



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

THE PRESIDENT  
LE PRÉSIDENT

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9 December 2020

## TO SECRETARIES OF DELEGATION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL MEMBERS

### Re: *NATO 2030* Report by the Group of Experts appointed by the NATO Secretary General

Dear colleagues,

On 1 December, the Group of Experts appointed by the NATO Secretary General to support the reflection process on *NATO 2030* released its [report](#). I am delighted to inform you that it includes several recommendations put forward in recent Assembly resolutions as well as in the NATO PA's contributions to the Group of Experts and the NATO Secretary General. The Experts' report also makes one explicit reference to the Assembly's role in support of efforts to raise the awareness of our publics about NATO.

Specifically, the report incorporates the Assembly's recommendations on the following issues:

#### Revision of the NATO Strategic Concept

The Experts' report incorporates the recommendation made in Assembly resolutions [457](#) and [460](#) to update the 2010 Strategic Concept to take account of the significant shifts in the strategic environment (p. 23 – item 1).

#### Recommitment to Values – Center of Excellence for Democratic Resilience

As the Assembly has done in several reports and recommendations ([457](#) and [460](#)), the Experts urge Allies to redouble their commitment to the democratic principles enshrined in the North Atlantic Treaty. Specifically, the report endorses the Assembly's proposal to create a Center of Excellence for Democratic Resilience to assist Allies in strengthening democratic institutions' resilience to outside interference (p. 52 – item 4).

#### China – Allied strategy – consultative body – cooperation with Indo-Pacific Partners

The report's analysis of the opportunities and challenges of China's rise is in line with the three reports prepared by the Assembly's Committees ([CDS](#), [PC](#) and [ESC](#)) on China in 2020.

The report also endorses the specific proposals included in Assembly reports and [resolutions](#) to:

- create a consultative body to discuss all aspects of Allies' security interests vis-à-vis China (p. 28 – item 1);
- develop a comprehensive China strategy (p. 28 - item 2)
- enhance cooperation with partners in the Indo-Pacific region (p. 60 – item 14).

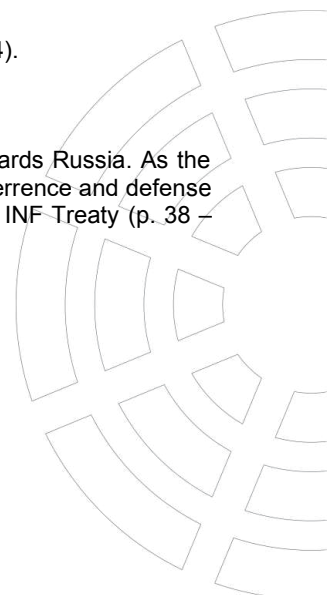
#### Russia – deterrence in a post-INF environment

The report reaffirms NATO's dual-track approach of deterrence and dialogue towards Russia. As the Assembly has done in its [resolutions](#), it stresses the need to enhance NATO's deterrence and defense posture to respond to Russia's nuclear modernization following the demise of the INF Treaty (p. 38 – item 10).

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## Situational awareness in the High North

Like several Assembly [reports](#) and [resolutions](#) have called for, the Experts call on Allies to enhance NATO's situational awareness in the High North and the Arctic (p. 41 – item 2).

### Emerging and disruptive technologies – NATO's technological edge

The report highlights the risks and opportunities of emerging and disruptive technologies and as the Assembly has done in several recent [reports](#) and resolutions [443](#), [453](#) and [465](#), urges allies to work to maintain NATO's technological edge (p. 29 – item 2).

## Partnerships and Open Door

As the [Assembly](#) has done, the Experts' report urges NATO and EU members to seek closer NATO-EU cooperation in full complementarity (p. 56 – item 7). It also emphasizes the importance of partnerships and capacity-building to better address instability in the South (p. 59 – item 13).

The Experts echo the Assembly's [calls](#) to keep NATO's door open to future aspirants and intensify partnerships with Georgia, Ukraine, and Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular (p. 59 – items 9 to 11).

## NATO decision-making

In its recommendation to the Group of Experts, the Assembly called for more informal and more frequent meetings of the North Atlantic Council (p. 54 – items 1 & 6) and for increasing the speed of decision-making (p. 61 – item 5) while preserving the principle of consensus. These recommendations are mirrored in the Experts' report.

## Communication and public awareness

The NATO PA's role is referenced specifically in the section on communications and public awareness. The report states, and I quote: *"While NATO accelerates digitalization of its public communications functions, Allies should amplify face-to-face engagements with broader audiences while partnering with stakeholders in NATO's rich network of force multipliers like the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Atlantic Treaty Association."* (p. 49 – item 4)

The report also includes a recommendation put forward by the Assembly of a NATO scholarship (p. 63 – item 8).

In closing, I want to underline that I will make it my priority to follow up on these recommendations with the NATO Secretary General and the North Atlantic Council as well as to ensure that the NATO PA is fully engaged in the upcoming revision of NATO's Strategic Concept.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for the trust you have placed in me by electing me as your President. I look forward to working with all national delegations to expand our Assembly's role and influence at this crucial time. The Assembly is critical to the health of the Alliance. As parliamentarians, we represent the democratic expression of our people. We must make sure we and – more importantly – *they* are heard.

Best wishes,

Gerald E. Connolly  
President

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