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RESOLUTION 458

on

TACKLING SECURITY CHALLENGES FROM AFRICA[*]

The Assembly,

1.   *Emphasising* that security on NATO's southern flank is closely intertwined with the stability of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, which is itself heavily impacted by the volatility of the countries further south;

2.   *Deeply concerned* about the deteriorating security situation in Libya caused by jihadists and the strengthening of Russian military support to Libyan militia leaders, which escalates insecurity and chaos and leads to further destabilisation;

3.   *Recognising* that the interplay between corruption, weak institutions, radicalisation, terrorism, and illicit trafficking of arms, drugs, and people causes endemic insecurity in large parts of the continent;

4.   *Recognising* that the expansion of militant Islamist groups beyond the Sahel region creates a belt of violent extremism in Africa;

5.   *Welcoming* the decrease in irregular migration over the Mediterranean but *acknowledging* that the underlying causes driving migration have not yet been addressed;

6.   *Noting* that NATO has recently been putting greater emphasis on challenges emanating from Africa and that the Framework for the South seeks to integrate and streamline NATO's approach to its southern neighbours;

7.   *Applauding* the creation of the NATO Hub for the South in Naples, as it increases awareness of security not only in the MENA region but also in the areas south of it;

8.   *Recognising* that NATO's approach to the South focuses on three pillars:
   a)   strengthening NATO's deterrence and defence against threats from the South,
   b)   contributing to international crisis management efforts in the region, and
   c)   helping regional partners build resilience against security threats such as terrorism;

9.   *Underlining* the need for enhanced cooperation between NATO, the EU and the African Union (AU) to provide in-depth support to countries in Africa and the Middle East interested in comprehensive political and economic reform programmes;

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[*]   presented by the Political Committee and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Monday 14 October 2019, London, United Kingdom.

10.   **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance and NATO partners:

a.   to improve situational awareness, by enhancing early-warning capabilities to monitor instability and security in Africa e.g. through improved intelligence sharing among Allies and partner countries at the Hub for the South and through greater coordination with the early-warning mechanism within the EU, in order to create a new NATO-EU cooperation area thus enhancing NATO's capabilities to monitor potential threats;

b.   to engage in capacity-building efforts, dialogue and information exchange, and training of security forces in the Sahel region to prevent regional terrorist movements from merging with similar groups, thereby creating an immediate threat to the security of NATO Allies, some of which are already taking action to provide an adequate response, including when their links with the continent are more recent than those of the Allies with an established presence;

c.   to strengthen assistance to partner countries of the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) in the development of adequate counterterrorism strategies that foster interethnic reconciliation and an inclusive political process;

d.   to explore the potential that member countries such as Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece could offer for reinforcing security in Africa thanks to their privileged geographical position as a bridge between Europe and the African continent;

e.   to explore options for a shared EU-NATO approach on promoting stability in Africa and the MENA region so that both organisations can pursue common objectives, identify necessary means and mutually reinforce the respective efforts of each other;

f.   to further develop NATO's fledgling relationship with African actors, particularly the African Union;

g.   to further develop the Alliance's cooperation with the AU on security- and politics-related topics, such as the operationalisation of the African Standby Forces (ASF) and the promotion of good governance through the expansion of NATO's Building Integrity Programmes;

h.   to consider expanding NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme to Sub-Saharan African states interested in formalising their cooperation with the Alliance on political and security-related issues in a manner which complements other missions engaged in stabilisation processes, including the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel.

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