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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(31.7.2020)

Council Conclusions of 22 April 2020 expressed the European Union's (EU) concern at the escalation of armed violence, which has led to a significant increase in displacement, and reaffirmed the EU's commitment to keep providing humanitarian support<sup>1</sup>. Recent events may have serious consequences for regional stability, if not comprehensively addressed. In dialogues with Mozambique and across the region, the EU has called on the Government of Mozambique to adopt an integrated approach, when addressing both the root causes of the insurgency and the security challenges in Cabo Delgado province. The EU has also expressed its readiness to examine how to support any locally-led initiative with the tools at its disposal.

The EU welcomes recent contacts between Mozambique, the Southern African Development Community and the African Union, recognising that cross-border co-operation will be essential to allow a full understanding of the drivers of the violence, to cut off the supply lines to its perpetrators and to minimise the chances of spill-over. The EU will continue to use its influence to encourage an approach that is fully respectful of human rights and the rule of law.

The EU has provided support for actions to fight radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism and to build social cohesion<sup>2</sup>. EU support under the current multiannual financial framework includes eight projects for civil society and youth, capacity-building and job creation. A pilot project on technical and vocational education and training is being prepared with European gas companies to ensure that local people benefit from development of the sector.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7467-2020-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Financing decision: C(2019) 5931 final: <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/3/2019/EN/C-2019-5931-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>