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UNITED NATIONS LIASION OFFICE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

Department of Peace Operations (DPO)
Department of Operational Support (DOS)
UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

Editorial

In a time of intensified geopolitical rivalry and fragmentation the multilateral partnerships agenda becomes more important than ever. In this context the UN-EU partnership on peace and security must be to the forefront. Over recent months, several significant steps have been taken to ensure that this is the case.

In March the UN-EU Strategic Committee on Peace and Security convened for an inaugural meeting to advance the revamped UN-EU joint priorities on peace & security for 2025-2028. The Cyprus EU presidency has put multilateralism and support for the UN front and centre, while the European Parliament's Security and Defence Committee (SEDE) held an exchange on UN peacekeeping partnerships.

Addressing the UN Security Council on 13 April, HR/VP Kallas expressed strong support for the United Nations, emphasising that the EU's support for the UN now is more vital than ever. The work of the UN liaison office for peace and security in Brussels can attest to a vibrant partnership on key geographic and thematic files, with a strong focus on support for UN peacekeeping operations, UN special political missions, conflict prevention and mediation work. We have also seen firsthand how good cooperation between UN missions and operations and EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions has served the interest of peace, while cooperation in support of UN peacebuilding, including through support from the European Commission's Foreign Policy Instrument has been especially impactful.

Partnership with NATO has also progressed well, including annual UN-NATO staff talks followed by a UN address to the NATO deputies committee in March. As we look to the future, *the UN review of all forms of peace operations* is set to be soon concluded, based on input from member states including EU member states via the EU's United Nations Working Group (CONUN). Our engagements in Brussels are consequential for the UN, as we know through experience that partnerships are critical to deliver chapters VI (*peaceful settlement of disputes*) and VII (*action with respect to threats to the Peace...*) of the UN Charter—and given the need more than ever for both chapters to be at the forefront of policy in a fragile world.

Rory KEANE

Head of UNLOPS

Meetings & Events



Left to Right - UN USG Lacroix, EEAS DSG Fries, UN USG DiCarlo, and EEAS MD Hermann

UN-EU Strategic Committee on Peace and Security

The EU-UN Strategic Committee on Peace and Security held its inaugural meeting in New York on 3 March 2026 to advance the partnership based on the joint UN-EU priorities for 2025-2028. Co-chaired by senior officials from the UN and European External Action Service (EEAS), referenced in the picture above, the Committee reaffirmed a shared commitment to the UN Charter and a rules-based international order and discussed the future of UN and EU partnership in the field, including the roles of UN peace operations and CSDP missions. The delegations agreed to advance cooperation on mission transitions; Women, Peace and Security; Climate, Peace, and Security; and conflict prevention.



UN-NATO Staff Talks

On 18 March 2026, UN-NATO staff talks were held at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels as pictured above. NATO Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy, Boris Ruge, welcomed Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, and Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix. The parties exchanged on institutional priorities, geographical files, support to UN peacekeeping, and Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The exchange was followed by expert-level discussions that took place in hybrid form on 19 March, covering key technical files.



EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) Breakfast

The EU–UN partnership on peace and security was on the agenda at a PSC informal breakfast on 27 February 2026, held under the auspices of the EU Cyprus Presidency. Rory Keane (Head of UNLOPS) joined the panel to share perspectives on how to strengthen the EU–UN partnership, explore future cooperation, and develop strategies to enhance peace efforts. The gathering underscored the ongoing PSC commitment to support the UN's political, peace and security mandates.



Climate, Peace & Security Roundtable



Madelene O'Donnell - DPO, DPET (centre) updates on UN climate, peace and security work.

On 3 October 2025, the Austrian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence together with the UN Department of Peace Operations held a roundtable on Climate, Peace, and Security (CPS) in Brussels that examined collaboration and good practices in the field in supporting the CPS agenda, including examples from UN work in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and Somalia (UNSOS).

Engagement with the EU Military Committee



Rory Keane, Head of UNLOPS, addressed the EU Military Committee on 20 January 2026 on current UN peacekeeping efforts.

On 14 July 2025, Rory Keane and Anne Viken from UNLOPS (pictured left) met with General Seán Clancy, Chair of the European Union Military Committee, to discuss UN/EU operational cooperation with a focus on impact on the ground.

"Multilateralism is ultimately about trust. Reform is essential, but so is trust."

On June 10, 2025, at a panel discussion in Brussels titled "[International Cooperation in a Time of Polycrises](#)," Rory Keane, Head of UNLOPS, emphasised that addressing today's interconnected challenges requires both structural reform and a fundamental rebuilding of trust. Highlighting the Pact for the Future as the essential roadmap, he underscored the need to shift from reactive security measures to addressing the root causes of conflict, while underlining the importance of continued unified commitment to a rules-based international order by the EU and its member states.



UN-EU Counter-Terrorism Dialogue

On 5 February 2026, the EU and the UN convened their seventh Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism in New York, co-chaired by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). Participants discussed the global terrorist threat, regional trends, the misuse of new technologies by terrorist groups, and priorities for cooperation on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The EU underlined the importance of UNOCT's leadership and coordination mandate, while both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation through strategic policy, programming, expert exchanges, and joint initiatives under the UN Counter-Terrorism Compact.



Visits

Visit of UN Secretary-General Guterres to Brussels



Secretary-General Guterres with Members of European Council

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres concluded a two-day visit to Brussels on 18 and 19 March, during which he participated in an informal discussion with members of the European Council. The Secretary-General also had separate bilateral meetings with the President of the European Council, António Costa, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola. In his message to the press, the Secretary General stated that “the EU and the UN have exemplary cooperation, and the EU has been a fundamental support for the UN and for multilateralism”.

UN Visitors to Brussels with Peace & Security Focus

May, 2025

- 7th May, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Huang Xia

June, 2025

- 24th June, Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra
- 30th June, Special Representative and Head of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Caroline Ziadeh



3rd of July, ASG Jenča engaged with PSC members at a breakfast hosted by Greek PSC Ambassador Alexios Mitsopoulos, and met with Charles Fries, Deputy Secretary General for Peace, Security and Defence, European External Action Service.

November, 2025

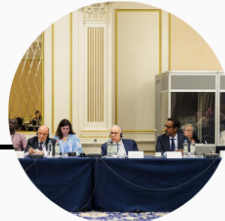
- 6th November, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix

January, 2026

- 26th January, DPPA-DPO Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Khaled Khiari



On March 18, USG Lacroix held an exchange with Peter Sorensen, EUSR for Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue. On the 19th, Lacroix met Johan Borgstam, EUSR for the Great Lakes.



26th of June in Brussels, Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Lamamra met members of the Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Coordination of Peace Initiatives and Efforts in Sudan.

July, 2025

- 3rd July, DPPA-DPO Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, Miroslav Jenča



6th of November, USG Lacroix was invited by the Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE), Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann to address the European Parliament's Security and Defence Committee.

March 2026

- 18th March, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix
- 26th March, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Leonardo Santos Simão

April 2026

- 22nd April, DPPA-DPO Middle East Division Director, Darko Mocibob
- 27th-28th April, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Hans Grundberg

