

Pursuant to Article 68 paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, at its session held on 28 March 2024, adopted the following

DECLARATION

ON THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA IN NATO AND THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ALLIANCE

Starting from the achieved strategic resolution of the Republic of North Macedonia for membership in NATO as well as the efforts to achieve the strategic goal of European integration,

Emphasizing the importance of the democratic processes, individual freedoms and rights, as well as the collective responsibilities that play a vital role in achieving common goals and interests, and promoting the common values with other members of the Alliance,

Referring also to the Decision on Accession of the Republic of Macedonia to NATO from 1993, the Declaration on Advancing the Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia and NATO from 2004, the Declaration for Seeking Support for the Admission of the Republic of Macedonia to NATO from 2007, the Declaration on Reaffirming the Resolution to Achieve the Strategic Goal of Membership of the Republic of Macedonia in NATO from 2012, Declaration on Acceleration of Reform and Integration Processes for the Membership of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union and NATO from 2017 and the Declaration on Support of the Accession Process for the Membership of the Republic of Macedonia in NATO from 2018, which were adopted by the Assembly,

Relying on the continuous and unchanged, unreserved and broad consensual social support for ensuring a more prosperous, safe and secure future of the citizens, as the basis of the decades-long active contribution and action by the executive and legislative authorities for acceding to NATO and fulfilling the contractual obligations arising from the membership,

Welcoming the 75th anniversary of the Alliance created after the Second World War as an instrument to support peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area,

Strengthening and improving the mechanisms for cooperation with the neighbours, members and partners while integrating national, regional and broader social stability and security,

Working towards implementing the undertaken measures aimed at fulfilling the obligations, policies and commitments of NATO contained in the Declaration from the previous summits of the Alliance, reaffirmed at the Summits in Madrid and Vilnius,

Considering that NATO membership is a continuous process that requires the commitment, work and results of the Alliance in achieving peace, security and the deterrence and defence policies,

Aware of the responsibility for fulfilling the obligations arising from the NATO membership and the contribution to achieving collective defence, crisis management, as well as the contribution to the cooperative security of the Alliance,

Welcoming the country's dedicated engagement to promoting an atmosphere and politics of regional stability, as a key engine for the security and prosperity of all countries from the Western Balkans and indirectly to the European continent, in light of the current security challenges,

Fully affirming the resolution to find modalities within the framework of the Alliance to address the threats of autocracies to the modern liberal-democratic order,

Taking responsibility for the obligations arising from the Strategic Concept of the Alliance from 2022,

Agreeing with the commitment for stable and long-term financing of the defence costs, in accordance with the recommendations of the Summit in Wales and the reaffirmed commitment of the Summit in Vilnius to the continuity of the Defence Investment Pledge,

Firmly determined to successfully implement the reform processes and to reach the highest democratic standards, with the aim of continuing to build the Republic of North Macedonia into a modern European democracy, an active and respected ally and a desirable partner for cooperation in international relations and a factor of stability in the wider region,

Reiterating the unanimous condemnation of Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine, as a direct violation of its territorial integrity and sovereignty and the grossest violation of fundamental international norms and principles,

On the eve of the jubilean 75th anniversary of the founding of the Alliance, as a confirmation of the implementation of all the measures undertaken aimed at fulfilling the obligations, policies and commitments of NATO contained in the Declarations of the Summits of the Alliance, the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia:

1. Reaffirms the broad social unity for achieving the strategic resolution of the state to become a member of NATO, which led to full membership in 2020 and enabled the fastest military integration of the Alliance for a period of 19 months;

2. Highlights the importance of our membership in NATO in conditions of amplified regional and global risks to stability and security, and emphasizes that the aforesaid has a positive impact on the overall political and economic situation in the state, by reducing the security and political risks and encouraging domestic and foreign investments;

3. Welcomes the resolution of the Ministry of Defence, based on the Strategic Defence Review of 2018 and the Strategy for Defence of 2020, to build a small mobile, highly motivated and prepared Army, in accordance with the requests and recommendations of the Alliance, as well as the recognized success in aligning the national process with the NATO process of defence planning;

4. Supports the continuous implementation of defence reforms aimed at achieving the Capability Objectives and a higher degree of interoperability;

5. Supports investments towards raising the standard of the members of the Army and the employees of the Ministry of Defence, aimed at retaining the existing quality personnel and attracting new personnel;

6. Supports the resolution to meet the level of ambition for participation in NATO-led operations, as well as the adequate effort and burden sharing with the allies, by fulfilling the commitments to increase security and stability in the region;

7. Welcomes the contribution in the remaining NATO activities, such as the enhanced Forward Presence and the enhanced vigilance activities within the 360 degree approach of deterrence and defence, as well as the readiness to meet the obligations in achieving the required level of preparedness and readiness, contributing to the family of plans and the new combat concept through force support within the Alliance's New Force Model, including the appropriate filling of national positions within NATO command and force structures;

8. Positively notes the continuous increase in the defence budget, which enables the development of the Army's defence capacities and brings dynamism, in particular the current allocation of funds for defence, in the amount of 2,05% of GDP in 2024, one third of which is for the process of modernisation and equipment, in accordance with the standards for NATO member countries;

9. Supports the contribution to strengthening the Alliance's deterrence and defence capabilities with forces and capabilities in the New Force Structure, as well as the future deployment of personnel in three of the eight Alliance groups in Latvia, Romania and Bulgaria, and our domestic contribution within the Quick Response 22 military

exercise, as a clear indication of our readiness and our level of interoperability for cooperation with other armies within the Alliance;

10. Reaffirms the commitment to strengthening peace, stability and security by contributing to the prevention and management of crises, by maintaining the specific contribution to the NATO KFOR operation in Kosovo and the NATO mission in Iraq;

11. Values the achieved and reaffirms the resolution for stable long-term planning and support in the realisation of the defence reform commitments, by investing in equipping and modernising the Army, as a condition for adequate planning and realisation of the Capability Objectives;

12. Expresses unreserved support to the commitment to minimize daily political influences and abuse of the authority and trust that citizens have in the Army, through a process of depoliticisation of the defence and the Army, and strengthening of civilian and democratic control over the armed forces;

13. Consistently respects the decision to condemn Russia's aggression against Ukraine and welcomes the decision of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia to lean toward the implementation of sanctions and restrictive measures of the democratic and progressive world imposed on Russia;

14. Reaffirms its agreement to the joint decision of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly on the operationalisation of commitments to the defence of shared democratic values, through the establishment of a Centre for Democratic Resilience within NATO headquarters;

15. This Declaration should be delivered to the Secretary General of NATO, the President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Presidents of Parliaments of NATO members states, as well as to the Ambassadors of NATO member states in the Republic of North Macedonia and

16. This Declaration will be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia.

ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

No. 08 – 2148/1
28 March 2024
Skopje

**PRESIDENT
ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

Jovan Mitreski

That this copy is true to the original is certified by:

**DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NORTH MACEDONIA**

Mr. Nexhbedin Ibraimi