

The European year for development: Peace and stability



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The EU has long recognised the need for conflict prevention, resolution and peace building, as well as for addressing the root causes of conflict, which include poverty, weak governance and human rights abuses.

The EU increasingly works to better harmonise its security and development objectives, as well as to coordinate its external policy tools in a 'comprehensive approach'.

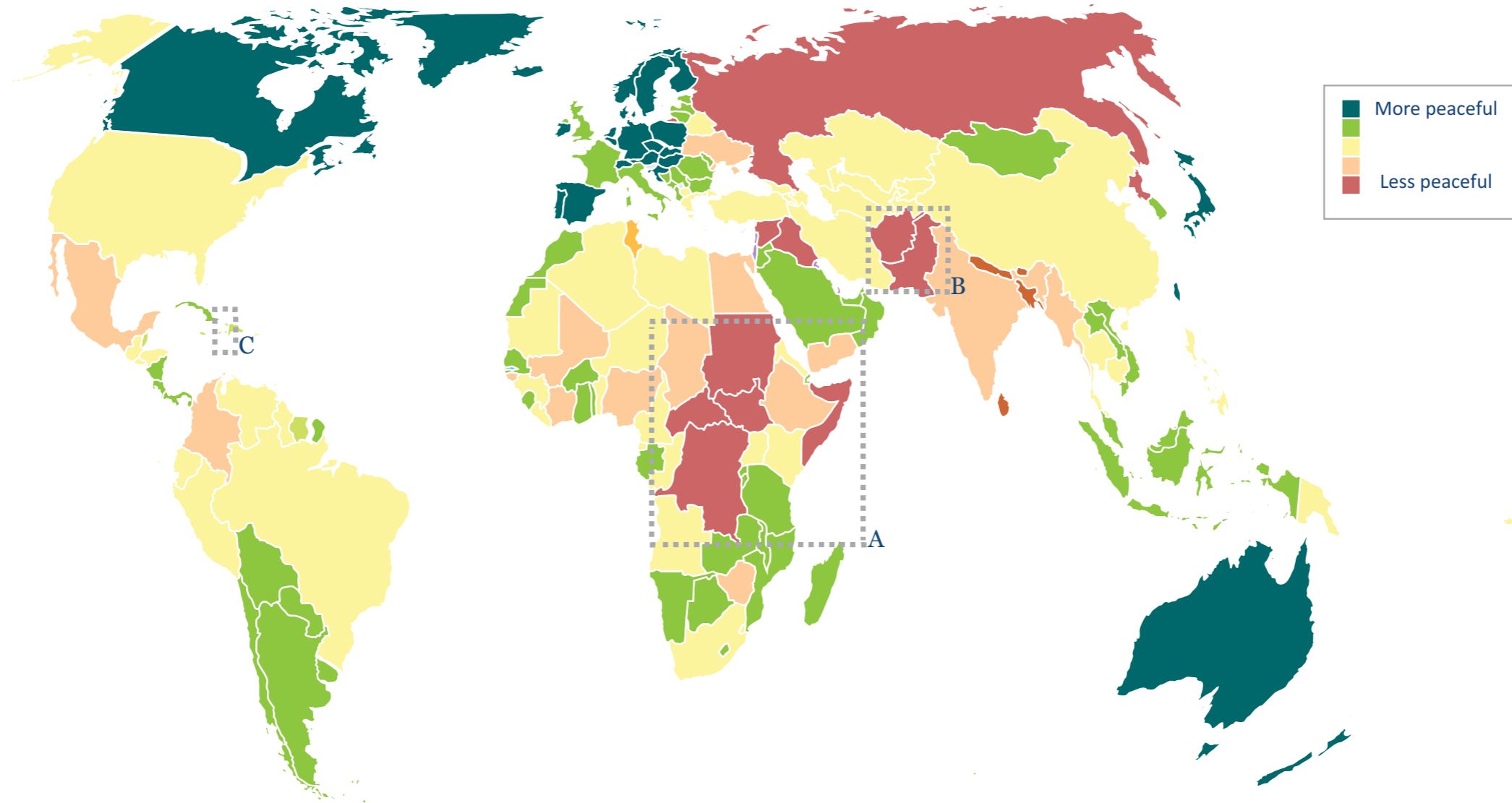
The relationship between conflict and poverty (also called the 'security-development nexus') is a circular one: violence negatively affects development and *vice versa* – poverty is often among the root causes of conflict. The World Bank's landmark [World Development Report 2011](#) (WDR) provided important insights into the complex links between security and development, and the necessary policy responses. The WDR pointed out that low-income fragile or conflict-affected countries face huge challenges in meeting their development objectives and that numerous regions 'now face cycles of *repeated* violence, weak governance, and instability'. Therefore, the WDR argued, 'strengthening legitimate institutions and governance to provide citizen security, justice, and jobs is crucial to break cycles of violence'.

The European Consensus on Development (2006) recognised the need for conflict prevention, resolution and peace building and for 'addressing the root-causes of violent conflict, including poverty, degradation, exploitation and unequal distribution and access to land and natural resources, weak governance, human rights abuses and gender inequality'. The EU has also acknowledged the importance of addressing state fragility through development cooperation: more than two thirds of the resources of the European Development Fund (EDF) and over half of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for 2014-2020 will target people in in fragile situations. These can be defined as situations 'where the social contract is broken due to the State's incapacity or unwillingness to deal with its basic functions' (EU Council Conclusions, 2007).

The EU has recently sought to better harmonise its development and external policies – which, since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, have the objective 'to preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security' (Article 21, TEU). In its 'Agenda for Change' (2011), the European Commission argued that the 'EU's development, foreign and security policy initiatives should be linked so as to create a more coherent approach to peace, state-building, poverty reduction and the underlying causes of conflict'. Since then, this effort has advanced through the development of a 'comprehensive approach' in the EU's foreign activities. The comprehensive approach should better integrate external policies and tools, including Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions, diplomacy, finance, trade, development, human rights, justice and migration. This is considered particularly necessary 'in crisis and conflict situations and in fragile states' (EU [Council Conclusions, May 2014](#)).

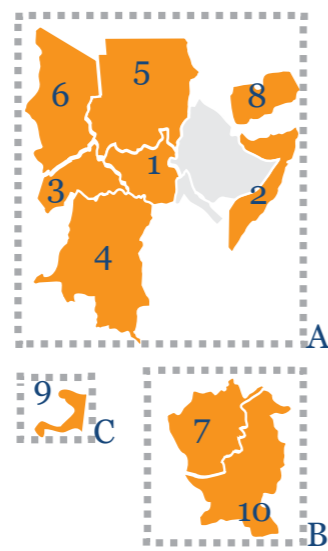
Interestingly, even before the comprehensive approach was explicitly and fully articulated as a distinct policy, the EU had begun harmonising different instruments, as well as its security, humanitarian and development goals,

Global Peace Index 2014

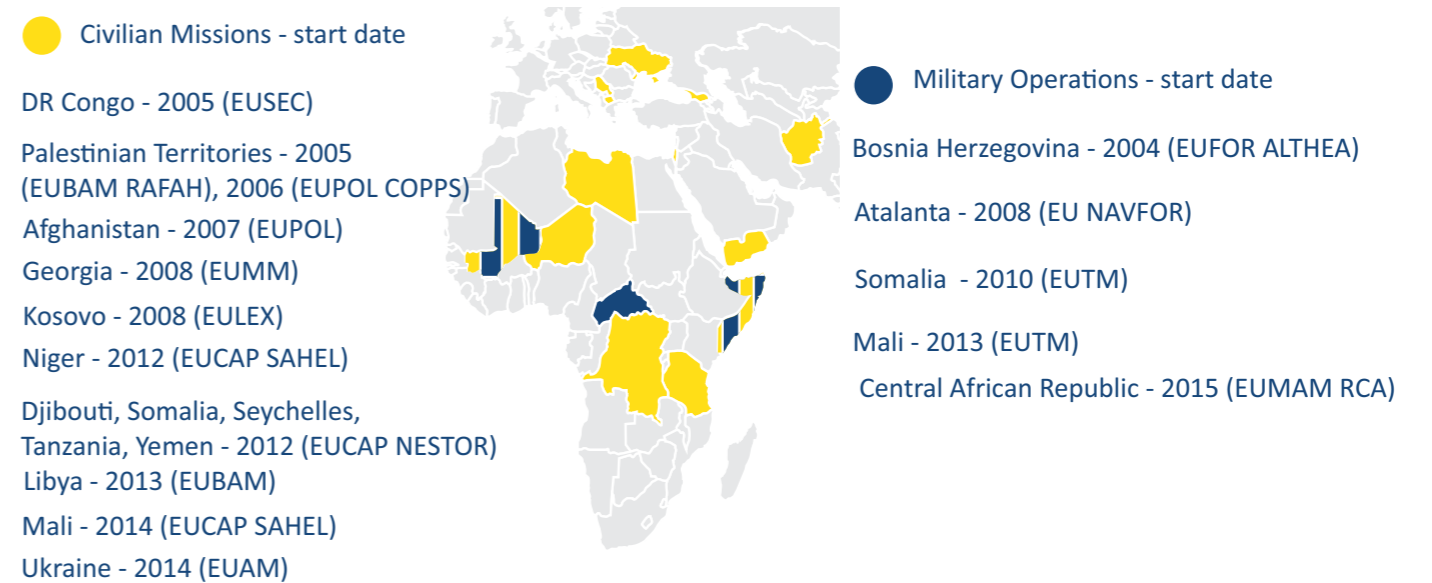


Most Fragile States Ranking

2014		2013
1	South Sudan	4
2	Somalia	1
3	Central African Republic	9
4	DR Congo	2
5	Sudan	3
6	Chad	5
7	Afghanistan	7
8	Yemen	6
9	Haiti	8
10	Pakistan	13
11	Zimbabwe	10



European Union Common Security and Defence Ongoing Missions



Data sources: Global Peace Index, European Union, Fund for Peace

in its regional strategies for the Sahel (2011), Horn of Africa (2011) and the Gulf of Guinea (2014).

The European Parliament (EP) has welcomed this coordination, while also asking that anti-poverty objectives not be marginalised, and that humanitarian aid not serve political ends.

The European Parliament (EP) has largely welcomed this integration but has also highlighted potential risks. While recognising the development-security nexus, the EP has stressed that 'the EU budget for development should remain separate from financing for military security-related issues' ([2012/2002 INI](#)). More recently, in its resolution on the comprehensive approach, the EP recalled that foreign policy objectives, development goals and humanitarian action should be considered complementary, but that it is 'essential that anti-poverty objectives are not marginalised in EU foreign policy'. The EP also emphasised that 'humanitarian aid should under no circumstances serve political ends or be considered a crisis management tool' ([2013/2146 INI](#)).

The EU has dedicated financial instruments for promoting peace; they include the African Peace Facility and the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace.

For some time, however, the EU has supported peace and conflict resolution through dedicated financial instruments. The African Peace Facility (APF) is one of the most innovative instruments, as it allows EDF resources to be used for peace operations. Since 2004 the EU has provided over EUR 1.2 billion through the APF to help establish the African Peace and Security Architecture and to finance African-led peace support operations in Somalia (AMISOM), Mali (AFISMA) and Central African Republic (MISCA). In addition, the EU's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) has the overarching goal of preventing conflicts, building peace and addressing specific global and emerging threats (terrorism, organised crime, climate change) that can hamper development and cooperation objectives. For 2014-2020, the IcSP amounts to EUR 2.34 billion, of which 70 % is allocated to crisis response assistance.

The EP has also underscored the need for a long-term engagement with fragile states and for ensuring that women participate in resolving conflicts and building democracy.

Addressing the security-development nexus is a complex but fundamental task, particularly in fragile states. The EP's resolution on the global development framework after 2015 ([2014/2143 INI](#)) stressed the importance of the 'New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States' and insisted upon a long-term commitment that prioritises 'security sector reform and the establishment of the rule of law and democratic institutions' and that addresses 'the underlying drivers of conflict and fragility'. The resolution also pointed to the need to 'redouble the efforts towards the protection of civilians affected by armed conflicts', 'to strengthen the link between relief, rehabilitation and development' and to 'ensure participation of women in conflict resolution and democracy building'.

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