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COVER NOTE

From: European External Action Service (EEAS)

To: Delegations

Subject: Security and Defence Partnership between the European Union and the Republic of Ghana

SECURITY AND DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

1. The European Union (EU) and the Republic of Ghana (onwards, Ghana) share a common interest in deepening their partnership on peace, security and defence matters to address a deteriorating global and regional security environment. The longstanding EU–Ghana relations on these matters are founded on shared commitments to regional stability, multilateralism, good governance, democracy and rule of law.
2. The EU and Ghana are deeply interconnected through shared history, trade, migration, and security interests, making their partnership key for mutual stability, sustainable growth, and global cooperation. Both partners understand that security is not limited to traditional defence-related issues, but increasingly encompasses non-traditional security areas, including foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) or hybrid threats, amplified by emerging disruptive technologies.
3. Ghana and the EU stand united in their commitment to effective multilateralism and support for the principles of the UN Charter, including territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Both partners are committed to upholding these principles and reiterate their support for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in areas ravaged by war in Africa, in Ukraine with the full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation, the occupied Palestinian Territories, as well as in other wars and conflicts around the globe. In this context, the EU and Ghana share concerns over threats posed to the multilateral rules-based order, as well as on regional level, with both facing major security challenges along their borders.
4. The relations between the EU and Ghana are firmly anchored in the 2023 Samoa Agreement, building on the legacy of the Lomé Convention and the Cotonou Agreement. Evolving from a development and trade partnership, formalised through the Economic Partnership Agreement in effect since 2016, the EU has become Ghana’s primary security partner. The provision of critical non-lethal military equipment under the European Peace Facility (EPF), the EU Security and Defence Initiative (EUSDI) for the Gulf of Guinea, and a broad range of joint security-related initiatives, demonstrate the width and depth of EU-Ghana cooperation.

5. The 2022 EU Strategic Compass for Security and Defence and Ghana's 2020 National Security Strategy both set out a clear vision for a more robust role in peace, security and defence, with strong tailored partnerships at its core.

General framework

6. The EU and Ghana decide to establish and implement a tailor-made Security and Defence Partnership that will guide bilateral cooperation across the peace, security and defence spectrum. This Partnership will be anchored in a dedicated annual Peace, Security and Defence Dialogue at senior level, which will provide steering and oversight. It may also give rise to additional thematic consultations and dialogues to further operationalise and deepen the cooperation as appropriate, which in turn would feed into high-level political engagements.
7. The EU and Ghana will increase coordination in multilateral fora, including with EU Member States, on peace, security and defence matters.

Areas of Cooperation

8. In addition to exchanging on respective developments in security and defence policies and relevant regional security, strategic and geopolitical issues, the EU and Ghana will expand cooperation in areas such as:

Peacebuilding and crisis management

9. The EU and Ghana are committed to conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding, grounded in the shared conviction that lasting peace relies on inclusive governance, regional cooperation, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.
10. The EU and Ghana will strengthen their cooperation in the field of crisis management, including by exploring the possibility of signing a Framework Participation Agreement allowing for Ghana's participation in EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations of strategic and geographical significance to both sides.
11. The EU and Ghana will exchange on respective contributions and support to UN Peacekeeping. To strengthen regional and UN-led peacekeeping efforts and promote stability through

dialogue, mediation, and institution building, the EU and Ghana will enhance their coordination on shared priorities in the UN context.

12. The EU and Ghana will strengthen cooperation to reinforce resilience both within Ghana and in the broader sub-region, notably in the context of the EU Security and Defence Initiative (EUSDI) Gulf of Guinea.
13. The EU and Ghana will work together to safeguard cultural heritage in Ghana, recognising that its damage and destruction, manipulation, or illicit trafficking threatens stability and security. The EU and Ghana will continue to explore opportunities for cooperation in the preservation, return and promotion of cultural artifacts and heritage.

Maritime security

14. Maritime security threats, including drug trafficking, piracy, and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, are transnational and can only be tackled in partnership. Both parties express grave concern about the growing threat for the environment, safe seafaring and secure navigation and security threat posed by vessels which operate disregarding compliance with international maritime law. The EU and Ghana will deepen exchanges and cooperation on maritime security, including by promoting the organisation of joint naval activities between Ghana's Navy and the navies of EU Member States, facilitated by the EU Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP). These efforts will contribute to promote and defend a free and rules-based maritime security environment, including security and resilience of critical maritime infrastructure and secure sea lines of communication in accordance with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
15. The EU will support the further development of the Gulf of Guinea maritime security architecture, known as the Yaoundé Architecture, which is crucial for addressing maritime threats in the region. This support will complement Ghana's active role within the Yaoundé Architecture, particularly in hosting and contributing to the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre of the Zone F in Accra. Both parties will cooperate to enhance the capabilities of other coastal states in the Gulf of Guinea to effectively manage maritime threats, including through the EU Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP) and the EPF.

Counter-Terrorism and Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)

16. The EU and Ghana will cooperate on prevention and countering violent extremism, including in the civilian-led fight against terrorism and insurgency, and collaborate on the social inclusion of vulnerable or marginalised communities as well as take steps to address other underlying causes of terrorism.
17. As co-chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), the EU, in its individual capacity, commits to leverage its position as co-chair of the GCTF to facilitate Ghana's participation in relevant GCTF activities, according to GCTF procedures. The EU and Ghana will strengthen cooperation on handling the use and prevention of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and other emerging lethal technologies, by implementing relevant instruments and frameworks such as the GCTF Lomé Recommendations on countering the use of explosive devices in the region and working through the EUSDI for the Gulf of Guinea.

Countering hybrid threats

18. The EU and Ghana will exchange on hybrid threats and share best practices in developing respective strategies and policies, including diplomatic responses to hybrid threats.
19. The EU and Ghana will explore opportunities to deepen cooperation on research and study on hybrid threats, including through cooperation between academic institutions, think tanks and centres of excellence on both sides.

Cyber issues

20. The EU and Ghana will deepen exchanges, including on the cyber threat landscape, respective policy frameworks and explore opportunities for cyber capacity building. The EU and Ghana will further explore practical cooperative efforts, notably at multilateral, regional and bilateral levels to advance the implementation of the UN framework of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace and to enhance accountability in cyberspace, where relevant through coordinated diplomatic responses to malicious cyber activities.
21. Ghana has made notable strides in advancing cyber security and electronic warfare capabilities, including with the future establishment of a Cyber and Electronic Warfare Centre. Considering

the shared interest of Ghana and the EU in regional security, the EU and Ghana will explore possible opportunities for enhanced support to strengthen Ghana's cyber resilience including through cyber capacity building and technical assistance, where relevant.

Foreign and Domestic Information Manipulation and Interference

22. Domestic and or Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference have become a critical threat to stability, social cohesion, and democracy, both in Europe and Africa. The growing interference by domestic and foreign actors and their proxies in the information space and the ever-developing digital technologies call for stronger preparedness and cooperation.

23. The EU and Ghana will work together to strengthen multi-stakeholder capacities and cooperation to monitor and respond to foreign and domestic information manipulation threats in Ghana, in full respect of fundamental freedoms, notably freedom of expression. Joint efforts will seek to enhance capacities of institutions, civil society and independent media to counter information manipulation, and promote national, regional and global initiatives aiming to strengthen information integrity, including through improved digital platform governance and accountability.

24. The EU and Ghana will exchange on information space threats assessments and explore operational cooperation.

Space security

25. The EU and Ghana will promote coordination of external engagements in multilateral fora, notably in the United Nations, and jointly promote norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour in outer space.

Conflict Prevention and Peace Mediation

26. The EU and Ghana will exchange on early warning, preventive diplomacy, peace mediation, and dialogue to promote peace, stability, security, and prosperity in the sub-region and beyond.

27. The EU and Ghana will work together to enhance conflict prevention, including through inclusive dialogue processes, local mediation efforts and exchange of good practices.

28. The EU and Ghana will explore cooperation to further strengthen Ghana's peace architecture, including Ghana's early warning system, jointly enhancing authorities' capacities to prevent and address ethnic, chieftaincy and land related disputes including farmer-herder conflicts.

Climate, Environment and Security Nexus

29. The EU and Ghana recognise that climate change is a growing risk multiplier that exacerbates insecurity, fuels displacement, affects food security and increases competition over scarce resources. Both sides will explore concrete areas of cooperation on the peace, security and defence dimensions of climate change, environmental peacebuilding and conflict-sensitive climate adaptation. This could include the exchange of analyses and experience sharing, training, and scenario planning.

30. Acknowledging that illegal small-scale gold mining and other illicit activities can have environmental, social, and security impacts, including on water quality, agriculture, the EU and Ghana express their intention to continue exploring ways to address these challenges.

31. To this end, the EU and Ghana will hold technical exchanges to share assessments, coordinate policy responses, and explore joint initiatives that reinforce resilience and stability in the face of environment related security risks.

External dimension of border management and of fight against transnational organised crime

32. The EU and Ghana will expand cooperation in the external dimension of integrated border management, fighting terrorism, transnational organised crime and international trafficking, with a particular focus on trafficking of arms and drugs, migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, as well as cooperation in anti-money laundering / countering the financing of terrorism, in full synergy with the existing EU policy and initiatives.

Cooperation in multilateral fora on peace, security and defence

33. Strengthening EU-Ghana relations based on shared belief in rules-based multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core, is crucial for addressing emerging security threats. The EU and Ghana will advance the Pact for the Future and drive forward the UN80 initiative with

ambition. They reiterate their call for a more representative, inclusive, transparent and accountable UN Security Council. The EU will sustain its support to regional integration in Africa as sponsor of ECOWAS, the African Union, and the African Continental Free Trade Area. The EU and Ghana share a belief in African-led solutions to regional challenges.

34. Ghana and the EU will exchange analyses, consult on positions and, where relevant, co-sponsor initiatives, resolutions or declarations of mutual interest. Where appropriate, Ghana and the EU may coordinate contributions, observer participation or joint workshops in multilateral initiatives and support capacity building of multilateral institutions in Africa, in line with their respective mandates and decision-making autonomy.

Capacity and resilience building in security and defence

35. Targeted measures to reinforce Ghana's capacity in security and defence will not only improve the safety and security of Ghana's citizens but also improve regional stability. Building on the existing EPF support in the areas of military engineering, defence intelligence or electronic warfare systems, the EU and Ghana will explore possible opportunities for further support under the EPF to enhance the capabilities of the Ghana Armed Forces to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country and its civilian population.
36. The EU acknowledges Ghana's priority to build its capacity in the security and defence sector, especially in the areas of technology, infrastructure and expertise; and will explore possible opportunities for such capacity building in order to help address internal security, threats from the Sahel, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and enhance Ghana's participation in peacekeeping operations.
37. The EU and Ghana will explore collaborations in the areas of operational effectiveness and interoperability of Ghana security and defence sectors including civilian oversight in the context of broader security governance. The EU and Ghana may exchange on their respective defence initiatives, including through exchanges on defence industry-related matters. They may also explore possible areas of cooperation where there are mutual interest and alignment of security priorities, in accordance with their respective legal frameworks.

38. The EU and Ghana will collaborate to strengthen Ghana's peace and security resilience by supporting the implementation and periodic review of existing guiding frameworks, including Ghana's National Security Strategy and the Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy.
39. The EU and Ghana will cooperate to enhance Ghana's capacity to coordinate international support in the field of security and defence.

Training and Education

40. The EU and Ghana will continue their cooperation in the field of training and education. This include training and education related to CSDP and crisis management, including by developing cooperation with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), where Ghana is invited to send participants to ESDC activities. Furthermore, the provision of training through EUSDI and support for Ghana's military and civilian security sector could be further systematised.

Women, Peace and Security

41. The EU and Ghana reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, grounded in United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and its subsequent resolutions. Both parties recognise the importance of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and security efforts at national, regional, and international levels as well as the critical intersection of the WPS and Youth, Peace, and Security agendas.
42. The EU and Ghana will work together to strengthen the integration of gender perspectives across all areas of cooperation on peace, security and development. This includes recognising the gendered dimensions of issues such as peacebuilding, conflict prevention, human and maritime security, climate-related security risks, countering violent extremism, and crisis response. The EU will support Ghana's efforts to build institutional capacity, share best practices, and implement its National Action Plan on WPS in coordination with regional organisations, such as ECOWAS and the African Union.

43. The EU and Ghana will cooperate to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as central to peace and stability. This will involve joint advocacy in regional and international fora, as well as collaboration with civil society, traditional authorities, and youth groups to enhance women's participation in decision-making and conflict resolution. Both parties will continue to address barriers to women's leadership and respond collectively to challenges such as gender-based violence and the rollback of women's rights.

Health Security

44. The EU and Ghana acknowledge that health security and health resilience are important aspects of national security, economic growth, stability and preparedness. They aim to consider different ways to improve cooperation and share information, as appropriate, on global health matters, as well as on preparing for and responding to global health security crises.

Way Forward

45. The areas identified in the Security and Defence Partnership will be monitored regularly in the framework of a dedicated, annual Ghana-EU Peace, Security and Defence Dialogue (PSDD) at a senior level. The PSDD will take stock of progress made and give further impetus, with a view to exploring ways to continuously strengthen the cooperation.

46. The content of the Security and Defence Partnership will be reviewed as appropriate.
