



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

NATO'S SUBMISSION TO THE UN SECRETARIAT FOR A "NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE"

We thank the UN Secretariat for the opportunity to share our views, priorities and recommendations in the development of a "New Agenda for Peace", as part of the broader "Our Common Agenda" framework.

For nearly 75 years, NATO has defended freedom and contributed to a more peaceful world. To this day, the Alliance continues to be a key pillar of the global multilateral architecture and a bulwark of the rules-based international order. We remain firmly committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty, NATO's founding document. All Allies are bound together by common values, including individual liberty, human rights, democracy and the rule of law. These values are the foundation for unity, cohesion and solidarity within NATO, and Allies remain steadfast in their resolve to safeguard them.

It is a critical time for international peace and stability. Strategic competition is rising. Moscow and Beijing are at the forefront of an authoritarian pushback against the rules-based international order, openly contesting our values and trampling on international law. President Putin's illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine has shattered peace in Europe and upended norms and principles that contributed to a stable and predictable security order. At the same time, other threats to international peace, security and stability persist, from terrorism to nuclear proliferation – not least in Iran and North Korea; and from climate change to cyber attacks. Pervasive instability results in violence against civilians, forcing displacement, fuelling human trafficking and irregular migration, which disproportionately affect women, children and minorities.

Against this background, NATO welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of a "New Agenda for Peace". At the onset of this process, we would highlight several areas of mutual interest that merit being incorporated in this new agenda:

Cooperation between the UN and regional organisations should be a common thread linking priorities across the "New Agenda for Peace". As outlined in NATO's 2022 Strategic Concept - the Alliance's guiding document in a more competitive and dangerous world - enhancing NATO's cooperation with other multilateral organisations and partner countries that share our values and interests remains a priority.

The "New Agenda for Peace" should integrate the principles of the **Women, Peace and Security** agenda, reflecting in particular women's inclusion in conflict prevention and resolution. NATO is committed to this agenda, to promote good governance, integrate **human security** across everything NATO does, and continue to advance gender equality as a reflection of NATO values. A "New Agenda for Peace" should reflect the cross-cutting importance of human security, including the protection of civilians, to peace and stability.

NATO has stepped up engagement with youth, including through the NATO 2030 initiative and the holding of annual NATO Youth Summits. We are actively looking at how to integrate the UN

Youth, Peace and Security agenda into NATO, and look forward to finding more ways to cooperate on this agenda.

The “New Agenda for Peace” should emphasize the importance of **combatting terrorism**. As a transnational security challenge, terrorism is the most direct asymmetric threat to international peace and prosperity. NATO is committed to enhance support to its partners, including to help build their capacity to counter terrorism and address shared security challenges.

The “New Agenda for Peace” should feature **crisis prevention** as a sustainable way to contribute to stability and security. In the 2022 Strategic Concept, NATO Allies confirmed their willingness to work to prevent and respond to crises when these have the potential to affect Allied security, to invest in crisis response, preparedness and management, through regular exercises and leverage our ability to coordinate, conduct, sustain and support multinational crisis operations.

NATO is committed to increase its efforts to **anticipate and prevent crises and conflicts**. NATO will also consider ways to deepen its cooperation with the UN and other international organisations in this area. International foresight and capacities to adapt and identify new security risks should be strengthened.

The “New Agenda for Peace” should emphasise a **renewed commitment to peacekeeping**, in-line with “Action for Peacekeeping” and cross-cutting priorities laid out in “Action for Peacekeeping Plus”. NATO remains committed to strengthening the UN’s ability to mount and sustain peacekeeping operations, notably by enhancing operational performance and the safety and security of UN peacekeepers.

The “New Agenda for Peace” should aim to boost multilateral cooperation in new peace and security domains, including on **emerging and disruptive technologies and innovation**. In this vein, NATO recognises the applicability of international law and seeks to promote responsible behaviour in **cyberspace and space**. The importance of norm-setting in these domains should be reflected in the “New Agenda for Peace”.

The New Agenda should highlight the importance of supporting the global **arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture**. That architecture has been eroded by Russia, China, North Korea and other states, which has negatively impacted strategic stability. NATO serves as a platform for consultation to strengthen international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation regimes and their contribution to security, including to prevent the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The fundamental purpose of NATO’s nuclear capability is to preserve peace, prevent coercion and deter aggression. As long as nuclear weapons exist, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance. NATO’s goal is a safer world for all; we seek to create the security environment for a world without nuclear weapons. NATO supports the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the essential bulwark against the spread of nuclear weapons, and we remain strongly committed to its full implementation. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) lacks any rigorous or clear mechanisms for verification, and has not been signed by any state that possesses nuclear weapons. The TPNW will not result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon. On the contrary, it risks undermining the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture.

Finally, **the “New Agenda for Peace” should take into account the climate-security nexus**, with a view to driving forward greater cooperation on the threat posed by climate change to global peace and security. Climate change is a crisis and threat multiplier. It can exacerbate conflict, fragility and geopolitical competition. NATO aims to become the leading international organisation

when it comes to **understanding and adapting to the impact of climate change on defence and security**. Addressing this challenge **requires a multilateral approach**.

In view of the longstanding cooperation between the UN and NATO, we look forward to participating in the discussions leading to the development of a “New Agenda for Peace”.