

## MAINTAINING NATO'S FOCUS ON THE RUSSIAN CHALLENGE<sup>1</sup>

### RESOLUTION 470

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The Assembly,

1. **Stressing** that, in the context of the increasingly complex global strategic environment, the Russian Federation's aggressive actions continue to pose the most immediate threat to Euro-Atlantic security;
2. **Regretting** that, despite NATO's consistent efforts to engage with Russia, especially since the signing of the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act, currently relations between Russia and the Euro-Atlantic community are at a new post-Cold War low, as a result of Moscow's aggressive actions and unacceptable violations of international laws and norms, which constitute a threat to Euro-Atlantic security;
3. **Noting** that the upcoming development of NATO's new Strategic Concept constitutes a timely opportunity to adjust the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's approach towards the continuous and evolving challenges posed by Russia;
4. **Reaffirming** the continued relevance of the dual-track approach – based on strong defence and deterrence while remaining open to political dialogue – towards Russia, **stressing** the focus on strong deterrence and defence and **underscoring** that until Russia demonstrates compliance with international law and its international obligations and responsibilities, there can be no return to business as usual;
5. **Condemning** Russia's ongoing violation of the territorial integrity of Georgia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, the illegal curtailing of the freedom of navigation to and from the Sea of Azov, as well as in the Black Sea, Russia's persistent efforts to destabilise these countries, to derail their European and/or Euro-Atlantic integration, and to incite reckless and irresponsible escalations;
6. **Expressing concern** about the grave human rights violations and ethnic discrimination against Georgians in the occupied territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, **stressing** the necessity of implementation of the EU-mediated ceasefire agreement by the Russian Federation and **underlining** the right of internally displaced people and refugees to return to their homes;
7. **Applauding** the establishment of the Crimea Platform which aims to restore Ukraine's control over this territory in full accordance with international law, **emphasising** that the Euro-Atlantic community will never recognise the temporary occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea and **condemning** in the strongest terms the systematic human rights violations and the oppression of the Crimean Tatar and ethnic Ukrainian communities in the peninsula;

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<sup>1</sup> presented by the Political Committee and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 11 October 2021

8. **Cognisant** of Russia's current extensive military modernisation programme, including endeavours to develop new destabilising nuclear weapons, its military build-up and deployment of modern anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) systems along NATO's eastern flank, including in the illegally occupied Crimea, its deepening military integration with Belarus, its growing military co-operation with China and its military presence in the Arctic and the Middle East;
9. **Deeply concerned** by Russia's actions that undermine the global arms control and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) non-proliferation regime, including its violations of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, its failure to fully comply with its obligations under the Treaty on Open Skies, its selective implementation of the Vienna Document, and its failure to implement the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe;
10. **Disturbed** by the regular breaches of Allied airspace, aggressive behaviour towards Allied vessels exercising their right to freedom of navigation in the Black Sea as well as the conduct of large-scale, no-notice and snap exercises near the borders of NATO Allies and partners;
11. **Mindful** of the challenges to Euro-Atlantic security posed by hybrid warfare tools Russia employs in attempts to subvert Allies and partner nations, including cyberattacks, disinformation, the deployment of mercenaries, disruptive actions by Russian intelligence services, including targeted killings using prohibited chemical substances, the use of energy and corruption as foreign policy tools and the meddling in domestic political affairs, and **welcoming** the statement made by Allied leaders at the 2021 Brussels Summit that "in cases of hybrid warfare, the Council could decide to invoke Article 5 of the Washington Treaty";
12. **Denouncing** the increasingly authoritarian nature of the regime, the systematic repressions against the remnants of democratic opposition, civil society and independent media, the absence of free elections and independent judiciary and the attempts to curtail internet freedom;
13. **Condemning** the illegal organisation and holding by Russia of the elections to the State Duma in the annexed Crimea as well as compelling Ukrainian citizens with illegally issued Russian passports to take part in these elections in the occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions;
14. **Further condemning** Russian support of brutal dictatorships across the world, including in Belarus, which is currently instrumentalising migration as a tool of hybrid warfare against NATO's eastern flank countries;
15. **Underscoring** the inalienable right of Russia's neighbours to choose their alliances, and **reiterating** its unwavering support for the NATO Open Door policy which no third country can veto;
16. **Welcoming** decisions of the Allied leaders at the 2021 Brussels Summit aimed at strengthening the Alliance's defence and deterrence vis-à-vis the threats emanating from Russia, and **praising** the effectiveness of the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) and tailored Forward Presence (tFP) as a demonstration of a common resolve to face security threats on the Alliance's eastern flank;
17. **Reaffirming** that the Alliance solely serves a purpose of defending its members and supporting its partners and does not seek confrontation with Russia;
18. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
  - a. to clearly identify in the new NATO Strategic Concept that Russia's aggressive actions pose the most immediate threat to Euro-Atlantic security and NATO's shared values of individual liberty, human rights, democracy and the rule of law;

- b. to pursue a clear-eyed policy vis-à-vis Russia primarily based on strengthening the Allied defence and deterrence capabilities and societal resilience against threats posed by Russia, and remaining open to periodic, focused and meaningful dialogue, in line with NATO's dual-track approach;
- c. to implement the decisions taken at the 2021 Brussels Summit to further enhance the Alliance's defence and deterrence posture, including on the eastern flank, to consider holding more frequent joint exercises, increasing rotational deployments and addressing capability gaps in the region, to consider using NATO's common funding to support eFP and tFP and to ensure, in co-operation with the EU, the effective implementation of military mobility projects to enable rapid reinforcement of NATO units on the eastern flank in case of crisis;
- d. to step up NATO's support for the efforts of Georgia and Ukraine to accelerate their process of Euro-Atlantic integration, to signal solidarity with Georgia and Ukraine through increased joint exercises and practical support to their ability to defend themselves, and to continue to denounce Russia's temporary occupation and illegal annexation of parts of Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, including in the NATO-Russia Council;
- e. to support the implementation of the provisions of the Joint Declaration of the Crimea Platform participants, issued in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 23 August 2021;
- f. to reinforce Allied resilience in the face of Russia's hybrid threats by further improving NATO's situational awareness and expanding its toolbox to counter these threats, including exchanging best practices of identifying and debunking Russian disinformation, mainstreaming responses to hybrid threats in joint exercise scenarios and enhancing collaboration with the private sector and the EU;
- g. to increase strategic awareness of new Russian foreign policy endeavours, such as its relations with China and its activities in the Middle East and Africa, which could affect the Euro-Atlantic security, by creating a designated unit within NATO's Joint Intelligence and Security Division to monitor these trends and share intelligence;
- h. to use every diplomatic and economic leverage, including the continued application of meaningful sanctions, to raise the cost for Russia's aggressive and destabilising behaviour and its violation of international law and human rights, and to promote the adoption of Magnitsky legislation across the Euro-Atlantic community and beyond in order to hold Russian officials and individuals accountable for human rights abuses and significant corruption;
- i. to address vulnerabilities stemming from dependency on Russian resources, including by demonstrating solidarity with Allies and strategic partners on projects affecting their energy security, and by redoubling efforts to implement ambitious climate agendas in Europe and North America;
- j. to keep current channels of communication with Russia open in order to prevent accidental escalation and, while being realistic about the prospects of genuine dialogue with the current regime, to explore avenues for dialogue in specific areas, including arms control, counter-terrorism, pandemic response and climate change, if it serves the Alliance's security interests;
- k. to build international pressure on Russia to immediately release all prisoners of conscience and to stop its assistance to political persecutions and human rights violations in Belarus, and to explore ways for individual Allies to support Russian civil society and those facing repression by the current regime for their political and civic activities.