

32/2012

10th May 2012

M^a del Mar Hidalgo García

NATO CHICAGO SUMMIT: WEAPONS
OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND ENERGY
SECURITY

[Visitar la WEB](#)

[Recibir BOLETÍN ELECTRÓNICO](#)

This document has been translated by a Translation and Interpreting Degree student doing work experience, NAIA HERNANDO, under the auspices of the Collaboration Agreement between the Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid, and the Spanish Institute of Strategic Studies.

NATO CHICAGO SUMMIT: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND ENERGY SECURITY

Abstract:

Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons and the issue of energy security were some of the issues in the last NATO Summit held in Chicago. Both have the potential to affect NATO Planning and Operations.

Keywords:

NATO, Chicago Summit, Weapons Mass Destruction, energy security

NATO AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its vector systems still worry NATO, especially in terms of nuclear proliferation.

In the case of Iran, NATO favours diplomatic means to solve the nuclear problem, mainly in connection with P5+1¹ conversations. NATO urges Iran to fully comply with its obligations derived from the UN Security Council Resolutions and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Furthermore, it must cooperate with the international community to prove the peaceful aims of its nuclear program in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

NATO also disapproves of the behaviour of North Korea and its non-fulfillment of the UN resolutions and its international obligations materialized in the launch of the ballistic missile on April 13th. NATO demands that North Korea suspend its nuclear weapon and ballistic missile program in a *“complete, verifiable and irreversible”* manner.

Furthermore, NATO has called for universal accession to the NTP and its additional protocol, as well as the establishment of Resolutions 1540 and 1977. Furthermore, it points out the need for states to strengthen the security measures of its nuclear materials as was agreed in the Nuclear Security Summit which took place in Seoul.

As for the action regarding this matter, NATO will continue with the implementation of “NATO’s 2009 Comprehensive Strategic-Level Policy for Preventing the Proliferation of WMD and Defending against CBRN Threats,” which includes continuing gaining the appropriate capacities and the execution of exercises to deal with incidents concerning weapons of massive destruction².

In the field of defence and deterrence, nuclear weapons are still one of the main capacities for NATO, along with conventional forces and antimissile defence. The concept established in Lisbon is that NATO will continue being a nuclear alliance “since nuclear weapons exist” is reaffirmed. The best security guarantee for the allies comes from the nuclear weapons of the United States, United Kingdom and

¹ The three permanent members of the Security Council of the UN and Germany

² At present, efforts are directed to detecting chemical and biological agents which could be used in an attack. On the other hand, the capacities of NATO in NBQR material have been reinforced with the Joint CBRN Defence Center of Excellence (COE) established in the Czech Republic, the Center of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism of Turkey and the cyberdefense one in Estonia, as well as the establishment of a multinational quick-response task force (CBRN Defence Task Force),

France.

Furthermore, it must be guaranteed that all the components of the nuclear deterrence system of NATO remain safe and effective so that it continues to be a nuclear Alliance.

During the Summit, NATO presented its Deterrence and Defence Posture Review. In it, it considers that the control of weapons, disarming and the non-proliferation play a fundamental role in reaching the objectives of the Alliance. Although it recognizes the usefulness of present agreements, it points out that they have still not been able to achieve their objectives. The world is still facing a proliferation crisis and the lack of transparency of some nuclear programmes.

NATO is willing to contribute to the creation of a “nuclear weapons-free world” in accordance with the NTP which leads to international stability. It is also willing to continue developing confidence and transparency measures with the Russian Federation and is even considering continuing with the reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons located in the European territory, if it comes along with a reciprocal action from Russia in its arsenals of the Euro-Atlantic area.

Furthermore, the Allies recognize the role carried out by the “Weapons of Mass Destruction Control and Disarmament Committee”³ in the “Review of the defence and deterrence posture” and, in view of the good experience, they agree to establish a committee to act in a consultative and advisory capacity, whose mandate will be determined in the next Council meeting.

NATO AND ENERGETIC SAFETY

NATO considers it critically important to ensure the supply of stable and reliable energy, which includes the diversification of: routes, suppliers and energetic resources, and the interconnectivity of the energy networks. It integrates the concept of energetic security into its policies, concentrating in areas in which NATO can provide added value.

Although these matters are, mainly, the responsibility of national governments and other international organizations which are interested, NATO closely follows the advances in energy. For this, it is going to work to improve energetic efficiency of its

³ “Weapons of Mass Destruction Control and Disarmament Committee” was created in March 2011 to contribute to the “UN Deterrence and Defense Posture Review” as was agreed in the Lisbon summit.

military forces significantly and the support in the protection of critical energy infrastructures. As a contribution to the efforts of NATO in this area, the creation of the NATO Centre of Excellence *for* Energy Security in Lithuania stands out.

The allies recommend that the Council continue to improve the role of NATO in energy security, in accordance with the principles and guidelines agreed in the Bucharest Summit and the direction provided by the new Strategic concept. Moreover, they entrust the Council with preparing a report on the advances of NATO in this area to be presented in the next Summit.

Furthermore, NATO establishes that the environment, the limitations in availability of natural resources, health risks, climate change, water scarcity and the increase in energy demand will be factors which will create an atmosphere of security in the future and have the potential to affect the planning and the operations of NATO.

M^a del Mar Hidalgo García
IEEE Analyst