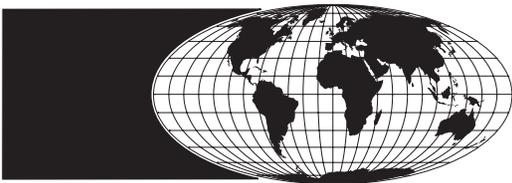


NATO: New Tasks and Responsibilities



WIIS Women In
International
Security

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NATO — New Tasks and Responsibilities

On Monday, July 11, 2005, WIIS and NATO held a joint conference on the evolving role of NATO in the 21st century. The conference, held at the Residence Palace in Brussels, Belgium, was attended by 120 people, and tackled an extensive agenda covering issues from transatlantic relationships to post-conflict reconstruction. The conference began with a welcome from Dr.



Stefanie Babst

Stefanie Babst, Head, NATO Countries, Division of Public Diplomacy, NATO, and Ms. Valerie Gilpin, Executive Director, WIIS. Dr. Babst discussed the role of NATO in enhancing international and transatlantic relations, and through those relationships bringing the world more security. Dr. Babst enumerated how NATO has enabled the international community to “come together in terms of fighting international terrorism to start establishing security partnerships... [and] to modernize our military

capabilities” while remaining fully engaged in “peacekeeping and where necessary even in peacemaking.” She added that while partnerships, counter-terrorism efforts, peacekeeping, and security were the central themes for the conference, the focus was not exclusively about transatlantic relations and about NATO. The proceedings also focused on “women professionals in international security policy and in foreign affairs.”

Ms. Gilpin dovetailed Dr. Babst’s remarks by introducing WIIS and its mission. “WIIS has a dual mission: to increase the influence of women in the fields of foreign and defense affairs by raising their numbers and visibility while enhancing dialogue on international security issues,” she said. While WIIS is focused on women in the international security field, Ms. Gilpin emphasized that its focus “is not on bringing the so-called feminine or woman’s perspective to the dialogue on international security but rather to demonstrate that women can enhance thinking and debate on key non-gender-specific issues in the field whether as policymakers, academics, or diplomats. Indeed, dealing successfully with security challenges requires the collaborative effort of both women and men, a fact underscored by the involvement of women and men in today’s event as panelists and participants.” In that framework, the conference focused on the challenges facing transatlantic relationships, NATO’s role in global relationships, and peacekeeping.



Valerie Gilpin

Session I: The Transatlantic Alliance in the 21st Century

The first session of the day’s conference featured a panel of experts on transatlantic relations and focused on the current state of NATO and the challenges the Alliance faces in the 21st

century. The panel included: Her Excellency Ginte Damušis, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to NATO; Ms. Evelyne Mathey, Deputy Head, NATO Office, Delegation for Strategic Affairs in the Ministry of Defense of France; Dr. Gale Mattox, Chair and Professor, Department of Political Science, United States Naval Academy; and Mr. Cem Özdemir, Member, European Parliament. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for External Relations, Division of Public Diplomacy, NATO. He framed the discussion by introducing the following areas of focus:



Jamie Shea

- How can NATO take advantage of the current positive environment to move ahead with its ambitious agenda?
- Can NATO once again become the primary forum for transatlantic consultations on important strategic issues?
- Does NATO need a common vision or a common agenda or is the best way forward to act on ad hoc opportunities for cooperation in areas of joint interest?
- Can NATO ensure strategic coherence or at least avoid duplication and conflicts of interest with efforts undertaken in the U.S.-EU bilateral relationship?

The discussion then moved to Ambassador Damušis who discussed the capabilities of NATO and the necessity of expanding those capabilities in the changing international environment. She referred back to 1999, when NATO was the only multilateral organization capable of intervening in Kosovo. She said, “[n]o other organization could have undertaken those tasks. And this campaign as well as the U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan in 2001 really exposed that capabilities gap.” In that light, she pointed out that the NATO transformation “is the force which drives the Alliance and its military partners to adapt in order to remain militarily viable in the face of these new security threats. Hence, NATO’s future in general and the success of NATO’s military transformation in particular depend on the development of military capabilities with global reach, and those capabilities are exemplified by the NATO Response Force which requires rapidly deployable and sustainable forces.” Ambassador Damušis asserted that global terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and failed states are the main security threats facing the Euro-Atlantic community and should be the focus of NATO’s efforts to develop rapidly deployable and interoperable capabilities.

Ms. Evelyne Mathey then focused the discussion on the future challenges NATO faces. NATO has undergone a sea change in the past six years alone. In 1998, there were 16 allies and NATO had undertaken no operations outside Europe. It had a special relationship with Russia, Ukraine, 26 Partners for Peace, as well as a beginning relationship with six Mediterranean Dialogue countries. In contrast, she said, “[t]oday, NATO’s geographical area is actually changed. NATO has more allies than it has partners in the initial sense of the term. It has enhanced the Mediterranean Dialogue currently of seven countries into a

partnership. It has established links with countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.” In this environment, NATO is faced with the following question: Can this single organization cope with the type of risks at stake for its populations?

Ms. Mathey’s answer is that NATO cannot act alone. It must act in conjunction with “financial institutions, trade institutions, development organizations, and a number of others which are fulfilling special roles in transportation, proliferation, research, human rights, humanitarian affairs, migration, police, and justice matters.” But NATO is unique in its military capabilities and therefore the “transatlantic Alliance in the 21st century is vital to the safeguard of our common values. We are facing the same risks, and we have considerable means and know-how on both sides of the Atlantic. The transatlantic Alliance is vivid so long as its actors cooperate together to meet common objectives. NATO is one of the fora for transatlantic consultation on defense questions, as well as an efficient crisis management organization. If we want the transatlantic Alliance to meet its goals, it has to be done through a close dialogue and consultation based on confidence.”

Following those comments, Dr. Gale Mattox focused on NATO’s role in the next 25 to 50 years. She said, “while analysts are arguing over whether NATO should go global, it really to my mind already has gone global and the institution is simply now in the transition phase of adapting to that fact.” Dr. Mattox suggested that the global nature of NATO has put its focus in six areas, and must develop dynamic and creative means to address these foci:

- fighting the war on terrorism;
- combating weapons of mass destruction;
- working with the Middle East to create a more stable region;
- undertaking selected tasks in Iraq;
- cooperating on non-traditional security issues; and
- stabilizing developing democracies.

Dr. Mattox said, “[t]he accumulation of tasks for NATO has meant and will mean substantial challenges to absorb them and require us to rethink many of our traditional assumptions about the Alliance. NATO needs to use its forces in a reasoned manner with clear objectives which might not only include active conflict but also situations to address human indignities certainly as in Darfur. I think that it’s very appropriate that we do have NATO involvement in a contingency like Darfur.”



Cem Özdemir

Mr. Cem Özdemir took a different approach to international security – through integration of migrants into mainstream societies, impeding terrorist cells from developing within NATO countries, and preventing radical religious groups from attacking our democracies from inside. Mr. Özdemir commented that NATO’s efforts on WMD containment



Gale Mattox

and “the assistance to new governments we have in Afghanistan and the Balkans, the vital military assistance it provides in the Partnership for Peace program” are remarkable, but he said, “we should also be very honest that NATO is ill-equipped when it comes to the fight on terrorism that we’re facing... the new threats that we’re facing in the so-called ‘asymmetric war.’”

In short, he said, NATO’s agenda must fit into an overall global agenda in defense of democratic values and human rights. In the war on terror, the Alliance must ensure its own credibility by upholding these same values it seeks to project abroad. NATO requires a European pillar and has an interest in a strong Constitutional Europe, but it also continues to need its American counterpart in order to remain able to respond quickly. NATO’s continued international cooperation and responsiveness to international humanitarian crises is essential.



Ginte Damušis

Keynote Address by His Excellency Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General

The Secretary General’s keynote remarks focused on new directions NATO is taking, and the emerging threats it must address. NATO has accepted its responsibility to address humanitarian crises and to fight the war on terrorism. Now, in his words, “NATO must find ways to cope with the darker



Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

side of globalization.” The growing threats of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, regional conflicts, and failed states all pose new challenges to NATO. According to the Secretary General, “[i]n such a volatile security environment, cooperation is our only option. Indeed, in the years ahead, we will see the need for transatlantic coordination and cooperation increase even further, and on an ever wider range of issues. And not only will Europe and North America have to intensify their cooperation; we will also have to work together more and more closely with other players in

other parts of the world.”

He emphasized, “[i]n managing transatlantic security cooperation, NATO remains key. It is the only permanent structure where Europe and North America can shape a common approach to the new security challenges. And it is the only forum where political decisions can be seamlessly translated into effective transatlantic military action. It is this unique symbiosis between political consensus-building and military competence that explains why NATO is so busy. The Alliance has long ceased to be a ‘single issue’ institution, geared exclusively towards deterring an overwhelming threat. Instead, NATO has become a much more flexible and versatile institution, delivering security in many different ways, and in many different places.”

In conclusion, he stressed, “[n]ew security players, such as the EU, are finding their role. Other parts of the world are growing in relevance. We must adapt deterrence and established non-proliferation regimes to the new circumstances. And we must discuss new approaches to the Caucasus, the broader Middle East, and other regions. Today, NATO is pursuing an ambitious agenda that ranges from peacekeeping in Kosovo to fostering defense reform in Ukraine, and from training security forces in Iraq to providing security for the upcoming Afghan elections. Let there be no illusions: this agenda is as difficult politically as it is challenging in military terms. But if we are able to maintain the spirit of transatlantic cooperation that is our hallmark, we can succeed. As long as Europe and North America understand that their partnership is unique – and precious – this Alliance will continue to project security and stability in new ways and in new places.”

SESSION II: Transatlantic Partnerships: Geographical Expansion and Global Relationships

The second session of the day was moderated by Dr. Ronald D. Asmus, Executive Director, Transatlantic Center, German Marshall Fund of the United States. He introduced the topics of NATO and the transatlantic relationship, and Middle Eastern politics and strategy toward the Middle East. The two panelists for this session included Dr. Helga Haftendorn, Professor Emerita, Free University of Berlin, and Dr. Judith Yaphe, Distinguished Research Professor for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Washington, DC.

Dr. Haftendorn began by stating that there is a need for a functional strategic partnership between the European Union and NATO. She also said that NATO must build on its positive experiences with enlargement. She commented, “by and large, NATO enlargement has been very successful.” She added that enlargement has been beneficial to NATO, but it has also been a strain. It adds diversity to NATO, but, she said, “[w]ith NATO enlargement, NATO has found a new identity. This organization which has increased so rapidly will face challenges in achieving consensus, and also will serve purposes that are different from those of the original organization.” Dr. Haftendorn said in conclusion, “we should not weaken NATO. NATO expansion is very important but... I would counsel that we should beware of overextension” in NATO’s efforts to become a more global and responsive organization.

Dr. Judith Yaphe began with an analysis of NATO and its relationships in the Middle East. She addressed where she thought NATO should engage effectively in the Middle East and where the Alliance could operate successfully. She cautioned that “Gulf states are consumers of security, they’re not contributors. NATO must think about that as it engages further.” She focused on issues where NATO and its Allies can and should be engaging jointly, and where they



Ronald Asmus

have been and can continue to be very effective. For example, she illustrated the successful efforts in shared intelligence among NATO Allies. “Intelligence is an art, not a science, and that intelligence has long been engaged in cooperation between the United States and all of the NATO members,” she said. Though intelligence-sharing has been successful, there is more to maintaining stability in the Middle East than just maintaining intelligence sources. She talked about the very grave consequences of failure: “If we fail in Iraq, or in the War on Terrorism, there will be other insurgencies in other places, there will be spill-over...there will be more Londons, more Madrids, more Twin Towers because this is a phenomenon that doesn’t know borders or limitations.”

Lunch Address: Partnerships for Peace: Ms. A. Elizabeth Jones, Principal, AEJones LLC and former Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Partnerships and collaborative approaches to global problems were the focal point of Ms. Jones’ keynote address. She began by stressing her belief in NATO’s founding premise that people should be free and protected from oppression. “That idea has carried through all of the years that NATO has existed, through all of the transformations that NATO has gone through...and the way we articulated that great idea, the grand idea, through the enlargement of NATO, was that NATO is an organization of like-minded states. I think that helps us think through the kinds of issues and the kind of role that NATO can play as it goes global.” This mission, she said, is the key to understanding the development and direction NATO must take.



Elizabeth Jones

The morning’s discussions centered on military capabilities in connection with NATO, but Ms. Jones held there needed to be a discussion of NATO’s “important focus on political talks because NATO is an organization of like-minded countries. [W]hen you look at the tasks that we put before the countries that have recently joined NATO, many of them had nothing to do with the military. They were nation-building...civil society-focused – engaging minorities, democracy, and economic reform. NATO made it its business to address all of those kinds of issues in order to be sure that these countries were ready to join NATO militarily, and more importantly, join the like-minded organization of NATO. If we agree that the major source of the transnational threats NATO faces is from failed states, then I believe, and this is my fundamental point, that NATO’s task is to bring those failed states, those sources of mortal threat, back into the international community.” She posited NATO’s main mission, despite 60 years of evolution, to protect and defend the right of free people to choose their governments and to live in freedom, remains the same.

In conclusion, Ms. Jones urged NATO to continue to work within that spirit through the Partnership for Peace. She ended with the thought that “[a]s much as military interoperability is terribly important, the political interoperability that I’m talking about is equally important and is a very, very important task for NATO to continue to try to do through Partnership for Peace and through the other instruments that it has developed.”

Session III: Transatlantic Challenges: Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Ms. Margriet Prins, Senior Advisor, Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the moderator of the third session framed the ensuing panel discussion by asserting “any post-conflict reconstruction effort must have an early establishment or a re-establishment of the rule of law.” She said that peace accords can stop war, but they do not really solve the conflict. “For lasting peace,” she said, “people do need to acknowledge their past. And only the truth can lead to this acknowledgement.”

With that, she introduced the panelists: Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, Senior Fellow, Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC, and Vice President, WIIS; Dr. William J. Durch, Senior Associate, Henry L. Stimson Center, Washington, DC; The Right Honourable Clare Short, Member of Parliament and former Secretary of State for International Development, U.K.; and Ms. Barbara J. Stapleton, Advocacy and Policy Coordinator, Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief.

Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, as the first panelist in the session, set out to define what post-conflict reconstruction means. She explained that sometimes it is “also referred to as peace-building, nation-building. Sometimes it’s called peace operations or stabilization missions. I think it refers in general to a process whereby international actors are trying to help a country move from war to lasting peace and to prevent violent conflict from breaking out again.” In that vein, she pointed to a report by Ted Gurr and Monty Marshall who “argue that the risks of future genocide and political mass murder remain high in half a dozen countries, and a significant possibility in a dozen others. They also identify 31 countries in serious risk of mismanaging societal crisis and succumbing to civil war or governmental collapse. They also believe that some other 51 countries are slightly less, but still at great risk for governmental collapse.” These internal conflicts and crises affect nearly half of the world, and Dr. de Jonge Oudraat argues that “these conflicts are among our top security challenges.”

To address these needs, she has four recommendations for NATO:

- NATO and the UN should establish a full-fledged institutional relationship.
- NATO should become the coordinator of peacekeeping training around the world, because at present this effort is being done by individual countries and often at cross-purposes.
- When the UN and NATO strengthen their institutional ties, it must be done in a very transparent manner so that the organizations cannot be accused of double standards, neo-

colonialism, neo-imperialism, or submission to the United States.

- NATO must answer the call by the International Crisis Group, which called for the deployment of NATO’s Response Force in Darfur as a bridging operation until the African Union can deploy and sustain urgently needed troops.

The next panelist, Dr. William J. Durch, examined some of the dimensions of post-conflict reconstruction that Dr. de Jonge Oudraat discussed: security, political and governance issues, economics, support for civil society, and post-conflict transitional justice. He asserted that NATO has a responsibility to maintain accountability in post-conflict situations, and must uphold its values as its mission grows more global. Dr. Durch said that NATO faces challenges in fulfilling its increasingly global and multi-faceted post-conflict responsibilities and should embrace the “capabilities of other organizations... especially the greater humanitarian development and peace-building resources of NGOs.”

The Right Honourable Clare Short disagreed in part with Dr. Durch. She felt that panelists, while being optimistic, were missing the “part of the problem in that the [NATO] mindset still sees war and the military as about conflict between armed forces, whereas the new world disorder is disorder and conflict within countries, with lots of civilians being hurt and displaced, women and children suffering terribly, and massive sexual abuses of women as an instrument of war.” She said with that mindset, it is difficult for NATO to take the proper approach to reconstruction and peacekeeping. She continued, “this is where the whole issue of reconstruction should come center stage. If we’ve got a new kind of disorder, and if it’s largely within states, rather than between them, and within ... weak states, with weak institutions, then reconstruction is absolutely essential, both for people to enjoy peace, and to prevent conflict breaking out again. [T]he evidence is very clear that the greatest chance of conflict in the world is in countries that have recently emerged from conflict.”

She believes that the Allies have the capacity and the knowledge to help countries to rebuild, but asserts NATO is loath to engage them. She said, “we’re living in an era that could be an era of advance. We could move forward on peace in the Middle East. I think we could even overcome the errors that have been made in Iraq. And I think in Africa and so on, we could have an era of great advance if we’d get behind the peace agreements, and help the rebuilding and start to create competent modern states that could get their regional economic integration and start to grow their economies,” but she concluded that without engaging



Chantal de Jonge Oudraat



Clare Short

countries and using the capacity that exists within NATO and the UN, these efforts of peacekeeping and reconstruction will fail. Her words of caution led into the next panelist's comments on the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

Ms. Barbara J. Stapleton seconded the remarks made by Ambassador Ginte Damušis and Dr. Judith Yaphe regarding key obstacles to NATO's potential success: lack of political will and resources. Ms. Stapleton noted that it is particularly apparent in the example of Afghanistan. She emphasized that "money alone will not solve Afghanistan's problems, which above all will have to be addressed over time. And that management of Afghan expectations, which has been done appallingly up to now, will entail NATO having to deliver on Afghan concerns about their human security, pushing forward on establishment of the rule of law and order, and especially confronting the issue of corruption, which is skyrocketing."

Furthermore, she argued, "NATO's ability to transform itself in the post-Cold War era is now linked to its fortunes in Afghanistan. Equally, Afghanistan's chances of charting a path away from the past that holds an illegitimacy for its people, to a stable future, will also be increasingly linked to NATO." NATO, she contended, needs to "enhance the synergy of civilian and military actors. Although NGOs continue to provide the lion's share of the acutely needed capacity that the government lacks, they are not involved in the political scenario that NATO has to confront." Therefore, NATO must work more closely with these NGOs. Ms. Stapleton concluded that "[t]hese are the kinds of synergies that are capable of delivering a transition to a more stable future in Afghanistan. It may sound like a small beginning, but if NATO member states could commit the political will to utilize existing resources, and allow Provincial Reconstruction Teams the flexibility to engage directly in the protection of the mutual space that Afghan civil society actors need, one thing might just lead to another."

Session IV: The Transatlantic Campaign Against Terrorism

Mr. Marshall S. Billingslea, Assistant Secretary General for Defense Investment, NATO, served as the moderator for the fourth and final session of the conference. Mr. Billingslea's background in counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation issues from his time at the Pentagon helped him set the stage for a dialogue surrounding those issues. He said counter-terrorism efforts and proliferation issues serve to drive not only NATO's various responses to terrorism and proliferation, but also its military modernization forces. He briefly expanded on the key position these issues hold in NATO policy and activities, where NATO is working with its member nations to develop better capabilities to help governments, militaries, law enforcement, and intelligence services counter the terrorist threat. He then

introduced the session's two panelists: Dr. Martha Crenshaw, Professor of Global Issues and Democratic Thought, Wesleyan University, Connecticut, and Ms. Julianne Smith, Deputy Director, International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies, in Washington, DC.

Dr. Crenshaw began her discussion with the observation that "you can measure the importance of the issue [of terrorism] by the fact that there was not a single presentation today that didn't bring up the issue in some way, because it colors all of our perceptions of security." She said the threat itself is a very mixed threat, one that doesn't even involve a single actor. It is very different from the threats that NATO was created to address. Furthermore, she posited, "it involves a post-Cold War and even post-9/11 redefinition of what security is. We used to think of security – the nation-state did, and certainly alliances of states did – as security from an external threat, wherever its source. Now we see that this threat of terrorism is both an internal and an external threat."

The dual nature of the terrorist threat stems from the fact that as Dr. Crenshaw observed, terrorism does not "simply come from failed states; does not simply come from poverty in the developing world; does not come exclusively from a lack of democracy in the developing world. All of these things may be partially contributing factors, but they are not the cause. What NATO faces is a broad mix of these things, combined with domestic grievances within states that are otherwise stable and democratic." This broad concept of terrorism challenges the ability of NATO to respond with a purely military response. Dr. Crenshaw observed that "opinion today was quite divided as to whether NATO should move in that direction, whether it would want to move in that direction. But I would say if NATO wants to be a player in dealing with the response to terrorism, it would have to take on this wider conception" of terrorism. In conclusion, she claimed it was an open-ended question of "what added value there is for NATO to try to become a major player in dealing with terrorism, or whether it wants to be more of a coordinating mechanism and to take more of a modest role in dealing with terrorism."

In conjunction with Dr. Crenshaw's statements, Ms. Julianne Smith looked at the transatlantic campaign against terrorism and broke it down into three elements. She looked at it from the military perspective "in terms of our ability as partners to arrest or eliminate terrorist operatives...especially in light of questions of political will and differences of threat perception." She also touched upon the international community's ability "either through NATO or as partners in other institutions or bilaterally, to penetrate terrorist organizations to try and identify targets and planned operations in the future." Ms. Smith underscored that "NATO is working hard to excel in the first two areas, but certainly hasn't really identified itself as a major player in...looking at the roots of radicalization and what drives people towards the path of radicalization."

She observed that NATO is "never going to successfully



Barbara J. Stapleton



Martha Crenshaw

combat terrorism unless we really look at that third category as well.” One of the challenges Ms. Smith sees in this area is that “whatever we can do in the years, weeks, months ahead to also integrate our Muslim minorities into our societies will remain, in my eyes, a major component of any strategy to combat terrorism. I think we’ve got a lot of work to do, and I would encourage all of us, whether we’re academics or policy makers, to take this into consideration in crafting any future counter-terrorism strategy.” Also, in their effort to eradicate extremism, “the urge for a lot of countries is essentially to work bilaterally, especially when it comes to intelligence-sharing. NATO does not have its own intelligence apparatus, and it is very limited on the intelligence-sharing front,” so developing a capacity for sharing and utilizing intelligence within the Allied community is essential. Ms. Smith said, “NATO should try and focus on helping countries develop capabilities in this area, and in counter-terrorism collaboration. NATO might want to think about additional work in the area of border guard training. NATO can work very closely with the EU as well when it comes to capitalizing on the paramilitary forces that exist inside a number of European countries.”



Julianne Smith

Closing Remarks: Dr. Stefanie Babst, Head, NATO Countries, Division of Public Diplomacy, NATO

Dr. Babst concluded the conference by stitching together the session topics and conclusions into a comprehensive umbrella under which NATO must move forward. She said, “in the course of this morning and this afternoon, there was a rather broad consensus and broad acknowledgement of the fact that...NATO’s military and political transformation seems to be in full swing. There seemed to be broad acknowledgement amongst our ranks that there is a need for NATO to remain a central forum for transatlantic security cooperation and also to remain a very, very important facilitator when it comes to the convergence of interests and views on either side of the Atlantic... [regarding] various issues ranging from the fight against terrorism all the way to Ukraine and Russia.”

She mused over the vast amount of work ahead, addressed in the conference proceedings, and offered that NATO has “a need to develop a stronger strategic consensus among its Allies when it comes to what we actually want to do with this organization. At least it strikes me that we need to continue working on finding the consensus about how political NATO should actually become when transforming.” This, she observed, will be a difficult task, as she listed the general topics touched upon by the panelists. When reaching out to a wider world as discussed throughout the day, Dr. Babst said, NATO must reinforce its political will with new capabilities, expertise, and financial resources. “You can be assured that these thoughts are taken well and brought back to the Headquarters,” she said, in closing, assuring the panelists and conference attendees alike that NATO will continue its dialogue

on transatlantic issues with WIIS and other organizations and partners in civil society.

About Women In International Security

Established in 1987, Women In International Security (WIIS) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the influence of women in the fields of foreign and defense affairs by raising their numbers and visibility, while enhancing dialogue about international security issues. WIIS members include policymakers, educators, military personnel, diplomats, legislative aides, researchers, journalists, business executives, lobbyists, students, and others. Members in over 35 countries work on and are interested in diverse issues affecting international security, ranging from nonproliferation and arms control, to terrorism, human rights, sustainable development, environmental security, and conflict resolution.

WIIS is part of the Center for Peace and Security Studies (CPASS) in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. CPASS, which also encompasses the internationally recognized Security Studies Program, is Georgetown’s organizational home for teaching, research, events, and publications in international peace and security studies. Founded in 1919, the School of Foreign Service is the oldest and largest school of international affairs in the U.S.

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