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Conference Conclusions

Transatlantic Alliance – Challenges and Solutions

Transatlantic Alliance in the New Security Architecture

The NATO alliance stands as a regional force with global obligations for safeguarding peace, human rights and freedoms, and personal and societal security. It serves as a formidable defensive bulwark against undemocratic and hostile autocratic regimes that seek to forcibly alter the existing world security architecture, impose their will on other nations and states, and violate the freedoms and democratic rights of individuals and communities. Article 5 of the NATO Charter pledges protection to nearly 1 billion people. Collective defense assumes critical significance for member nations that are smaller and economically weaker, unable to independently develop comprehensive defense capabilities to deter potential adversaries. Membership in the NATO alliance is a great privilege and an even greater responsibility, particularly in the prudent exercise of the extensive resources and power at its disposal, not limited to military might alone. Security constitutes a common good and an inherent entitlement of every individual and community.

The Alliance should focus on expanding and reinforcing programs like the Partnership for Peace while also engaging with other regional organizations to bolster the global security framework. This entails promoting accountability for peace and fostering transparent communication among Allies and partners, particularly in crisis prevention, response, and resolution scenarios. Central to these endeavors is both bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagement.

Unity is binding. Allies often pursue their national interests. If effectiveness is desired, it is necessary to persistently work on building trust among Allies and fostering a culture of cooperation and respect for different individual or group interests. The Alliance needs to work on strengthening internal cohesion and collective defense. The fight against terrorism must not be neglected due to other challenges facing the Alliance. A joint approach is needed towards numerous security challenges and open issues the Alliance is facing or has yet to face. The



development of the EU military is not a sustainable solution from any professional standpoint. The EU needs to develop its military, defense, and security capabilities that will complement NATO's capabilities and capacities to act jointly.

The NATO alliance is a nuclear alliance. There is no such thing as a European nuclear shield. These facts carry significant responsibility for Allies in managing current and future crises, particularly concerning Russian aggression against Ukraine. The NATO alliance must draw numerous lessons from this situation, at both national and NATO levels. These lessons should be recognized, embraced, and applied in adapting to new security challenges. In this context, responsibility towards the requirements for NATO membership should also be considered.

NATO – Structure, Organization, Operations

The Alliance needs to work on developing its transformational capabilities, capacities, and abilities depending on expected and anticipated challenges, risks, and threats, both expected and unexpected. It should promote interoperability and develop capabilities for efficient leadership, management, and command.

Russian aggression against Ukraine, malicious interference in numerous political processes in Allied nations by adversaries, as well as other forms of short-term and long-term, more or less serious risks, threats, and challenges, need to be clearly and comprehensively analyzed. Lessons learned should be implemented, identified weaknesses and vulnerabilities need to be eliminated, and strengths should be enhanced and maximized.

People matter. People make a difference. In all transformation processes, research, development, planning, leadership, management, command, and decision-making. Therefore, continuous education processes, development of new and useful, applicable knowledge, motivation of individuals, as well as their improvement, are crucial for the future of the Alliance. Both at the national and NATO level.

The scientific activities of the Allies are of paramount importance for advancing the capabilities and potential of the Alliance, as well as for effective deterrence. Science can provide the foundations for significant advancements, particularly in countering various types of kinetic threats.

Allies must develop credible and compelling deterrence capabilities. Potential aggressors must recognize that the costs of aggression far outweigh any temporary benefits they



may seek, while the Alliance will demonstrate its ability to effectively respond to threats and secure victory over potential aggressors. Such deterrence capabilities are essential and should be prioritized. Consequently, Allies must continuously enhance their defense capacities, increase defense investments, and bolster the security of Allied nations. Investment in the defense and security industry needs to be strengthened, and differences in defense production need to be leveled out, as there are too few manufacturers in the US and too many in Europe. This is crucial for transforming outdated Eastern defense systems into modern Western ones. Allies must also bolster their social resilience, especially concerning modern hybrid security challenges.

Emerging Security Challenges

In order to effectively address future security challenges, risks, and threats, it is imperative to cultivate strong allied relations with the EU, as collective defense is not just a necessity but a fundamental requirement. Europe must prioritize investment in its security and the development of robust deterrence capabilities across all domains: physical, informational, digital, and cognitive. Communication between the NATO alliance and the EU must be open and collaborative. The EU and NATO must work on establishing a so-called "military Schengen" to enhance the effectiveness of prevention and deterrence efforts.

The Alliance must be adaptable, and agile, and continuously strive for improvement, development, and enhancement of its operational processes, particularly in decision-making during challenging circumstances. Strengthening the Alliance's presence in the media landscape of member nations and beyond is crucial. Clearly defined goals, resource allocation, methodologies, and strategies are strategically vital for the Alliance's positive effectiveness in adapting to enduring security challenges. The Alliance must demonstrate resilience in the face of challenges, ensure the highest level of security for its population, maintain efficiency, and swiftly recover from exposure to risks and threats while remaining agile in transformation and adaptation. The readiness for action and commitment among individuals, coupled with developed capabilities and demonstrated potential, are the cornerstones of the Alliance's success.

Decision-makers need to understand that armed forces do not engage in planning processes before decisions are made, as it is neither purposeful, nor practical, nor feasible given considerations of efficiency, resource allocation, and fatigue and load on the system. Planning



commences only after decisions are made, underscoring the necessity for a period between decision-making and system readiness to respond effectively according to predefined objectives and tasks, in a manner and scope conducive to achieving the intended outcome. In this regard, activities pertaining to the collection, processing, and dissemination of security-related data are of paramount importance for enhancing Alliance capabilities, both at the national and collective level.

The exchange of experiences and knowledge must be candid, timely, and comprehensive. Only through such transparent exchanges, fostering increased trust, can decision-making processes be refined, particularly in crisis and wartime scenarios. Decision-making should not be stalled when the Alliance and its pursuit of peace and democracy face immediate threats.

The NATO Alliance holds significant importance and plays a pivotal role on a global scale in adapting to the new security architecture, which will ensure stability, peace, security, independence, and sovereignty for all its Allies, as well as countries with which the Alliance maintains various forms of partnership and friendly relations. NATO must vigilantly monitor the activities of potential adversaries, as well as processes that have the potential to cause broader destabilization, such as events in Transnistria, the Caucasus region, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific, along with related activities of China.

Ukraine must defeat Russia. This is a prerequisite for the long-term and secure stabilization of Europe and the NATO alliance. It will also serve as a deterrent to other potential aggressors, demonstrating the consequences they may face for planning and exercising aggression against another country.

Additionally, NATO must pay close attention to security challenges in Southern Europe, particularly regarding Serbia's activities and its future within the EU, as well as its relationship with the NATO alliance.

NATO also bears a distinct responsibility to address climate change, given its direct implications for local, regional, continental, and global security risks and dynamics. Recognizing that military activities themselves contribute to climate change, Allies must seek to reconcile two seemingly contradictory objectives: maintaining the capability to develop military and defense effectiveness for credible deterrence, while also supporting policies aimed at environmental preservation and sustainability.