

The Shadow NATO Summit: Options for NATO - pressing the reset button on the strategic concept

31 March - 1 April 2009, Brussels

A shadow conference to coincide with NATO's 60th Anniversary Summit

*Organised by the British American Security Information Council (BASIC), Bertelsmann Stiftung,
International Security Information Service (ISIS) Europe and NATO Watch
with the support of the Marmot Charitable Trust*



Executive Summary

Heads of State issued **A Declaration on Alliance Security** at the NATO 60th Anniversary Strasbourg / Kehl Summit. A few days prior to this a **Citizens Declaration of Alliance Security** was launched at a Shadow NATO Summit organised by BASIC, Bertelsmann Stiftung, ISIS Europe and NATO Watch.

Further details can be found in a conference report, "The Shadow NATO Summit: Options for NATO - pressing the reset button on the strategic concept" and on the NATO Watch Website www.natowatch.org that will be launched in the autumn.

NATO's "Strategic Concept" is its core mission statement, and the current 1999 version predates the 9/11 attacks on the United States and the sending of NATO forces to Afghanistan. The Strasbourg/ Kehl Summit launched a process that is expected to lead to a new NATO Strategic Concept in 2010.

The Citizens Declaration herein sets out some of the basic values and principles to inform the debate about NATO's new Strategic Concept, including:

- Accountable ways of working;
- Upholding human security;
- New and more effective approaches to conflict prevention and security building;
- Meeting future disaster response needs; and
- Developing a wider and more inclusive network of partners.

We believe that the 890 million citizens of the 28 Member States of NATO should have a voice in shaping the future strategic direction of the Alliance. We need you help. With a show of public support, we can make it clear that citizens care about these issues – and provide political leaders the backing they need to pursue a new vision for NATO. The Shadow Summit was the beginning of a public consultation process, and the next stage is to produce a Discussion Document drawing on public feedback on this Citizens Declaration. You can sign the Declaration, obtain further copies and/or provide comments online at www.natowatch.org (from 1 September 2009) or write to us at the address on the back cover. The website will also provide guidance on other ways to take action.

A Citizens Declaration of Alliance Security



Stefani Weiss (Bertelsmann Stiftung), Paul Ingram (BASIC), Giji Gya (ISIS Europe), Jamie Shea (NATO) and Ian Davis (NATO Watch)

Section I: Creating a New Vision and Mission for NATO

1. Promoting moral, muscular multilateralism

Effective multilateralism means supporting a range of international treaties, norms and institutions, even when it presents difficulties for short-term national or collective NATO interests. It also means moving beyond 'à la carte multilateralism' to a new era of cooperation within the Alliance and by developing a wider and more inclusive network of partners as part of a broader, more comprehensive approach.

2. Synthesising non-offensive collective defence and human security

The new Strategic Concept should explore the principles of Non-Offensive Defence and human security in shaping a revised collective defence posture for the Alliance. The human security dimension involves the protection of all civilians, and gender equality is an integral part of all stages in NATO operations.

3. Reconnecting with citizens

In order to deepen and extend the shared values-base within the Alliance, NATO needs to become closer to its citizens and civil society. This means an updated, more open, transparent and accountable Alliance, appropriate to 21st century expectations. Parliamentary accountability within NATO requires clear and adequate mechanisms, and a relaxation of secrecy rules.



Sea of sunflowers by Trey Ratcliff.

Cover photo credits: Main photo of NATO headquarters in Brussels: NATO photos. Soldiers conduct a body-search in Afghanistan: Philippe de Poulpiquet / Le Parisien. NATO ice sculpture: Sabrina Tang

Section II: Putting the mission into action - practical implications

4. Decisions over use of force

NATO is morally and legally obliged to exhaust all other means possible before taking up arms, and force should only be used in accordance with the UN Charter. This either means authorised by the UN Security Council or in self-defence (when there is a real, imminent and severe danger and the UN Security Council is unable to act in time).

5. Upholding humanitarian and international laws of war

NATO must uphold the highest standards of international law, including humanitarian law, when choosing to threaten or use force, and in the application of force.

6. Responsibility to Protect – Part I: preventing genocide and mass atrocities

Preventing genocide and mass atrocities should be a priority for NATO and not merely an idealistic add-on to the core collective defence agenda. It is a moral and strategic imperative for the Alliance to implement the UN Responsibility to Protect (R2P) agenda and resources should be directed towards the development of a comprehensive approach to genocide prevention.

7. Responsibility to Protect – Part II: civilians during conflict

NATO must move towards a human security approach, contributing to the protection of every individual human being and not focus merely on the defence of territorial borders. This means prohibiting military activities that indiscriminately impact on civilians, safeguarding the economic and social infrastructures of civilian life and accurately accounting for civilian casualties arising from NATO operations.

8. Responsibility to Protect – Part III: NATO service personnel

The Alliance should prioritise better equipment, pay and conditions for service personnel as part of a renewed compact between the military and wider society.

Section III: Challenges for the mission

9. Moving beyond war-fighting (in Afghanistan and beyond)

There will be no stability in Afghanistan without a comprehensive peace process including all relevant internal actors and neighbours. There is an urgent need to pursue a process that is capable of forging a new and inclusive Afghan national consensus, rather than persisting in the current fight to try to defeat those outside the consensus

10. Bringing Russia in from the cold

A real partnership needs to be developed between NATO and Russia where both parties work together to resolve the multitude of modern security problems. NATO should avoid needlessly provocative deployments.

11. Civilian-led counter-terrorism

NATO counter-terrorism policy should focus on international cooperation to improve the intelligence base, strengthen civilian law enforcement capabilities, restrict terrorist access to funds and weapons, and reduce the root causes driving people to radical violence.

12. Preventive diplomacy

The Alliance needs to identify the conditions required to create stability and how it can contribute to good governance, prior to intervention. To this end, NATO should seek to counter inequality and discrimination and promote peaceful resolution of conflict.

13. Disaster relief and reconstruction

NATO should consider how it could improve its capabilities to respond to the growing number of natural, complex humanitarian and human disasters, while upholding the MCDA and Oslo guidelines.

Afghan villager receives a gift from the Afghan Army in cooperation with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in October 2008. Photo from NATO photos

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14. Arms control and disarmament

The Alliance and Member States should review the contribution that an active Arms Control policy can make to collective security. NATO should support universalisation and strengthening of multilateral arms control agreements. Alliance weapons collection and destruction activities are an important contribution to collective security and should be expanded.

15. Achieving security without Weapons of Mass Destruction

NATO's nuclear posture as outlined in the Strategic Concept needs to be consistent both with its Member States' efforts to secure stronger global non-proliferation rules and enforcement, and with moves towards a world free of nuclear weapons. It needs to evolve in this way over time towards a non-nuclear posture. The primary counter and non-proliferation goal of Alliance policy in the current era should be preventing the acquisition and use of nuclear weapons by terrorist groups.

16. Achieving security at lower levels of armaments (and at lower cost)

The Alliance and Member States need to undertake a fundamental reassessment of spending priorities, with the aim of achieving effective 'moral, muscular multilateral' responses proportional to the overall threat posed. Defence spending is ultimately about making full, productive use of precious human skills that NATO Member States can ill-afford to waste.

Support the Citizens Declaration - see overleaf...



The Shadow NATO Summit took place in Brussels on 31 March – 1 April 2009 and brought together senior NATO officials, civil society and policy experts to identify, share and examine ideas on NATO's future, including a new Strategic Concept. It was modelled on The Other Economic Summit (TOES), which from 1984 to 2004 raised issues such as international debt onto the agenda of the G7 and G8 summits.

The Shadow Summit also explored ways in which civil society groups and parliamentarians within the Alliance could work together more effectively to advance NATO-related policies and actions, in line with the shared democratic and humanitarian values of its members. **Download or order copies of the full report (or this summary) from the NATO Watch website: www.natowatch.org**

“a bold initiative to revitalised public debate between NATO, academics and researchers in the disarmament community”

Di McDonald,
Nuclear Information
Service

“a perfectly-timed prelude to the real thing about to unfold in Strasbourg”

Gerald Loftus,
former US diplomat

The co-hosts:

BASIC (www.basicint.org)

is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental research and advocacy organisation. Founded in 1987, it facilitates the exchange of information and analysis of transatlantic security and arms control issues focused on promoting the steps necessary to achieving the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. With offices, staff, advisors, governing board and patrons on both sides of the Atlantic, BASIC plays a unique role as a transatlantic bridge for policymakers and opinion shapers.



ISIS Europe (www.isis-europe.org)

is an independent research and advisory organisation that works to increase transparency, stimulate parliamentary engagement and broaden participation in EU and NATO policy-making. Through its publications and events, ISIS Europe facilitates parliamentary and inter-institutional dialogue and provides policy input to strengthen common approaches to conflict prevention, crisis management, peace building, arms control and disarmament.

ISIS Europe has worked in Brussels since 1996 and was established as a Belgian not-for-profit legal entity (ASBL) in January 2001.



Bertelsmann Stiftung

(www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de)

is dedicated to serving the common good, in keeping with the longstanding social commitment of its founder, Reinhard Mohn. Its work is based on the conviction that competition and civic engagement are essential for social progress. The foundation aims to identify social problems and challenges at an early stage and develop exemplary solutions to address them. It is formulating new approaches to intergovernmental and international governance, developing strategies for peaceful conflict resolution and supporting those countries making their way toward democracy and a market economy.



NATO Watch (www.natowatch.org)

is a new, independent project that collects and disseminates information and research on NATO and Euro-Atlantic security issues. It is the only independent non-governmental organisation with a remit to monitor and analyse NATO on a daily basis. A web-based information portal is being constructed to provide comprehensive, accurate, reliable and up-to-date information about NATO. Research reports and briefing papers will explore NATO reform.



Support the Citizen's Declaration today - sign the Declaration:

I support the Citizens Declaration of Alliance Security and wish to see the principles inform the development of a new NATO Strategic Concept

I would support the Citizens Declaration of Alliance Security if it was modified to include / exclude _____ and wish to see the principles inform the development of a new NATO Strategic Concept.

Please add any additional comments in a separate note or letter, or email: info@iandavisconsultancy.com

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Country: _____ Postal Code (optional): _____

Tel/Mobile (optional): _____

I would also like to make a contribution to support your efforts to reform outdated NATO policies: £ _____ (Please make cheques payable to NATO Watch)

NATO Watch will protect your privacy and keep you posted on this campaign. Please send to: NATO Watch, 17 Strath, Gairloch, Ross-shire IV21 2BX or info@iandavisconsultancy.com

