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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.

¹ Without prejudice to arrangements concerning 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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