



## NATO 2030: A MORE UNITED AND STRONGER ALLIANCE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE\*

### DECLARATION 460

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The Assembly,

1. **Saluting** the timely decision by Allied Heads of State and Government in December 2019 to launch a forward-looking reflection process, under the auspices of the NATO Secretary General, to further strengthen the political dimension of the Alliance, including consultation;
2. **Noting** that the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath have brought to light important lessons which Allies must learn as part of this reflection process;
3. **Welcoming** the valuable work conducted by the Group of Experts in support of the NATO Secretary General's efforts;
4. **Applauding** the NATO Secretary General's NATO 2030 initiative and the three priorities it lays out for the Alliance, namely being strong and united politically, staying strong militarily and taking a broader approach globally;
5. **Emphasising** the important opportunity this process offers to engage the Alliance's publics and thereby strengthen public understanding and support for the Alliance;
6. **Convinced** that NATO's strength now and tomorrow lies in its commitment to shared values and to the transatlantic bond;
7. **Recognising** that NATO must continue to adapt to meet its core task of collective defence, while defending against new threats and rising to emerging challenges;
8. **Acknowledging** that NATO's actions and partnerships contribute not only to Euro-Atlantic security but also to security in its neighbourhood and on the global stage;
9. **URGES** the governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
  - 9.1 **Priority 1: Europe and North America United Around Shared Transatlantic Values**
    - a. to reaffirm the indivisibility of Europe and North America's security and the centrality of the transatlantic bond for Allies' foreign policy and defence policies;
    - b. to rededicate the Alliance to the shared democratic values that constitute its founding principles, democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law, by recalling the obligations resulting from the North Atlantic Treaty and the recommendation previously adopted by the Assembly to consider the creation of institutional mechanisms within NATO to assist NATO member states that seek to strengthen their democratic institutions;
    - c. to foster the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security and subsequent resolutions, including by promoting gender equality and mainstreaming gender through all NATO policies;

- d. to reaffirm NATO's role as the unique and essential forum for transatlantic security consultations;
- e. to increase the scope and frequency of political consultation and develop a range of tools to facilitate the convergence of views among Allies, increase predictability of national actions and resolve any differences in full respect of international law; these could include more regular exchanges on national strategic priorities and operations, increased intelligence sharing, as well as, when needed, the use of mediation or the setting up of *ad hoc* working groups to address divisive issues;
- f. to make informal meetings of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) a regular new practice as well as consider new formats for the NAC as appropriate;
- g. to strengthen the role of the NATO Secretary General as facilitator of consensus-building among the Allies;
- h. to take full advantage of the Assembly's role as a forum for frank political exchanges by increasing dialogue between the NAC and the NATO PA at all levels;
- i. to continue and reinforce efforts to implement the Defence Investment Pledge and parallel efforts in terms of capabilities and contributions to operations, as fair sharing between the Allies of the burdens and responsibilities for defence is crucial for Alliance cohesion and necessary to maintain and, where necessary, rebuild the military capabilities to deter and defend against potential adversaries; initiatives aimed at reinforcing European defence must be conducted in complementarity with the strengthening of NATO;
- j. to support the NATO Public Diplomacy Division and relevant national actors, including parliamentarians, in their efforts to increase public awareness and understanding of NATO, to reach out to new generations of Europeans and North Americans, and to help build grassroots solidarity among Allied societies;
- k. to reaffirm their commitment to NATO's Open Door policy as a tool to enlarge the zone of stability and spread democratic standards throughout Europe, to support the Euro-Atlantic integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Ukraine, and to help strengthen their resilience against foreign interference.

## **9.2 Priority 2: An Alliance Fit to Address Evolving Threats and Challenges at 360 Degrees**

- a. to update NATO's Strategic Concept to reflect the changed security environment;
- b. to reaffirm that NATO's greatest responsibility is to protect and defend collectively its territory and populations against attacks;
- c. to continue to affirm the crucial role of a safe and resilient nuclear deterrent for the Alliance's deterrence and defence posture, and to strengthen NATO's contribution to effective arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation, taking into account the prevailing security environment;
- d. to continue to strengthen NATO's enhanced deterrence and defence posture in the East and the Baltic and Black Sea regions, and to continue to adapt collective defence and deterrence to new threats, including hybrid actions, and new domains of conflict, including cyber and space;

- e. to maintain NATO's policy towards Russia, based on strong deterrence and defence as well as openness for meaningful dialogue, while holding Russia accountable for its unacceptable violations of international laws and norms and adopting necessary responses;
- f. to reaffirm NATO's readiness to address any threats and challenges which have the potential to affect Euro-Atlantic security at 360 degrees;
- g. to further enhance NATO and Allies' counterterrorism efforts, and continue to share assessments about the future evolutions of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
- h. to strengthen support to stability and defence and related security capacity building in the partner countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and in the sub-Saharan area, including within the framework of the Mediterranean Dialogue and ICI (Istanbul Cooperation Initiative), and stand ready to support selected partners upon request, given the increasing instability on NATO's southern flank, especially the crises in Syria, Libya, and the ensuing migratory flows;
- i. to better understand the consequences of the rise of China, to assess the opportunities and challenges that its global ambitions and actions – as well as its cooperation with Russia – could pose to NATO and the Allies, and to examine the possibilities for a closer dialogue with China; in this respect, exchanges with relevant NATO partners, the European Union and partners in the Asia-Pacific region should be pursued;
- j. to continue to assist Allies in building their resilience to hybrid threats, disinformation, and other attempts at undermining democratic processes and political and economic independence including – in full respect for national prerogatives – in the areas of foreign investments and technological reliance;
- k. to contribute to the improvement of their ability to deal with future natural or man-made health emergencies;
- l. to bolster NATO's situational awareness in the Arctic region, including through greater information sharing, the creation of a working group on the Arctic, and training and exercises, and to maintain a good dialogue with Allies about search and rescue capabilities in the region;
- m. to fully recognise climate change-related risks as significant threat multipliers in their foreign and security policies, and increase the frequency of military and political consultations on climate change within NATO;
- n. to step up investment and Allied collaboration in defence science, technology, research and development to maintain NATO's scientific and technological edge, especially in emerging and disruptive technologies and new domains of warfare, consistent with Allies' international obligations.

### **9.3 Priority 3: An Alliance with a Global Voice and Broad Network of Partners**

- a. to stress that NATO can contribute to both Euro-Atlantic and global security by working hand-in-hand with, and building the capacity of, its partners around the world;
- b. to emphasise NATO's commitment and role in safeguarding the rules-based international order;

- c. to continue to improve the NATO-EU strategic partnership, ensuring coherence and complementarity, with a view to enhancing NATO and EU members' response to common challenges;
  - d. to ensure the fullest involvement of non-EU Allied countries in efforts to enhance European security and defence in the spirit of full mutual openness and in compliance with the decision-making autonomy and procedures of the two organisations;
  - e. to continue to develop political and practical cooperation with the United Nations, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the African Union, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and other relevant international organisations;
  - f. to establish a NATO-certified Centre of Excellence on the Indo-Pacific region.
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\* presented by the Standing Committee and adopted online by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 23 November 2020