



How does the EU work at the United Nations

HOW DOES THE EU WORK AT THE UNITED NATIONS?

Cooperation between the EU and the UN system, including the UN Secretariat and the various UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, spans across all policy areas.



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. The General Assembly is the UN's main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ. Since 2011, the EU is an observer member with enhanced status at the UN General Assembly. This allows the EU to present common positions, make interventions, present proposals and participate in the general debate each September. The added value of the EU is to coordinate among its 27 Member States to present a unified position. The EU coordinates its voting within the UN General Assembly's six main committees, as well as other bodies and agencies such as the Economic and Social Council.



UN SECURITY COUNCIL. Article 34 of the Lisbon Treaty stipulates that EU members at the UN Security Council must act in concert and foster the interests of the EU. The presence of EU Member States at the UN Security Council and an effective coordination among them as well as with other partners contributes to the promotion of EU interests in a cooperative way.



WHAT ARE THE EU'S PRIORITIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS?

This year the EU's priorities at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly are:



A United Nations fit for the 21st century



Building back better



Making the world safer



Winning the race against climate change and restoring our relationship with nature



Shaping the global digital agenda



A stronger EU-UN partnership

Promoting more effective multilateral governance and a United Nations fit for the 21st century is at the heart of the EU's priorities. The world no longer looks like it did when the UN was founded 76 years ago. To remain legitimate, the UN-centred multilateral system must show that international co-operation can improve the lives of citizens around the world.

The process initiated with the adoption of the political declaration on the UN's 75th anniversary in September 2020 provides a unique opportunity to transform and upgrade the UN system geared towards fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals and advancing "Our Common Agenda" together.

Supporting the implementation of UN Reform

The best way to preserve and reinforce the credibility of the UN system is to make it more effective. The EU's priority is to uphold, strengthen and reform the UN and to empower the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to deliver on his ambitious **reform package**. The EU has contributed with **€30 million** to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals Fund and with **€27 million** to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund over three years as a contribution to the funding of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system.

Reform implementation is linked to **the sustainable financing of the UN**. As the largest financial contributor to the UN, promoting the sound and stable financial footing and management of the United Nations is one of the priorities of the EU and its Member States.

Global Security Provider

The EU has been enhancing its capacity to act as a security provider, its strategic autonomy and ability to cooperate with partners.

- Together EU Member States contribute to a quarter **of the UN peacekeeping budget**.
- The EU supports mediation efforts by providing a voluntary contribution of **€3 million** for 2019–2021 to the UN Standby team mediation experts.
- In 2019, the EU provided for the first time a direct **€2 million contribution to the Peace Building Fund**.
- The EU has contributed **€0.5 million** to support the work of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.

Major contributor

Collectively, the EU and its Member States are the single largest financial contributor to the UN system. At a time when others have reduced their contributions or failed to pay, the EU has continued and stepped up its funding to the UN system.

- The **contributions of the EU Member States amount to almost a quarter of the regular UN budget**.
- The EU and its Member States also provide about a quarter of all the voluntary contributions to UN funds and programmes.
- In 2020, the European Union committed **€3.54 billion** to the UN system as voluntary contributions.

2013-2020 EU COMMITMENTS TO UN BODIES

