



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

**SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER
TRANSFORMATION**

Shangri-La Dialogue

SACT's opening remarks to

Session 2

“New Patterns of Security Cooperation”

Singapore, 03 June 2017

Général d'armée aérienne Denis MERCIER



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER TRANSFORMATION

Excellences,

Ambassadors,

Generals, Admirals,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a real pleasure and a privilege for me to participate to this year's Shangri-La Dialogue, and I would like to thank Dr John Chipman, Director-General and Chief Executive of "The International Institute for **Strategic Studies**" for giving me the opportunity to address some brief opening remarks to the second special session on "New Patterns of Security Cooperation".

Let me start with a presentation of the trends of the global security environment, an environment that has no geographic boundaries and develops an unprecedented range of challenges at a rapid rate of change. Among other strategic trends, hybrid and cyber threats, state and non-state actors impacting the security environment just below the threshold of conflict coupled with transnational challenges such as organized crime, climate change or economic instability further deepen the uncertainty and complexity of our security environment.

As a consequence, crises become more and more interrelated and the same actors may interact differently according to the situations, which makes situational understanding more complicated.



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER TRANSFORMATION

In this complex global security environment, no nation or organization can manage a crisis on its own.

This leads to the question raised in this panel: what are the new patterns of security cooperation?

Let me assume that we have a common objective for security whatever the threat: detect, identify and understand the early signs of a crisis, avoid escalation and de-escalate potential developments and, if this is not possible, be ready to fight and win.

Due to the global nature of threats, detection and identification of crises are not limited to a specific geographical area. The complexity of the security environment requires the creation of an ecosystem made up of a wide network of partners, including nations, international organizations, NGOs, the private sector or academia, to name just a few, to share information, provide early warning and shared awareness and make maximum use of existing expertise.

Here I am not mentioning intelligence that requires specific arrangements due to classification policies, but trends, publicly available and non-classified information. And we need to create the mechanisms to do it persistently.

In addition, de-escalation of a crisis requires rapid and coordinated decision-making. NATO is developing exercises, through realistic scenarios, to provide political-military leaders with the understanding of the challenges



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER TRANSFORMATION

they may face when a crisis develops. Ongoing exercises already associate some partner nations and the European Union.

The global nature of threats may lead us to consider scenarios that would engage a wider range of partners, out of the Euro-Atlantic area, explore innovative decision-making architectures to face future transnational challenges, and help define the required needs to empower all parties who could play a role in global security.

Finally, we need to be prepared to act together when necessary in crises combining multiple domains including new areas of warfighting such as cyberspace or information operations. Interoperability is essential as was demonstrated in Afghanistan when NATO and non-NATO forces from various continents deployed together but could not initially connect their systems. Responsiveness requires the development of standards and norms to enable command and control systems to be connected from day one. NATO is developing the Federated Mission Networking, a standard of interoperability that already associates many partners from different continents and other international organizations. It is implemented by progressively adapting new requirements and integrating new members. Let me stress that this norm does not question the sovereignty of the systems it connects but builds the bridges between them to allow a seamless federation of various actors.



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER TRANSFORMATION

To conclude...

Konrad Adenauer once said that we all share the same sky, but not the same horizon. We all share the same objectives, the preservation of peace and security. We also all share the same world and the same complexity of the 21st century.

To adapt to the same environment, the most successful information technology companies have built large ecosystems. Within these ecosystems, respect of all parties and exchange of data through flexible and adaptable architectures has become critical to deal with complex environments and develop new business models.

The same principles apply to security. To answer the panel's question, improved cooperation built on a wide ranging ecosystem of global partners, persistent exchange of open source information, respectful, flexible and adaptable relationships amongst parties and the development of interoperability standards that enable large exchanges of data form the basis of the new security cooperation patterns in the 21st century.

Thank you for your attention.