The European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) have a successful track record of close cooperation in crisis management around the world, dating back to the beginning of EU CSDP missions and operations. It is no coincidence that in 2003, when the EU deployed its first civilian and military operation, a Joint Declaration on EU-UN-Cooperation in Crisis Management was issued. Since then, many steps have been taken to reinforce the strategic partnership. Most recently in September 2018, the EU and UN agreed on a new set of forward-looking priorities for cooperation on peace operations and crisis management in 2019-2021.

WHY A STRONGER EU-UN PARTNERSHIP IS NEEDED ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The proliferation of violent and complex conflicts and crises around the world has increased the need for partnerships that promote a rules-based global order and multilateral solutions to pressing global challenges. Together, the EU and the UN are engaged in these endeavours.

Close cooperation based on mutual benefit, reciprocity and shared ownership increases coherence between and effectiveness of EU and UN missions and operations. This is essential to ensure positive and sustainable impact on the ground. While contributing to security outside Europe, these efforts also enhance the safety and security of EU citizens. Furthermore, partnering with the UN and supporting effective multilateralism is key for the EU to play its role as an established actor in global peace and security, in line with the EU Global Strategy.

THE EU-UN PARTNERSHIP ON CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Unique and long-standing EU-UN partnership in crisis management and civilian, police and military peacekeeping, based on shared values and commitments.

Working together horizontally and on the ground, in Mali and with the G5 Sahel Joint Force, the Central African Republic, Somalia, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Libya and Iraq.

Regular high-level dialogues – EU-UN Steering Committee on Crisis Management twice per year, and continuous working level interactions between missions and operations, and from headquarter to headquarter.

EU-UN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES FOR PEACE OPERATIONS AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN 2019-2021

Building on previous EU-UN achievements, the Council adopted conclusions on 18 September 2018, endorsing eight jointly identified priorities of the EU-UN Strategic Partnership on peace operations and crisis management for the period 2019-2021. These are to:

MILESTONES OF EU-UN PARTNERSHIP ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE

2003
Joint UN-EU Declaration on UN-EU Cooperation in Crisis Management

2007
Joint Statement on UN-EU cooperation in crisis management

2012-2014
Joint Action Plan to enhance EU CSDP support to UN peacekeeping

2015-2018
Priorities to strengthen UN-EU strategic partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management

2018
Council Conclusions on UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management priorities for 2019-2021

2018
Joint UN-EU Press Statement on reinforcing the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management

2019-2021
Priorities to reinforce the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management
1. Establish an EU-UN collaborative platform on Women, Peace and Security.

2. Strengthen cooperation between missions and operations in the field.

3. Assess how to best plan and execute in complementarity transitions of missions and operations.

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 in peace operations such as mediation, early warning and security sector reform (SSR), coordinating political messages and strategic communication.

6. Extend cooperation on policing, the rule of law and SSR to include also justice and correctional services and assess possibilities for cooperation on civilian rapid response.

7. Enhance cooperation with and support to African-led peace operations and explore possibilities to deepen trilateral cooperation with the African Union (AU).

8. Strengthen the performance of peace operations on the ground through intensified cooperation on training and capacity building, including exercises.

Across all the priority areas, upholding 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 EU-UN partnerships to prevent and overcome crises, including on conflict prevention or counter-terrorism.

**ONGOING PARALLEL DEPLOYED EU AND UN MISSIONS**

EU currently conducts **10 civilian** and **6 military** missions and operations.

11 out of the 16 EU missions/operations are deployed in parallel with UN missions, e.g. in Mali, with the G5 Sahel Joint Force, the Central African Republic, Somalia, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Libya and Iraq.

EU Member States are collectively the largest contributor to the UN’s peacekeeping budget, providing almost **32%** of it in 2017.