

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY DIRECTORATE

Disarmament, Non-Proliferation
and Arms Export Control Division

EU Joint Reply to UNGA Resolution 79/76 "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region" 28 May 2025

In response to this request, the European Union would like to submit the following:

Strengthening of security and internal and inter-regional regional co-operation in the Mediterranean, and in the broader Middle East, remains high on the European agenda. A democratic, more stable, greener and more prosperous Southern Neighbourhood is a strategic priority for the EU. Further to the adoption of the Joint Communication on a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood, a new Agenda for the Mediterranean on 9 February 2021, which inter alia proposes to develop further the EU's partnership on security matters with its neighbouring countries, the EU has moved ahead with its implementation in all priority domains.

The EU stresses the urgent need to address the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The EU has continued to call for a resumption of the ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages, leading to a permanent end to hostilities. The EU has also recalled the importance of unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza.

On the longer term the EU underlines the need to relaunch the discussion implement the two-state solution respecting all the relevant UN resolutions and based on the internationally agreed parameters as the only way forward.

To this end, the EU is working with its regional and Arab partners, including on the Arab Plan for Gaza's recovery and reconstruction. The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States together with other Arab Partners continued work on the Peace Day Efforts aimed at reviving the Middle East Peace Process. On 23 March 2025, the High Representative participated in a joint meeting with the Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee, in Cairo, focused on the Arab Plan.

The EU continues to call for the respect of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, by all parties. In this regard, the EU calls on all parties to respect and implement the orders of the International Court of Justice. The EU stresses its continued support to the Palestinian Authority linked with reforms.

Important efforts have been put in place by the EU during the past year to enhance regional cooperation in the Mediterranean through continued support and cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the League of Arab States, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation, an effort now more necessary than ever.

The Regional Forum of the UfM of 2023 took place on 27 November in Barcelona and was redesigned to discuss the critical situation in Israel and Gaza/Palestine, the consequences across the region and the way forward. The EU Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial was postponed to a later date.

The UfM continued to contribute to promote a more peaceful, secure, green, prosperous and inclusive Mediterranean region by creating, through dialogue and cooperation, a political environment, which can mitigate the tensions affecting its members by addressing many root causes of conflict, and working towards a shared prosperity.

In implementing the Agenda for the Mediterranean, the EU draws on its full toolbox. Multiannual indicative programmes (MIPs) are in place for most of the Southern partners, together with a Regional MIP and a Multi-country MIP for Migration, along with the Economic and Investment Plan (EIP). Under the EU's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), up to 7 billion euro are foreseen to be mobilised for the period 2021-2027 to implement the Economic and Investment Plan - EIP (annexed to the Agenda for the Mediterranean), potentially going to leverage up to 30 billion euro in private and public investment in the region. Through the Global Gateway (GG) strategy and once more the EIP, the EU is stepping up its support to partners to meet their infrastructure needs through the implementation of identified flagship initiatives (ex. MEDUSA, ELMED).

Joint efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, and promote security cooperation, are paramount priorities. The EU is a key partner for countries in the Mediterranean region and is able to deploy a wide range of instruments in a triple nexus humanitarian-development-peace approach. The EU is deploying Military and Civilian Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, mediation and stabilization actions, as well as restrictive measures. Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI mandate was renewed in 2025 until 30 March 2027, and continued to be the only implementer of the UN arms embargo on Libya, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1970 (2011) and 2292 (2016). The Council extended the mandate of the European Integrated Border Management Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya) until 30 June 2027, to enhance the capacity of Libyan authorities and agencies to manage Libya's borders, to fight human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as well as to counter terrorism. EUPOL COPPS is mandated to contribute to the establishment of effective and sustainable policing and wider criminal justice arrangements under Palestinian ownership and to Security Sector and Justice Sector Reform. EUBAM Rafah, is supporting the Palestinian Authority General authority for Borders and crossings. The mandate of both EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah was extended until June 2024.

Six months after the fall of Assad, the European Union continues to stand with the Syrian people and is stepping up its engagement to support a Syrian-owned, Syrian-led inclusive transition which addresses the country's humanitarian needs and socio-economic recovery.

In February 2025, the EU suspended some of its economic sanctions. In line with this approach, the EU announced on 20 May 2025 the political decision to lift its economic sanctions on Syria.

The EU hosted the 9th edition of the Brussels Conference on 17 March 2025 in order to address the immediate needs of the Syrian people and raised EUR 5.8 billion in pledges for Syria and its neighbours. This decision is part of the EU's efforts to support an inclusive political transition in Syria, and its swift economic recovery, reconstruction, and stabilisation. From a security perspective, the EU is considering measures to help alleviate the pressure on camps in North East Syria, where persons believed to be affiliated to Da'esh and their families are detained, including by supporting rehabilitation centres and reintegration efforts of Syrian/Iraqi

nationals. Finally, as accountability and transitional justice are fundamental to lasting peace, and the EU will continue to support such efforts and will remain a staunch supporter of UN accountability mechanisms working on Syria (including the Impartial and Independent Mechanism, the Commission of Inquiry, the Independent Institution on Missing Persons) as well as other civil society actors engaged in this sphere.

Part of EU support on security addressed the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risks in the region. The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) funds projects for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the Mediterranean. EU CBRN Centres of Excellence in the Mediterranean contribute to these tasks, including those in Morocco and Algeria.

The EU continued to co-operate with Southern partners on tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation leading to violent extremism, by supporting institutional capacity building, development of relevant legislation. Counter-terrorism/security experts' work continues in EU Delegations and counter-terrorism dialogues were organised with partner countries.

Migration continues to be a priority for the EU and its Member States. Work is ongoing on the external dimension of the EU Pact for Migration and Asylum, which is the EU's overarching framework for migration policies. In this context, the EU has further strengthened its cooperation with its partners in the region, aiming at a comprehensive, balanced and mutually beneficial partnership. Helping host countries in the region in protecting millions of refugees and displaced persons, building partners' capacities for border management and anti-smuggling, funded assisted voluntary returns from host countries to countries of origin, establishing legal pathways and skills development as well as tackling the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement are important elements of these partnerships.