



How does the EU work at the United Nations

“ When others may be backing away, the European Union remains a staunch supporter of a strong United Nations as the beating heart of the multilateral system. Secretary General Guterres is right to say that “multilateralism is under threat precisely when we need it most”. We, therefore, support his efforts to advance the United Nations reform process and to use the organisation’s 75th anniversary, to work for a rejuvenated United Nations.”

High Representative / Vice-President Borrell's remarks to the UN Security Council, 28 May 2020

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 27 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.

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

This year the EU's priorities at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly are:



Championing multilateralism and a strong and effective UN that delivers for all



Advancing human rights and gender equality



Promoting peace and security



Building a fair globalisation



Accelerating the global transition towards sustainable and climate-neutral future



Leading the transition to a new digital world

The EU works with all partners to set the stage for a recovery from COVID-19 crisis that builds sustainable, equal and inclusive societies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Building back better, greener and fairer, is the best way forward.

Multilateral cooperation is more necessary than ever. The rules-based international order – with the UN at its core – must be upheld and strengthened if we are to deal effectively with global challenges. The 75th anniversary of the UN is a moment to innovate and strengthen the multilateral system for “the future we want, the UN we need”.

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 pay **€27 million** to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund over three years as a contribution to the funding of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system.

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 a quarter **of the UN peacekeeping budget**.
- 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 provided 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 EU Member States amount to almost a quarter 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 **€3 billion** to support UN external assistance programmes and projects in 2019.

From 2013 to 2019, the EU has committed **€16.8 billion** to UN agencies– out of which **20.2%** went to the WFP, **14%** to UNDP, **12.3%** to UNICEF, **10.7%** to UNHCR and **7.1%** to FAO.

Compared to 2013, the annual European Commission's funding to the UN increased by 61% in 2019.

