



NATO Parliamentary Assembly

DECLARATION 444

on

AFFIRMING NATO'S UNITY AND CREDIBILITY AT THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT*

The Assembly,

1. **Emphasising** that the upcoming Summit of NATO Heads of State and Government in Brussels on 11-12 July 2018 offers an important opportunity to demonstrate NATO's unity and credibility;
2. **Welcoming** the significant progress achieved since 2014 in adapting NATO to a new security environment characterised by Russia's political and military assertiveness, and non-compliance with fundamental principles of the rules-based international order; widespread instability from Libya to Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan which breeds a multifaceted terrorist threat and mass migration; the emergence of hybrid warfare, the spread of cyber attacks and disinformation, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and advanced missile technology;
3. **Stressing** that Allies are united in their conviction that NATO is and remains the cornerstone of transatlantic security, and that its unique strength lies in Europe and North America's commitment to defend each other's security, **and reaffirming** that all Allies are committed to the fundamental principle enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty that an attack against one is an attack against all;
4. **Convinced** that, in addition to defending Allies, NATO makes unique and invaluable contributions to responses to today's complex security challenges, including the fight against terrorism, in partnership with other states and organisations;
5. **Applauding** the important steps taken to develop NATO-European Union (EU) cooperation and coordination, **and recognising** the strategic potential that could be realised by implementing the agreed common set of proposals;

* Presented by the Standing Committee and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 28 May 2018, Warsaw, Poland

6. **Acknowledging** the continuing need to modernise NATO's structures and processes to ensure that it adapts to evolving security challenges;
7. **Determined** that all Allies must contribute to addressing shared challenges, assume their fair share of responsibilities, and commit the resources necessary;
8. **Reaffirming** its commitment to, and support for, NATO's Open Door policy;
9. **Highlighting** the importance of explaining and demonstrating to citizens in Europe and North America how the resources invested in defence – including NATO – contribute to their security;
10. **Emphasising** that NATO's response to threats is rooted in its commitment to individual freedom, the rights of men, women and children, democracy, and the rule of law;
11. **URGES** the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the North Atlantic Alliance at their Summit meeting in Brussels on 11-12 July 2018:

I. DETERRENCE AND DEFENCE, AND DIALOGUE WITH RUSSIA

- i. to reaffirm the conventional, nuclear and missile defence pillars of NATO's deterrence and collective defence posture;
- ii. to continue to ensure the sustainability and readiness of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic States and Poland, Tailored Forward Presence in the Black Sea region, Tailored Assurance Measures for Turkey as well as other Assurance Measures in force, Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, and enhanced NATO Response Force;
- iii. to remove without delay legal and regulatory impediments to the mobility of Allied forces in Europe, and create the conditions for investments in the infrastructure needed to ensure swift troop and materiel reinforcements across Alliance territory;
- iv. to develop Allied forces' ability to operate in anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) environments;
- v. to continue to bolster the Alliance's situational awareness in the Baltic, North, Black and Mediterranean Seas and in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, including through further cooperation, as appropriate, with partners in these regions;
- vi. to maintain NATO's policy towards Russia, based on strong deterrence and defence, and openness to a meaningful dialogue, as stated in the Wales and Warsaw Summit declarations, while addressing and holding Russia accountable for its unacceptable violations of international laws and norms;

II. PROJECTING STABILITY, AND COMBATting TERRORISM

- vii. to pursue full implementation of the Framework for the South which remains an essential integral part of both the Alliance Deterrence and Defence posture and the Alliance contribution to Projecting Stability;
- viii. to fill manning requirements for the Hub for the South at Joint Forces Command Naples, so it can rapidly reach full capability;
- ix. to prepare, for the Summit, the transformation of NATO's assistance to Iraq into a non-combat training and capacity-building mission;

- x. to strengthen support to defence capacity-building in the partner countries of the southern shore and the sub-Saharan area so as to enhance their stability by encouraging political dialogue and institutional stabilisation; this process could include Libya - should the conditions for a future government of national unity be in place - by fostering all possible opportunities for engagement in the spirit of the NATO PA's Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group;
- xi. to continue to develop political and practical cooperation with the United Nations, the African Union, the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council;
- xii. to rapidly fill troop requirements for the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan;
- xiii. to maintain NATO and Allies' support for the anti-Daesh coalition and continue to share assessments about the possible future evolutions of the terrorist threat;
- xiv. to highlight for our citizens NATO's contribution to the fight against terrorism, as part of the Alliance's multifaceted response to this threat;
- xv. to continue complementing efforts that deal with the refugee and migrant crisis caused by the instability in the Middle East and North Africa regions, and activities aiming at limiting illegal crossings in the wider Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea;
- xvi. to continue working on ways of further assisting Allies in their individual counterterrorism efforts, underscoring that this would contribute to the security in the Euro-Atlantic area as a whole;
- xvii. to pay tribute to and support the intensified commitment of certain Allies to the fight against terrorism, in particular in the Sahel-Saharan strip;

III. NATO-EU COOPERATION

- xviii. to continue to encourage the development of NATO-EU cooperation and coordination, and to implement the identified measures to enhance NATO and EU members' response to common challenges and prevent duplication;
- xix. to provide support for a joint statement by the NATO Secretary General, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission, in which NATO and the EU undertake to continue and to deepen their cooperation, particularly on military mobility in Europe;
- xx. to strengthen the European and transatlantic defence technological and industrial base, and encourage increased defence industrial cooperation;
- xxi. 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;

IV. MODERNISING THE ALLIANCE

- xxii. to maintain a flexible and responsive posture, allowing NATO to respond to all challenges from wherever they emanate, and to preserve the Alliance's ability to accomplish its three core tasks of collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security;

- xxiii. to expedite and improve the quality of political and military decision-making procedures in the Alliance to ensure their democratic nature, political ownership by the countries and rapid decision-making in the event of an imminent threat;
- xxiv. to complete without delay and implement the design for the adaptation of the NATO Command Structure, including the establishment of new commands and structures, and to fill their manning requirements;
- xxv. to continue to refine and exercise the Alliance's response to hybrid and cyber threats as undertaken at the Warsaw Summit;
- xxvi. to continue to assist Allies in building their resilience to disinformation and other attempts at undermining democratic processes;
- xxvii. to enhance NATO's situational awareness in the Arctic, including through greater information sharing, the creation of an Arctic working group, assistance to the development of Allies' search and rescue capabilities, and exercises;
- xxviii. to launch discussions on a new Political Guidance and a new NATO Strategic Concept to take stock of the fundamental shifts in the security environment since 2014, and set the future course of NATO's modernisation;
- xxix. to encourage further progress in the implementation by NATO and Allies of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, as well as UNSCR 1612 on Children and Armed Conflict;

V. BURDEN SHARING

- xxx. to recognise that the persistence of a multifaceted and particularly challenging threat environment makes it even more necessary that nations increase defence expenditure in real terms as GDP grows and move towards the guideline of spending 2% GDP for defence by 2024, increase annual investments to 20% or more of total defence expenditures, and meet NATO agreed guidelines for deployability and sustainability, as agreed at the Wales and Warsaw Summits;
- xxxi. to encourage all Allies, as agreed, to continue to present to the Alliance national plans including data on defence spending, capabilities, and contributions to capacity-building missions and NATO and other operations;

VI. OPEN DOOR POLICY

- xxxii. to reaffirm NATO's Open Door policy and the right of partners to make independent and sovereign choices on their foreign and security policy free from external pressure and coercion;
- xxxiii. to outline a clear membership perspective for aspiring countries in a forward-looking manner, while preserving the criteria for membership;
- xxxiv. to continue rendering strong political and practical support to Georgia in the process of NATO integration and to advance further the political dimension of Georgia's NATO membership process;
- xxxv. to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in creating the conditions for activating its first Membership Action Plan without further delay;

- xxxvi. to underline NATO's firm commitment to the Euro-Atlantic integration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue has been reached within the framework of the United Nations;
- xxxvii. to reaffirm Allies' condemnation of Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea, destabilisation of eastern Ukraine, and ongoing occupation of Georgian and Ukrainian territories, and their unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and Ukraine in their internationally recognised borders;
- xxxviii. to reiterate support for Ukraine's membership aspiration;
- xxxix. to continue to encourage all aspirants to enhance both military and political readiness, and to assist them through intensified political exchanges and military cooperation;

VII. CONNECTING NATO WITH ITS CITIZENS

- xl. to enhance efforts, working closely with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, to promote the transparency and efficient governance of NATO, as well as citizens' understanding of the challenges and requirements of our shared security with a particular focus on the next generation;
- xli. to increase the focus and resources of NATO's public diplomacy to enhance and expand NATO engagement, education and communication through all social media and traditional media platforms with NATO member and partner countries, and with citizens.

** Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.