Government of the Republic of North Macedonia

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of North Macedonia 2024-2029

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Pursuant to Article 17(1) item 8) of the Law on Defence ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia", No. 42/01, 5/03, 58/06, 110/08, 51/11, 151/11 and 215/15 and the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 42/20), the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia on its session held on 14.05.2024 adopted the following

National Security Strategy

INTRODUCTION

The national security of the state, namely the protection of independence, sovereignty, constitutional regulation, fundamental freedoms and rights of man and citizens, are pillars on which the constitutional regulation of the Republic of North Macedonia rests. A secure and stable environment ensures the functioning of our democratic constitutional order, protection of human rights and freedoms, sustainable economic growth, viability of a multiethnic society, and an opportunity for our citizens to reach their individual potential.

The Republic of North Macedonia is a multi-ethnic liberal democracy that has been a contributor to regional security. As a committed and credible member of the North-Atlantic Alliance (NATO) and a future member of the European Union (EU), it fully accepts the obligations and responsibilities of Euro-Atlantic and European integration and is devoted to the path which will secure a free and prosperous future for its people. The Republic of North Macedonia has an obligation to defend its citizens, its values, its sovereignty, and the international rules-based order founded on international law and domestic legislation on which freedom, democracy, and progress depend.

The Russian military aggression against Ukraine has contributed to the deterioration of security, not only in Europe, but also globally. This is causing secondary crises in the energy and transport sectors, increased inflation, disruption of industrial production and the flow of energy and other products. There is a certain risk of expansion of the war in Ukraine and/or escalation of the intensity of the military actions.

After the unprovoked war of Russia with Ukraine, the world faces a convergence of international threats and instability without precedent, the peace in the Euro-Atlantic community has been disrupted. The Russian Federation violated the norms and principles

which contribute to stable and foreseeable European security order. The Russian Federation is the most significant and most direct military threat for the security of the allies, and the peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic zone.

Terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, is the most direct asymmetric threat for the security of our citizens, but also for international peace and prosperity. The instability in the Middle East, as well as the shifting security situation in the countries of North and Sub-Saharan Africa, create additional challenges for security and stability, including to the economic well-being and the flow of trade. The threats we are facing are global and inter-connected.

Internally, the fight against corruption, organized crime, and contempt for the rule of law remains a priority. Any lag in the direction of creating a system to combat corruption and organized crime will violate the security and functioning of the state.

As a NATO member, North Macedonia has an obligation to build a modern security system that will be ready to act proactively and appropriately against security challenges, threats, and risks both internally, regionally, and globally. Article 3 of the North-Atlantic Treaty stipulates that the country should have appropriate capabilities to address the spectrum of threats. NATO membership requires robust civil preparedness to reduce potential vulnerabilities and the risk of attack in peacetime, crisis, and state of emergency and state of war.

Protecting citizens and the sovereignty of the country, maintaining a stable economy, delivering essential services, maintaining an inclusive and functional multi-ethnic society, resistant to any shocks and crises requires an integrated effort of the entire government. This approach is realized through the development and implementation of a National Security Strategy (NSS).

The National Security Strategy (NSS) is a synchronized, whole of government, whole of society, and resource informed approach to protect and promote the security interests of the country. It is the essential strategic document providing a unifying vision of the country and in defining the enduring interests for a safe, stable, and resilient society. The NSS delineates responsibilities to appropriate ministries and agencies and directs them to develop supporting strategies, policies, legislation, and resourcing requests to implement, monitor, and achieve. For the foreign and domestic audience, the NSS communicates the country's place in the global, European, and regional context and how that manifests in relations with

the UN, EU, NATO, other multinational security structures, and bilaterally. Implementation is coordinated through a National Security Management system, a whole of government coordination structure designed to support national security strategy development, cross cutting security policy development, and decision making in crisis and steady state.

This National Security Strategy will direct the institutions to work together to secure and strengthen the country, in an inclusive way towards the societal stakeholders. A crucial task for the Institutions is to prepare them for this role by creating a culture of security awareness and participation. The only answer to today's complex threats is a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

I – The National Security Interests of the Republic of North Macedonia

To ensure the safety and stability of the Republic and a secure future for its citizens, it is vital that the whole of government and society, through an all-encompassing approach:

- Preserve independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the unitary character of the state and maintain the security of its Citizens.
- Preserve Democracy, protect citizen's rights and freedoms, enforce the rule of law equally for all citizens.
- Promote economic stability and development, ensure the wellbeing of all Citizens.
- Promote cohesion of a multicultural society through the preservation of national identity, heritage and culture while advancing the shared democratic values of the Republic.
- Maintain stable Euro-Atlantic orientation through commitment to NATO membership, concern for security in the transatlantic area and acceleration of EU accession.
- Preserve and protect the international rules-based order in unity with NATO, the European Union, friends, and partners.

II- Security Environment Assessment

The Republic of North Macedonia has been a stable member of the Alliance, and a contributing factor to the security within the region. The peaceful nature of the citizens and the societal order has led towards peaceful conflict resolution and settlement of disputes through diplomacy. However, the country faces a variety of malign actors, threats, and vulnerabilities within the context of a volatile, uncertain, complex, regional and global security context.

The Euro-Atlantic direction of the country as well as the region has been identified as a security rather than an economic or political issue. By becoming a NATO member, the Republic became a part of the political-military alliance whose objective is to preserve the peace in the North-Atlantic area, and in doing so, it has undertaken a set of value, political and defence obligations. Moreover, with the process of accession and membership of the country into the European Union, the space for malignant impact by third parties is shrunk, and a stable path for democratic values and directions of the country is enabled. Deviation from the Euro-Atlantic direction, that is, the established attitudes and decisions of NATO or the slowing of accession to the EU, will be considered a potential threat to national, regional, and global security.

II.1 - Threats

Having in mind the geographical position, size, level of dependence on natural resources, the degree of technological development and the processes for entry and integration into the international environment make the country sensitive to the sources of threats and risks to its national security.

In a more complex political-security context, national security will be challenged by threats, risks and challenges from the operation of foreign (security) intelligence services, various ideologically political, ethno-national and religiously motivated extreme individuals and groups, which can apply violence including elements of terrorism, corrupt actions, as well as organized criminal groups that apply new methods or become a "tool" for so-called "hybrid" warfare.

II.1.1 - The direct threat to sovereignty and territorial integrity or armed aggression against the Republic.

The direct conventional military threats against the Republic are low. The Republic could be impacted by spillover instability from the neighbours or the Black Sea region. The violation

of unitarity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of our neighbours, or the countries in the wider region, as well as the escalation of violence, will create conditions for worsening of our security. Additionally, the promotion of ethno-nationalism, secessionism or violent extremism are phenomena which directly endanger our security. The maintenance of good-neighbourly relations and commitment towards peaceful resolution of the open issues in the region contributes towards the stability and security.

II.1.2 - Threat for NATO allies' security and threats for the security of the Trans-Atlantic area

The threats to NATO's security, the allies, and the threats to the security of the Trans-Atlantic area, are a threat for the security of the Republic of North Macedonia. Threats to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of NATO allies, as well as threats to allies and the transatlantic area in any of the defined NATO domains (land, water, air, space and cyber) pose a threat to our security as well. The Republic of North Macedonia stands in solidarity with its allies and NATO and contributes to the collective defence by fulfilling its obligations in deterrence and defence, crisis management and management and cooperative security, within its capacities and opportunities and in accordance with the obligations of the Washington Treaty.

II.1.3 - Terrorism

Terrorism remains a threat, not only for the national security, but also for the regional and globally. The security aspects related to terrorism in all forms and dimensions still create serious security threats and risks. The threat of religiously motivated terrorism in the Republic is low but possible. Despite the absence of indicators of the country's direct threat from terrorist activity, in the medium and long term, the possibility of individual acts of terrorism cannot be excluded in its entirety, especially due to the existence of supporters of militant ideologies who justify violence and foreign fighters and returnees from wars in the Middle East.

An additional challenge remains the ongoing processes of disguised but strengthened radicalization in and out of prisons, connections of radical groups with organized criminal groups, as well as extreme and terrorist structures at regional and global level.

The connection of religious radical organizations in the region and beyond, the possible increase in religious radicalism as a result of armed clashes in the Middle East, and the

tendency to present themselves as inter-religious, increase the likelihood of radical groups committing violent acts.

In the context of current trends, modern methods and techniques used by terrorists, as a distinguished current risk, but also on long term, the regular use/misuse of the digital technology is assessed as a threat. The digital technology enables their networking, global activism and reinforces the process of self-radicalization, thus creating conditions for and inspiring attacks performed by individuals. At the same time, the possibility of applying new tools for carrying out terrorist attacks such as bioterrorism and cyber terrorism cannot be excluded.

In this sense, pronounced political, economic, and social division, and occasional expressions of hate speech can lead to further intra and inter-ethnic polarization and growing distrust, which creates room for additional radicalization of existing extreme individuals, movements, and organizations. The risk of radicalization has been repeatedly increased because of the development and proliferation of modern communication and information technologies, which provides space for extreme structures to strengthen their narratives and gain support for their agendas. Such ambience can be used by third parties within the frames of the hybrid actions in the region and in our country.

In addition to the various ideological matrixes of populist associations and organizations (which have different concepts on their platforms about the future of the state internally and externally), extreme nationalists, as well as religiously motivated extremists (who manipulate fundamental religious rights through civil activism), are likely to continue the trend of connecting them of so-called "religious right" cumulative extremism, by including the same elements, narratives and symbols, which significantly complicates the security approach.

No matter the limited material, organizational and financial capacities, as well as the marginal social impact, there is a possibility for extreme individuals and groups in future to be placed in the function of certain centres of power - state and non-state actors. It is not entirely excluded that through the manipulation of the civil right to protest, they may occasionally cause a disruption of the security situation by using violence.

II.1.4 - Organized crime and corruption

These challenges are relevant for the state and the assessment is that they are a high-intensity threat in the medium term. In the long term, as a result of the start of accession negotiations on the country's EU membership and the high commitment of state authorities and institutions to deal with the issues, the assessment is that threats of organized crime and corruption will be of medium intensity.

Corruption may have a direct and indirect effect over national security. The lack of trust in institutions caused by corruption can erode democracy. However, corruption can also happen in the existing institutions of the security sector, thus becoming a vulnerability. Therefore, the institutions should perform continuous assessments and implement measures for overcoming their specific vulnerability on an operational level and integrate anticorruption tools in all areas of their work. In this way, they will be able to alleviate the risks which prevent them in fulfilling their tasks and competences and objectives of this Strategy.

The high revenues that criminal organized groups acquire from illegal activities (drug trafficking, smuggling of goods and migrants, computer crime, tax evasion) on the one hand and the narrow capacity of judiciary institutions to deal with these phenomena, on the other, provide conditions that have a direct impact on the erosion of social norms and values and the violation of the state's overall security and economic stability.

Violent activities as a method of action by criminal groups make the threat of organized crime more complex in the context of violations of public order and peace, ordered assassinations (liquidations) in the country and abroad, and other violent acts, causing a sense of uncertainty among citizens and creating a perception of distrust in the institutions of the system.

Currently and in the future, corrupt behaviour in law enforcement bodies and other state institutions of vital importance, including in the judicial system that undermines the integrity of institutions is also assessed as a serious security problem. In this context, abuses in the operation of separate economic and legal entities, which by committing various financial frauds gain unlawful property benefits to the detriment of the state. An additional threat is legalization of illegally acquired assets through various forms of "money laundering" in the country, thus additionally undermining the financial system and stimulating the future involvement in organized crime activities.

II.1.5 - Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and the use of chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear materials (CBRN)

WMD and CBRN as well as the materials and devices necessary for their production, in this context, due to the risk of endangering public health and the environment from ionizing radiation, inadequate hazard management and CBRN materials are also assessed as a potential risk factor, especially from the point of view of possible damage, theft and their use by extreme and terrorist entities, and other state or non-state actors.

II.1.6 - Illegal Migration

This is expected to pose a threat of medium intensity, in the medium and long term but with the possibility of an increased trend due to possible security and geo-strategic crises in the Mediterranean Basin/Sub-Saharan Africa or the Middle East, but also because of a new economic crisis at the world level.

Being a transit country on the Balkan route, the Republic is facing challenges arising from the illegal migration from several aspects, such as: jeopardizing financial security from the actions of organized crime groups involved in migrant smuggling; the risk of misuse of migrant routes for the transfer of high-risk persons; mutual armed confrontations between migrants and smugglers; involvement of citizens in the channels; stimulating corruption in competent authorities; causing violence and transmission of atypical diseases by migrants.

A possible increase in illegal migration in the medium and long term, caused by existing or new crisis hotspots, socio-economic factors, climate changes, will impose additional burdens and engagement on state institutions and security services with financial, material, and human potential.

II.1.7- Espionage and activities of foreign intelligence services towards the state

This threat is estimated to be a real threat with high intensity. The hybrid action of foreign intelligence services in all areas of the functioning of the state, starting with the defence and security sectors, stimulates internal political confrontations, intra and inter-ethnic and religious polarization, as well as undermining the population's trust in the system's institutions and strategic political decisions. To achieve the objectives, the focus of foreign

intelligence services is organizations, political subjects, and extreme political ideology representatives of public and political life, which may have an impact on the creation of perception in the population.

The ultimate goal of their actions is to change public opinion, undermine the trust in the institutions, create euroscepticism, minimize the benefits of NATO membership and hinder EU accession processes.

Although such external destructive influences have gained new forms and dimensions after North Macedonia`s NATO membership, including after the start of accession negotiations for EU membership, it is not excluded that they will have their continuity in the coming period, which would coincide with important socio-political decisions and events in the country.

II.1.8 - Hybrid threats

These remain a current and fastest growing threat both in the region and globally.

Global and regional challenges, political instability, vulnerable security, nationalism and extremism, governance of institutions, organized crime and corruption are factors that allow suitable conditions for the application of cyber and hybrid operations.

The Republic is exposed to synchronized and coordinated hybrid activities of state and non-state actors (NGOs, party subjects, religious and other structures, public figures, marginal groups). Through a wide range of measures from these actors, which include: political subversion, economic pressure, cyber activities, media financing (propaganda and dissemination of disinformation), abuse of internet portals, platforms and social networks, investment in sectors of critical national interest, especially in the energy sector, try to disrupt co-operation with the EU and NATO, block European integration of the state and the region, increase social divisions and foster ethnic nationalism, cause anxiety among citizens and undermine trust in the institutions of the system.

II.1.9 - Foreign malign impact

Geopolitical antagonism over the region has been present since the middle of the 19th century and is visible in the wake of the dissolution of Yugoslavia in the 1990s and the Balkan wars that followed, leaving behind the potential for violence and instability. In 2024 divisive and secessionist rhetoric are present, paving the way for potential and real incidents of

serious violence. There are reasons for concern over the secessionist threats, a fragile security situation and stalled normalization. On top of this, authoritarian states seek to undermine the democracies with cyber and hybrid threats.

The cyber-attacks continue to expand, not only in terms of vectors and numbers, but also in terms of their impact. Cybercriminals are using increasingly sophisticated tools and technologies. The digitalization of the society and introduction of modern technologies for improvement of the public services in the Republic of North Macedonia, as seen through the prism of the cyberspace, means expansion of the space for performance of cyber-attacks. Cybercriminals use the newly discovered vulnerabilities and are increasingly targeting cloud-based services. Foreign state actors typically aim to degrade the functioning of targeted entities and undermine public confidence in a country's leadership, spread fear, uncertainty, and suspicion, and facilitate disinformation operations. Hacker groups target organizations even in the sectors of the critical infrastructure and present high level of sophisticated cyber operations. Primary vectors of cyber-attacks used by cyber-threats for the Republic of North Macedonia are as follows: Social engineering, disabling of services (DoS, DDoS) and ransomware.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine undermines the rules-based international order and negatively influences the security architecture of peace in Europe. In the aftermath of the war of aggression, North Macedonia has taken appropriate measures and activities to protect its national security and the security of its NATO allies. North Macedonia completely joined the package of sanctions and restrictive measures of the EU against the Russian Federation.

However, threats are present from various strategic directions, including from Russian sponsored hybrid attacks. The Russian Federation continually tested the resolution of the Republic to protect freedom and democracy, thus posing a risk for the stability of the whole region, including interference in the democratic processes, political and economic coercion, widespread disinformation campaigns, malicious cyber activities, and illegal and disruptive activities of Russian intelligence services. Spreading disinformation, sowing division, undermining democracy and other hybrid and malign influences to increase polarization and undermine legitimate democratic institutions are present and are being dealt with resolutely.

Given the Western Balkans and the Black Sea regions' geostrategic importance for the EU and NATO, Russia aims to halt or slow the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of all

countries in the Region, directly or through its proxies including political parties, civil society organizations and media establishments.

The expressed ambitions of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in regional and global frameworks, including increased investment in military capabilities and new challenging technologies and policy of coercion, challenge the interests, security and values of the Republic and the NATO alliance. North Macedonia`s political interest is to be open to constructive engagement with the PRC, including to build reciprocal transparency, with a view to safeguard the Alliance's security interests. At the same time, bilateral relations should be based on mutual respect and not be burdened by hidden interests and agendas in political-diplomatic activities, hybrid, and intelligence activities. There is a need to continuously reinforce our capacities for protection from cyber, space, hybrid, and other asymmetric threats, and by the malicious use of emerging and disruptive technologies.

II.1.10 - Natural disasters, technical and technological disasters, epidemics, and climate change

All these manifestations, as well as the assessment of their presence in the coming period and society's real readiness to deal with them, indicates the continuation of these medium and long-term threats.

Global warming and climate change represent a threat multiplier to global stability from three aspects: causing conflict due to natural resources, impact on military infrastructure and operations, and mass population migration because of the effects of global warming and climate change on the environment and the reflection of the economic potentials of the affected regions.

Climate disasters, such as extreme weather, increased temperatures, droughts, floods, forest fires, storms, soil, and water pollution, pose a threat to infrastructure, human health and water and food safety. Degradation and destruction of the environment is a threat arising from the human factor, will be one of the most significant problems and pose a threat to both the Republic, the region and beyond.

II.2 - Vulnerabilities

Ii.2.1 - Corruption/Low trust in Institutions

Corruption is undermining the credibility of public institutions, political processes, and rule of law, as well as hindering economic growth and social cohesion. Further corruption creates divisions and dysfunctionality of local and central government institutions, which can be used by malicious actors to destabilize the Republic. According to the organized crime index in 2023, North Macedonia is rated 5.03, which means 93rd place out of a total of 193 countries worldwide or 18th place among 44 countries in Europe. This negative potential of corruption remains one of the weakest aspects of the state.

II.2.2 - Dependency on Energy Imports/Lack of Diverse Energy Supplies

The energy market uncertainties, particularly the rising oil, gas, and electricity prices, have led to price increases across all sectors. Foreign dependency on fossil fuels and electricity is to be mitigated by renewable energies such as solar and wind power. Current dependency on imports of electricity and fossil fuels is considered a vulnerability for the country.

II.2.3 - Dependency on Food Imports / Lack of Diverse Food and Water resources

The challenges of food uncertainty, extreme weather conditions combined with lack of fertilizer supplies and persistent logistical constraints could easily turn it into a crisis in availability, making the outlook for the most vulnerable even bleaker. Land fragmentation, small farm sizes and insufficient agricultural infrastructure are among the major structural impediments to the sector development. North Macedonia imports 1/3 of wheat, exposing it to the world food commodity market's volatility. Global disruption in the market or supply chains represents a vulnerability to the continuous supply of food to the Republic.

II.2.4 - Vulnerability of Critical Infrastructure

Weak security of communications, transportation, energy, and other critical infrastructure represent a vulnerability to disruption of essential services and to security and stability. Current lack of a critical infrastructure law, directing responsibility, authorities, funding, and accountability for infrastructure security, prioritization of resources and uniform standards and training is considered a vulnerability for the Republic. Similarly, a lack of law governing the security of networks which focuses on cyber security and an ability to assess, protect,

and recover from cyber-attacks that threaten critical infrastructure is considered a vulnerability for the Republic as well.

The dearth of cyber education and training and a clear cyber defence career path for young people of the Republic from recruiting and retaining cyber defence professionals to protect critical infrastructure from cyber-attacks will exacerbate these vulnerabilities over the long term.

II.2.5 - Social divisions

Social divisions along the lines of ethnicity, religion or faith, ideology, class as well as gender, can be exploited by malign actors, including third-party actors, to further deepen the divisions and destabilize the Republic. This presents one of the vulnerabilities that can further divide and weaken the integrated society and can lead to exclusivist ethno-nationalist parallel societies that reject our common values based on our Constitution, rule of law, protection of human rights, including minority rights, and respect for diversity.

II.2.6 - Demographic Trends

The demographic trends in North Macedonia have been characterized by decreasing fertility, continuous outward migration, and a sustained increase in the life expectancy of the population. This has resulted in steady population aging and decline. This presents among other impacts a national security vulnerability in creating demographic gaps in those entering the workforce with the proper skills to sustain critical national security functions from serving in the security services to operating the critical infrastructure.

Threats to the national security of the Republic of North Macedonia are complex, differing in the likelihood of influence and the possible consequences of the security situation. Each of them has a different influence on the definition of national security policy, which requires the development of appropriate capacities and capabilities to deal with them. Given its geostrategic position and the global challenges facing the Republic of North Macedonia, regional and international cooperation is needed, and to prevent and deal more effectively with threats, risks, and national security challenges.

III - Major Policy Objectives (MPOs) in support of the National Security Interests (NSI)

III.1 - NSI: Preserve independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and unitary character of the state and maintain the security of its citizens.

With NATO membership, the Republic of North Macedonia is protected by NATO's security umbrella, that is, by Art. 5 of the North Atlantic Charter, which stipulates that an attack on one NATO ally is an attack on all. The capacities of NATO and the allies are in support of our security and a guarantee for the peace and stability of our country. It is the obligation of the Republic of North Macedonia to develop its own national defence system, supported by appropriate defence capacities and capabilities that serve to defend the Republic.

Protection of the independence, territorial integrity, and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic is the first priority of the citizens and those who lead the state. To maintain this interest, the Government will continue development of defence policy that focusses on: provision of defence capacities and capabilities in order for the national defence to guarantee the safety and realization of the citizens' freedoms; fulfilment of obligations from NATO membership, that is, from the Washington Agreement; European integration, i.e. completion of accession negotiations for full membership in the EU and contribution to the Common Foreign and Security Policy; establishing peace, security and stability in the region, in Europe and in the world; and support of civil institutions in various crisis and emergency situations and conditions.

The Ministry of Defence, in support and realization of the objectives of the defence policy, will develop a comprehensive Defence Strategy (DS) in 2024/2025 that will establish a framework for improving the defence and military capacities of the Republic. The implementation of the objectives of the defence policy implies the need for: responsible fulfilment of national obligations and responsibilities of NATO membership; to maintain a high level of readiness of the defence capacities and capabilities for deterrence and defence; to ensure an appropriate defensive attitude; to establish a flexible, sustainable and resilient defence system capable of contributing to strengthening regional security and stability in Europe; to ensure that defence capabilities are adequately equipped with modern

equipment, ready, sustainable and able to counter threats and challenges while rationally using resources and managing the environment.

The defence strategy will include:

III.1.1 - MPO: Strengthening Defence and Deterrence Policy

Led by the Ministry of Defence and supported by our defence investment commitment to NATO, the Republic will continue its efforts to improve the Republic's military capabilities, defence, and strategic deterrence to effectively confront external threats. The Republic of North Macedonia, with its full membership in the Alliance, moved from a system of individual defence to a system of collective defence and became part of NATO's defence planning process. Our country's membership in the Alliance serves the purpose of protection, promotion, and realization of national, security, and defence interests. In addition to the benefits, membership in the Alliance implies responsibility, that is, our country has the obligation to continuously contribute to the realization of the key tasks of the Alliance, namely: deterrence and defence policy, crisis management and governance, and cooperative security. In order to fulfil national obligations and assumed responsibilities from NATO membership, long-term and stable investment in defence is necessary. In accordance with the commitments made at the Summit in Vilnius, to invest in defence, the Republic of North Macedonia committed itself to long-term investment in defence of at least 2% of GDP. The purpose of such long-term investment is to fulfil the minimum requirements for the development of capabilities, to meet the requirements of NATO's Capability Objectives, and to realize the obligations of collective defence and national contribution to the realization of the three key tasks of the Alliance.

III.1.2 - MPO: Approval and Enhancement the National Defence System

The changing nature of war and the constant threats we face require the construction of a flexible and resilient defence system and highly equipped, motivated, capable, and sustainable armed forces in the field. The defence system must be sustainable in the event of protracted conflicts, resistant to obstacles, adaptable to changing threats and capable of being activated and rapidly defending the Republic as part of NATO. Such a system requires long-term planned development and maintenance of the necessary defence capabilities and capacities, a comprehensive approach of all entities of the system, and appropriate adjustment to the speed of changes in threats. It includes reorganization of the defence

system, continuity in the implementation of reforms, transformation of the armed forces in order to respond in conditions of peace, crisis, state of emergency and war. The reorganization of defence structures and processes should take place in the direction of more intensive development of civil-military relations and interaction with citizens in order to ensure an efficient response to new security challenges.

This will require reforms to enhance civil military relations and integration to prepare for and provide efficient responses to evolving security challenges. Reforms should enhance the ability to withstand and rapidly recover from diverse and unexpected security disruptions, ensuring long-term operational continuity while resource informed.

The Ministry of Interior, in close cooperation with the National Coordinating Body for Countering Violent Extremism and Combating Terrorism, will support national security by developing strategies and plans to advance efforts for the following goals:

III.1.3 - MPO: Counter Terrorism

Terrorism is the most direct asymmetric threat to the security of the citizens of the Republic. To address this threat to our security and stability, the Ministry of Interior will develop policies on counterterrorism that focus on improving awareness of the threat, developing capabilities to prepare and respond, and enhancing engagement with NATO to fully leverage the assistance and interoperability with partner countries within the alliance and the Headquarters.

III.1.4 - MPO: Building Resilience and Addressing Hybrid Threats

The Republic can expect to be targeted by Hybrid warfare of various types and intensity, especially as global tensions increase and in opposition to our EU accession process. Building resilience and society's ability to deal with hybrid threats through early detection of hybrid operations, response and rapid recovery are key to building the state's national and social resilience against these threats.

The national legal framework for dealing with hybrid threats is the Strategy for Building Resilience and Dealing with Hybrid Threats (2021-2025) and the accompanying Action Plan, which has been prepared in cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The Council for the Coordination of the Security-Intelligence Community, as the responsible body for giving directions, making conclusions and proposing measures to respond to hybrid threats, monitors the implementation of the Strategy and the accompanying action plan, with the aim of creating national resilience to efficiently and effectively deal with hybrid threats in accordance with the framework established by NATO and the EU. The Council for the Coordination of the Security-Intelligence Community will initiate the process of updating the Strategy and the accompanying action plan through: reorganization of the system and tools for the implementation of the Strategy in the area of competence of the designated institutions as bearers of the activity; redefining tasks and deadlines; provision of resources for the institutions designated to implement the activity; promotion of cooperation with competent institutions from strategic partners within the European Union and NATO (the European Centre of Excellence for Combating Hybrid Threats; the NATO Cyber Centre of Excellence; the NATO Centre of Excellence in Strategic Communications). Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.1.5 - MPO: Enhancing Border Security/Ability to Deal Effectively with Uncontrolled Movement of People.

The Ministry of the Interior, based on legally prescribed protocols, will develop an integrated national plan to address and deal with the impact of uncontrolled movement of people inside and outside the national territory, including a large influx of people exceeding 2% of the total population. The purpose of such a plan is to foresee mechanisms through which protection of the population will be ensured in case of life-threatening dangers, considering basic human needs (health, water, sanitary conditions and hygiene, food, shelter, security, and transport). Other objectives will be met as specified by the NATO Resilience Baseline Requirements and Guidelines. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.1.6 - MPO: Improving Disaster Response

Threats against our citizens also come from natural and man-made disasters. Based on the lessons learned from the current crisis management system, the state will complete the initiated process of system reform and form a leading institution, which will be responsible for coordinating disaster planning and response.

III.1.7 - MPO: Manage mass casualties and disruptive health crises

The Ministry of Health will develop plans and policies to build preparedness and planning to address mass casualties and disruptive health crises, (i.e., personnel and surge capacity, transport capacity for patients, robust infrastructure, and crisis communications). Further an inclusive national early warning system, health/medical information collection, analysis and sharing mechanism with key stakeholders as well as relevant international organizations. A comprehensive civil-military contingency/emergency plan covering all relevant emergency services and a robust national security of supply arrangements for medical countermeasures, other health assets (e.g. personal protective equipment, medical equipment, etc.), and taking into account existing and potential vulnerabilities in relevant supply chains. Other objectives will be met as specified by the NATO Resilience Baseline Requirements and Guidelines. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

The COVID -19 crisis was the greatest challenge to the health care system of the Republic this century. A future pandemic of potential greater severity must be met with a more competent response. Using lessons learned from the COVID-19 response, the MoH will develop a report to the Government making recommendations for changes to the national health care system in dealing with nationwide health emergencies.

III.1.8 - MPO: Continuity of the Government and critical government services

The Government supported by the Crisis Management Centre will develop a formalized Government Continuity Plan, including levels of leadership and clarity of the decision-making process and chain of command within the Government in the event of a catastrophic event. This will include the identification and prioritization of key government agencies, critical services, and mandated functions in support of military operations, including functions such as the provision and delivery of food, water, fuel, electricity, heat, transport, specialist goods and medical/ pharmaceutical products and personal protective equipment. The Government will continue to work towards securing other objectives, as outlined in the NATO Resilience Baseline requirements and guidelines.

III.1.9 - MPO: Preventive Diplomacy

The principles on which North Macedonia conducts its foreign policy are an expression of the country's internal policy for building and maintaining a multicultural democracy and a permanent inclusiveness of diversity in democratic processes, protection and promotion of human rights and the rights of different ethnic communities and vulnerable groups. The culture of dialogue and compromises and prevention in resolving all disputes, go hand in hand with our attachment to active and effective multilateralism. Since its independence, North Macedonia proved that, by employing diplomacy and dialogue, understanding, and tolerance, as well as by means of compromise, even the most difficult issues can be resolved and new perspectives for friendship and cooperation could be opened.

The maintenance of the spirit of good neighbourliness and reinforced regional cooperation remains one of the pillars of the Republic's foreign policy. Furthermore, North Macedonia, as a serious regional actor in building and maintaining peace and good neighbourly relations, and with the rich experience in creating models for resolving identity and other conflicts, can and will benefit UN and other international institutions in the exercise of their competence in preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention, negotiation of conflicts and post-conflict reconciliation. The Republic will undoubtedly continue to strengthen its position and become a more active peace-making factor in the centres of international politics.

III.1.10 - MPO: Engagement of the whole society / Culture of safety awareness and social resilience

The crucial enabler for security and societal resilience is everyone's awareness and readiness to take a share of responsibility for his or her own security as well as for the security of others. The security of the Republic is closely interlinked with the security of all its people. The present security environment requires a holistic understanding of and approach to the different areas and aspects of security. Internal security is inseparable from external security. Security in real space is inseparable from security online. The security of our State is inseparable from the security of our society and from the security of every individual.

The Ministry of Education and Science will undertake a review on the curriculum to establish a "Whole of Society'' in an effort to ensure young people are aware of the threat they and the Republic face and to set conditions for their role in securing themselves, their families, and

communities. This means a curriculum that will strengthen young people's knowledge in the field of digital and media literacy, as well as skills in crisis situations and natural disasters. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests. The Ministry of Education and Science will initiate special programs designed to stimulate human resources that are deficient but essential for national security.

The Ministry of Information Society and administration will undertake activities under the National strategy for cyber security and engage in training and yearly exam programs for increasing cyber hygiene and digital literacy of the civil servants and political appointees within the public institutions. The ministry in coordination with the cybercrime unit within the Ministry of the Interior, and in cooperation with media and civil society organizations, will launch an annual awareness raising campaigns on digital literacy and cyber hygiene aiming at statistically highest target groups of digital frauds and malicious cyber activities.

III.2 - NSI: Preserving democracy, protecting citizen's rights and freedoms, and enforcing the rule of law equally for all citizens

Preserving democracy, protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, and ensuring the rule of law for all citizens is the definitive role of the institutions of the Republic. The maintenance of rights, freedoms, and equality under the law as defined by the Constitution of the Republic is a significant contributor to national security, stability, and resilience. Any undermining creates national security risks, which is why the NSS will need to:

III.2.1 - MPO: Creation of the Department for Transparency and Accountability as required under new Strategy for transparency and accountability of Secretary General of the Government

The Republic will continue to pursue policies that reinforce democratic norms, strengthen institutions, and increase accountability in governance. Focus must be to develop a more effective, accountable, and transparent justice sector to reduce corruption and impunity and restore citizens' trust in these institutions. Institutions implementing laws and systems of transparency and accountability is essential to counter widespread corruption and regain the trust of its citizenry. Failure to build a strong justice sector and anti-corruption institutions will increase the Republic's vulnerability to malign influences and instability.

III.2.2 - MPO: EU Accession negotiations Chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights

The justice sector reform will be guided by a new strategic document that seeks to strengthen the independence and efficiency of the judiciary, improve access to and quality of justice, and increase professionalism and accountability of all actors in the sector. Ministry of Justice in coordination with the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government in charge of good governance policies, to create inter-institutional platform (Judicial Council, Council for Public Prosecutors, groups for reforms in judiciary) to ensure the comprehensive advancement of democracy based on two pillars (Rule of Law and Good Governance) in accordance with the new Strategy for reforms in judiciary and its Action plan.

If there are no tangible results achieved, the trust in the justice system will be eroded, as well as their credibility and ability to respond to the needs of people for justice, which will irreversibly boost their sense of insecurity and need to migrate to other country.

III.3 - NSI: Promote economic stability and development, ensure the well-being of all citizens

III.3.1 - MPO: Strategy on Economic Stability, Development, and Resilience

The National Development Strategy (NDS) presents a vision and roadmap for the Republic for economic development across multiple domains for the next 20 years. However, economic and developmental issues that directly impact the security of the Republic are addressed below to both complement the NDS and underline the urgency to meet security related policy objectives and NATO obligations.

III.3.2 - MPO: Develop and ensure Resilient Energy Supplies

The Ministry of Economy will develop plans and resources to ensure the continued access to reliable energy supplies, particularly in times of crisis, considering the potential impact of interdependencies, cascading effects, and potential secondary impacts. In the event of disruption, the availability of robust, sustainable, redundant capabilities and verifiable restoration plans which will result in reduced interruptions and service restoration times. Further the Ministry of Economy will conduct an identification and assessment of both the risks and opportunities offered by existing and evolving technologies and the evolution in concepts to ensure energy systems remain resilient in the future. Other objectives will be met as specified by the NATO Resilience Baseline Requirements and Guidelines. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.3.3 - MPO: Develop and ensure Resilient Food and Water Resources

The Minister of Agriculture will develop an authoritative system to monitor, detect, test and report contamination of food and water sources and key infrastructures. Further, will conduct comprehensive contingency planning, exercised regularly, covering alternative sources of supplies of food and water and comprehensive continuity planning to identify core functions and possible ways to maintain them. The plan should address restricted availability of essential personnel, expert capabilities, raw materials, security of supply arrangements and, as appropriate, cross-sectoral considerations such as energy and transport, foreign direct investment/ ownership/control of critical infrastructure, as well as other resources necessary in order to ensure the continuous provision of food and water supply. Other objectives will be met as specified by the NATO Resilience Baseline Requirements and Guidelines. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.3.4 - MPO: Develop and ensure Resilient Civil Communications Systems

The Ministry of Information Society and Administration, will develop plans and policies to ensure   continued availability of, and assured access to reliable, secure and robust communications services in peacetime, crisis and conflict, taking into account potential risks (cyber; physical; personnel; hybrid; human-induced or natural hazards; pandemics/epidemics; climate change); the consequences of foreign ownership, control or direct investment) as well as those potential vulnerabilities associated with existing and evolving technologies, such as 5G. In the event of disruption, the Ministry will ensure robust, flexible and sustainable redundancy capabilities and multi-resiliency/restoration to existing

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) or evolving communications systems, such as 5G, and/or to space systems including Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) resulting in a reduction in the number of interruptions; determination of maximum acceptable downtime for critical systems and reduced restoration of service times. To ensure: other essential services continue in a crisis, ensure national authorities have priority access or national roaming to civil communications networks for use in crisis situations (auditable, operational priority access arrangements involving relevant public/private stakeholders), leveraging existing and evolving technologies. The Ministry of Information Society and Administration policies will ensure compliance with Republic's obligations as a signatory of the Clean Network Program and other objectives as specified by the NATO Resilience Baseline Requirements and Guidelines. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.3.5 - MPO: Developing and securing Resilient Energy Supplies.

The Ministry of Transportation (MoT) will develop mechanisms to ensure that: civil transport infrastructures remain resilient, agile, robust and able to withstand and recover with minimal disruption from the impact of a range of potential risks (e.g. human-induced and/or natural hazards, hybrid threats, cyber-attacks, pandemics; climate change); the consequences of foreign ownership, control or direct investment; as well as those potential vulnerabilities associated with existing and evolving technologies, such as 5G, and potential vulnerabilities associated with prolonged crises. The MoT will develop policies and if necessary: suggest legislation to identify, organize, test, prioritize, de-conflict, and when appropriate, requisition, civil/commercial transport assets, infrastructure, services and transport routes to support national priorities during crises and to ensure recovery of these transport capabilities after crises; allow border crossing within required timelines to support the freedom of movement of NATO forces. Other objectives will be met as specified by the NATO Resilience Baseline Requirements and Guidelines. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.3.6 - MPO: Develop and ensure Foreign Direct Investment Screening

Foreign ownership, control, or direct investment in critical infrastructure, the financial system, and / or other domains constitute a vulnerability putting the safety and stability of the Republic at risk. The Ministry of Economy will take the lead in ongoing efforts to ensure

proper policies and legislation are developed and implemented to prevent the compromise of sensitive domains as well as detecting and addressing existing vulnerabilities. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.3.7 - MPO: Developing and ensuring Human Capital for National Security

As discussed in the security assessment, the demographic trends in North Macedonia are challenging creating a national security vulnerability. The Strategy for Demographic Policies 2015-2024 has been underway and must be reviewed to include lessons learned and innovations from other nations experiencing similar challenges and translated into actionable policies to mitigate and ultimately reverse this trend. Ensuring critical fields providing security and essential services as well as achieving North Macedonia's aspirations to improve economic competitiveness and accelerate EU integration greatly depends on building a healthy, highly skilled workforce and developing human capital. Key personnel at strategic and operational levels from all stakeholders of the national security system should be educated in accordance with the principles of the "Comprehensive Approach." Educational institutions (field of security – defence) need to develop and integrate appropriate courses for educating key personnel from all stakeholders in the system, which would contribute to the improvement of the process of planning, organizing, and implementing activities in the national security system.

The Ministry of Education and sciences will lead on developing policy to shape and incentivize educational opportunities to young citizens that both fill critical national security gaps and incentivize them to remain to serve the people of the Republic.

The Public Administration Reform Strategy 2023-2030 must also address this gap by prioritizing merit-based hiring and promotion that will attract young citizens to join and make a career in fields critical to stability and security of the nation. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.4 - NSI: Promote cohesion of a multicultural, multiethnic society through the preservation of national identity, heritage and culture while advancing the shared democratic values of the Republic

III.4.1 - MPO: One Society for All

To rightly emphasize the identity of the citizens in their belonging to this Republic and to overcome inter-ethnic tensions and conflict, the Ministry of Culture, starting from 2024, will update and operationalize the "One Society for All" program to take into consideration multiethnic, multi - confessional and multicultural aspects of our society, respecting the principles of functional multiethnic democracy, promoting heritage diversity and culture of different ethnic communities in line with the citizenship democratic values of the Republic. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.4.2 - MPO: Counter Disinformation and Media Literacy

While efforts to counter disinformation are key to our counter hybrid warfare approach, raising the awareness of the citizens to understand disinformation and the media landscape, will mitigate the impact of misinformation on the most vulnerable, and will protect the democratic processes where civic engagement is essential.

Establishment of a central government coordination body consisted of communicators from: the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Defence, Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Good Governance Policy, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Sciences, Ministry of Information society and Administration, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning need to be formed. This body should coordinate the activities of the institutions for countering disinformation and start a national strategy for dealing with foreign information manipulation and influence and disinformation.

This body should develop: effective partnership with other bodies (such as the Council for Ethics in the Media, the Union of Media Workers, etc.) and the civil sector in the direction of joint definition of the problem with disinformation and the ways in which each actor should act in his department; helping and enabling the self-regulation of the media; promotion of media literacy; promotion of the principles of free, objective information through respect for journalistic standards and ethical codes and strengthening of professional journalism. It is not possible to effectively combat disinformation without the active participation of all stakeholders in the media.

The Ministry of Education shall further develop a program of media literacy to ensure our graduates are media savvy and endowed with a necessary scepticism of those producing

and disseminating harmful and divisive messages. Resourcing requests to support this objective should be highlighted in resource management planning and requests.

III.4.3 - MPO: A systemic approach in strengthening the resilience of society

In accordance with NATO's commitments to enhance resilience, the Critical Infrastructure Act and obligations under Article 3 of the North Atlantic Charter, each ministry has an obligation to identify the essential services it provides and ensure their continued operation. Ministries will develop a plan and make the necessary preparations to resist, react and quickly recover from shocks and disruptions affecting these services to ensure the continuity of the activities of the Republic. These preparations will include but will not be limited to meeting the NATO Baseline resilience requirements.

III.5 - NSI: Maintaining stable Euro-Atlantic orientation through commitment to NATO membership, concern for security in the transatlantic area and acceleration of EU accession.

III.5.1 - MPO: Maintaining a stable European and Euro-Atlantic orientation

Led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Republic will implement policies to preserve a stable European and Euro-Atlantic orientation and to advance the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the Republic. Close cooperation and coordination with our strategic partners, the NATO and EU allies, is one of the main instruments for maintaining our security and stability.

North Macedonia will continue to actively participate in the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU / Common Security and Defence Policy and will strengthen the partnership with the EU at the international level in order to maintain a stable European and Euro-Atlantic orientation and promote peace, stability, and international rule-based order.

III.5.2 - MPO: Commitment to NATO membership and concern for security in the transatlantic area

The Republic will actively contribute to the building of the common policies, attitudes, and plans of the NATO alliance, will consistently respect them, and will consistently apply the

foreseen obligations arising from NATO membership. The Republic will vigilantly monitor all threats and challenges that may disrupt security in the transatlantic area and will react promptly in synchronization and coordination with allies and NATO.

In accordance with the obligations arising from NATO membership and in accordance with its opportunities and capacities, the Republic will contribute to NATO's plans, measures and mechanisms for deterrence and collective defence of NATO through the 360-degree approach. The contribution to the deployed military presence in Latvia, as well as the participation in the strengthened military presence in Romania and Bulgaria, are practical proof of the Republic's commitment and solidarity to maintaining security in the transatlantic area. Led by the Ministry of Defence and other competent institutions, the Republic will continue to actively participate in NATO military missions, the Command Structure and in the new NATO force structure and actively participate in all relevant exercises of the Alliance.

III.5.3 - MPO: Acceleration of the EU accession process

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the Secretariat for European Affairs, will play an active role in the accession process of North Macedonia to the EU.

Efforts will be focused on the necessary preparations for the Intergovernmental Conference with the EU and deepening diplomatic communication with the member states and EU institutions in all phases of the accession negotiations. The Republic will continue to advocate for accelerated integration into the EU, by examining all possibilities for flexible participation in common EU policies.

III.5.4 - MPO: Contribution to the strengthening of regional security and stability in Europe

The Republic will be a significant contributor and facilitator in regional stability, playing an instrumental role in diplomatic efforts, conflict resolution, and cooperative security initiatives to maintain and enhance peace and stability in the region. The contribution to KFOR, the NATO mission in Kosovo and the contribution to EUFOR ALTEA, the EU mission in BiH are practical proof of our commitment to maintaining security and stability in our neighbourhood and the wider region.

III.6 - NSI: Preservation and protection of the international rules-based order in unity with NATO, the European Union, friends, and partners.

III.6.1 - MPO: Support of the international rules-based order

Led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and supported by the Ministry of Defence and other competent institutions, the Republic will pursue policies that contribute to the stability and legitimacy of the international rules-based order that is essential for our security.

The Republic will play an active role in preserving and protecting the rules-based international order in unity with NATO and allies, the European Union, and like-minded partners. Adopting a position as a credible security factor in the collective security system, in accordance with the UN Charter, the OSCE Charter and in accordance with the strategic directions and duties of NATO, the common foreign and security policy of the EU, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence will ensure that the Republic demonstrates its willingness and ability to contribute to maintaining and protecting the rules-based international order.

III.6.2 - MPO: Engage in Public diplomacy

In 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue with public diplomacy events, in order to highlight the importance of preserving and protecting the rules-based international order, the importance of NATO membership, the EU accession process and the EU growth plan for the Western Balkans.

During the Public Diplomacy engagement, will use the opportunity to explain the importance of the strategic partnership with certain countries, particularly the USA. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will use every opportunity to attend multilateral gatherings, events, and conferences to raise awareness of the importance of the preservation and protection of the international rules-based order, values and principles supported by UN, OSCE, NATO and EU, and work with strategic partners to implement its commitments.

III.6.3 - MPO: Engagement in Humanitarian missions and support naturally made crises.

The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia will look for feasible options for proactive participation in global peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts, underscoring our

dedication to worldwide stability and the well-being of communities impacted by conflicts and natural calamities.

The successful implementation of these policy objectives will lead to a visible and dynamic role on the international stage, characterized by a significant contribution to collective security efforts under collaborative frameworks. This will be further complemented by a strong presence in cooperative and humanitarian missions, underscoring our commitment to global stability and the well-being of affected populations. Moreover, through proactive engagement in regional affairs, we will effectively promote and sustain stability, fostering an environment conducive to peace, development, and cooperative security. Collectively, these efforts will position us as a responsible partner in shaping a more secure and stable international community.

IV. National Security Management

In order to implement the National Security Strategy, to fulfil our obligations as a member of the NATO alliance, to quickly respond to threats to our citizens, to our critical infrastructure and to our permanent security interests, the Government will appoint a team of experts, under the authority of the Prime Minister, who will undertake and prepare a plan for further improvement of the functioning of the current national security management system. This plan will contain clarification in terms of authorities and decision-making levels of the institutions and better integrate all national security actors in support of routine and crisis decision making. The reorganization will seek to align roles and responsibilities; to create authorized mechanisms for coordination between ministries; to normalize the decision-making bodies and to establish responsibility for the realization of the results of the national security policy. Where current law limits necessary reforms, the team of experts will recommend legislative changes or solutions in line with NATO member best practices. Once reorganized, this process will involve the entire Government, i.e. all ministries that will create plans in their department, to identify challenges and issues related to changes in policy (or the lack of policy), to formulate and evaluate options and solutions , to raise recommendations at the appropriate level for decision-making, to make decisions in accordance with the approved authorities and to supervise the responsibility and implementation of the Government's decisions.

Abbreviations Index

NATO - North-Atlantic Treaty Organization

EU - European Union

OSCE - **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

UN - United Nations

USA - United States of America

B&H - Bosnia and Herzegovina

RF - Russian Federation

PRC - People's Republic of China

NSS - National Security Strategy

MPO - Major Policy Objectives

NSI - National Security Interests

WMD - Weapons of mass destruction

CBRN materials - chemical, biological, radioactive, and nuclear materials

GDP - Gross domestic product

NDS - National Development Strategy

ICT - Information and Communication technologies