Recommendation on the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly

2016/2020(INI) - 25/04/2016 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Andrey KOVATCHEV (EPP, BG) with a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly

Recalling the EU's commitment to effective multilateralism and good global governance, Members addressed the following recommendations to the Council:

Peace and security:

- to take active steps to ensure that all parties directly or indirectly involved in armed conflicts and their organisations comply in full with their international obligations and the standards laid down in international law and make efforts to secure peaceful, diplomatic solutions to conflicts;
- to continue to support multilateral attempts to find lasting political and peaceful solutions to on-going conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa;
- to support the Intra-Syrian Talks aiming for a cessation of hostilities;
- to make certain the UN General Assembly provides, in cooperation with the EU and the USA, all instruments to ensure that a two-state solution, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states;
- 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;
- to support the ongoing comprehensive efforts to strengthen UN peace operations and the organisation's ability to address conflict;
- to **promote a culture of prevention within the UN system** in order to improve its capacity to respond more quickly to emerging crises and potential threats to peace and security,;
- to increase Member State support for UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations including through the deployment of EU Battlegroups, while paying sufficient attention to issues such as human rights, sustainable development and the root causes of mass migration.

Fight against terrorism:

- to reiterate its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and its full support for actions aimed at the defeat and **eradication of terrorist organisations, in particular, the so-called 'ISIS/Daesh',** which poses a clear threat to regional and international security,
- to continue to work with the UN in combating the financing of terrorism;
- to promote a **coordinated international effort to counter the growing threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices** (IEDs);
- to reiterate the need for an adequate mix of security, law enforcement, human rights, socio-economic instruments that offers more adequate options for responding to violent extremism as posed by Daesh, al-Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and others;
- to **support an enhanced EU contribution to UN capacity building initiatives** concerning the fight against foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism.

Non-proliferation and disarmament:

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- 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 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;
- to **promote a policy response at global level on the use of armed drones**, aimed at keeping their use strictly within the limits of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Migration:

- to promote greater support for the work of UNHCR in implementing its international mandate to protect refugees;
- 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 r 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.

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law:

- 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;
- to continue to advocate for freedom of religion or belief, including for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons;
- to continue to **advocate for zero tolerance for the death penalty** and to further work towards its universal abolition, leading the way towards the adoption of the next UN General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty;
- to strengthen the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and call for a UN Security Council referral of the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the ICC.

Development

- to work towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- to insist on the need to strengthen policy coherence for development within the UN working structures in order to effectively integrate all dimensions of sustainable development;
- to work towards the reinforcement of international fiscal cooperation, supporting the creation of an international tax body within the UN system;
- to launch a global plan to fight antimicrobial resistance, in order to prevent the further spreading of resistant super bacteria.

EU and reform of the UN system:

- to support a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council on the basis of a broad consensus, in order to better reflect the new world reality and to ensure that the Council is able to deal effectively with threats to international peace and security;
- to promote the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly, and improved coordination and coherence of the action of all UN institutions;
- in view of the 2015 UN report and recent sexual **child abuse allegations against French and UN troops** in the Central African Republic, to make sure that the UN, EU Member States and the EU's CSDP organs investigate, prosecute and sentence any UN, national and EU personnel who committed acts of sexual violence;

- in view of the recent case of conflict of interest of the UN Special Representative for Libya to initiate a binding code of conduct that obliges office holders to maintain impartiality.