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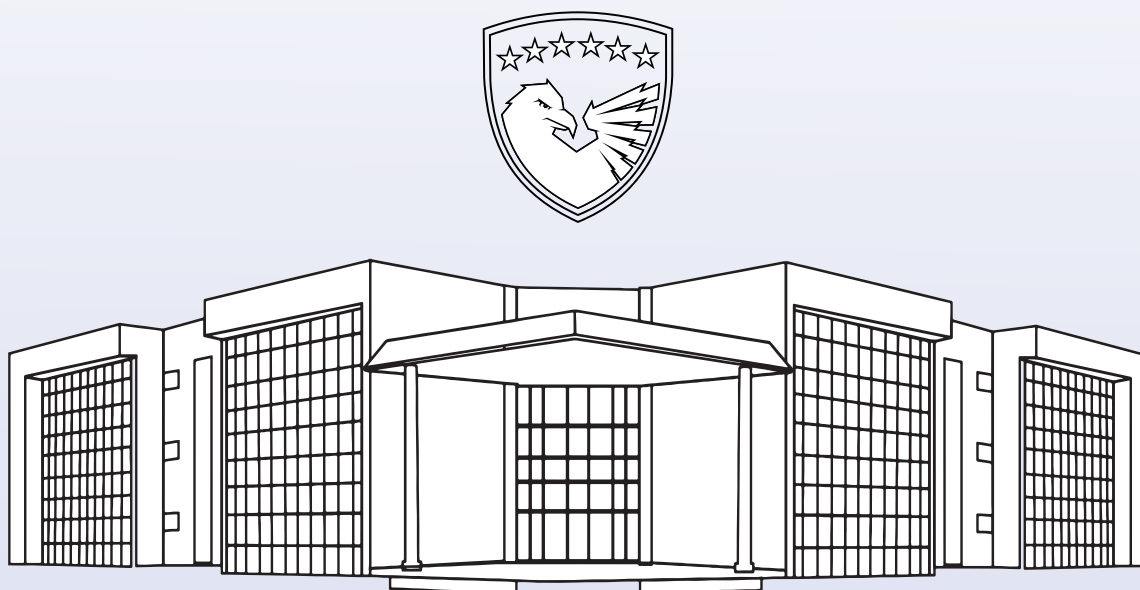


CONFERENCE KSF AND PARTNERS 2022

Mission-Defense
Vision-NATO



Prishtina, 26-28 September 2022



MINISTRIA E MBROJTJES
MINISTARSTVO ODBRANE
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CONFERENCE

KSF AND PARTNERS 2022

*Mission-Defense
Vision-NATO*



SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ARMEND MEHAJ AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE "KSF AND PARTNERS"-2022



Dear representatives of the Diplomatic Corps in Kosovo,

Partners and Friends,

With this welcoming speech, I would like to express the highest thanks and gratitude for our cooperation, partnership, and alliance to contribute to lasting peace and security in the region and beyond.

At the traditional annual conference "KSF and Partners" I would use the opportunity to say thank you to all our international partners around the world who, through their presence at this conference and their unrelenting support and continuous cooperation, have contributed to the strengthening of the KSF; while as a counter value with KFS was able to deliver with dedication, professionalism, and discipline, proving that they can contribute to peace and security at the international level as well. Kosovo is a small country but our hearts and our values are immense and to illustrate this I would simply quote Mother Teresa: ***"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love and dedication"***. Therefore, we are guided by this

approach because we want the world to be more peaceful and safer for everyone.

Dear participants,

On this occasion, we owe a special thanks to the USA and our European allies, for their irreplaceable contribution to the strengthening of the KSF as well as the successful implementation process of the "10-year comprehensive transition plan". With the highest dedication, the KSF is committed to increasing the professional and operational capacities, while as Minister of Defense I have fulfilled the promises where we have recently approved the legislative package by giving the focus to civilian democratic oversight over the military; and especially by concentrating on harmonizing the legal requirements to align our preparations in the process of Kosovo's integration into NATO.

In 2021 KSF co-deployed alongside the US Army in the first historical peacekeeping mission in Kuwait. This process required dedication, coordination with multilateral partners, and accomplishing procedures and processes, while KSF was able to deliver and undertake its duties

with dignity and professionalism. A year later, democracy was challenged in Afghanistan and many refugees had to leave their homes for a safer and better life in this challenging time. I am proud to share that Kosovo offered support and coordinated with this US-NATO-led operation offering a valuable contribution to accommodate them.

The KSF with incomparable determination continues to serve the country by guaranteeing security for all citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, without any distinction; facing every difficult situation; advancing civilian and military cooperation; and especially dedicating to advancing international cooperation to contribute to international peace and security.

In the new geopolitical circumstances, when the values of democracy have been challenged by an aggressive doctrine from Russia toward Ukraine, we remain vigilant to coordinate activities and show the highest commitment to working together with our partners and allies while looking forward to our partners to apply an integrative approach of the Western Balkans in the EU and the integration of Kosovo in NATO.

In the circumstances of growing nationalism, migration, and cyber threats, which have all recently challenged the security institutions in the country and the region, we need a joint approach. The events directly challenge democratic norms and order.

Therefore, in this forum of partners, I once again find the opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the Republic of Kosovo, to cooperation and coordination against challenging situations for international peace and security. I want to express the highest thanks for the continuous support for strengthening the professional capacities of the KSF where our soldiers have the opportunity to learn about the most advanced doctrines and bring those practices back to the country. I also want to express the highest thanks for the unsparing help and donations of equipment for the needs of the KSF; especially joint military exercises that strengthen operational capacities and simultaneously increase interoperability between our armored forces and those of the partner countries.

Once again, I thank you all for participating in the traditional annual conference "KSF and partners".

We feel incredibly blessed to have so many friends and partners; and we highly appreciate the valuable cooperation and partnership we have, with our main goal to strengthen regional stability and become an integrated part of the Euro-Atlantic Alliance.

In conclusion,

I would like to end my speech by quoting President Kennedy:

"Peace does not rest in the charters and covenants alone. It lies in the hearts and minds of all people. So let us not rest all our hopes on parchment and on paper, let us strive to build peace, a desire for peace, and a willingness to work for peace in the hearts and minds of all of our people. I believe that we can. I believe the problems of human destiny are not beyond the reach of human beings".

Dear Friends and Partners,

Thanks again for participating in this event, and we look forward to strengthening our defense partnership while we share the same vision to contribute to global peace and security.

Thank you!



SPEECH OF DEPUTY COMMANDER OF KSF, MAJOR GENERAL, ENVER CIKAQI ON THE OCCASION OF OPENING REMARKS AT THE CONFERENCE “KSF AND PARTNERS 2022”



Dear Minister Mehaj,

Dear ambassadors,

Dear KFOR Chief of Staff, BG Bozicevic,

Dear NALT Director, BG Hoppe,

Dear attaches and partners,

Welcome to the “KSF and Partners” conference. It is a pleasure for me to address you as KSF deputy Commander and to thank you and your countries for your contribution in deepening the cooperation between us. I believe that this conference helps in increasing and deepening of joint activities in increasing the KSF capabilities.

At the same time through this conference we would like to inform you with our achievements and plans for the future and the joint efforts in increasing the interoperability and to our capabilities in line with the western standards.

The current achievements and your contribution in our planning has positively impacted the tangible results we have achieved in developing KSF capabilities for which we are thankful as partner countries.

Finally I would like to wish you a good stay in Kosovo and a successful conference for all of us.

Thank you!



SPEECH OF DIRECTOR OF NALT, BRIGADIER GENERAL, JOACHIM HOPPE ON THE OCCASION OF OPENING REMARKS AT THE CONFERENCE “KSF AND PARTNERS 2022”



Dear Minister Mehaj,
Dear Deputy Minister Sylja,
Dear Major General Cikaqi,
Excellences,
Generals,
Military Attachés,
Colleagues of the KSF,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me, as Director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team, to be here with you at this very important event for bilateral cooperation. On behalf of NALT, I would like to thank you for the kind invitation and the opportunity to address this distinguished audience.

This meeting is timely, as we are all defining our priorities for 2023 and preparing for the NALT Strategy 2023 to 2025.

Let me take this opportunity to highlight and share with you some views regarding the role of my team, and our opinion on how to use and better benefit from bilateral cooperation.

As you already know, NALT is mandated by NATO with a clear mission: To support the further development of Kosovo Security Organizations through the provision of advice focusing on capacity-building, education, and training coordination.

Our goal is to shape a Kosovo Security Force which supports peace and security in Kosovo, abiding by fundamental principles of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. We are working gladly on daily bases with you to achieve this goal.

We are currently engaged in providing effective advice and support to the development of the Ministry and the KSF in



the main functions of: Strategic Leadership, Personnel, Training and Equipping & Sustaining.

In order to achieve our mission, we have developed a cross-functional approach and focused on processes – both vertical processes and horizontal general staffing processes.

This helps us synchronize our respective objectives and focus our advice on those areas which are needed most.

We have built an excellent relationship with the Ministry and the KSF based on mutual transparency and trust, and have achieved deep integration into their structures. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Minister Mehaj and your senior staff, General Jashari and other senior officers for the excellent cooperation and professionalism.

We work “shoulder-to-shoulder” with the Ministry, the KSF and other Institutions in Kosovo. I may confirm the extraordinary work that has been done and the progress that has been achieved thus far. In our assessment, this progress is primarily attributed to the dedicated work and dedication of our colleagues at the Ministry and the KSF.

However we also have to be always self-critical, as we know that there is a long way to go in order to meet all goals and we still face some shortfalls in different areas.

There is a verdict by Bernhard Shaw (an Irish/ British satirist):

We should build up ourselves by self-criticism, rather than ruin ourselves by

steadily praising our doings.

Refocusing on today's topic, the bilateral cooperation and generous support of the KSF partners, also has played an important role and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Partners for their continued support and their efforts. You have NALT's full support for your activities.

We have long recognized the fact that the goals of Ministry set in Comprehensive Transition Plan cannot be achieved without the involvement and assistance of the partners. Because of that, we consider bilateral cooperation to be important for the Kosovo and I welcome the fact that KSF Partners are growing rapidly.

Partners and NALT do not compete with each other, we complement each other.

In order to optimize the benefit of the bilateral cooperation, we need more innovative partnerships, and most important, we need to be guided by the principle of synchronized contribution. This will avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of the assistance provided.

As NALT has a pool of subject matter experts in almost all key areas and our advisors are working on a daily basis with the Ministry and KSF, we are in a good position to coordinate in this regard.

Our privileged position can therefore facilitate the Ministry and KSF's work to de-conflict partners' efforts and ensure that our collective actions in support of the MoD and KSF are even more effective.

This conference is an invaluable opportunity for Ministry & KSF and I

believe that it will make a significant contribution to orient bilateral and multilateral cooperation of the KSF Partners toward the main priorities.

I am convinced that the work will not end up here, in these two days of the conference, but will continue in daily basis of interaction with partners and you will transform these speeches into actions.

Let me conclude by stating that NALT

remains firmly committed to the international cooperation. Together, we can achieve our shared goal: a multi-ethnic, professional KSF with a solid structure which complies with international standards.

Thank you for your kind attention!

I look forward to today's discussions and I wish you success in your tasks ahead in 2023!





**CHIEF OF STAFF HQ KFOR
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN BOZICEVIC**

“As before, we will continue to support KSF participation in patrols such as the Cambrian Patrol. Also, in November there will be a landing in the Falklands of the KSF which is a good opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities of the KSF, where side by side we will demonstrate the interoperability of our forces and the preparation of the mission in Great Britain it really was a success. Also, the agreement for a liaison officer will further strengthen the cooperation between our countries”-

“KFOR has helped the medical personnel of the KSF in the past, and in the future they will find other alternatives of cooperation for peace and prosperity”



**AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,
NICOLAS ABBOTT**



**AMBASSADOR OF TÜRKIYE,
CAGRI SAKAR**

“It is highly encouraging to witness once again the steadfast commitment of our allies to sustain their valuable contributions to the peace and stability of Kosovo. As a Balkan country, Türkiye attaches utmost importance to maintain peace and stability in our region. Türkiye enjoys special relations with Kosovo and provides support to Kosovo in various fields including the defence sector. Our support has been materialised within the framework set by a number of bilateral agreements and protocols since 2008. We have been assisting Kosovo Security Forces in its capacity building endeavours”-



DEFENSE ATTACHES FROM PARTNER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE





USA



Derrick MOSLEY
Colonel
Defense Attache and Senior Defense Official
Benjamin KIM
Lieutenant Colonel
U.S. Army Attache

GER



Franz- Josef NOLTE
Lieutenant Colonel
Defense Attaché

CRO



Stjepan Domjancic,
Colonel
Defence Attache of the Republic of
Croatia to the Republic of Kosovo

FRA



Nicolas COUSSIERE
Colonel
Defense Attaché

ITA



Stefano Angioni
Colonel
Defense Attaché

HU



Gergely Nemeth,
Deputy State Secretary for Defense Policies

ALB



Altin Kurti
Colonel
Defence Attache

UK



Mathew WALKER
Lieutenant Colonel
Defense Attaché

TUR



Cagdas Akif KAHRAMAN
Colonel
Military Attache

CZECH



Radim JONAS
Colonel
Defence Attaché

NL



Erik VERBEEK
Lieutenant Colonel
NLD Defence Attaché

JPN



Saito TOMU
Colonel
Defence Attaché



DEFENSE ATTACHES OF REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE



COL Agron Bajrami

Defense attaché of Republic of Kosovo in United Kingdom

LTC Ali Krasniqi

Defense attaché of Republic of Kosovo in France

LTC Bekim Zejnullahu

Defense attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Türkiye

LTC Besim Gashi

Defense attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Germany

LTC Berat Shala

Defense attaché of Republic of Kosovo in USA

LTC Enver Hoti

Defense attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Albania

LTC Shpend Zogaj

Defense attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Croatia



PRESENTATIONS DURING THE CONFERENCE



COL Sylejman CAKAJ
DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, EURO-ATLANTIC
INTEGRATION
Presentation "INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE COOPERATION"



Mr. Faruk GECI,
DIRECTOR
DIRECTORATE FOR DEFENSE POLICY
Presentation "STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2023-25"



LTC BEKIM HALITI
CHIEF OF PLANING SECTION, DEP. G5/8 HQ KSF
Presentation "KSF DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2025"



COL EJUP MAQEDONCI
CHIEF DEP. 3/7 HQ KSF
Presentation "CURRENT AND FUTURE OPERATIONS"

THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “KSF AND PARTNERS 2022” WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

Under the organization of the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff of the KSF, the annual international conference “KSF and partners 2022” was held over two days. Led by the Department for International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integrations of the Ministry of Defense, the conference has realized the main goal and the foreseen objectives.

After the opening session with the participation of the highest authorities of the Ministry of Defense, KSF, NALT and KFOR, as well as ambassadors and senior diplomatic officials in our country, the conference on the first day continued in the session of presentations on the transition process, defense policies, international cooperation, as well as operational readiness.

The second day of the conference continued with bilateral meetings with the authorities of the partner countries separately, where the scale and execution of the annual bilateral cooperation plans was analyzed and evaluated. The main issues for the coordination and synchronization of the bilateral plans for the following one-year period, as well as the projections for the mid-term period, were discussed. In addition to work activities, the organizers of the conference took care to offer guests the opportunity to make institutional visits such as the one at the International Training Center for Search and Rescue in Pomozotin, as well as a cultural visit to the National Museum of Kosovo. According to the chairman of the organizational council of the conference, Lieutenant Colonel Beton Retkoceri, the “KSF and Partners' 2022” conference was evaluated at the highest level in terms of organization, also in the content by all participants.





CURRENT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS



IN PROGRESS



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Within the framework of the “KSF and Partners 2022” Conference, in addition to the activities of a work nature, guests from the partner countries had the opportunity to conduct institutional visits including to the International Training Center for Search

and Rescue in Pomozotin, as well as cultural visit to the National Museum of Kosovo, where numerous exhibits of Kosovo’s cultural heritage were presented.





VISIT AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE IN POMOZOTIN



THE WORKING GROUP THAT ORGANIZED THE 2022 KSF AND PARTNERS CONFERENCE

From left to right: MAJ Dedë Hiseni, MAJ Manushaqe Nura, MAJ Bexhet Shala, Ilir Mujota, MAJ Getoar Rexhepi, COL Adi Ndoni, Kimete Beqiri, Dafina Myrtaj, LTC Beton Retkoceri, COL Sylejman Cakaj, Edona Abazi, LTC Agim Beqiri, Driton Rama, MAJ Blerand Hasanaj and MAJ Mentor Ibrahim.





