

Luxembourg, Candidate for the Security Council 2013-2014

A long-standing commitment to multilateral cooperation

A multicultural and multilingual State by its history, its geographical situation and the composition of its population, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has continuously based its foreign policy on an active participation in multilateral cooperation, on the regional level as well as on the international level, and is notably a founding member of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OECD and the OSCE.

Convinced of the necessity of an approach based on international law and on multilateral cooperation among sovereign and equal States for peace and development, respect for human rights and the solving of international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, it was only natural that Luxembourg also became a founding member of the United Nations Organization.

A concrete contribution to the goals and principles of the Organization

Luxembourg proves its commitment to the UN, its goals and principles not only by honouring its financial obligations under the Charter, but also by regularly making voluntary contributions to the Funds and Programmes of the United Nations, as well as by taking part in peacekeeping missions and pursuing an active policy of development cooperation.

Luxembourg's contribution to the regular budget and the budget of peacekeeping operations of the UN currently ranks 54th, respectively 39th in absolute terms and among the leading ones in per capita terms. It is notably the 18th donor in absolute terms to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the 14th to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the 18th to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the 13th to the World Health Organization (WHO), the 15th to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the 19th donor to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

In the field of humanitarian assistance, Luxembourg is one of the main donors, notably the 13th in absolute terms to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the 21st to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Under the heading "emergency.lu", efforts are furthermore underway in Luxembourg to establish a mobile satellite communication capacity, which would be put at the disposal of the humanitarian community, in cooperation with the United Nations World Food Programme as emergency telecommunications cluster lead, to ensure access to communications via satellite in the affected area, in the immediate aftermath of a catastrophe.

Under the impetus of Luxembourg, which assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the 11th time during the first semester of 2005, and in response to the urgent need to step up efforts in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the Member States of the

European Union decided to commit to a substantial increase in official development aid (ODA), and, on the basis of a precise timetable, to collectively attain the goal of an ODA/GNI rate of 0.7% by 2015.

Today, Luxembourg comes 2nd among the countries that exceed the United Nations target of 0.7% of Gross National Income in official development aid. In 2010, Luxembourg's ODA reached 1.09% of GNI, and Luxembourg's authorities are determined to maintain this effort.

Furthermore, Luxembourg regularly takes an active part in peacekeeping operations. During the past years, Luxembourg troops notably contributed to UN efforts in ex-Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR, IFOR, SFOR and KFOR), in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and in Afghanistan (ISAF).

In the context of the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy and its civilian and military crisis management, Luxembourg has, in the same vein, assumed its share of responsibility by participating, i.a., in missions in ex-Yugoslavia, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Chad and in the Gaza Strip. Luxembourg currently also participates in the EU maritime operation in support of UN Security Council resolutions to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia as well as in the training mission for Somali security forces.

Commitment to democracy and good governance, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms is another permanent feature of Luxembourg's diplomacy. That is why Luxembourg actively supports the work of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the Human Rights Council, the promotion of the notion of the responsibility to protect, the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission as well as the efforts of the United Nations to counter terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Luxembourg attaches great importance to UN efforts in the fields of security sector reform, disarmament, armament reduction and non-proliferation.

Peace and security, development and human rights are the three fundamental pillars of the United Nations. These fundamental values can only come to fruition and concrete expression through a functioning and credible multilateral system.

Luxembourg is committed to the revitalization of the multilateral system, in particular through a reform of the United Nations, including a reform of the Security Council aiming at a more representative, transparent and open Council.

A strong will to assume responsibility

Beyond the efforts it makes in the fields of development cooperation and peacekeeping, Luxembourg plays an active role in the daily work of the UN and assumes responsibility within the various bodies of the Organization as foreseen, in particular, by the Charter of the United Nations.

Luxembourg has indeed been a member of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) three times, and has had the honour of assuming the Presidency of ECOSOC in 2009. Luxembourg has also been a member of the Commission on Human Rights and has been sitting on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) from 2007 to 2009.

As of February 2011, Luxembourg is assuming the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's newly created Guinea Configuration.

In 2008, Luxembourg has been assuming a second one year mandate in the Coordination Council of the UNAIDS Programme. Luxembourg has in the same vein played an active role on the Executive Boards of UNICEF as well as UNDP/UNFPA, of which it is currently a member. Luxembourg is also one of the 41 members of the Executive Board of UN-Women, the new UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in line with Luxembourg's longstanding engagement for equality between men and women, women's rights and empowerment of women at the United Nations.

Luxembourg is also, among others, part of the "Friends of the Alliance of civilizations", the "Friends of the Special Representative for children and armed conflict", the "Friends on Conflict Prevention" and the "Friends of the International Criminal Court".

While acting as a facilitator for the President of the General Assembly, Luxembourg has striven to advance system-wide coherence within the UN system. It also co-facilitated the preparation of the September 2010 High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius strategy (MSI+5) and of the High-level Meeting on non-communicable disease prevention and control (NCDs).

Since the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, Luxembourg, together with its European partners, has taken binding commitments to reduce its carbon emissions and to mitigate the effects of climate change. A member of the "Friends against climate change", Luxembourg continues to support efforts to reach a legally binding international agreement within the framework of the UN.

Luxembourg furthermore provides fast start finance to combat climate change. These are new funds that are additional to Luxembourg's official development assistance.

A candidature for the Security Council 2013 - 2014

Luxembourg has shown solidarity and commitment within the UN, but has never had the honour to hold a seat on the Security Council. Luxembourg is willing to serve on the Council and to contribute to carrying out the mission that the Security Council has been entrusted with, that is, the maintenance of international peace and security, in full transparency and in respect of the principle of sovereign equality of States as defined in the Charter of the United Nations.

In his report "In Larger Freedom", former Secretary General Kofi Annan underlines that "Humanity will not enjoy security without development, it will not enjoy development without security, and it will not enjoy either without respect for human rights."

It is in this spirit that Luxembourg, if given the opportunity to serve as a non-permanent member, will strive to make a meaningful contribution to the work of the Security Council of the United Nations in 2013-2014.