



THE EU AND THE UN: A PARTNERSHIP THAT DELIVERS

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

Together, the EU and the UN work to uphold the multilateral system based on universal rules and values. In multilateral fora and globally, the EU and UN address crises and challenges to pursue a peaceful, just, and sustainable world. Effective EU-UN cooperation is fundamental to tackle today's interconnected global challenges, which individual nations cannot address alone. As well as being a key political partner of the UN, the EU and its Member States are collectively the top financial donor to the UN system year after year.



In the spotlight this year

THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE: MAKING THE UN FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The world is much more complex and interconnected than it was when the UN was founded 79 years ago. The EU supports the UN's ambitious reform package with both new ideas and financing.

- The Summit of the Future (September 2024) should serve as a stepping stone towards a **reinvigorated multilateral system** that is better able to positively impact people's lives. The EU and EU Member States have engaged constructively throughout the process with a view to achieve an ambitious and action-oriented outcome, the 'Pact for the Future'.
- The EU is committed to the aim to **reform the International Financial Architecture** in order to help us respond to new and emerging challenges, including the climate and environment emergencies, and support the SDGs.
- The EU supports the UN's aim to reallocate Special Drawing Rights from advanced to vulnerable countries with a **pledge of €31.9 billion (\$35.6 billion) from Member States** (as of August 2024).



THE EU AND THE UN'S COMMITMENT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2015, 193 countries signed up to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recent global crises have set back the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with only 17% on track.

- The SDGs inform much of the **EU's internal and external policymaking**. Key examples include the European Green Deal, the new European Skills Agenda and Global Gateway – the EU's strategy for sustainable investments in infrastructure around the world.
- Each **Global Gateway** flagship integrates the relevant SDGs. In 2023, almost 90 projects in partner countries were promoting sustainable mobility, clean energy, digital connectivity, strong health systems, education and research.
- The EU fully supports the sustained process of **getting the SDGs 'back on track'** and implementing the commitments taken at last year's SDG Summit. The EU looks forward to the Pact for the Future, which should spur long-term strategies to accelerate sustainable development globally.



PEACE AND SECURITY

The UN is the EU's most important partner in peace and mediation. Together, they work to prevent conflicts, support peacekeeping missions, and facilitate post conflict reconstruction around the world.

- The EU supports the UN's **New Agenda for Peace** and its renewed focus on conflict prevention and sustaining peace as a universal obligation. The upcoming 2025 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture is an important opportunity to put into actions the recommendations of both the New Agenda for Peace and the Pact for the Future.
- EU Member States are the **biggest contributors to the UN Peacebuilding Fund**, having contributed more than 60% since the Fund's inception in 2006.
- The EU currently deploys 21 active **civilian and military missions and operations** around the world, many of which were established in parallel to UN missions. Three EU missions directly implement UN Security Council mandates: EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUNAVFOR MED IRINI in the Mediterranean Sea and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA contributing to maritime security in the West Indian Ocean and in the Red Sea.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The EU and the UN collaborate on addressing climate change and biodiversity loss by implementing the Paris Agreement, advancing sustainable land and ocean management, and implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

- The EU promotes full implementation of the Paris Agreement, including its goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, and the GBF, highlighting synergies with the 2030 Agenda and the **European Green Deal**.
- Under **European Climate Law**, EU countries must cut net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by 2050.
- Under the GBF, States worldwide committed to protect at least 30% of lands and seas by 2030. The adoption of the **Treaty of the High Seas** in 2023, long promoted by the EU, is an important milestone in the protection of the world's ocean.
- The EU and its Member States are the **world's largest contributor of public climate finance** and since 2013 have almost tripled their contribution to climate finance to support developing countries.



ACTING TOGETHER FOR THOSE IN NEED

The EU works closely with the UN in providing emergency relief, rebuilding infrastructure, and assisting vulnerable populations affected by conflicts or natural disasters.

- 2024 saw a further **increase in global humanitarian needs** as a result of protracted conflicts, Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, the war in Gaza, climate change, and extreme natural hazards and their knock-on effects in terms of food security, access to basic services, health care, education, shelter or protection.
- In 2023, the EU and EU Member States were collectively the **second largest humanitarian aid donor in the world** with contributions exceeding **€10 billion**, which accounted for 32.3% of the total donor share. Many of the humanitarian operations funded by the EU are implemented by its partners, notably UN agencies.
- The EU continues its commitment to dedicate **10%** of its initial humanitarian aid budget to **education in emergencies**, providing access to quality learning for crisis-affected girls and boys.



UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS

The EU and the UN collaborate to promote and protect human rights globally, supporting the work of human rights defenders, combatting discrimination, and strengthening democratic institutions.

- As a staunch defender of human rights, the EU promotes 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 scaling up efforts to achieve **gender equality** and continues to place prevention and elimination of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence at the center of its efforts, including through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative set up in 2017.



CONTINUED SUPPORT TO GLOBAL HEALTH AND GOVERNANCE

The EU and the UN collaborate on a wide range of health-related issues, aiming to address global health challenges, promote public health and improve global health security, which are part of the work under the **EU's Global Health Strategy**.

- The EU and EU Member States are the **largest donors to the WHO**, representing more than 20% of its funding.
- The EU promotes **global health as a public good**, not least advocating for universal health coverage and the implementation of the "One Health" approach.
- The adoption of strengthened **International Health Regulations** in June 2024 during the 77th World Health Assembly represents a significant success for multilateralism and a substantial step towards ensuring that all States – particularly least developed and low- income countries – are well equipped to contain and respond to future health emergencies.
- The EU remains committed to deliver an ambitious **Pandemic Agreement** to protect all persons across the world.