

DEVELOPING A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY, INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED APPROACH TO RESILIENCE FOR ALLIED DEMOCRACIES¹

RESOLUTION 466

The Assembly,

1. **Noting** that the Alliance faces an increasingly complex security environment in which military and non-military threats are multiplying and affecting societies as a whole, and **acknowledging** that tackling them requires the adoption of a whole-of-society, integrated and coordinated security approach;
2. **Denouncing** the attacks perpetrated by internal and external malicious actors against the democratic values and structures of the Alliance, and **recalling** that the commitment to respect and defend the latter is the cornerstone of the national and collective efforts made by NATO countries with a view to strengthening their resilience;
3. **Observing** that the climate and biodiversity crises expose us to growing threats in terms of natural catastrophes, population movement, and political instabilities in every part of the world, including the territories of Member States;
4. **Convinced** that the Alliance's ability to recover quickly from a shock is its first line of defence, and **stressing** that maintaining credible collective deterrence and defence is intrinsically linked to strengthening the resilience of Allied societies and democracies;
5. **Aware** that the resilience and security of the Alliance depend on a better preparedness of civilian actors and on the development of effective and in-depth cooperation with the military sector in times of peace as in times of crisis;
6. **Mindful** that strengthening resilience is above all a national prerogative, while **underscoring** the growing interdependence of Allied societies and the vulnerabilities and risk of cascading failures that this can entail;
7. **Recalling** that Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty commits the Allies to develop their resilience separately and collectively, and **welcoming** the decision taken by the Allies at the June 2021 Summit to make resilience one of the priorities for NATO 2030;
8. **Welcoming** also the adoption, in June 2021, of the *Strengthened Resilience Commitment*, and the decision to initiate a process of evaluation and revision of NATO's baseline requirements for national resilience;
9. **Considering** that the Alliance's capacity to cope with shocks also depends on that of its partners, and therefore on cooperation with non-Member States and international bodies, in particular the European Union (EU), which share our democratic values;
10. **Noting** that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for civil preparedness and for cooperation between the civilian and military sectors in crisis management, and **paying tribute** to all those, military and civilian alike, who have contributed, and continue to selflessly contribute, to the fight against COVID-19;

¹ Presented by the Committee on Democracy and Security and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 11 October 2021

11. **URGES** the member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance and, where appropriate, NATO bodies:
- a. to place the development of resilience, including democratic resilience, at the heart of discussions about the future of the Alliance, notably within the framework of the NATO 2030 process and the forthcoming update of the Strategic Concept;
 - b. to better reflect the fundamental link between democratic resilience, societal resilience and security, and to reaffirm their individual and collective commitment to common shared values by creating a Centre for Democratic Resilience within NATO that can support the Allies in strengthening their democratic systems and institutions;
 - c. to encourage increased cooperation between the armed forces, public authorities at every level, the private sector and the population in crisis preparedness and response;
 - d. to improve communication and education on resilience aimed at civil sector actors, and in particular the population, in order to raise awareness of their essential role in effective crisis preparation and management;
 - e. to grow their expertise, develop their structures, and allocate sufficient financial and human resources to achieve the objectives set with regard to strengthening the resilience of Allied societies;
 - f. to take action and step up their efforts to meet NATO's current baseline requirements, in particular with a view to consolidating the resilience of their critical infrastructures, including their communication and transport systems; diversifying their supply chains; strengthening their energy security, which would help reduce their economic exposure to states that systematically engage in pernicious and hostile activities against the Alliance; and ensuring the continuity of public authorities and public services, notably health systems, in the event of a crisis;
 - g. to review, strengthen, expand and render the baseline requirements more quantifiable to allow for a regular and comparative assessment, both individual and collective, of the capacities and vulnerabilities of the Allies, and to facilitate a more frequent sharing of good practices between them;
 - h. to integrate the protection of democratic values and institutions as well as electoral processes into the baseline requirements, notably in the face of cyberattacks and disinformation;
 - i. to test, put into practice and improve their emergency plans ahead of crises by organising frequent exercises that take into account all the threats facing the Alliance and include the civilian and military sectors, at the national and NATO levels, in particular with the support of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC);
 - j. to strengthen their crisis planning and management efforts by developing early warning systems and robust and flexible emergency plans in cooperation with all military and civilian actors, and in particular private companies;
 - k. to facilitate the exchange of good practices between Member States and partner countries and international organisations, notably the EU, which share the Alliance's commitment to democratic values and have acquired specific expertise in resilience-building, and to deepen their collaboration with them in this area;
 - l. to draw lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic in the field of resilience, notably concerning the crisis response capacity of health infrastructures, and to transpose them into their policies for future crisis preparedness and response.
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