

**DEFENCE AND
SECURITY**

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DRAFT RESOLUTION

on

REDUCING NATIONAL CAVEATS

presented by

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General Rapporteur

The Assembly,

1. **Recalling** that national caveats are defined as restrictions placed on the use of national military contingents operating as part of a multinational operation;
2. **Recalling** that national caveats may be both declared and known to commanders, or undeclared and therefore unknown to commanders until they actually assign a mission to a particular unit and discover that a caveat prevents that unit from performing that mission;
3. **Recalling** that such restrictions limited the ability of NATO forces in Kosovo to respond to civil unrest there in March 2004;
4. **Noting** that NATO has since mostly resolved this issue and the current force in Kosovo is far more flexible and capable of responding in the event of future incidents;
5. **Further noting** that although, in the case of Kosovo, many of those caveats have been eliminated, restrictions placed on the use of national military contingents in Afghanistan remain a serious issue;
6. **Concerned** that military commanders of NATO forces in Afghanistan consistently cite national caveats as a significant impediment to the planning and execution of their mission;
7. **Noting** that the issue was not resolved until a crisis occurred in Kosovo;
8. **Concerned** that the Alliance should not wait for another crisis situation to spark changes in the type and number of caveats regarding the mission in Afghanistan as this could have serious negative effects on the credibility of the Alliance;

9. ***Further concerned*** that existing national caveats will have a debilitating effect on ISAF as it continues to expand its presence in Afghanistan to the south and east of the country;
 10. ***Recognizing*** that sovereign nations have the right to define the terms by which they participate in a mission;
 11. ***But also recognizing*** that such conditions should be made known to all other participants in the mission before a deployment to avoid complicating the planning process;
 12. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
 - a. to eliminate the use of undeclared caveats and allow the restrictions on a national contingent to be taken into consideration during the force planning process;
 - b. to minimize the use of declared caveats and regularly reconsider the specific caveats to determine which can be eliminated, given changes in the operating environment or in the available resources of the national contingent.
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