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## THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE, THE OPTION FOR ROMANIA

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***Abstract:** The world is going through a powerful existential change and a global evolution, regarded by specialists as progress, based on information society, excellent innovation and state-of-the-art technologies oriented towards human development. They became vital requirements for the Global World, being necessarily connected to the scientific knowledge about the future, with results expressed through the identification and definition of global tendencies and adequate political visions.*

*We need to draw general attention to the assiduous preoccupation of the specialists in the scientific domains of the future which may and actually must offer content to the realistic visions about what is going to happen, directing, as much as possible, global tendencies towards a harmoniously developed world, supported to a large extent by consistent information and innovative grounds.*

***Keywords:** globalization; information society; knowing the future; local, regional, and international cooperation; strategic practice of modern security; foreseen scenarios; Romania's future; multi-dimensional guarantees.*

Confronted with the need to anticipate the Future World (on medium and long terms), state entities and (over-) state organizations have the obligation and responsibility to identify and define for themselves an adequate position equally favorable to dynamic realities for which to make a political choice. Only thus could they acquire and maintain their own identity in the context of globalization.

In our opinion, knowing the future and future knowledge are becoming fundamentally important for conceiving, accepting and success of any visions and concepts regarding globalization. Future knowledge implies focusing scientific preoccupations upon the human being and human collectivities for new forms of realities of human existence in accordance

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with the tendencies of development manifested sometimes and someplace evermore obviously. Knowing the future implies identifying, deciphering and modeling the tendencies of global existence outside which it will be impossible to live and exist.

Consequently, we consider that thinking permanently oriented towards the future remains vital for everybody, but as a scientific specialized activity, it should be much more sustained. We have to strongly assert this existential strategic requirement because the complex events going on in the continuously changing World shield the horizon of knowledge and beyond that, it may block the possibility and opportunity of prevention in the sphere of management and strategic art.

We may say that the future can be easily known (for one-two decades), only if the tendencies that accompany and characterize it will be correctly identified, rigorously analyzed and carefully deciphered.

That is why, on long term, any profound thinking over the future may be accomplished at most through its critical function. Only thus could people decipher the landmarks of adequate strategies with sufficient operational-action elements of prevention, accompanied by a permanent re-analysis of the assumed solutions, the imposed expectative and the accepted uncertainties.

A picture of today's World shows us a lot of disorder and even chaos in the context of international affairs increasingly interconnected, which requires the timely operationalization of serious and consistent prevention, because the solutions based on special / exceptional circumstances, usually adopted post-factum, no longer correspond to a superior and efficient management.

In other words, change is needed: instead of erroneous, insufficient decisions, sometimes taken at random, especially for unjustified expectations, it is vital to instrument rational decisions, acts, and actions adequate for a complex reality, taken with the necessary responsibility by leaders, state institutions, and international organizations.

According to the opinions expressed by many specialists of the entire World, knowing the future necessarily implies the identification of the need to change, and this should happen through the careful thinking of experts in the field. In order to do so, they will take into consideration and analyze the peculiarities noticed wherever in the world or through visits in areas lacking in

normality, obviously promoting ideas and consulting specialists, and especially by following feedback.

We may deem as exceptionally interesting lately the relevant points of view regarding the nature of power that many times create abnormal pressure within states and among states, generating all sorts of diverse transnational consequences. In this context we consider it necessary to create frequent or opportune possibilities of debate and supporting opinions in order to identify and define chance factors that disrupt the regional and international security environment.

It is well known that at the highest level of American strategic thinking, National Intelligence Council (the think-tank on medium and long term within United States Intelligence Community) periodically, once every 4 years, makes a Report regarding the future of the World. The estimation of future is made for a period of 20 years, but with serious and relevant results for the period of the presidential mandate preceding it.

In the latest years, Reports focused more on globalization processes in a complex and dynamic context, identifying and defining the main tendencies, having almost compulsory contents for state entities and not only to consider. This year, the Report is entitled *Global Trends: Paradox of Progress*.

The conclusions derived from this work clearly show an American newer vision on globalization starting from the current dynamic and a little unpredictable dynamics of international security environment. This is even shocking from the title, through the generosity with which we may interpret the paradoxical relationship between globalization tendencies and progress of the World:

- up to now, development, including digital development, has brought next to wealth also challenges under the shape of opportunities less known until the present time;

- the last decade, appreciated as bearing progress, generated satisfaction for communities, groups of integrated, allied, or associated states, but also caused unwanted events with effects extremely difficult to overcome such as the global financial crisis, the rise of populism in certain geographical areas and political instabilities on all continents.

The conclusion that may be drawn is that all these negative aspects were perceived as real shocks that showed the frail nature of these welfare

elements, focusing people's attention on the necessity and depth of changes in the global environment which, more than ever before, need to be oriented towards the future.

The next lines are also devoted to a few ideas coming in support of the paradox expressed in the title of the Report, but at the same time being the basic elements of state existence in globalization, such as: the increased visibility of tensions among states and within states themselves; the slowing down of global progress becoming an element that will impose the change of the process itself; the fact that all states and over-state organizations will have to face more the effects of geopolitics etc.

Key aspects in these respects may be local, regional, and international cooperation for states' assertion of their own governmental role regarding economic results, environment, religion, security and rules of human co-existence. As a consequence, starting from these grounds, states need to find solutions together for solving divergences and strengthening the national interest, thus strengthening international security.

An obvious danger may stem from the tendency to impose order in this apparent chaos through extreme and costly measures and actions, of variable length, which may fail in time. A lot of negative effects are already in place such as the decreasing of development, of fiscal limits and other burdening social aspects that may lead to diminishing democracy, the rise of totalitarianism, a certain instability etc.

Adequate mention has to be made of the fact that, given this contradictory background, the geopolitical role of powerful states grows, as they are a lot more concerned with re-drawing the maps of the future for a new world order based on other realities (of nowadays, of the times we are living), such as networks, partnerships, allied intelligence and cooperation community in the global security environment, even though these aspects sometimes and at some point need to be (re)learned.

We also believe that states must and can continue to have international, regional, and area relevance, but not in the manner used by the large states encouraged to be aggressive to their neighbors or even further on, next to non-state actors that expand /or at least preserve their corporate interests.

It is quite easy to notice a certain tacit erosion of principles and rules of waging conventional warfare, the most significant aspect being the

emergence of „gray areas”, where unconventional aggressions are favored, thus generating hazards with unpredictable consequences, not encountered before. That is why we suggest the need for developing international cooperation, especially where successful intervention can be applied, thus diminishing the rise in influence and domination of a powerful state in an area of international strategic interest and thus creating new spheres of influence.

Within this rather gloomy framework, states may try to find their own model or stability, development and integration, based on their own economic-social problems, creating the middle class and migration control, which otherwise may generate complex peculiar aspects, such as destructive competitive character, an anti-elite spirit, nationalism, employment crisis with internal effects and determining impact over neighboring states.

We may conclude therefore that the future may be or become an obstacle in anybody’s way on the highway of globalization, matter for which the next years may be favorable or catastrophic depending on a few parameters thus:

- the manner in which states and their governments, individually or as a group, will negotiate their vision regarding accepting and participating in creating a new global order in the next years, adopting economic changes in an individual, adequate, and rapid way;
- the creation/preservation of a powerful state which, individually or as a group, may provide with professionalism and rational vision models of development or architectures of internationally beneficial competition and cooperation;
- the governments and administrations which, individually or as a group, are now prepared to accept the various results generated in the global environment by high technologies and innovations.

We consider that we presented sufficient elements for states and governments to complete the picture of the security environment in which they exist and in which they can look for guarantees for the future, the solutions found so far no longer being feasible or valid.

In this context which is quite dynamic, really complex and with a lower degree of prospective cognoscibility, there is a need for balanced solutions, based on political reasoning, context wisdom and firm and consistent action in special circumstances.

The scenarios known so far are the EU scenarios, proposed to Member States on the occasion of the last Summit, to which we add those in the American Report (all three of them) that depict a clear, though American vision upon the evolution of the state of the World for fifteen years, starting with 2020.

The justification for our intention to bring them to the attention of specialists and the interested public opinion, by approaching the analysis starting from a few characteristics, with a determining value for each existential state entity in international affairs.

First of all, within the schools of thinking and strategic practice of modern security, it can be stated with a lot of responsibility and clarity that the predictions regarding the complex World we live in are not very optimistic.

The explanations presented are based on a series of evermore obvious aspects such as, for instance, the rise in inter/intrastate tensions, the alarming slowing down of the regional and worldwide development, increasing the terrorist threat through multiple always unpredictable ways, all of them definitely showing a quite serious degree of division /separation of states.

The concerns at state level, regarding the paradox of progress, start by establishing certain strategic stakes of governments and societies, among which keeping and re-asserting individual, community, and national values and resources as the main generating and augmenting principles for a real triptych: security, prosperity, and hope.

In the following lines we will briefly refer at the essence of issues analyzed so far, presenting the scenarios as models predicted in the American Report. The world is regarded and perceived as an ocean of instability because of evermore obvious realities: uncontrolled economic growths; weak and chaotic globalization; global financial crisis; fragile and failed states at national and regional level.

The bigger picture presents a fragmented world in a serious economic-social defensive position, as the unsafe and restless states convey to their own citizens and their neighbors determine physical isolation towards the external omni-directed actions, often forming or turning into real „islands”.

On the other hand, things do not stop here as they may be followed by distortions and problems on the economic and social levels determined by the

boom of emergences, within which the middle class can reach a level of survival generated by an unprecedented rise of inequalities and populism. This aspect may also be added the expansion of use of artificial intelligence which definitely creates an increasing level of unemployment.

In this scenario, we may say that the issue of survival becomes of real essence as a saving solution. This may also be a result of technological innovation and creativity in the human-machine working relationship. The result is the need for a generation of entrepreneurs, innovators and inventors at national level that may assure the preservation of the new values and innovative and technological accomplishments within states serving to own development.

This brief description suggests that this scenario is quite hard to apply with recovering results, as it presupposes an intelligent approach, controlled nationally and valorized rationally, thus gaining more credibility in the exterior.

The second scenario is called „*orbits*”, warning that a military escalation is possible, more or less controlled. It presents several on-going phenomena for the next years, among which a certain temporary repositioning and as strategic expectative of the USA on the international stage.

The natural consequence can only be the evermore increasing tensions among the great international / regional actors for economic, political, and military influence and dominance in their areas of interest or in other areas with security needs.

Confrontations will have the following specific aspects: their hybrid origin and nature, the usually long length, the focus on vital objectives, within which distorting reality and truth through propaganda and careful manipulation will reach unprecedented peaks, excelling in creating spreading „*alternative facts*”.

In this context, we can easily notice the utmost development of chaos in the World, through a few amazing, large scale actions, produced, activated, and maintained in various regions from Europe, Asia, and Africa, representing increasingly obvious premises for the emergence and existence of a fake Cold War.

For the states striving – after making the option – for becoming orbital, a fundamental condition is asserting in the international environment

of modern organizational entities upon obvious state areas, being acknowledged as centers of global, area, and regional centers of power. Within them and in-between these entities, there is a need for establishing normal relationships and a lot of mutual trust in order to avoid military – and especially nuclear – escalation and thus, creating the circumstances for resuming international cooperation for security, based on the principles, requirements and exigencies of globalization.

The third American scenario is entitled „*communities*” and it makes an interesting and attractive assumption that they will lead the World. We acknowledge now certain realities that we may also deem as specific aspects, such as: the local groups / national communities with their initiatives are ahead of governments; the trust in local and national leaders has diminished up to almost complete lack; the issues of peace and war within external politics have been allowed to remain at national level; economic development, education, health, culture have also remained to be taken care of by local authorities, determining a further involvement of local economic agents in the life of local and national social factor.

The scenarios presented given the own and long-lasting values, cultural elements, traditions and symbols create or strengthen socio-human entities relevant to a powerful community existence manifested on a certain area.

This is the point in which community steps into the picture as a socio-human entity, with quite a clear identity, through a few ethnic, religious, cultural characteristics and especially through common community interests. Actually, we have willy-nilly to witness a resurrection of Western traditions of involvement of local communities and private businesses in the management of internal security environment.

We consider that everything can be reasonable, regarding the community, if among the assumed salutary solutions there is also the acceptance of common interests, be they related to opportunities, whose accomplishment requires the full awareness and responsible involvement of youth in local and national transformations.

We may conclude that, given the arguments presented so far, these three scenarios can prove to be quite convincing to World’s states for a wise and adequate option regarding the flow of own progress through integration, development, security, and globalization.

The political-strategic option also depends on a few determining conditions: raising awareness on the tendencies of globalization, valorizing the specificities of state entities opted for, performing the adjustment to the regional and international security environment and acknowledging the importance of geostrategic position the state holds in building global security.

The key issue for Romania is to rapidly make a political-strategic option for the most favorable hypothesis of globalization, certainly after taking into consideration the conditions mentioned above. Also, we need to keep in mind the position of our country as an EU member state and the scenarios of European development, namely, where we could be placed, as well as our obligations as NATO member state.

Within our concerns of external politics regarding Romania's future, we will be aware that, after all, the option will be to choose between an option and / or acceptance within the EU and an option for one of the American models, the participation in NATO remaining unquestionable.

In our view, the best option is that for an American model, resulted from political reasoning and based on superior judgments deriving from the strategic art of globalization that may bring Romania multi-dimensional desired guarantees regarding the advantages of modern security in the future.

In order to make more understandable a possible option of Romania for globalization and the future, there is a need for a serious and prospective analysis of international environment, on the basis of the above mentioned conditions. This analysis becomes the only knowledge support necessary for understanding the realities we live in and, also, a guide for making an informed option.

Globalization has become a processual-organic reality that can no longer be denied; one cannot remain outside it or avoid it without the most serious consequences. Accepting it in a national framework has to be done in full awareness, sufficiently anticipating the requests and exigencies that could prove to be beneficial to us.

We should not forget that the tendencies of globalization stem from certain elements of the past and the current realities, that can be shaped according to present reality or that can shape reality in a dynamics favorable to reality regarded as progress. The factors of political decision together

with the academic environment are those that can and must acknowledge the impact of globalization and thus contribute to raising awareness about this phenomenon and the tendencies of globalization within the national economic-political-social national framework.

In Romania's case, a lot of specific aspects are already known, aspects that left an obvious mark upon the current state entity. This is why nowadays Romania is a product created by these specific aspects, with often contradictory – but known – effects. Their constant accomplishment in the range of regional and European affairs make the political option of globalization be more realistic, sustainable, and with a bright future ahead.

In the last millennium the Romanian environment and furthermore the Romanian state entity existed through the survival in an environment of instability that transcended the regional, European, and Euro-Asian space, being often forced to defend itself omni-directionally, at the same time defending the rest of Europe.

The natural richness of this national space makes Romania quite attractive in the sphere of globalization. As a consequence, we cannot ignore its own political-strategic option or a European one that it might be given. There is an obligation for national responsibilities for which it will have to definitely express its will in the much larger sphere of international affairs.

The characteristics of the regional security environment, defined by the Carpathians, the Balkans, the Danube and the Black Sea, pose challenges as each of these has its own security issues. The current characteristic of regional existence in this space is the utmost importance given to security. This results from the excessively nationalistic features of certain states, the convergence of European and Euro-Atlantic involvement in different points in the area, the definition of historically determined and openly stated interests in this area by Russia, but also from a certain overlapping of interests from the other international actors.

The short presentation of the determining conditions of globalization Romania is going through clearly shows the importance of the geopolitical and geostrategic position it naturally occupies in building the European and global construction. The older statute of „turntable”, „pivot”, „median connector” for the European and Euro-Asian space has become evermore present and it seems to be increasing, generating and favoring / hampering active aspects of globalization, sometimes contradictory.

In an European vision that was hardly beneficial, Romania has played in time an obstacle in the way of expansions towards Europe, line and bastion of defense of the center of the continent, part of a camp for a typology of experimental development, a „gray area”, on the line of European religious separation, a „buffer zone”, a space of sacrifice and lately a „promised land” for corporate expansion etc.

Romania no longer wishes to be part of these hypotheses; it no longer needs others of the kind that would only prove beneficial to the important actors of international affairs. What Romania really needs is its own political-strategic option, well-anchored in the dynamic and complex regional and European realities that might bring it benefits according to the sources and resources it has available, the geostrategic position and historic background it has had in this area.

This is the stakes that lead to the need for protecting and using in its own interest the existential values it has, (re)defining its vital long-lasting interests and establishing the most appropriate targets in the current globalization context.

Therefore, we may ask: *Where to, Romania?* The „island” model can no longer be accepted by Romania that has been playing this role for over a millennium, making huge human and material efforts in order to survive the destructive factors affecting it constantly and from all directions.

The reasons for not accepting this option result from a simple analysis. The state and over-state „ocean” around Romania is in a perpetual tempest and the waves and other phenomena may drown one very easily. The spendings necessary to limiting effects are much too high in comparison to the benefits, fact which makes the option undesirable in the sphere of regional and global international affairs.

We may say that there is another option, equally undesirable, that of „community”. We live in a regional background of Christians, but we are orthodox; we have always been surrounded by a sea of Slavic populations while we are of Latin origins; we have had direct contact with the Muslim expansion; the culture and national customs resemble those from the area comprised between the Carpathians, the Balkans, the Danube and the Black Sea, which makes us unable to stick naturally to the communities forming around us. Communities are now on the point of making in the Visegrad countries, in Balkan Peninsula, in the area North of the Danube-Black Sea

region, etc. In this case, it becomes quite difficult to survive as a globalizing community, even under EU umbrella.

This way, Romania only has the one solution of becoming an „orbit” that might rely in a powerful identity, with a lasting development, with solid sovereignty, with international acknowledgement and appreciation. *Becoming part of a political orbit should be as close as possible to a center of power, influence and global / international determination.* The choice has to be negotiated, with mutually beneficial conditions, with guarantees of security and defense etc. The existence of partnerships within Romanian external policy and the position of NATO member state may be contributory factors and to the EU an element of security that has more and supplementary guarantees.

This political-strategic option brings Romania a few relevant advantages in all the processes and domains of globalization. First of all, after getting on the orbit, it makes together with the core a coherent system with which it co-exists and develops in globalization. Secondly, it benefits from the positive globalizing consequences of the system as part of it. Thirdly, the position on the orbit as compared to the center, assures the accumulation of multi-dimensional power, remaining permanently drawn to the center. Last but not least, the influences of external communities cannot draw it in the attempt to separate it from the system it belongs to.

Now, during this period, states are settling in their matrix of regional or global security, whose future needs to belong to progress, welfare and prosperity of all the states. It is time therefore for making a definite statement for global security on negotiated terms and ensuring a common future.

Internally and externally, this continues to be defined for Romania as a political-strategic issue of maximal importance. We suggest that there is a need to take a large and elaborate range of activities, measures and complex, coordinated actions meant to raise the awareness at national political level upon all the complex issues defining the strategic option through political and academic debates and formulating the basic elements of a certain concept. The next step is promoting in the external environment, through adequate forms and structures, of its own security concept in globalization, regarded as long-term national interest and, on these grounds, expressing this concept within the contents of National Security Strategy. Finally,

Romania should identify, define and reveal the contents of a modern systemic security strategy (the international environment of global security, the power core, and the orbiting state entities).

We do not believe that we need to elaborate too long on an answer to the question: what recommends Romania for entering an orbit? The following aspects are sufficient: a certain tradition, the geo-economic, geo-political and geo-strategic position, its own complex and strategically important resources, the capacity of mobilization in complex situations and so on.

What about the answer to the question: why should states be interested in placing a state on its own orbit? This answer is much more complex. The following conditions should be covered: the orbital state should have a true potential of economic-political-scientific-technical power, the area of state issues should draw the complex interests of the „core”, the adherence to the clear concept of making a system of regional or zonal security system should be clearly expressed, and starting from all these, the capacity to cooperate internationally for acknowledging the created system should be permanent and intense.

We have to underline the fact that, for the national political-strategic spirit regarding the desired option for security in globalization, Romania has and can develop all the premises that might make it attractive in an orbital system with regional and zonal interests in integration, development, security, and globalization.

Today more than ever, two questions may be asked: who may be the interested power core that radiates attractiveness? What should it offer in order to draw Romania in an own orbital system?

We will give a definite answer: there should already be in place an interest declared bilaterally for a new system of security in globalization with the USA on the Euro-Atlantic link, and discussions with Germany for the constant aspect of its geo-politics, „*dunav land*”. Certainly, there could also be another actor that may play a key role in Europe, but only in a context of global, Atlantic-European-Asian global security context.

In Romania’s case, the offer to join such a system of orbital security should necessarily comprise: participating to own development, ensuring the meaningful employment of resources, easing the access on the economic-

financial market, and sustaining Romanian initiatives for regional and zonal security.

If we add all these to facilitating the access to the resource market, granting guarantees of regional and zonal security and defense through integration in the security system created, thus becoming more obvious to national interests, and afterwards, the acknowledgement and preservation of national identity and values, we may say that we actually drew the landmarks of a real country project.

