



**EU Statement**

**By**

**Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

**Fourth Committee, Agenda item 54:  
Comprehensive review of the whole question of Peacekeeping  
Operations in all their aspects**

**United Nations  
New York  
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Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairman,

Though the nature and features of conflict are changing, **UN peacekeeping operations** continue to be a **vital tool in advancing peace and security** in the world. In the European Union, we strongly believe that working with, and supporting the United Nations, is the best way to serve our collective interests of peace, security as well as global stability.

We fully support the Secretary General's effort to reform peacekeeping through the initiative **Action for peacekeeping (A4P)**. EU Member States deploy over 5000 uniformed blue helmets in peace operations and are the second largest financial contributor to peacekeeping. Peacekeeping operations present a clear case in point, where **partnerships** are more important than ever.

Recognising that true partnerships are built not on words but on deeds, the UN and EU in September signed an **agreement on mutual support in the context of their respective missions and operations in the field**. This legal framework agreement

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\* *The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

allows for an exchange of equipment, logistical support and security measures between the EU CSDP missions and UN Peacekeeping Operations with the flexibility and speed that is needed. This builds on existing partnerships between the EU and UN Peacekeeping Operations, especially in the Sahel region where the EU funds a 10 million euro mechanism for the provision of logistical support by MINUSMA to the G5 Sahel Joint Force. In effect, this agreement is a practical contribution of the EU to the **implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative and the wider UN reform agenda**, and therefore will be mutually beneficial.

We can assure the UNSG of the EU's and its MS' support for his efforts towards a truly global partnership for peacekeeping. The EU welcomes the emphasis that UNSG Guterres puts upon the **EU-UN Partnership** as key to global peace and security. We are fully committed to our strategic partnership with the UN on peacekeeping and crisis management which we agreed to reinforce, in September last year, through **strengthened cooperation in eight priority areas from 2019 to 2021**. Moreover, we set out to strengthen our cooperation in the field through increased reciprocity in asset-sharing, coherence and continuity, and from the initial stages of planning, to transition and exit. We agree to work on ensuring that a conflict prevention lens is applied across our priority areas, through enhancing our joint situational awareness and strategic communication efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU and its Member States continue to stress the **primary importance of supporting political solutions** to conflicts, and conflict prevention, as well as the crucial role that **the Special Political Missions** play. Prevention and the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes as provided for in Article 33 of the UN Charter, including **mediation** remain essential tools in this undertaking in a cost effective

manner. Indeed, **conflict prevention is one of the priorities of the EU-UN's Strategic Partnership.**

**Special political missions (SPMs) are an important instrument for conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding.** The EU and its member states commend the efforts by SPMs around the world for their efforts **to maintain international peace and security and in prevention of conflicts.** Even in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic the SPM's have managed to continue their activities and deliver on their mandates. SPMs have also supported national authorities in responding to the pandemic. They have adapted to changing situation by using technology to reach out to stakeholders, possibly in some cases reaching more people than would have been possible with in-person meetings. We also welcome the **efforts by the SPMs** in operationalizing **Secretary General's call for global ceasefire.** EU and its members states highly value the efforts by the Special Political missions to increase the participation of women and youth. The inclusion of women and youth is not an option, but an imperative.

We all know that conflict prevention has the potential to save lives and to protect hard-won development gains – and that it comes at a lower financial cost than peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peacebuilding. Where UN peacekeeping operations are in place however, they will not be effective if they are not fully resourced, including financially, to deliver on their mandates. We therefore call on all member states, including the EU Member States, to pay their **contributions in full and in a timely manner**, without conditions, both **for the regular and the peacekeeping budgets.**

Mr. Chairman,

We continue to underscore that the **protection of vulnerable groups, civilians, women and children must be at the core of peacekeeping mandates.**

Peacekeepers play a critical role to protect those groups in armed conflict. Well-trained and resourced protection focal points and advisors are essential to ensure effective monitoring, reporting and ensuring accountability of grave violations. UN and Troop and Police Contributing countries should actively strive to **improve the gender balance in all components of peacekeeping operations**, as part of their efforts in addressing gender inequality, which improves the efficiency of operation. We therefore welcome all efforts in this direction, in particular the UN System-wide Strategy on gender Parity and the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-28 (UGPS). The EU and its Member States continue to support adequate financing of gender expertise in missions. In the context of the implementation of our partnership on peace operations and crisis management, EU and UN missions and operations are actively working together on the ground to enhance the integration of a gender perspective throughout their activities.

In light of the complex and dangerous environments that missions are operating in, we underline the **critical role of information and intelligence** for mandate delivery, including safety and security of the Peacekeepers and the protection of civilians. Effective mandate delivery requires also a strengthened integrated approach to planning and coordination to link the actions of every component of the Mission to the overarching political strategy. We also believe a greater attention to the **environmental impact** of UN peacekeeping operation must be given.

Mr. Chairman,

EU Members States are looking forward to continuing to contribute constructively to **the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping operations (C34)**. The negotiations of the 2020 report showed that aligning the structure of the C34 report with the A4P agenda was the right decision. The C34 is an essential vehicle for the implementation of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping. Therefore, we

strongly **recommend that the next C34 report is also aligned to the structure of the A4P**. This is an efficient way to facilitate partnerships among the UN Member States in support of UN effective peacekeeping.

The EU will facilitate partnerships among its Member States and partner countries (T/PCCs) in support of UN peacekeeping, with particular focus on critical enablers such as **training and capacity-building**.

We look forward to further deepening, but also widening this partnership to increasingly **work in a trilateral format with**, for example **the African Union** whenever relevant and useful. Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that partnership and cooperation of the international community is essential for providing support in the efforts of stabilisation and reconstruction after the initial crisis and conflict has ended.

Let me emphasize that the EU and its Member States – also under difficult Covid-conditions – have continued to strongly support UN peacekeeping, not only by supporting and deploying in UN operations, but also by deploying our own missions within the framework of our Common Security and Defence Policy.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU and its MS support the UN Peacebuilding Fund through their voluntary contributions and call on all MS to strengthen efforts to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. The EU and its MS encourage further EU-UN cooperation in the realm of **peacebuilding and sustaining peace**.

Likewise, efforts to sustain peace must be on the agenda throughout, and peacebuilding efforts must be integrated with peacekeeping efforts from an early stage, in order to manage transitions more effectively. In this regard we encourage

the UN Peacebuilding Commission to continue its increased efforts in providing advice to the Security Council and in helping to mobilize international support and resources around national peacebuilding priorities before, during and after transitions.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the UNSG's emphasis on increased accountability and his efforts to strengthen the system's ability to **deal with sexual exploitation and abuse** swiftly and decisively through significant efforts in training and awareness in order to ensure a zero tolerance approach.

Mr. Chairman,

Adequate **force generation** and police recruitment remain a challenge when taking into account mission planning. There is a need for UN Member States, including EU Member States, to match political intent and operational capabilities in order for peace operations to succeed. We welcome innovative approaches to force generation and police recruitment, such as the development of rotation plans and smart pledges.

With regards to **training and more concrete pre-deployment training**, we believe that the request for adequate training certificates is a step in the right direction. Training and equipping mission personnel, before and during deployment is important in order to ensure mission success, recognising the respective responsibilities of the Secretariat and TCCs and PCCs.

This is also reflected in the 2019-21 priorities of the UN-EU Strategic Partnership. As one of our eight priorities, we have agreed to contribute to the enhancement of performance.

Mr. Chairman,

We continue to advocate for a better definition of the **role of regional organisations** within UN-led interventions, facilitating – when appropriate – rapid deployment, acting complementary to UN operations, as it is the case with EU Training and Capacity-building Missions and Operations within the framework of SSR or deployed in a bridging capacity. In this regard, we also continue to **support the development of African peace capacities**, which increasingly contribute to peace and security on the continent.

Finally, let us not forget the role of **regional initiatives** as an essential and complementary contribution to peacekeeping. The EU and its Member States especially value the role of **African peace operations** and underline the need for a predictable and sustainable financing from the international community. In this regard, they commended the progress achieved by the **African Union in the operationalization of its Peace Fund**, securing 167.9 million dollars by the end of June 2020, the highest level of contributions since the establishment of the Fund in 1993.

Thank you.