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Delegations will find in Annex the Council Conclusions Reinforcing the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management: Priorities 2019-2021, adopted by the Council at its 3636th meeting held on 18 September 2018.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS
REINFORCING THE UN-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON PEACE OPERATIONS
AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT: PRIORITIES 2019-2021

1. The Council reiterates the EU's firm commitment, alongside its Member States, to a strong United Nations (UN) as the bedrock of the multilateral rules-based order. The Council commends the achievements and recognises both the mutually beneficial nature of the longstanding UN-EU cooperation on peacekeeping and civilian, police and military crisis management and the importance of continuing the close European cooperation in the UN Security Council. Partnering with the UN contributes to the EU playing its role as a global peace and security actor in support of effective multilateralism. The EU provides the UN with political support as well as expertise, financial backing and political leverage to deliver on UN mandates. Close cooperation helps UN and EU missions and operations act more coherently and effectively to address various security challenges and ensure a positive and sustainable impact on the ground.
2. The Council stresses the importance of reinforcing the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management and endorses the UN-EU priorities for 2019-2021 and welcomes the extended scope and operational focus of these priorities.
3. The Council highlights the significance of including Women, Peace and Security as overarching priority, and calls for an effort to accelerate the operationalisation of this political commitment as well as strongly encourages engaging in more concrete actions with enhanced impact, in particular to increase meaningful participation of women in peace operations at all levels and areas of expertise.

4. As part of the EU integrated approach to conflict and crisis, the Council welcomes the efforts to enhance conflict prevention in the context of peace operations and crisis management operations and stresses in this regard the particular importance of joint conflict analysis, horizon scanning and early warning mechanisms. The Council furthermore underlines the importance of ensuring support to political processes and solutions and welcomes complementarities with other political strategic partnerships, such as on conflict prevention or counterterrorism and engagements on atrocity prevention, the responsibility to protect, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. It also stresses the importance of the security-environment nexus.
5. The Council emphasises the importance of strengthening cooperation between UN and EU missions and operations in the field to further ensure synergies, complementarities and coordination, notably also on logistics, information-sharing, and strategic communication. In this regard, the Council underlines the need for effective use of resources, reciprocal asset-sharing and close cooperation on the management of the environmental impact of peace operations.
6. The Council welcomes the focus on transitions of UN and EU missions and operations with a view to ensure the sustainability of their achievements. In this context, it underlines the importance of enhancing synergies with other relevant organisations deployed in the same theatre, including the African Union (AU) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), as well as making use of the trilateral partnership between the UN, the EU and the World Bank on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning.
7. The Council stresses the importance of increasing cooperation between EU Member States with a view to ensuring predictability of their support and contribution to UN peace operations and the UN Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) Initiative and the implementation of related UN reform initiatives which seek to improve coordination and increase efficiency in the field. In this regard, the Council welcomes the EU's support to the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations.

8. The Council commends the references made throughout the UN-EU priorities to human rights and, International Humanitarian Law, including the protection of children and other persons in vulnerable situations in conflict and post-conflict areas. It also , stresses the important role Member States can play in preventing and combatting sexual and gender-based violence as well as sexual exploitation and abuse.
9. The Council emphasises the particular importance of UN-EU cooperation on peace operations and crisis management in Africa, including together with and in support of the African Union (AU). In this regard, it encourages exploring possible initiatives to deepen UN-EU-AU trilateral cooperation, reiterates its commitment to support regional initiatives including the G5 Sahel Joint Force and AMISOM in the framework of the transition process and recalls the need to provide and deliver adequate support.
10. The Council welcomes further strengthening of cooperation on policing in this context, and extending cooperation on Security Sector Reform (SSR) to include the judiciary and penitentiary structures (including in response to terrorism, organised crime and illegal trafficking). The Council furthermore highlights that EU-UN cooperation on policing, the Rule of Law and SSR, including on border management is critical for enhancing resilience of fragile states and their societies to avoid conflict.
11. The Council underlines the importance of efforts to enhance performance of peace operations on the ground through strengthened cooperation on training and capacity building, including exercises, with a particular emphasis on strengthening local ownership.
