



CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY – NATO'S AGENDA¹

RESOLUTION 480

The Assembly,

1. **Recalling** the Assembly's efforts since the 1980s to better understand and address climate change and its profound security implications and, in particular, [Resolution 427](#) (2015), which acknowledged that climate change-related risks are significant threat multipliers;
2. **Concerned** that climate change presents a real and growing international security challenge and **noting** that the new Strategic Concept recognises climate change as "a crisis and threat multiplier" that exacerbates existing security challenges all over the globe;
3. **Stressing** that extreme weather already poses a grave risk to Allied military operations and bases as well as to soldiers' health, military equipment and critical infrastructure and **acknowledging** that the frequency and intensity of extreme weather is increasing;
4. **Recognising** that climate change will require our militaries to assist more frequently in disaster relief and that the demands on our military forces to provide assistance will grow further;
5. **Noting** that a changing climate will alter our security environment and that it will have the potential to significantly affect NATO planning and operations;
6. **Acknowledging** that the defence sector remains the single largest consumer of hydrocarbons in the world and that military operations and exercises consume large amounts of fossil fuels;
7. **Stressing** that energy independence from third countries such as Russia would enhance Allies' ability to carry out military operations and exercises;
8. **Recognising** that extreme weather phenomena caused by human-induced climate change are already having a profound impact on our environment, our economies, infrastructure, and social systems and **highlighting** the short-term impact that these events have on critical infrastructure and local communities including through temporary displacement;
9. **Worried** that climate change is likely to create instability throughout the world, which could lead to state failure and violent conflicts in fragile countries, and that the combined effects of instability and climate change are likely to amplify migration movements in coming years;
10. **Encouraged** by the fact that Allies adopted a Climate Change and Security Action Plan in 2021 which operationalises NATO's Climate Change and Security Agenda and **stressing** that NATO Heads of State and Government committed to integrate climate change and human security across the Alliance's core task;
11. **Welcoming** that NATO presented its first annual Climate Change and Security Impact Assessment (CCSIA) at the 2022 Madrid Summit which increases awareness of the impact of

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climate change on NATO's strategic environment, Allied installations and assets, missions and multidomain operations as well as resilience and civil preparedness;

12. **Emphasising** the importance of finding technological solutions to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change;

13. **Noting** the important work NATO's Science and Technology Organization (STO), including the Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE), is conducting in this field;

14. **Recalling** the work carried out by other international organisations such as the UN, the EU and the OSCE on climate change and security issues;

15. **Welcoming** Canada's decision to establish a NATO Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence (CCASCOE), which has been accredited by NATO at the 2022 Madrid Summit;

16. **Strongly endorsing** NATO's goals to reduce military emissions and "green" the armed forces which will help the Alliance to mitigate climate change and make the militaries more self-sufficient and able to carry out their missions;

17. **Noting** that the climate change policy of the Alliance must not weaken member states' abilities to perform their core tasks of collective deterrence and defence;

18. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:

- a. to increase investments to strengthen the energy efficiency of Allied militaries and their adaptation to the changing climate;
- b. to operationalise NATO's response to reduce vulnerabilities by updating its seven baseline requirements for national resilience to better reflect the impact of climate change on security;
- c. to conduct frequent surveys of Allied civilian and military critical infrastructure to assess their current and future ability to withstand predictable as well as irregular, extreme weather events and organise frequent stress tests and exercises to improve their resilience;
- d. to adopt a whole-of-society approach to the civil and military security challenge posed by climate change and bolster their communication efforts to develop awareness of the impact of climate change on Allied civil and military security;
- e. to integrate climate change considerations as a cross cutting issue into all government budgets, projects, activities and initiatives with the objective to foster climate change resilience and preparedness;
- f. to maintain Allies' support for multilateral efforts, in particular those of the European Union, aiming to find global and comprehensive solutions to climate change challenges;
- g. to harness the potential of science and technology to support climate action by encouraging research on innovative and novel applications, particularly in support of climate change adaptation;
- h. to boost investments into research and development of climate-neutral technologies, in particular climate-neutral fuels and propulsion systems, to further strengthen military effectiveness of Allied forces;
- i. to evaluate how to strengthen the NATO STO's resources to help advance technological solutions and more generally, to allocate adequate human and financial resources to initiatives aiming to contribute to a better understanding of climate change;
- j. to increase NATO's study and early warning capacities with regards to fragile governance through the creation of a Democratic Resilience Centre at NATO Headquarters to prevent that

climate change-related extreme weather events lead to social unrest and political instability, which could corrode the social and democratic cohesion, values, and institutions of our nations;

- k. to strengthen NATO's and Allies' toolbox providing strategic foresight in order to monitor the impact of climate change on the political, economic and social stability of countries in the vicinity of the Alliance.
