



EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF NATO HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

24 March 2022

Policy Brief

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EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF NATO HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,
24 MARCH 2022:
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Agenda

- NATO's response to Russia's war
- Support for Ukraine
- NATO long-term transformation in the wake of Russia's war

Decisions

- Allied leaders adopted a [statement](#) on support for Ukraine and NATO's response to Russia's war. They agreed to:
 - Provide additional assistance to Ukraine, including for cybersecurity and protection against CBRN threats
 - Approve deployment of four additional battlegroups to the Alliance's East (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia)
 - Reset NATO deterrence and defence for the long term
 - Accelerate efforts to meet the Defence Investment Pledge
 - Step up support to other partners at risk from Russian threats and interference

Other main messages:

- Any use by Russia of a **chemical or biological weapon** would be unacceptable and result in severe consequences.
- Called on **China** to refrain from supporting Russia's war effort
- Called on **Belarus** to stop acting as an accomplice to Putin's invasion
- Reaffirmed strong commitment to **NATO's Open Door policy**

Additional points

- Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the NATO Summit.
- Allies extended the mandate of NATO Secretary General (SG) Jens Stoltenberg until 30 September 2023.
- This was the second NATO Summit in a month in response to Russia's war against Ukraine.
- The NATO Summit was immediately followed by G7 and EU Summits.

I. RUSSIA'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

A. WHAT RUSSIA'S WAR MEANS

- Allied leaders agreed that Russia's war:
 - presents the **gravest threat to Euro-Atlantic security** in decades;
 - **threatens global security** because it seeks **to destroy the foundations of international security and stability**;
 - presents a **fundamental challenge to the Allied values and norms**.
- NATO SG:
 - “**NATO’s security environment has fundamentally changed**. For the long haul.”
 - “**Russia has walked away from the NATO-Russia Founding Act**. They have violated it again and again.”

B. WHAT RUSSIA MUST DO

- Allied leaders agreed that Russia must:
 - **allow humanitarian access and safe passage** for civilians in besieged cities;
 - **immediately implement a ceasefire**;
 - constructively engage in **credible negotiations**; and
 - move towards a **sustainable ceasefire** followed by a **complete withdrawal**;
 - stop its **escalatory rhetoric**.

C. WHAT ALLIES WILL CONTINUE TO DO VIS-À-VIS RUSSIA

- Allied leaders made clear that they will continue to:
 - hold **accountable those responsible for violations of humanitarian and international law**, including war crimes;
 - **counter Russia’s lies** and expose fabricated narratives or manufactured “false flag” operations;
 - impose **massive sanctions and heavy political costs**;
 - work **in coordination with relevant stakeholders and other international organizations**, including the European Union; and
 - maintain the **closest transatlantic coordination**.

D. WHAT BELARUS MUST DO

- Allied leaders called upon Belarus to **end its complicity**.
- NATO SG: “Belarus allowed its territory to be used as a ground for mobilising and amassing troops that invaded Ukraine. And Belarus continues to enable the invasion by providing the territory, airfields, military infrastructure, bases, but also by allowing Russia to use Belarusian airspace to launch attacks [...].”

E. WHAT CHINA MUST DO

- Allied leaders noted their **concern about recent public comments** by China.
- Allied leaders called upon China to
 - **uphold the international order**, including the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity;
 - **abstain from supporting Russia’s war effort**;
 - **refrain from any action that helps Russia circumvent sanctions**;
 - **cease amplifying false narratives**; and
 - **promote a peaceful resolution**.

- NATO SG Stoltenberg: “[...] for NATO, it is of particular concern that **China now for the first time has questioned some of the key principles of our security**, including the right for every nation in Europe to choose its own path. Because in the joint statement between President Xi and President Putin, they actually, together, stated that **they are against any further enlargement of NATO and that is new.**”

II. SUPPORTING UKRAINE AND DETERRING AND PREVENTING ESCALATION

A. PRESIDENT ZELENSKY'S ADDRESS

- In his address, President Zelenskyy:
 - thanked Allies for their support;
 - regretted NATO has not given a “clear answer” to his request for a no-fly zone and “has yet to show what the Alliance can do to save people”;
 - urged Allies to provide military assistance to Ukraine without restrictions; specifically, he called on Allies to provide “1%” of all Allied planes and tanks, as well as MLRS rocket systems, anti-ship weapons and means of air defence;
 - claimed Russia used phosphorous bombs earlier in the day;
 - said Ukrainian forces had clearly demonstrated they met NATO standards;
 - warned that Russia would likely extend its aggression beyond Ukraine.

B. NATO SUPPORT

1) Ongoing Political and Practical Support

- Political support: Allied leaders:
 - offered their **full solidarity**;
 - reaffirmed **unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity**, and Ukraine's **right to self-defence** under the UN Charter;
 - **support Ukraine's efforts to achieve peace**, including by individual Allies who are weighing on Russia.
- Practical support: NATO and Allies:
 - have provided **extensive support since 2014**, especially in terms of training, military capabilities and capacities as well as resilience;
 - have **further stepped up practical support** over the last month, including anti-tank and air defence systems, and drones, which “are proving highly effective” according to the NATO SG
 - provide **extensive financial and humanitarian support**; and
 - **host millions of refugees**.

2) Additional support for Ukraine

- Allied leaders decided:
 - **to provide more assistance**, including for **cybersecurity** and **protection against threats of a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear nature**, which could include detection, protection, and medical supplies, as well as training for decontamination and crisis management; and
 - **increase support further at the meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in April**.

C. DETERRING THE THREAT OF CBRN WEAPONS USE

- Allied leaders made clear that:
 - the **use of a chemical or biological weapon would be unacceptable** and result in **severe consequences**; and
 - **escalatory rhetoric is irresponsible and destabilising**.
- Allied leaders agreed to both provide assistance to Ukraine against CBRN threats and enhance Allied CBRN defences.

- NATO SG:
 - “Any use of **chemical weapons** will totally change the nature of the conflict. It will be a blatant violation of international law and it will have widespread consequences and, of course, be extremely dangerous.” He warned of the **risk that an attack using chemical or biological weapons would** spill over and affect populations in NATO countries.
 - “**Russia must stop its nuclear sabre-rattling.** [...] a nuclear war cannot be won and should never be fought.”

D. PREVENTING ESCALATION: NO NO-FLY ZONE; NO DEPLOYMENT IN UKRAINE

- NATO SG Stoltenberg:
 - “We are determined to do all we can to support Ukraine. [...] At the same time, **we have a responsibility to ensure the conflict does not escalate further. Because this would be even more dangerous and more devastating.**”
 - This is why “Allies have declared that **we will not deploy troops on the ground** in Ukraine because the only way to do that is to be prepared to engage in full conflict with Russian troops”
 - “[...] **we are not going to impose a no-fly zone because we believe that, that will most likely trigger a full-fledged war between NATO and Russia.**”

III. NATO TRANSFORMATION: DEFENCE, DETERRENCE & DEFENCE INVESTMENT

A. REAFFIRMING ARTICLE 5

- Allied leaders made crystal clear:
 - their **unity and resolve to protect and defend the security of Allied populations and every inch of Allied territory** under the iron-clad Article 5, across all domains and with a 360-degree approach; and
 - that **NATO's actions are preventive, proportionate and non-escalatory**

B. MEASURES ALREADY IMPLEMENTED

- Allies have already:
 - **increased defence investment** over the last few years and in the context of this grave crisis;
 - **activated NATO's defence plans;**
 - **deployed elements of the NATO Response Force;** and
 - **placed 40,000 troops on NATO's eastern flank** under **NATO command**, along with significant air and naval assets.

C. ADDITIONAL MEASURES

- Allied leaders decided to:
 - **stand up four additional multinational battlegroups** in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia;
 - **accelerate NATO's transformation** for a more dangerous strategic reality, including through the new Strategic Concept;
 - **“reset” NATO's longer term deterrence and defence posture;**
 - **further develop the full range of ready forces and capabilities**, including through enhanced exercises, increasing the resilience of societies and infrastructure, notably in the cyber domain;
 - stand ready to **impose costs on those who harm Allies in cyberspace;**
 - further **increase preparedness and readiness for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats;**

- accelerate efforts to fulfil Allied commitment to the Defence Investment Pledge in its entirety; and
- take further decisions on NATO's defence and deterrence posture and defence investment at the NATO Summit in June in Madrid.

IV. REAFFIRMATION OF THE OPEN DOOR POLICY AND SUPPORT TO PARTNERS AT RISK

- **Allied leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to NATO's Open Door policy**
- **Allied leaders agreed to increase support to partners affected by Russian threats and interference**, including Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on partner requests. Concrete proposals will be put to NATO Foreign Ministers in April.



Statement / Press Conferences / Press releases

24 March 2022

[Statement by NATO Heads of State and Government](#)

[Press conference by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg following the extraordinary Summit of NATO Heads of State and Government](#)

[North Atlantic Council extends mandate of the Secretary General](#)

[Allies stand strong together in NATO in the face of the biggest security threat in a generation](#)

[The NATO leaders will address the need for a reset of Allied deterrence and defence](#)

23 March 2022

Press conference by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg previewing the extraordinary
Summit of NATO Heads of State and Government

NATO leaders will decide on next steps to protect and defend all Allies

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