

ERASMUN CONFERENCE
I.I.S.S. "ENRICO FERMI" LECCE – ITALY
9-27 APRIL 2022

STUDY GUIDE

EUROPEAN UNION VALUES COMMITTEE

Participation of Young People in Democratic and Civilian Life-Respect to Differences (Tolerance and Interreligious Dialogue), EU Citizenship-Antiracism

TOPIC

THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

United Nations Charter: Preamble

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

United Nations Charter, Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression

Article 39

The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Article 40

In order to prevent an aggravation of the situation, the Security Council may, before making the recommendations or deciding upon the measures provided for in Article 39, call upon the parties concerned to comply with such provisional measures as it deems necessary or desirable. Such provisional measures shall be without prejudice to the rights, claims, or position of the parties concerned. The Security Council shall duly take account of failure to comply with such provisional measures.

Article 41

The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.

Article 42

Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

Article 43

1. All Members of the United Nations, in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance, and facilities, including rights of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security.
2. Such agreement or agreements shall govern the numbers and types of forces, their degree of readiness and general location, and the nature of the facilities and assistance to be provided.
3. The agreement or agreements shall be negotiated as soon as possible on the initiative of the Security Council. They shall be concluded between the Security Council and Members or between the Security Council and groups of Members and shall be subject to ratification by the signatory states in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

Article 44

When the Security Council has decided to use force it shall, before calling upon a Member not represented on it to provide armed forces in fulfilment of the obligations assumed under Article 43, invite that Member, if the Member so desires, to participate in the

decisions of the Security Council concerning the employment of contingents of that Member's armed forces.

Article 45

In order to enable the United Nations to take urgent military measures, Members shall hold immediately available national air-force contingents for combined international enforcement action. The strength and degree of readiness of these contingents and plans for their combined action shall be determined within the limits laid down in the special agreement or agreements referred to in Article 43, by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee.

Article 46

Plans for the application of armed force shall be made by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee.

Article 47

1. There shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament.
2. The Military Staff Committee shall consist of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives. Any Member of the United Nations not permanently represented on the Committee shall be invited by the Committee to be associated with it when the efficient discharge of the Committee's responsibilities requires the participation of that Member in its work.
3. The Military Staff Committee shall be responsible under the Security Council for the strategic direction of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council. Questions relating to the command of such forces shall be worked out subsequently.
4. The Military Staff Committee, with the authorization of the Security Council and after consultation with appropriate regional agencies, may establish regional sub-committees.

Article 48

1. The action required to carry out the decisions of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security shall be taken by all the Members of the United Nations or by some of them, as the Security Council may determine.
2. Such decisions shall be carried out by the Members of the United Nations directly and through their action in the appropriate international agencies of which they are members.

Article 49

The Members of the United Nations shall join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council.

Article 50

If preventive or enforcement measures against any state are taken by the Security Council, any other state, whether a Member of the United Nations or not, which finds itself confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of those measures shall have the right to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems.

Article 51

Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Maintain International Peace and Security

The United Nations was created in 1945, following the devastation of the Second World War, with one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN accomplishes this by working to prevent conflict, helping parties in conflict make peace, deploying peacekeepers,* and creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish. These activities often overlap and should reinforce one another, to be effective.

The UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for international peace and security. The General Assembly and the Secretary-General play major, important, and complementary roles, along with other UN offices and bodies.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or an act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. Under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council can take enforcement measures to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such measures range from economic sanctions to international military action. The Council also establishes UN Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions.

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. Through regular meetings, the General Assembly provides a forum for Member States to express their views to the entire membership and find consensus on difficult issues. It makes recommendations in the form of General Assembly resolutions. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority, but other questions are decided by simple majority.

How does the UN maintain international peace and security?

Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation

The most effective way to diminish human suffering and the massive economic costs of conflicts and their aftermath is to prevent conflicts in the first place. The United Nations plays an important role in conflict prevention, using diplomacy, good offices and mediation. Among the tools the Organization uses to bring peace are special envoys and political missions in the field

Special and Personal Representatives, Envoys and Advisers of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has Special and Personal Representatives, Envoys and Advisers in many areas of the world

UN Office for West Africa

The UN Office for West Africa, in Dakar, Senegal was the first regional conflict prevention and peacebuilding office of the United Nations. Its overall mandate was to enhance contributions of the UN towards the achievement of peace and security in West Africa and promote an integrated regional approach in addressing issues that impact stability in West Africa. It was recently merged with the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel (OSES) into a single entity

Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist countries to navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate **political processes**, protect civilians, assist in the **disarmament**, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support constitutional processes and the organization of elections, protect and promote **human rights** and assist in restoring the **rule of law** and extending legitimate state authority

Peacekeeping operations get their mandates from the UN Security Council; their troops and police are contributed by Members States; and they are managed by the Department of Peace Operations and supported by the Department of Operational Support at UN Headquarters in New York

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There are 12 UN peacekeeping operations currently deployed and there have been a total of 71 deployed since 1948. In 2019, the Secretary-General launched the Action for Peacekeeping Initiative (A4P) to renew mutual political commitment to peacekeeping operations

Youth, Peace and Security –

In countries affected by conflict and violence, young people are commonly perceived as either perpetrators or victims. Turmoil and instability – including in recent years with the Arab Spring – are often explained by countries having large youth populations. The surge in terrorism and violent extremism in the past 15 years also tends to be linked to the role of young men, and

increasingly young women. In reality, the role of young people in relation to peace and security is poorly understood and much more complex than these stereotypes suggest.

The Youth, Peace and Security agenda has gained momentum in recent years and marks a shift in the understanding of who young people are and their role for peace and security. [United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 \(2015\)](#) is the first international policy framework that recognizes the positive role young people play in preventing and resolving conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace. The UNSCR 2250 was followed by [the independent progress study on youth, peace and security: the missing peace \(2018\)](#) and [UN Security Council Resolution 2419 \(2018\)](#).

Report of the Secretary-General on Youth, Peace, and Security

The first report by the Secretary-General on youth and peace and security since the Security Council adopted [resolution 2250 \(2015\)](#) was released March 2020. Resolution 2250 recognized the essential role of young people in preventing and resolving conflicts and in sustaining peace, which was reaffirmed in Security Council [resolution 2419 \(2018\)](#) and in a [statement](#) by the President of the Security Council in December 2019 on silencing the guns in Africa.

The Secretary-General's report has two key findings:

- There is a growing recognition of young people's essential role in peace and security. It is encouraging to see many instances in which Governments, United Nations entities, civil society actors and others are stepping up to implement resolution 2250 (2015);
- Core challenges remain, including structural barriers limiting the participation of young people and their capacity to influence decision-making; violations of their human rights; and insufficient investment in facilitating their inclusion and empowerment.

The report provides an analysis of the five pillars of resolution 2250: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, disengagement and reintegration as well as institutionalization of the youth, peace and security agenda and recommendations to how member states, the Security Council, the UN and regional organizations must invest in the youth, peace and security.

The release of the Report coincides with significant milestones: the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the 20th anniversary of Council [resolution 1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, the launch of a [decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals](#), the 25th anniversary of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security

Across the globe, there are extraordinary young people creatively seeking ways to prevent violence and consolidate peace. However, many are frustrated by the tendency of their Governments and international actors to treat youth as a problem to be solved, rather than as partners for peace.

Throughout the world, young people consulted for the [Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security](#) expressed that they have lost faith and trust in their Governments, the international

community and systems of governance that they feel excluded from, contributing to a strong and ongoing sense of injustice.

This must be addressed in order to support and benefit from young people's contributions to peace, and to realize the potential of 1.8 billion young people.

Setting the Stage for the Progress Study

In 2015, the Security Council adopted UNSCR 2250, the first resolution entirely dedicated to recognizing the importance of engaging young women and men in shaping and sustaining peace. UNSCR 2250 calls on Member States to include young people in their institutions and mechanisms to prevent violent conflict and to support the work already being performed by youth in peace and security. In addition, the Resolution requests the Secretary-General to "carry out a Progress Study on the youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels."

Participatory Approach to the Progress Study

The Progress Study was conducted as an independent research process, led by Graeme Simpson and an Advisory Group of Experts, all appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. They were supported by the United Nations and numerous partners from civil society, foundations and intergovernmental organizations. A UNFPA and Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) Secretariat was put in place to support the Study. The Study was developed through a participatory approach that involved face-to-face consultations with a total of 4,230 young people, including 281 focus group discussions in 44 countries, as well as 7 regional and 6 national consultations. In addition, there were 25 country-focused studies, 20 thematic submissions from partners, 5 online thematic consultations, a global survey of youth-led civil society peacebuilding organizations, and mapping exercises of Member States' and UN entities' work focused on young people in relation to peace and security.

Extensive information on the research undertaken for the Progress Study is available at <http://youth4peace.info/ProgressStudy>.

Partners of the Progress Study

The Study was prepared with generous funding from the Governments of Canada, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Sweden, as well as from the programme budget of the United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Important cost-sharing support was gratefully received from PeaceNexus Foundation, as well as from UNDP, UNHCR, UNV, UN-Women, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and numerous other UN and NGO partners.

The development of the Study was supported jointly by UNFPA and PBSO, in close partnership with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

Financing for Youth Peace and Security

Ensuring adequate financing has been a central concern for the **Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)** PDF agenda since its inception. Yet so far discussions on how to improve the quantity and quality of resources for YPS have been limited. This paper assesses the available quantitative and qualitative evidence from UN and civil society sources to delve deeper into recent trends, challenges and opportunities to better finance the role of young people in peacebuilding and prevention. The goal of this paper is to aid policymakers and other stakeholders in identifying key areas where more action is needed to ensure more and better-quality financing for young people in peacebuilding.

Preventive Diplomacy

The Secretary-General's vision for centering the Organization's work on peace and security around prevention and through a surge in diplomacy for peace reaffirms the United Nations founding mission.

Preventive diplomacy refers to diplomatic action taken to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of conflicts when they occur. While it is conducted in different forms and fora, both public and private, the most common expression of preventive diplomacy is found in the work of envoys dispatched to crisis areas to encourage dialogue, compromise and the peaceful resolution of tensions. Preventive diplomacy can also encompass the involvement of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and other actors to discourage the use of violence at critical moments.

The Secretary-General provides his "good offices" to parties in conflict both personally and through the diplomatic envoys he dispatches to areas of tension around the world. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) is the principal support structure for those efforts, providing conflict analysis, planning and support to the work of peace envoys and overseeing more than a dozen field-based political missions that serve as key platforms for preventive diplomacy. Of these missions, regional offices covering Central Africa, West Africa and Central Asia have explicit mandates for preventive diplomacy and strengthening the capacity of states and regional actors to manage sources of tension peacefully. Preventive diplomacy is also carried out frequently within the context of peacekeeping missions.

The Security Council, as the UN organ with the primary responsibility for peace and security, also has a critical role to play in supporting preventive action. Recent years have seen increased Council engagement and flexibility in addressing emerging threats before they come on the Council's formal agenda. Through its actions, the Council can send important signals that help discourage violence and open space for preventive action including by the Secretary-General.

The work of the United Nations in conflict prevention extends well beyond traditional preventive diplomacy to involve a broad constellation of United Nations entities operating across a wide range of relevant disciplines — poverty-eradication and development, human rights and the rule of law, elections and the building of democratic institutions, the control of small arms, to name just a few.

Mediation

Since its inception, the United Nations has played a crucial role in helping to mediate inter- and intra-State conflicts at all stages: before they escalate into armed conflict, after the outbreak of violence, and during implementation of peace agreements. The Secretary-General and his representatives carry out good offices and mediation efforts at the request of parties to disputes, on the Secretary General's initiative, or in response to a request from the Security Council or the General Assembly. The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) was established in 1992 to assist in this work and in 2019, DPA joined forces with the Peacebuilding Support Unit (PBSO) to form the new DPPA.

Successful conflict mediation requires an adequate support system to provide envoys with the proper staff assistance and advice, and to ensure that talks have the needed logistical and financial resources. The United Nations, led by DPPA, has moved over the past several years to sharpen its

ability to provide such support to its own mediation efforts as well as to those of partner organizations.

DPPA's Mediation Support Unit (MSU), established in 2006, works closely with the Department's regional divisions to plan and support mediation efforts in the field. Among its functions, MSU provides advisory, financial and logistical support to peace processes; works to strengthen the mediation capacity of regional and sub-regional organizations; and serves as a repository of mediation knowledge, policy and guidance, lessons learned and best practices.

The Department manages the United Nations Standby Team of Mediation Experts – an "on call" group of experts established in 2008 that can be deployed to assist mediators in the field. Team members have provided support in dozens of negotiations, and hold expertise on issues including power-sharing, natural resources and conflict, constitution-making, cease-fires and other security arrangements, and gender issues as they relate to conflict. In addition, all Standby Team experts are expected to mainstream gender considerations in all of their deployments.

Standby team members have the flexibility to deploy on short notice to assist UN or non-UN mediators globally, or to provide analysis and advice remotely. Starting in 2020, the practice of remote or virtual deployments of the Standby Team was substantially expanded so as to meet the evolving needs of mediation actors. With support from donors, the Department has also established a rapid response fund to start up mediation processes at short notice. Advance planning and ready resources are a key to effective early mediation when crises are brewing.

DPPA provides backing to the High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Mediation, established by Secretary-General António Guterres in September 2017. The 18 members of the HLAB -- current and former global leaders, senior officials and renowned experts -- back specific mediation efforts around the world with their unparalleled range of experience, skills, knowledge and contacts.

DPPA also developed and maintains the online mediation support tool UN Peacemaker. Intended for peacemaking professionals, it includes an extensive database of close to 800 peace agreements, guidance material and information on the UN's mediation support services.

Peacemaking

UN peacemaking flourished in the decade following the end of the Cold War, as many longstanding armed conflicts were brought to an end through political negotiated settlements.

The organization continues to play a preeminent role in peacemaking, working increasingly in partnership with regional organizations in order to bring ongoing conflicts to an end, and to prevent new crises from emerging or escalating.

DPPA anchors the UN's peacemaking efforts, monitoring global political developments and advising the Secretary-General on the prevention and management of crises, including through the use of his diplomatic "good offices" to help parties in conflict settle disputes peacefully. The Department provides support to numerous envoys of the Secretary-General engaged in peace talks or crisis diplomacy, while overseeing field-based United Nations special political missions with mandates to help countries and regions resolve conflicts and tensions peacefully.

How the European Union and the United Nations cooperate

The United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) share the same fundamental values and goals, namely the maintenance of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations on the basis of a due regard for the principles of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples, the promotion of international cooperation in the solution of economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems, and the promotion and consolidation of the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people.

The European Security Strategy has said “In a world of global threats, global markets and global media, our security and prosperity increasingly depend on an effective multilateral system. (...) Strengthening the United Nations, equipping it to fulfil its responsibilities and to act effectively, is a European priority”.

In recent years, the EU has become a significant actor in the international community and plays an important role within the UN. The 27 EU Member States together command more than one eighth of the votes in the UN General Assembly, in which each of the 192 UN Member States has an equal vote. The EU – meaning both the European Community and the Member States – is the UN’s largest financial contributor. This applies not only to the regular budget, but also to the funding of official development assistance and peace-keeping mission

EU Presence in the UN

All EU countries are independent members of the UN; some of them are founding members of the global organization.* Shaping the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) requires greater coordination between the EU Member States, the Council and the Commission in international organizations. In accordance with the EU Treaty, the EU Member States actively support the Union’s foreign and security policy to bring Europe’s influence to bear. EU interests are coordinated within the six Main Committees and other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly, within the UN Economic and Social Council and its Commissions and within other bodies, including the UN agencies and offices such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). More than 1000 internal EU coordination meetings are held every year in New York, Geneva and Vienna in order to develop a common EU stance.

In the UN Security Council, the EU can bring its influence to bear particularly on issues upon which it has agreed a common position. Article 19 of the EU Treaty stipulates that those EU Member States which are also members of the UN Security Council will concert and keep the other Member States fully informed. Without prejudice to their responsibilities under the UN Charter, EU Member States with a permanent seat on the Security Council – France and the United Kingdom – shall foster the interests of the EU when fulfilling their duties.

*1945: Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom
1946: Sweden
1955: Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain
1960: Cyprus
1964: Malta
1973: Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic (reunified Germany since 1990)
1974: European Community granted status of permanent observer
1991: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
1992: Czech Republic and Slovenia
1993: Slovaki

Role of the Council President

As only states can become members of the UN, the EU is represented by whichever state holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU at any given time. The Presidency is particularly important to the day-to-day work of the EU, represents it in talks with other UN Member States, regional groups and organizations and makes declarations in the name of the Union. In open sessions of the Security Council, the EU Presidency puts forward the previously agreed EU position on the issues in question. The Council Secretariat of the EU has established liaison offices in New York and Geneva to ensure continuity in this work

Role of the European Community and the European Commission

Before the EU was created, the European Community was granted permanent observer status by the 29th session of the UN General Assembly in 1974. It now has observer status in most of the UN specialized agencies. However, it has been a full member of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) since 1991 and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) since 1995. Moreover, it is the only nonstate party to more than 50 UN conventions and agreements, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Though it mostly has no voting rights, the European Commission is actively involved in the work of the UN. It works closely with the Presidency of the Council to represent the EU's position in several areas, especially in development, the environment and humanitarian aid. The European Commission is competent to speak on behalf of the EU in such areas as trade, fisheries and agriculture. It maintains representations at UN headquarters and the seat of large UN organizations in other cities.

The European Commission's longstanding relation with the UN system has been further strengthened in recent years through the conclusion of a series of strategic partnerships and memoranda of understanding with a number of key UN agencies and other bodies, to structure relations, build on comparative advantages, and further develop policy dialogue and technical co-operation

Voting Behaviour in the General Assembly

In the context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the EU speaks, whenever possible, with one voice in the General Assembly. Since the beginning of the 1990s, the EU has displayed increasingly unified voting behaviour. The number of UN General Assembly Resolutions on which the EU Member States voted unanimously rose from 86% in the 46th session of the General Assembly (1991/92) to 97 % in its 53rd session (1998/99) and has remained at around this level until the present. Even before the 2004 and 2007 EU enlargement rounds, most of the candidate countries already voted in line with the EU Member States

Areas of Cooperation:

Peacekeeping and Conflict Prevention

Peacekeeping and Conflict Prevention The EU supports the UN in maintaining international peace and security. This applies particularly to the UN peacekeeping missions ("blue-helmet missions") mandated by the Security Council. The EU Member States' current share of the overall budget for UN peacekeeping missions amounts to around 40 percent, making the EU by far the largest financial contributor worldwide. The EU's high level of commitment is also reflected in the number of soldiers, police and observers it provides. In November 2006, a total of 11,140 men and women, or around 13.5% of UN peacekeeping personnel, came from the EU. Alongside the provision of soldiers and police for UN peacekeeping missions, the EU cooperates with the UN by fielding its own missions and operations within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). These have included, for example, the successful EU operation

EUFOR RD Congo, which was established in 2006 to support the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUC.

African Peace Facility Through the establishment of the African Peace Facility, the EU has been providing the African Union (AU) with funds for peace missions and for the development of an African security architecture since 2004. This is intended to enable the states of Africa to resolve that continent's conflicts in an autonomous and self-reliant manner. By 2007, the EU will have supported the Peace Facility with funds to the tune of 300 million euro altogether.

Human Rights

For both the UN and the EU, freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law are fundamental principles and essential preconditions for the legitimacy of their actions. The relevant articles of the UN Charter are cited in the Preamble to the treaties establishing the EU. Since the adoption of the Treaties of Rome, the EU has committed itself to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Role of the EU in UN Human Rights Bodies The EU plays a very active role in the work of the new UN Human Rights Council, which replaces the former Commission on Human Rights, and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, which is responsible for human rights. It proposes resolutions and makes declarations on the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Moreover, the EU was instrumental in establishing and developing the system of UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights issues.

Development Assistance The EU is by far the largest donor in the area of development assistance. More than half of the funds made available for development aid worldwide come from EU Member States. The EU is also one of the most important financial contributors to UN programmes, special organizations and funds. Payments from EuropeAid, the European Commission's cooperation office, to the UN have quadrupled in six years – from 234 million euro in 1999 to 904 million euro in 2005.

The Millennium Development Goals The Millennium Development

Goals have the active support of the EU. In September 2000, the heads of state and government of 149 states met at the UN Millennium Summit in New York. This meeting resulted in the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, which outlines the global challenges and the agenda for international politics at the beginning of the 21st century. A list of eight internationally agreed goals, the so-called Millennium Development Goals, was compiled from the chapter on development and the environment and concrete parameters were established for each. The international community seeks to achieve these goals by means of its combined efforts by 2015. The UN is monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. The UN Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly in September every year on what progress has been made. In its efforts to combat poverty, the EU lays particular emphasis on the necessity to halt hunger and malnourishment, to halve the number of people in poverty by 2015 and to markedly improve standards of living for rural populations

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