

Leaving a legacy of peace and security for the future generations

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Introduction

- We borrow the future from the next generations, as the present was lent to us by our ancestors.
- For the building of a common future, the force generator is the youth.
- As it was pointed out in the conceptual framework of this gathering, the retreat of peace and security implies to a more unstable future, which is harder to predict and facilitate. Both in theoretical and empirical terms, this hypothesis implies that the substantial ingredient for a peaceful and secure future is the addressing to the sources of conflict and insecurity.

- Deductively elaborating, the concept of peace and security counterpoises a benevolent social state in which the fundamental human rights and liberties are guaranteed and safeguarded in continuity, perceived from the notion for a positive peace. The realistic, or negative notion describes peace and security in a more rigid manner, stating that the absence of conflict and violence is equivalent of peace and security. Given these premises, it can be concluded that peace and security are correlated with the fundamental principles of governance in a given society, and the respective way they are implemented throughout the social layers. Further, in the long term, this specific state of peace and security can only be empirically achieved and maintained through a proper management by the relevant institutions, agencies and bodies.

- This comprises both the dichotomy of public and the private security sector, which can be divided on national security institutions: the armed forces, the intelligence community, the police and civil protection and the private security agencies which carry out physical and technical security services. Their combined efforts and engagements are necessary elements and indispensable instruments to respond to the perils for the peace and security.

Defining the perils for peace and security

- The perils for peace and security can be with various genesis and location, they can be driven by different factors, and their apprehension could mean applying numerous procedures. More specifically, each peril, is defined as risk, threats and challenges in the doctrinal and strategical documents of every established government, based on specific circumstances, political and social settings, as well as correlation and causation effects of external factors.

- Retrospectively, the first time the Republic of North Macedonia made the risk and threats assessment to national security in the Strategy for the Defense of the Republic of Macedonia published in 1998. This document utilized the terms hazards and sources of threat. In the 2003 National Security and Defense Concept the notions of risks and threats to national security are operated. The transparent publication of these strategic documents for the risks and threats assessments were pioneering endeavors in that specific time interval. The Republic of North Macedonia made the following assessment of the risks and threats in the 2004 Crisis Management Act, which defines the risks and dangers in terms of national security and security threats for the Republic. A more detailed assessment of national security risks and threats was made in the Strategic Defense Review (SOP) in 2004.

- As noted in the Strategic defense review of the Ministry of defense of the Republic of North Macedonia from 2018, the experiences so far indicate that the intermediate hybrid threats with various levels of intensity are unfortunately likely to occur. For example, the Strategic defense review of the Ministry of Defense in the Republic of North Macedonia describes that the dynamic, unpredictable, rapid and vague activities of the non state actors have the potential to escalate from a local to a regional level. Non-state actors are defined and include criminal groups, foreign-funded extremists, foreign fighters, returnees and terrorists, originating from this region, pose the most serious threat and most likely destabilizing factor. Among the numerous risks and threats for the peace and security are enumerated the vulnerability of the cyber security, the non-resistance of natural disasters, the internal political, economic or social turmoil and the reduced, but never fully eliminated threat from an external aggression.

Threats	Intensity		
	Short term (up to 1 year)	Medium term (up to 5 years)	Long term (up to 10 years)
Direct threat on sovereignty and territorial integrity/armed aggression	Low	Low	Low
Terrorism	Low	Medium	Medium
Violent extremism and radicalism	Medium	Medium	High
Organized crime	High	High	Medium
Migration	Medium	Medium	Medium
Cyber attacks	Medium	High	High
Foreign intelligence services	High	High	Medium
Economic-political conditions	Medium	Medium	Medium
Natural disasters, technical accidents, epidemics, climate change	Medium	Medium	High
Degradation and destruction of the environment	Medium	Medium	Medium

Measures for protecting the peace and security

- Each state has its specific and unique techniques to combat these risks and threats and responses for the challenges, given the concrete security environment, political, economic and social context, historic background and present capabilities.
- As a guideline for the proper management of the complex risks and threats, as well as challenges for the peace and security, several efforts are undertaken by the official institutions, along with international stakeholders such governmental and non-governmental organizations for the facilitation of the identification and mapping of the abovementioned risks and threats.

- Assessment of risks and threats (likeliness, probability, etc.)
- Interests, planning assumptions
 - ✓ Key planning assumptions
- In this direction, it is necessary to underline the importance of appropriate and functional institutions, which will be capable to implement the necessary measures for (ideally) the removal of the perils, or (optimally) facilitating their impacts and consequences.

Goals, missions and tasks

Goals					
Defense of the independence and territorial integrity of the RNMK	Maintaining a high level of readiness of the defense capacities and capabilities	Strengthening regional security and stability and membership in the Euro-Atlantic collective security	Participation in international efforts for peace keeping and peace building	Effective dealing with the natural and man-made disasters	Enhancement of the social awareness for the role of the defense system

Missions

Independence and territorial integrity defense

Strengthening regional security and stability

Support for the civil authorities and citizens

Questions?

