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DECLASSIFICATION

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dated: 6 May 2015

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Subject: Military Advice on "Strengthening the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on
Peacekeeping and Crisis Management: Priorities 2015-2018"

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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COVER NOTE

From: European External Action Service (EEAS)
To: Political and Security Committee (PSC)
Subject: Military Advice on "Strengthening the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on
Peacekeeping and Crisis Management: Priorities 2015-2018"

Delegations will find attached document EEAS(2015) 599 REV 4.

Encl.: EEAS(2015) 599 REV 4

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



**EUROPEAN UNION
MILITARY STAFF**

Brussels, 06 May 2015

EEAS (2015) 599 REV 4

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**CSDP/PSDC
COSDP**

NOTE

From: European Union Military Staff

To: European Union Military Committee

No. Prev. doc.: EEAS (2015) 599 REV3

Subject: Military Advice on "Strengthening the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management: Priorities 2015-2018".

Delegations will find attached the Military Advice on the document "Strengthening the EU-UN Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management: Priorities 2015-2018", agreed by the EUMC on 6 May 2015.

Military Advice on "Strengthening the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management: Priorities 2015-2018"

References:

- A. *"Strengthening the EU-UN Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management: Priorities 2015-2018"* (st 07632/15, 27 March 2015).
- B. *"Final report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action to enhance EU CSDP support to UN peacekeeping"* (st 07630/15, 27 March 2015).

A. INTRODUCTION AND AIM

- 1. On 31 March 2015, the PSC agreed on the strategic priority areas included in the new document *"Strengthening the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management: Priorities 2015-2018"* (document at Reference A).
- 2. On this basis, the PSC invited EUMC to prepare Military Advice on the document, in view of its endorsing by PSC ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council in May.

B. ADVICE

- 3. The EUMC commends the efforts of the UN Department of Peacekeeping (UNDPKO) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) in preparing the document under discussion, and agrees with the seven strategic priority areas identified for intensified cooperation, amongst others.
- 4. The EUMC recognises that the frequency of EU and UN complementary actions in crisis management operations is increasing, and should be maintained and strengthened, whilst respecting the autonomous decision-making authority and chains of command of both organisations.
- 5. The EUMC recalls that there is no automatism in the use of EU military capabilities, in particular EU Battle Groups, for UN missions.
- 6. The EUMC welcomes the provision to keep the EUMC updated on the military and defence aspects of the Strategic Partnership Framework every six months as this would also allow the EEAS to receive valuable military advice on the ongoing initiatives.

7. The EUMC recommends the inclusion of references to Protection of Civilians and Human Rights, in particular Gender, in the document.
8. The EUMC recommends that an After Action Review is conducted to encapsulate the many lessons that were learned/identified during the course of EUFOR RCA so that these could be taken into account when planning future bridging operations, with emphasis being placed on timelines, force generation, mandates, in theatre coordination, and transition strategies.
9. The EUMC notes the proposals to consider possible UN financial support to deploying EU Battle Groups in support of UN mandates, and modalities to re-hat the EU Battle Groups after concluding their EU deployment period, and recommends further analysing these two proposals.
10. The EUMC recommends using CSDP missions to build the capacity of African Troop Contributing Countries in order to bring the latter's security forces up to UN Peacekeeping standards.
11. The EUMC acknowledges existing bilateral agreements between the UN and EU Member States. EU-UN coordination should not affect those bilateral agreements. However, the EUMC appreciates that the provision of niche capabilities and critical enablers to UN peacekeeping operations, by Member States, is challenging in the current period, the EUMC deems discussions on UN peacekeeping capability requirements and deficiencies fruitful as this could highlight opportunities for possible Member State contributions.
12. The EUMC acknowledges that UN DPKO and the EEAS are currently conducting a mapping exercise of EU-UN-NATO support efforts in the field of defence/security sector reform and emphasizes the importance of military inputs to this initiative.
13. The EUMC views the 'Train and Equip' initiative as a valuable tool to enabling partners to address security concerns more autonomously and is looking forward to the HR/CION Joint Communication. This being the case, the EUMC welcomes the pilot exercises underway, and encourages regular UN - EU discussions to discuss synergies and cooperation in this regard. Furthermore, modalities for UN contribution to CSDP military activities carried out in support of UN Defence Sector Reform objectives or 'Train and Equip' initiatives should be examined.
14. The EUMC underlines the importance of cooperation with the UN in the development of meaningful, robust, coherent and effective SSR programmes, and recalls the utility of the military supporting in SSR.
15. The EUMC welcomes the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD) led

negotiation with the UN on a "Framework UN-EU agreement on support issues" with EUMS Logistics Directorate in a supporting role.

16. The EUMC emphasises that the conclusion of the Administrative Arrangement between the EEAS and the UN on exchanging classified information would certainly facilitate future cooperation.
17. The EUMC recognizes the importance of providing military expertise to UN through products (e.g. conceptual documents) and, within means and capabilities, human resources.
18. The EUMC notes that a mil-mil EU-DPKO workshop was carried out in UN HQ in June 2014 to test the validity of the 'Modalities for coordination during the planning phase of missions and operations'. A follow up to this mil-to-mil exercise is recommended in the second semester of 2015, ideally using the EUFOR RCA After Action Review as a basis for the exercise.
19. The EUMC considers that work on operational coordination among both organisations has to elaborate on practical aspects. In this vein, it will be desirable that the EU and UN foster the communication and relationship of the heads of deployed UN missions and agencies with the Commanders of CSDP military Operations and Missions, when operating in the same area, in particular when UN missions carry out activities of interest for CSDP actions.

C. RECOMMENDATION

20. The PSC is invited to agree with this advice.