PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL SECURITY THROUGH COOPERATION – NATO’S KEY TO SUCCESS

Daniel GHIBA
Lieutenant-colonel, PhD, Associate professor, National Defense University “Carol I”
Member in the National Committee for Food Security and Strategy of the Academy of Romanian Scientists.
danielghiba@gmail.com

Abstract: The center of gravity of NATO’s success has always been provided by the ability to promote security and stability through cooperation, based on shared values and democratic characteristics of a system based more and more on the concept of increased justice.

Keywords: NATO, international security, comprehensive approach, transformation, cooperation, cooperative security, globalization.

Introduction

The contemporary world is in constant change and transformation, subject to changes required by the evolutionary transformations, and innovations, having as catalyst the process of globalization, characterized by multiple resizing and resetting of traditional systems, of values, concepts, resources and actions as they were known before.

We are seeing the reconfiguration of the "World" into a new version, based on multidimensionality, interdependence and increased inter-determination which are evolving rapidly and irreversibly at this stage, from a “Multipolar world” to an “Interpolar world”, with direct consequences, especially in the political, economic, military, social and environmental domain.

Following the same trend, the threats and challenges of the beginning of this century and millennium have become regional and global, new risks being added to the classic ones and appearing new threats and challenges with a prominent transnational character such as terrorism, cyber threats, corruption and transnational organized crime and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The “frozen conflicts” experienced dangerous developments and created potentially violent ethnic and religious disagreements, involving new political and economic dimensions by the collapse of traditional structures. All of these influenced the development of global threats of economic nature. Current models of political authority, even those declared democratic, have major structural failures and sometimes drift toward authoritarianism. These dysfunctions are being generated by people who access in key leadership positions and do not have the necessary preparation and experience to fulfill the responsibilities that come with such positions on top of the social pyramid.

These days, we can easily observe all over the world peoples who demonstrate claiming for their fundamental human rights. These movements are being encouraged by the weaknesses of the democratic systems and the opportunities created by the expansion of modern technology, and demonstrated that these can trigger violent demonstration or extreme
violence among the people which may easily extend across the borders of a state, leading to important consequences that can destabilize neighboring states and can generate massive affluxes of refugees.

New security concepts are needed. These have to be able to identify, analyze and generate effective capabilities to prevent and counter the actual threats. It is also necessary to have available multidimensional interconnected capabilities, at both national and international level, through the establishment and implementation of functional national and international security mechanisms. The success in delivering the desired level of security depends on a wide range of actors: alliances, coalitions, governments, multinational institutions, NGOs, civil society, whose approach must be holistic.

Experience has shown that collective and coordinated actions respond best to mitigated risks and countering security threats.

In this period, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has privileged position among active international organizations which demonstrated its attachment and credibility towards the value set that was adopted at its establishment. NATO faced new challenges that required efficient management. The risks and threats of the Cold War have developed and grew into new risks and threats, which constrained NATO to initiate a thoughtful process of adaptation the newly developed challenges.

The NATO adaptation to the realities of our times has led to the need of initiation and implementation of extensive conceptual and functional remodeling processes. These processes considered the necessity of transformation and generating necessary resources that are needed to provide consistency, coherence, perspective and effectiveness in managing future situations. The Alliance “is gradually transformed into a major political actor of the future world, more interdependent and more hoping for peace.”

With its 28 member states in Europe and North America, North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a unique and essential source of stability in an unstable geopolitical environment.

Over time NATO constantly evolved and it is in a constant transformation, given that the security threats are changing and evolving.

**Security through cooperation** - multinational solutions to global problems

In the last two decades, the Alliance has developed a network of partnerships with countries in the Euro-Atlantic area, Mediterranean and Gulf region and individual partnerships with other partners across the globe.

Neither country nor organization can cope on its own with complex and unpredictable challenges of the evolving security environment. Coordinated multilateral action is needed. At the Lisbon Summit in 2010, regarding NATO’s partnerships, the Allied leaders said they”can provide frameworks for political dialogue and regional cooperation in security and

---

1 Nicolae Dolghin, Mihai Dinu, Vasile Popa, NATO, între certitudini şi așteptări, editura UNAp”Carol I”, 2009, p. 4.
defense domain; they can help strengthen our joint values which are essential for the success of many of our operations and missions.”

A concentrated effort to reform the policies of NATO partnerships launched at Lisbon in order to make the dialogue and cooperation more comprehensive, flexible, meaningful and strategic oriented. Following the Lisbon decisions, a new policy of partnership has been approved by the NATO foreign affairs ministers at the Berlin Reunion in April 2011. The aim of the new policy is to strengthen the existing NATO partnerships through the consolidation of consulting mechanisms and cooperation facilitation, on as many as possible plans, beside the military dimension of the partnership.

Moreover, the new policy defines a set of “instruments” of mechanisms and activities, simplifying the way in which NATO develops the cooperation offered to partners.

NATO is ready to extend its engagement and develop its political dialogue and practical cooperation with key actors at global level and also with new interlocutors from all over the world, which share the allies’ interest in maintaining international peaceful relations, but they don’t have any open partnership with NATO. “Our new policy recognizes that in the today’s world we need cooperative security if we are to accomplish our security tasks, and to that end we want to reach out to major players across the globe.”

Secretary General declared after the Berlin meeting.

NATO actively engages together with other international actors and organizations which have as activity object security and defense issues and it is decided to deepen this cooperation. Today’s peace and stability operations complexity try to keep up with the multidimensional XXI century security challenges, appealing to an comprehensive approach in order to effectively combine the political, military and civilian instruments.

The 2010 Strategic Concept has revealed the security through cooperation as one of the three essential missions of NATO. The logic of this fact is clear: today, the security challenges are increasingly transnational and the most efficient responses include a wide range of partners, countries and international organizations.

While reaffirming the engagement of the alliance to maintain the “open-door policy” in order that other European countries to become members, The 2010 Strategic Concept establishes as one of the major objectives, that of the enhancement of partnerships through flexible formats that bring NATO and its partners together, within and beyond the existing framework. Throughout the entire period since the adoption of the new concept, NATO has achieved substantial progresses in this objective implementation.

The Operation in Libya has demonstrated the alliance’s commitment to offer the possibility to his operational partners to have a structural role in the decisions making process in the NATO lead missions. Since the beginning of the Alliance civilian protection operation from Libya, conducted under the UN mandate, the operational NATO partners, including

5 Extract from the Secretary General”s Declaration at the foreing affairs ministers of NATO member states from 2011 at Berlin.
6 Collective defense, crisis management and security through cooperation.
7 The bases of the Open-door policy have been created even since 1949 on No.10 Article of the North Atlantic Treaty.
those from the region, have been at the debating table, contributing at the decision making and later supporting all the operational and political decisions. The partners’ contribution to all aspects of the mission has been essential and will serve as a model for future operations.

Regarding the relations with other international organizations, there are mixed opinions. The strategic partnership with the European Union has not yet reached its full potential, but at the same time the relationship with UN has been accelerated due to the wide range of achieved operational cooperation.

The Libya crisis has led to unprecedented contacts between the Alliance and the Arab States League, of which support towards the entire international effort has been essential. These relations have to form the basis of a more profound future engagement. Indeed, NATO will search for a stronger relation with the wider region of Middle East and North Africa, mainly through the strengthening of the Mediterranean Dialogue and The Istanbul Cooperation Initiative. The Allies will act together with the regional partners to see how they can better approach common security challenges. The quality of being member of the Mediterranean Dialogue initiative will be open for Libya, if the country wishes, as a framework for political dialogue and practical focused cooperation.

Presently, the NATO forms of partnership are the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council/Partnership for Peace (EAC/PfP) – 50 state members; Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) – Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritius, Morocco, Tunisia; Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) – Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates.

The special partnerships of NATO: NATO – Russia Council (NRC), NATO – Ukraine Committee (NUC), NATO – Georgia Committee (NGC), Long term partnership NATO – Afghanistan, and partnership relation NATO – Pakistan.

Also, NATO cooperates with a series of “contact states” (Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, etc.) which participate at the Alliance missions (ISAF - Afghanistan).

Within the NATO cooperation with other non-state international actors the quality of the relations with the EU, UN and OSCE is standing out.

The principles and elements which represent the foundation of the cooperation within these partnerships are: the independence of nations, the auto-differentiation of states and the distinctive collective or individual character; the increasing role of NATO, operational requirements, interests and values; complementarities towards other initiatives.

In Lisbon in 2010, the Allies decided to increase NATO contribution to crisis management, as part as the international community effort and NATO improved capacity to provide security. For this, we consider that NATO objective to promote security through partnership and cooperation, not only it will not decrease in intensity, but will continuously develop, gathering new dimensions and covering new domains throughout the action spectrum of present and future threats.

Following the globalization, diversification, inter-connection and inter-determination of the security threats, it is necessary that the prevention and countering approach of these to be global, multinational and multidimensional, in a comprehensive and unitary conception. In the attempt of assuring national, regional and international security and stability, it is
necessary for states to cooperate and act in a coordinated manner, in partnerships, coalitions and alliances frameworks, based on legitimate concepts.\textsuperscript{8}

In order to demonstrate the credibility and attachment towards the fundamental values and interests defended since the founding of the Alliance, but also to effectively and efficiently manage the new specific post – Cold War threats and risks, NATO has initiated a profound adaptation process to the new conditions. The main NATO objective has been and remains the assurance of liberty and security of all its members through political and military means, in according with the Principles of The UN Charter.

The Alliance has acted since its creation for the establishment of a legitimate and lasting peace in Europe, based on the common values of democracy, human rights and the government of law. This central objective of the Alliance has gained a new meaning since the end of the Cold War, because, for the first time in the post – war history of Europe, the perspective of its achievements has become a reality.

**Conclusions**

The European continent faces a prolonged period of relative peace, development on multiple plans, quiet and economic prosperity, which debuted with the decade that followed the end of the Second World War. Since then, the European space has never been in a major military conflict in which to be involved most countries in the region and to bring that long line of destruction at all levels.

An important role in stopping the spread of war and managing outbreaks of violence was played by the international organizations, under the auspices of which a number of states have made sustained efforts, which ultimately led to the stabilization of the situation and termination of bellicose manifestations. In some areas there are still ongoing operations and missions that are designed to help post-conflict reconstruction and to strengthen democratic institutions.

A special role in this context has been granted to the North Atlantic Alliance, which was a model of efficiency and stability for countries and organizations around the globe, in a delicate historical period, for nearly 65 years.

NATO has innovated by adopting a new model through an effective policy of developing partnerships with state actors situated in the vicinity of its borders, a policy that has been driven by a strong desire (especially of the countries from the former socialist bloc) to join the Western cultural model, to adopt the same economic and social models around which united the Alliance. Partnerships are amplifying further, becoming also a model of relations between member states and non-NATO countries.

The Alliance has an effervescent history, marked by almost continuous progress that brought this organization into the position it is today. We appreciate that NATO is the most important, longest-running and most successful in recent history of mankind. Never so many states have managed to build, develop and maintain a viable alliance of such size for such a long period of time. We do not believe that the Alliance has exhausted its resources.

\textsuperscript{8} “... the wheel of justice to peace resembles the ones who make peace”. Isaac 3:18.
Moreover, it can be observed that this security construction is a continuous transformation and its ability to adapt to changes in the international security environment is extremely high.

The Lisbon Summit marked a milestone in the history of the Alliance and the seventh Strategic Concept adopted on this occasion drew the guidelines of the "New NATO” for the next decade, establishing the organization's main priorities: collective defense, comprehensive management of crisis and security through cooperation.

The developments of the global security environment, the challenges the Alliance has to face in the coming years and the ways in which these challenges are going to affect NATO are unpredictable. Also the possibilities of imposing a type of evolution of Alliance are being limited. However, the evolution of the international security environment will not occur completely independent of NATO, as long as the partnership and cooperation will be developed and exploited.

For the state actors in the Euro-Atlantic area, the growing attraction represented by NATO, brings into question the new challenges that they have to cope with, the vulnerabilities that they would expose themselves if the enlargement would reach the organization self-regulating internal capacity. Currently, there are symptoms of inconsistencies between political and military commitments and inability to provide the necessary resources. This can affect the moral component and acting capability of the organization.

I consider that it is necessary to exist a degree of flexibility in order that NATO not to become a coat too tight and lose the support of its members. Flexibility should not be done at the expense of losing coherence or efficiency. Nor can we feed the illusion that maintaining stability and peace in the world with the use of the military instrument as an alternative can be separated or represents different moral categories. Reality on the ground shows otherwise. Following this, the development and comprehensive use of military and non-military instruments will not only have to continue, but will be a requirement in order to ensure real and durable stability, effective conflict prevention and crisis management.

From 12 initial states, the Alliance enlarged at 28, and from a purely Eurocentric oriented doctrine, NATO has evolved into a global security provider, involved and engaged on several continents, working with a wide range of nations and institutions. There are so many reasons to look at NATO’s future with confidence.

Willing to be a catalyst in resolving and maintaining peace and stability in a multi and interpolation world, NATO has evolved towards a multidimensional system, with real capabilities in solving a wide spectrum of security and defense problems.

By its continuous adaptation to the perpetual changes of the security environment, the Alliance participates in ensuring security and freedom not only for the current generation but for the future of the Euro-Atlantic community, and also to the implementation of the necessary conditions of peace, stability and global security.

In conclusion, the success of NATO was, is and will be provided by the ability to promote security and stability through partnership and cooperation, based on shared values and democratic characteristics of a system based more and more on the concept of growing
Justice, fact which leads us now, from research, to appreciate different the wise writings of
the ancestors.

The apodictic conclusion is that, for almost 65 years, NATO is a successful alliance,
most effective and most efficient collective security organization in history.
Happy birthday, NATO!

Happy birthday, Romania, at ten years after joining the NATO!

Bibliography:

1. *** Active Engagement, Modern Defence, Strategic Concept for the Defence and Security
   of the Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation adopted by Heads of State and
   Government in Lisbon 19 Nov. 2010;
3. *** AJP 01-D - Allied Joint Doctrine, 2010;
4. *** Chicago Summit Declaration Issued by the Heads of State and Government
   participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Chicago on 20 May 2012;
5. *** The speech of His Excellency: Andres Fogh Rasmussen, General Secretay of
   NATO, 08 Oct.2010, at German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), Brussels;
6. *** The Declaration of the Secretary General at the reunion of Ministers of Foreign
   Affairs, in Apr. 2011 at Berlin;
7. *** Lisbon Summit Declaration Issued by the Heads of State and Government
   participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Lisbon 20 Nov. 2010;
8. *** NATO Guide, Public Diplomacy Division NATO, Brusseles, Belgium, December
   2011;
9. *** Dr. Amadeo Watkins, Srdjan Gligorijevic, NATO şi Balcanii: Pledoarie pentru o
10. *** Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO's declaration after the Bucharest Summit,
    http://www.nato.int/;
11. *** Nicolae Dolghin, Mihai Dinu, Vasile Popa, NATO, între certitudini şi aşteptări,
    Editura UNAp
12. „Carol I”, 2009;
13. ***http://www.summitbucharest.ro

---

9 Isaac 32:17. „...the facts of justice will be peace and the peace will rule over rest and trust will last for
ever”