



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY

OF THE MEETINGS OF THE

COMMITTEE ON THE CIVIL DIMENSION OF SECURITY (CDS)

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 November 2020

By videoconference

203 CDS 20 E | Original: English | December 2020

ATTENDANCE LIST

OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CIVIL DIMENSION OF SECURITY

Chairperson	Joëlle GARRIAUD-MAYLAM (France)
Vice-Chairpersons	Alessandra MAIORINO (Italy) Linda SANCHEZ (United States)
General Rapporteur	Ulla SCHMIDT (Germany)
Special Rapporteur	Lord JOPLING (United Kingdom)

NATO PA BUREAU MEMBERS

Vice-Presidents	Michael R. TURNER (United States) Karl A. LAMERS (Germany) Osman Askin BAK (Turkey)
Former Vice-President	Lord CAMPBELL OF PITTENWEEM (United Kingdom)
Secretary General	Ruxandra POPA

MEMBER DELEGATIONS

Albania	Xhemal QEFALIA
Belgium	Philippe Didier G. COURARD Rodrigue DEMEUSE Wouter DE VRIENDT Theo FRANCKEN Annick PONTHER Orry VAN DE WAUWER
Bulgaria	Plamen MANUSHEV Milen Vasilev MIHOV Simeon SIMEONOV
Canada	Leona ALLESLEV Peter BOEHM Pierre-Hugues BOISVENU Jane CORDY <i>(Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance)</i> Cheryl GALLANT Marilou MCPHEDRAN Karen MCCRIMMON Vernon WHITE
Croatia	Ante BACIC Miroslav TUDJMAN
Czech Republic	Jan FARSKY Josef HAJEK Helena LANGSADLOVA
Denmark	Mads FUGLEDE Karsten HOENGE
France	Marianne DUBOIS Françoise DUMAS Anissa KHEDHER <i>(Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Democratic Governance)</i> Sonia KRIMI Jérôme LAMBERT Gilbert ROGER
Germany	Dagmar FREITAG Alexander S. NEU Boris PISTORIUS
Greece	Anastasios DIMOSCHAKIS

	Marietta GIANNAKOU
	Marios KATSIS
	Theodora TZAKRI
	Manousos Konstantinos VOLOUDAKIS
Hungary	Mihaly BALLA
	Sándor FONT
	Zsolt NEMETH
Iceland	Njall Trausti FRIDBERTSSON
	Willum Thor THORSSON
Italy	Paolo FORMENTINI
	Luca FRUSONE
	Riccardo NENCINI
	Fabrizio ORTIS
	Emanuele PELLEGRINI
Latvia	Ojars Eriks KALNINS
	Aleksandrs KIRSTEINS
Luxembourg	Gilles BAUM
	Jean-Marie HALSDORF
	Lydia MUTSCH
Netherlands	Bastiaan van APELDOORN
	Toine BEUKERING
	Sjoerd SJOERDSMA
	Martijn VAN HELVERT
Norway	Marianne MARTHINSEN
	Tellef Inge MOERLAND
	Liv Signe NAVARSETE
Poland	Monika FALEJ
	Joanna KLUZIK-ROSTKOWSKA
	Czeslaw MROCZEK
	Rafal SLUSARZ
Portugal	José Luis CARNEIRO
	Ana MIGUEL SANTOS
	Marcos PERESTRELLO DE VASCONCELLOS
Romania	Ben-Oni ARDELEAN
	Angel TIVLAR
	<i>(Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance)</i>
Slovakia	Jan SZOLLOS
	Tomas VALASEK
Slovenia	Branko GRIMS
Spain	Javier ANTON
	César MOGO
	Luis RODRIGUEZ-COMENDADOR
	Carlos ROJAS
	Ruth Goni SARRIES
Turkey	Cengiz AYDOGDU
	Muhammet Naci CINISLI
	<i>(Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Democratic Governance)</i>
	Ahmet Berat CONKAR
	Ilhan KESICI
	Berdan OZTURK
	Taner YILDIZ
	Ahmet YILDIZ
United Kingdom	Lord ANDERSON
	Jeffrey DONALDSON
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	Baroness Denise KINGSMILL

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 Brendan Francis BOYLE
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 James COSTA
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(Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Democratic Governance)
 Rick LARSEN
 Gregory Weldon MEEKS
 James SENSENBRENNER
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Austria	Reinhold LOPATKA
Azerbaijan	Kamran BAYRAMOV Siyavush NOVRUZOV
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nikola LOVRINOVIC
Georgia	Irakli BERAIA
Serbia	Dragan SORMAZ
Sweden	Karin ENSTRÖM Kenneth G. FORSLUND Laila NARAGHI
Switzerland	Werner SALZMANN
Ukraine	Solomiia BOBROVSKA Liudmyla BUIMISTER Yehor CHERNIEV

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

European Parliament	Kris PEETERS
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REGIONAL PARTNER AND MEDITERRANEAN

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Israel	Andrey KOZHINOV

PARLIAMENTARY OBSERVERS

Australia	Andrew WALLACE
Kazakhstan	Nurzhan NURSIPATOV Abay TASBULATOV

SPEAKER

Nikos DENDIAS	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic
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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Nathan Robinson GRISON	Director, Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security
Andrius AVIZIUS	Director, Political Committee
Sarah-Claude FILION	Coordinator, Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security
Alissa PAVIA	Research Assistant

Thursday 19 November 2020

Joint Speaker: Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security and Political Committee

I. Opening remarks by [Lord CAMPBELL OF PITTENWEEM](#) (United Kingdom), Chairperson of the Political Committee

1. In his opening remarks, Chairperson **Lord Campbell of Pittenweem** (UK) thanked the Greek delegation for its outstanding job in preparing for the 2020 Annual Session. Lord Campbell noted that this meeting is co-chaired by Senator **Joëlle Garriaud-Maylam** (FR), Chairperson of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security.

2. **Marietta Giannakou** (GR) welcomed the meeting's guest speaker, Nikos Dendias, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. Ms Giannakou called for unity and dialogue among Allies when addressing common concerns and threats, including the ones unravelling in the Eastern Mediterranean.

3. Lord Campbell introduced Mr Dendias and invited him to share the Greek perspective on how NATO can adapt to today's changing strategic environment.

II. Presentation by Nikos DENDIAS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, on *The Greek Perspective on the Alliance's Adaptation to the Changing Strategic Environment*, followed by a discussion

4. Nikos Dendias began by thanking the President and Member States of the NATO PA for their important work and reiterated the importance of the Assembly as the link between the Alliance and the citizens of Member States.

5. Mr Dendias remarked that NATO's role in countering evolving threats, specifically on its Eastern and Southern flanks, is of paramount importance. The Alliance, he continued, is not only a military organisation, but one based on shared values, enshrined in the UN Charter, in human rights instruments and in international law. Mr Dendias also explained that Greece has welcomed the NATO 2030 Reflection Process and stressed that the Alliance must strike a balance between responding to global challenges, while also avoiding becoming overstretched.

6. Mr Dendias reminded the audience of the importance of sustained defence spending. Given the persistent challenges posed by state and non-state actors, NATO must maintain its technological edge. For that, Member States must act on the commitment to invest 2% of their GDP in defence. Despite tight budgetary constraints, Greece maintains and even surpasses the 2% threshold. Greece is also working towards meeting the target of spending at least 20% of defence budget on military equipment and research and development. However, the Foreign Minister warned that technological innovations may also lead to new threats in the international security environment. In the context of these threats, Mr Dendias called for concerted responses in the fields of arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

7. Mr Dendias proceeded by expressing his concern over the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. The Greek Foreign Minister expressed support for a dual track approach (collective defence and dialogue) with countries such as Russia, including continued dialogue on arms control. He also noted that China's growth as a military power has implications for NATO and called on the international community to redouble efforts to include China in international arms control efforts.

8. Mr Dendias stressed that the Alliance must strive to continuously adapt its defence and deterrence postures. In particular, Mr. Dendias noted that the adaptations must take into account

challenges on NATO's Southern flank, as well as new sources of instability. The migration flow, he noted, is one of them. The Greek Foreign Minister highlighted the importance of NATO's operation in the Aegean Sea. Mr Dendias noted that an increase in Allied contributions to this operation would send a long overdue signal of solidarity to Greece.

9. The Greek Foreign Minister reiterated the importance of investing in multilateralism and multilateral institutions. In particular, the Alliance should focus on building a strong relationship with the European Union (EU) because of shared security threats. Together, NATO and the EU can mobilise a broad range of tools to increase security for their citizens. He praised the joint NATO and EU declarations of 2016 and 2018, along with the 74 common action areas. However, Mr. Dendias stressed the need to further develop practical means of cooperation on issues such as conflicts in Libya and Syria, and the ensuing migration flows. NATO's engagement with Egypt and Israel provides excellent examples. Moreover, the Greek Foreign Minister called for greater NATO collaboration with important partners beyond the immediate neighbourhood, such as India and the UAE.

10. Mr Dendias said that Greece pursues responsible policies that promote peace, security, and development. More specifically, he noted that Greece has signed two delimitation agreements, and agreed to defer to the International Court of Justice regarding delimitation matters with Albania. The Greek Foreign Minister proceeded by urging NATO not to tolerate practices undertaken by some NATO Allies that undermine the integrity and unity of the Alliance. He explained that NATO witnesses time and time again the violation of international law by certain member states that continue pursuing unilateral actions against other NATO allies. In order to maintain transatlantic stability and security, NATO must address these situations in the spirit of its core values. Mr Dendias concluded by reiterating Greece's commitment to the values and principles that both the EU and the transatlantic Alliance stand for, and that his country will continue to keep its national forces, capabilities and structures at NATO's disposal in order to help the Alliance maintain its objectives in the years ahead.

III. Discussion chaired by [Joëlle GARRIAUD-MAYLAM](#) (France), Chairperson of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security

11. Chairperson Garriaud-Maylam thanked Mr Dendias for his remarks and asked him to detail the measures taken by Greece in response to the pandemic. At the onset of the crisis, based on epidemiological data, Greece developed a coherent set of rules restricting access to its territory for citizens of each country, Mr Dendias said. Its implementation helped slow the spread of COVID-19 in the country. The next challenge, however, will be the distribution of vaccines. The EU must play a central role in ensuring that all citizens of member countries have access to the vaccine.

12. The Chairperson also enquired about Greece's relationship with China, more specifically about Chinese investments in strategic sectors and infrastructure, such as in the Piraeus port. The Minister said that when Greece had privatized part of the port, and later on the remainder of it, only Chinese investors had shown an interest in acquiring it. As a result, Greece had no choice but to sell the infrastructure to China. Ms Garriaud-Maylam subsequently invited Mr Dendias to present Greece's position on Taiwan's request to integrate the WHO as an observer state. The Minister explained that Greece recognises the People's Republic of China and therefore has no diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

13. The Chairperson asked the Minister to share his views on illegal migration and Greece's response to this phenomenon. Mr Dendias stated that irregular migration is a major issue for Europe, and for Greece in particular. Collective efforts are crucial in this area, as the migrants that arrive in Greece generally do not wish to stay in the country, but rather are trying to reach Western Europe. The protection of refugees, Mr Dendias stressed, is a core principle of the EU that must be upheld. At the same time, the current asylum process is outdated and must be made more efficient. The Minister praised NATO's role in monitoring irregular migration in the Aegean Sea but called on the Alliance to increase its cooperation with the EU in this area. Finally, he pointed out that the issue of

irregular migration can only be solved in the long term by addressing the difficulties faced by countries of origin.

14. **Ahmet Yildiz** (TR) expressed his hope that Greece and Turkey will find a way to move forward through the resumption of exploratory talks. He noted, however, that, during the opening meeting of this Annual session, the Greek Minister for the Environment and Energy suggested that these exploratory talks should focus on the delimitation of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone. Mr Yildiz expressed the Turkish position that the scope of such talks should be broader than this and that other issues relating to the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas should be discussed as well, such as the delimitation of territorial waters and the status of certain contested islands. **Ahmet Berat Conkar** (TR) added that the Greek Cypriots had previously carried out drilling and seismic activities in the Mediterranean, while Turkey had long attempted to find a negotiated solution to avoid escalation in the region. He also emphasized the importance of not using the term 'radical Islam' when referring to 'violent extremism', to not associate a specific religion with such a negative phenomenon.

15. Concerning hydrocarbon exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean, Mr Dendias expressed his hope that talks can be resumed after they were halted in 2016. Greece, however, cannot resume negotiations with Turkey unless the latter ceases all research on the Greek continental shelf in the southern Mediterranean, he insisted. In his view, if Greece and Turkey cannot reach a bilateral agreement, they should defer the matter to the International Court of Justice. Cyprus, he said, had only conducted such activities in accordance with international law, unlike Turkey. On the distinction between radical Islam and violent extremism, the Minister defended the use of the term 'radical Islam' when referring to radicalised factions and individuals that claim to base their actions on their Islamic faith.

16. **Françoise Dumas** (FR) expressed her concerns over the situation on NATO's southern flank, particularly with regard to the spread of radical Islam, and asked Mr Dendias whether additional cooperation mechanisms between the EU and NATO could contribute to strengthening security in the region. She also asked the Minister to share his perspective on the recent developments in the Western Balkans, particularly in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Lastly, Ms Dumas enquired about the Minister's opinion on China's Belt and Road Initiative and the ensuing economic impact on the region. Mr Dendias responded that increased cooperation between the EU and NATO is paramount to address the issues stemming from the conflicts and crises in the Middle East, particularly in Syria, Libya, and Lebanon. On the Western Balkans, Greece is of the opinion that all countries of the Western Balkans should join the EU, he stated. The EU must not let the region become a black hole in its neighbourhood. Finally, Mr Dendias emphasised the importance of integrating China, as a major producer and market, into the global system. This will only be possible, he pointed out, if Western companies are given the same opportunities in China that Chinese companies enjoy in the West.

17. Lord Campbell (UK) invited Mr Dendias to give his opinion on the recent developments in the Middle East and the Gulf, and the evolving relationship between Israel and some Arab nations. The Minister underlined the important role played by Gulf countries in promoting peace and prosperity in the Mediterranean. The lines that once divided Israel from the Arab world no longer exist, he said. They have been replaced by an opposition between those who believe in peace, prosperity, and human rights, and those who do not.

18. **Lord Jopling** (UK) asked the Minister to provide information on Greece's effort to restore the strength of its economy since the financial crisis. Mr Dendias explained that the decade-long crisis that rocked Greece's economy had resulted from two main factors: firstly, Greece's budget had not been properly balanced; secondly, the measures imposed on Greece in exchange for financial support had been too drastic. This resulted in the country's GDP decreasing by about 30%, and the unemployment rate of Greeks under 30 reaching approximately 50%. The Minister pointed out, however, that after a decade of suffering, the country's economy was now stronger and more efficient.

19. Ms Garriaud-Maylam thanked the Foreign Minister for his remarks and answers and closed the meeting.

Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security - Meeting 1

IV. Opening remarks by Joëlle GARRIAUD-MAYLAM (France), Chairperson

20. The Chairperson opened the online meeting of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security and welcomed all members of the Committee.

V. Adoption of the draft Agenda [175 CDS 20 E]

21. **The draft Agenda [175 CDS 20 E] was adopted**

VI. Adoption of summaries of previous meetings of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security:

- [Meeting held in London, United Kingdom](#), on 12 and 13 October 2019 [216 CDS 19 E]
- [Meeting held online](#) on 1 July 2020 [120 CDS 20 E]
- [Meeting held online](#) on 9 September 2020 [145 CDS 20 E]

22. **The summaries of previous CDS meetings [[216 CDS 19 E](#)], [[120 CDS 20 E](#)] and [[145 CDS 20 E](#)] were adopted.**

VII. Consideration of the Comments of the Secretary General of NATO, Chairman of the North Atlantic Council, on the Policy Recommendations adopted in 2019 by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly [056 SESP 20 E]

23. No points were raised by members on the Comments of the Secretary General.

VIII. Consideration of the revised draft Special Report [China and the Global Liberal Order](#) [029 CDS 20 E rev.1] presented by [Lord JOPLING](#) (United Kingdom), Special Rapporteur

24. In his opening remarks, Lord Jopling emphasised that NATO is an alliance based on common values and principles. The global liberal order was founded on these same values. Today, it faces new challenges and threats, many of them posed by China. China's recent activities demonstrate that it does not intend to abide by liberal norms. Instead, Beijing is trying to systematically undermine the global liberal order.

25. Domestically, China's political institutions are not compatible with liberal norms, the Rapporteur noted. Since he rose to power in 2012, President Xi Jinping has asserted his and the Chinese Communist Party's control over all political institutions, the military, and Chinese society. The institutional lack of respect for liberal principles has come hand in hand with a deterioration of the human rights situation in the country. The authorities severely restrict freedoms of expression, religion, belief, assembly, and association. They are cracking down on democratic aspirations in Hong Kong, depriving Uighur Muslims of their basic freedoms, and have set up a mass surveillance structure and an extensive internet censorship system.

26. Lord Jopling then noted that the handling of the COVID-19 crisis by the Chinese authorities has demonstrated the risks posed by their rejection of liberal values. By silencing whistle-blowers and concealing information, they not only caused a delay in their own response to the crisis, but also in that of other states, which contributed to the spread of the coronavirus. Moreover, the Rapporteur underlined that, during this crisis, Beijing resorted to disinformation and propaganda to shift the blame, undermine democratic regimes, and promote its authoritarian governance model. Finally,

Beijing exploited the global uncertainty created by the pandemic to advance its interests in its neighbourhood.

27. Lord Jopling then highlighted the main points added to the report since the previous meeting, including a section on the threat posed to the Alliance's security by Chinese investments, additional information on Beijing's repression of ethnic and religious minorities, and more details regarding China's influence over the education sector in NATO countries.

28. The Rapporteur concluded his remarks by stressing that, to efficiently respond to the challenges posed by China, NATO and the Allies must overcome their differences and promote liberal values. Speaking with one voice is crucial to denounce those of Beijing's actions that are unacceptable and incompatible with liberal norms. This requires increased cooperation with like-minded organisations and non-member countries. At the same time, Lord Jopling pointed out, we should refrain from rejecting China entirely. We must engage with China where possible to resolve disagreements, without compromising our values.

29. **Angel Tilvar** (RO) asked the Rapporteur to comment on China's initial approach in tackling the pandemic. Lord Jopling responded that, once the world will have found a way out of this crisis, an international inquiry will be needed to establish what caused it.

30. The Chair asked Lord Jopling to share his opinion on China's refusal to let Taiwan obtain the status of observer state at the WHO. Lord Jopling agreed that Taiwan should become an observer state at the WHO but noted that China exerts strong influence within the organisation and that many countries thus oppose this.

31. **Manousos Voloudakis** (GR) stated that China is exporting nuclear technology and investing in nuclear power plants abroad. He asked the Rapporteur whether such activities pose a risk with regard to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Lord Jopling agreed that China has become a major actor in the nuclear field but pointed out that exports of and investments in nuclear power plants do not necessarily lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

32. **Aleksandrs Kirsteins** (LV) expressed his concerns over labour camps in North Korea producing textiles for various companies, including Western brands. Lord Jopling remarked that China is also accused of using forced labour in Xinjiang and said that such practices are yet another example of China's unwillingness to abide by international norms.

33. **The draft report [029 CDS 20 E rev.1], as amended, was adopted.**

IX. Consideration of the revised draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance [Enhancing Information and Education about NATO](#) [028 CDSDG 20 E rev. 1] presented by [Angel TILVAR](#) (Romania), Rapporteur

34. In his opening speech, Angel Tilvar said that the public remains generally poorly informed about the Alliance and its role. This low level of knowledge and understanding negatively impacts citizens' support for the Alliance. Effective communication is therefore critical to NATO's success. Although NATO and its member states have made significant efforts, more must be done to enhance information and education about the Alliance.

35. This is particularly true today in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rapporteur pointed out. The Alliance is the target of disinformation and propaganda campaigns, often from China and Russia. They seek to create divisions within and between Allied countries, and to undermine people's trust in institutions. In response, NATO has devised and adopted a revised approach to disinformation during the pandemic and, as such, enhanced its ability to address the new informational environment.

36. The Rapporteur insisted that preventing the Alliance's adversaries from controlling the informational narrative was not a task solely for NATO. Member states play a crucial role in these

efforts. Some of them have developed innovative measures to reach out to a wider audience about the benefits of NATO membership and the role of the Alliance. These best practices must be shared amongst Allies and partners, so that they can be replicated. The NATO PA is another important actor in this domain. One of its core missions is to foster better understanding of the Alliance's objectives and missions among parliamentarians as well as among citizens of Allied countries. Finally, parliamentarians must participate in this effort as well, including by reaching out to their constituents and visiting schools and universities. Educating the next generation of citizens and leaders is indeed critical to ensure support for the Alliance in the future.

37. After presenting the main changes made to the draft report since it was last discussed by the Committee, Mr Tilvar highlighted that as NATO is adapting to new challenges, so should its public diplomacy narrative. He expressed his belief that the NATO 2030 reflection process constitutes an opportunity to reassess the Alliance's public communication strategy.

38. **Liudmyla Buimister** (UA) thanked the Rapporteur for including more information in the report on the impact of disinformation and propaganda, particularly from Russia, on the perception of NATO amongst citizens of member and partner countries. Mr Tilvar responded that disinformation and propaganda pose a major threat to our societies and called on NATO to further increase its cooperation with partner countries to better counter this menace.

39. **The draft report [028 CDSDG 20 E rev. 1], as amended, was adopted.**

Friday 20 November 2020

Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security - Meeting 2

40. Chairperson Garriaud-Maylam opened the second meeting of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security.

X. Vote on the revised draft Special Report [The Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on the Civil Dimension of Security](#) [088 CDS 20 E rev.1] presented by Joëlle GARRIAUD-MAYLAM (France), Chairperson

41. Ms Garriaud-Maylam presented the changes made in the report since it was last discussed by the Committee. These included the addition of information regarding NATO's efforts to fight disinformation and propaganda in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and regarding the link between displacement, conflict and the dissemination of COVID-19; of definitions of "fake news", "disinformation" and "propaganda"; and of a chapter on how to enhance NATO's resilience to future crises.

42. **Jane Cordy** (CA) thanked the Rapporteur for having written such a comprehensive and informative report. Ms Garriaud-Maylam expressed her gratitude to her colleague for her kind words.

43. **The draft report [088 CDS 20 E rev.1], as amended, was adopted.**

XI. Consideration of the revised draft General Report [Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda](#) [027 CDS 20 E rev.1] and consideration of amendments and vote on the draft Resolution *Furthering the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda* [149 CDS 20 E], presented by **Ulla SCHMIDT (Germany), General Rapporteur**

44. Ms Ulla Schmidt reminded members that, on October 31, the world had celebrated the 20th anniversary of the adoption by the UN Security Council of resolution 1325 on Women, Peace

and Security (WPS). This milestone recognised the impact of conflict on women and acknowledged their indispensable role in maintaining and promoting peace and security.

45. Since it was adopted, Ms Schmidt noted, the international community has made considerable progress in increasing the participation of women in peace and security, better protecting them in conflict situations, preventing violence against them and integrating gender perspectives into post-conflict relief and reconstruction efforts. However, women remain underrepresented in the field of peace and security. Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) continues to be used as a weapon and remains widespread throughout the world.

46. Advancing the WPS agenda is not just a question of justice, it is necessary to make the world more stable and secure, Ms Schmidt remarked. The successes achieved in this area over the past two decades must be defended against any attempts to reverse them. She added that the draft report and resolution call on all relevant actors to address the shortcomings identified in the implementation of the four pillars of Resolution 1325.

47. Ms Schmidt pointed out that although the WPS framework is sound, its translation into concrete actions remains too limited. She urged NATO and its member states to continue to mainstream gender perspectives into all their strategies, programmes, and operations, as well as to increase the presence of women both in NATO institutions and in national armed forces. She also called on the Alliance to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of the WPS agenda. Finally, she pressed the Alliance to continue to increase its cooperation with other international organisations as well as with civil society organisations.

48. Ms Schmidt detailed the main changes made to the draft report since it had last been discussed by the Committee. These included the addition of information on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the implementation of the WPS agenda, and of a paragraph urging NATO to place this agenda at the centre of its ongoing NATO 2030 reflection process.

49. Turning to the draft resolution, Ms Schmidt explained that its main purpose is to remind all that women are disproportionately affected by conflicts while also highlighting their crucial role in ensuring peace and security. It calls on Allied governments and parliaments, and NATO institutions, to take concrete steps to implement all four pillars of the WPS agenda. Ms. Schmidt concluded her remarks by urging NATO to consider the advancement of the WPS agenda a guiding principle in all aspects of the NATO 2030 reflection process and by reiterating the vital role of parliamentarians in advancing women's rights.

50. **Marilou McPhedran** (CA) asked whether the report could mention the interconnection between the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) and the WPS agendas. On the resolution, she stressed that local women's groups play a central role in the implementation of the WPS agenda and that they must be supported. She suggested that the resolution should call for NATO and its member states to allocate more resources towards local women's groups.

51. **Irakli Beraia** (GE) said that Georgia is the highest contributor of troops per capita to NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan and added that 2.7% of those troops are women.

52. **Marianne Marthinsen** (NO) raised her concerns over the recruitment of women by extremist groups and the role that they play in them. She pointed out that Norway has made this topic a priority in its National Action Plan and has established – jointly with Jordan – “The Group of Friends on Preventing Violent Extremism.”

53. **Lydia Mutsch** (LU) stressed that women suffer disproportionately from conflict. She mentioned that Luxembourg is at the forefront of the fight against CRSV, with the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg being particularly involved in this cause.

54. Lord Jopling (UK) asked how to raise awareness amongst men about the benefits of advancing the WPS agenda, and how to further engage them in its implementation.

55. Ms Schmidt expressed her view that an increasing number of men are participating in the implementation of the WPS agenda. They understand that these efforts are conducive to sustainable peace and result in tangible benefits for both men and women. The Rapporteur agreed that the WPS and YPS agendas are complementary. For that reason, it is of the outmost importance that the Alliance reaches out to the younger generations, she added. On the topic of women and violent extremism, Ms Schmidt agreed that this is a question on which the Committee should focus in the future. Concerning the allocation of resources as part of the implementation of the WPS agenda, she said that parliamentarians have an important role to play in ensuring that support is provided to the most effective actors, including local women's groups. Finally, she informed the Georgian delegation that their suggestion would be, in part, included into the report.

56. **The draft report [027 CDS 20 E rev.1], as amended, was adopted.**

57. **Alessandra Maiorino** (IT) presented an amendment to the draft resolution. She insisted that women must be included in all peace and security processes, and asked for the resolution to call on Allied countries and NATO to involve women in their strategic reflection processes and to integrate their perspectives in the development and analysis of future emerging security scenarios. Ms Schmidt agreed with Ms Maiorino and supported the amendment. The amendment was adopted.

58. **The draft Resolution [149 CDS 20 E], as amended, was adopted.**

XII. Future activities of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security and of the Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance

59. The Chairperson said that, in 2021, the Committee's general report will focus on how to improve the Alliance's civil preparedness and resilience to major threats and challenges. The special report will focus on disinformation and propaganda and will examine how NATO and the Allies can respond to this growing threat. Finally, the report of the Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance will explore democratic achievements and disillusion in the Middle East and North Africa, a decade after the Arab revolutions. Regarding visits, the Chairperson announced that the Committee intends to visit either Finland or Estonia, while the Sub-Committee will visit the United States and South Korea.

XIII. Election of Committee and Sub-Committee Officers

60. In the CDS Committee, [Angel Tilvar](#) (RO) was elected by acclamation as Chairperson; [Joelle Garriaud-Maylam](#) (FR) as General Rapporteur; [Linda Sanchez](#) (US) as Special Rapporteur; and [Brett Guthrie](#) (US) and [Rodrigue Demeuse](#) (BE) as Vice-Chairpersons. In the Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance, [Anissa Khedher](#) (FR) was elected by acclamation as Rapporteur; and [Aleksandrs Kirsteins](#) (LV) as Vice-Chairperson. [Tomas Jirsa](#) (CZ) and [Monica Falej](#) (PL) were elected by acclamation, respectively as member and alternate member of the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council (UNIC). **The officers eligible for re-election were re-elected by acclamation.**

XIV. Any other business

61. No other business was raised.

XV. Date and place of next meeting

62. The Chairperson concluded by stating that the next meeting of the Committee will take place at the Spring Session from 14 to 17 May 2021 in Stockholm, Sweden.

XVI. Closing remarks

63. The Chairperson closed the meeting of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security.
