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The EU cooperates and coordinates closely with African partners, including with SADC, on peace and security matters, such as the security and humanitarian situation in Cabo Delgado.

As regards EU relations with Zimbabwe, the Council recalls that the purpose of the EU restrictive measures is to encourage a demonstrable, genuine, and long-term commitment by the Zimbabwean authorities to respect and uphold human rights and the rule of law. In February 2022, the EU decided to renew its restrictive measures, while lifting the already suspended restrictive measures against three individuals. The arms embargo and the targeted assets freeze against one company, Zimbabwe Defence Industries, remain in place, taking into account the situation in Zimbabwe, as well as the continuing need to investigate the role of security forces in human rights abuses.

The EU will continue its engagement with the Zimbabwean authorities, with a particular attention to the human rights situation, and is ready to review and adapt the whole range of its policies accordingly. Furthermore, the EU follows closely the electoral agenda in Zimbabwe and stands ready to continue its support to electoral reforms, including through an EU Election Observation Mission for the 2023 elections.