



**“NATO IN THE 21st CENTURY”
KEYNOTE SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL
FOR AIR DEFENCE AND AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT**

**GLOBAL ATM FORUM FOR CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me say what a great pleasure it is for me to be in Montreal today, and I want to thank Mr. Neil Planzer for his kind words of introduction.

Half a year ago, NATO turned sixty. Sixty years is an astonishing age for an Alliance that brings together sovereign nations from two continents. It is even more astonishing if you consider that the Alliance has long outlived the threat that once brought it into being.

Indeed, NATO's track record is nothing but amazing. NATO prevented the Cold War from getting hot. After the end of the Cold War, it became a major catalyst for Europe's democratic transformation. NATO was also instrumental in bringing peace to the Balkans. And today, in the era we sometimes refer to as “post-9/11”, the Alliance remains the singular transatlantic framework for finding new, common answers to new, common challenges.

Past achievements may inspire confidence, yet they are no substitute for fresh thinking and new policies. NATO faces challenges that are greater than anything it has

faced in the past. And the 28 NATO Allies must demonstrate that they can muster the necessary political will, imagination and solidarity to meet these challenges.

If we take a look at the emerging strategic environment, we can see why Allied unity is so essential.

Failing states will provide a hotbed for all kinds of threats, ranging from international terrorism to organised crime. Many conflicts will be asymmetrical, but we cannot discard the possibility of traditional “symmetric” inter-state wars. After all, we had one just last year ago in the Caucasus.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons is another major factor that will influence our strategic calculus in the future. And the technological progress will provide non-state actors with destructive power of a magnitude that in the past only states could have yielded.

Climate change is likely to lead to more, and more serious, natural disasters, in which the military may often be the best organised to provide relief. Global warming may also spark territorial conflicts – as some believe has already happened in the Horn of Africa. And global competition for energy is just one other factor that could lead to new conflicts.

Clearly, not all these challenges are of a military nature – nor will they all require a NATO response. But it is equally clear that, in the future, NATO will be called upon ever more frequently. After all, our Alliance offers a unique combination of political consensus-building and military competence, and in today’s world that is a very precious commodity indeed.

So we have to ask ourselves again and again: How will NATO have to transform in order to build security in new ways and in new places? What would this Alliance need to look like in order to safeguard and promote our security in tomorrow’s world?

To find the answers to these questions, NATO has now embarked on the process of writing a new Strategic Concept. It will be the most open, the most inclusive process any international organisation has ever undertaken -- involving the international strategic

community as well as reaching to the interested public, including through the use of new media.

A group of 12 eminent experts – from politics, academia and industry – to jump-start the process by providing us with forward-leaning recommendations. And we expect to have a new document ready for endorsement by our Heads of State and Government by the fall of 2010 .

The development of a new Strategic Concept has only just begun, and it is impossible to predict exactly how it will look. However, if a new Strategic Concept is to have real value, I believe it must address at least the following key issues.

First, the Strategic Concept must provide a clear description of the strategic environment. As I pointed out earlier, this should include not only today's main challenges such as terrorism or failed states, but also the security implications of climate change, cyber-attacks, energy security and piracy.

Second, the Strategic Concept must define the meaning of Article 5, NATO's collective defence clause. How should Article 5, the bedrock of our Alliance, be interpreted and implemented in this new security environment? A cyber attack does not require a single soldier to cross another nation's border, yet it can paralyse a country's ability to function. The disruption of a country's energy supply can rupture the economic and social fabric of a country in a way that resembles the consequences of a war – yet without a single shot being fired.

These security challenges do not necessarily require military responses, but they do require collective responses by all Allies. It is essential that we reinforce the notion of Allied solidarity in this new security environment, and that all nations are reassured they will not be left to face these challenges on their own. .

Third, military transformation. A new Strategic Concept must address the balance between collective territorial defence and NATO's new missions, such as expeditionary operations. Naturally, collective territorial defence will remain the very core principle upon which the Alliance is built, but no Ally today can afford to keep armed forces solely for this purpose. Being able to deploy our forces to distant crisis regions is as important as being

able to defend our national borders. The more flexible and deployable our forces are, the better they can fulfil both missions.

Which brings me to my next point: NATO-Russia relations. A new Strategic Concept cannot provide detailed guidance on a dynamic relationship such as the one between NATO and Russia. This is something for the “real world”, not for documents. But what a new Strategic Concept can do is to define the areas where NATO and Russia have a common interest and where we, as NATO Allies, believe cooperation is possible and indeed desirable.

My final point: a new Strategic Concept must incorporate the notion of a “Comprehensive Approach”. Today’s security challenges cannot be dealt with by NATO alone. Security in Afghanistan, and elsewhere, demands a comprehensive application of both economic and political measures that go far beyond NATO’s capabilities. This means that NATO has to establish much closer relationships with other international organisations, from the United Nations to the European Union. And it means that NATO has to work more closely with the NGO community.

Of course it is difficult, for a variety of reasons, for all international actors to coordinate their approaches strategically, and not just to cooperate ad-hoc in response to specific crises. But if we want to come to grips with the multitude of different risks and threats before us today, we will have to work together more effectively. There is a vital role for NATO to play here within such a comprehensive approach – but it requires the Alliance to be much better connected with the other international players.

One such area is that of Air Traffic Management and I am happy to say that on this front we have already achieved a great deal. Through NATO’s Air Traffic Management Committee, we already have well established links with most of the key International Organisations, including ICAO, IATA, the European Commission, EUROCONTROL, the FAA and many others worldwide.

The NATMC meetings increasingly present a unique forum for coordination between civil and military senior ATM experts and airspace users. Our meetings with NATO Partners gather civil and military ATM Directors from over 60 nations and we are able to explore those areas where civil military interoperability is key to delivering the

expected improvements to civil aviation whilst ensuring the military maintain the ability to fulfil their security responsibilities through air operations and training.

However, there is no room for complacency; the changes that will occur through ATM modernisation programmes, including NEXTGEN and SESAR require intensified NATO engagement to ensure future civil/military interoperability. NATO, through the NATMC, will seek stronger associations with the International Organisations in order to ensure that, no matter where NATO air operations take place, civil military interoperability is optimised. It is only through close cooperation and coordination that we will achieve the successful sharing of our Global Airspace to level that meets all of our expectations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the sake of brevity, I have focussed on only a few issues that I consider to be key in the development of a new Strategic Concept. There are, of course, many others, including the relations with regional organisations such as the African Union; and our cooperation with other nations in Europe, Asia, across the Mediterranean, the Gulf region, and elsewhere on the globe.

Clearly, the elaboration of a new Strategic Concept will be no simple matter. But it will compel all Allies to enter into a broad debate about common, transatlantic solutions to the many risks and challenges before us. As Albert Einstein once said, knowledge emerges through dialogue. So let us heed Einstein's advice – continue to build on our existing relationships in order to create the best environment to further strengthen our cooperation in civil-military ATM.

Thank you.