

Candidate for the
Security Council
2013 - 2014



Luxembourg

and the United Nations

Front
Cover

UN Headquarters, New York (USA)

The Knotted Gun is a gift of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the UN.

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**Luxembourg
to the Security Council
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26 June 1945, San Francisco (USA)

Hugues Le Gallais, Luxembourg Ambassador to the United States, signs the United Nations Charter at the San Francisco Conference.



(© UN Photo/Yould (top); UN Photo/McLain (middle))



3 October 1975, New York (USA)

Gaston Thorn (Prime Minister of Luxembourg, middle), President of the 30th General Assembly at the rostrum.



(© UN Photo/Yutaka Nagata)

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).

Furthermore, Luxembourg has developed "emergency.lu", a mobile satellite communication platform which is put at the disposal of the humanitarian community, in cooperation with the 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 or a conflict. The "emergency.lu" platform has been deployed for the first time in January 2012 to South Sudan.

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 1.05 % of GNI, and Luxembourg's authorities are determined to maintain this effort.

18 July 2007, Senegal

Senegal is one of the partner countries of Luxembourg's Development Cooperation.

(© 2007 Céline Mersch)



ODA : 1.05 % of Gross National Income

Luxembourg is notably, in absolute terms,

- the 5th donor to the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF),
- the 9th to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS),
- the 12th to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM),
- the 13th to the World Health Organization (WHO),
- the 13th to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF),
- the 14th to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),
- the 15th to the International Labour Organization (ILO),
- the 15th to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA),
- the 16th to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
- the 18th to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
- the 18th to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
- the 19th to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR),
- the 21st to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),
- the 25th to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), and
- the 27th to the World Food Programme (WFP).

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.



3 December 2008, Oslo (Norway)

Jean Asselborn, Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, signs the international Convention on Cluster Munitions that bans the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of such munitions. Luxembourg ratified the Convention on 17 July 2009 as one of the first countries. (© MAE)



25 October 2009, Kosovo

Jean-Marie Halsdorf, Minister for Defense, is visiting the Luxembourg contingent taking part in the UN mandated KFOR Mission. (© Police grand-ducale)



UNIFIL, Lebanon

Luxembourg peacekeepers participating in the UNIFIL Mission. (© Armée luxembourgeoise)



ISAF, Afghanistan

Luxembourg peacekeepers participate since 2003 in the UN mandated Mission in Afghanistan. (© Armée luxembourgeoise)



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.

Luxembourg has played an active role on the Coordination Council of the UNAIDS Programme, as well as on the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA, of which it is currently a member. In 2011, Luxembourg was 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 long-lasting engagement for equality between men and women, women's rights and empowerment of women at the United Nations. Since December 2011, Luxembourg is a member of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA.

Luxembourg is also, among others, a member of the "Friends of the Alliance of civilizations", the "Friends against Organized Crime", the "Friends of Security Sector Reform" 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) in September 2011.

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23 September 2010, New York (USA)

Jean Asselborn, Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his capacity as Vice-President of the 65th General Assembly at the Assembly's rostrum. (© RPNY/Marc Weydert)



27 April 2009, New York (USA)

Sylvie Lucas, President of ECOSOC, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, chairs the Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (© UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe)



21 September 2010, New York (USA)

Marie-Josée Jacobs, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, addressing the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals. (© UN Photo/Rick Bajornas)





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.



27 April 2009, Luxembourg City (Luxembourg)
Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker welcomes the former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.



(© 2009 SIP/Charles Caratini)

17 April 2012, Luxembourg-City (Luxembourg)
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addresses the Luxembourg Parliament during his official visit in Luxembourg on April 16th and 17th, 2012.



(© 2012 UN Photo/Evan Schneider)

24 March 2011, New York (USA)
Jean Asselborn, Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, is received by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. (© 2011 UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras)



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.



Luxembourg City/Clausen (Luxembourg)

Fortifications and Old City, inscribed in 1994 on the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

(© SIP)



Luxembourg City/Kirchberg (Luxembourg)

Luxembourg-City is one of the three capital cities and headquarters of the European Union. (© Christof Weber/SIP)



Luxembourg City/Kircherg (Luxembourg)

The natal home of Robert Schuman, one of the founding fathers of the European Communities, in front of the Secretariat of the European Parliament. (© Marcel Schmitz/SIP)

UN Headquarters, New York (USA)

The Knotted Gun is a gift of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the UN. (© UN Photo/Pernaca Sudhakaran)

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The Knotted Gun, gift of Luxembourg to the UN, 1988



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