



## NATO Parliamentary Assembly

### RESOLUTION 438

on

### SUPPORTING THE AFGHAN NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY FORCES\*

The Assembly,

1. **Recalling** NATO's principal mission in Afghanistan is to create a stable, peaceful, and prosperous state that will never again become a source of regional insecurity or a wellspring for global terrorism;
2. **Remembering** the success of the International Security Assistance Force's (ISAF) combat mission in removing the brutal Taliban government and dramatically weakening the presence of the non-state armed groups operating in the country, and **concerned** by the setbacks to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) over the past two years since ISAF's departure, resulting in the loss of increasing amounts of Afghan territory to Taliban insurgent forces;
3. **Reminding** Allies and their international partners that the ISAF mission in Afghanistan was its longest and largest mission in which all Allies and partners invested significantly and often with great sacrifice to achieve the operation's ends;
4. **Noting** the integral role of NATO's Resolute Support Mission (RSM) and other financial contributions by Alliance members in continuing to train, advise, and assist the ANDSF, from its leaders to its individual soldiers, to protect Afghanistan's people and defend its institutions from domestic and foreign adversaries until they can do so independently;
5. **Welcoming** the decision of the Government of the United States to increase its presence in Afghanistan, committing its forces to continue to play a vital role in both NATO's RSM and in a separate counterterrorism mission;
6. **Commending** the ANDSF's efforts to lead the fight against the Taliban and Afghanistan's other insurgent groups, but also **conscious** of the significant toll increased fighting is having on the ANDSF in terms of casualties and morale;

---

\* Presented by the Defence and Security Committee and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 9 October 2017, Bucharest, Romania

7. **Strongly supporting** President Ashraf Ghani's four-year Roadmap to establish sustainable and capable national armed forces in Afghanistan able to maintain peace and security;
8. **Concerned** about the surge of violence in 2017 and its impact on Afghanistan's civilians, security forces, and democratic institutions, as well as the wider region;
9. **Particularly concerned** by the humanitarian implications of increased fighting in Afghanistan, particularly affecting women and children, displacing hundreds of thousands of Afghan civilians and swelling the ranks of refugees fleeing the country;
10. **Recognising** Afghanistan's National Unity Government as the primary basis for establishing good governance and security through united, transparent, and capable institutions;
11. **Acknowledging** that regional political and security cooperation will play a key role in improving the humanitarian and security situation in Afghanistan and **commending** President Ghani's Kabul Process for Peace and Security Cooperation as a welcome sign of increased regional cooperation;
12. **Urging** all parties seeking a peaceful, stable, and democratic Afghanistan to support the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process to find the means for an enduring peace;
13. **URGES** the governments and parliaments of countries contributing to RSM:
  - a. to maintain, or consider increasing, their commitments to RSM to enable the conditions on the ground for a strong, independent Afghan government and for the ANDSF to assume full control of the country's populations and territory;
  - b. to engage willing regional actors to combat the forces seeking to subvert the National Unity Government and divide the Afghan people;
14. **URGES** the member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance, as well as NATO partners:
  - a. to support the Afghan government in its efforts to strengthen good governance practices, including by: improving transparency, combatting corruption, implementing electoral reform, and empowering women and girls;
15. **CALLS UPON** the Government and Parliament of Afghanistan:
  - a. to work diligently to support and provide the necessary oversight to President Ghani's four-year Roadmap as the principal means to strengthen the ANDSF's hand in national security through the creation of security forces with strong leadership, transparent processes, and capable soldiers;
  - b. to set the example as leading democratic institutions in the country representing and promoting the interests of all Afghan citizens.