EU–UN: GLOBAL PARTNERS

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL PEACE, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The European Union and the United Nations are natural partners.

Together, we defend a multilateral and rules-based global governance system to respond to global crises, threats and challenges, which cannot be addressed by individual nations alone, and require cooperation and coordination based on universal values and rules.

IN 2022, THE EU AND THE UN ARE WORKING TOGETHER IN MORE THAN 170 COUNTRIES:

- Preventing and overcoming crises
- Protecting those at risk from war, disease and natural disasters
- Supporting non-proliferation and disarmament
- Tackling hunger and malnutrition
- Building democratic and inclusive societies
- Delivering essential services
- Helping sustainable economic growth and decent jobs
- Combatting climate change
- Fighting the coronavirus pandemic

THE EU AND THE UN TOGETHER AGAINST THE FOOD CRISIS

- Russia’s aggression against Ukraine is having a catastrophic impact on food prices and food security for millions of people around the world. Ukraine produces 12 percent of the world’s wheat, 15 percent of its corn and 50 percent of its sunflower oil, and is the main exporter of agricultural goods for countries in North Africa and the Middle East. Russia is deliberately blocking millions of tons of Ukrainian grain from reaching global markets.

- The EU is a lead provider of humanitarian and development assistance to food security. Together with the UN, the EU works to eradicate hunger around the world. For example, the EU and its Member States collectively fund 40% of the World Food Programme’s budget.

- The EU supports the central role of the UN, in particular the UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.

- With the Team Europe response to global food insecurity, the EU and its Member States are stepping up their action further through four strands of action: Solidarity, Production and resilience, Trade and Multilateralism.

- The EU is mobilising €620 million in immediate humanitarian support for our most vulnerable partners in 2022. In addition, the EU has swiftly contributed with an extra €225 million to support partners in the Middle East and North Africa through the Food and Resilience Facility. As Team Europe, the EU and Member States have pledged more than €1.6 billion for food security actions in the most affected countries in the Sahel, Lake Chad, and Horn of Africa regions in 2022. The EU is working closely together with UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes to implement these actions.
EU FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE UN

The EU and its Member States are the largest donors to the UN system, providing almost one quarter of all financial contributions to the UN’s agencies, funds and programmes. EU Member States also provide almost one fourth of the UN’s regular budget.

The EU is the largest development donor in the world. In 2021, it provided over €70.2 billion in development assistance, aligned with the UN’s 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE HEALTH CRISIS

- The EU and its Member States are the largest donors to the WHO. The EU promotes global health as a public good, namely advocating for universal health coverage and the implementation of the “One Health” approach.
- The EU, its Member States and financing institutions are at the forefront of the global response to the pandemic, mobilising over €46 billion to address the global consequences of the crisis. Team Europe is among the largest contributors to COVAX, providing financing of over €5 billion. Together, the EU actors have pledged to donate 500 million vaccines of which 477 million have been shared to date.
- The EU and its Member States support a robust post-pandemic recovery by investing in health systems, local manufacturing and access to vaccines, medicines and health technologies, and future pandemic preparedness.

ACTING TOGETHER FOR THOSE IN NEED

- The EU-UN global Spotlight Initiative has reached 130 million people through behaviour change campaigns, provided more than 1.6 million women and girls with gender-based violence services, and helped double perpetrator convictions in participating countries.
- In 2022, the EU stepped up vital support to the Afghan population, launching projects in support of education, livelihoods, and public health worth €268.3 million channelled through the UN.
- The EU and the UN work together to support the people of Syria and their host communities. At the sixth Brussels Conference on 9-10 May, the international community pledged €6.4 billion for 2022 and beyond for Syria and the neighbouring countries hosting the largest Syrian refugee population.
- The EU and its Member States contribute to about 60% of UNRWAs overall funding. With a multiyear contribution of €246 million for 2022-2024, the EU will ensure lifesaving assistance to Palestine refugees.

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

- The EU supports the UN’s “recover better” agenda for a sustainable and green recovery in line with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal. The EU has increased its emissions reduction target to at least 55% by 2030. As per EU Climate Law, it will be climate neutral in 2050.
- The EU will continue to encourage others to raise their climate ambitions, meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement and other environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biodiversity.
- In Sudan and Nepal, the EU and the UN are developing tools to tackle climate-fragility risks that can be applied in areas such as Lake Chad and the Sahel. The EU also works together with UNHCR and IOM to provide guidance on how to best manage climate-induced displacement.

UPHOLDING INTERNATIONAL LAW & STANDARDS

- The EU supports the UN Secretary General’s Call for Action to advance the human rights of all human beings.
- Based on the EU’s Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024, the EU upholds the universality and indivisibility of human rights, defends the integrity and independence of the UN human rights system, and seeks to strengthen accountability for violations of human rights and humanitarian law.
- The EU is a staunch supporter of the International Criminal Court and the Rome Statute and is the Court’s main financial contributor. All EU Member States have ratified the Rome Statute.

MORE SECURITY FOR ALL

- The EU and the UN work together around the world to prevent conflicts, build sustainable peace and resolve crises, cooperating closely in peace processes and in peace operations. Together EU Member States contribute to a quarter of the UN peacekeeping budget.
- The joint priorities of the reinforced EU-UN Strategic Partnership on peace operations and crisis management for 2022-2024 will focus on conflict prevention and stabilisation in the field. The climate, peace and security nexus as well as the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas feature across all priorities.