



## UN-EU Steering Committees on Crisis Management



Today's complex challenges to peace and security highlight the need for strong multilateral cooperation. It is in the spirit of partnership that the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) held their **26th meeting of the bi-annual EU-UN Steering Committee on Crisis Management** on 20 November in Brussels, co-chaired by **Jean-Pierre Lacroix**, United Nations Under-Secretary General (USG) for Peace Operations, and **Pedro Serrano**, Deputy Secretary General (DSG) for the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and Crisis Response at the European External Action Service (EEAS).

### UN-EU Strategic Partnership Priorities

On 18 September 2018 the UN and EU set out eight joint priorities spanning the period 2019-2021.

1. Women, Peace and Security.
2. Cooperation between missions and operations.
3. Planning and execution of transitions.
4. Facilitate EU Member States' contributions and support to UN peace operations.
5. Support of conflict prevention and political processes.
6. Cooperation on policing, the rule of law and SSR.
7. Support to African-led peace operations.
8. Cooperation on training and capacity building.

During the Steering Committee meeting, the EU and UN discussed practical cooperation between respective missions and operations in the field, areas of mutual engagement, including the Sahel region, the Central African Republic (CAR), Somalia, as well as rule of law and policing. Participants also followed up on their discussions from the 25<sup>th</sup> UN-EU Steering Committee, which took place on 26 April at UN headquarters in New York.

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## Women, Peace and Security



One of the eight priorities of the **UN-EU Strategic Partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management** is to cooperate closely on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and UN Security Council Resolution 1325, including through **enhancing meaningful participation of women and women civil society groups in conflict prevention and peace operations**.

As part of this priority the EEAS, the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) jointly organized on 21 November a UN-EU Workshop (see picture) on Promoting Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace Operations, Crisis Management and Peace Processes at EU headquarters in Brussels, with expert participation from EU capitals, gender advisers, civil society organizations, as well as UN and EU field missions. The workshop identified enabling factors and good practices to promote and advance women's meaningful participation in peace operations and peace processes.



## Update on EU CSDP Missions and Operations

Over the last six months, several EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations were extended. The EU currently has **16 CSDP missions and operations** deployed worldwide, ten of which are civilian and six are military missions.

On 13 May the EU Council extended the mandate of the **EU Advisory Mission (EUAM) in Ukraine** until 31 May 2021 and approved a € 54 million budget for the next two years. On 28 June the mandates of the **EU coordinating office for Palestinian police support (EUPOL COPPS)** as well as of the dormant **EU border assistance mission for the Rafah crossing point (EU BAM Rafah)** were extended until 30 June 2020.

The EU Council decided on 26 September to extend the mandate of **EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia** by six months, until 31 March 2020, however not deploying naval vessels.

Based on a crisis management concept (CMC), approved by the Council on 21 November 2019, the **EU established on 9 December 2019 a CSDP civilian Advisory Mission in the CAR** (EUAM RCA). Ahead of the CMC the EU conducted a scoping study to CAR, which was joined by DPO. EUAM RCA is expected to be launched in the spring of 2020 and will support the reform of internal security forces and provide advise to the CAR authorities at the strategic level. EUAM RCA is set to cooperate closely with the EU Training Mission (EUTM RCA) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission MINUSCA.

## Former HR/VP Federica Mogherini



Credits: EEAS.

The former **EU High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) Federica Mogherini** (pictured left) concluded her five-year mandate on 1 December 2019. As the EU's foreign policy chief, Mogherini faced a number of challenges including in Africa, the Middle-East and in the Western Balkans. Nevertheless, Mogherini also set her own priorities, by playing a prominent role in concluding and maintaining the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** with Iran as well as taking forward the **EU's security and defence policy**. Through the **Global Strategy of 2016** she set strategic priorities for the EU's external action, taking forward the principles of "strategic autonomy" and "strategic cooperation".

The former HR/VP promoted cooperation with the United Nations by supporting mediation in Syria and Libya. She sought other ways to promote multilateralism by hosting for example, the Brussels Conferences on Syria and helping establish the International Contact Group on Venezuela.

Through a partnership approach, Mogherini aimed to increase the EU's presence in the world and expand cooperation with other international organisations, particularly the African Union.

## NATO 70th anniversary



Credits: NATO.

To mark the **70th anniversary of the Alliance**, NATO convened a Leaders Meeting in London on 3 to 4 December 2019. The United Kingdom as a founding member and London as the home of NATO's first headquarter was chosen as the venue. During the meeting, leaders discussed the future of the alliance with a focus on geopolitical concerns, operations and burden-sharing.

The cooperation between the UN and NATO currently takes places on the basis of the **Joint Declaration on UN-NATO Secretariat cooperation**, renewed in 2018. Building on the original Joint Declaration, signed in September 2008, it sets out priority areas for future cooperation, including support to UN peace operations, countering terrorism, the protection of civilians, and promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

In line with the joint declaration the next round of UN-NATO staff talks is scheduled for Spring 2020.

## UN-EU Framework on Counter-Terrorism

The UN-EU framework on Counter-Terrorism, was signed on 24 April 2019 during the **second Leader's Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism**, in New York, following its endorsement by the Foreign Affairs Council of the EU. The Framework for UN-EU cooperation on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism promotes capacity building to counter terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE) in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, as well as support to the development of national and regional PCVE action plans promoting youth engagement and gender perspectives.



Credits: UN News.

It also addresses support to **victims of terrorism** and the **evolving threat of foreign terrorist fighters** through the establishment of Advanced Passenger Information/Passenger Name Records (API/PNR) systems.

Discussions during the second Leader's Dialogue reflected the priorities laid out in the Framework, supplemented with areas of common concern such as countering the **financing of terrorism and terrorist narratives as well as UN principles on the treatment of women and children with links to UN listed terrorist groups**.

The Dialogue was co-convened by **Vladimir Voronkov**, USG of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and **Pedro Serrano**, DSG at the EEAS, with the participation of **Gilles de Kerchove**, European Union Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, and representatives from the European Commission. USG Voronkov led a delegation of representatives from 22 UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, including CTED, DPO, DPPA, UNODC, UNDP, OHCHR, UNESCO the Office of the Special Advisor for Africa and UNODA among others.

An update of the Framework is scheduled for the summer of 2020, following the third UN-EU Leader's Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism taking place in Brussels in the spring of 2020. The 2018 deployment of a UNOCT liaison officer as part of the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security in Brussels will continue to facilitate cooperation between the UN and the EU on Counter-Terrorism.

### UN-EU Programmatic cooperation

On 25 April, the EU and the UN launched a joint project to prevent acts of nuclear terrorism through the promotion of the universal ratification and effective implementation of the *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)*. It will be jointly implemented by UNCCT and UNODC during the next three years.

During his visit to Brussels in December 2019, USG Voronkov and Koen Doens, Director-General for Development Cooperation of the European Commission, signed a contribution agreement for the UN-EU Countering Terrorist Travel Partnership. This programme aims to enhance the detection capabilities of selected partner countries to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and serious criminals, as well as to strengthen regional cooperation to counter terrorism. The EU funding will support a three-year joint project within the global UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme to assist partner countries in building their Passenger Information Units (PIUs), which collect, analyze, and share passenger data, including Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR), in accordance with international standards, practices law, and human rights obligations. The joint project will also have a maritime component.

## A New Geopolitical Commission

From 23 to 26 May 2019, **515 Million citizens** were called to vote in European Parliament (EP) elections. The highest voter turnout since 1994 resulted in a **more fragmented EP** compared to its previous composition. The centre-right European People's Party (EPP) emerged as a winner with 182 seats, with the centre left Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) in second place with 154 seats. The liberal group Renew Europe (formerly ALDE) won 108 seats partly because of its association with the French party La République en Marche (LREM).



Credits: European Commission.

The Green/European Free Alliance group increased its number of seats by 23 to 74. Other results included 73 seats for the Identity and Democracy Group (ID), 62 seats for the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), and 41 for the Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL). The EP currently has 57 non-attached Members.

On 30 June the EU leaders nominated then German Defence Minister **Ursula von der Leyen** (pictured above with former President Jean-Claude Juncker) as European Commission President. Belgian Prime Minister **Charles Michel** was named as the new President of the European Council. IMF Chief **Christine Lagarde** was nominated as President of the European Central Bank, while Spanish Foreign Minister, **Josep Borrell**, was nominated as HR/VP. For the first time in the history of the EU, two women hold the most powerful EU positions. On 3 July, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) elected **David Sassoli** as President of the European Parliament. After outlining her key priorities to MEPs on 16 of July, von der Leyen's proposed College of Commissioners was elected by the EP on 27 November and assumed office on 1 December.

Von der Leyen heads a College of **26 European Commissioners**, composed of 15 men and 11 women, with three Executive Vice Presidents ( EVPs) in charge of driving forward key policy priorities, with Frans Timmermans in charge of the "European Green Deal", Margrethe Vestager for "making Europe fit for the people" and Valdis Dombrovskis responsible for "an economy that works for the people".



Credits: European Commission.

The new HR/VP **Josep Borrell** (pictured left) is responsible for foreign policy. In his role he will chair the Commissioners' Group "a Stronger Europe in the World". Borrell is a seasoned politician and former President of the EP. In terms of key priorities, he has highlighted the **Western Balkans, the wider European neighbourhood** (to the east and south) and more engagement by EU CSDP missions, whether in **the Sahel, which he perceives as "the true southern border of Europe"**, the Horn of Africa or elsewhere.

An innovation appears in the field of defence with the establishment of a **new Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space** under the responsibility of Thierry Breton the Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry and Defence portfolio.

## Joint UN-EU Visit to Mali



Credits: UN DPO.

From June 19 to 21, a joint high-level UN-EU visit took place in Mali. The delegation led by **Jean-Pierre Lacroix, USG for Peace Operations (pictured left)**, and **Pedro Serrano, DSG of the EEAS**, met with the political authorities, civil society, the political leadership and international actors. The delegation also visited Mopti, where the security situation is a cause for concern.

Received by the **President of the Republic Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta**, Lacroix, Serrano and **Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) Annadif** reiterated to the Malian Head of State their sincere condolences following the various attacks perpetrated in the centre of the country since the beginning of 2019. They also paid tribute to the efforts made by the State and the Presidency of the Republic in the search for peace and lasting stability in Mali.

With **Prime Minister Boubou Cissé**, discussions focused in particular on the ongoing institutional reforms, the accelerated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, Reintegration-Integration (DDR-I) process and the establishment of the Northern Development Zone.

The joint visit also provided the opportunity to emphasise the strong cooperation between the EU operations **EUTM Mali, EUCAP Sahel and MINUSMA**.

## Multilateralism in peace and security

On 23 September, the Mission of Norway to the EU and Finland's Permanent Representation to the EU – with the support of Denmark, Iceland and Sweden – held a panel discussion in Brussels entitled: "multilateralism in peace and security: What can EU, NATO and the UN do to uphold and reform multilateralism in conflict prevention and crisis management?". In this context, the EU side was represented by **Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen**, Director General of the EU military Staff (EUMS), while the UN and NATO were respectively represented by **Madalene O'Donnell**, Team Leader for Partnerships in DPO/DPET and **Petr Chalupecky**, Head of the NATO and Multilateral Affairs Section in the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division (PASP) to NATO.

Participants highlighted the importance of cooperation between the UN and the EU as well as the complementarity of both organizations across the entire spectrum of peace operations. As concrete examples, the EU training missions in Mali and CAR were referred to as complementary to MINUSMA and MINUSCA. It was also emphasized that relations between the UN and the EU are boosted by mission to mission cooperation and through institutional dialogue mechanisms such as the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management.

The joint declaration between the UN and NATO on Secretariat-Cooperation was noted with emphasis on cooperation in the field of IED threat mitigation, Women Peace and Security, military medicine and counter terrorism.

## UN Visitors to Brussels

During his visit to Brussels from 20 to 22 November, **USG Lacroix** addressed the UN-EU Women Peace and Security workshop, the EU Political and Security Committee (EU PSC), the European Parliament sub-committee on security and defence (SEDE), as well as students in the Université Libre of Brussels, during an outreach event.

On 4-5 November, **USG Voronkov** (pictured right with NATO Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoană) visited Brussels to sign the EU contribution to the UN Counter-terrorism Travel Programme with DEVCO DG Koen Doens. USG Voronkov also briefed the EU PSC and met with Commissioners Avramopoulos and King, EEAS DSG Serrano and other high-level EU officials in the Council Secretariat and the Commission.



Credits: NATO.

On 6 May Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), **François Louncény Fall**, visited Brussels and met EU interlocutors, with Cameroon and the Lake Chad Basin high on the agenda.

The **MINUSMA Force Commander, Lieutenant General Gyllensporre**, briefed EU PSC and the EU Military Committee (EUMC) in Brussels on 15 May and held bilateral meetings with the Chair of the EUMC and the Director of the EUMS



**SRSG Salamé** (left with former HR/VP Federica Mogherini) briefed EU foreign ministers on the situation in Libya during the **Foreign Affairs Council** on 13 May. **SRSG Salamé also met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg** and briefed the North Atlantic Council.

The **Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, and the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), Karen Smith**, participated in the 9th Annual Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, on 13-14 May, in Brussels.

Credits: European Union.

The **Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths**, addressed the EU PSC in Brussels on 20 June.

On 9 September, **USG Fabrizio Hochschild** briefed an EU ambassadors conference in Brussels on preparations for the commemoration of the United Nations' 75th anniversary and sought EU support for the initiative.

The **Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Huang Xia** (pictured right), held a range of meetings with senior EEAS and Belgian officials on 18-19 September in Brussels.

The **Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa Parfait Onanga-Anyanga** (pictured right), met senior EEAS officials and former European Commissioner for Development Cooperation Mimica in Brussels on 19 September.



**SRSG and Head of MONUSCO, Leila Zerrougui**, briefed EU PSC Ambassadors on 16 October and met with senior EU officials.

**SRSG for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA Tadamichi Yamamoto** represented the UN at an EU hosted meeting in Brussels on 22 October between Special Envoys and Special Representatives for Afghanistan, also including envoys from France, Germany, Italy, Norway, the UK, and the US. A joint Communiqué was adopted, stressing the importance of continued international support to the Afghan government and the Afghan Security Forces.

**CTED Executive Director, Michèle Coninsx**, visited Brussels from 22 to 24 October to brief the EU Council Terrorism Working Party (COTER), including in a joint session with the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid. She also met with EU PSC Ambassadors, European Commissioner for the Security Union, Julian King, with DG HOME Deputy Director-General Onidi, as well as with the NATO ASG for Emerging Security Challenges Division Missiroli.



The **UN Military Adviser, Lieutenant-General Carlos Loitey** (pictured left), visited Brussels on 7 November to brief the NATO Military Committee and had a meeting with the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach.

Credits: NATO.

On 21 November, **deputy director of the Europe and Central Asia Division in DPPA-DPO, Hervé Lecoq**, addressed the UN-EU Women Peace and Security workshop on behalf of DPPA and held bilateral meetings with high-level officials in the EEAS and the European Commission to discuss the Western Balkans, Eastern and Southeastern Europe, and Central Asia.

On 12 and 13 December **USG and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu** visited Brussels and met with senior officials from the EU, NATO and Belgium. She also attended the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament conference.

On 16 to 17 December **Said Djinnit**, responsible for the independent high-level review on United Nations-African Union cooperation in peace and security, visited Brussels for consultations with EU officials and EU member states.

## Sample of UNLOPS Representational Activities



Annick Hiensch - second from left - representing UNOCT at the Global Community and Engagement Resilience Fund (GCERF) board meeting, 22 November, Geneva.

On October 21, Kamiel Mesie represented Headquarters at a high-level panel organized by CIFAL Flanders/UNITAR and the United Nations Association Flanders Belgium on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the United Nations. During the intervention, Mr. Mesie gave an update on the **Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative** and specifically on what EU member states like Belgium can do to support A4P and UN peace operations.



Credits: Olivia Droschaut DYOD



Credits: Nathalie Loiseau.

On 3 October Ikram Hajji and Rory Keane met with the Chair of the **European Parliament's SEDE Sub-Committee, Nathalie Loiseau**, in order to discuss the UN-EU partnership, notably in Mali and across the Sahel. The European **Parliament SEDE Sub-Committee** held its first formal meeting on 9 September and invited Rory Keane to speak on the UN-EU partnership on **peace and security**.



Rory Keane spoke on 01 April on the **United Nations women, peace and security agenda** at the global online Debating Security Plus (DS+) event - an online forum hosted by Friends of Europe that brings together a community of global security experts annually to discuss the changing nature of conflict and its implication for the global thinking on peace and security.

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