

Conclusions

The coincidence of interests between Russia and the US in the fight against terrorism provides a tremendous opportunity to establish a solid foundation for future mutually beneficial relations.

What is needed to deal with threats which Russia and the West have in common is an overarching strategic cooperative framework with legal arrangements. The institution in the best place to face these challenges may well be NATO. A reformed NATO is the only institution with the real potential to counter global terrorism, instability in Eurasia and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As was recently argued by US Senator Dick Lugar: "NATO must be able to face new threats or become irrelevant".⁶⁸ This report argued that in order to meet these threats NATO needs more than an evolution of its mission and capabilities. Directly tied to its ability to counter new threats such as terrorism is its ability to create a more profitable and more equal relationship with Russia. How can the West take on counterterrorism, non-proliferation and conflict prevention without Russia? This has been the Russian perspective for some time: a new partnership is needed in which issues are not just discussed but joint decisions are taken. A reformed NATO could unite Russia with the rest of Europe and North America, help to frame a consensus and implement decisions.

The new Russia-NATO Council is a significant step in this direction. It brings Russia into NATO as a partner and promises to lead to fuller cooperation. The question now is how successful the implementation of the new council will be. NATO and Russia need to work at coordinating intelligence, research and civil defence and together create highly specialized mobile forces capable of immediate cooperation on various missions. Also, NATO and Russia now have a tremendous opportunity to act jointly in the Caucasus and Central Asia to reduce tensions and

⁶⁸ See the Washington Times editorial examining Lugar's statements. "What is NATO's Mission?", *The Washington Times*, and January 22, 2002.