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RESOLUTION 451

on

REINFORCING NATO'S CONTRIBUTION TO TACKLING THE CHALLENGES FROM THE SOUTH*

The Assembly,

1. **Emphasising** that a secure, economically and socially stable Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is of strategic importance for the Alliance;
2. **Acknowledging** that the underlying causes fuelling instability and conflict in the region include a broad range of economic, environmental, and social issues as well as ineffective governance;
3. **Recognising** that instability in the area has provoked massive migration flows towards member states at the borders of the region, which have become for those countries a possible cause of instability;
4. **Recognising** that the Alliance as an organisation does not have the necessary instruments to address these underlying causes that fuel radicalisation;
5. **Noting, however,** that NATO does make an important contribution to the stability of the MENA region through its political dialogue and particularly through its assistance to partner countries of the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI);
6. **Recognising** the essential role of Operation Barkhane for Euro-Atlantic security;
7. **Appalled** by the actions of the regime of Bashar al-Assad against its own population, including the barbaric use of chemical weapons, but **aware** that only a negotiated political solution on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 can produce a lasting solution to the conflict;
8. **Commending** the Iraqi security forces and the Government of Iraq for their success against Daesh and for the restoration of sovereign control over all Iraqi territory, but **aware** that Daesh and other terror organisations remain a serious threat unless the underlying causes fuelling radicalisation are addressed;
9. **Stressing** that the war in Syria and the instability in Iraq is a major source of instability far beyond their borders, exacerbating an already volatile security situation in the MENA region and beyond, adversely affecting trans-Atlantic security in its entirety;

* Presented by the Political Committee and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 19 November 2018, Halifax, Canada

10. **Recognising** that the involvement of foreign actors which pursue competing agendas and support the rival factions is a main factor that has impeded the implementation of the UN action plan for Libya;
11. **Recognising** that hybrid strategies are not exclusively used against our countries, and that we must envisage their potential use by different adversaries, some of which might come from the South;
12. **Noting** that the volatile security situation of North Africa is not only affected by developments within the region, but also by spill-over effects from other parts in Africa and that we cannot forget that there is a serious terrorist threat with roots in the region, which demands greater attention to the South;
13. **Recognising** the efforts made so far by Spain, Italy, Greece and other countries in the face of the migration challenge resulting from insecurity and instability in North Africa, and the need to provide assistance and support to those countries in managing migration flows in a sustainable, inclusive manner;
14. **Welcoming** the decisions taken by Allied Heads of State and Government at the 2018 Brussels Summit that aim at building a stronger and more dynamic relationship with NATO's southern partners and **highlighting** the importance of NATO's Hub for the South for improving the Alliance's awareness and understanding of the threats coming from the Middle East and Africa;
15. **Noting** that NATO's cooperation with the African Union is an integral part of both NATO's Framework for the South and the Alliance's efforts in projecting stability;
16. **Emphasising** the fact that 22 of the 29 Allies are also members of the European Union which shares the same interests in the MENA region, and **recognising** that the EU is playing an important role in economic development and in the promotion of good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights in the Middle East and in Africa as well as the efforts made by the EU in the region, by means of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), with missions that are important for the security of our allies, such as EUTM Mali, EUTM RCA and EUTM Somalia;
17. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
 - a. to continue assisting NATO partner countries in the MENA region in capacity building and other defence-related activities that help the partners create professional and accountable security institutions, which is central to improving the stability of partner countries and the whole MENA region;
 - b. to provide adequate financial and personnel resources to implement the non-combat NATO training mission in Iraq and encourage the Iraqi government to address the shortfalls in good governance;
 - c. to develop a joint, coordinated, Allied approach towards a political solution to the war in Syria that is acceptable to all main stakeholders and also holds the Assad regime accountable for its human rights violations and the use of chemical weapons;
 - d. to agree on a shared policy towards Libya in the area of defence assistance and security institution building, as well as to use diplomatic leverage to force the actors on the ground to implement the UN action plan;
 - e. to expand and deepen collaboration between NATO and the European Union in the MENA region, including by assisting partners in building their capacities and fostering resilience;

- f. to enable NATO exploring ways to expand and deepen its relations with regional organisations to help them improve their capacities to address security threats in the MENA region and in other parts of Africa;
 - g. to further enhance the operability of the Hub for the South in Naples (NATO Strategic Direction South – Hub);
 - h. to consider how NATO can strengthen military cooperation between Allies to stabilise the G5 Sahel countries.
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