



**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

Statement delivered by

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Briefing UN/EU cooperation

New York, 05/28/2020

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Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes this opportunity to discuss UN & EU cooperation in the Council. I would like to thank EU High Representative BORRELL for his excellent statement.

Mr. President,

The EU and the UN share a goal of an international rules-based order with democracy, rule of law and human rights at its core. Therefore they are natural partners in the search for sustainable solutions for global challenges.

Let me highlight some examples of how the UN and the EU join forces to achieve sustainable impact worldwide:

Turning first to the coronavirus pandemic, the EU launched “Team Europe” to help partner countries in the fight against the coronavirus, with a financial package of more than 20 billion EUR. The EU has also strongly supported the Secretary-General’s appeal for an immediate global ceasefire.

With regard to Syria, a conflict that remains high on the agenda of this Council, the EU is the largest donor of humanitarian aid. In that respect I am pleased to confirm that we will host the virtual Brussels IV Syria donor conference next month. We underline that it is critical to find a political solution fully in line with UNSC resolution 2254.

Turning to Iran, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action constitutes a significant and unique realization of sustained multilateral diplomacy. It is a cornerstone of the global non-proliferation architecture and an example of cooperation between the EU and the UN. We urge to keep this vital agreement in place through direct dialogue. We also regret the recent announcement by the USA that nuclear related waivers will not be renewed.

The launch of the new EU military operation in the Mediterranean, EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, is the EU's latest contribution to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on Libya.

In the Sahel, the EU has a vibrant partnership with the G5 Sahel. Even if it is marginal in the vast EU support to the region, I would like to flag the unique and innovative arrangement where the EU reimburses actions performed by MINUSMA in support of the Joint Force. Also, the EUCAP and EUTM missions in Niger and Mali have been expanded to the whole region in order to train the security forces and to support the national SSR agendas.

I would like to underline the role of EUFOR ALTHEA for the provision of a secure environment in Bosnia-Herzegovina and EULEX's contribution to the rule of law in Kosovo.

Respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, including the protection of children, are an important cornerstone of the partnership between the UN and the EU. In the current context, it is more than ever crucial for warring parties to comply with International Humanitarian Law and guarantee unimpeded access for humanitarian aid. I would also like to highlight the importance of upholding the Women, Peace and Security agenda, in particular with regard to the meaningful participation of women in peace operations at all levels and areas of expertise.

The importance the EU and its Member States attach to multilateral cooperation and the UN is reflected by their financial backing: they are the single largest contributor to the UN system, making up for around 30% of the peacekeeping budget. The EU is also the biggest donor in terms of development and humanitarian assistance. In addition, the EU in collaboration with the UN pioneers the fight against climate change. Next to its own mitigation efforts, the EU is the biggest provider of international climate finance.

Looking ahead, it is important to pursue further partnerships, such as with the African Union and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Hopefully the longstanding collaboration between the EU, the UN and the African Union can be further expanded in the future.

I thank you.

