

NATO Strategic Concept 2022

What is the NATO Strategic Concept?

The Strategic Concept is a key document for the Alliance, second only to NATO's founding North Atlantic Treaty in importance. It reaffirms NATO's values and purpose, and provides a collective assessment of the security environment. It also drives NATO's strategic adaptation and guides its future political and military development. Since the end of the Cold War, it has been updated approximately every 10 years, to take account of changes to the global security environment.

NATO leaders adopted a new Strategic Concept at the Madrid Summit in June 2022.

Why has NATO adopted a new Strategic Concept?

The world has changed dramatically since NATO agreed its previous Strategic Concept at the Lisbon Summit in 2010. Our security environment has become more contested and unpredictable.

The 2022 NATO Strategic Concept sets out a shared vision of the threats, challenges and opportunities that NATO faces, positioning the Alliance to continue adapting in a more dangerous and competitive world.

Key Things to Know About the 2022 NATO Strategic Concept

- Euro-Atlantic security is undermined by strategic competition and pervasive instability.

The Euro-Atlantic area is not at peace.

*The Russian Federation's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine has shattered peace in Europe. **Russia** has violated the norms and principles that contributed to a stable and predictable European security order, and poses the most significant and direct threat to Allies' security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.*

***China's** stated ambitions and coercive policies challenge our interests, security and values. Allies will work together to address the systemic challenges posed by China to Euro-Atlantic security. They remain open to constructive engagement, with a view to safeguarding the Alliance's security interests and building reciprocal transparency.*

Russia and China are developing a strategic partnership and are at the forefront of an authoritarian pushback against the rules-based international order.

***Terrorism** remains a persistent threat, and is the most direct asymmetric threat to our citizens' security.*

*We also face a number of other global and interconnected threats and challenges, including from **climate change**, as well as **emerging and disruptive technologies**, and the erosion of the **arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation** architecture.*

- NATO's key purpose and greatest responsibility is to ensure the collective defence of Allies.

Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty is the bedrock of Allied collective defence. The North Atlantic Council could decide to invoke it in response to armed attack. A single or cumulative set of malicious cyber activities; hostile operations to, from, and within space; and hybrid operations against Allies could reach the level of armed attack and could lead the North Atlantic Council to invoke the Article 5. The Alliance is based on the enduring transatlantic bond between Europe and North America. NATO remains the unique, essential and indispensable transatlantic forum to consult, coordinate and act on all matters related to Allies' security.

- NATO fulfils three core tasks: deterrence and defence; crisis prevention and management; and cooperative security.

These three core tasks are complementary and essential to ensure the collective defence and security of all Allies. Ensuring national and collective resilience, enhancing the Alliance's technological edge and fully integrating climate change, human security and the Women, Peace and Security agenda across all of NATO's work are all part of fulfilling the Alliance's three core tasks.

- NATO will work to prevent and respond to crises that could affect Allied security.

Allies will build on its three decades of expertise in crisis management, and ensure we can deploy and sustain military and civilian crisis management, stabilisation and counter-terrorism operations. NATO will also increase its efforts in crisis prevention, including through support for partners. Human security, including the protection of civilians and civilian harm mitigation, is central to NATO's approach to crisis prevention and management.

- Cooperative security makes NATO stronger at home and contributes to stability beyond its borders.

Political dialogue and practical cooperation with partners contributes to stability beyond NATO borders, enhances security at home, and supports NATO's core tasks. NATO works with nations and organisations that share its values and interests, to uphold the international rules based order. The European Union is a unique and essential partner for NATO in supporting international peace and security. The Alliance also helps partners to strengthen and enhance their own security through defence capacity building programmes. NATO's enlargement has been a historic success, and its door remains open to European democracies who want to and can contribute to our collective security.

- Resilience underpins all three core tasks.

NATO will pursue a more robust, integrated and coherent approach to building national and Alliance-wide resilience. Resilience is a national responsibility and a collective commitment. Strategic vulnerabilities and dependencies, including in critical infrastructure, supply chains and health systems, can become security risks. Allies will work together to identify and mitigate such vulnerabilities, enhance their energy security, invest in civil preparedness and boost their capacity to respond and recover from any strategic shocks or disruptions.

Learn more about the 2022 NATO Strategic Concept: www.nato.int/strategicconcept

Read the Strategic Concept here:



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