DRAFT REPORT

on a European Parliament recommendation to the Council concerning the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (2017/2041(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev
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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION

to the Council concerning the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (2017/2041(INI))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
– having regard to the Treaty on European Union (TEU), in particular Articles 21, 34 and 36 thereof,
– having regard to the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly,
– having regard to its recommendation to the Council of 7 July 2016 on the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly¹,
– having regard to the Council conclusions of 18 July 2016 on the EU priorities for the 71st UN General Assembly,
– having regard to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants of 19 September 2016,
– having regard to its resolution of 4 February 2016 on the systematic mass murder of religious minorities by the so-called ‘ISIS/Daesh’²,
– having regard to its resolution of 27 October 2016 on the situation in Northern Iraq/Mosul³,
– having regard to Rule 113 of its Rules of Procedure,
– having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A8-0000/2017),

A. whereas the EU’s commitment to effective multilateralism, with the UN at its core, is an integral part of the EU’s external policy and is rooted in the conviction that a multilateral system founded on universal rules and values is best suited to addressing global crises, challenges and threats;

B. whereas the EU should play a proactive part in building a United Nations that can contribute effectively to global solutions, peace and security, human rights, democracy and a rule-of-law-based international order; whereas EU Member States need to make every effort to coordinate their action in the organs and bodies of the United Nations system in accordance with the mandate contained in Article 34(1) TEU;

C. whereas the EU and its Member States remain collectively the single largest financial contributor to the UN system, providing almost 50% of all contributions to the UN, with the EU Member States contributing around 40% of the UN’s regular budget; whereas

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0317.
EU contributions to the UN should be more visible;

D. whereas the EU’s security environment is increasingly unstable and volatile owing to a large number of longstanding or newly emerging challenges, including violent conflicts, terrorism, organised crime, unprecedented waves of migration and climate change, which are impossible to address at national level and require regional and global responses;

1. Recommends the following to the Council:

**Peace and security**

(a) to continue to call for the full respect of internationally recognised borders and the territorial integrity of Eastern European and South Caucasus countries, including Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in light of the violations of international law in these areas; to support and reinvigorate diplomatic efforts for a peaceful settlement of these ongoing and frozen conflicts; to urge the international community to implement fully the policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of Crimea; to actively increase pressure on Russia, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, in order to resolve the conflict in Ukraine;

(b) to push for stronger multilateral commitments to find sustainable political solutions to current conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, particularly in Syria, Yemen and Libya; to continue to support UN special envoys’ work, actions and initiatives aimed at solving these conflicts; to call for continued humanitarian, financial and political assistance from the international community in order to address the humanitarian situation and to work towards the immediate cessation of violence; to support efforts deployed by the UN to find a sustainable resolution to the conflict in Syria and to continue to back the EU’s role in the humanitarian field and the EU’s regional initiative; to support the UN peace plan initiative in Yemen and to tackle the ongoing humanitarian crisis as a matter of urgency; to call for stronger support for the UN-backed government in Libya;

(c) to call for a stronger empowerment of Iraqi institutions and for the need to work towards a more inclusive society and the reintegration of all the ethnic and religious minorities that have been displaced;

(d) to keep addressing the major security threats in the Sahel, Sahara and Lake Chad and Horn of Africa regions with a view to eradicating the terrorist threat posed by ISIL/Daesh and al-Qaeda affiliates and by Boko Haram or any other affiliated terrorist groups;

(e) to work with the international community as a whole to solve security crises threatening the African continent, in particular in Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Mali and Nigeria; to encourage UN Member States to step up support for increasing the role and own capacities of the African Union in mediation and crisis management, while striving for complementarities with the efforts of the UN Peace-Building Support Office;

(f) to call on the international community to join efforts to manage the current political
crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo and to prevent state collapse in the country;

(g) to draw the attention of the UN members, and in particular the members of the Security Council, to the increase in tensions between some countries in the Western Balkans; to urge their leaders to show restraint in their regional policies and for the EU and the UN to remain fully involved in seeking lasting solutions to bilateral differences, including by acting as mediators when necessary;

(h) to further encourage the UN’s efforts to bring about peace in Afghanistan and to overcome the fragile security environment in the country;

(i) to strongly condemn the actions of the North Korean leadership that threaten peace and security in the Korean peninsula and beyond; to draw up and implement a strong response, supported by a broad and sufficiently robust international consensus, in order to deter the North Korean regime from further developing hostile nuclear capabilities and carrying out extra-territorial assassinations, attacks and kidnappings;

(j) to increase Member State support for UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations, in particular by contributing personnel and equipment, and to enhance the EU’s role as a facilitator in this respect; to ensure better visibility for this support and contribution; to further develop procedures for the use of EU Common Security and Defence Policy in support of UN operations;

(k) to continue to support the efforts to further operationalise R2P and to support the UN in continuing to play a critical role in assisting countries in the implementation of R2P;

**Fight against terrorism**

(l) to reiterate its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and its full support for actions aimed at the defeat and eradication of terrorist organisations, in particular ISIL/Daesh, which pose a clear threat to regional and international security;

(m) to support the UN in making counter-terrorism a key element of its prevention agenda in line with the EU’s engagement in preventive measures to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism; to strengthen joint EU-UN efforts in combating the root causes of terrorism, particularly in countering hybrid threats and developing research and capacity-building in cyber defence; to rely on the existing initiatives set up by local partners to devise, implement, and develop approaches to counter radicalisation and terrorist recruitment;

(n) to step up efforts to clamp down on recruitment and fight terrorist propaganda conducted not only through social media platforms but also through networks of radicalised hate preachers; to support actions strengthening the resilience of communities vulnerable to radicalisation; to support counter-radicalisation and de-radicalisation policies in line with the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism; to support an enhanced EU contribution to UN capacity-building initiatives concerning the fight against foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism;

(o) to work with the UN General Assembly to combat the financing of terrorism and to build mechanisms to designate terrorist individuals and organisations and strengthen
asset-freezing mechanisms worldwide;

**Non-proliferation and disarmament**

(p) to support UN efforts to prevent non-state actors and terrorist groups from developing, manufacturing, acquiring or transferring weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems; to insist on full compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention;

(q) to promote the full implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and encourage all UN Member States to sign and ratify the ATT;

(r) to work towards more effective action against the diversion of and illicit trade in weapons and ammunitions, including small arms and light weapons, in particular by developing a weapons tracking system;

**Migration**

(s) to call for a strengthening of the global response to migration, by building on the successful UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting to Address Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants of 19 September 2016 and addressing the challenges and security concerns that arise, such as illegal migration and human trafficking;

(t) to promote greater support for the work of UNHCR in implementing its international mandate to protect refugees; to stress the substantial funding gap between UNHCR’s budgetary needs and funds received and to demand greater global solidarity;

(u) to demand that greater efforts be made to prevent irregular migration and to fight people smuggling and human trafficking, in particular by combating criminal networks through timely and effective exchange of relevant intelligence; to improve methods to identify and protect victims and to reinforce cooperation with third countries with a view to tracking, seizing and recovering the proceeds of criminal activities in this sector; to insist at UN level on the importance of the ratification and full implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols thereto against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

**Human rights, democracy and the rule of law**

(v) to reiterate clearly and firmly that all human rights agreed under UN conventions are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that respect for these rights must be enforced;

(w) to continue to advocate freedom of religion or belief; to call for greater efforts to protect the rights of religious and other minorities; to call for greater protection of religious minorities against persecution and violence; to call for the repeal of laws criminalising blasphemy or apostasy, which serve as a pretext for the persecution of religious minorities and non-believers; to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; to actively work for UN recognition of the genocide of religious
and other minorities committed by ISIL/Daesh, and for referral to the ICC of cases of suspected crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide;

(x) to recall the obligation of the General Assembly, when electing the membership of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), to take into account the respect of candidates for the promotion and protection of human rights;

(y) to strengthen the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the international criminal justice system in order to promote accountability and to end impunity;

(z) to maintain strong engagement in promoting an end to the death penalty worldwide; to continue to advocate zero tolerance for the death penalty; to call for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and to further work towards its universal abolition;

**Development**

(aa) to underline the leading role of the EU in the process that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the General Assembly in September 2015; to take concrete steps to ensure the efficient implementation of Agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs as important instruments for prevention and development;

**Climate change**

(ab) to ensure that the EU remains at the forefront of the fight against climate change and cooperates further with the UN in this area; to call upon all UN Members to uphold the Paris agreement and to ensure swift implementation of the decisions taken at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference;

**EU and reform of the UN system**

(ac) to underline the importance that EU Member States attach to coordinating their action in the organs and bodies of the United Nations system;

(ad) to support actively a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council on the basis of a broad consensus; to promote the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly, and improved coordination and coherence of the action of all UN institutions, which should enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, legitimacy, transparency, accountability, capacity and representativeness of the system;

2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, the European External Action Service, the Commission and, for information, the United Nations General Assembly and the Secretary General of the United Nations.