

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NATO'S STRATEGIC CONCEPT FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY, ADOPTED IN LISBON IN NOVEMBER 2010

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The Heads of State and Government of the NATO nations decided to fulfill the Alliance's mission in ensuring "their common defense and security". When NATO has put into practice this Strategic Concept, the Alliance will be more "effective in a changing world, against new threats, with new capabilities and new partners". This Concept reasserts the bond between NATO nations to defend one another against attack, and against new threats and "to keep the door to NATO open" to all European states "that meet the standards of membership", because enlargement contributes to the Alliance's "goal of a United Europe, free and at peace".

The Concept "commits the Alliance to prevent crises, manage conflicts and stabilize post-conflict situations" (including by working more closely with the United Nations, the European Union and the other NATO partners), and "to continuously reform towards a more effective, efficient and flexible Alliance", so that NATO citizens get the best security, "with the goal of setting the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons" (as long as there are nuclear weapons worldwide, NATO will remain a nuclear Alliance).

The Alliance offers its partners "more political engagement with the Alliance, and a substantial role in shaping the NATO-led operations". NATO's essential mission has always been the same, i.e., to ensure that the Alliance remains a unique Organization of freedom, peace, security and shared values.

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