

A TRANSATLANTIC STRATEGY ON CHINA*

RESOLUTION 464

The Assembly,

1. **Recognising** that the People's Republic of China (henceforth China), as the world's most populous country, second biggest economy, second largest defence spender and a global technology leader has emerged as a highly consequential global strategic actor, which brings with it a duty to act responsibly and defend the rules-based global order;
2. **Mindful** that China's mounting influence on the international stage and in multilateral forums has consequences for Euro-Atlantic security, that this presents both opportunities and challenges which the Alliance needs to address jointly, as Allied leaders recognised at the December 2019 London meeting; and that this is one of the themes identified by NATO's Secretary General within the framework of the NATO 2030 reflection process;
3. **Welcoming** the existing avenues for dialogue and cooperation between NATO and China, and **convinced** that a transatlantic strategy on China must seek cooperation wherever possible while being clear-eyed about the multifaceted challenges posed by China's rise;
4. **Underscoring** that the Chinese leadership does not share the liberal democratic values that underpin the Alliance, that it acts to undermine elements of the rules-based liberal world order while threatening open societies and that it attempts to export its authoritarian governance model;
5. **Cognisant** that China is rapidly developing and deploying advanced military capabilities, including intercontinental nuclear missiles, hypersonic weapons and blue-water naval capabilities, while refusing to engage in arms control negotiations in key areas;
6. **Troubled** by China's increasingly assertive international behaviour, including diplomatic and economic bullying, regional brinkmanship, demonstrations of force in the South and East China Seas as well as in the Himalayas, military exercises in the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean and its blatant disregard for international maritime law, especially in the South China Sea;
7. **Closely monitoring** China's strategic ambitions and activities in the Arctic region;
8. **Strongly condemning** massive human rights violations, including the crackdown on democracy in Hong Kong and oppression of religious and ethnic minorities, particularly members of the Uyghur and Tibetan communities;
9. **Appreciating** China's assistance to Allied members and partners during the Covid-19 pandemic, but **deeply regretting** related targeted disinformation and political pressure campaigns that aim to undermine social and political trust in democratic societies;
10. **Recognising** China's growing technological prowess and the significant progress it has made in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, but **deploring** China's continued sponsorship of massive

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cyber-espionage programmes and intellectual property theft as well as its use of sophisticated technology to monitor and control its own citizens;

11. **Acknowledging** China's immense economic clout, development assistance and the significant volume of infrastructure and other strategic investments it has made within the framework of the 'Belt and Road' Initiative;

12. **Cautioning** that investments in critical infrastructure, such as ports, motorways and rail systems can serve China's strategic and military ambitions; and **recognising** the need for Allies to reduce their reliance upon sole-source providers in strategic sectors and address vulnerabilities linked to China's powerful position in global supply chains;

13. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance and NATO partners:

- a. to encourage constructive engagement between NATO and China and examine opportunities to expand the ongoing NATO-China political and military dialogue to matters such as military transparency, freedom of navigation, emergency response and disaster management among others;
 - b. to engage in information-sharing within the Alliance and joint assessment of Chinese activities with potential security implications with the aim of achieving a greater unity of purpose on matters pertaining to China;
 - c. to align NATO's Strategic Concept, as well as defence planning, training and capability development priorities with a rapidly shifting global strategic environment in which the rise of China is a key feature;
 - d. to establish a NATO Centre of Excellence on the Indo-Pacific region in order to identify initiatives that allow Allies to collaborate with regional partners on shared priorities, to enhance Allies' understanding of the challenges China poses to NATO, and to forge a consensus on how best to cope with these challenges ;
 - e. to prioritise the human rights dimension in their approaches to China and to hold China accountable for rights abuses;
 - f. to enhance individual and collective resilience to the threats of Chinese disinformation campaigns, cyber-attacks and cyber-interference;
 - g. to establish or enhance mechanisms that assess potential risks to national and collective security - in accordance with national prerogatives - linked to third-party investments in strategic sectors, including 5G networks and health-related supply chains, and to improve coordination of these policies among the Allies and with the European Union;
 - h. to undertake diplomatic efforts to strengthen the wealth-generating rules-based open global economic order while resisting the establishment of highly transactional, opaque and unaccountable trade and investment systems like the 'Belt and Road' Initiative;
 - i. to exercise vigilance when dealing with China on matters pertaining to the Arctic as many of its commercial investments in the region have potential military and strategic implications for the Alliance;
 - j. to maintain regular exchanges with the European Union and Indo-Pacific partners in order to gain a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges presented by the emergence of China.
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