

EU joint reply to UNGA Resolution 80/69

"Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region"

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

As a shared crossroads between Europe, Africa and Asia, the Mediterranean region is central to the EU's security and prosperity.

Drawing on the strategic choice to deepen partnership and reshape relations with southern Mediterranean partners, on 16 October 2025 the EU adopted the Joint Communication on the Pact for the Mediterranean. Building on the 2020 Agenda for the Mediterranean, the Pact embodies a strong political commitment and provides a cooperation framework for joint actions in the areas of mutual interest. Security, preparedness and migration management is one of the Pact's three pillars. Under this pillar, the Pact will deepen peace and security co-operation, covering inter alia counter-terrorism, organised crime, cyber and hybrid threats, including foreign information manipulation, and maritime security and critical infrastructure resilience. It will also boost regional preparedness through an early warning system and stronger civil protection, while advancing co-ordinated, rights-based migration and border management backed by enhanced law-enforcement and judicial co-operation as well as tougher action against smuggling and trafficking. The initiatives under the Pact are supported by EU funding available for the programming period of 2021-2027, which has an overall allocation of EUR 15.6 billion. Co-operation under the Pact will complement bilateral support for Southern Mediterranean partners under current programming. Implementation will use EU financial instruments, aligned with Global Gateway principles. The Pact also aims to leverage additional funding from EU Member States, as well as to attract resources and investments from International Financial Institutions, the private sector and other sources across the Mediterranean.

The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East have highlighted how interlinked the region's challenges are. Developments in one area quickly spill over into others, with political, economic and security repercussions. The conflict has plunged Lebanon into a new crisis and devastating humanitarian consequences. The European Union has been steadfast in its response by mobilising EUR 100 million in humanitarian assistance with a focus on emergency shelter, health, water, sanitation, hygiene, and food. The EU supports diplomatic efforts and stresses that real peace can only be achieved by respecting international law in a consistent and principled way. The EU reiterates its call for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 by all sides.

At the same time, Gaza and the West Bank must remain in the focus of international attention. The EU stresses the need for the rapid, safe and unimpeded delivery and sustained distribution of humanitarian aid through all Gaza in accordance with international humanitarian law. It also stresses the need for the UN and its agencies, including UNRWA, and humanitarian organisations, to be able to work independently and impartially. The EU engages with all partners to contribute to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2803, recovery and reconstruction efforts. The EU reaffirms its strong commitment to international law and a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. On 20 April 2026, the High Representative co-chaired two important meetings in Brussels, the Global Alliance and the Ad-hoc Liaison Committee, which brought together international partners to coordinate support for Palestinian institutions and the two-state solution.

The fall of the Assad regime gave the Syrian people a historical opportunity to engage in a political, economic, and social transition. In this new context, the EU stood with Syria and its

people and continues to stand with them through every stage of their transition. In May 2025, the EU lifted all economic sanctions on Syria, while maintaining sanctions on Assad and his accomplices, as well as those based on security grounds. During their visit to Syria in January 2026, the European Council and Commission Presidents introduced a new EU-Syria Political Partnership to support transition, reconciliation, and rebuilding of the country's economy. The EU also announced a financial support package of around EUR 620 million for 2026 and 2027, which includes humanitarian aid, early recovery support and bilateral support for all Syrian communities. In May 2026 in Brussels, the EU held its first High-Level Political Dialogue with Syria, which provided an opportunity to discuss best avenues for bilateral cooperation, EU support for Syria's inclusive political transition as well as economic recovery and long-term reconstruction.

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 collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the League of Arab States, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation. The 2025 UfM Regional Forum took place on 28 November in Barcelona and reaffirmed commitment to tackle shared challenges and deepen Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. The Forum also endorsed a new Strategic Vision for the Organisation, focused on connecting people, economies and countries.

In support of Mediterranean partners, the EU is deploying military and civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, undertaking mediation and stabilisation efforts. Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI's 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 Resolutions 1970 (2011) and 2292 (2016). The mandate of the European Integrated Border Management Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya) has been extended 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 support the Palestinian Civil Police and wider justice institution in the areas of policing and wider criminal justice arrangements with the aim to improve security of the Palestinian population and justice reform. EUBAM Rafah continues to advise and provide technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority General for Borders and Crossings and to deliver a third-party presence at the Rafah Crossing Point between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The mandate of both EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah was extended until 30 June 2026.

Part of EU's support for security addressed the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risks in the region. Through EU Council Decisions (CFSP) 2023/1344 and (CFSP) 2024/1984 in support of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), support was provided to OPCW efforts in Syria on securing and destroying chemical weapons. The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) funds projects for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the Mediterranean. The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence, through regional offices in the Mediterranean, contribute to these tasks, including those in Morocco, Algeria and Jordan.

The EU continued to cooperate with Southern Mediterranean partners to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism. This cooperation focused on strengthening institutional capacities, supporting the exchange and development of good practices, and assisting with the drafting and implementation of relevant legislation. The work of the EU's counterterrorism experts at EU Delegations remained central to these efforts, facilitating policy exchanges and supporting cooperation activities. In parallel, dedicated counterterrorism dialogues were organised with partner countries, providing a structured platform to discuss shared priorities, assess evolving threats, and guide future cooperation. In this regard, the EU and Egypt held the second Counter-terrorism Dialogue in January 2026, while also continuing

to co-chair the Global Counter-terrorism Forum since 2023. Moreover, delivering on the EU-Egypt Leaders' Summit in October 2025, the two sides organised the first Security and Defence Dialogue, drawing upon a rich and wide agenda, including counter-terrorism.

Migration management continues to be a priority for the EU and its Member States. The EU Pact for Migration and Asylum, which is the EU's overarching framework for migration policies, enters into force in June 2026 and work is ongoing on its implementation, including of its external dimension. In a whole-of-route approach to migration management, the EU has further strengthened its cooperation with Mediterranean partners, 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, improving readmission cooperation, 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.