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Committee on Foreign Affairs

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DRAFT REPORT

with a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on
the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(2013/2034(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Alexander Graf Lambsdorff

CONTENTS

Page

PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL.....	3
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PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

on the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(2013/2034(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty on European Union (TEU), in particular Articles 21 and 34 thereof,
- having regard to the proposal for a recommendation to the Council on the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, on behalf of the ALDE Group (B7-0000/2013),
- having regard to its recommendation to the Council of 13 June 2012 on the 67th Session of the UNGA¹,
- having regard to the EU's priorities for the 67th Session of the UNGA, as adopted by the Council on 23 July 2012²,
- having regard to the 67th Session of the UNGA, in particular that body's resolutions on 'The Arms Trade Treaty'³, 'Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system'⁴, 'Freedom of religion or belief'⁵, 'Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order'⁶, 'Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights'⁷, 'The rule of law at the national and international levels'⁸, and 'Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control'⁹,
- having regard to the UNGA resolution of 3 May 2011 on the participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations¹⁰,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 2003 on 'The European Union and the United Nations: the choice of multilateralism' (COM(2003)0526),
- having regard to its resolution of 7 July 2011 on EU external policies in favour of democratisation¹¹,
- having regard to the report of the joint delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Subcommittee on Human Rights to the 67th session of the UN General Assembly,

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2012)0240.

² Council of the European Union 9820/1/12.

³ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/234.

⁴ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/226.

⁵ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/179.

⁶ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/175.

⁷ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/169.

⁸ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/97.

⁹ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/48.

¹⁰ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/276.

¹¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2011)0334.

dated 28-29 October 2012,

- having regard to Rules 121(3) and 97 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Development (A7-0000/2013),
- A. whereas there is a growing need for common rules and decision-making mechanisms in order to jointly address emerging global challenges;
- B. whereas the fragmentation of global policy-making, combined with a proliferation of international and transnational forums, is creating new complexities in international relations;
- C. whereas the EU is committed to effective multilateralism with a strong UN at its core; whereas the UN is at the centre of global governance;
- D. whereas a solid and stable EU-UN partnership is fundamental to the work of the UN under all three pillars – peace and security, human rights and development – and is also instrumental to the EU’s role as a global actor;
- E. whereas respect for, and the promotion and safeguarding of, the universality and indivisibility of human rights are cornerstones of EU action on the international scene; whereas the rule of law is a pillar of sustainable peace, guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms;
1. Addresses the following recommendations to the Council:

The EU as a global actor

- (a) to ensure the coherence and visibility of the EU as a global actor at the UN; to strengthen the ability of the EU to act in a swift and comprehensive manner in the global arena and to deliver in a coordinated and timely fashion;
- (b) to advance effective multilateralism by enhancing the representativeness, transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the UN, with the aim of improving its delivery on the ground;
- (c) to engage more actively with strategic and other bilateral and multilateral partners in order to promote effective solutions to problems where only collective efforts can deliver results;

The EU and global governance

- (d) to enhance cooperation with partners in making the UN a more effective and cohesive organisation for the 21st century;
- (e) to support a comprehensive and consensual reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC); to stress that an EU seat in an enlarged UNSC remains a central, long-term goal of the EU; to further promote transparency and better coordination of policies and positions amongst EU members of the UNSC;

- (f) to pursue efforts to strengthen the role and authority of the UNGA; to help revitalise the UNGA and to increase its efficiency;
- (g) to foster a more institutionalised involvement of other stakeholders (civil society representatives, academia) in the work of the UNGA; to strengthen the UN system by broadening and deepening the pool of civilian expertise;

Peace and security

- (h) to promote the incorporation of a peacebuilding perspective into peacekeeping operations and to enhance closer coordination between peacekeeping operations and UN Country Teams and development actors;
- (i) to cooperate in strengthening the role of regional organisations in peacekeeping, conflict prevention, civilian and military crisis management, and conflict resolution; to foster joint assessment missions and interactions by the African Union and the EU in post-conflict countries;
- (j) to work with partners to ensure that the concept of the responsibility to protect (R2P) focuses on prevention, protection and post-conflict reconstruction; to assist states in building capacities to this effect;
- (k) to call on all parties to armed conflict to respect fully their obligations, including securing humanitarian space and ensuring access to humanitarian assistance for those in need; to continue efforts to improve the protection of civilians on the ground;
- (l) to cooperate with multilateral and bilateral partners towards adding more robust and effective pressure in order to put an immediate end to violence in Syria; to explore with partners, especially the US, Turkey and the League of Arab States, all options with regard to the implementation of the principle of the R2P in order to assist the Syrian people and to halt the bloodshed; to put pressure on the Syrian government to allow the swift provision of humanitarian assistance and full access to humanitarian organisations;
- (m) to maintain support for the efforts of the region and the international community for the territorial integrity of Mali and the security of the country's population, in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions; to closely coordinate its actions with regional and international partners, including the African Union and ECOWAS; to provide military training to Malian armed forces within EUTM Mali and to continue to provide assistance to MISMA (Mission Internationale de Soutien au Mali); to underline the importance of maintaining stability in the Sahel region and of preventing a negative impact on the stability of Mali's neighbouring countries;
- (n) to work closely with partners towards achieving an Arms Trade Treaty that sets the highest common standards for the regulation of the international trade in arms and the combating of illicit trafficking, thus reducing human suffering and improving international peace and security;

Human rights, the rule of law

- (o) to strengthen international efforts aimed at ensuring that all human rights agreed under UN conventions are considered universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated; to promote the mainstreaming of human rights in all aspects of the UN's work;
- (p) to seek to strengthen the process of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by embedding recommendations in bilateral and multilateral dialogues with UN member states; to facilitate an environment enabling NGOs to provide their input into the various stages of the UPR process;
- (q) to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatisation, discrimination and incitement to violence; to recognise with deep concern the rising violence against members of religious and other communities in various parts of the world;
- (r) to promote commitment to an international order based on the rule of law which is essential for the peaceful coexistence of states as well as for the building of more resilient states and sustainable peace; to strengthen respect for the rule of law as an EU foreign policy objective;
- (s) to strengthen support to states, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance as well as institution- and capacity-building;
- (t) to follow up the recommendations of the political declaration adopted at the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law in September 2012; to support the establishment of the joint global focal point for the rule of law; to fully support the role of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group in overall coordination and coherence, also in order to avoid fragmentation between services (Department for Political Affairs, UN Development Programme, etc.);

Sustainable development

- (u) to contribute to enhancing policy coherence for development and to improving the effectiveness of development aid, since these remain key issues for achieving the MDGs;
- (v) to work towards the full implementation of the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, inter alia by promoting sustainable development as the guiding principle for long-term global development;
- (w) to cooperate in making the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development operational on schedule in order to coordinate the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the goals;
- (x) to work towards the post-2015 MDG Agenda in a coherent and coordinated manner; to negotiate a single set of goals for sustainable development which have a global reach and are action-oriented, measurable, time-bound and easy to communicate; to aim for goals which incorporate sustainability, equity, and governance;

Global cooperation between parliaments

(y) to promote interaction on global issues between governments and parliaments; to strengthen global governance and allow for greater public and parliamentary participation in the activities of the UN;

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2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council, the HR/VP and, for information, the Commission.