

# In about a hundred words on NATO's global political priorities

**As geopolitical headwinds continue redefining the nature of alliances and partnership, NATO is proactively engaging with nations outside of its usual core jurisdiction. At the UN General Assembly, NATO's Secretary General met with many leaders to reiterate the importance of political and defence cooperation to ensure peace and stability.**

**With institutionalized coalitions like the BRICS asserting more agency internationally, GLOBSEC asks experts from its Future Security and Defence Council and executive team: *What are the current political priorities for NATO regarding its relations with strategic partners outside of the Euro-Atlantic area?***



**Gen. (Ret.) Sir Richard Shirreff**  
Former Deputy Supreme Allied  
Commander Europe, NATO

It strikes me that how NATO should deal with its partners outside the Euro-Atlantic region must be driven by its priorities: the direct defence of the transatlantic region against the long-term threat from Russia; defence against threats of instability and terrorism in regions close to NATO, and the long term challenge posed by China. This means strengthening partnerships with close allies, such as Australia; building partnerships with countries in regions of strategic importance to NATO, in particular, the Sahel (especially Morocco and Mauritania); and influencing nations in the global south who have, thus far, supported (directly or indirectly) Russia in its war in Ukraine (India, Brazil, South Africa).



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Engagement beyond the Euro-Atlantic arena is key to maintaining NATO's position. Dialogue with the People's Republic of China is important to mitigate their increased alignment with Russia. Broader engagement in the Indo-Pacific region will further strengthen political ties. Closer to home, support to countries in the Middle East and North Africa that face an extant threat from terrorist organizations is vital in striving to achieve greater security within NATO borders. NATO must take the lead and, through the application of innovative technology, must play its part in combatting climate change on a global scale. NATO must not shy away from supporting partnerships and political initiatives that will deter military aggression and promote peace and security anywhere.



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During his visit to the U.S., Stoltenberg's primary objective was to garner support for Ukraine, particularly from countries still perceiving European affairs as relevant solely to Europeans and NATO. Given the emergence of global threats, NATO must strengthen ties with Asian partners through intensified joint exercises and enhanced cyber cooperation to send a clear message to Beijing. At the same time, the Southern Flank of NATO demands immediate attention and increased dynamism to foster stability in the Allies' immediate neighborhood. Finally, the conflict in Ukraine has underscored the critical role of satellites in wartime, highlighting their vulnerability. It is imperative for NATO to delve into discussions on space security and engage with key stakeholders.