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¹ • Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
• Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
• Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Africa - Europe alliance

The Council exchanged views on the Africa - Europe alliance for sustainable investment and jobs. The discussion took place less than a month before the high-level Africa-Europe forum (Vienna, 17-18 December) and the EU-AU ministerial meeting (21-22 January 2019).

Ministers expressed their support for the initiative and its four strands of action: improving the investment climate, de-risking, strengthening support for skills and education, and supporting economic integration and market-building. They discussed ways in which member states can be actively involved in this new Africa - Europe alliance and the importance of securing coordination and coherence on the ground.

As the EU remains Africa's main partner, ministers highlighted the need to ensure that both African and European stakeholders are more aware of the close relationship between the two continents.

[Towards a new 'Africa - Europe Alliance' \(Commission press release, 12/09/2018\)](#)

Future financial architecture for development

The Council discussed the future financial architecture for development. Ministers discussed the state of play of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) negotiations on the neighbourhood, development and international cooperation instrument (NDICI) and in particular on the future European architecture for investment outside the EU.

They also discussed the need for the future financial framework to ensure sufficient flexibility while ensuring that the EU priorities on its neighbourhood and Africa are fully reflected. Ministers also heard a presentation by the President of the European Investment Bank Werner Hoyer on European external investments. They acknowledged the valuable work the EIB was doing in supporting the EU's external policy.

[Proposal for new instruments for EU external action \(Commission press release, 14/06/2018\)](#)

Gender and human rights

One day after the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, development ministers welcomed Nobel Peace Prize laureates Nadia Murad and Dr. Denis Mukwege for a discussion on gender and human rights. This gave an opportunity to hear their messages and to identify ways in which the EU and its member states could do more to prevent gender-based violence.

[EU supports the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Nadia Murad and Dr. Denis Mukwege](#)

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EU gender action plan II

The Council adopted conclusions on the implementation of the EU gender action plan II in 2017. The goal of the EU gender action plan is to strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action. Recognising the progress made globally towards achieving gender equality, while also acknowledging the remaining challenges, the Council reaffirms the EU's and member states' commitment to promote women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a priority across all areas of action.

[Conclusions on gender action plan](#)

[EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020](#)

Conclusions on global food and nutrition security

The Council adopted conclusions on global food and nutrition security, which constitute major global challenges in the fight against poverty and growing inequality. The Council is extremely concerned that after decades of decline, global hunger has been on the rise for the last three years, with 821 million people suffering from hunger and malnutrition. The Council recalls the EU's and its member states' firm commitment to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition. Their actions are essential for the realisation of the 2030 agenda in its entirety.

The Council also welcomes the third biennial report on implementing EU food and nutrition security policy commitments as well as the third progress report on the Commission's action plan on nutrition.

[Conclusions on global food security](#)

Council conclusions on education in emergencies and protracted crises

The Council adopted conclusions on education in emergencies and protracted crises. The Council expresses its concern that more than 75 million children affected by emergencies and protracted crises have no access to quality education and that violence is on the increase in and around education settings. The Council reaffirms its commitment to ensuring access to inclusive lifelong learning and safe, equitable quality education and training at all levels in emergency and crisis situations. In this context, the Council welcomes the comprehensive approach to education in emergencies and protracted crises, which includes preparedness, disaster risk reduction, prevention, mitigation, rapid response, and a commitment to building resilient education systems.

[Conclusions on education in emergencies and crises](#)**EU international cooperation and development results framework**

The Council adopted conclusions on the revised EU international cooperation and development results framework proposed by the European Commission, aligning the EU results framework with the new European consensus on development, as well as with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

InsuResilience Global Partnership

The Council endorsed the European Commission's intention to support the joint statement, on behalf of the EU, on the "InsuResilience Global Partnership" at the 24th conference of the parties (COP) to the UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) that will take place in Katowice, Poland, from 3 to 14 December 2018.

The "InsuResilience Initiative" was launched in 2015 at the G7 Summit with the aim of supporting vulnerable countries to manage climate change related disaster risks and increase their resilience to these adverse events. In 2017, at COP 23, a joint statement on the "InsuResilience Global Partnership for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance Solutions" was presented.

[InsuResilience Global Partnership](#)

11th European Development Fund

The Council adopted a Council regulation on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), that aims to align the financial rules of the EDF with the regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council applicable to the EU budget, following its recent amendment.

[European Development fund \(European Commission\)](#)
