

Follow-up to the 2015-2018 Priorities on Strengthening the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management



Joint UN-EU Expert Workshop on the Next Set of Priorities

Co-organised by EU Institute for Security Studies and Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF), in cooperation with the European External Action Service Crisis Management and Planning Directorate and the United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security in Brussels

Note de Cadrage

This year provides an important opportunity to drive forward the UN-EU strategic partnership by renewing the joint **priorities as a direct follow-up to the 2015-2018 Priorities on Strengthening the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management**. The United Nations and the European Union are bound by the premise that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the UN Security Council. It is against this background that the UN Secretariat and the EEAS (as well as the EU Political and Security Committee) **in 2015 adopted seven priority areas for 2015-2018 to strengthen the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management**. These priorities were developed by DPKO/DFS and EEAS based on an open consultation process to further strengthen UN-EU cooperation. As these priorities are now to be updated to cover the next period starting 2019, and in the context of profound global changes, the months ahead provide an opportunity **to consider how the UN's and EU's comparative advantage can best be leveraged to both prevent and respond to crises**.

This joint UN-EU expert workshop will launch the conceptual work for the new priorities in this area for 2019 and beyond, considering:

1. The **future direction of the partnership** in light of UN and EU peace and security and related reforms and innovations, as well as global challenges and trends;
 2. What **cooperation structures** may need to be refined to ensure the operationalisation of a potentially wider set of joint priorities; and
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3. **A roadmap** for consultation and agreement on those new strategic priorities.

This may **entail agreeing on geographic settings for strengthened cooperation**, including inter alia follow-up on the 2018 Sahel Summit, working towards a successful transition of AMISOM, continued engagement in CAR and Mali, sustained efforts to strengthen trilateral cooperation with the African Union, as well as maintaining our cooperation in the Western Balkans. The UN Secretary-General (UNSG) is personally committed to raising engagement with Africa. Given that European and African security is closely intertwined, improved trilateral cooperation between UN-AU-EU will help increase efficiency and effectiveness on the ground.

The workshop also serves as an opportune time **to review the scope of our cooperation in peacekeeping and crisis management** in light of: the ongoing reforms of the UN peace and security and management pillars; the EU internal developments on security and defence in relation to the implementation of the EU Global Strategy; potential synergies in view of a shared prioritisation of conflict prevention and the pursuit of political solutions, as well as of an integrated approach across efforts in close partnership with other organizations and entities. Recent initiatives and policy developments undertaken by the two organizations to these ends should be taken into account, including European Council Conclusions on the Integrated Approach to Conflict and Crisis (February 2018) and on Security and Defence in the context of the EU Global Strategy (November 2017); reform proposals made by the UNSG on peace and security and management, recent reports on peacekeeping –the so-called Cruz Report on Improving Security of UN Peacekeepers and the findings of the Amoussou-led independent Special Investigation in CAR; and the UNSG vision on prevention and sustaining peace.

The outcomes of the reforms of the UN peace and security pillar, combined with the continued deepening of European integration in the realm of security and defence may provide **opportunities for better linkages and synergies in terms of complementarity** between the UN and EU missions and operations – before, during and after deployment. There may be opportunities for using more and different ways or instruments to implement joint priorities. What are those opportunities, what could they look like, and what is needed to take full advantage of those opportunities?

- > What were the main achievements during 2015-2018 that should be capitalized on and what were the main challenges that need to be addressed going forward?
- > Given the changing nature of conflict and current geo-political realities, how best can the UN-EU strategic partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management be articulated and framed to address those conflicts? What should the scope be?

- > How can the commonalities in the vision of the UN Secretary-General with regards to peace and security, and the EU Global Strategy effectively be embodied in future joint UN-EU priorities? What bearing will UN reforms in the area of peace and security, and EU developments in the area of security and defence, have for the UN-EU strategic partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management?
- > What are the opportunities for further coherence, coordination and complementarity between UN peace operations and CSDP missions and operations? Is there more that could be achieved in terms of information sharing, joint analysis and planning, lessons learned and best practices in the crisis management context? How are the long-term peacebuilding benefits of security sector reform under CSDP and the diplomatic leverage of EU missions and delegations articulated with UN peace operations? How can the EU and the UN work together to ensure the implementation of protection of civilians mandates?
- > Given the key capabilities the EU member states possess, how best can the EU help leverage member state support for UN peace operations, taking on board ongoing UN peace operations' needs and challenges? Can the EU play a role in galvanizing more European troop and police contributions to the UN, particularly female participation? Are there opportunities for enhanced partnership in the area of security and defence, following 2017 developments?
- > Do changes in the UN and EU engagements, such as in the Western Balkans, suggest that there is a need to explore ways in which to ensure local resilience and sustainability by connecting better cooperation on crisis management and peacekeeping with cooperation in other areas such as conflict prevention, stabilisation, peacebuilding, dialogue support and governance?
- > How best can the UN and EU cooperate with and support third parties such as AMISOM, the G5 Sahel Joint Force, and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)? What type of trilateral cooperation could be envisaged which is both realistic and operationally useful?
- > What steps can be taken to ensure that work on Women, Peace and Security is prioritized within the UN-EU partnership in this area? What should be focused on and what should be expected in terms of achievements?
- > What could be included as main priority areas? How does this relate to the operationalising structures, and to the umbrella of the partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management?