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DRAFT REPORT

on the role of the EU within the UN - how to better achieve EU foreign policy goals
(2015/2104(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the role of the EU within the UN - how to better achieve EU foreign policy goals (2015/2104(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule(s) 52 (and 132(2)) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Development, the Committee on International Trade, the Committee on Budgetary Control, the Committee on Culture and Education and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (A8-0000/2015),

The goals and global strengths of the EU

- A. whereas the future of the European Union is linked with global development; whereas the challenges EU faces need global solutions and global issues need European action;
- B. whereas the principles and goals of the European Union's external policy are enshrined in Article 21 in the Treaty of the European Union, and are closely interlinked with those of the United Nations;
- C. whereas the EU safeguards its values, fundamental interests, security, independence and integrity and acts for preserving peace, preventing conflicts and strengthening international security, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, and with the aims of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe adopted in 1990; whereas the EU is part of the collective UN security system, also as one of the regional arrangements foreseen under Chapter VIII of the Charter;
- D. whereas the EU fosters the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries with the primary aim of eradicating poverty, and provides humanitarian assistance to populations, countries and regions confronted with natural or manmade disasters;
- E. whereas the EU works for environmental sustainability by promoting international measures and actions to preserve and improve the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources;
- F. whereas the EU strengthens the foundation of social sustainability by consolidating, supporting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law;
- G. whereas the EU enhances economic sustainability by stimulating the integration of all countries into the world economy, including through the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade;
- H. whereas, according to its treaties, the EU promotes an international system based on stronger multilateral cooperation and good global governance;

- I. whereas the main emphasis of the EU's external policy has been on bilateral relations, on cooperation and partnerships with countries and groups of countries all over the world; whereas special attention has been paid over the last decades to the geopolitical goals and concerns in its immediate Eastern and Southern neighbourhoods;
- J. whereas in a context of growing global interdependence, the EU must strengthen its role both in bilateral relationships and in multilateral fora;
- K. whereas the European Union is the world leading power in four interrelated policy areas: trade, development, environment and human rights;
- L. whereas, as the largest trading block in the world, the EU has a strong role in bilateral and multilateral trade arrangements and has developed active trade policy measures for promoting economic growth, poverty reduction and protection of the environment and of natural resources;
- M. whereas the EU carries the biggest financial burden in international development cooperation, since more than half of Official Development Assistance worldwide is provided by the EU and its Member States; whereas EU development policies have high quality by promoting effectively poverty reduction and economic, social and environmental sustainability;
- N. whereas the EU has also a leading role in environmental policies, notably in the fight against climate change, not only by being the vanguard and imposing itself ambitious targets , but also by unfailingly advocating in global negotiations for committing agreements and concrete and measurable actions;
- O. whereas the EU is the most dedicated defender and promoter of human rights, cultural values, democracy and the rule of law, whose provisions are included in all its bilateral partnerships and have a central position in its multilateral policy;
- P. whereas mankind has common values and interests; whereas there should be a fair share of the burden and the benefits when solving common problems and promoting common goals and values;

The United Nations System

- Q. whereas the United Nations system is the first and foremost global forum for improving global governance and for promoting the EU's values and interests;
- R. whereas the United Nations Charter, signed 70 years ago in San Francisco, is based on the common values and interests of mankind; whereas the United Nations is the only universal and democratically governed global organization;
- S. whereas, the main goal after World War II was maintaining peace and security; whereas the promotion of economic and social development had a central place in the Charter; whereas environmental concerns have emerged on the agenda of the UN since the early 1970's; whereas in the Rio Conference (UNCED) in 1992, development and

environmental policies were merged into a combination of effective poverty reduction and promotion of sustainable development all over the world;

- T. whereas the United Nations System covers all areas of cooperation, with the Security Council at its core for peace building, peace keeping and the prevention of security threats, assisted in these regards by subsidiary and advisory bodies;
- U. whereas the United Nations System is made of 19 Specialized Agencies, among them FAO, IFAD, ILO, IMF, UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO and the World Bank Group, and comprises 11 Funds and Programmes, among them UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP¹ as well as 9 Functional Commissions, 5 Regional Commissions and a number of other bodies of the same kind; whereas organizations like the World Trade Organisation and the International Atomic Energy Agency are also linked to the UN System;
- V. whereas most of these Agencies, Funds, Programmes, Commissions and Committees work under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly, to which some of them report;
- W. whereas the United Nations System does not have any parliament;
- Y. whereas the EU and its Member States have a crucial role in promoting the principles and goals of the United Nations and in solving the common problems of mankind; whereas on the other hand Europe needs global partners in solving its own problems in areas like security, the protection of the environment, immigration and solving financial instabilities;
- Z. whereas the EU and its Member States take an active part in the work of the UN System in different ways and formats; whereas in the WTO for example the Commission represents the Member States, while ministers participate in major conferences; whereas in environmental negotiations and cooperation the Commission plays a leading role, based on the Treaty provisions; whereas development policy is an area of shared competences; whereas the General Assembly and other universal UN organs are composed of representatives of their member countries; whereas according to the Treaty the EU Member States are obliged to coordinate their action in all international fora;

How to better achieve EU foreign policy goals within the UN

1. Stresses that the General Assembly representing the governments of all member countries must have ways and means to give direction to the United Nations System and coordinate all its activities; is of the opinion that in the long term the democratic governance of the UN should be strengthened by establishing a World Parliament representing the people;

¹ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation; IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural development; ILO: International Labour Organisation; IMF: International Monetary Fund; UNESCO: UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation; UNIDO: UN Industrial Development Organisation; WHO: World Health Organisation; UNCTAD: UN Conference on Trade and Development; UNDP: UN Development Programme; UNEP: UN Environment Programme; UNFPA: UN Population Fund; UNHCR: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF: UN Children's Fund; WFP: World Food Programme.

2. Is convinced that the Security Council, whose composition is based on an outdated world order, must be reformed in order to reflect the new world geopolitical reality and to more effectively meet the present and future security challenges;
3. Considering the contribution of the EU to peace and security architecture in the world, calls on a reform of the Security Council that would ensure a permanent seat to the European Union; notes that, due to the absence of the EU from the Security Council, the burden of echoing, advocating for and defending the interests of the EU, based on a coordinated CFSP, lies on the two permanent and the rotating European members;
4. Calls on further development of preventive and early warning tools and enhanced mediation capabilities of the UN, and on more precise mandates and clear exit strategies for peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations; bearing in mind the recent atrocities and human rights violations perpetrated by some extremist groups, urges the Security Council to define an ambitious set of tools and means to ensure effective prevention of these atrocities;
5. Is of the conviction that the economic and social dimension of the UN System must be substantially strengthened, and that this could be achieved through the establishment of a Sustainable Development Council as the main decision making body for all sustainable development related matters (based on the three pillars, social, economic and environmental), ensuring coordinated and efficient assessment of the needs, and adoption of necessary roadmaps, decisions and binding measures; stresses that this is necessary to effectively implement the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN Summit in September;
6. With a view to ensure the necessary legitimacy, efficiency and effectiveness of the decisions that this Sustainable Development Council would take, considers that its status and composition should be similar to those of the Security Council with a few permanent members, including the EU, and rotating ones; considers however that no justification whatsoever can be found to entitle a country or a regional organisation to the right to stop any decision taken by a majority or a qualified majority of the members, and therefore rejects any form of veto right;
7. Considers that this Council should also have a strong coordinative role in all other fields in the UN System but security; in light of the recurring human catastrophes linked to illegal migrations, and considering that sustainable development of the countries of origin could facilitate in the long run a drying up of illegal migration flows, is of the conviction that this Council should coordinate the work of all agencies related to this concern;
8. Is of the view that the Sustainable Development Council should coordinate also the work of the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation, to ensure that their respective decisions are taken and actions are carried out in an efficient and coherent fashion; in the same spirit, is therefore of the opinion that the activities of the unofficial G-20 Group should be merged to those of this Council;

9. Believes that, besides promoting economic and social development in the world, the Sustainable Development Council should also be responsible for human well-being related matters; considers that the Sustainable Development Council should also be responsible for cultural sustainability, since culture is recognized as a key factor for building sustainable societies together with social, economic and environmental development, by integrating education, cultural diplomacy, protection of heritage, creative sector and scientific research in the policy-making approach;
10. Considers that the EU should take more advantage of partnerships with the UN Specialized Agencies, Funds, Programmes, Commissions and Committees both in enhancing its global goals and in solving its own problems;
11. Stresses that besides these necessary reforms to be carried out within the UN a better achievement of EU foreign policy goals implies a more effective coordination of the various dimensions of all its external policy, both bilateral and multilateral;
12. Welcomes in that regard the organizing into clusters of the work of the Commission elected in 2014 giving the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative the responsibility of coordinating the external policy of the EU; stresses that policies of global dimension must be at the core position in the work of this specific cluster;
13. Is of the opinion that the European Parliament must be in position to address these challenges in the same comprehensive and overarching way, and organize its work accordingly; considers that the Committee on Foreign Affairs must be entrusted the coordination of all policy fields relevant to the external action of the EU, with other Committees being requested to express their opinion;
14. Calls on the Council and the Commission to reflect on this approach and to report on an annual basis to the Parliament on the global role of the EU, ensuring hereby that the European Parliament takes an active role in the definition and the monitoring of the means to achieve EU foreign policy goals;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the European External Action Service, the United Nations General Assembly and the Secretary General of the United Nations.