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Subject: Council Conclusions on the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy
2015 - 2019

Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015 - 2019 as adopted by the Council on 20 July 2015.

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRACY 2015 - 2019**

Foreign Affairs Council, 20 July 2015

1. Welcoming the Joint Communication "*Keeping human rights at the heart of the EU agenda*", as presented by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission, the Council adopts a new Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for the period 2015-2019. With this Action Plan, the Council reaffirms the European Union's commitment to promote and protect human rights and to support democracy worldwide.

2. Based on the Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy and the 2012-2014 Action Plan, the European Union has made considerable progress in improving the impact and coherence of its actions on human rights and democracy. The EU has further developed guidelines on key human rights issues, enhanced the effectiveness of bilateral human rights and democracy work, successfully promoted action at the multilateral level, and improved the mainstreaming of human rights across the EU's external action. The Council also welcomes the important work of the EU Special Representative for Human Rights Stavros Lambrinidis, who greatly contributes to the effectiveness, coherence and visibility of EU human rights policy, and expresses full political support for his work.

3. Today's complex crises and widespread violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms require ever more determined efforts by the EU. This Action Plan should enable the EU to meet these challenges through more focused action, systematic and co-ordinated use of the instruments at its disposal, and enhanced impact of its policies and tools on the ground. The EU will put special emphasis on ownership by, and co-operation with, local institutions and mechanisms, including national human rights institutions, as well as civil society. The EU will promote the principles of non-discrimination, gender equality and women's empowerment. The EU will also ensure a comprehensive human rights approach to preventing and addressing conflicts and crises, and further mainstream human rights in the external aspects of EU policies in order to ensure better policy coherence, in particular in the fields of migration, trade and investment, development cooperation and counter terrorism.

4. The EU remains committed to implementing the entire human rights and democracy agenda as reflected in the 2012 Strategic Framework for Human Rights and Democracy, which continues to guide the Union's actions, and in the EU human rights guidelines, Council Conclusions and strategy papers. The EU will continue to promote and defend the universality and indivisibility of all human rights in partnership with countries from all regions, in close cooperation with international and regional organisations, and with civil society. The EU will step up its efforts to promote a safe and enabling environment in which civil society and independent media can flourish. The EU emphasises the key contribution that civil society actors and human rights defenders make to peace and security, stability and prosperity.

5. The Council commends the important role played by the High Representative/Vice-President and the European Commission in promoting a consistent and coherent implementation of the EU's human rights policy. The Action Plan will be implemented with the close involvement of the European Parliament and regular consultation with relevant stakeholders, in particular civil society organisations. The EU is committed to improve public diplomacy and communication on its human rights actions. A mid-term review of the Action Plan will be undertaken in 2017 which will coincide with the mid-term review of the external financing instruments in order to ensure greater coherence. The Council invites all partners to contribute to the success of this Action Plan and to promote human rights and democracy around the world.

Annex: Action Plan

EU ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

The purpose of this Action Plan is to continue implementing the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy, with sufficient flexibility so as to respond to new challenges as they arise. It builds upon the existing body of EU human rights and democracy support policies in the external action¹, notably EU guidelines, toolkits and other agreed positions, and the various external financing instruments, in particular the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. This Action Plan covers relevant human rights aspects of the EU external action.

In order to ensure an effective implementation of the Action Plan, it is important that the European institutions **work together**, while respecting their distinct institutional roles and competences, and that, where appropriate, the Action Plan is implemented by the Member States. Responsibility for carrying out the actions listed resides with the High Representative/Vice President assisted by the European External Action Service (EEAS), and with the Commission, the Council and Member States, within their respective fields of competence as defined by the Treaty on European Union². The EU Special Representative for Human Rights shall contribute to implementation of the Action Plan, in accordance with his mandate. The Action Plan covers the period until 31 December 2019 and its implementation will be reviewed in 2017.

¹ Without prejudice to the specific arrangements for candidate countries and potential candidates under the EU's enlargement policy.

² Decisions on specific steps to implement this Action Plan will be taken in accordance with the Treaties. The Action Plan does not affect the division of competence between the EU and its Member States, and will be interpreted in line with Declaration 13 to the Treaties.

Draft table of the New Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019)

Objective	Action	Timeline	Responsibility
I. BOOSTING OWNERSHIP OF LOCAL ACTORS			
<i>a) Delivering a comprehensive support to public institutions</i>			
1. Supporting the capacity of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)	a. Recognise and support the crucial role of NHRIs as independent institutions and affirm the EU commitment to support and engage in particular with those institutions which are in line with the Paris Principles; work to strengthen the involvement of such NHRIs in consultation processes at country level, in particular regarding Human Rights Dialogues and third countries' reforms.	Ongoing	Commission Services (COM), EEAS, Member States (MS)
	b. Strengthen, in the context of the NHRIs' International Coordinating Committee, the capacities of those with an 'A' status, support the upgrade of those with a 'B' status to 'A' status and cooperate with their regional and international networks; work on these issues should feed into the next mid-term programming period of the EU External Financing Instruments.	By 2017	COM, EEAS, MS
	c. Facilitate cooperation between NHRIs in EU Member States and NHRIs in partner countries.	Ongoing	MS, COM

2. Supporting the integrity of electoral processes and the strengthening of Election Management Bodies	a. Enhance the role and capacity of, and public confidence in, Election Management Bodies to independently and effectively organise credible, inclusive and transparent elections, in particular through enhanced dedicated dialogue and long term support strategy with the objective to promote the integrity of the electoral processes.	Ongoing	COM, EEAS, MS
	b. Encourage participatory and inclusive dialogue between Election Management Bodies and key stakeholders throughout the overall democratic cycle, with a view to increase participation of political parties and civil society organisations, including through their access to information and their observation of all stages of the election process; enhance the training of domestic election observers.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	c. Encourage the increased participation of women and persons belonging to marginalised groups in all stages of the election process.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
3. Supporting the capacity of Parliamentary institutions	a. Support the development of legislative, budgetary and oversight prerogatives of parliaments, assist parliaments in organising public debates on key reform issues with due account being taken of relevant international human rights obligations and standards.	Ongoing	COM, EEAS, MS
	b. Include a parliamentary dimension into EU and EU Member States' good governance programmes and budget support.	By 2017	COM, EEAS, MS

4. Targeted support to justice systems	a. Accompany judicial reform (both criminal and civil) with appropriate training of the legal profession to increase awareness of international human rights standards and obligations; support, the reform of law enforcement agencies, including through human rights training, and assistance to detention facilities in bringing conditions of detention up to international standards.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, MS
	b. Monitor and promote at bilateral and multilateral level the compliance by partner countries of their international obligations in terms of access to justice and fair trial at all stages of the legal process; mobilise as appropriate technical co-operation and support; promote the independence of the judiciary; facilitate access to justice at local level.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
5. Providing comprehensive support to public institutions	a. Continue strengthening good governance and the rule of law through support to the separation of powers, independence and accountability of democratic institutions; promote the role of domestic actors in reform processes, including constitutional reforms, in order to better reflect the interests of various stakeholders.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	b. Promote the establishment of specialised bodies in the field of anti-corruption which hold public institutions accountable; strengthen the capacity and expertise of public administration and anti-corruption bodies to develop and implement policies with integrity and good management of public resources.	Ongoing	COM, EEAS, MS
6. Strengthening cooperation with the UN and regional Human Rights and Democracy mechanisms	a. Strengthen human rights and democracy aspects in EU cooperation with the UN and regional organisations and mechanisms, in particular by pursuing synergies and common initiatives on key thematic issues and at important multilateral events.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM
	b. Promote dialogue and capacity building initiatives between regional human rights and democracy mechanisms.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

b) Invigorating civil society			
7. Promoting stronger partnership with third countries' Civil Society Organisations (CSO), including social partners and between authorities, parliaments and CSO	a. Facilitate and support structured exchanges, inter alia through sharing best practices and lessons learned, between government, members of parliament and civil society, including representatives of the social partners.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	b. Further strengthen the capacity of CSOs to hold governments accountable, including through exchanges of best practices among CSOs and through the promotion of multistakeholder dialogue and human rights and civic education.	Ongoing	COM, EEAS, MS
	c. Improve the quality of consultations organised by the EU at local level, in particular with a view to taking into consideration the views of civil society when designing and implementing policies; encourage multistakeholder dialogues (authorities, CSOs, EU and other actors) as part of the EU Delegations' (EU DELs) country roadmaps for engaging with civil society.	Ongoing	COM, EEAS, MS
	d. Step up EU engagement with political parties and citizen movements with a view to strengthening political pluralism and parties' role in fostering accountable institutions and practices, as well as inclusive national reform processes.	Ongoing	COM, EEAS, MS
8. Empowering CSOs defending the rights of women and girls	Support women's organisations and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in their work for, and defence of, the rights of women and girls, and encourage them to play a stronger role in holding decision-makers to account on gender equality and women's rights issues; encourage decision makers to engage in dialogue with women's organisations and HRDs.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

9. Invigorating support to Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), including in international and regional fora	a. Step-up consistent support to HRDs by: raising cases of at-risk HRDs including during high-level visits, dialogues and missions; addressing impunity in cases of violations against HRDs; increasing burden sharing and co-ordination between EU Delegations and Member State Embassies on HRD protection activities; sharing best practices on relevant mechanisms including temporary shelter schemes and emergency visas; continuing to support and cooperate with UN and regional mechanisms for the protection of HRDs; enhancing support for multilateral initiatives on HRDs and civil society space, including at the UN and regional organisations.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	b. Ensure more frequent outreach activities in rural areas, and more systematic support to HRDs working on women’s rights, LGBTI rights, and those advocating for the rights and inclusion of persons belonging to marginalised groups.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
10. Addressing threats to civil society space	a. Promote and support legislation, policies and mechanisms designed to protect HRDs; in particular, strengthen the implementation of the relevant EU Guidelines and the EU HRD Mechanism launched under the EIDHR.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	b. Monitor and assess the legal (e.g. laws and regulations) and enabling (e.g. arbitrary procedural, financial harassment or restrictions, in particular regarding foreign funding) environment for civil society including social partners and proactively identify and report on threats to civil society space, including reprisals, and take steps to counter such threats.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

	c. Oppose through public or non-public messaging unjustified restrictions to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, confinement of civil society's space and attempts to hinder the work of civil society, including HRDs, such as the criminalisation of HRDs, ensuring these issues are regularly raised in bilateral meetings, human rights dialogues, and UN and regional fora.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
II. ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES			
11. Protecting and promoting freedom of expression online and off line	a. Oppose –bilaterally and in multilateral and regional fora – legislation, regulation or government pressure that unduly limit freedom of expression; take active steps to prevent and respond to violence against journalists, bloggers and other media actors, enabling them to work in safety and security, online as well as offline without fear of harassment, political pressure, censorship and persecution; support efforts to strengthen free, diverse and independent media.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	b. Ensure that the respect for freedom of opinion and expression are integrated in the development of policies and programmes relating to counter terrorism, cyber security, the fight against cybercrime, access to information and other EU policies in this regard.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	c. Promote dialogue, both bilaterally as well as in multilateral fora, on the right to privacy and data protection; work to ensure that the legislation and procedures of States regarding the surveillance of communications uphold obligations under international human rights law.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

12. Promoting and Protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief	a. Ensure that freedom of religion or belief remains high on the agenda of relations with third countries, as well as in multilateral fora, in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders; promote the exchange of best practices, and deepen awareness on the various components of freedom of religion or belief at Headquarters, EU delegations and Member State embassies.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, MS
	b. Encourage and support relevant partner countries and other stakeholders' initiatives on freedom of religion or belief in particular those aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, enabling them to manifest their religion or belief without fear of violence, discrimination, political pressure, censorship or persecution.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	c. Promote inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and the role of religious and other leaders in ensuring freedom of religion or belief.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, MS
13. Combatting torture, ill-treatment and the death penalty	a. Address torture and ill-treatment (prevention, accountability and rehabilitation), and the death penalty (abolition, moratorium and minimum standards) in a comprehensive manner through political and human rights dialogues and support to partner countries, independent national prevention mechanisms and civil society; mainstream safeguards against death penalty, torture and ill-treatment in EU activities, including in counter-terrorism and in crisis management.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	b. Elaborate a coherent approach addressing the links between death penalty, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, extra judicial summary or arbitrary executions, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrest and detention.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, Council, MS

	c. Undertake joint actions to promote the absolute prohibition of torture working in close cooperation with the UN, regional organisations and civil society, including supporting the 10 year global initiative (Convention against torture Initiative), to achieve global ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Torture (CAT) by 2024; promote the ratification and implementation of its Optional Protocol (OPCAT), and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
14. Promoting gender equality, women's rights, empowerment and participation of women and girls	a. Step up the implementation of obligations and commitments to women's rights made in CEDAW, under the Beijing Platform for Action, in the Cairo Declaration on Population & Development and in the post-2015 development agenda.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	b. In the context of EU external action and development cooperation, prioritise actions targeting, inter alia the protection of physical and psychological integrity of women and girls through activities which help protect women's human rights and freedom from violence with special attention to ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Early and Forced Marriage, gender based and sexual violence in conflict; their economic, social and cultural rights and their voice and participation in social and political fora; develop and implement a successor of the EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Cooperation 2010 - 2015 (GAP).	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	c. Promote and strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment, including through a new strategy on equal opportunities for women and men and increase accountability, in coherence with the overall EU gender equality policy.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, Council

15. Promoting, protecting and fulfilling children's rights	a. Support partner countries' efforts to promote, protect and fulfil children's rights with a particular focus on strengthening child protection systems to protect children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	b. Support partner countries to promote, protect and fulfil children's rights with a focus on economic, social and cultural rights such as the right to education, health and nutrition, social protection and the fight against the worst forms of child labour, always guided by the best interests of the child.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	c. Promote the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and consider accession to the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS,
16. Cultivating an environment of non-discrimination	a. Develop an EU Toolkit on Anti-discrimination, outlining tools for antidiscrimination measures against all forms of discrimination, including multiple forms of discrimination.	By 2016	EEAS, COM, Council
	b. Promote the exchange of best practices with partner countries on strategies and policies to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

	c. Support partner countries' efforts and relevant initiatives by the UN, as well as regional organisations aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of persons belonging to minorities and engage with their representatives and civil society working on these issues.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	d. Further develop EU policy in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the outcome document of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.	By 2016	EEAS, COM, MS
	e. Continue to work at bilateral and multilateral levels with third countries, taking into account the views of civil society, towards the elimination of discrimination against LGBTI persons; increase awareness and proactive handling of LGBTI issues by staff in Headquarters, EU Delegations and Member State Embassies and step up support to local CSOs working on LGBTI issues.	Ongoing	EEAS, MS, Council, COM
	f. Step up the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in EU external action by promoting equal access and enjoyment of human rights of persons with disabilities in compliance with the UNCRPD to which the EU is a party; mainstream disability concerns in human rights actions and develop targeted actions to remove barriers to their equal participation and improve their social inclusion; support and strengthen the functioning of the mechanisms to promote, protect and monitor the UNCRPD pursuant to its article 33.2 including their set up in partner countries; take necessary steps for the EU accession to the Optional Protocol to UNCRPD.	Ongoing	COM, EEAS, Council, MS

	g. Increase awareness of the human rights and specific needs of older persons paying particular attention to age based discrimination.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
17. Fostering a comprehensive agenda to promote Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR)	a. Increase the EU's focus on ESCR in its external policy, including in its programming of external assistance, while also underlining that human rights are indivisible and interlinked; emphasize the clear recognition of the human rights dimension in areas such as social policy, health, education, access to food and water, or standard of living; promote and support the development and increased coverage of national social protection floors and gradual implementation of higher standards of social guarantees.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	b. Strengthen capacity building and develop political and operational guidance on economic, social and cultural rights in order to ensure that all relevant EU and Member State staff are informed of the international treaties related to economic, social and cultural rights, in particular those related to fundamental principles and rights at work (ILO fundamental conventions); consider accession to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	c. Step up efforts to protect Human Rights Defenders including social partners, who are working to uphold economic, social and cultural rights, with a particular focus on human rights defenders working on labour rights, land-related human rights issues, and indigenous peoples, in the context of <i>inter alia</i> 'land grabbing' and climate change.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

18. Advancing on Business and Human Rights	a. Develop capacity and knowledge on the implementation of Business and Human Rights guidelines, in particular as regards the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and other tools/initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the UNGPs; strengthen the role and expertise of EU Delegations and Member State embassies in this context; raise awareness on the UNGPs and corporate social responsibility in external action and policy dialogue with partner governments and regional organisations; promote the adoption of National Action Plans (NAPs) by partner countries; proactively engage with business, civil society, National Human Rights Institutions, on issues related to business and human rights.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, MS
	b. Ensure a strong focus on business and human rights in the overall EU strategy on Corporate Social Responsibility including priorities for the effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles.	By 2016	COM, Council, EEAS
	c. Develop and implement National Action Plans (NAPs) on the implementation of the UN Guiding principles or integrate the UN Guiding Principles in national CSR Strategies; share experience and best practices in the development of NAPs.	By 2017	MS
III. ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO CONFLICTS AND CRISES			
19. Moving from early-warning to preventive action	a. Promote and make best use of the new EU Conflict Early Warning System as a tool for the prevention of serious human rights violations.	Ongoing	EEAS, Council, MS
	b. Ensure greater coherence in the fields of human rights reporting and early warning/conflict analysis, including by addressing relevant conflict risks in human rights dialogues and consultations and through increased co-operation with international and regional organisations.	By 2016	EEAS, MS

	c. Support activities to monitor and counter incitement that could lead to serious violations or abuses of human rights, notably atrocity crimes; support activities in the fight against hate speech and violent extremism, through the identification of root causes, the development of counter-narratives, human rights education, and peace building initiatives targeting in particular children and youth.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	d. Support the role of women in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	e. Support the establishment of prevention, response and (long-term) reintegration programmes for children affected by armed conflict in co-operation with local communities, affected children and parents (e.g. psycho-social support, socio-economic reintegration, education and life-skills training as well as family tracing and reunification).	By 2017	EEAS, COM, MS
20. Enhancing the capacity to address conflicts and crises at multilateral and regional level	a. Enhance co-operation with and support for the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the UN Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, as well as other international and regional actors and CSOs engaged in preventive action.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	b. Support the work of the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and notably support the development, implementation and monitoring of Action Plans to end and prevent grave violations against children affected by armed conflict, including through advocacy and programming activities.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	c. Support the work of UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the UN team of experts and UN Action to enhance co-ordination of international efforts against sexual violence and the effective investigation and prosecution of sexual violence crimes.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

21. Supporting compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL)	a. Assess and as necessary enhance the implementation of the EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with IHL in light of the ongoing discussions on an IHL compliance mechanism.	By 2016	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	b. Take stock of the implementation of the EU's pledges at the 31st Red Cross Movement conference, prepare for the 32nd conference (December 2015) and follow up until the 33rd conference in 2019.	Ongoing	EEAS, Council, MS
	c. Develop and implement a due diligence policy to ensure that EU support to security forces, in particular in the context of CSDP missions and operations, is in compliance with and contributes to the implementation of the EU human rights policy and is consistent with the promotion, protection and enforcement of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as may be applicable.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, Council,
	d. Whenever relevant, EU Heads of Mission, and appropriate EU representatives, including Heads of EU Civilian Operations, Commanders of EU Military Operations and EU Special Representatives, should include an assessment of the IHL situation in their reports about a given State or conflict. Special attention should be given to information that indicates that serious violations of IHL may have been committed; where feasible, such reports should also include an analysis and suggestions of possible measures to be taken by the EU.	By 2017	COM, EEAS, Council, MS

22. Ending impunity, strengthening accountability and promoting and supporting transitional justice (TJ)	a. Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of Council Decision 2011/168/CFSP of 21 March 2011 on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Action Plan on its implementation; formalise the establishment of an EU/ICC Roundtable, allowing relevant staff to identify common areas of interest, exchange information on relevant activities and ensure better co-operation between the two organisations.	By 2016	EEAS, COM, Council, MS.
	b. Develop and Implement an EU policy on Transitional Justice including through a mapping exercise to identify the EU's experiences, challenges and lessons learned in its support to TJ; provide concrete guidance and training to EU mission staff working on TJ, establish a network of staff across the Commission services and EEAS and EU Member States, as appropriate, to exchange best practices and foster coherence and consistency; increase monitoring and reporting (including through the Human Rights Country Strategies) and promote inter-regional dialogue on transitional justice to improve co-operation between regional organisations.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
23. Mainstreaming Human Rights into all phases of CSDP planning, review and conduct	a. Develop sector-specific operational guidance for staff in CSDP missions working with the police, military, prison services and the judiciary, to provide practical orientation on the mainstreaming of human rights and international humanitarian law, where applicable, with emphasis on the protection of civilians in particular children, and the empowerment and participation of women and girls.	By 2017	EEAS, Council, MS

	b. Develop and implement the new common code of conduct for CSDP civilian missions, including through: pre-deployment and induction training for staff, mission-specific training to deployed staff, specialised training for senior staff, awareness-raising in missions and for local populations, and the compilation of statistics on breaches of the code; take similar steps to ensure greater awareness of standards of conduct among personnel deployed in military operations, and to raise awareness in local communities where missions/operations are deployed.	By 2017	EEAS, Council, MS
	c. Strengthen the implementation of the Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCR 1325 & 1820 and follow up resolutions on women, peace and security by taking into account the UN High Level Review and emerging issues (including counter terrorism, countering violent extremism, trafficking of human beings) as well as improving the reporting of progress on the Comprehensive Approach, adopting a strategic plan for integrating UNSCR 1325 principles into the planning, implementation and review cycle of CSDP missions and operations and improving involvement and coordination with all EU Member States.	By 2016	EEAS, COM, Council, MS,
IV. FOSTERING BETTER COHERENCE AND CONSISTENCY			
24. Migration/trafficking in human beings (THB)/smuggling of migrants/asylum policies	a. In line with the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) and the European Agenda on Migration, enhance human rights safeguards in all migration and mobility dialogues and co-operation frameworks with third countries, including Mobility Partnerships and Common Agendas on Migration and Mobility, as well as in migration-related agreements, processes and programmes, including through the analysis of human rights impacts; ensure the introduction of human rights training elements in capacity-building projects with immigration and border agencies.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, MS

	<p>b. Building on the steps already taken in the implementation of the EU Anti-Trafficking Strategy, fully integrate human rights, refugees' rights and victim protection into discussions on Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) in political, migration and mobility, security and human rights dialogues with priority countries, and with international and regional organisations and donors operating in those priority countries; EU Delegations in priority countries will make full use of their appointed contact person for THB, and raise human rights-related issues in discussions on THB with the host-country authorities; promote the ratification and implementation of key international conventions concerning trafficking in human beings and the issue of forced labour.</p>	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	<p>c. Address human rights issues associated with people smuggling through political, human rights and other dialogues with partner countries; encourage EU Delegations to make full use of their resources to ensure that people smuggling and its human rights dimension are consistently addressed in their cooperation with the host country authorities as well as with civil society, international organisations and other donors.</p>	By 2017	EEAS, MS
	<p>d. Support partner countries to promote and protect the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), including through capacity building and the promotion of the ratification of the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol.</p>	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	<p>e. Support improved access to justice and health for migrants in countries of origin and transit; promote improved conditions of detention for detained migrants and alternatives to the use of detention for irregular migrants in third countries; pay particular attention in this regard to vulnerable migrants including unaccompanied minors.</p>	Ongoing	COM, EEAS, MS

	f. Engage with the diaspora communities both inside the EU and in non-EU destination countries to promote awareness in their countries of origin of human rights abuses faced by migrants and refugees in countries of transit, and support efforts by diaspora groups to address human rights issues in their countries of origin.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, MS
	g. Identify countries of origin where human rights violations act as a key push factor, and better target political and other dialogues and programmes so as to address these violations.	By 2016	EEAS, COM, MS
	h. Continue to address the issue of statelessness in relations with priority countries; focus efforts on preventing the emergence of stateless populations as a result of conflict, displacement and the break-up of states.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
25. Trade/investment policy	a. Provide support for and strengthen effective implementation, enforcement and monitoring of GSP+ beneficiaries' commitments (relevant HR treaties and ILO conventions), including through projects with key international bodies and civil society, including social partners.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM
	b. Continue to develop a robust and methodologically sound approach to the analysis of human rights impacts of trade and investment agreements, in ex-ante impact assessments, sustainability impact assessments and ex-post evaluations; explore ways to extend the existing quantitative analysis in assessing the impact of trade and investment initiatives on human rights.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	c. EU Member States to strive to include in new or revised Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) that they negotiate in the future with third countries provisions related to the respect and fulfilment of human rights, including provisions on Corporate Social Responsibility, in line with those inserted in agreements negotiated at EU level.	Ongoing	MS

	d. Aim at systematically including in EU trade and investment agreements the respect of internationally recognised principles and guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility, such as those contained in the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UN Global Compact, the UN Guiding principles on business and human rights (UNGPs), the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, and ISO 26000.	Ongoing	COM
	e. Regularly review the Regulation on trade in goods that can be used for capital punishment or torture (1236/2005), and the Dual Use goods Regulation (428/2009) to mitigate the potential risks associated with the uncontrolled export of ICT products that could be used in a manner that leads to human rights violations.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM
26. Counter-terrorism (CT)	a. Ensure that human rights and rule of law are fully respected in the implementation of the EU's comprehensive action against terrorism in line with the 2005 EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy and are at the centre of all programmes, legislation, policies and mechanisms on counter terrorism in third countries while also ensuring compliance with IHL, as appropriate, and enabling principled humanitarian action.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	b. Ensure wide dissemination of the EU Human Rights Counter Terrorism guidance, including by engaging in outreach activities and training practitioners in the field, in particular for activities deployed under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.	By 2016	EEAS, COM

27. Pursuing a Rights Based Approach (RBA) to Development	a. Implement the EU commitment to move towards a rights based approach to development cooperation, encompassing all human rights by pursuing its full concrete integration into all EU development instruments and activities, using training and guidance, capacity support, results-oriented monitoring guidelines and criteria for evaluation with a view to achieving a full integration within the assessment of the implementation of a rights-based approach to development cooperation in 2016 targeting the mid-term review; EU Member States will work towards increasingly integrating a rights based approach in their development cooperation policies.	By 2016	COM, EEAS, Council, MS
	b. Assess the implementation of the Annex 12 of the 2012 EU Budget Support Policy that set up a Fundamental Values assessment as an essential element for budget support and in particular in this context the full integration of a rights based approach into Sector Reform Contracts.	By 2017	COM, EEAS
	c. Explore the possibility to further implement a rights based approach into non-development related external activities; contribute to discussions on the right to development; assess the implications for human rights of the post-2015 Development Agenda.	By 2017	COM, EEAS, MS
28. Strengthening the contribution of impact assessments (IAs) to the respect of Human Rights	a. Building on the existing assessment of the impact of EU actions on fundamental rights, continue to improve the incorporation of human rights in Commission impact assessments for proposals with external effect and likely significant impacts on human rights; developing further guidance on the analysis of human rights impacts, strengthening the expertise and capacities for this type of analysis and ensuring robust consultations of relevant stakeholder groups exposed to major human rights risks.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM

	b. Incorporate analysis of human rights impacts in Commission ex post evaluations of EU interventions with external effects.	Ongoing	COM, EEAS
	c. Ensure policy coherence between the analysis of human rights impacts undertaken in Impact Assessments and other human rights related policy instruments, including human rights country strategies, human rights dialogues and budget support/programming of financing instruments, with a view to addressing the identified potential negative impacts and maximise positive ones.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM
V. A MORE EFFECTIVE EU HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY SUPPORT POLICY			
29. Increasing the effectiveness of Human Rights Dialogues	a. Develop, share and build upon the best practices identified for human rights dialogues, including follow-up processes.	By 2017	EEAS, Council
	b. Ensure that human rights and democracy considerations are factored in to the different sectorial dialogues with a partner country and as such form part of the overall bilateral strategy.	Ongoing	EEAS, Council
	c. Ensure internal-external coordination in the context of human rights dialogues, including the annual EU-CSO dialogue; define and address a number of human rights and democracy priority issues in the context of external human rights dialogues on which a better EU response can be provided.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, Council, MS

	d. Continue mainstreaming co-operation at the UN and other bilateral human rights fora into bilateral human rights and political dialogue and cooperation; pursue closer cooperation and identification of joint actions, in particular with strategic partners; continue to press for universal adherence to international human rights standards and develop guidance for the systematic use of concluding observations, recommendations as well as reports of the treaty monitoring bodies, the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review and special procedures.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	e. Establish and assess priorities, objectives, modalities, indicators of progress for EU human rights dialogues and consultations, to facilitate their review.	By 2017	EEAS, Council
30. Improving the visibility and impact of Human Rights Country Strategies (HRCS)	a. Launch the second round of local Human Rights Country Strategies taking into account the lessons learned from the first round including the need to consult civil society, and the importance of public diplomacy.	2015/2016	EEAS, COM, MS, Council
	b. Integrate the HRCS' priorities and democracy analysis in political dialogues, reporting and high level visits.	Ongoing	
	c. Ensure follow up to the HRCS through joint annual implementation reports to be presented to the relevant Council bodies.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	d. Ensure that EU and Member State assistance programmes take into account and facilitate the implementation of the HRCS priorities.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

31. Focusing on an effective implementation of EU Human Rights Guidelines	a. Intensify awareness raising and dissemination of EU Guidelines and related guidance documents as well as training of staff in EU Delegations and Member State Embassies, including at the level of Ambassadors.	By 2017	COM, EEAS, MS
	b. Systematise reporting on the Guidelines' implementation and introduce logbooks on EU action on specific thematic issues in partner countries, to ensure more systematic follow-up to individual cases and to promote regular exchange of best practice in Guidelines' implementation.	By 2016	COM, EEAS, MS
32. Maximising the impact of Electoral Observation	a. Support and re-commit to the implementation of the Declaration of Principles (DoP) for International Election Observation and co-operate closely with organisations that are applying the DoP in observation methodology, such as ODHIR.	By 2016	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	b. Consolidate best practices for leveraging EU EOMS and OSCE/ODHIR Election Observation Missions recommendations in EU and EU Member State political dialogues and democracy support activities.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	c. Strengthen long term planning and integrated deployment of all aspects of EU and Member State support to the electoral cycle, by exploring innovative aid delivery mechanisms.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, MS

33. Ensuring the effective use and the best interplay of EU policies, tools and financing instruments	a. Increase coherence and complementarity of existing EU tools, financing instruments and reporting mechanisms used to promote human rights and support democracy (e.g. EIDHR, HRCS, democracy analyses and action plans, reports from election observation, election assistance and follow-up missions, Enlargement Progress Reports, ENP progress reports and action plans, civil society engagement roadmaps, assessments of fundamental values for Good Governance and Development Contracts, risk management frameworks for budget support), and taking into account the review procedures undertaken for those instruments.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, Council
	b. Strengthen democracy analysis and support on the basis of lessons learned and gaps identified from the 1 st and 2 nd generation of the democracy support pilot exercise and strengthen the capacity of EU Delegations and EU Member State Embassies to work on democracy in a coherent manner.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	c. Further develop working methods to ensure the best articulation between dialogue, targeted support, incentives and restrictive measures.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

	d. Increase coherence between human rights objectives as defined in the Action Plan and human rights country strategies and the programming of assistance of the EU and Member States on human rights; take into account best practices for the implementation of human rights related projects and make it part of all joint learning mechanisms.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS
	e. Improve coherence in the application of human rights clauses which are systematically included in all new EU international agreements.	By 2017	EEAS, COM
	f. Support the ongoing development of human rights indicators undertaken by the OHCHR with a view to: (i) facilitating measurement of the realisation of human rights, including online publication of indicators at global level, and (ii) systematising compilation and use of HR and surveying good practices and lessons learned.	By 2017	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	g. Engage systematically with the UN and with the regional organisations (e.g. AU, OAS, LAS, CoE, OSCE, ASEAN, SAARC, PIF) on best practices for human rights and the strengthening of democracy in all regions.	Ongoing	EEAS, COM, MS

34. Improve public diplomacy and communication on human rights	a. Improve the accessibility and visibility of the EU's human rights policy by making more effective use of the internet and social media, including through an increased and more consolidated web presence.	By 2016	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
	b. Better communicate at country level to reach and engage with civil society and the public on country specific human rights priorities and activities	By 2016	EEAS, COM, Council, MS
