

New Agenda, New Compact – New Opportunities for a Strategic UN-EU Partnership

Thursday, 8 June 2023, 09:00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN, 1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 885 Second Avenue, 46th Floor

Exactly 20 years ago, the EU deployed crisis management missions for the first time to the Western Balkans and Sub-Saharan Africa. This was followed by a series of ambitious missions with diverse mandates, many of which deployed in sequence or parallel to UN peace operations. The EU is currently conducting 22 civilian and military missions and operations, 11 of which in countries also hosting a UN peacekeeping operation or special political mission.

2023 also marks the 20th anniversary of the EU-UN Joint Declaration. Since then, the EU and the UN have progressively developed and institutionalized their partnership in ways unmatched by other multilateral organizations. Recently, peace operations and crisis management missions have been severely affected by three strategic shocks: the Covid-19 pandemic; the fall of Kabul and the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan; and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. To address these and other challenges, the EU-UN partnership could be strengthened even further, for example in terms of complementarity and a clearer division of labor in post-conflict settings.

Both the UN and EU have carried out strategic reflections on the future of peace operations and crisis management missions. The EU adopted the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence in March 2022 and a new civilian CSDP Compact in May 2023, while the UN is working on a New Agenda for Peace.

At the occasion of Sweden's EU Presidency, the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF), and the Delegation of the European Union (EUDEL) to the United Nations in New York are delighted to invite you to an Expert Dialogue on the status and future of the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management.

This event will bring together practitioners, policy makers, member state officials and experts to discuss this topic with the aim of producing concrete outcomes and recommendations that can feed into next year's EU-UN discussions on new priorities for cooperation 2025-27.

Programme

08:30	Arrival and coffee
09:00	Welcome remarks
09:15 – 10:45	Session 1: The strategic UN-EU partnership at twenty: Leveraging UN-EU cooperation in a new era of geopolitics and risk.
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:20	Session 1: New Compact & New Agenda: Strengthening cooperation between UN peace operations and EU crisis management missions at HQ level and in the field.
12:20	Concluding remarks
12:30 – 13:30	Light Lunch

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- 08:30 Arrival and coffee
- 09:00 Welcome remarks by Ambassador **Anna Karin Eneström**, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, and Ambassador **Silvio Gonzato**, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.
- 09:15 – 10:45 Session 1: The strategic UN-EU partnership at twenty: Leveraging UN-EU cooperation in a new era of geopolitics and risk.
- David Haeri**, Director of the Division for Policy, Evaluation & Training, United Nations Department of Peace Operations
- Jenna Russo**, Director of Research and Head of the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations, International Peace Institute (IPI)
- Richard Gowan**, UN Director, International Crisis Group
- Facilitated by: **Tobias Pietz**, Deputy Head Analysis, Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF)
- 10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:20 Session 2: New Compact & New Agenda: Strengthening cooperation between UN peace operations and EU crisis management missions at HQ level and in the field.
- Anne Schouw**, Political Counselor, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations
- Annick Hiensch**, Partnerships Team Leader/Climate, Peace and Security Focal Point, Division for Policy, Evaluation and Training, United Nations Department of Peace Operations
- Daniel Workie**, Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Department of Peace Operations
- Dawit Yirga**, Deputy Managing Editor, Security Council Report
- Gretchen Baldwin**, Researcher, Peace Operations and Conflict Management Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- Facilitated by: **Timo Smit**, Senior Researcher, Peace Operations and Conflict Management Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- 12:20 Concluding remarks
- 12:30 – 13:30 Light Lunch



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Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the United Nations, New York



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International
Peace Operations

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2023.eu Swedish Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



Session 1: The strategic UN-EU partnership at twenty: Leveraging UN-EU cooperation in a new era of geopolitics and risk.

2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the EU-UN Joint Declaration. Since 2003, the EU and the UN have progressively developed and institutionalized their partnership in ways unmatched by other multilateral organizations. But international peace operations and crisis management missions are under pressure. The UN and the EU are facing a threefold challenge in terms of their ability to adopt appropriate mandates, develop legitimacy and assertiveness on the ground, and apply effective approaches to conflict management.

Guiding questions:

- What have been key achievements and good practices of cooperation between UN peace operations and EU crisis management missions, at HQ level and in the field?
- What has been missing or could have been done better?
- How are the UN and EU affected by the changing geopolitical context and what does this mean for the future of peace operations and crisis management missions?
- What are the opportunities and risks for the UN when it comes to interventions by regional organizations, with or without the authorization of the UN Security Council, such as EU CSDP operations and missions?

Session 2: New Compact & New Agenda: Strengthening cooperation between UN peace operations and EU crisis management missions at HQ level and in the field.

A core aim of the New Agenda for Peace will be to build consensus around a more effective collective security system that is grounded in and upholds the purpose and principles of the UN Charter, including Chapter VIII on cooperation with regional arrangements. One of the potential areas of the New Agenda for Peace is developing networked multilateralism, including through ‘supporting regional prevention’, which emphasizes the role of regional actors in sustaining peace and preventing and responding to insecurity, and which could cover cooperation between the UN and regional organizations such as the EU in areas such as joint peacebuilding, transnational security challenges, and the effects of climate change on insecurity. The EU’s Strategic Compass and the new Compact for civilian CSDP include renewed commitments to enhance the partnership with the UN, building on the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management and the joint priorities for 2022-2024. Therefore, it is timely to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that exist (or persist) when it comes to strengthening the partnership, implementing the joint priorities, and cooperation beyond 2024—both politically at HQ level as well as operationally in the field.

Guiding questions:

- What is needed to optimize the cooperation between UN peace operations and EU crisis management missions, especially in terms of their complementarity and respective roles within a coordinated division of labor, including when it comes to supporting African peace operations?
- How can expansion into new areas such as the effects of climate change and environmental degradation on insecurity be used as a catalyst for deeper cooperation between UN peace operations and EU crisis management missions?
- How can the UN and EU strengthen the cooperation between their respective HQs and field operations in the areas of rule of law, security sector reform, and stabilization?
- Which civilian CSDP mission would be an appropriate pilot case for closer collaboration with the UN in the field, as suggested in the new Civilian CSDP Compact?