

Steering Moldova's security through regional turmoil

The vision of President Maia Sandu

The security sector vision of the President of the Republic of Moldova emphasises the national commitment to a democratic and prosperous European country, where people live in safety and peace.

The fundamental element of the vision is the transformation of the Republic of Moldova into a high-performing economy, protected by a modern security sector, supported by strong government institutions and a public service brought to high standards of accountability, integrity, incorruptibility and efficiency.

In implementing the vision, we will work with our country's allies and development partners to build a prosperous state, where our citizens feel free and safe.

In order to fulfil the vision:

- We shall relentlessly uphold the values of representative democracy, built on equality and freedom, respect for human dignity and the rule of law.
- We shall promote a vibrant and fully engaged civil society, and foster a close partnership between state institutions, the private sector and the diaspora abroad.
- We shall actively pursue preparations for EU membership by 2030, pro-actively fulfilling all the necessary pre-conditions.
- We shall develop a modern and adequately funded professional defence and national security sector capable of providing for the broad national security needs.

Aspirations

The Republic of Moldova sees its future as:

- A consolidated, secure, prosperous, democratic state where all citizens can freely achieve their full potential.
- A state that provides for the basic needs of its citizens.
- A state that exercises full control over its internationally recognised territory.

- A member state of the European Union that contributes, as to its available resources, to the development and sustainability of the European project.
- A state that protects the environment and contributes to preserving nature for future generations.

Challenges: assessment, implications and imperatives

Europe is undergoing profound political, economic and security transformations that will define the future of both the continent and the Republic of Moldova for decades to come. Only through a joint and continuous effort of state institutions, civil society, the private sector and all citizens, at home and abroad, can sustainable security, peace and prosperity be ensured in the Republic of Moldova.

These national aspirations are being asserted and implemented in the most dangerous regional security environment since independence. The European continent is shaken by the biggest armed conflict in the last 75 years. Through the full scale invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Federation aims at destroying the Ukrainian statehood and nation, and subsequently - the expansion of its territorial possessions. However, Moscow's ambitions are not limited to Ukraine alone. Russia's aggressive policy has strong regional implications. Thus, its hostile actions define accelerated capacity building in the defence and national security sector as an urgent strategic imperative for the Republic of Moldova.

The Republic of Moldova has extensively experienced the effects of the Russian Federation's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. We have had and continue to have an unprecedented flow of refugees. Our traditional transportation routes have been significantly affected. These have been exacerbated by deliberate actions of the Russian Federation to weaken the Republic of Moldova, aimed at taking political and economic control of the country.

The Russian Federation has sought to carve out a military land corridor to the Republic of Moldova. It has resorted to energy blackmail, substantially reducing gas supplies to our country, in order to put pressure on the Government and the whole society. It has undertaken actions to destabilise the country through cyber attacks and disinformation campaigns, as well as actions to disrupt public order.

Similarly, the Russian Federation has meddled in the electoral processes in Moldova in order to influence or distort the outcome of the elections. In undertaking these hostile actions, the Russian Federation has often benefited from the support and contribution of its local proxies: corrupt politicians, fugitive oligarchs and members of the criminal world. The Republic of Moldova has stood up to these challenges and will continue to do so.

For too long, we have tolerated a number of vulnerabilities that the Russian Federation has exploited against us: illegal party financing, (quasi-)monopolies in the economy and media market, corruption in the justice system, limited transport infrastructure, insufficient interconnectedness to the European energy market, significant reliance of the agricultural sector on the Russian market, lack of a coherent national minorities policy, and the weakness of public institutions. It is obvious that the Russian Federation will not abandon its hostile actions against the Republic of Moldova soon. We must therefore learn to live with a high-intensity hybrid war waged by the Russian Federation over a long period of time. The Republic of Moldova must persistently develop and strengthen its immunity to hybrid security threats.

Alongside regional and national challenges, the Republic of Moldova must remain vigilant to a large number of global risks, such as climate change, pandemics, natural and man-made disasters. Climate change is the cause for the increased number of extreme weather events, which will affect our economy and citizens by disrupting farming, endangering food security and living conditions, and will impact the health care system. Awareness and preparedness for these challenges must be included in the National Security Strategy, in order to strengthen our resilience.

Concurrently, one of our most critical strategic imperatives is fighting corruption and enforcing the law. The successful outcome of these efforts is essential for regaining the citizens' trust and building strong government institutions.

From vision to reality

A strong defence and national security sector is essential to ensure economic growth and protect the national economy. Without robust defence and security capabilities, we cannot guarantee the functioning of the economy, the provision

of public services and the protection of critical infrastructure and we cannot attract and retain foreign investors or bring our citizens back home from abroad. We need peace and security so that we can plan, build, invest and reap the fruit of our work. Security must be recognised as a necessary investment that benefits everyone.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine highlights the critical need to increase investment in the national defence and security sector. For too long this sector has been mismanaged, neglected and underfunded. To deter external aggression and ensure national security, Moldova needs a modern, properly equipped, well-trained army, interoperable with external partners. To appropriately protect the country, the armed forces must be funded proportionally to the intensity of the threats we face. We need to study the military lessons of the war in Ukraine to improve the army's preparedness for military action to defend the country if necessary. The armed forces need to increase the frequency of military exercises, with the support of the strategic partners.

Civilian security sector institutions exist to protect the state and serve the public. Under the new Strategy, the security sector will focus on the needs of our citizens first and foremost, and will aim to achieve a high level of public trust. At the same time, the Republic of Moldova faces an increasing number of new threats in a complex security environment. To meet these challenges, we need to make substantial investments in the civil security sector, to ensure the professional development of the staff and ensure it is equipped with modern technologies. The complexity of security challenges and their multidimensional nature requires not only the strengthening and mobilisation of state institutions, but also synergy among them. We need to guarantee coordination, exchange of information and fast and efficient cooperation among institutions.

Settlement of the Transnistrian conflict is an important issue that requires a joint diplomatic, economic, political and social effort. In this regard, we reaffirm that there is no alternative to the peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. The Russian troops, illegally stationed in our country, must withdraw from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Moldova. We shall work towards the gradual and peaceful reintegration of the Transnistrian region into the legal, economic and political space of the Republic of Moldova. We strive to extend all the benefits of Moldova's rapprochement with the European Union to our citizens living on the left bank of the Dniester River. A political settlement, identified by diplomatic means and with the active participation of the European

Union and other strategic partners, must be sustainable, functional and in line with our country's European aspirations.

We alone cannot face the complexity of challenges, especially transnational ones. That is why we need a broad and functioning network of partnerships with the world's most advanced and prosperous democracies. One such well-institutionalised network of democratic values is the European Union.

The EU is and will remain one of the cornerstones of security on the European continent. That is why our desire to join the EU is not only about the imperatives of modernisation and economic development, but also about comprehensive security (energy, cyber, information, military).

The development of bilateral partnerships with the EU Member States is in line with cooperation initiatives at the EU level. Strengthening the privileged, extensive and multidimensional strategic partnership with Romania in the field of security and defence is essential for achieving the national goal of EU accession and for ensuring long-term sustainable security. At the same time, we shall enhance partnerships in the field of national security and defence with France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. On the European continent, we shall continue to devote energy and effort to our strategic partnership with the UK.

An independent Ukraine, being a fully-fledged member of the European family, is a key element of Moldova's national security. We shall develop a close and long-term multi-sector partnership with Ukraine. We are and will remain in solidarity with Ukraine. To the extent of available resources, we shall provide bilateral aid and diplomatic support for regional and international initiatives to strengthen Ukraine in the face of Russian military aggression.

The strategic partnership with the United States is also key to national security. We shall encourage, expand and deepen this partnership to harness its potential.

NATO is and will remain one of the cornerstones of security in Europe. We shall seek to enhance cooperation with this collective defence alliance to strengthen the capabilities of the National Army to protect our country and our citizens.

To feel secure, we must contribute to regional and international security. To this end, we aim to act as a de facto EU member state. We shall continue to

participate in Solidarity Lanes and thus contribute to global food security. We shall continue to deploy rescue teams to help countries hit by fires and natural disasters. We shall continue to participate in EU civilian crisis management missions contributing to the stability of the EU neighbourhood. We shall align ourselves with the European Union's agenda to combat climate change. We shall build a profile of an active state and a responsible participant of the international society.

CHAPTER I

Introduction

1. The regional and global security environment in which the Republic of Moldova operates is undergoing fundamental changes. In this fluid context, old-type of challenges to national security coexist with new-type threats, which are continuously growing. At the same time, the profound changes in the security environment provides the Republic of Moldova with new opportunities. Therefore, the National Security Strategy (hereinafter `the Strategy`) is a response to new both benign and malignant **trends** in the security field.
2. The Strategy provides an adaptation guide to the ever changing security environment in order to effectively combat the full range of challenges, while harnessing regional and global opportunities for the ensure sustainable pursuit of national security interests.
3. The Strategy is a **strategic orientation document** for all central and local public authorities with responsibilities in the field of national security and defence. The Strategy:
 - 3.1. Defines national security interests.
 - 3.2. Sets out the guiding principles for the efforts to promote and defend national security interests.
 - 3.3. Describes elements of the global and regional security environment that are relevant for national security.
 - 3.4. Identifies the range of threats, risks and vulnerabilities that jeopardise national security.
 - 3.5. Establishes methods and outlines courses of action to prevent, minimise or neutralise challenges to national security.
4. The Strategy addresses national security in a **comprehensive and multidimensional** way, both in terms of the diverse nature of the security challenges facing the Republic of Moldova and the variety of multi-pronged coordinated actions needed to combat or prevent them.

CHAPTER II

Security interests and principles

5. The advancement and defence of national security interests shall guarantee the existence, freedom, stability and development of the country, as well as ensure that all citizens equally enjoy favourable conditions for the pursuit of their individual aspirations, within the constitutional framework.

6. **The national security interests** of the Republic of Moldova are:

6.1. Defending the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country.

6.2. Protecting constitutional democracy.

6.3. Ensuring and protecting the safety of citizens and their property.

6.4. Social-economic development of the country.

6.5. Peaceful reintegration of the Transnistrian region.

6.6. Ensuring peace.

6.7. Fighting corruption.

6.8. Joining the European Union as a full fledged member state.

6.9. Contributing to peace and stability in the Black Sea area.

6.10. Protecting the environment.

7. **The principles** of the security and defence policy are the benchmarks that guide the efforts of the bodies responsible for state security, domestically and in relations with external partners.

8. In the pursuit of national security interests, the Republic of Moldova is guided by the following principles:

8.1. **Predictability.** The security and defence policy is based on coherence and transparency in terms of the content of national security interests and the peaceful nature of their advancement and defence. The Republic of Moldova aims to be a predictable and responsible actor in its relations with external partners.

8.2. **Adaptability.** The Republic of Moldova is committed to the development of a flexible response to the ongoing changes in the security environment,

through the continuous identification and assessment of threats and risks, as part of a proactive and preventive approach.

8.3. Synergy. The pursuit of national security objectives requires mobilisation and close cooperation among law enforcement, security and national defence authorities. At the same time, regional security and peace require a joint and coordinated effort among partners with similar visions and objectives. The Republic of Moldova will seek to develop synergy in its security relations with its immediate neighbours and global partners.

8.4. Public-private cooperation. State institutions will act in a spirit of cooperation and coordination with various non-governmental entities, such as civil society, the private sector, academia, media and diaspora. Only a joint public-private effort can ensure the continuity of the country's strategic course and, thus, sustainable and comprehensive national security.

CHAPTER III

Security environment

9. The global and regional security environment is marked by a period of **volatility and accelerating transformation**. This dynamic will require constant attention and reevaluation by state institutions in order to adjust security policies so that Moldova can counter national threats and risks in real time.

Global level

10. The following global key trends relevant for national security can be distinguished:

10.1. Great powers competition intensification. This fuels the nuclear arms race, undermines the functionality of international and regional cooperation formats, reduces the effectiveness of multilateral cooperation in combating global challenges such as non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, countering global warming, combating pandemics, fighting transnational terrorism and cross-border crime.

10.2. Slowing down economic globalisation. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine, major economic players are reviewing and restructuring their global production and supply chains to reduce exposure in critical areas to markets and producers

that pose a high geopolitical risk. Thus, international economic relations are increasingly treated through the lens of security implications, leading to the economic ties segmentation.

10.3. Acceleration of climate change. Global warming is accelerating, leading to an increased number of extreme weather events - heavy rainfall, prolonged droughts, heat waves above previously observed norms, etc. All of these have a negative impact on available water resources, global crop yields, the transport and energy sectors, as well as public health. Unless national and international action is taken, global warming might put humanity's existence at risk.

10.4. Rapid progress in the development and use of transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, quantum technologies, etc. These have the potential to significantly improve the quality of life and public, state provided services. At the same time, transformative technologies increase the destructive potential of state and non-state malign actors in the cyber, economic, informational, social and military domains.

Regional level

11. At the regional level, the following key trends relevant national security can be distinguished:

11.1. The return of high-intensity warfare to Europe. The full scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has triggered an unprecedented war in Europe in the last seven decades. This reality destabilises the entire region, directly endangers the national security of the Republic of Moldova and has numerous political, social and economic implications on the country in the short and medium term. A potential disappearance of independent Ukraine would seriously jeopardise the existence and survival of the Republic of Moldova as an independent and democratic state.

11.2. Economic decoupling of the European Union from Russia. There is a rapid detachment of the economic relationships that have been established and developed on the European continent over the last six decades. The fastest decoupling occurs in the areas of energy and transfer of advanced technology. This process, on the one hand, speeds up the transition from fossil energy resources to renewable energy resources in the European Union while, on the other hand, widens the technological gap between the EU and Russia.

11.3. Increasing the centrality of the EU and NATO. The role of the two institutions in ensuring security in Europe has expanded and will remain paramount at least in this decade. Both organisations are undergoing internal transformations that deepen intra- and inter-institutional integration and cooperation. The European Union and NATO have been demonstrating increased complementarity in providing security in Europe. At the same time, NATO continues the practice of the “open door” policy and the EU is revitalising the enlargement process by having granted Moldova and Ukraine candidate status or EU membership.

11.4. Tendency to renounce neutrality. States neighbouring the Russian Federation, with a longstanding tradition of neutrality, are giving up this stance and joining the NATO military alliance to safeguard their national security in a collective defence format. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is the main stimulus behind this process.

11.5. Insecurity in the Black Sea basin. The aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has significantly increased the level of insecurity in the Black Sea region and substantially impacted maritime economic activities, which has a direct impact on the economic interests of the Republic of Moldova. Multilateral regional cooperation formats are weakened and security issues (armed conflicts, regional rivalries, mining of sectors in the Black Sea, dangerous interceptions of ships in the airspace over the Black Sea, arms and drug trafficking, etc.) are gaining significance .

CHAPTER IV

Security threats, risks and vulnerabilities

12. The strategy **identifies** threats, risks and vulnerabilities that affect or may affect national security, with the aim of developing an effective policy to combat or prevent their occurrence.

13. In order to respond effectively to the identified threats, risks and vulnerabilities, the Supreme Security Council will conduct a **regular review of** the security situation.

14. The Republic of Moldova is facing security challenges on **several levels simultaneously**. These challenges are often interconnected, and their intensity and scale of risk are constantly evolving. A holistic approach to national security is therefore needed to counter them.

15. Vectors for proliferation of threats and risks to national security are both **within and outside the country**. There is often a symbiotic interaction between the two, which increases the danger to national security.

16. The **Russian Federation and its proxies** in the Republic of Moldova represent the most dangerous and persistent source of threat which, if not countered, can have severe effects on the statehood, democracy and prosperity of the country.

17. The Republic of Moldova faces the following **threats** to its national security:

17.1. The military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the ambition of the Russian government to create a military land corridor towards the Republic of Moldova, which would set up preconditions for immediate violent change of the constitutional order and the liquidation of our statehood.

17.2. Hybrid operations carried out by the Russian Federation against the Republic of Moldova in the political, economic, energy, social, informational, cyber areas, etc., aiming to undermine the constitutional order, derailing the European course of the country and/or disintegrating the state.

17.3. The illegal military presence of the Russian Federation in the Transnistrian region and its control over the separatist structures.

17.4. Corruption and kleptocratic practices.

17.5. Cross-border crime, in particular illicit arms and drugs smuggling and human trafficking.

17.6. Accelerating climate change as a result of the global warming phenomenon, which impacts public health and the country's economic sectors.

17.7. Environmental degradation as a result of legal or illegal economic activity, in particular affecting water, soil and air quality.

17.8. High level of poverty among the population.

17.9. Accelerated demographic decline.

18. The security of the Republic of Moldova may be exposed to the following **risks**:

- 18.1. Kinetic or digital attacks by external state actors targeting critical infrastructure.
- 18.2. Cyber-attacks targeting public or private institutions perpetrated by entities specialised in cybercrime.
- 18.3. Pandemics and epidemics.
- 18.4. Infrastructure projects in the neighbouring states that might limit access to water resources.
- 18.5. Regional or global economic crises.
- 18.6. Disruption of food supply chains.
- 18.7. Major industrial incidents or disasters in the neighbouring states involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear substances.
- 18.8. Natural phenomena in neighbouring states with cross-border impact, such as earthquakes, storms and floods.
- 18.9. Major fires due to human activity.
- 18.10. International terrorist attacks.
- 18.11. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- 18.12. Re-escalation of chronic conflicts in neighbouring Black Sea states.
- 19. The Republic of Moldova faces several **vulnerabilities**, which are or may be exploited by internal and external malign actors and which include:
 - 19.1. Insufficiently equipped army.
 - 19.2. Lack of control of central authorities over part of the sovereign territory.
 - 19.3. Limited administrative capacity of public institutions.
 - 19.4. Incompletely reformed justice system.
 - 19.5. Endemic corruption.
 - 19.6. Poor integration of national minorities.
 - 19.7. Disproportionate reliance of domestic farmers on the Russian Federation market.

- 19.8. Limited transport infrastructure and connectivity with immediate neighbours.
- 19.9. Insufficient direct interconnection with the European energy market.
- 19.10. Insufficient domestic capacity for electric energy and heat production.
- 19.11. Energy inefficiency.
- 19.12. Persistent dependence on electricity produced in the Transnistrian region.
- 19.13. Lack of a public institution with national coverage in the field of cyber security.
- 19.14. Poorly equipped public institutions with high-performance IT equipment and licensed software.
- 19.15. Excessive concentration of assets in the media market.
- 19.16. Economic and social disparities.
- 19.17. Weak institutional capacities to combat misinformation.
- 19.18. Long-term exposure of society to disinformation spread by malign actors through traditional and digital media.
- 19.19. Poorly equipped civil crisis management services.

CHAPTER V

Methods and directions of action by security areas

- 20. Given the wide and diverse range of threats, risks and vulnerabilities, the Republic of Moldova needs to embrace an **integrated and proactive** approach to ensure its national security and resilience.
- 21. The integrated approach requires institutional capacity to **combine information and analyse** the full spectrum of challenges, as well as the capacity for complementary and, if necessary, **simultaneous action** to prevent or neutralise these challenges.
- 22. The anticipatory approach involves the ability of state institutions to **foresee various scenarios** of how threats and risks may manifest themselves, and the

ability to **act proactively to prevent or mitigate** the costs of negative scenarios.

23. Without disclosing restricted information, actions to ensure national security and resilience should be accompanied by **public communication campaigns** that explain easily and comprehensively the rationale for actions, the threats or risks that are being addressed, the intermediate expected results at the end of the action or at the end of a series of measures taken. These communication campaigns must have a perpetual character.

24. In order to achieve national security interests and at the same time to combat threats, risks and vulnerabilities, the Strategy sets out the following lines of action:

24.1. National defence.

24.2. Public order.

24.3. Economic security and resilience.

24.4. Energy security and resilience.

24.5. Country's reintegration.

24.6. Cyber security and resilience.

24.7. Agri-food security and resilience.

24.8. Environmental security and resilience.

24.9. Regional and international security.

25. **National defence** measures shall include:

25.1. Long-term investment in equipping and modernising the army's supply, logistics and material base.

25.2. Updating national defence doctrine and plans, based on the lessons learned from the Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine.

25.3. Intensifying the training and improving qualifications of the National Army staff.

25.4. Preparing and gradually integrating the country into the European Union's defence structures and initiatives.

25.5. Deepening the privileged special, significant multidimensional strategic security and defence partnership with Romania.

25.6. Developing and deepening security and defence partnerships with France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey.

25.7. Developing and deepening defence and security partnerships with the United States and the United Kingdom.

25.8. Developing and deepening the security and defence partnership with Ukraine.

25.9. Advancing and strengthening cooperation with NATO.

26. Within the framework of measures necessary to ensure **public order** it is required to:

26.1. Harmonise national legislation with European regulations in the fight against financial crime, organised crime and corruption.

26.2. Allocate adequate resources, material and financial means to develop infrastructure and procure specialised equipment needed in the fight against organised crime and corruption.

26.3. Develop the civil protection system for the effective implementation of measures to protect the population in exceptional situations.

26.4. Fully integrate into European Union security and public order mechanisms and initiatives.

26.5. Build the administrative capacity of the institution responsible for tracking money flows and combating money laundering.

26.6. Strengthen institutions responsible with illicit assets recovery .

26.7. Establish and strengthen an institution with the purpose combating disinformation.

26.8. Secure state borders to combat illegal migration, human trafficking and arms smuggling.

26.9. Develop mechanisms to prevent and anticipate incidents.

26.10. Ensure an increased level of inter-institutional cooperation necessary to maintain and develop the operational capacity of the institutions in charge of crisis management.

26.11. Make the work of operational staff more efficient in order to improve prevention and immediate response capacity.

26.12. Develop and implement awareness and education programmes to increase public awareness and involvement in preventing and combating organised crime and corruption.

27. Measures to ensure **economic security and resilience** include:

27.1. Active integration into the European transport infrastructure and common market.

27.2. Multiplication and modernisation of entry and exit points to/from Ukraine and Romania.

27.3. Upgrading rail infrastructure to increase train speeds and cargo volumes.

27.4. Extensive upgrading of road infrastructure.

27.5. Ensuring access to global markets for domestic farmers.

27. Measures to ensure **energy security and resilience** include:

28.1. Harmonisation of the national legislation with European energy standards.

28.2. Increasing interconnection capacity with the EU countries in the European energy system to ensure the constant flow and multiplication of energy supply.

28.3. Securing a strategic fuel and gas reserve.

28.4. Developing and implementing energy crisis management protocols.

28.5. Expanding renewable energy production capacities (sun, wind, biomass).

28.6. Implementing an energy efficiency education and awareness programme.

28.7. Developing and deepening energy partnerships with Romania, the USA, Azerbaijan, Greece, Ukraine, Bulgaria.

29. The measures necessary for the **reintegration of the country** include:

29.1. Diplomatic action to end the illegal military presence of the Russian Federation on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Moldova and to, respectively, deploy an international civilian mission along the administrative line with the Transnistrian region.

29.2. Diplomatic action to liquidate the Cobasna ammunition depot, with international participation and under international supervision.

29.3. Develop and gradually implement steps towards sectoral reintegration of the region.

29.4. Bridge the EU accession process with the gradual reintegration of the Transnistrian region and enhance the role of the EU in the conflict settlement process.

30. To ensure **cyber security and resilience the following measures are required**

30.1. Establish a national cyber security institution.

30.2. Develop forms of public-private cooperation to ensure cyber security.

30.3. Modernise the technical IT base of public institutions.

30.4. Develop cyber defence plans for critical infrastructure.

30.5. Organise a massive cyber hygiene education programme for civil servants, students and pupils.

30.6. Organise national and international cyber defence exercises.

30.7. Deepen cyber dialogue and cooperation with the European Union.

30.8. Participation and/or alignment with EU regulations in the field of transformative technologies.

31. Measures to ensure **agri-food security and resilience** include:

31.1. Introduction of public policies to protect soils, water and biodiversity to ensure sustainable use of agricultural resources.

31.2. Advancing the cultivation of crop varieties to ensure food diversity and minimise the risks associated with single crop reliance.

31.3. Development of the agricultural infrastructure and strategic food storage systems.

31.4. Development of an efficient monitoring and early warning system for the identification and rapid management of food crisis situations.

31.5. Collaboration with other countries and international organisations to exchange information, expertise and support in the development and implementation of agri-food security policies and programmes.

32. To ensure **environmental security and resilience**, it is foreseen to:

32.1. Implement EU environmental protection policies.

32.2. Extend protected areas and improve measures to protect them.

32.3. Implement the National Forestation Programme.

32.4. Develop an integrated waste and chemicals management system.

32.5. Improve surface and groundwater quality, protect and sustainably manage water resources.

32.6. Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

32.7. Speed up the renewable energy sources transition.

32.8. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

32.9. Promote regional and international cooperation to collectively address climate change challenges, exchange best practices and expertise on environmental protection

33. To contribute to **regional and international security**, it is envisaged to:

33.1. Participate in EU civilian crisis management missions.

33.2. Align with EU positions on European Security and Defence Policy and EU sanctions.

33.3. Provide bilateral and multilateral support to Ukraine to restore lasting peace and rebuild the country.

33.4. Participate in international peacekeeping missions.

33.5. Participate in regional efforts to restore peace and stability in the Black Sea area.

33.6. Participate in international organisations and initiatives to combat cross-border crime.

CHAPTER VI

Final provisions

34. The National Security Strategy shall serve as a basis for developing the sectoral security and defence strategies, if missing, or for updating such documents.

35. Depending on the scale and speed of global, regional or national developments, the Strategy is subject to further revision and adaptation in order to improve and optimise public policies in the field of security and defence.

36. The Supreme Security Council is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy and for ensuring inter-institutional coordination. The central government authorities will inform the Supreme Security Council as to the implementation process of the Strategy. The Supreme Security Council shall in turn report annually to the Parliament on the progress achieved in the practical implementation of the National Security Strategy.