



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY

OF THE MEETING OF THE

COMMITTEE ON THE CIVIL DIMENSION OF SECURITY

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 November 2018

Argyle Suite
Halifax Convention Centre, Halifax,
Canada

ATTENDANCE LIST

Chairperson	Joëlle GARRIAUD-MAYLAM (France)
General Rapporteur	Ulla SCHMIDT (Germany)
Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance Rapporteur	Jane CORDY (Canada)
Special Rapporteur	Lord JOPLING (United Kingdom)
President of the NATO PA	Rasa JUKNEVICIENE (Lithuania)
Secretary General of the NATO PA	David HOBBS
Member delegations	
Belgium	Alain TOP Brigitte GROUWELS Olga ZRIHEN
Bulgaria	Hristo GADZHEV
Canada	Borys WRZESNEWSKYJ Joseph A. DAY Cheryl GALLANT
Croatia	Nenad STAZIC Furio RADIN Franko VIDOVIC
Czech Republic	Tomas JIRSA
Estonia	Kerstin-Oudekki LOONE
France	Anissa KHEDHER Joaquim PUEYO
Germany	Dagmar FREITAG Georg MAIER Karl A. LAMERS Anita SCHAFFER
Hungary	Sándor FONT
Iceland	Thorgerdur K. GUNNARSDOTTIR
Italy	Alessandra MAIORINO Emanuele PELLEGRINI
Lithuania	Dainius GAIZAUSKAS
Luxembourg	Marc ANGEL
Norway	Sverre MYRLI
Poland	Waldemar ANDZEL Piotr APEL Miroslaw SUCHON
Portugal	Vitalino CANAS
Romania	Nicu FALCOI Ana Maria Cerasela POPESCU
Spain	Zaida CANTERA Guillermo MARISCAL
Turkey	Cengiz AYDOGDU Muhammet CINISLI Hisyar OZSOY Kamil SINDIR

United Kingdom	Zehra TASKESENLIOGLU Ahmet YILDIZ Cengiz AYDOGDU Bedia OZGOKCE ERTAN Mary Helen CREAGH Andrew ROSINDELL
United States	Susan DAVIS
Associate delegations	
Austria	Nikolaus BERLAKOVICH Michael HAMMER Maximilian UNTERRAINER
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*	Bijeta BILALI AJETI Katerina KUZMANOVSKA
Georgia	Giorgi KANDELAKI Sofio KATSARAVA
Republic of Moldova	Mihai GHIMPU
Serbia	Vladimir DJUKANOVIC Natasa JOVANOVIC
Switzerland	Isidor BAUMANN Joseph DITLI Chantal GALLADÉ
Ukraine	Yurii BEREZA Iryna FRIZ Iryna GERASHCHENKO Liudmyla PROTASENKO Oksana YURYNETS
European Parliament	Bogdan ZDROJEWSKI
Regional Partner and Mediterranean Associate Member Delegation	
Algeria	Abou Firass SERIDI Abderrahmen DRISS
Parliamentary Guests	
Qatar	Dahlan AL-HAMAD Khalifa AL-HETMI

* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Speakers

Udloriak (Udlu) HANSON

Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut

Dr Stéphane ROUSSEL

Professor, The University of Public Administration (ENAP)

Graham BROOKIE

Director and Managing Editor, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council

Mark GWOZDECKY

Assistant Deputy Minister for International Security and Political Affairs, Global Affairs Canada

Clare HUTCHINSON

NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security

Dr Audrey REEVES

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

International Secretariat

Andrius AVIZIUS, Director

Ceylan TACI, Coordinator

Julie BOURGADE, Research Assistant

Saturday 17 November 2018**I. Opening remarks by Joëlle GARRIAUD-MAYLAM (France), Chairperson**

1. In her opening remarks, Chairperson **Joëlle Garriaud-Maylam** (FR) welcomed participants and thanked the Canadian delegation for its outstanding job in preparing for and hosting the 2018 Annual Session. The Chairperson noted five administrative points: the procedure for the Committee's question and answer sessions; a reminder to sign the attendance register; the new paperless policy; the availability of an information document on the conclusions of the last NATO Summit; and the session's official hashtag.

II. Adoption of the draft Agenda [163 CDS 18 E]

2. The Chairperson explained why the demonstration of the Canadian Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities scheduled for Sunday afternoon had to be cancelled.

3. **The draft Agenda [163 CDS 18 E] was adopted.**

III. Adoption of the Summary of the Meeting of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security held in Warsaw, Poland, on Saturday 26 May 2018 [124 CDS 18 E]

4. **The 2018 Summary of the meeting of the CDS [124 CDS 18 E] was adopted.**

IV. Procedure for amendments to the draft Resolutions *Updating the Responses to Russia's Hybrid Tactics* [215 CDS 18 E] and *Security and Cooperation in the High North* [216 CDS 18 E]

5. Chairperson Garriaud-Maylam reminded the delegates about the procedure for submitting amendments. She noted the deadline to submit amendments was 10:30 on Saturday 17 November 2018.

V. Consideration of the draft General Report *Fostering Democracy and Human Rights in the Black Sea Region* [164 CDS 18 E] by Ulla SCHMIDT (Germany), General Rapporteur

6. **Ulla Schmidt** (DE) presented the updated draft report on the situation in the Black Sea region. In the context of Russia's military build-up, she evoked the necessary and timely increase in NATO's presence in the area. The main message of this report, however, was that the military measures alone are not sufficient to bring durable stability and security in the Black Sea region. The report recommended to focus more on fostering democracy, human rights, the rule of law, gender equality, independent media and strong civil society in the region.

7. The General Rapporteur stressed that democratic backsliding in parts of the region contributes significantly to the current levels of tension and undermines the efforts towards reconciliation and dialogue in the Black Sea area. The draft report presented the problems and challenges encountered by all Black Sea nations as well as the positive recent evolutions in each of them. The General Rapporteur noted the need for the Alliance to prioritise democratic governance, the rule of law and human rights in its partnership strategy.

8. **Ahmet Yildiz** (TR) and **Muhammet Cinisli** (TR) disagreed with some of the assessments in the report, particularly with regard to the situation in Turkey. Both added that democratic backsliding and the erosion of human rights and rule of law were visible in many other countries. They argued that it was not the Assembly's role to discuss human rights and democracy related issues in

NATO member states. They suggested rejecting the report. The Rapporteur recalled that NATO is underpinned by the principles of the rule of law, human rights and democracy. Chairperson Garriaud-Maylam reminded the delegates that NATO PA is not NATO and that these debates are essential in this Committee.

9. NATO PA President **Rasa Jukneviene** (LT) discussed the strategy of Russia towards its neighbouring countries in the Black Sea Region. She stressed the need to increase support to the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia.

10. **Nicu Falcoi** (RO), **Hristo Gadzhev** (BG), **Iryna Friz** (UA) and **Sofia Katsarava** (GE) mentioned several changes they wanted to be made to the draft report for accuracy's sake. **Borys Wrzesnewskyj** (CA) expressed his support to the amendments suggested by the Ukrainian delegation. He stressed the importance of Ukraine for NATO. **Giorgi Kandelaki** (GE) discussed the challenges of the upcoming second round of the presidential elections in Georgia. **Mihai Ghimpu** (MD) noted that the Republic of Moldova's territorial integrity is the main problem for the country.

11. **The draft Report [164 CDS 18 E] was adopted**, with the majority of Turkish delegates voting against the adoption.

VI. Consideration of the draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance *Civil Protection in the High North and the Mediterranean* [165 CDS DG 18 E] by Jane CORDY (Canada), Rapporteur

12. **Jane Cordy** (CA) began by stating that the Alliance can bring an added value in terms of civil protection. She then discussed the geopolitical importance of NATO's contribution to saving civilian lives. The draft report focused on search and rescue capabilities in two important regions: The High North and the Mediterranean. These regions are different in almost every aspect, but they face the same challenge: the protection of civilians.

13. The Rapporteur presented the main findings on the situation in the High North. In the Arctic, the rate of the climate change is alarming and SAR capabilities are not keeping up with the considerable growth of human activities. Therefore, the multilateral Arctic cooperation on SAR is indispensable and the reports showed that NATO can add important value.

14. Ms Cordy then presented the second part of the report dedicated to the Mediterranean. She stressed that this divisive political issue is testing Europe's unity and consciousness. She then mentioned the new plan adopted by EU leaders to tackle the challenge posed by the movements of people across the Mediterranean. The report discussed the problem of the externalisation of the European's borders.

15. The Rapporteur concluded that multilateral cooperation was vital to protect people and the environment. She stressed that NATO and its members had an important role to play in supporting the Arctic and Mediterranean Allies in developing adequate SAR assets.

16. Ahmet Yildiz pointed out that NATO Allies Turkey and the United States were not party to the UN Convention on the law of Sea and asked the Rapporteur to change the wording of the report accordingly. He then discussed the migration regime and NATO's activities. Mr Yildiz noted that the EU-Turkey migration deal was working efficiently.

17. **Sverre Myrli** (NO) sought to amend the report to clarify some points concerning the involvement and the responsibility of NATO and Arctic countries in the High North. Mr Myrli argued that NATO's role in SAR should be limited and that the Alliance does not have and should not build up capacities and capabilities in the High North. **Mary Creagh** (UK), however, pointed out that NATO had efficient assets ready to be deployed. Mr Myrli added that SAR is a civilian domain and should

primarily be the responsibility of the Arctic countries. He finally pointed out that Norway has good relations with Russia in terms of SAR because it is not part of the NATO structure. The Rapporteur noted that the report clearly advocates for the secondary role for NATO in the Arctic and that the focus should remain on the supporting Arctic member states. The report also identifies Russia as a key partner in terms of SAR in the Arctic. She agreed to make some corrections in the report to reflect some of the comments from the Committee members.

18. **The draft Report [165 CDS DG 18 E] was adopted.**

VII. Panel discussion on *The Changing Arctic: Canadian Perspectives*

- **Presentation by Udloriak (Udlu) HANSON, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut, on *Indigenous Rights and the Evolving Security, Political, Environmental and Economic Landscape in the Arctic***

19. **Udlu Hanson** stressed that indigenous communities must be involved when discussing the meaning of security in the North. She talked about the climate change and its impact on infrastructure, food and environmental security. She recalled that these unprecedented and unpredictable changes first and foremost affect the Northerners.

20. The Speaker then observed that, as the ice melts, global interests in opening the north-western passage are rising. But she stressed that this was not a reliable shipping route yet and that it does not have a very positive impact on economy. She pointed out that the difficulties encountered by supply or rescue vessels to reach people in distress result from insufficient charting and icebreaking capabilities. Ms Hanson called for the development of an effective security plan that would directly involve local people. She made a plea to continuously seek and reflect the input of Northerners in policy developments concerning the North.

- **Presentation by Dr Stéphane ROUSSEL, Professor, The University of Public Administration (ENAP), on *Canada, NATO, and International Security Challenges*, followed by a discussion**

21. **Stéphane Roussel's** presentation focused on the threat perceptions in the North. The Speaker outlined the immediate concerns in the Arctic, including global warming and the question of social and economic development, and noted that geopolitics must deal with the emergence of this new ocean. He then mentioned short-term concerns caused by increasing human activities and potential mid/long-term security concerns. He pointed out that the Arctic was not a zone of military conflict in itself but that conflicts elsewhere might have consequences on the Arctic's stability in the future. Mr Roussel also mentioned the threats to public safety posed by increasing activities in the region, such as the rise of criminality.

22. The Speaker noted the growing institutional network in the region. He observed that the role of NATO was not very well defined yet and highlighted the existence of three binding treaties concerning the Arctic. Mr Roussel then stressed the importance of taking into consideration the local communities which are facing daunting social and economic issues.

23. The Speaker concluded by discussing the place of Arctic issues in Canadian domestic politics. He emphasised that protecting sovereignty in the North was a national issue. In contrast to Norway, Canadians would welcome NATO's civilian involvement in the Arctic, such as development of SAR assets and cooperation, while being cautious about NATO's military visibility in the Arctic.

24. Mary Creagh discussed the necessity to involve local communities at every stage and the challenges generated by climate change. She stressed the need to discuss fishing rights if Brexit happens. She finally pointed out that, for energy security reasons, China was heavily investing in the

Arctic. Ms Hanson built on Ms Creagh's remark and explained that Inuit organisations refused China's help in building new infrastructures. She also called on the Canadian government to strengthen its focus on the Arctic and to provide more support to local communities.

VIII. Consideration of the draft Special Report *Countering Russia's Hybrid Threats: An Update* [166 CDS 18 E] by Lord JOPLING (United Kingdom), Special Rapporteur

25. **Lord Jopling** (UK) introduced the Special Report on countering Russia's hybrid activities, including political interference, cyberattacks, disinformation, use of mercenaries and targeted assassinations. The Rapporteur noted that Western leaders and experts have been spending too much time describing the problem. He stressed the need to focus on building resilience while putting more trust in democratic systems.

26. Lord Jopling welcomed the signs of increased awareness of Russia's hybrid activities. He presented some concrete national and multi-national actions that have been taken in recent years and months. However, the report calls for a greater collaboration with media and civil society organisations as well as for revising and adapting education policies in order to bolster people's critical thinking. In addition, the Rapporteur stressed the need to target pro-Kremlin oligarchs' assets in Europe and to adapt NATO's Strategic Concept to the new realities.

27. Lord Jopling regretted the attitude of the Russian regime towards the West and towards its own citizens. He underlined the difficulties that the Euro-Atlantic community will face to rebuild trust and restore an honest dialogue with Putin's Russia.

28. **Natasa Jovanovic** (RS) and **Vladimir Djukanovic** (RS) expressed their strong opposition to the report and called for its rejection. They denounced the accusations against Russia. Ms Jovanovic argued that NATO itself is trying to interfere in Serbia's internal politics. They both referred to the 1999 Kosovo intervention. Mr Djukanovic argued that Russian media's influence pales in comparison with what he called the hegemony of Western media.

29. **Iryna Friz** and **Iryna Gerashchenko** (UA) strongly opposed Ms Jovanovic's intervention and expressed their gratitude to the Rapporteur for exposing the Russia's actions against its neighbouring countries. Ms Gerashchenko noted that the Committee has just witnessed a manifestation of Russia's hybrid tactics in Ms Jovanovic's intervention. She detailed the terrible consequences of the Russian aggression for the people in the Donbass and Crimea and denounced Russia's efforts to legitimise the occupation of Ukrainian territories. Finally, Ms Gerashchenko expressed her concern for Russia's aggressive posture in the Sea of Azov.

30. Ms Schmidt and the Rapporteur both affirmed that the draft report was based on strong evidence and undeniable facts and, therefore, presented a well-documented account of Russia's activities. Building on this, **Zaida Cantera** (ES) discussed the facts revealing Russia's recent interference in Spain's internal affairs. Ms Schmidt added that hybrid warfare was not only a military issue but also a dangerous attempt to undermine the foundations of democracies. Giorgi Kandelaki welcomed the increased awareness towards Russia's activities since 2008 but deplored Russia's persisting influence in Georgia.

31. Ms Creagh suggested to incorporate in the report that the first Russian state-sponsored chemical attack since World War II dates back to 2006 (assassination of Alexander Litvinenko on the UK soil). She then discussed Russia's manipulation of the cyberspace. Ahmet Yildiz recalled that some member countries have good relations with Russia but also reminded the Serbian delegation that NATO's intervention helped to avoid a genocide in Kosovo.

32. Rasa Juknevičienė drew from her own experience to recall the terrible consequences of the Russian occupation of Lithuania. She thanked the Ukrainian delegation for standing up to the claims

made by Ms Jovanovic. She noted that the Serbian delegates could address NATO parliamentarians freely, while no pro-NATO person would be allowed to address the Russian parliament. **Miroslaw Suchon** (PL) observed that the problem was not coming from the Russian people but from the Kremlin's actions which are a great danger for global security.

33. Lord Jopling thanked the participants for the unity and solidarity demonstrated by the full members of this Committee during this debate.

34. **The draft Report [166 CDS 18 E] was adopted.**

IX. Presentation via skype by Graham BROOKIE, Director and Managing Editor, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council, on *Digital Resilience: Exposing Disinformation and Protecting Democratic Institutions*, followed by a discussion

35. **Graham Brookie** discussed the role of the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab in tackling disinformation and protecting democratic institutions. He pointed out that disinformation is an old strategy adapting to the ways the society evolves and explained the difference between disinformation, misinformation and facts. He then outlined the modern methods used by the Atlantic Council to conduct and produce reports. He stressed that humans are more connected than ever. He added that this cannot be reversed, which is why there is a need for more digital resilience.

36. Mr Brookie then presented different tools having a real impact against disinformation. He mentioned the project #breakingGhouta, the importance of training people and decision-makers to deal with the challenge of disinformation. He called for a collective response involving governments, the private sector and media. He then discussed the necessity to verify information and the need for social media to share information with states.

37. Finally, the Speaker discussed the monitoring of recent elections. He noted that people's increasing awareness caused a shift in Russia's tactics. This led especially to an increase in Russia's cyber budget, to less frequent tweets but also to the targeting of specific groups and communities. Mr Brookie concluded his intervention by stressing the need for an open information environment.

38. Mary Creagh wanted to hear more about how Russia exploits social-political divisions in the United Kingdom. Mr Brookie gave an example of how a Russian troll factory "Internet Research Service" is amplifying and reinforcing divisive messages. State regulation cannot address this problem properly, he said. Mr Brookie emphasised the need to ensure the availability of tools for the users to recognise troll activities. He added that people must know about their vulnerability when they use the internet and social media. Jane Cordy stressed the need for programmes dedicated to developing critical thinking skills of the citizens.

X. Election of Committee and Sub-Committee Officers

39. The Chairperson then led the election process for Committee and Sub-Committee officers. The officers eligible for re-election were re-elected by acclamation. **Mary Creagh** (UK) was elected by acclamation to be the Committee's vice President. **Linda Sanchez** (US) was elected by acclamation to be the Vice-President of the Sub-Committee. **Zaida Cantera** (ES) was elected by acclamation as a member of the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council.

XI. 2018 and 2019 activities

40. The Chairperson thanked the Norwegian delegation for hosting the joint Sub-Committee's visit in Oslo, Bodø and Evenes in May. She also thanked Qatar for hosting the March joint Committee visit with the GSM group as well as the Hungarian and the Czech for hosting the October joint visit in Budapest and Prague.

41. The Chairperson discussed the report topics for 2019. First, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of NATO, the General Rapporteur Ulla Schmidt will examine the values that continue to underpin NATO. The Sub-Committee's report would focus on the ways to build societal resilience to hybrid threats. Thirdly, the CDS special report for 2019 will focus on border security.

42. The Chairperson informed the delegates that the Committee plans to visit France in the second part of 2019, to discuss the French perspective on migration flows management and on the fight against violent extremism and terrorism. In 2019, the Sub-Committee is slated to visit Greece, as well as Iceland and Sweden to discuss border security, resilience to hybrid threats and the civil dimension of security in the High North.

Sunday 18 November 2018

XII. Panel discussion on *Women, Peace and Security*

- **Presentation by Clare HUTCHINSON, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, on *NATO's Women, Peace and Security Agenda***

43. **Clare Hutchinson** stressed that durable peace could not be achieved without gender equality and that it was crucial that women become the agents for peace and security. Ms Hutchinson added that countries where women are empowered are generally more secure and prosperous. She noted that the UN Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions in this area have profoundly influenced the way NATO operates. This was reaffirmed at the NATO Summit in Brussels in July, where leaders endorsed a new policy and action plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). They set ambitious goals that rest on three principles.

44. The first principle is integration: NATO must make sure to mainstream gender through all its policies. As an example, she mentioned the field of cyberdefence where it is necessary to identify the risks faced by women in cyberspace. The second principle, inclusiveness, is about removing barriers for women and improving the gender balance in all NATO's structures and activities. This applies to the forces deployed – in NATO deployments, only 12% are women – but also to the political level. The third principle is integrity: NATO must adopt the highest standards of professional and personal conduct – both within NATO civilian and military staff.

- **Presentation by Mark GWOZDECKY, Assistant Deputy Minister for International Security and Political Affairs, Global Affairs Canada, on *Canada's Women, Peace and Security priorities***

45. **Mark Gwozdecky** argued that inclusive democracies have an edge vis-à-vis other modes of governance. They are more resilient and more competitive. He was concerned that peace agreements remain too often gender-blind; that sexual abuses and gender inequality persist; and that women are consistently under-represented in national and multi-national structures. Mr Gwozdecky pointed out that gender biases are being amplified by modern technologies. He gave the example of recent research revealing that women are disproportionately targeted by patronising advertisements online.

46. Mr Gwozdecky pointed out that Canada was a committed defender of women's rights. He highlighted the steps already taken by the Canadian Prime Minister to raise the prominence of

women's rights agenda. He welcomed the women Foreign Ministers meeting co-hosted by Ms Mogherini in Montreal on 21-22 September and the upcoming nomination of a WPS UN ambassador. He also welcomed the work of the Elsie initiative for women in peace operations in Ghana and Zambia. The Speaker then mentioned the need for Canada to support and mainstream the work of the Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada's G7 Presidency.

- **Presentation by Dr Audrey REEVES, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, on *Women, Peace and Security: The Contribution of Parliaments in NATO Member Countries*, followed by a discussion**

47. **Audrey Reeves** thanked the delegations for their participation in the survey. She pointed out that the NATO PA had a truly ground-breaking perspective and unique approach to WPS, since it was the only institution to take interest in the role of parliaments in addressing this question. Compared to previous Assembly surveys, she noted a positive evolution in all countries. Dr Reeves pointed out that having a national action plan (NAP) makes a difference. Countries with a NAP were at least twice as active as countries without NAP. But countries without NAP also reported a greater awareness and level of activity.

48. In terms of gender-balanced parliamentary leadership, Dr Reeves noted that 91% of delegations reported that women occupied prominent positions related to peace and security in their parliament. She then discussed the need to further engage men as partners in the advancement of the WPS agenda.

49. In terms of legislation and resolutions, Dr Reeves stressed the need for more legislative initiatives. She mentioned countries that have adopted laws with more gender-sensitive interviewing policy for asylum seekers and refugees. She pointed out the need to employ people trained to spot gender violence in refugee centres and in conflict zones.

50. In terms of the parliamentary oversight, which can be conducted through parliamentary debates, hearings, questions to government and parliamentary reports, Dr Reeves noted an overall drop in parliaments' involvement in the oversight of the WPS agenda's implementation, compared with the previous study, although this might be related to the increased number of countries that responded. She observed an intensification of oversight in countries that use questions and reports as monitoring mechanisms. As a way forward, she called for a more periodic oversight.

51. In terms of the civil society engagement, Dr Reeves presented very encouraging figures demonstrating increased involvement of civil society organisations in national and international fora. She then discussed the benefits of the civil society engagement.

52. In conclusions, the Speaker mentioned the need to develop a more holistic understanding of the WPS agenda as something that concerns not only women but the entire society. She then mentioned three parliaments that have programmes to involve more men in implementing WPS objectives in defence institutions.

53. Iryna Friz discussed the recent law adopted by the Ukrainian government to protect women victims of conflicts and the NAP set up until 2020 to foster gender equality. Twenty-seven thousand women are deployed in the Ukrainian forces. She stressed that women are victims of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

54. Jane Cordy and Ulla Schmidt noted that improvement is too slow and not irreversible. Ms Cordy recalled the Canadian Prime Minister's response three years ago: when asked why women made up half of his cabinet, he responded "because it's 2015". Ms Cordy stressed that women's rights are essential human rights and require no additional justification. Ms Schmidt expressed concern that the rising populist movements have no interest in women's rights.

55. The Chairperson and **Brigitte Grouwels** (BE) agreed on the necessity to include men in the process. The Chair suggested to focus more on “naming and praising” positive examples in addition to “naming and shaming” tactics.

56. Ms Hutchinson mentioned the rise of violence and the lack of justice towards women across the world. She agreed with Ms Cordy that gender equality is a natural right and needs no further justification. She recalled that in cases of sexual violence during conflicts the victims are overwhelmingly women, while Dr Reeves added that 99% perpetrators of sexual violence are men. The education of men and their understanding of women’s rights is therefore crucial.

57. Mary Creagh mentioned the recent law in the United Kingdom which provides for an increase in female representation in politics. She deeply regretted however, that women in political circles are still facing sexual harassment and even violence, including the assassination of British lawmaker Jo Cox. She pointed out the vulnerability of women in the context of climate change and environmental degradation.

58. **Joaquim Pueyo** (FR) called for the end of gender discrimination and for a broader inclusion and participation of women at all levels of society. He underlined their importance in peace building, peace keeping and in fostering democracy. He then urged his colleagues to do more in terms of legislation.

59. Borys Wrzesnewskij mentioned a motion tabled in February in the Canadian parliament to institute a position of an ambassador of WPS and discussed the importance of engaging civil societies in this topic. He outlined the experience Canada has drawn from engaging with over 100 NGOs and local representatives on this issue.

60. Zaida Cantera noted that 40% of members of the Spanish parliament and the majority of its government ministers are women. She discussed the problems faced by women in conflict zones, particularly in Afghanistan.

61. The Chairperson concluded the discussion highlighting that in two years, the international community will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the 1325 UN resolution. She suggested that this Committee could dedicate a report to this issue in 2020.

XIII. Consideration of amendments and vote on the draft Resolution *Security and Cooperation in the High North* [216 CDS 18 E] by Jane CORDY (Canada), Rapporteur

62. Jane Cordy presented the draft resolution on security and cooperation in the High North. She emphasised that this resolution encapsulates the main findings of her report but also builds on several previous reports from other NATO PA Committees. Therefore, the resolution covers environmental and civil protection issues but also geopolitical and security aspects of the situation in the region.

63. The draft resolution was purposed to demonstrate the need to calibrate very carefully NATO’s involvement in the region. Arctic Allies need to be supported in the face of the ongoing Russian military build-up in the region but, on the other hand, NATO’s involvement should remain indirect and subsidiary. The resolution also highlights the critical role played by regional organisations, particularly the Arctic Council.

64. Several amendments were submitted to the draft resolution. The Norwegian delegation’s amendments sought to emphasise the central role of Arctic member states as lead actors in the region. The Turkish amendment aimed at removing the reference to the UNCLOS was adopted.

65. **The draft Resolution [216 CDS 18 E], as amended, was adopted.**

XIV. Consideration of amendments and vote on the draft Resolution *Updating the Responses to Russia's Hybrid Tactics* [215 CDS 18 E] by Lord JOPLING (United Kingdom), Special Rapporteur

66. Lord Jopling presented the draft resolution on Russia's hybrid threats. He recalled that Russia's large-scale hybrid warfare was a real challenge for NATO nations. The Rapporteur noted that the aim of the destabilisation campaign launched by the Kremlin against Western democracies was to divide societies and sow discord among Allies and among citizens. Lord Jopling stressed that the Kremlin was not creating division but rather exploiting the cleavages already present in Western societies.

67. The Rapporteur presented the main recommendations of the resolution. These included the necessity to strengthen the overall societal resilience, including by supporting media and civil society organisations. He then called for a further development of NATO's cyber capabilities and for an adaptation of the Alliance's Strategic Concept to the new global security realities.

68. Eight amendments have been submitted. They were adopted, some with slight alterations.

69. **The draft Resolution [215 CDS 18 E], as amended, was adopted.**

XV. Presentation by Rear Admiral Craig BAINES, Commander, Joint Task Force Atlantic on *Canadian Search and Rescue capabilities*

70. **Rear Admiral Baines** started his presentation with a video showing Canadian SAR officers in action. The Rear Admiral explained that SAR operations in Canada are very difficult due to the great distances. He discussed the Canadian SAR teams' mandate and the role of the actors primarily responsible for SAR in the air, on the sea and on the ground. Canada is divided into three SAR regions that are under military command. SAR teams respond to about 9,000 incidents every year.

71. The Speaker observed that interventions are more challenging in the North, especially due to the long distances, limited infrastructure and the extreme temperatures. It is therefore necessary for SAR teams to work with local communities. Rear Admiral Baines concluded with an overview of the future reinforced Canadian SAR capabilities. He mentioned that the Airforce, the Navy and the Coast Guard were at the initial stages of developing unmanned capabilities for SAR missions in the North. He stressed that these capabilities are becoming an increasingly important asset.

72. Jane Cordy thanked the Rear Admiral for the tremendous work of his team and asked them to elaborate on the difficulties of SAR in the North. The Speaker explained that it sometimes takes 12 hours by helicopter to get to a location. The Speaker also stressed that the human activity in the North will continue to increase in the future, due to the climate change. He noted that currently they mostly witness exploration activities and highlighted the need for these explorers to be more informed about the extreme and dangerous conditions in the region.

73. Brigitte Grouwels questioned the Speakers on their cooperation with the United States on the Southern border and on the role of NATO in these rescue missions. The Speaker discussed the tremendous cooperation existing between Canadian and US SAR assets. Concerning the role of NATO, he observed that his teams never hesitate to ask for NATO's units support when needed because they know NATO has the capabilities and the experience. He also mentioned their good bilateral cooperation with NATO countries. The Rear Admiral also praised the importance of the 2011 Arctic SAR agreement.

74. The Chairperson suggested that the Committee should maintain the issue of SAR on its agenda.

XVI. Any other business

75. No new business was discussed.

XVII. Date and place of next meeting

76. The Chairperson concluded by stating that the next meeting of the Committee will take place at the Spring Session in Bratislava, Slovakia.

XVIII. Closing remarks

77. The Chairperson closed the meeting of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security.
