

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 25 June 2012

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat Dated: 25 June 2012

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Subject: Human Rights and Democracy: EU Strategic Framework and EU Action Plan

Delegations will find attached a package consisting of Council conclusions on Human Rights and Democracy (ANNEX I), the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy (ANNEX II) and an EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (ANNEX III), as adopted by the Council on 25 June 2012.

Council conclusions on Human Rights and Democracy

- 1. Underlining the EU's determination to promote human rights and democracy throughout the world, the Council today adopts an EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy, to guide the EU's engagement in years to come. At the same time, the Council adopts an Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for implementation of the Strategic Framework.
- 2. The Council emphasises the importance of an EU Special Representative (EUSR) on Human Rights for enhancing the effectiveness and visibility of the EU's Human Rights policy, and looks forward to appointing this EUSR swiftly.
- 3. The Council is committed to working in close cooperation with the European Parliament and the European Commission, and in a spirit of genuine partnership with civil society.
- 4. The EU is committed to working with partners, multilateral forums and international organisations in the field of human rights and democracy.

EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy

Human rights throughout EU policy

The European Union is founded on a shared determination to promote peace and stability and to build a world founded on respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. These principles underpin all aspects of the internal and external policies of the European Union.

Human rights are universally applicable legal norms. Democracy is a universal aspiration. Throughout the world, women and men demand to live lives of liberty, dignity and security in open and democratic societies underpinned by human rights and the rule of law. Sustainable peace, development and prosperity are possible only when grounded upon respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Yet respect for human rights and democracy cannot be taken for granted. Their universal nature is questioned on grounds of cultural differences. Modern information and communications technologies, while facilitating the free exchange of information between individuals, have also massively increased the coercive power of authoritarian states.

The EU is aware of these challenges and determined to strengthen its efforts to ensure that human rights are realised for all. The EU will continue to throw its full weight behind advocates of liberty, democracy and human rights throughout the world.

Promoting the universality of human rights

The EU reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights, whether civil and political, or economic, social and cultural. The EU calls on all States to implement the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to ratify and implement the key international human rights treaties, including core labour rights conventions, as well as regional human rights instruments. The EU will speak out against any attempt to undermine respect for universality of human rights.

The Joint Communication of the European Commission and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy 'Human Rights and democracy at the heart of EU external action – Towards a more effective approach', which takes stock of the impact of policy to date and proposes areas for further action, is a welcome contribution towards the development of an EU human rights strategy to promote these goals through its external action.

Pursuing coherent objectives

Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union has reaffirmed the EU's determination to promote human rights and democracy through all its external actions. The entry into legal force of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the prospect of the EU's acceptance of the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights through its accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, underline the EU's commitment to human rights in all spheres. Within their own frontiers, the EU and its Member States are committed to be exemplary in ensuring respect for human rights. Outside their frontiers, promoting and speaking out on human rights and democracy is a joint responsibility of the EU and its Member States.

The EU seeks to prevent violations of human rights throughout the world and, where violations occur, to ensure that victims have access to justice and redress and that those responsible are held to account. To this end, the EU will step up its efforts to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law across all aspects of external action. It will strengthen its capability and mechanisms for early warning and prevention of crises liable to entail human rights violations. It will deepen its cooperation with partner countries, international organisations and civil society, and build new partnerships to adapt to changing circumstances. The EU will strengthen its work with partners worldwide to support democracy, notably the development of genuine and credible electoral processes and representative and transparent democratic institutions at the service of the citizen.

Human rights in all EU external policies

The EU will promote human rights in all areas of its external action without exception. In particular, it will integrate the promotion of human rights into trade, investment, technology and telecommunications, Internet, energy, environmental, corporate social responsibility and development policy as well as into Common Security and Defence Policy and the external dimensions of employment and social policy and the area of freedom, security and justice, including counter-terrorism policy. In the area of development cooperation, a human rights based approach will be used to ensure that the EU strengthens its efforts to assist partner countries in implementing their international human rights obligations.

Implementing EU priorities on human rights

The EU will continue to promote freedom of expression, opinion, assembly and association, both on-line and offline; democracy cannot exist without these rights. It will promote freedom of religion or belief and to fight discrimination in all its forms through combating discrimination on grounds of race, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation and advocating for the rights of children, persons belonging to minorities, indigenous peoples, refugees, migrants and persons with disabilities. The EU will continue to campaign for the rights and empowerment of women in all contexts through fighting discriminatory legislation, gender-based violence and marginalisation. The EU will intensify its efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights; the EU will strengthen its efforts to ensure universal and non-discriminatory access to basic services, with a particular focus on poor and vulnerable groups. The EU will encourage and contribute to implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The death penalty and torture constitute serious violations of human rights and human dignity. Encouraged by the growing momentum towards abolition of the death penalty worldwide, the EU will continue its long-standing campaign against the death penalty. The EU will continue to campaign vigorously against torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

The fair and impartial administration of justice is essential to safeguard human rights. The EU will step up its efforts to promote the right to a fair trial and equality before the law. The EU will continue to promote observance of international humanitarian law; it will fight vigorously against impunity for serious crimes of concern to the international community, including sexual violence committed in connection with armed conflict, not least through its commitment to the International Criminal Court.

Courageous individuals fighting for human rights worldwide frequently find themselves the target of oppression and coercion; the EU will intensify its political and financial support for human rights defenders and step up its efforts against all forms of reprisals. A vigorous and independent civil society is essential to the functioning of democracy and the implementation of human rights; effective engagement with civil society is a cornerstone of a successful human rights policy. The EU places great value on its regular dialogue with civil society both inside and outside the EU and is profoundly concerned at attempts in some countries to restrict the independence of civil society. As a leading donor to civil society, the EU will continue supporting human rights defenders under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and make funding operations more flexible and more accessible.

Working with bilateral partners

The EU will place human rights at the centre of its relations with all third countries, including its strategic partners. While firmly based on universal norms, the EU's policy on human rights will be carefully designed for the circumstances of each country, not least through the development of country human rights strategies. The EU will always seek constructive engagement with third countries; in this light, the EU will continue to deepen its human rights dialogues and consultations with partner countries and will aim to ensure that these dialogues lead to results. The EU will raise human rights issues vigorously in all appropriate forms of bilateral political dialogue, including at the highest level. In addition, the EU will work with partner countries to identify areas where EU geographic funding instruments can be used to support projects which bolster human rights, including support for human rights education and training. However, when faced with violations of human rights, the EU will make use of the full range of instruments at its disposal, including sanctions or condemnation. The EU will step up its effort to make best use of the human rights clause in political framework agreements with third countries. In the European Neighbourhood Policy countries, the EU has firmly committed itself to supporting a comprehensive agenda of locally-led political reform, with democracy and human rights at its centre, including through the policy of "more for more". Human rights will remain at the heart of the EU's enlargement policy.

Working through multilateral institutions

The EU remains committed to a strong multilateral human rights system which can monitor impartially implementation of human rights norms and call all States to account. The EU will resist strenuously any attempts to call into question the universal application of human rights and will continue to speak out in the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council and the International Labour Organisation against human rights violations. The independence and effectiveness of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as of the treaty monitoring bodies and UN Special Procedures, is essential. The EU underlines the leading role of the UN Human Rights Council in addressing urgent cases of human rights violations and will contribute vigorously to the effective functioning of the Council; the EU stands ready to cooperate with countries from all regions to this end. The EU calls on all members of the Human Rights Council to uphold the highest standards of human rights and to live up to their pledges made before election. Welcoming the establishment of Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the EU and its Member States are committed to raising UPR recommendations which have been accepted, as well as recommendations of treaty monitoring bodies and UN Special Procedures, in bilateral relations with all third countries; the Member States are equally determined to ensure implementation of such recommendations within their own frontiers. In forthcoming UPR rounds, the EU will pay close attention to the degree of implementation by third countries of UPR commitments which they have accepted and will endeavour to provide support for their implementation.

The EU will continue its engagement with the invaluable human rights work of the Council of Europe and the OSCE. It will work in partnership with regional and other organisations such as the African Union, ASEAN, SAARC, the Organisation of American States, the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Pacific Islands Forum with a view to encouraging the consolidation of regional human rights mechanisms.

The EU working together

The European Parliament's democratic mandate gives it particular authority and expertise in the field of human rights. The Parliament already plays a leading role in the promotion of human rights, in particular through its resolutions. While respecting their distinct institutional roles, it is important that the European Parliament, the Council, the Member States, the European Commission and the EEAS commit themselves to working together ever more closely to realise their common goal of improving respect for human rights.

EU ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

The purpose of this action plan is to implement 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 policy on human rights and democracy in external action¹, notably EU guidelines, toolkits and other agreed positions and the various financial instruments, in particular the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Responsibility for carrying out the actions listed resides with the High Representative assisted by the 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/her mandate. The action plan covers the period until 31 December 2014.

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

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.

Outcome	Action	Timing	Responsibility
I. Human rights and democracy			
throughout EU policy			
1. Incorporate human rights in all	Insert human rights in Impact Assessment, as and when it is carried out	Ongoing	Commission
Impact Assessment	for legislative and non-legislative proposals, implementing measures		
	and trade agreements that have significant economic, social and		
	environmental impacts, or define future policies.		
2. Genuine partnership with civil	(a) Heads of EU Delegations, Heads of Mission of EU Member States,	Ongoing	EEAS
society, including at the local level	heads of civilian missions and operation commanders shall work closely		Commission
	with human rights NGOs active in the countries of their posting.		Member States
	(b) Ensure effective support to CSOs, including via the Civil Society	Ongoing	Commission
	Facility, the EIDHR and other relevant programmes and instruments.		
	(c) Consolidate consultations with civil society, notably on policy	Ongoing	EEAS
	initiatives and dialogues on human rights; work in full partnership with		Commission
	civil society in the Annual EU NGO Forum.		
3. Regular assessment of	Present EU performance in meeting the objectives of its human rights	Annually	EEAS
imple mentation	strategy in the annual report on human rights and democracy in the		
	world.		

II. Promoting the universality of			
human rights			
4. Universal adherence	(a) Intensify the promotion of ratification and effective implementation	Ongoing	EEAS
	of key international human rights treaties, including regional human		Commission
	rights instruments.		Member States
	(b) Encourage third countries to fully cooperate with UN Special	Ongoing	EEAS
	Rapporteurs and Independent Experts on human rights, including		Commission
	through issuing standing invitations and receiving such experts.		Member States
5. A culture of human rights and	(a) Provide training on human rights and democracy for all staff: EEAS,	Ongoing	EEAS
democracy in EU external action	Commission, EU Delegations, CSDP missions and operations.		Commission
	(b) Complete a network of focal points on human rights and democracy	End 2013	EEAS
	in EU Delegations and CSDP missions and operations.		Commission
	(c) Expand the practice of working on human rights issues through	Ongoing	EEAS
	human rights working groups formed locally among EU Delegations		Member States
	and embassies of Member States.		

III. Pursuing coherent policy			
objectives			
6. Effective support to de mocracy	(a) Adopt democracy reports and plans of action on the first generation	End 2012	EEAS
	of pilot countries identified by Council Conclusions of December 2010.		EU Delegations
	(b) Identify the second generation of pilot countries building on the	Early 2013	Council
	experiences from the first, whilst maintaining geographical balance		EEAS
	between different regions.		Commission
	(c) Develop EU joint comprehensive democracy support plans and	Early 2014	EEAS
	programmes on the basis of the pilot countries exercise outcome, for		Commission
	third countries where the EU is actively engaged in democracy support.		
	(d) Systematise follow-up use of EU Election Observation Missions and	End 2012	Council
	their reports in support of the whole electoral cycle, and ensure effective		EEAS
	implementation of their recommendations, as well as the reports of other		Commission
	election observation bodies (eg OSCE/ODIHR).		Member States

7. A standing capability on	(a) Establish a Brussels formation of COHOM.	End 2012	Council
human rights and democracy in			EEAS
the Council of the EU			
	(b) Further develop arrangements for burden sharing in order to make	Early 2013	Member States
	the best use of Member State capabilities and expertise in pursuing the		
	EU human rights policy.		
8. Achieving greater policy	(a) Intensify cooperation between the Council working parties on	Ongoing	Council
coherence	fundamental rights (FREMP) and human rights (COHOM) to address		
	issues of coherence and consistency between the EU's external and		
	internal human rights policy.		
	(b) Organise periodic exchanges of views among Member States on best	Annually	EEAS
	practice in implementing human rights treaties.		Member States
	(c) Ensure that EU policy documents contain appropriate references to	Ongoing	EEAS
	relevant UN and Council of Europe human rights instruments, as well as		Commission
	the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.		

9. Respect for economic, social	(a) Contribute to shaping the agenda on economic, social and cultural	Mid 2013	Member States,
and cultural rights	rights with specific focus on the UN Human Rights Council and in close		EEAS,
	cooperation with UN Special Rapporteurs covering the respective rights.		Commission
	(b) Address specific questions related to economic, social and cultural	Ongoing	EEAS
	rights in dialogues with third countries.		Commission
IV. Human rights in all EU			
external policies			
10. Working towards a rights	(a) Develop a toolbox for working towards a rights based approach to	2013	Commission
based approach in development	development cooperation, with the aim of integrating human rights		EEAS
cooperation	principles into EU operational activities for development, covering		Member States
	arrangements both at HQ and in the field for the synchronisation of		
	human rights and development cooperation activities.		
	(b) Include the assessment of human rights as an overarching element in	2013	Commission
	the deployment of EU country aid modalities, in particular regarding		EEAS
	budget support.		
	(c) Integrate human rights issues in the EU advocacy on the global	Ongoing	Commission
	development agenda and other global issues, in particular the process		EEAS
	post the Millennium Development Goals.		Member States

11. Make trade work in a way	(a) Develop methodology to aid consideration of the human rights	2014	EEAS
that helps human rights	situation in third countries in connection with the launch or conclusion		Commission
	of trade and/or investment agreements.		Council
	(b) Reinforce human rights (or political) dialogues with FTA partners to	Ongoing	EEAS
	encourage the protection and promotion of human rights (including core		Commission (for
	labour standards) and apply the strengthened GSP+ monitoring		GSP+
	mechanism.		beneficiaries)
	(c) Ensure that EU investment policy takes into account the principles	2013	EEAS
	and objectives of the Union's external action, including on human		Commission
	rights.		Council
	(d) Review Regulation 1236/2005 on trade in goods which can be used	2013	Commission
	for capital punishment or torture to ensure improved implementation.		Council
	(e) Ensure that the current review of Council Common Position	2013	EEAS
	2008/944/CFSP on Arms Exports takes account of human rights and		Member States
	International Humanitarian Law.		
	(f) Work towards ensuring that solid human rights criteria are included	Ongoing	Member States
	in an international arms trade treaty.		EEAS
			Commission

12. Reflect human rights in conflict prevention and crisis	(a) Include human rights violations as one of the indicators for the early warning matrix in developing an EU early warning system.	Ongoing	EEAS
manage ment activities			
	(b) Systematically include human rights, child protection, gender	End 2014	Council
	equality- and IHL where relevant - in the mandates of EU missions and		
	operations and in their benchmarks, planning and evaluation.		
	(c) Operationalise the EU comprehensive approach on implementing	2013	EEAS
	UNSC resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security, in		EUSRs
	particular ensuring women's equal involvement in all efforts for the		CSDP missions
	maintenance of peace and security, including post-conflict		Commission
	reconstruction.		
	(d) Devise a mechanism for accountability in case of possible breaches	Mid 2013	EEAS
	of the Code of Conduct by operation or mission staff.		Council
			Commission

13. Entrench human rights in	(a) Develop operational guidance to ensure the consideration of human	2014	EEAS
counter-terrorism activities	rights, and where applicable IHL, in the planning and implementation of		CTC
	counter-terrorism assistance projects with third countries, in particular		Commission
	as regards the respect of due process requirements (presumption of		Member States
	innocence, fair trial, rights of the defence).		
	(b) Ensure that human rights issues are raised in all forms of counter-	Ongoing	EEAS
	terrorism dialogues with third countries.		CTC
			Commission
14. Ensure human rights	(a) Develop a list of priority countries and regions for future	2012	Commission
underpin the external dimension	partnerships in the area of the fight against human trafficking.		Anti-trafficking
of work in the area of 'freedom,			Coordinator
security and justice' (FSJ)			EEAS
	(b) Ensure appropriate education and training of diplomatic and	Ongoing	Member States
	consular staff, in order to detect and handle cases where trafficking is		EEAS
	suspected.		
	(c) Ensure that human rights issues, including women's enjoyment of	Ongoing	Commission
	human rights, are taken into account in FSJ Sub-Committees with third		EEAS
	countries.		

	(d) In line with the Communication on the Global Approach to	2014	Commission
	Migration and Mobility, develop a joint framework between		EEAS
	Commission and EEAS for raising issues of statelessness and arbitrary		
	detention of migrants with third countries.		
15. Ensure promotion of human	Promotion of universal ratification and implementation of the four ILO	Ongoing	EEAS
rights in the external dimension	core labour standards: the ban on child labour, the ban on forced labour,		Member States
of employment and social policy	non-discrimination and freedom of association and collective		Commission
	bargaining.		
V. Implementing EU priorities on			
human rights			
16. Abolition of the death penalty	(a) Actively contribute to lobbying on the UNGA 67 Resolution on the	End 2012	EEAS
	death penalty moratorium, in order to increase support among States		Member States
	while developing also further the content of the initiative.		
	(b) Undertake targeted campaigns on the death penalty and intensify	2013-2014	EEAS
	engagement with retentionist countries.		Member States
	(c) Ensure EU input to the World Congress against the Death Penalty	June 2013	EEAS
	2013.		Member States

17. Eradication of torture and	(a) Actively and continuously support and implement UN and Council	Ongoing	EEAS
other cruel, inhuman or	of Europe anti-torture efforts, including support for the UN Special		Member States
degrading treatment or	Rapporteur on Torture, the UN Voluntary Fund for the Victims of		
punishme nt	Torture, the OHCHR, UNCAT, SPT, and CPT.		
	(b) Promote ratification and effective implementation of CAT and	Ongoing	Member States
	OPCAT emphasising the role of independent and effective National		EEAS
	Preventive Mechanisms.		
	(c) Integrate torture prevention measures into all FSJ activities,	Ongoing	Member States
	including those related to law enforcement purposes.		Commission
18. Effective support to Human	(a) Develop and implement a voluntary initiative to facilitate the	Mid-2013	EEAS
Rights Defenders	provision of temporary shelter to human rights defenders at risk.		Member States
			Commission
	(b) Promote improved access by human rights defenders to the UN and	Ongoing	EEAS
	regional human rights protection mechanisms, and address the issue of		Member States
	reprisals against defenders engaging with those mechanisms.		Commission
	(c) Publish contact details of the human rights focal points of all EU	End 2012	EEAS
	missions, as well as EU Liaison Officers on human rights defenders on		Member States
	the websites of the EEAS and EU Delegations.		Commission

19. Promotion and protection of	(a) Conduct a targeted campaign on the rights of the child with a	2013	EEAS
children's rights	specific focus on violence against children.		Commission
	(b) Step up efforts to implement the Revised Implementation Strategy of	End 2014	EEAS
	the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, and in particular		Commission
	continue to support the work of the UN SGSR CAAC and UNICEF.		
	(c) Ensure EU input to the World Conference against Child Labour.	2013	EEAS
			Commission
	(d) Promote the establishment of up-to-date hazardous work lists (C182,	Ongoing	Commission
	Article 4).		Member States
20. Protection of the rights of	(a) Conduct a targeted campaign on political and economic participation	End 2013	EEAS
women, and protection against	of women with special focus on countries in transition.		
gender-based violence			
	(b) Support relevant initiatives against harmful traditional practices, in	End 2014	EEAS
	particular FGM (female genital mutilation).		Member States
	(c) Promote the prevention of early and forced marriages affecting	End 2014	EEAS
	children.		Member States

	(d) Implement the nine specific objectives of the EU plan of action for	Ongoing	Member States
	gender equality and women's empowerment in development 2010-15.		Commission
			EEAS
	(e) Support initiatives, including of civil society, against gender based	Ongoing	EEAS
	violence and feminicide.		Commission
			Member States
21. Compliance with	(a) Continue to implement the pledges made by the EU at the 31 st	End 2014	Member States
international humanitarian law	International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.		EEAS
(IHL)			Commission
	(b) For the purpose of promoting compliance with IHL and	Ongoing	EEAS
	safeguarding humanitarian access, continue to support IHL		Commission
	dissemination to all warring parties, including armed non State actors.		
	(c) Make more systematic use of political dialogue and demarche	Ongoing	EEAS
	campaigns to encourage third countries to ratify core IHL instruments		Commission
	and implement IHL obligations.		
	(d) Promote adhesion by third countries to the Montreux Document on	Ongoing	EEAS
	Private Military and Security Companies.		Member States

22. Enjoyment of human rights	(a) Develop public EU guidelines, building upon the EU's LGBT	Mid 2013	Council
by LGBT persons	(lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual) toolkit.		
	(b) Develop an EU strategy on how to cooperate with third countries on	2013	Member States
	human rights of LGBT persons, including within the UN and the		EEAS
	Council of Europe. Promoting adoption of commitments in the area of		
	human rights of LGBT within the OSCE, including through		
	organisation of a public event in the OSCE framework.		
23. Freedom of Religion or Belief	(a) Develop public EU Guidelines on Freedom of Religion or Belief	End 2012	Council
	(FoRB) building upon existing instruments and documents, recalling		
	key principles and containing clearly defined priorities and tools for the		
	promotion of FoRB worldwide.		
	(b) Present EU initiatives at the UN level on freedom of religion or	Ongoing	EEAS
	belief, including resolutions at General Assembly and Human Rights		Member States
	Council.		
	(c) Promote initiatives at the level of OSCE and the Council of Europe	Ongoing	EEAS
	and contribute to better implementation of commitments in the area of		Member States
	Freedom of Religion or Belief.		

24. Freedom of expression online	(a) Develop new public Guidelines on Freedom of expression online	End 2013	Council
and offline	and offline, including the protection of bloggers and journalists.		
	(b) Develop measures and tools to expand internet access, openness and	2013	EEAS
	resilience to address indiscriminate censorship or mass surveillance		Commission
	when using ICTs; empower stakeholders to use ICTs to promote human		Member States
	rights, taking into account privacy and personal data protection.		
	(c) Ensure that a clear human rights perspective and impact assessment	Ongoing	EEAS
	is present in the development of policies and programmes relating to		Commission
	cyber security, the fight against cyber crime, internet governance and		
	other EU policies in this regard.		
	(d) Include human rights violations as one of the reasons following	2014	Council
	which non-listed items may be subject to export restrictions by Member		Member States
	States.		Commission
25. Implementation of the UN	(a) Ensure implementation to the Commission Communication on	2013	Commission
Guiding Principles on Business	Corporate Social Responsibility, in particular by developing and		
and human rights	disseminating human rights guidance for three business sectors (ICT; oil		
	and gas; employment and recruitment agencies), and for small and		
	medium-sized enterprises.		

	(b) Publish a report on EU priorities for the effective implementation of	End of 2012	Commission
	the UN Guiding Principles. (c) Develop national plans for EU Member States on implementation of the UN Guiding Principles.	2013	Member States
26. Administration of justice	(a) Conduct a campaign on justice, focusing on the right to a fair trial.	2014	EEAS
	(b) Continue to ensure monitoring of important human rights related	Ongoing	EU HoMs
	trials, in particular trials against human rights defenders.		EU Delegations
27. Responding to violations:	(a) Implement the updated Decision on the ICC (2011/168/CFSP),	Ongoing	Member States
ensuring accountability	adopted on 21 March 2011 and the associated action plan, including by		EEAS
	promoting ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute.		Commission
	(b) Given states' primary duty to investigate grave international crimes,	Ongoing	EEAS
	promote and contribute to strengthening the capacity of national judicial		Member States
	systems to investigate and prosecute these crimes.		

		2014	EE A C
	(c) Develop policy on transitional justice, so as to help societies to deal	2014	EEAS
	with the abuses of the past and fight impunity (truth and reconciliation		Commission
	commissions, reparations, criminal justice, link with ICC), recognising		Member States
	that such policy must allow for tailored approaches to specific		
	circumstances.		
28. Promote the respect of the	Review best practice and ensure the use of existing EU instruments to	2014	EEAS
rights of persons belonging to	support efforts to protect and promote the rights of persons belonging to		Commission
minorities	minorities, in particular in dialogues with third countries.		Member States
29. A strengthened policy on	Review and further develop EU policy relative to the UN Declaration on	2013-2014	EEAS
indigenous issues	the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with a view to the 2014 World		Commission
	Conference on Indigenous Peoples.		Member States
30. Enjoyment of human rights	(a) Promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including in	Ongoing	Commission
by persons with disabilities	development programmes, in the framework of the European Disability		EEAS
	Strategy 2010-2020 and implementation of the UN Convention on the		
	Rights of Persons with Disabilities.		
	(b) Update the Guidance Note on Disability and Development to be in	2012	Commission
	line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities.		

VI. Working with bilateral			
partners			
31. Impact on the ground through	(a) Continue to develop local human rights country strategies in third	2012-2013	EEAS
tailor-made approaches	countries and complete the ongoing first round. Assess lessons learnt,		Commission
	including with regard to the geographical scope, and identify best		Member States
	practise as a basis for the second round.		
	(b) Ensure that the human rights country strategies are taken into	Ongoing	EEAS
	account in human rights and political dialogues at all levels, in policy-		Commission
	making and when programming and implementing financial assistance		Member States
	with third countries, including in Country Strategy Papers.		
	(c) Ensure that the human rights country strategies are effectively	Ongoing	EEAS
	mainstreamed by the EEAS, Commission and Member States.		Commission
			Member States
	(d) Ensure comprehensive follow up to the human rights country	Annually	EU Delegations,
	strategies through annual progress reports and reviews.		EU HoMs
	(e) Systematise follow-up of the ENP progress reports, including on	Ongoing	EEAS
	human rights and democracy, so as to ensure that the "more for more"		Commission
	principle is applied in a consistent fashion across the ENP region.		

32. Impact through dialogue	(a) Establish priorities, objectives, indicators of progress for EU human	2014	EEAS
	rights dialogues and consultations, to facilitate their review.		Commission
	(b) Perform a review regarding best practice in applying Articles 8 and	2013	EEAS
	96 of the Cotonou Agreement, including how to ensure follow up.		Commission
	(c) Make full use of recommendations from UPR, Treaty Monitoring	Ongoing	EEAS
	Bodies and Special Procedures in engagement with third countries.		Commission
			Member States
33. Effective use and interplay of	(a) Further develop working methods to ensure the best articulation	2013	EEAS
EU external policy instruments	between dialogue, targeted support, incentives and restrictive measures.		Member States
			Commission
	(b) Develop criteria for application of the human rights clause.	2014	EEAS
			Member States
			Commission
VII. Working through			
multilateral institutions			
34. Advance effective	Develop and agree an annual approach to the identification of priorities	Annually	EEAS
multilate ra lis m	at the UN – and where relevant the ILO – across all human rights		Member States
	related meetings in Geneva and New York, in consistency with the mid-		
	term priorities defined for its action at the UN.		

35. Effective burden sharing in	Strengthen the existing system of burden sharing so as to make best use	2013	Member States
the UN context	of Member States capacity and expertise, to strengthen the ownership		EEAS
	and responsibility of all EU partners in the formulation and		
	implementation of EU human rights policy.		
36. Strengthened regional	Continue to engage with the Council of Europe and the OSCE; intensify	Ongoing	EEAS
mechanisms for human rights	dialogue with other regional organisations and support and engage with		Member States
	emerging regional organisations and mechanisms for the promotion of		
	universal human rights standards.		