



Draft Resolution

Strengthen Global Security

Introduced by Christoph Israng (Vice-President) on behalf of YEPP Board to Belgrade Plenary Session

At the beginning of the 21st century the world faces a large variety of security threats. Traditional inter-state threats remain throughout major parts of the world. Meanwhile new threats have emerged, such as weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, failed states, etc. Social, environmental and economic reasons play a more important role as causes of conflict, effects of conflict are more often felt in regions far away from the actual source.

It is more than obvious that security is more than just the absence of immediate physical threat and that it can not be achieved by military means alone. Diplomacy, contacts of civil societies, economic development and human rights have to be taken into account.

If all preventive civil measures, including intercultural dialogue, development aid, diplomacy, mediation and sanctions do not bear the envisaged result, it is necessary and legitimate to use force in order to preserve or restore international peace and stability. YEPP calls upon the UN and its member states to develop a clear set of criteria before military force may be used.

YEPP is calling for a global approach on this global security problem. Therefore it demands a comprehensive system of collective security: one that tackles both new and old threats, and addresses the security concerns of all states – rich and poor, weak and strong. This comprehensive framework must be built on the existing UN system.

In recent months the UN has launched several initiatives to strengthen international security. The report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (“A more secure world: Our shared responsibility”, 2004) gives an excellent assessment of the security challenges the world faces at the beginning of the 21st century and gives useful recommendations how to meet these challenges.

The report shows that the UN family, i.e. member nations and UN organisations, can improve its policies and efficiency. YEPP supports the call of the report to strengthen the UN in order to enable it to better achieve international peace and stability. Particularly it is necessary to insist that today's threats to our security are all interconnected. UN institutions as well as member states have to narrow preoccupations and learn to work across the whole range of issues, in a concerted fashion.

The UN needs to reform and improve harmonisation and co-ordination between and within the many different UN bodies engaged in the field of development. It is especially necessary to harmonise at the country level.

All principal organs of the UN are in need of change. This includes the Security Council which must represent today's world, rather than the one at the end of WWII. YEPP therefore supports its enlargement by new permanent members representing Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Commission on Human Rights should also be reformed. Membership in the Commission on Human Rights must be limited and linked with a clean human rights record. The Commission should therefore be transformed into a Human Rights Council. At the same time, the General Assembly should be revitalized and participate more actively in the Council's decision making process. YEPP thus goes beyond the UN Reform Paper "In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All" presented by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Regional organisations such as the European Union have to play an active part in the global effort to strengthen peace and stability. The EU has started to take international security seriously. The European Security Strategy presented by HR Javier Solana and adopted by the European Council is a proof of this important approach. The paper shares most of the security assessment of the UN, but falls short to deliver all necessary answers.

However, Europe will not be able to take on all challenges alone. It must join forces with all those countries that share the same values of democracy, freedom and human rights. To defend these values, Europe must cooperate with its major partner, the United States of America. Both have to avoid steps that provoke a rift, as this would only play into the hands of countries and groups that fight our common ideas. This refers to the handling of conflicts, especially the use of preventive / preemptive measures, as well as the general respect of multilateral agreements such as the ICC.

For many countries, NATO remains the main organisation to tackle security issues. The alliance, however, is currently not used as it could be. Right now it serves merely as headquarters and review center of peacekeeping missions. NATO has to become more political: It has to address all security issues and should be used as a real forum to discuss security problems.

The EU has to strengthen its capabilities to take on security issues. The EU should be able to lead an autonomous operation without the help of other organisations. European countries are called upon to make an adequate contribution to common security by allocating sufficient resources and strengthening the capabilities of their armed forces. YEPP calls for the creation of joint European Armed Forces. At the beginning they should, of course, be created in parallel to national armed forces.

All this, however, should be done complementarily to NATO. Everything else would be a waste of resources and a contribution to a transatlantic division which we can not afford. This refers to concepts, forces, capabilities and strategies alike. The NATO Council (NAC) and the Political and Security Committee (PSC) of the EU have to engage in a continuous dialogue. YEPP calls upon Turkey to end its blockage of these talks.