

Speech by

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Briefing on EU-UN cooperation in the Security Council

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Mr President,

I would like to thank the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms Federica Mogherini, for her presence here today and for her briefing.

Belgium **welcomes the fact that, unlike last year, we once again have the opportunity to discuss cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union within this Council.**

The European Union is a major partner of the Security Council, working to find lasting solutions to many of the crises on its agenda:

This is the case for **Syria**, where the European Union and the United Nations co-chair the "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" conference, which takes place from 12 to 14 March in Brussels, and whose objective is to keep the international community working to support the Syrian people and to contribute to a political solution in accordance with UNSC Resolution 2254.

This is also the case for **Iran**. The Joint Global Action Plan remains an essential element of the global non-proliferation architecture and an important achievement of multilateral diplomacy. Notwithstanding the current challenges, this agreement is also one of the most successful examples of cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union.

This is also the case for the **Balkans**, where the European Union is contributing to the stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina through Operation EUFOR Althea, as well as to the strengthening of the rule of law in Kosovo through the EULEX mission under UN auspices.

Mr President,

The EU and the UN share the same commitment to a world based on the fundamental principles of democracy, the rule of law and the universality and indivisibility of human rights. The result is a natural partnership between two organisations whose cooperation is intensifying and strengthening.

The EU and the UN share a vision and a common willingness to address the root causes of conflicts and **to achieve lasting peace, including through an integrated approach, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals on the one hand, and the European Union's Global Strategy on the other.** The EU's role as the world's largest donor of development and humanitarian aid is part of this approach.

Mr President,

The presence of the High Representative among us shows a strong political will on the part of the EU to continue to **deepen the current partnership with the United Nations, based on complementarity.**

The joint work of the EU and the UN in peacekeeping and **crisis management** is a concrete example of this complementarity. Ms Mogherini referred to the priorities that have been jointly identified for the period 2019-2021. Let me come back to this by highlighting two points in particular:

Firstly, while there is a need for a continued strengthening of cooperation between United Nations and European Union missions and operations, it is essential to **also strengthen synergies with other organisations working in the same areas of operation, including the African Union (AU) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**. We encourage the exploration of initiatives to deepen trilateral cooperation between the European Union, the United Nations and the African Union. The examples of the EUTM in Mali, CAR and Somalia highlight the EU's capacity to contribute to security sector reform and transition, in close cooperation with other key actors, in order to ensure that the achievements of the operations are sustainable.

Secondly, Belgium supports the inclusion of the **Women, Peace and Security agenda as a cross-cutting priority**. In the area of peacekeeping operations, the UN and the EU must work together to translate this political commitment into a significant increase in the participation of women - both in principle and due to the positive operational impact on the functioning of these missions.

Mr President,

Belgium welcomes the efforts to strengthen the conflict prevention dimension, which is also one of the jointly identified priorities for 2019-2021. In conclusion, I would like to ask the High Representative how we can further deepen cooperation on mediation and early warning systems with the United Nations and in partnership with other regional organisations, such as the African Union.