

THE ROLE OF SECURITY-PROVIDING ORGANIZATIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract: *Nowadays, the international security environment is in constant transformation and has become fluid and dynamic. Thus, the global security environment is a result of the multiple relationships that are manifested between the actors of the international scene (state and non-state actors) and that are found in different relations of dependence on each other.*

We consider that international security actors are constantly resized and reshaped as a result of the mutual interdependencies of economic, political, military, cultural, social, demographic, scientific, information and other manifestations. That is why it is quite difficult to identify the exact methods and means necessary for the capabilities to anticipate threats and risks that are generated by the global security environment. It is also necessary to increase the role of international security organizations in combating the effects of threats and, in particular, of terrorism, hybrid threats and cross-border organized crime.

Keywords: *organizations providing security, countering threats, terrorism, hybrid threats and organized crime.*

1. International security organizations

The main security-providing organizations are the United Nations (UN), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). In today's international security environment, these organizations are undergoing major changes and are continuously evolving, having significant positive effects on security, but being subject to new risks and threats.

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The evolution of the current security environment is characterized by increasingly accentuated globalization, European and Euro-Atlantic integration, the assertion on the international stage of the BRICS member countries, the belligerent attitude of Russia and the resistance of Ukraine against Russian aggression, the war waged by Israel against HAMAS and other terrorist organizations, US intervention in the Middle East, China's increasingly strong assertion in international political life, etc.

International stability and security is also influenced by disasters caused by some natural phenomena (earthquakes, tsunami waves, increased climate warming, depletion of resources, shortage of drinking water, floods, increasingly powerful hurricanes, demographic explosion, pandemics, etc.), by hybrid conflicts and wars, cross-border organized crime, the proliferation of WMD, ethnic-religious terrorism, the expansion of extreme poverty, etc.

In this context, a new world order is being configured according to new principles that mark the features of the international security environment at the beginning of the 21st century.

2. UN role as security provider

In configuring the new security environment, the role of the UN and the Security Council is increasing. The United Nations defends its values while confronting the world's greatest dangers and threats in many hot spots around the globe.

Keeping these major threats under control through various ways and means, including the UN's partnerships and special relationships with NATO, the US and the EU and with other states and power centers in conflict zones, has already become an important course of action in the Organization's strategy¹. Such a strategy, though, is not in opposition to other strategies of the EU, NATO, OSCE and other security organizations, but they are complementary to them.

These partnerships will be reconfigured "into a system of systems"² which has a certain coherent and integrative function so that the states are not humiliated, but on the contrary, they are protected (defended).

According to a recent analysis³, there are three stages of restructuring (reconfiguration) that support and complement each other

¹ Alexandru Eparu, Organizațiile internaționale de securitate și rolul lor pentru contracararea efectelor terorismului și ale crimei organizate transfrontaliere, *Revista de Științe Militare*, no. 3, 2021, p. 69.

² *Ibidem*, p. 70.

benefiting from a strong collective link, namely the regional security organizations.

Cutting-edge technologies and high-risk energy resources have determined an increase in competition in order to control them and an intensification of international cooperation/collaboration processes in order to develop the management system of some phenomena and their proliferation and dissemination⁴.

In the process of building a new world order, the international security environment can be strengthened by taking appropriate (viable) political decisions and by multiplying the efforts of democratic states in order to consolidate a new Euro-Atlantic security architecture.

The representatives of the global security actors (state and non-state) came to the conclusion of the need to establish the favorable framework capable of ensuring the effective and fair transition towards climate neutrality considering the various national circumstances and the need to ensure energy security by respecting the right of each EU member state to decide on its own energy mix, including nuclear energy.

In order to combat the effects of terrorism and cross-border organized crime, some ways must be used (directly and indirectly), and states must take into account the means of countering economic and social disturbances and crisis or conflict situations.

Prosperity and world peace are threatened by some demographic imbalances, religious conflicts, terrorism, illegal human trafficking, drugs, weapons, etc. Ethno-religious terrorism has unleashed a terrorist war against Israel. The US, the EU and some member states are making great efforts to stop the bombing of the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip and for Israel to end the truce.

On October 7, 2023 HAMAS killed 1,400 Jews and took about 240 hostages, and Israel bombed and destroyed 30% of the buildings in Gaza City and killed about 10,000 Palestinians, including children, women and the elderly. There is a danger of the war expanding and a new world war breaking out.

History has shown that the strongest form of strategic partnership is the ALLIANCE. This gives all allied states (partners) the status of mutuality, security, peace, but also responsibility because an alliance is not

³ *Ibidem.*

⁴ *Ibidem.*

only an action in itself and for itself, but one that has a defense purpose (a defensive purpose) in accordance with the UN Charter, to prevent and combat some hostile (aggressive) actions or some hybrid challenges that states cannot combat alone (individually).

In a conflicting and interconnected world, the medium and long term perspective requires we ask ourselves some necessary questions about the kind of actions and decisions made at present that will have dangerous consequences in the years to come.

A forward-looking vision of the future is essential as serious threats such as international (global) terrorism, cyber attacks, hybrid attacks, biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological attacks, as well as dramatic climate change require and involve great risks in terms of international security and will require close and sustained cooperation.

If we refer only to the events of the last decade, we notice that the political, economic, military, social, cultural, technological, cyber elements, etc. collide in unpredictable ways and that is why the preparation of rational, coherent, effective and unified responses has proven extremely difficult, if not impossible to achieve today.

Assuming that people act rationally, decision-makers (leaders), crowds and masses may behave diversely and unpredictably in similar situations.

3. NATO's role as a guarantor of international security and stability

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has chosen as its essential objective, since the date of its establishment, the maintenance and defense of the independence, freedom and security of each member state (all members) by both political and military means, according to the North Atlantic Treaty and Charter of the United Nations. Based on its common values of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental human rights, NATO has shown a special interest in maintaining peace in the Euro-Atlantic area, simultaneously ensuring the conditions for economic and social development of the allied states.

NATO is based on security guarantees and mutual (mutual) commitments and has as its common interests to maintain peace and defend its freedoms with the help of political solidarity and a consolidated military system that is designed to deter and, if necessary, repel any form of aggression against allied states.

In the current security environment, at the same time as ensuring an increased defense and security capacity of the allied states, the objectives of the North Atlantic Alliance have other goals and dimensions, considering more and more to create and guarantee a system of security both regionally and globally. Currently, the fundamental goals of security are to ensure a viable and stable Euro-Atlantic security environment based on democratic institutions and a peaceful resolution of disputes. The alliance should be a real forum for consultation and cooperation between the allied states for every issue that could affect their security, meant to deter any attempt at aggression and to defend the allied states against any threat.

In order to strengthen the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic territory, NATO must be prepared to effectively and efficiently prevent conflicts, firmly engage in crisis management, increasingly use partnership and cooperate with other Eurozone and Euro-Atlantic states to increase transparency and mutual trust and the capacity for joint action with the North Atlantic Alliance.

NATO is engaged in the process of a broader approach to security and defense considering not only the military dimension, but also aspects of an economic, social, political and environmental nature in order to, together with other security organizations, contribute more to the security and the stability of the Euro-Atlantic space. All the transformations of NATO structures and policies reflect the commitment of the allied states to maintaining the essential political-military cooperation in order to ensure their common security.

Another transformation refers to the adoption of the new strategic concept of development of coordination and cooperation with the other international security organizations, namely the UN, the EU and the OSCE. It was also decided that the Alliance's resources and experience will be made available to the UN, the EU and the OSCE in order to support international stability and support operations and to counter the effects of terrorism and cross-border organized crime, as well as to ensure a fast reaction capacity if necessary.

The security and collective defense of the allied states is essential for ensuring the credibility of NATO, but also for strengthening the stability and security of the Euro-Atlantic space. In this sense, Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty is fundamental to NATO's collective defense. It provides that the High Parties to the Treaty have agreed that a military aggression against one or more Allied States is considered to be an attack against all the

Allies, and as a result each Allied State, in order to exercise the right of self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter will support the attacked state or states by immediately taking any action, including the use of armed force, in order to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic space⁵.

The North Atlantic Alliance proposed to cooperate with the other security organizations for the prevention of conflicts and in the case of crises to intervene in order to manage and solve them by applying the rules of international law or by executing the non-Article 5 operation for crisis response (i.e. to stability and support operations).

We consider that through flexibility and mobility NATO is adapted to the new political changes that have appeared in the security environment and asserts itself as a strong factor of security and stability on the world stage. By intensifying relations with the states of central and eastern Europe, they perceived NATO as a vital security pole, as a credible representative of democratic values, as a fundamental factor of economic development and prosperity. In this sense, we consider that maintaining the military capabilities necessary for collective action for the purpose of common defense is one of NATO's security objectives; this strong capability together with the political solidarity of the Allies is the essence of the ability of the North Atlantic Alliance to prevent any attempt of aggression or intimidation and guarantees to the Allies that no military aggression against the Alliance could succeed.

Nowadays, the military dimension of the Alliance is defined in a set of new parameters because it is necessary to put into operation some operational capabilities that can respond to the new requirements, which presupposes an effective and efficient employment capacity, a rapid deployment of forces that have the necessary mobility, a superiority of forces and infrastructure to include logistics and rotation of forces⁶.

The missions of NATO's armed structures correspond to the new characteristics of the international environment and necessitates the involvement of all forces in the management of various conflicts (ethnic and religious ones, as well as special actions to combat terrorism).

The war on terror is not a classic one, as Israel's war against Hamas and other terrorist organizations has proven. This type of warfare is based

⁵ Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, april 1949.

⁶ Alexandru Eparu, *Organizațiile internaționale de securitate și rolul lor pentru contracararea efectelor terorismului și ale crimei organizate transfrontaliere*, *Revista de Științe Militare*, no. 3, 2021, p. 74.

on the use of special forces supported by infantry, tanks, artillery, missiles, helicopters and aviation, as well as other special forces engaged in directions and on point objectives, such as terrorist tunnels, "the fight taking on a general aspect of anti-guerrilla"⁷.

An example is operation "Enduring Freedom" which the USA led in Afghanistan and which Romanian troops also took part in⁸.

Military actions against terrorism are based on the use of: precision weapons systems, light infantry weapons systems, attack helicopters, modern weapon systems, intelligence services, etc. The fight against terrorism today involves not only international organizations and their member states, but also other states. The goal of all of them is to annihilate and destroy terrorists wherever they are, because terrorism is one of the most dangerous threats to the security of states and humanity.

4. Security promoted by the EU

At present, the European Union is a strong entity and represents a regional force defined as a guarantor and builder of the European Union's security, development and prosperity. The EU is characterized by promoting a common security space and security through cooperation, but also by strengthening trust in the military field. The EU has the will and the ability to perceive the course of international events and to appreciate the actors on the international arena at their fair value. In the documents related to the concepts of European security and defense it is specified that the EU will be neither conqueror nor expansionist nor imperialist or hegemonic⁹. Still, the Union is now going through an extensive process of internal reform, simultaneously with procedures for welcoming new members. The positive evolution of the common foreign and security policy and the solutions found by the EU to solve the difficult situations in Europe are arguments that support the demonstration that the Union is ready to play a leading role in the architecture of its own security, but also of the whole continent, including in the field of defense.

However, the EU remained vulnerable to acts of terrorism and cross-border organized crime, conflicts and wars on its borders. Therefore, in order to successfully face these threats and continue the enlargement process, the Union is looking for solutions to create a climate of peace and

⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 75.

⁸ *Ibidem*.

⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 76.

stability in its eastern neighborhood and to end the war in Ukraine. Creating an environment of peace and stability in the neighborhood of the EU will positively influence the evolution of the European security environment. For now, the Union is leading the process of establishing good neighborliness on its eastern border with difficulty. A stable neighborhood would be a boon to everyone's security, and that is why it continues to work to promote stability and good neighborliness.

The EU's global goal is to establish an "effective system of cooperative global governance"¹⁰ to be legitimized by some representative institutions and laws, which seems to us a purely theoretical fantasy in the current international security environment because it is very difficult to achieve a global governance similar to a nation-state. A global governance should cover the following areas: international security; the achievement of an open international economic system capable of meeting the needs of all; the realization of a global legal order that ensures equality of all states; achieving global well-being as equivalent to security; a common mutual commitment to resolve regional conflicts. All these principles are impossible to put into practice today or in the foreseeable future.

However, the EU wants and even tries to manage the difficult problems of the international security environment and contribute to its strengthening in a commendable way, namely by transforming and "developing the current institutions and mechanisms of global action"¹¹.

In order to counter global threats, the EU together with the other international security organizations have taken a set of measures to contribute to the establishment of structures that generate security: a crisis management capacity within the UN; effective mechanisms for decision-making and standby force training for the European Union to contribute its military structures so that the Security Council can react quickly and effectively; the EU's contribution with expertise and specific means to the achievement of crisis management capacities in vulnerable regions; promoting access to multilateral agreements on non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament; strengthening links between national security agencies to carry out effective actions against cross-border organized crime networks involved in money laundering, drug, human and arms trafficking; discussing the issue of establishing the UN Anti-Terrorist Agency to

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 77.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, pp. 77-78.

coordinate the activity of some regional organizations in the fight against terrorism; regional integration based on the EU experience in order to strengthen peaceful relations between states, etc.

5. The role of NATO, the EU and the OSCE in countering threats

In recent years, the most significant impact on the security environment of the Euro-Atlantic space has been the expansion of NATO and the EU. The future of European and international security depends especially on the evolution of the two integrative organizations - the EU and NATO. Relations between these two organizations have become stronger and high-level cooperation (collaboration) has been reached in various fields, with security and the building of the international security environment occupying an important place in the concerns of both organizations.

The close relations between NATO and the EU represent an example for ensuring security and promoting it, based on the idea that the security of the Euro-Atlantic space leads to global stability and security through the continuous involvement of international security organizations. Thus, the OSCE, as a forum that gathers all the states of the European continent together with the USA and Canada, represents the main organization of the European security architecture.

Since the security of allies cannot be separated from that of European countries, the North Atlantic Alliance reaffirmed its support for the OSCE because dialogue and cooperation on security issues is a particularly important factor in the process of eliminating crises and preventing conflicts. In this context, the dialogue between NATO and the EU is intensifying, with the two organizations working to develop a permanent agreement. Accordingly, both organizations agreed to hold consultations and develop cooperative relations on issues of common interest regarding security, defense and crisis resolution to find appropriate military countermeasures while ensuring their effective management. Also, the North-Atlantic Alliance is willing to offer specialized consultancy at the request of the other two organizations: the OSCE and the EU. Following the decisions on the development of cooperation, international security organizations have taken steps to ensure their adaptation to counter the effects of terrorism and cross-border organized crime to cover all aspects of the support provided by the North Atlantic Alliance in the EU-led operation.

These measures include: the development of military forces and capabilities by taking into account all EU requirements that refer to the new defense planning procedures; adopting the procedures for identifying the capabilities of the North Atlantic Alliance that the European Union wishes to use, certainly with the agreement of the North Atlantic Council; the adoption of those multinational command elements within NATO that can be used to prepare, command, support and conduct operations under the political control and strategic direction of the European Union; providing access to information to ensure the necessary coordination during an EU-led operation, carried out with the support of the North Atlantic Alliance.

These agreements were designed in order to create the real and legal framework that would make it certain that, in the event of a crisis in which the decision to intervene will be made, the EU will have the right to request access and will be able to benefit from NATO's assets and capabilities for the purpose of conducting an operation under the political control and strategic direction of the EU. In relation to some particularities of each case, the North Atlantic Council will approve making available to the European Union the assets it requests. Throughout the duration of the military operation, NATO will carefully monitor the use of the capabilities "lent" to the Union and maintain constant political contact with it.

As a result of the brief analysis regarding the relations between NATO-EU-OSCE, it can be concluded that these three organizations can give the international environment the security and stability that are strengthened by the results of the collaboration and cooperation process of the mentioned organizations. In the future, it is predicted that these relationships will gain even more importance, representing an important lever of the "exhaustive development of the security environment"¹².

Consequently, as stated by Henry Kissinger, one of the renowned analysts of US foreign policy in the 20th century: "*in the post-Cold War world, traditional nations (...) lacked the resources to play a global role. The success of their effort to consolidate into a European Union will determine their future influence. United, Europe will continue as a Great Power, divided into nation states, it will slide into a secondary position*"¹³. Considering this idea, it can be deduced that the idea of the need for unification (integration) and cooperation is fully manifested at the

¹² *Ibidem*, p. 80.

¹³ *Ibidem*.

international level to achieve and preserve the security of all, in order to achieve the progress and prosperity of the states of the world and mankind.

Conclusions

The security of nations, countries, continents and the globe concerns us all more and more nowadays. We could even say that the issue of security has become paramount in today's world, its aspects being more and more complex, in this context more and more efficient information solutions and horizons are being sought. Following the analysis of the situation of the international environment and taking into account its changes/transformations, several trends emerge that are manifested in the probable evolutions of the current security environment. Yet, all aspects remain at the level of possible hypotheses, as some unpredictable changes can occur in its evolution at any time.

If we refer to countering major threats and especially the effects of terrorism and wars, measures can be structured according to the same principles, but with some rigorous adaptations due to changes in the security environment. We believe that the trend of increasing military potential will continue in the future as the main dimension of the international security environment.

Countering the effects of terrorism and wars will be internationalized and together with some democratic symbols as guarantors of security and peace in the world, it will be constituted in a single multinational force to ensure the future stability of the world.

Taking into account the highly complex manifestation of forces and phenomena in the current security environment and their foreseeable short-term developments, we have drawn out some trends in the likely developments of the current security environment to create an outline of the foreseeable future, a picture that shows clearly that Romania, as a member state of the EU and the international community, is also engaged in countering the effects of terrorism, wars and other global threats.

We believe that it is possible that the current reality of a single superpower might be replaced by a bipolar or even tripolar system. In the short and medium term, it is possible to assert two main poles of power: the US and China or three main poles of power: the US, China and Russia. According to some authors¹⁴ it is even possible to witness the assertion of

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 81.

three continental main poles of power: North America, Europe and Southeast Asia. An active partnership will probably emerge among the three poles of power. Also, the geostrategic interests of North America and Europe will continue to be convergent even though there will be fierce competition in the economic field. In addition to the three poles of power, some state or sub-state formations configured on ethno-religious criteria and led by mafia clans will probably develop that will control the economy and finances and will replace the legitimate power¹⁵.

Another trend in the evolution of the security environment comes from the expansion processes of some regional security organizations such as the UN, OSCE, NATO and the EU. In these organizations, the trend of globalization of security can be observed through the mechanisms of involvement, especially of the USA, NATO and some coalitions in different areas of the globe. We believe that their development regarding security measures can be observed on two main dimensions: one reactive by engaging in some armed interventions against some countries; the other is new, anticipatory (preventive) through a more extensive approach to some risks and through the development of partnership formulas.

In the security environment, a central place is occupied by the military dimension, a concept that was developed in the previous paragraphs by arguing the need for the existence of this dimension both today and in the future.

We believe that it is necessary that the dichotomous issue of security - the security environment be addressed by referring to the need for system security and not to that of interests. Through the ideological approach to security, it is often not possible to overcome the scope of narrow (limited) party interests that are usually placed outside the scope of the security need of the respective system¹⁶.

Our country - a member of the UN, NATO, the EU and the OSCE - is allied with the US in the fight against international terrorism and has decided to participate alongside the United States in building the new world order by engaging in the fight to counter global threats and especially the effects of terrorism, crises and conflicts. As stipulated in the National Strategy for the Defense of the Country for the period 2020-2024 ("Together for a safe and prosperous Romania in a world marked by new challenges")

¹⁵ *Ibidem.*

¹⁶ *Ibidem.*

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"consistent efforts are needed to transform our country into a resilient state, able to adequately relate to the unpredictability and extent of developments in the security environment. For this, a strong state is needed, a state that is aware of the need to develop its own rapid and effective reaction mechanisms, and inherently, a solidly dimensioned security culture"¹⁷.



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¹⁷ National Strategy for the Defense of the Country for the period 2020-2024 - „Împreună pentru o România sigură și prosperă într-o lume marcată de noi provocări”, Bucharest, 2020, p.6.

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