



### Editorial

Multilateralism is at a crossroads, as aspects of the post-World War Two architecture, including the UN Security Council itself, appear unable at times to match the colossal needs of the moment. Indeed, Secretary-General Guterres has referenced the divisions among Security Council members as undermining the body's authority. It is important and noteworthy, however, that the Security Council has managed to work in some areas, including on mission mandates. Nevertheless, the resolution of international conflicts has become more complicated in a world where the predictability of bipolarity has faded, while multipolarity has not yet fully formed. Indeed, this also creates headwinds for the EU and NATO. Politics have become supercharged, with populism, geopolitics, distrust, and rapid advancements in weapons technology part of the mix. In essence, international relations appear to be in a moment of flux. In such a moment there is an urgent need to chart the future and to recommit to a working multilateralism and a working peace system, including an emphasis on innovative partnerships that can help support the prospects for peace.

Appropriately and discerningly in such a daunting context, the United Nations Secretary-General will convene world leaders to participate in the Summit of the Future on 22/23 September this year at UN headquarters. The President of the General Assembly has appointed Germany and Namibia as co-facilitators of an intergovernmental preparatory process leading to the Summit. This will result in the crafting of the 'Pact for the Future'

- a forward-looking roadmap setting out a range of common commitments including in the area of peace and security and building on the seminal 'A New Agenda for Peace' issued by the Secretary-General in July 2023.

It is anticipated that the Pact will highlight the importance of partnerships in line with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter as a critical building block for addressing global and regional challenges and for strengthening regional security architectures. In this regard the UN Liaison office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS) in Brussels plays a key part in further deepening Brussels based partnerships on political, peace and security matters, building upon our existing work. Trust is the life blood of multilateralism and partnership offices such as UNLOPS have an important role to play in garnering trust.

In this issue of our UNLOPS Bulletin, we provide you with a flavour of our work, including recent activities and liaison engagements undertaken together with the EU and NATO. This comprises reference to UN institutional dialogue fora with the EU and NATO backstopped by our liaison office. The Bulletin also provides a flavour of recent visits to Brussels by UN officials, as well as specific EU and NATO policy updates that may be of interest, plus dates for your diary.

Rory Keane

Head of the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security

### Inside this issue

UN-EU Institutional Dialogue on Peace and Security	2-3	Spotlight on new EU CSDP missions	8
NATO Update	4	EU Council Presidencies	9
Visit of the Secretary-General to EU Headquarters	5	Sample of UNLOPS Outreach Activities	10
Sample of UN visitors to Brussels	6	Additional photos	11
EU Policy Developments: Peace and Security	7	Outlook on upcoming meetings and milestones in the Brussels context	12

## UN-EU Institutional Dialogue on Peace and Security

On 22 March 2024, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo held several meetings at EU headquarters in Brussels, where discussions focused on the future of multilateralism, geopolitical challenges, and crises situations. While in Brussels USG DiCarlo also met with Belgian Foreign Minister Lahbib. USG DiCarlo also engaged with a range of EU PSC Ambassadors at an event kindly convened by Sweden.

On 30-31 January 2023, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix participated in the six-monthly informal EU defence ministerial hosted by the Belgian EU presidency in Brussels. The meeting provided an opportunity for USG Lacroix to share his views on the operational challenges regarding the UN's engagements in the Sahel region and discussions on the latest peacekeeping developments, including in the Middle East. The UN peacekeeping chief additionally met with several EU defence ministers in the margins of the meeting.

On 15 December 2023, USG Lacroix participated in the UN-EU Steering Committee on crisis management and peace operations in Brussels, co-chaired by EEAS Deputy Secretary-General for peace, security and defence, Charles Fries. USG Lacroix and DSG Fries took stock of recent political and security developments in the Middle East and Africa and discussed the UN-EU partnership in the context of the Secretary-General's "A New Agenda for Peace" and the EU's strategic compass. On the margins, USG Lacroix engaged with several EU PSC ambassadors at a gathering kindly convened by Portugal.



*Belgian Minister of Defence Ludivin Dedonder and USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix met in the margins of an EU defence ministerial*



*USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix and EEAS Deputy Secretary-General Charles Fries with their respective teams following deliberations on 15 December 2023*

On 29-30 August 2023, USG Lacroix travelled to Toledo to participate in the first informal EU defence ministerial of 2023, hosted by the Spanish EU presidency. This visit, which marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN-EU partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management, allowed USG Lacroix to engage on key partnership files. He also held a range of bilateral meetings with a focus on EU member state support to the UN's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) commitments with a focus on the Middle East and Africa.



On 13 July 2023, on the margins of the second high level UN-European Commission Dialogue in La Hulpe, Belgium, USG DiCarlo met with EEAS Secretary-General Stefano Sannino at EEAS headquarters with discussions focusing on political and peacebuilding affairs globally, while placing a strong focus on prevention files.

# UN-EU Institutional Dialogue on Peace and Security

## The Fifth EU-UN Dialogue on Counter-terrorism

On 11 July 2023, the EU and UNOCT came together for their Fifth High-Level Dialogue on Counter-terrorism in Brussels, reaffirming their shared commitment to combatting terrorism and violent extremism worldwide. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Ms. Joanneke Balfourt, Deputy Managing Director for Security and Defence Policy at the EEAS, and Mr. Raffi Gregorian, the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General (DUSG) and Director of UNOCT. Their leadership ensured a productive and focused discussion on current global counter-terrorism challenges, such as counter-terrorism cooperation in Africa and terrorism based on xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief. The Dialogue was preceded by three online staff talks allowing EU and UN staff to exchange views and formulate recommendations for improved cooperation on the above-mentioned topics.

During the annual event, representatives from both entities engaged in discussions on pressing terrorism challenges across various regions. Participants took the opportunity to review key policy developments since their last dialogue in April 2022, such as the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the UN General Assembly, and to identify respective priorities. They emphasized the importance of upholding human rights, the rule of law, and gender-responsive approaches in counter-terrorism efforts, while actively involving civil society.

The dialogue also celebrated the first anniversary of the EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility, highlighting its crucial role in providing technical assistance to countries combatting terrorism. This initiative, led by UNOCT and supported by the EU, offers mentoring, advisory services, and training to support countries facing terrorism threats.

Both the EU and UN pledged to deepen their cooperation on shared priorities, particularly in Africa, and explore avenues for multilateral collaboration through platforms like the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). The Fifth UN-EU High-Level Dialogue served as a strong reminder of the ongoing commitment to confront terrorism through multilateralism, sustained partnership, and cooperation.

## Roundtable on Climate, Peace, and Security

On 12 October 2023, the Chief of the Environment Section of the Department of Operational Support (DOS), Joanna Harvey, and the Head of the Performance and Protection Pillar in the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division of the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), Oliver Ulich, participated in a panel discussion at a roundtable entitled "Climate, Peace and Security: Looking towards the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial and Improving the Environmental Impact of UN Peacekeeping".

The event, which was held in Brussels and organized jointly by the UN and the Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU, prepared discussions and potential pledges for the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial held in Accra, Ghana, on 5-6 December 2023. Participants were presented with partnership and project opportunities aimed at reducing the environmental footprint of UN peacekeeping operations.



*Austrian Political and Security Committee Ambassador Martin Hojni.*

## NATO Update



*NATO Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy Boris Ruge, USG Rosemary DiCarlo and USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix, at NATO headquarters in March 2024.*

In preparation for the UN-NATO staff talks held in March this year, UN-NATO expert-level staff discussions were held online on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, focusing on key thematic files, including files such as protection of civilians and climate and security. Subsequently, in-person staff talks were held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2024 at NATO headquarters.

In December 2023, UNOCT and NATO held staff talks on Counter-Terrorism. UNOCT Deputy Under-Secretary-General expressed his enthusiasm for renewing the dialogue with NATO on counter-terrorism. The discussions focused on Battlefield Evidence, joint training and programs, Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS), and counter-terrorism efforts in Africa.



NATO has recently been joined by Sweden, officially becoming the 32<sup>nd</sup> member state of the alliance on 7 March 2024. Finland joined NATO in April 2023.



NATO members gathered in early April at ministerial level in Brussels to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the alliance, where they also discussed preparations for the next major event on the transatlantic agenda – the NATO summit taking place in Washington D.C on 9-11 July 2024. The gathering of the North Atlantic alliance will be Secretary General Stoltenberg's last major appearance as head of the NATO alliance.

## Visit of the Secretary-General to EU Headquarters

UN Secretary-General António Guterres was invited to attend a working lunch with the heads of state and government of the 27 EU member states, at the opening of the European Council on 21 March. Addressing the press ahead of the meeting, the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the excellent cooperation between the EU and the UN and the support of the EU to the UN and to multilateralism.

The Secretary-General stressed the need to stick to principles, without double standards, pointing to the UN Charter, international law, territorial integrity, and international humanitarian law. The Secretary-General appealed for peace in Ukraine respecting the charter, international law and its territorial integrity and sovereignty, and for a ceasefire in Gaza. The UN chief also stressed the need for strong multilateral institutions and for the EU to play an active role in relation to the existential questions that threaten today's world: climate change, the uncontrolled development of artificial intelligence and deep inequalities.



*UN Secretary-General António Guterres and European Council President Charles Michel.*

## Sample of UN visitors to Brussels



Picture: Brian Williams' X account

UN DPPA peacebuilding fund chief, Brian Williams, speaking at a Director-level meeting of the EU’s United Nations Working Party (CONUN), which develops common EU policy on UN issues of common interest to EU member states, in Brussels on 8 February 2024.

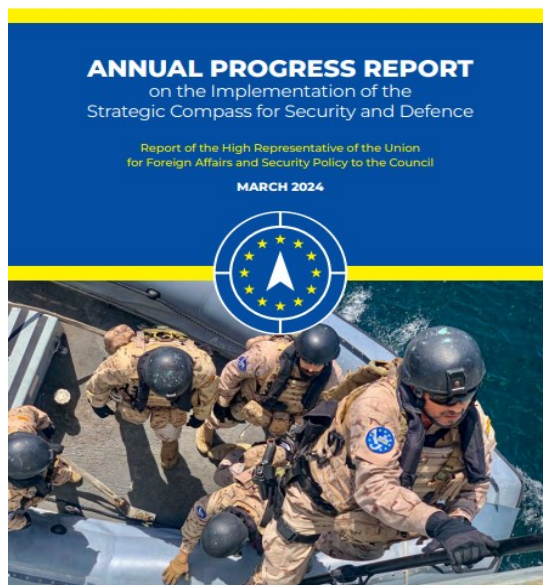


Picture: HR/VP Borrell' X account

Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra, and HR/VP Josep Borrell met in Brussels on 24 January 2024.

## EU Policy Developments: Peace and Security

- ◆ On 22 May 2023, the Council of the EU adopted a new Compact for civilian missions under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). This new policy framework builds on the first Compact adopted in November 2018 and seeks to enhance the effectiveness and capabilities of civilian missions. Furthermore, on 11 December 2023, the Council of the EU approved conclusions on civilian CSDP. New missions were established in Armenia, Moldova, and the Gulf of Guinea in 2023.
- ◆ On 6 July 2023, the Commission published its 2023 Strategic Foresight Report. The report analyses the rise of geopolitics and the reconfiguration of globalization and also points out to the threats to democracy and the existing social contract.
- ◆ On 17-18 July 2023, the leaders from the EU and the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) met in Brussels for the third EU-CELAC Summit. EU and CELAC leaders committed to renewing their long-standing partnership. In the area of peace and security, the parties addressed global and regional security challenges.
- ◆ On 9-10 October 2023, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU and of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met in Muscat for the 27th GCC-EU Joint Council meeting. The Joint Council reviewed the implementation of the Joint Action Programme (2022-27) and agreed to hold a regular and structural GCC-EU regional security dialogue at the senior official-level.
- ◆ On 20 November 2023, the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy published a joint mid-term report on the implementation of the EU's third Gender Action Plan (GAP III). GAP III aims to provide an operational roadmap to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through all external actions of the EU. The joint mid-term report underscored the importance of the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the commitment to the gender mainstreaming perspective against the backdrop of security and conflict shifts and geopolitical power competitions.
- ◆ On 18 March 2024, the EEAS published the HR/VP's Annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence, evaluating EU's security and defence policy in 2023 comprehensively.
- ◆ On 5 March 2024, the Commission and the HR/VP presented the first-ever European Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS) at the EU level and proposed an ambitious set of new actions to support the competitiveness and readiness of its defence industry. As a first means to deliver the EDIS, the Commission tabled a legislative proposal for a European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP), which aims to mobilise €1.5 billion of the EU budg-







## EU Council Presidencies

Spain, Belgium, and Hungary constitute the current trio of presidencies of the Council of the EU. The red thread running through this 18-month program is the enhancing of the EU's resilience.

**The Hungarian Presidency:** As Hungary prepares to take on the six-month EU rotating presidency as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2024, Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister Péter Szijjártó recently announced that the topic of enlargement will be a top priority on the country's agenda. Western Balkan countries have been waiting to join the EU for more than 14 years, Szijjártó said, adding that Hungary "will do everything to bring the Western Balkan countries closer to the European Union".

**The Belgian Presidency:** Belgium holds the presidency of the Council of the EU from 1 January to 30 June 2024. The program sets out six priorities including "protecting people and borders" and "promoting a global Europe". Belgium's thirteenth presidency also focuses on Foreign Affairs, especially peace, security, and defence matters. Belgium will ensure "unwavering political, economic, military, humanitarian and legal support to Ukraine". The country is also working on the shaping of the post-2024 Strategic Agenda. Additionally, the presidency will continue to support the EU Strategic Compass to strengthen EU's resilience to new and hybrid threats.



USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs Hadja Lahbib in Brussels on 31 January 2024.



Picture: Ukrainian presidential press service / Reuters

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Ukrainian President Volodimir Zelensky discussing in the margins of the European Political Community Summit.

**The Spanish Presidency:** Preceding Belgium, Spain held the Council presidency from 1 July to 31 December 2023. The beginning of the 6-month period was marked by a visit from Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to Kiev. On peace and security matters, the presidency engaged on EU support for Ukraine, sanctions against Russia and Belarus, humanitarian support for Gaza and the EU-CELAC summit. The Spanish presidency also oversaw the Granada Declaration, adopted on 6 October 2023 as EU leaders launched discussions on the definition of the Union's general political direction and priorities in the years to come. In addition to the leaders' meeting, Granada also hosted the third Summit of the European Political Community during which the future of EU assistance to Ukraine was a key item of discussion.

## Sample of UNLOPS outreach activities

- \* UNLOPS head of office, Rory Keane, participated in a roundtable entitled "Climate, Peace and Security: Looking towards the 2023 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial and Improving the Environmental Impact of UN Peacekeeping", jointly organized by UN Department of Peace Operations and Austria in Brussels on 12 October 2023.
- \* UNLOPS participated in an EU-UN Annual Meeting on Prevention, Stabilisation and Peacebuilding on 14-15 November 2023 in Brussels.
- \* Rory Keane presented UN work on peace and security with a focus on partnerships at the annual (19th) CSDP High Level Course 2023-24 in Brussels on 27 September 2023.
- \* Anne Viken (UNLOPS) addressed a panel discussion at an event entitled "New avenues for peace and climate resilience in the Sahel? A dialogue with practitioners and policymakers in times of political upheaval" on 28 November 2023, in Brussels.



Rory Keane



Halil Kosumi (top right)



Anne Viken (right)



Yusaku Fukuhara (right)

- \* Halil Kosumi (UNLOPS) delivered a presentation emphasizing UN-EU partnership and cooperation in the field, as well as UN-EU priorities, during the EEAS Pre-Deployment Training held on 8 November 2023 by the European Security and Defense College (ESDC) in collaboration with the Guarda Nacional Republicana (GNR) training institute from Portugal.
- \* Rory Keane addressed the WHO Leadership Dialogue on Global Health Diplomacy on the theme of foreign policy in Brussels on 21 September 2023.
- \* Anne Viken addressed the Annual Conference of the European Association of Peace Operations Training Centres organised by the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) from 7 to 9 June 2023 in Brussels.
- \* Rory Keane gave a briefing to the EU Military Committee on 15 November 2023.
- \* Yusaku Fukuhara (UNLOPS) participated in a CSDP Orientation Course organized by the European Security and Defence College in Brussels on 4-8 March 2024, where he gave a presentation on UN-EU cooperation on peace and security, on 7 March.

## Additional photos



Picture: Minister Lahbib's X account



Picture: ASG Zouev's X account

Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs Hadja Lahbib (centre) presides over a conference on disinformation in peacekeeping operations, including a presentation by Ms. Naomi Miyashita (left) who heads the DPO/DPET team addressing mis/disinformation in peacekeeping settings. Rory Keane (UNLOPS) chaired the session.

DPO Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Alexandre Zouev, held an exchange with EEAS Managing Director, Stefano Tomat, on peacekeeping partnership at the annual OROLSI-CPCC talks in New York on 13 December 2023 .



Picture: DPO



Picture: UNLOPS

EU-UN workshop for the provision of mutual support in the field organized by the Support Partnerships Service of the UN Department of Operational Support.

Ms. Eun Ah Sim, Ms. Lara Larsen, and Mr. Akira Marusaki from the UN Department of Operational Support met with Ms. Karin Stanghed from the EEAS to discuss UN-EU operational support in the field .

## Outlook on upcoming meetings and milestones in the Brussels context



*The "Peace begins with me" exhibition celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN peacekeeping operations was displayed at EEAS headquarters in Brussels in September/October 2023.*

- \* A European Council meeting will be convened on 27-28 June 2024.
- \* The second edition of the Schuman Security and Defence Forum will take place on 28-29 May 2024.
- \* The "Memories Exhibition", focused on victims of terrorism, will be launched with a high-level opening on 28 May in the Brussels Regional Parliament.
- \* The European Parliament elections will be held from 6 to 9 June 2024.
- \* The six-month Hungarian presidency of the Council of the EU will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2024.
- \* The NATO summit in Washington, D.C. will take place on 9-11 July 2024.
- \* A meeting of the European Political Community will take place on 18 July 2024 in the UK.
- \* The Summit of the Future will take place at UN headquarters on 22-23 September 2024.
- \* The sixth EU-UN High-Level Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism will be held in New York in the Fall 2024.



UNITED NATIONS LIAISON OFFICE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

Department of Peace Operations (DPO) | Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)  
Department of Operational Support (DOS) | UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

Brussels | Belgium | +32 2 738 7560

[unlops.unmissions.org](http://unlops.unmissions.org) | [twitter.com/UNLOPS](https://twitter.com/UNLOPS)