



Brussels, 19 November 2020

Dear Mr. Gilmore,

On behalf of the United Nations in Brussels, I am writing to congratulate you on the adoption of the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

We want to acknowledge the important role of the European Union in upholding human rights and its continued commitment to human rights protection and promotion in multilateral fora. The support of the EU has been vital in maintaining achievements against pushbacks questioning the universality and indivisibility of human rights.

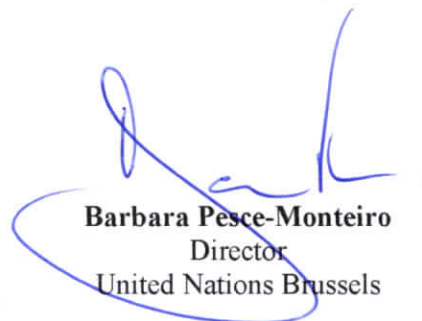
The adoption of the Action Plan is an important step forward for the European Union in translating commitments into reality on the ground and concretely advancing the protection of human rights in its external policy, beyond its physical frontiers.

Digital technology, environmental degradation and climate change pose important challenges to human rights protection, in a global system too often characterized by discrimination and inequality. We welcome the attention these transformations receive in the Action Plan so that they can contribute to progress and hope – not discrimination, repression and despair.

We also welcome the renewed commitment to gender equality and women's rights, including sexual and reproductive rights; to economic and social rights, including to preventative and curative healthcare; to the protection of civic space, human rights defenders and journalists; to children's rights including those affected by armed conflict. Recognizing the role of the EU as a global player in conflict and crisis management, we welcome the pledge to adopt an EU human rights diligence policy on security sector support.

The United Nations and the European Union share a strategic partnership in the collective responsibility to work towards a more peaceful, secure and prosperous world for present and future generations. The COVID-19 crisis, including its tragic socio-economic dimension, represents an unprecedented wake-up call on the need for global action and cooperation, as also the Secretary-General underscored calling for a renewed multilateralism. The UN in Brussels stands ready to work with the EU to support the implementation of the Plan.

Sincerely,



Barbara Pesce-Monteiro
Director
United Nations Brussels

To:

Mr. Eamon Gilmore
EU Special Representative for Human Rights
European External Action Service
Brussels

Cc:

Mr Pawel Herczynski
Director for CSDP and crisis response
European External Action Service
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