



The EU 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 77th session of the UN General Assembly are:



Upholding the UN Charter and the rule of law



Addressing the global food crisis and other consequences of the Russian aggression



Promoting sustainable development and human rights



Securing access to quality education for all



Strengthening global health security and preparedness



Fighting climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution



Shaping the global digital agenda

Promoting more effective multilateral governance and a UN 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 77 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 is supporting the implementation of the reform both conceptually and financially, with a €30 million contribution to the **UN's Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund** and with €27 million to the **UN Special Purpose Trust Fund**. Both funds financially underpin the reinvigorated UN Resident Coordinator system.

Reform implementation is linked to **the sustainable financing of the UN**. As the largest financial contributors to the UN, promoting its sound and stable financial footing and management is a priority for the EU and its Member States. The EU also supports that UN peacebuilding receives adequate and predictable funding.

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 also supports the UNSG's calls to ensure that the UN's peacebuilding activities are adequately and predictably funded.
- The EU and the UN have a successful track record of close cooperation in crisis management around the world, dating back to the beginning of **EU CSDP missions and operations**. Within the EU-UN Strategic Partnership on peace operations and crisis management, respective civilian, police and military missions and operations work together on policy issues, and on the ground, e.g. in Mali and with the G5 Sahel Joint Force, the Central African Republic, Somalia, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Libya and Iraq.
- The EU supports the UN's mediation efforts as the biggest voluntary contributor to the **UN Standby team mediation experts**. A close EU-UN partnership ensures exchange of lessons learned and best practices on mediation and conflict prevention. In many country contexts, the EU supports mediation efforts of the UN on the ground.
- The EU is contributing with altogether €8 million to the implementation of the 2020-2024 strategy of the **UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund**, the UN's instrument of first resort for sustaining peace.
- The EU contributes to an increased in-country capacity and a reinforced Resident Coordinator System in fragile environments through its €2.5 million contribution towards the **Joint UNDP-DPPA Conflict Prevention Programme**.
- The EU supports the work of the Special Advisers and the **UN Office of Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect**, including the elaboration of Atrocity Prevention Guidelines for Practitioners. In 2019, the EU contributed €0.5 million in support of this work.

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.

- EU Member States are **the largest contributors to the UN system**, providing more than one third of the total funding for the UN over the 2014-2020 period. Six percent of this funding was channelled through the EU. EU Member States also provide almost one fourth of the UN's regular budget.
- The EU and its Member States are **the largest providers of Official Development Aid worldwide**. In 2021, the **EU provided over €70.2 billion in development assistance**, aligned with the UN's 2030 Agenda.
- In 2021, the EU committed over €3.1 billion to the UN System.
- The EU is a key partner of **UN inter-agency pooled funds** and has to date contributed with more than **€1.4 billion** to pooled funds administrated by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, including the **EU-UN global Spotlight Initiative**.

2013-2021 EU COMMITMENTS TO UN BODIES

