



THE ACTIVITY OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS FOR CONFLICT MEDIATION AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS RESOLUTION

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Abstract: *The rapid evolutions of the strategic context in the international arena have highlighted the role of international security organizations in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts and humanitarian crises. In cases of an acute crisis, when the situation oscillates between armed conflict and humanitarian crisis, it is necessary to find a middle way through dialogue to restore a fragile balance and start the reversible war-to-peace process. Finding solutions to reduce the risk of the armed conflicts, removing human suffering and having a long-term peace sustainability represent the goals of the international community that are reflected in the work of the international security organizations. This creates the premises for ensuring a global climate of security, stability and trust, based on international cooperation.*

Keywords: *international organizations; conflict resolution; humanitarian crises; international cooperation.*

INTRODUCTION

International security organizations are characterized by a constant activity of their own bodies with precise and necessary attributions, which serve the purposes for which the international organizations have been set up. International organizations are an "organizational form to ensure the international collaboration among states, in different fields, based on the free will of participants to achieve some agreed goals."¹ The permanent character of the international security organizations is one of their essential features "reflected in the existence of a component of a competent structure and permanent functioning established by a multilateral treaty with the aim of being a center for coordinating actions and harmonizing the efforts of the sovereign member states in various fields of activity on the basis of their free will agreement"².

Irrespective of the international structure we are discussing, whether we are referring to the United Nations (UN) or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the international security

organizations are not a continuation by other means of the traditional domestic policies, as some theoreticians are stating, nor the expression of a process of evolution at a new level, that of the global or regional superstate³.

International organizations create the favorable context for the states to approach common delicate issues within a collective decision-making process. The spheres of competence, the rights and obligations, the legal capacity and the rest of prerogatives derive from the states agreement, recorded by the constitutive act. These entities represent an institutional form of cooperation. "Multilateral international cooperation is the foundation of a stable global system. Currently, in the field of security there is an acute need for such cooperation, given the complex nature of the threats that require a coordinated approach and the use of some resources that can hardly be provided by a single government."⁴ The role of the international organizations is essentially to provide an organized framework for international co-operation in order to mediate conflicts and resolve humanitarian crises.

¹ *Diplomatic Dictionary*, Politics Publishing House, Bucharest, 1979, p. 633.

² *Ibidem*.

³ Alexandra Sarcinschi, Vasile Popa, *Perspectives in the Evolution of the International Security Organizations*, „Carol I” National Defence University Publishing House, Bucharest, 2007, p.4.

⁴ *Ibidem*.

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The activity of the main international security organizations

The importance and necessity of international security organizations have been recognized since the nineteenth century. After 1945, their number increased significantly, both globally and regionally. The United Nations (UN) remains the only international security organization with the vocation to mediate conflicts and resolve humanitarian crises. It is also the most legitimate organization to intervene humanitarily, legitimacy conferred by the international law. The General Assembly and the Security Council are the two main UN bodies through which the decisions on humanitarian interventions are made. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) aims to reduce human losses in a humanitarian or ecological crisis.

In December 2003, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 58/214⁵ in which the World Conference on Disaster Reduction was decided to take place. Its outlined objectives were: identifying activities aimed to ensure the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Implementation Plan adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Disaster Vulnerability and Management; increasing the credibility and disaster availability of the agencies responsible for managing them in all regions, as set out in the Johannesburg Implementation Plan.

Worldwide, outside the International Civil Protection Organization, there are other humanitarian organizations within the United Nations (UN). The most important are: UNHCR - UN High Commissioner for Refugees; WFP - World Food Program; WHO - World Health Organization; UNICEF - UN International Fund for Emergency Situations for Children; UNCEF - United Nations International Fund for Environmental Emergencies; UNDP - United Nations Development Program; OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The establishment of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO), its subsequent replacement by the United Nations Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the establishment of the position of Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs were designed to strengthen and improve the collective efforts of the international community in disaster relief.

Headquartered in Geneva, OCHA is the most important UN organization on civil protection. OCHA has a response network that includes the following subsystems: Disaster Response Unit (DRB), International Search-Rescue Advisers Group (INSARAG); UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC); Military and Civil Protection Elements (MCDA); Common Environmental Issues Unit (UNEP). In case of response to complex emergencies, OCHA is responsible for: monitoring / alert / alarming; perspective preparation plans; situation of agents provided by the agencies / needs assessment; the disaster response coordination mechanism; contact points and announcement. It performs in place disaster assessment and provides support for the coordination of intervention, ensuring the mobilization of the international community in providing emergency relief for humanitarian aid.

UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182⁶ defines what it means to coordinate the global humanitarian system. Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien states that: "UN Resolution 46/182 remains as relevant and fundamental today as in December 1991 and the principles of Humanity, Neutrality, Independence and Impartiality continue to provide a direction for strategic, coordinated and effective humanitarian assistance for the people in need."⁷ Still viable today, the coordination mechanism has been through a constant process of adaptation to the new realities and humanitarian needs. The Emergency Assistance Coordinator and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the Enhanced Dispute Resolution (PAC) and the Emergency Response Fund (CERF) have remained the core elements of the humanitarian coordination mechanism globally. What has fundamentally changed has been the

⁵ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/58/214, accessed on May 6, 2017.

⁶ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/46/182, accessed on March 10, 2017.

⁷ Stephen O'Brien in Global Humanitarian Overview 2017 available on https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/GHO_2017.pdf, accessed on March 14, 2017.



increasing number of humanitarian needs, as a result of the emergence of new regional armed conflicts or natural disasters. According to an OCHA estimate for 2017⁸, over 128 million people in 33 countries around the world need humanitarian assistance. In order to face the humanitarian requirements for approximately 92 million people considered to be the most vulnerable, the international community estimates a sum of over \$ 22 billion in 2017.

The preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping operations are tools by which the UN carries out its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security. The DPA is the institution that conducts the preventive diplomatic actions in support of peace and in this respect establishes partnerships and cooperation relations with other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, as well as with the states in the region of regional armed conflict, which to cooperate with in preventing the situations of humanitarian crisis. In 2008, the UN set up a UN Standby Team of Mediation Experts⁹ in the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to lead the process of mediation, dialogue and negotiation in the humanitarian crisis area. These experts can be deployed either individually or in groups to support UN and special envoy actions, or to support other organizations in different regions or crises „hot spots” in the world. Preventive diplomacy is carried out through the missions of the High Representatives of the Secretary-General and through peace missions led by UN special envoy at „hot spots” around the world where situations and events with destabilizing potential are being monitored and humanitarian advice and assistance to governments and local authorities are provided to avoid crises and armed conflicts. This political-diplomatic process develops actions to enhance intercultural exchanges for intercultural knowledge, the elimination of racism and the creation of an intercultural partnership for development (such as UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation).

UN Peace and Development advisors provide

⁸ https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/GHO_2017.pdf, pp. 4-5, accessed March 14, 2017.

⁹ *United Nations announces new 'on-call' mediation team to advise peace envoys in field*, ONU Press Release (PA/1), March 5, 2008. (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/pa1.doc.htm>.)

a partnership between governors and civil society and must prepare local leaders to support an internal negotiation process in support of peace and human security. These initiatives are of a strategic value and aim at reducing tensions in the complex political situations through a greater involvement of civil society and other non-state actors and their preparation to play a credible and significant role as internal and intermediary mediators in support of national or local initiatives on preventing destabilizing situations.

In order to prevent humanitarian crises and conflicts, preventive diplomacy is supported, if this is also required, by a military component, which refers to the capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to plan¹⁰ a military force intervention to stabilize the crisis situations that affect the international peace and security (see Article 42 of the UN Charter). It is important to note that the UN does not have military structures of its own, but DPKO, the specialized military planning structure, can carry out the operational plans and, through a Security Council Resolution and with the military participation of the member countries of the organization, according to current arrangements, a military mission on the ground may be held within 30 days of the decision to do so.

The UN Peacekeeping Operations Department/ UN assess the situation in the conflict area. Peacekeeping operations are organized on the basis of chapter VI of the UN Charter, which governs the settlement of disputes. Peacekeeping operations include diplomatic actions: Transition Assistance - consisting of actions to install the civilian institutions of the state reconstituted on a democratic basis. In the framework of a long-term peace-building mission, the aim is to support the transition, from conflict to peace, with a political structure acceptable to the nation and the international community. An important component of peace operations involves the political missions that take place at certain stages of a conflict. In some situations, following the signing of peace agreements, the political missions supervised by the Department of Political Affairs during the peace talks have been replaced by peacekeeping missions. In other cases, the UN peacekeeping operations have turned into special political missions overseeing long-term

¹⁰ See DPKO role from the UN structure.

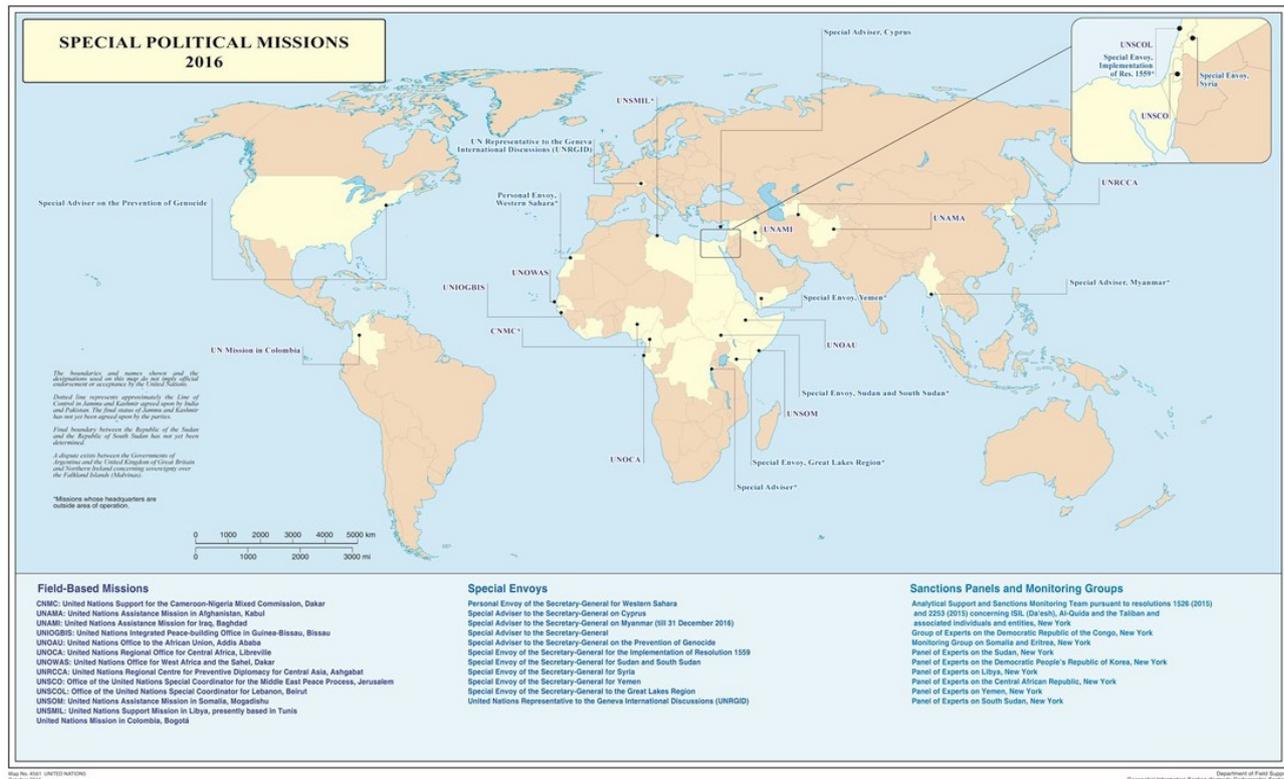


Figure 1¹²

peace-building activities.¹¹ Conflict prevention - includes a wide range of activities, from diplomatic initiatives, to preventive forces on the ground set up, in order to prevent the escalation of disputes in armed conflicts or in spreading disputes; Peace building – made primarily by diplomatic means; Peacemaking – diplomatic actions that support political, economic and military measures and structures developed to strengthen and consolidate the political agreements and eliminate the causes of a conflict; Diplomatic approaches to humanitarian assistance – are limited in duration and scope and may precede or accompany the humanitarian efforts of specialized civil society organizations and host country authorities (the first institutions responsible of providing aid); Diplomatic missions monitoring the defense of human rights in the theater of armed conflict aim to prevent or avoid abuses of fundamental human rights violations. Peace processes are the ones that solve conflicts peacefully, combining several methods of intervention: diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, or dialogue. Peace processes involve rebuilding relations, making efforts to reach a process of implementing the agreement, with a long-term or definitive resolution of the humanitarian crisis.

NATO has its own system of ensuring its gradual response to humanitarian crises through its command structures and some military structures of the Member States.¹²

The cooperation with other international security organizations denotes the real NATO involvement in the prevention of conflicts and regional humanitarian crises. A comprehensive approach at NATO level highlights the interest in comprehensive planning of military operations in order to direct the effort to plan and deploy actions to respond to humanitarian crisis situations in harmony with UN policies.

In August 2001, the necessary decisions for the development of the NATO Crises Management System (NCRS) were issued. NCRS is a political and diplomatic system designed to support operations to prevent humanitarian crises and manage regional armed conflicts, organized for operations of art. 5 type (non-operation 5). NCRS is a complementary and interactive operational system with the NATO Intelligence Warning System (NIWS), with the Operational Planning System (OPS) and The Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) system.

¹² UN Map representing the special political missions available at <http://www.un.org/undpa/sites/www.un.org.undpa/files/DPA%20USG%204561%20Oct%202016.pdf>

¹¹ See Figure 1.



The military presence in a certain area of operations determines at times hostile attitudes of the civilian population, a situation that does not favor NATO's political-military action. The Theater Engagement Center within the Deployable Joint Staff Element (DJSE)¹³ consists of military and civilian specialists in the multidimensional analysis of the PMESII type (Political, Military, Economic, Social, Information, Infrastructure), specialists in information, psychological, public relations and CIMIC (Civil-Military Cooperation) operations.

The first peacekeeping operation took place on February 28, 1994, when NATO authorized the United States to attack Serbian airplanes not respecting the air strike zone over former Yugoslavia. Under UN mandate, NATO led IFOR to implement the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. NATO was engaged in crisis management, peacekeeping, training and logistic support, surveillance and humanitarian aid missions in the event of conflicts or natural disasters, such as Katrina Hurricane emergency and 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, or the conflict in Darfour, between 2005-2007. NATO was also involved in counter-terrorism and counter-piracy operations between 2001 and 2002 deployed Eagle Assist, from 2003 ISAF (International Security Assistance Force), Allied Provider, Allied Protector and Ocean Shield operations in the Horn of Africa. North Atlantic Alliance forces were engaged in missions around the world, the most important being ISAF (Afghanistan 2006), KFOR (Kosovo) and SFOR (Mediterranean Sea, Horn of Africa and Somalia).

The OSCE has set a series of priorities for strengthening the humanitarian values assumed by the Member States and supporting them to strengthen the society based on democratic principles in order to promote cooperation to strengthen the regional security system. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe has been constituted in accordance with the normative text of Chapter VIII / UN Charter, the one on regional security arrangements. This pan-European organization is formed of 57 Member States and it is one of the most important regional institutions for ensuring security and stability in Europe. OSCE components, active in the field of regional security are: the High

Commissioner for National Minorities; the Center for Conflict Prevention.

The institution of the High Commissioner for National Minorities has as its objective to identify solutions for the peaceful resolution of interethnic conflicts, conflicts that endanger peace, human security and regional stability. The Conflict Prevention Center has as missions: early warning, conflict prevention, humanitarian crises management, and post-conflict peace recovery. The Conflict Prevention Center provides the planning of OSCE missions in the conflict zones, ensuring the implementation of political and diplomatic decisions to resolve humanitarian crises.

In the political and legal document of the OSCE, the Lisbon Joint Declaration on the European Security Model for the 21st Century reveals "European security requires the best cooperation and coordination between Member States and European and transatlantic organizations. The OSCE is a comprehensive organization of consultancy, cooperation and decision-making in European security matters, acting under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and will cooperate with all security organizations and institutions in order to be able to respond to all threats to security in the European space"¹⁴. The cooperation with the European Union is an area of interest for the OSCE, being the regional organization supporting the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) to resolve humanitarian crises. The legitimacy of OSCE missions emerges from their substantiation on the basis of the humanitarian principles enshrined in the UN Charter and in the international public law.

The OSCE has established modalities and forms of consultation to exchange information in areas of common interest: regular trilateral meetings of the OSCE - Council of Europe - UN; OSCE bilateral meetings - Council of Europe; representing, on a reciprocal basis, at different meetings. The large dimension of the international community's conflict prevention, crises management, and post-conflict reconstruction in the OSCE area is determining the pooling of international organizations' efforts. OSCE and NATO are committed to developing

¹³ Operational Structure in NATO, in 2010, which replaced the old concept of CJTF (Prague, 2002).

¹⁴ Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century (2nd December 1996), available at www.osce.org/mc/39539, accessed on 10.05.2016.



political co-operation processes. Achieving good cooperation between the two organizations has produced remarkable results: a joint action on the monitoring and verification of arms control in the Balkans has been carried out. The NATO Implementation Force (IFOR) and the Stabilization Force (SFOR) provided the necessary support for OSCE field operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure OSCE staff security and humanitarian assistance. The OSCE cooperates with the UN, NATO, the EU and other international organizations to resolve humanitarian (ecological) crises. Security approach in the OSCE vision is based on co-operation, to solve a wide range of issues: arms control, preventive diplomacy, increased mutual trust between states, respect of human rights, election monitoring, economic security and environmental security.

No European institution can assume its own management of the complexity of the problems faced by the Euro-Atlantic area. The OSCE is an operational instrument for the preventive diplomacy and for strengthening respect of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The OSCE will continue to play an important role in promoting a Euro-Atlantic security area. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/OSCE has as main tasks: promoting democratic elections in the Member States by monitoring the electoral process; strengthening the democratic institutions, strengthening civil society institutions; early warning to prevent regional armed conflicts and humanitarian crises. OSCE has developed a diverse range of conflict resolution missions: information missions in conflict zones; crises monitoring through the personal representatives of the Secretary-General; diplomatic missions through ad-hoc working groups for peaceful settlement of conflicts; peacekeeping operations under UN auspices.

The OSCE is currently engaged in various operations targeting South, Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, such as missions in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, presence in Albania; the mission in Moldova and the OSCE coordinating project in Ukraine; the OSCE office in Baku and the Yerevan office; the OSCE center in Ashgabat, Astana, Bishkek and Tadjikistan, the OSCE coordinating project in Uzbekistan. The OSCE accomplished missions

include the long-standing missions of Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, the Kosovo verification mission, the mission from Estonia, Latvia, Croatia, Georgia, as well as the Belarus monitoring group, the OSCE assistance center in Chechnya and the OSCE Center in Tashkent.

The European Union has strengthened its legal and administrative tools to respond to crises resulting from natural (technological) disasters and regional armed conflicts. Enhanced threats in recent decades have demonstrated the inability of European states to manage the humanitarian crises individually. The focus has been centered on common EU policies, with the development of the legal instruments to cope with a regional crisis to ensure humanitarian relief in emergency situations. There are political and strategic foundations and legal foundations of the European humanitarian operations for emergencies. Based on these, the administrative capacity for crises management is developed. According to some authors¹⁵, "the political and strategic foundations create only the soft law framework, while the legal foundations contain hard law of the institutional and operational organization. Both categories of foundations are necessary and useful in pursuing the effectiveness of preventing and fighting humanitarian crises." Legal instruments are applicable when threats materialize, and crises management requires European institutional intervention, making reasonable decisions. At the time when the threat has diminished, crisis management takes a political and strategic approach. The division between politico-strategic instruments and legal-administrative instruments is not clear in the different phases of the crises management; sometimes it is necessary to combine them in order to ensure the effectiveness of the EU humanitarian operations.

The 2003 EU Security Strategy, updated in 2008, assesses the potential threats to European security, setting the objectives for promoting EU interests, based on the core European values, the document being coordinated by the Political and Security Committee (SPC). The political-strategic foundations of European humanitarian operations in emergency are action plans that direct EU action

¹⁵ I. Dragoman, I. Vasilache, *National and International Strategies to Combat Threats to Security and Defence*, in "The Right to Good Administration" Comunicare.ro Publishing House, Bucharest, 2011, p.73.



in the area of human security. The EU's internal security strategy, endorsed by the European Council in 2010, defines internal security as a comprehensive concept to counteract the major threats with a direct impact on citizens' life and safety (natural disasters, technological disasters). It was created to increase the capacity of some institutions to respond rapidly to threats against the citizens of EU Member States. The Internal Security Strategy (SSI) is based on the premise of Member States' solidarity through the Permanent Committee on Operational Cooperation. The civil protection missions, as important elements of any modern security system, must resolve all stages of a crisis by implementing mutual humanitarian assistance between Member States in cooperation with other humanitarian organizations.¹⁶

The idea of developing a joint emergency response mechanism has been outlined because states do not have all the capabilities to respond effectively and promptly to humanitarian and ecological crises, without the support of the international community for limiting the effects of disasters on the civilian population. The purpose of the Community Action Program for Civil Protection is to support and supplement Member States' efforts at national and regional level by implementing a set of actions to protect the population in the event of natural or technological disasters and to facilitate cooperation among Member States.

The Decision of the European Council Nr. 2001/792 / EC of October 23, 2001 established the Community Civil Protection Mechanism in order to facilitate a viable cooperation between Member States in response to humanitarian crisis response interventions. The European Commission Decision of December 29, 2003 laid down the rules for the implementation of the Community Mechanism, setting out the responsibilities of the officials and how to use the instruments made available. The Community Civil Protection Mechanism aims at improving cooperation between partner states in the field of civil protection assistance intervention in crisis situations (natural, technological, radiological or environmental disasters that may occur within or outside the European Union). By European Council Decision no. 2007/779 / EU there has been a transformation of the Community

Civil Protection Mechanism.

At the European Union level, the Monitoring and Information Center (MIC), subordinated to the European Commission, has been set up, a permanent operational structure responsible for coordinating the actions of the participating states, in order to assist a state affected by a humanitarian crisis.

CONCLUSIONS

International security organizations have successfully intervened in many conflicts with humanitarian consequences that have occurred throughout the world. The international community response was quick, efficient and generous. By the quality of this response, the international security organizations have demonstrated to the entire world the added value of synergic intervention actions in limit situations.

It is easy to note that the success of humanitarian crisis resolution operations is ensured by the application of a basic principle. The principle of cooperation with civil society, with national and international civil organizations which carry out campaigns and actions with the same objective, is to stop and alleviate the human suffering by providing humanitarian assistance. What matters the most is the way to address the problem, whether it bears the form of a crisis or other emergency situation and the means of escalating it. At the same time, the capacity of international security organizations for a global response in the event of humanitarian crises or armed conflict will likely be subject to a greater pressure in the future, given the scale and the frequency of conflicts involving the use of force and the adverse consequences for human security.

In this context, the treaties, the agreements between states, the conventions and the partnerships among various actors, both institutional and non-governmental, global and regional, acting to resolve the conflicts and humanitarian crises, will provide the opportunity to create a stronger international response capability that is more comprehensive, better coordinated, and more efficient. This will be possible by strengthening the intervention tools of the international security organizations and ensuring consistency and synchronicity among these different instruments, to the benefit of the international community coherent response.

¹⁶ *EU Strategy of Internal Security*, Bruxelles, Belgium, 2010, p.7.



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