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Subject: Taking the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management to the next level: Priorities 2022-2024

**Taking the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations
and crisis management to the next level: Priorities 2022-2024**

I. Preamble

1. The United Nations and the European Union are committed to pursuing networked multilateralism as a basis to address complex global challenges, including in the field of peace and security.
2. In this vein, United Nations Secretary-General Guterres expressly highlighted the need to boost partnerships in his seminal report ‘Our Common Agenda’ in September 2021 and stressed the importance of UN-EU partnership in his address to the European Parliament on 24 June 2021. In the area of peacekeeping, the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN peacekeeping operations from 2018 has served as a solid basis for UN-EU partnership, with the EU having endorsed the declaration and supported the associated Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. Going forward Action for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P +) covering the period 2021-2023 will inform and guide UN-EU partnership on peacekeeping.
3. The EU reaffirms its commitment and ambition to uphold the multilateral rules-based global order with the UN at its core. In line with the Joint Communication on strengthening the EU’s contribution to rules-based multilateralism¹, the EU will enhance its efforts to prevent conflict, promote peace and security, uphold fundamental values and strengthen its capacity to act with partners. In this regard the UN welcomes the expression of EU support for the UN Secretary-General’s call for a global ceasefire in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on stopping violence and opening space for aid as well as political solutions. With its political leverage, including the role played by EU Member States represented at the UN Security Council, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) as well as financial and operational support and the development of the EU’s civil and military capabilities, the EU is well positioned to support the United Nations and to

¹ Joint Communication to the European Parliament and to the Council on Strengthening the EU’s contribution to the rules-based multilateralism, JOIN (2021), 3 final, Brussels, 17 February 2021.

contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the UN Charter.

4. In line with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the partnership between UN peace operations (understood to comprise peacekeeping operations and special political missions) and EU missions and operations under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), can help to prevent and curtail conflict and create space for viable political solutions in the spirit of networked multilateralism.
5. Recognising the mutually beneficial nature of UN-EU cooperation on peace and security since the 2003 EU-UN Joint Declaration² and the 2007 Joint Statement³ on UN-EU cooperation in Crisis Management, the two organisations are renewing and deepening their strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management.
6. In 2018 the Council of the European Union⁴ endorsed the document “Reinforcing the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management: Priorities 2019-2021⁵” and welcomed the extended scope and operational focus of these priorities. The current set of UN-EU priorities on peace operations and crisis management covering the period 2019-2021 remains largely relevant, while the overall framework has assisted in keeping the UN-EU partnership on peace operations and crisis management focused and tangible.
7. The changing global context defined by increasingly complex crises requires a multifaceted and collective response, which places the UN-EU partnership on peace and security at the core of a reinvigorated networked multilateralism. The new set of joint priorities for 2022-2024 as defined in section II below aims to adapt UN-EU strategic engagement on peace operations and crisis management to more effectively address the evolving threat landscape, cross-cutting challenges and crisis multipliers such as climate change and environmental degradation, new and emerging threat, including disruptive technologies and misinformation as well as the global COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences.

² Joint Declaration on UN-EU Cooperation in Crisis Management, Brussels, 19 September 2003, 12730/03

³ Joint Statement on UN-EU Cooperation in Crisis Management, Brussels, 7 June 2007.

⁴ Council conclusions on Reinforcing the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management, Priorities 2019-2021, 18 September 2018, 12264/18.

⁵ Reinforcing the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management: Priorities 2019-2021, Brussels 11 July 2018, 11041/18.

8. The renewed partnership priorities provide for a flexible platform for enhancing EU-UN cooperation on peace operations and crisis management, while taking into account relevant EU and UN strategic policy documents, such as Action for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P+), the development of the EU's Strategic Compass on security and defence as well as the evolving nature of international peacekeeping.
9. The peace and security pillar in the UN Secretariat and the EEAS in close cooperation with the European Commission will focus on these eight priority areas during the next three years (2022-2024). Several expected concrete deliverables are listed under each priority. These do not encompass all UN-EU cooperation on peace and security but focus on a prioritised forward-looking agenda, in the areas of peace operations and crisis management.
10. The renewed priorities of the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management are underpinned by the following:
 - **Embedding operational partnership in viable political frameworks:** Addressing the challenges of peace and security is at its core a political endeavour and requires a working political framework and political buy-in at the national level in order to achieve sustainable results. A4P+ puts a strong emphasis on this political dimension in terms of support for UN peacekeeping operations. In taking UN-EU partnership on peace operations and crisis management to the next level for the coming three years, a clear emphasis on leveraging and supporting political solutions and political frameworks to deliver peace and security in mission settings will inform the UN-EU partnership. This shall be taken forward through more joint analyses and by building understanding of the power dynamics at play in a fragile context and better leveraging of the UN and EU toolbox to support sustainable peace, including through joint messaging. To do so, the political dimension of the partnership will be further strengthened, including through linking the political and operational frameworks of cooperation, more systematic engagement with EU Member States on concrete aspects of EU-UN cooperation in shared theatres of operation, as well as exploring the idea of joint UN-EU field visits together with EU member state representatives and other regional organisations.
 - Building on the **specific added value and toolbox of each organisation**, while ensuring enhanced complementarities and strengthened synergies, the delivery of actions undertaken on the basis of the priorities will be underpinned by an integrated approach to prevention, conflict and crises, working through the 'UN delivering as one' approach, and using the EU

integrated approach. This will enable a more focused approach on the role of support to peace mediation as a key tool of conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding in line with the UN Secretary-General's Report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/74/976–S/2020/773) and Council Conclusions on EU Peace Mediation.⁶

- Ensuring that cooperation on peace operations and crisis management is **complemented and reinforced by other channels for strategic political engagement**, such as dialogues on conflict prevention and mediation or counterterrorism and cooperation on peacebuilding as well as the EEAS SG-UN USG DPPA regular Political Exchange on Peace and Security.
- Coordination, coherence and joint action are important to achieve tangible results and ensure efficiency. In this regard, the EU and UN will endeavour to **further strengthen cooperation with regional organisations** and other regional partners within the scope of their partnership efforts.
- Climate change together with environmental degradation have been found to undermine stability in several settings. They are widely recognized as existential risk multipliers that exacerbate conflict drivers and accelerate and deepen underlying fragility and instability. EU commitment to address climate policy implications is an integral part of the EU's thinking and action in all domains, including defence and EU CSDP, in line with the EU Climate Change and Defence Roadmap⁷ as well as in the broader integrated approach to climate change and security nexus as defined by the EU Concept for an integrated approach on climate change and security⁸. To date, the UN Security Council has recognized the adverse effects of climate change on stability in resolutions and presidential statements authorising ten UN field-based mission⁹. Given these interlinkages, **the climate, peace and security nexus is mainstreamed across the joint EU-UN priorities** on peace operations and crisis management.

⁶ Council Conclusions on EU Peace Mediation (doc. 13573/20), Brussels, 7 December 2020.

⁷ Climate Change and Defence Roadmap (doc. 12741/20), Brussels, 9 November 2020

⁸ Concept for an integrated approach on climate change and security (doc. 12537/21), Brussels, 5 October

⁹ S/RES/2592 (2021), S/RES/2587 (2021), S/RES/2584 (2021), S/RES/2579 (2021), S/RES/2576 (2021), S/RES/2567 (2021), S/RES/2556 (2020), S/RES/2552 (2020), S/PRST/2020/2, S/PRST/2019/10.

- **The universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms**, ensuring compliance with and promotion of International Humanitarian Law, and implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda and gender equality will be cross-cutting priorities in the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management. The need to ensure increased attention to Youth, Peace and Security, and children in armed conflicts are important considerations that are integrated below into the eight priority areas.

II. Priority Areas:

1. Women, Peace and Security

Women, Peace and Security (WPS) has been an active area of the UN-EU partnership over the last three years. The 21 November 2019 high-level joint UN-EU workshop on ‘promoting women’s meaningful participation in peace operations, crisis management and peace processes’ resulted in a number of targeted and concrete recommendations for further progress. Both organisations have also conducted a joint UN-EU mapping exercise to assess the level of cooperation on Women, Peace and Security between UN Peace Operations and EU Crisis Management Missions and Operations and a trilateral UN-EU-AU analysis looking at the implementation of the peace process in CAR with an integrated gender perspective.

Building on the work done so far, the EU and UN will continue working bilaterally as well as in extended formats on the WPS agenda, including by working to enhance the engagement of EU Member States in joint WPS initiatives, strengthening cooperation at field level and ensuring systematic gender mainstreaming in all joint activities and an increased participation and enhanced role of women in peace operations, peace and political processes as well as in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding.

Actions:

- a) Continuous dialogue on gender equality and WPS at all levels from political to operational, including at the Heads of Delegations, Heads of Missions/Commanders level in theatres where both organisations are engaged.
- b) Building on the recommendations from the joint workshop, the EU and its Member States will be encouraged to put forward practical steps on how they plan to increase the participation and enhance the role of women in peace operations and political processes.
- c) Maximise the impact of existing resources, share materials on training, gender analysis, information on activities and priorities as well as good practices and lessons learned through regular staff-to-staff contacts and further explore possibilities for enhanced cooperation in this regard.
- d) Building on the joint EU-UN mapping exercise on WPS, the EU and UN will aim at strengthening coordination to operationalize the findings from the mapping exercise by establishing regular and structured cooperation between UN and EU gender advisors in the field with backstopping support from the respective headquarters where relevant. A field-level coordination mechanism on gender equality and WPS should be encouraged.
- e) Building on the recommendations from the joint workshop the EU, its Member States and the UN will prioritize efforts and actions to strengthen full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace operations, peace, security, political and electoral processes, and governmental institutions. This includes aiming at gender parity in staff supporting these processes.
- f) Use technical as well as high level meetings to identify joint priorities and consider developing joint political messaging on gender equality and WPS and ensure implementation of WPS commitments, including dedicated WPS initiatives and mainstreaming, at country level.

2. Strengthening cooperation in the field

Strengthening cooperation in the field goes to the core of the partnership and has been taken forward notably through joint UN-EU visits to the field, more regular briefings by senior UN officials to EU bodies, including the Foreign Affairs Council and the Political and Security Committee (PSC), more regular briefings by senior EU officials to the Security Council and the UN Peacebuilding Commission, close cooperation between CSDP planners, and UN planners and thematic experts on issues such as SSR and DDR, in addition to regular VTCs between UN DPPA-DPO (Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs – Department of Peace Operations) regional divisions and geographic desks and their counterparts in the EEAS on political messaging and with UN Department of Operational Support (DOS) on operational partnerships, notably in theatres of common operational interest, such as Libya, Iraq, Mali, CAR, as well as exchange of real-time lessons from COVID-19 pandemic. The UN-EU Framework Agreement for the mutual provision of support¹⁰ was also finalised in 2020 providing a sound legal basis for facilitating field arrangements on mutual support in the areas of logistics, administrative and security support.

Building on the existing coordination mechanisms and taking into account the changing threat landscape, challenges such as climate change and environmental degradation, risks related to new technologies, and misinformation as well as lessons from the COVID crisis, the EU and UN will continue their systematic operational cooperation at HQ-level and in the field with a view to ensuring complementarity and increasing the effectiveness and efficiencies of their respective missions including by sharing of assets.

Actions:

- a) UN and EU field missions with support from their respective headquarters will be encouraged to work closely together to ensure the implementation of their respective mandates, through joint analysis, regular dialogue, including on political objectives and frameworks, operational cooperation, division of labour, as appropriate, and mutual support.

¹⁰ *Framework Agreement between the European Union and the United Nations for the Provision of Mutual Support in the context of their respective missions and operations in the field*, signed in New York on 29 September 2020 (OJ L/389/2, 19.11.2020)

- b) The EU and the UN will set up and further strengthen networks on environmental aspects in the host country. Such networks will enable a regular exchange of views in the field, through dedicated points of contact in UN missions and EU CSDP missions and operations. The EU and UN will also continue staff-to-staff dialogue to exchange best practices on the integration of climate and environment related aspects into analysis and early warning mechanisms as well as into the operational planning and logistics.
- c) Following the entry into force of the UN-EU Framework Agreement on the provision of mutual support, sustain engagement between relevant staff in headquarters and points of contacts in missions and operations to promote, prioritize and implement in-theatre cooperation on mission support issues wherever relevant.
- d) Strengthen cooperation on planning, with an emphasis on early and forward planning, enhanced complementarities and synergies, and on coherent inclusion and follow-up on issues related to gender, children in armed conflict and International Humanitarian Law as well as climate-related aspects. Possibilities of staff exchange will be explored to enhance the efficiency of planning for parallel or bridging missions, or in support of third actors jointly supported by the UN and the EU.
- e) In the context of support to third party defense and security forces, the UN and the EU will establish regular exchange and deepen cooperation on human rights aspects of conflict management and in particular on international human rights and humanitarian law risk management to ensure compliance with international human rights law and International Humanitarian Law.
- f) Increase cooperation between EU and UN field missions to implement the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda, including through ensuring its integration into the strategic and planning documents, conflict analyses, frameworks, initiatives and guidance tools and through establishing regular exchange of views with civil society and youth-led organizations.

- g) Explore opportunities for cooperation on strategic communication and countering misinformation in mission settings, including in the context of the new UN Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping¹¹.

3. Transitions

Recognizing that transitions mark a critical juncture for societies emerging from conflict, the UN and the EU have launched a joint initiative to enhance collaboration in the domain of *transitions*¹² in line with UN Security Council 2594 (2021). Work on transitions has advanced during the 2019-2021 priorities cycle, including through an initial stock-taking exercise which aimed at fostering joint understanding of the challenges surrounding transitions, mapping of existing UN-EU mechanisms and tools, as well as exploring potential gaps which would benefit from closer UN-EU partnership.

Building on this work, the EU and the UN will continue efforts to identify how best to act in complementarity at country and regional level during the planning and execution of the transition of UN and EU missions and operations, while also taking into consideration the specific contexts in host countries and work ongoing under the UN Peacebuilding Fund and within the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

Actions:

- a) Explore possibilities for developing partnership on cooperation in transition settings, including the enabling role that operational support can play while highlighting the role of host/partner countries, and the importance of better linking the missions and operations on the ground with programmatic activities (in particular peacebuilding) in line with the integrated approach as well as enhancing synergies with other organisations deploying before, after, or alongside UN and EU missions and operations.

¹¹ *Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping*, 15.08.2021 ([Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping | United Nations Peacekeeping](#))

¹² For the purpose of this collaboration, transitions are defined as the reconfiguration of the EU and UN strategy and footprint, resulting from a considerable change of EU or UN capacity in a country. As such, transition scenarios can involve both the deployment or scaling up of either an EU CSDP mission/operation or UN peacekeeping operation /special political mission as well as their drawdown or complete withdrawal. Due to operational exigencies, the focus initially will be placed on collaboration in countries, where a reduction of EU or UN capacity is likely, given that these moments present a particular risk to host societies as well as the international community

- b) Organise regular exchanges on the implementation of the MONUSCO transition plan as well as discuss opportunities for possible cooperation in Mali when the conditions are met.

4. Facilitate EU Member States' contributions and support to UN peace operations and the UN Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) Initiative

The EEAS has continued to play a role in facilitating *EU Member State contributions* and support to UN peacekeeping operations including through regular engagement by UN senior officials in Defence Ministerial meetings and briefings to the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC). With a view to continue facilitating EU Member States and partner countries contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, the UN Secretariat and the EEAS will:

Actions:

- a) Propose modalities for informal EU rotational systems in support of UN peacekeeping, support for rapid response (civilian and uniformed) bridging operations, and transitions, and re-hatting when relevant.
- b) Explore the possibility for EU Member States to make "smart pledges" and identify options on how the EEAS could help build partnership among EU Member States and partner countries (troop- and police-contributing countries) to combine contributions with an emphasis on critical enablers, new technologies, capacity-building and gender expertise and encourage participation of women in peace operations at all levels and areas of expertise (civilian, military, police).
- c) Continue systematic exchanges to facilitate the use of capabilities in direct support of UN peacekeeping operations or to partner countries supporting UN peacekeeping operations, including those developed in the context of the European Peace Facility (EPF) and Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) projects as deemed appropriate by the PESCO project members and those deriving from EU civilian capability development efforts in the framework of the Civilian CSDP Compact.

d) Facilitate exchange of expertise on new technologies, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability of peacekeeping capacities, including in the context of the European Defence Agency following the invitation extended to the UN to join the EDA Energy and Environment Working Group (EnE WG) as well as the Consultation Forum on Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS).

5. Conflict prevention in peace operations and support to political processes and solutions

UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions and EU CSDP missions and operations have proven to be a central component of the prevention toolbox, having on many occasions prevented conflict, reduced death and injury and created space for political dialogue. EU-UN cooperation in support of **conflict prevention in peace operations and support for political processes** resonates with A4P+ and EU priorities as well as recent developments in the area of conflict prevention and mediation, including the new Concept on EU Peace Mediation and enhanced use of conflict sensitivity analyses in programming. This work has been taken forward through UN and EU political engagement and crisis response, UN good offices, EU regional consultation and EU messages feeding into the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review process as well as engagement by UN Special Representatives of the Secretary-General with the PSC and the EEAS, plus targeted joint visits to the field. The EU-UN partnership supporting the international human rights and humanitarian law compliance framework of the G5 Joint Force achieved some good results and was strengthened, including with a reinforced operational approach towards promoting improved human rights compliance and ensuring accountability through tackling impunity.

The EU and the UN will continue joint efforts to enhance conflict prevention in peace operations and to ensure support to political processes and solutions.

Actions:

a) Coordinate political messages and enhance parallel and coordinated strategic communication at mission levels, when relevant and useful, in support of political processes and in response to early signs of potential violent conflict, including in transition scenarios as well as in reaction to misinformation activities in particular by:

- i. EU and UN representatives briefing relevant international fora and issuing coordinated statements when possible and appropriate.
 - ii. Encourage regular communications and information sharing between UN Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, UN Special Envoys and UN Special Advisers of the Secretary-General, EU Heads of Delegations, EU Special Representatives, EU Heads of Missions and Force Commanders.
- b) Continue to enhance information and analysis exchange by:
- i. Building on contacts established between the EU SitRoom and the UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC), and related sub-regional frameworks where relevant as well as horizon scanning work.
 - ii. Applying the administrative arrangement between the EEAS and DPO/DOS on the exchange of classified information, and continuing as appropriate to share information about, and to undertake cross-consultations on, strategic reviews, operational planning processes and promoting strategic and operational levels exchange on planning of key programmatic activities for leveraging political processes and solutions;
 - iii. Regular information sharing and exchange of analysis between the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS), relevant UN Secretariat entities and the EEAS, as well as, where appropriate, information sharing in the context of relevant Council preparatory bodies;
 - iv. Fostering new opportunities for joint conflict and 'deep dive' analysis with an integrated gender perspective, horizon scanning, situational awareness, and strategic reflections on conflict sensitive engagement including scenario planning with a focus on preparing response to possible violence outbreaks, early warning and how to enhance the effectiveness of regional strategies (Horn of Africa, Sahel, European Neighbourhood Policy) in this regard, during the planning and deployment phase of UN and EU missions and operations, as well as shared monitoring, evaluation and lessons learning;

- v. Strengthen strategic foresight and situational awareness to better anticipate, prepare for and manage the effects of climate change and environmental degradation on conflict dynamics and operating environments where UN and CSDP missions are mandated.
 - c) Assess in a coordinated way progress made by the G5 Sahel Joint Force in implementing its human rights and humanitarian law compliance framework and, on this basis, formulate recommendations on how to build on existing achievements to further strengthen support for the implementation of that framework and improve the protection of civilians in the evolving international peace operations environment; and share experience on human rights and IHL risk management and Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (CMCoord) in crises where the EU and the UN are engaged.
 - d) Identify opportunities for cooperation in mediation support in mission settings, including through local and community-level efforts as well as capacity-building provided through mediation support actions (crisis response and conflict prevention and peacebuilding) and also draw on existing internal resources of the UN and the EU, in particular the respective system-wide service providing hubs (DPPA Mediation Support Unit and the EEAS Mediation Support Team).
- 6. Cooperation on Policing, Security Sector Reform (SSR), rule of law as well as relevant aspects of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of former combatants (DDR) as well as weapons and ammunition management (WAM)**

While the well-established cooperation on **Policing, SSR and Rule of Law** will continue, the EU and UN will also expand collective efforts to enhance partnership on **Security Sector Reform (SSR) and where relevant aspects of Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration of former combatants (DDR) as well as weapons and ammunition management (WAM) to tackle** the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition.

Actions:

- a) Continue regular exchanges between CPCC and UNPOL, including the Police Division and its Standing Capacity in the UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) especially on international policing and police cooperation in host countries (where UN and EU CSDP missions and operations are deployed) including:
 - i. Furthering coherence in effort through the joint advancement and implementation of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing (SGF), joint outreach to the African Union on the basis of the SGF, as well as operationalization of the UN Police Training Architecture Programme;
 - ii. Undertaking, where appropriate, joint operational police assessment and planning to facilitate complementarity and thereby support Member States in attaining representative, responsive and accountable police services in line with SGF principles.

- b) Continue expanding cooperation in support of national justice and corrections institutions, building on the existing cooperation in Mali and the Central African Republic in support of national specialized capacities to investigate and prosecute crimes fueling conflicts, including serious human rights violations. In the field of corrections, the EU and UN will cooperate on the development of training standards on prison security, with the objective of improving the management of prison incidents and the safe, secure and humane detention of high-profile detainees.

Take forward cooperation in Libya in line with the UN Security Council resolution 2542 (2020) with a strong focus on support for the Libya-led political process and reconciliation, including support for human rights and security sector reform.

- c) Strengthen cooperation on security sector reform (SSR), disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and weapons and ammunitions management (WAM) with a gender-responsive approach and a focus on priority geographical settings, including through joint field assessments and training initiatives, and on policy development, to take advantage of both organizations' respective added value within the thematic field.

- d) Harmonize UN and EU political leverage and improve coordination on planning and assessments to help address security sector reform and governance deficits that undermine stability in mission settings of common interest.
- e) Explore possibilities to assess and create synergies between the EU's civilian capability development process and the capability process of the UN, including in the area of criminal justice, through e.g. organising joint capability seminars, including on strategic communication as well as on the link between capabilities and training.
- f) Building on the joint EU-UN seminar on "Addressing illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) and ammunition in conflict affected areas. The role for peace support operations" held on 15 December 2020, the EU and UN will explore options to strengthen cooperation on tackling the illicit proliferation of SALW and their ammunition by exchanging expertise on how to develop the arms control aspect in the implementation of mandates of EU and UN missions and operations.

7. Cooperation with and support to African peace operations

Cooperation with and support to African peace operations in the field has mainly taken place in context of the UN and EU partnership with the African Union (AU) and African Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms. There have been joint AU-EU-UN field visits, coordinated joint messaging and substantial EU financial support for AMISOM, the AU-facilitated peace process in Central African Republic and to the G5 Sahel Joint Force. The Quartet, comprised of AU-EU-UN and IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), has been a critical forum to coordinate common messages and engagements regarding the Somali political impasse and support the country in the political transition.

Building on the achievements within this partnership framework, the EU and the UN will continue enhancing cooperation with the AU in the trilateral format where appropriate, as well as with other regional organisations, specific sub-regional initiatives and relevant partner countries.

Actions:

- a) Explore, together with the AU, possible initiatives to take forward trilateral cooperation between the EU, UN and AU on peace operations, conflict prevention, mediation and crisis management on the African continent with a focus on common priorities where joint efforts would lead to tangible political and/or operational progress.
- b) Explore areas of joint engagement between the AU, UN and EU in support of security sector reform in select countries.
- c) Work together at policy and operational level to support the G5 Sahel Joint Force to deliver its mandate in an effective and sustainable manner and in line with the results of the assessment as mandated under UN Security Council resolution 2584 (2021).
- d) Explore areas of potential cooperation, including exchange of expertise and analysis with regard to addressing the climate and peace and security nexus with particular focus on regions most affected by both climate and conflict.
- e) Continue to work together and enhance cooperation between the UN and EU presence to support the Somali political and security transition as well as the future AU-led mission to Somalia as mandated in UN Security Council resolution 2568 (2021).

8. Training and capacity building

On **training and capacity building** regular cooperation takes place between the UN Office of Military Affairs (OMA) and the EU on military exercises, while UN peacekeeping is systematically addressed in CSDP pre-deployment training to better enable practical partnership in the field. There is also regular exchange between the DPO Policy, Evaluation and Training Division/ITS and training institutes across Europe as part of well-developed training networks. With a view to enhancing performance of peacekeeping operations on the ground, the EU and UN will focus cooperation on capacity building, including exercises.

Actions:

- a) Establish an informal working group to chart out a roadmap on how the two organisations can support training and national capacity building to enhance capabilities, performance and the increased deployment of women in the full range of operational tasks in peacekeeping deployments.
- b) The EEAS will continue facilitating support from the EU and its Member States for pre-deployment training to troop and police contributing countries and civilian staff consistent with UN peacekeeping training policies, standard operating procedures and guidelines, with a focus on human rights, International Humanitarian Law, gender equality, children and armed conflict, as well as other relevant trainings (e.g. further support in Improvised Explosive Device (IED) threat mitigation).
- c) Continue UN engagement in EU civilian and/ or military exercise scenarios (for example EU Military Exercise (MILEX) or Multi-layer Exercise), with a view to broadening situational awareness on processes and planning methodologies.
- d) Mutually support the development and implementation of training activities in the area of climate and security to increase awareness and knowledge among UN and EU CSDP personnel deployed in missions and operations including through the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) network and create a talent pipeline to advance this growing policy area.
- e) ESDC will continue to invite the UN to participate in relevant training activities, in particular those that support UN peacekeeping training policies.
- f) The UN will invite the EU to contribute towards developing support capacities for peacekeeping and peacekeepers through the Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP) and the Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM).

- g) Mutually support the development and implementation of training activities in the areas of policing and the rule of law. The exchange of training modules and the organisation of joint training activities in the field should be explored.
- h) Initiate exchange on best practices on the use of evaluation methodologies for capacity building activities.

III. Follow-up mechanism

The EU and UN will ensure a robust follow-up mechanism on implementation of joint priorities – at both the field and HQ level, including through biannual meetings of the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management and through strengthening the partnership between the UN and EU leadership in the field. EU Member States will be actively involved in the process of monitoring the implementation of the priorities set out in this document by way of regular reporting by the EEAS to the EU Political and Security Committee and other relevant Council preparatory bodies. This reporting on the progress will ideally be combined with a presentation of the outcomes of the biannual UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management and other dialogue fora.

