



EU Statement

By

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

**Fourth Committee, Agenda item 56:
Comprehensive review of the whole question of Peacekeeping
Operations in all their aspects**

**United Nations
New York
October 2021**

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairman,

UN Peacekeeping operations remain a fundamental instrument in improving peace and security in the world. We believe that working with and supporting the United Nations is the ideal approach to achieve common interests of peace, security and global stability.

We fully support the Secretary General's efforts to reform UN Peacekeeping and EU Member States continue to deploy thousands of uniformed blue helmets in peace operations and remain the second largest financial contributor to UN Peacekeeping. In this regard, allow me to emphasize that the EU and its Member States during the last year, despite the limitations and risks imposed by the Covid pandemic, have continued to relentlessly support UN, not only by deploying in UN Peacekeeping operations, but also by deploying in EU missions within the framework of our Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

The agreement on mutual support between the UN and EU signed in September 2019 remains an effective tool for the exchange of equipment, logistical support and

* *The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

security measures between the EU CSDP missions and UN Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU and its Member States place special emphasis on the need to enhance peacebuilding and conflict prevention by deploying a range of tools, including those offered by Peacekeeping. By improving our joint situational awareness and strategic communication and through a better-coordinated asset sharing in a continuum approach from planning to execution, we can contribute to more efficient conflict prevention.

The EU and its Member States underline the utmost importance of supporting political solutions to the conflicts and the crucial role of peace operations in promoting political solutions and peace building. We continue to support the Special Political Missions (SPMs) as an essential instrument for conflict prevention peace-making and peacebuilding. We praise the incessant efforts of SPMs during the COVID 19 pandemic during which they have continued to deliver on their mandate while supporting national authorities in responding to the health emergency. For the EU, conflict prevention as well as any means for the peaceful settlement of disputes as provided for in Article 33 of the UN Charter, such as mediation, remain the fundamental tools for peacebuilding. We stress the importance of integration and joint planning in this regard.

We recognise the importance of providing the UN Peacekeeping operations with the adequate resources necessary to function and achieve their mandate. We therefore call on all Member States, and are ourselves committed, to fulfil financial obligations in a timely manner, without conditions, both for the regular and the Peacekeeping budgets.

The EU and its Members States recognize the indispensable role of women in increasing the overall performance and effectiveness of Peacekeeping operations, acknowledging that a better balance between men and women would improve the overall effectiveness of the missions, not only community engagement. We welcome continuing efforts and initiatives by the Member States and the United Nations Secretariat to increase women's participation in Peacekeeping operations. UN and Troop and Police Contributing countries should strive to expand gender balance in all components of Peacekeeping operations, including in leading positions, which ultimately will improve the overall effectiveness of operation. In the context of the implementation of our partnership on peace operations and crisis management, EU and UN missions and operations are working together on the ground to enhance the integration of a gender perspective throughout their activities.

We also welcome the United Nations Secretary General's emphasis on increased accountability and his efforts to strengthen the system's ability to deal with sexual exploitation and abuse in a swift and decisive manner through tangible efforts in documentation of crimes and training and awareness building in order to ensure a zero tolerance approach. Accountability for crimes committed following credible investigations, protection of witnesses as well as justice and redress for survivors is crucial for the way ahead.

Noting that peacekeepers are deployed in deteriorating and complex political and security environments, we pay tribute to peacekeepers who lost their lives in the service of peace. These challenging environments call for streamlined chains of command, especially for the use of critical capacities such as helicopters. We also look forward to receiving the conclusions of the review of Peacekeeping operations' response to the threat of IEDs, and stand ready to make use of our expertise in this field to support the UN.

We are also concerned by the threats against peacekeepers due to the development of disinformation and hate speech. We are committed to supporting the strategic communication of the UN in the field of Peacekeeping.

EU and its Member States recognize the importance of technology as a force multiplier, simplifying work processes, enabling integrated planning and allowing the peacekeepers to have a better understanding of the environment in which they operate. Existing and new technology can support the safety and security of peacekeepers and the protection of civilians by enabling effective integrated decision-making and early warning and response to a threat. Thus, recognizing the critical role of information and intelligence, EU stresses the need for Peacekeeping missions to improve situational awareness through integrated information acquisition and analysis processes on all levels and welcomes the Secretary General's initiatives in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

EU Members States will continue to contribute productively to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping operations (C34). The C34 is a crucial instrument for the implementation of the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping. Therefore, we continue to support the alignment of the next C34 report to the structure of the A4P Plan. We also welcome the efforts of the Secretariat to develop clear priorities for 2021 to 2023 and a concrete implementation plan for A4P+.

The EU and its Member States will continue to focus on training and capacity building based on existing partnerships between EU and partner countries (T/PCCs) in support of UN Peacekeeping. We recognize the need to better coordinate training and capacity building efforts among EU Member States in support of the Light Coordination Mechanism and acknowledge the utmost importance of training and

especially of pre-deployment training. We underscore that adequate training and equipping of mission personnel, before and during deployment, is vital to ensure mission success and recognise the respective responsibilities of the Secretariat and TCCs and PCCs in this area.

We continue to underline that the protection of civilians must be at the core of Peacekeeping operations. In accordance with the mandates, missions must protect civilians and be able and prepared to use force when civilians are under threat. However, in such complex and precarious scenarios, adequate training and equipment must be accompanied by a changed mind-set in training.

We also recognize that force generation and police recruitment remain challenging. There is a need for UN Member States, including EU Member States, to match mandates and operational capabilities for peace operations to succeed. We welcome innovative approaches to force generation and police recruitment, such as the development of flexible rotation plans and smart pledges. This topic remains one of our priorities and we reaffirm our commitment to contribute to it. To do so, we are preparing the 2022-24 priorities for the UN-EU Strategic Partnership.

The EU emphasizes the importance of a sustainable transition phase through an integrated planning and coordination process and reaffirm the full support to UN led mission transition strategies. It should clarify roles and responsibilities for all relevant UN stakeholders setting distinct and realistic benchmarks to ensure a successful and durable transition. Furthermore, we encourage the UN Peacebuilding Commission to continue providing advice to the Security Council fostering the mobilization of international support and resources around national peacebuilding priorities before, during and after transitions.

The Peacebuilding Fund must also continue to support UN mission transitions by swiftly catalysing financial resources to preserve achievements and consolidate peace.

Mr. Chairman,

EU continues to advocate the crucial role of rapid deployment models acting complementary to UN operations in support of UN-led interventions and welcomes any initiatives aimed to achieve a better-structured and more efficient definition of the role of regional organisations. In this regard, we underscore the crucial role of the EU Training and Capacity-building Missions and Operations within the framework of SSR or while deployed in a bridging capacity. We continue to support the development of African Peacekeeping capacities and in general, we strongly encourage any regional initiatives, which are complementary yet essential contributions to UN Peacekeeping. In particular, we call for an enhanced support from the UN to the G5 Sahel Joint Force. The EU and its Member States value the role of African peace operations, underline the need for clear and sustainable financing from the international community and commend the results achieved by the African Union in the operationalization of its Peace Fund.

Dear Chairman,

In conclusion, EU and its Member States fully support the efforts undertaken by the Secretary General in support of Peacekeeping through his initiatives “Action for Peacekeeping” and “Action for Peacekeeping +”, which inter alia strive to improve safety and security of peacekeepers, implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, strengthen the conduct of Peacekeeping operations and the impact of Peacekeeping on Peacebuilding. We look forward to further deepening this partnership and we take this occasion to underline that partnership and cooperation of the entire international community are essential for structuring effective

Peacekeeping initiatives able to achieve tangible results in the interest of peace, security and global stability.

Thank you.