDING COMMITMENTS WITH THE UN

