ANNEX 3

Pilot Project

As a first step under the Pilot Project, the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) was commissioned by the Task Force to assess the long-term, international and domestic, political and economic contexts in which the Union is likely to operate in coming decades. The resulting EUISS report - *Global Trends 2030: Citizens in an interconnected and polycentric world* - was published in April 2012. This report centred on the likely evolution of citizens' rights, demands and expectations, rather than adopting a more traditional focus on inter-state relations. As set out in this report, there are three main global trends emerging today that will shape the world in the coming years and that can be influenced by coherent political action to help define different alternatives for the future. Notably, these three major trends were subsequently also recognised by the US National Intelligence Council, the longest-established and most influential international foresight programme, in their own recent report, *Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds*.

The three trends are:

- ***Empowerment of individuals and a rising global middle class***. The spectacular growth of the global middle class, particularly in Asia, is changing the social and political order in many emerging countries. Millions of individuals are being empowered by near-universal access to education, familiarisation with information and communications technology (ICT), and an evolution in the status of women. These newly empowered and connected citizens have more ambitious expectations for themselves and their children, demanding a greater say in their future than those of previous generations. As in almost all countries, political and economic systems face an enormous difficulty to meet these new demands, an expectations gap is emerging. In Europe, and the West in general, an empowered middle class feels threatened by the rising economic power of other regions, a strong driver of the widening expectation gap. The pressure created by this expectations gap, in most regions of the world, can lead to improvements in political structures, allowing better citizen input through democratic transparent and participatory processes; but it could also increase support for populism and extremism.

- ***Climate change and resource scarcity***. It is expected that climate change and the associated resource crunch will bring new risks and uncertainties to much of the world in the coming decades, including threats to living standards and public safety due to exacerbated water and food scarcity. This will put greater stress on sustainable development. There is growing uncertainty about energy demand patterns, international climate negotiations, the potential for 'break-through' technologies, the future use of nuclear energy and the impact of decisions adopted by major global energy actors. The severest climate impact is expected to occur in China, South Asia and the Sahel, but Europe, particularly the south, will also suffer from changing weather patterns. Climate change impacts are expected to exacerbate existing pressures on water, food, and other resources driven by global demographic changes, shifting consumption patterns, rapid urbanisation and shifting global economic power. The necessary transformation of energy production and use will bring transformational

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challenges to global production systems and the energy sector. Critical decisions taken today will be decisive and will require decades of committed follow through.

- *A polycentric world with diffusion of power.* The world is becoming increasingly polycentric as there is no single hegemonic power. At same time, we are witnessing a diffusion of power from state to non-state actors. This is generating greater freedom for new international actors and giving middle powers a more prominent role on the world stage. This trend will be accompanied by an economic shift toward Asia and China, which seems likely to be the number one economic power by 2030. Non-state actors will also play a critical role in the coming decades and participate in new forms of governance and civic action. The devolution of power to regional and local authorities will continue, particularly to cities. However, the demand for global solutions is unlikely to be matched by supply, generating a governance gap as global governance structures struggle to deliver many of the international public goods that citizens want. This gap is likely to be particularly evident when addressing economic and financial crises, climate change and resource scarcity.

In addition to these major trends, several other important changes are expected in the coming two decades. By 2030, the international security context will likely evince several, sometimes contradictory, trends. Major inter-states wars may become less likely, but regional conflicts will remain a matter of concern and a source of instability. Most rising powers, such as India, China, Brazil and Turkey, are likely to prioritise a peaceful and sustainable accumulation of political and economic power. The domestic dimension of international stability is likely to become more important, partly reflecting the empowerment of individuals. Many countries will undergo revolutions (some peacefully, others violently) as their populations seek political or economic change, or react to severe economic crisis. Non-state violence is very likely to increase. Organised crime, international drug trafficking, and criminal urban violence will be major sources of concern, particularly in megacities. Human security is likely to dominate the international agenda, and the traditional security paradigm based on the domestic and international projection of military force will be less central in the definition of strategic priorities, although it will remain relevant, particularly for new global actors in Asia.

Importantly, the international agenda will likely cease to be essentially Western-driven and will shift to accommodate the priorities of a much broader and more heterogeneous range of states and the concerns of citizens in newly-developed nations. The need for multilateral solutions will grow. The EU is an impressive and successful example of how to build and extend legitimate, peaceful and effective multilateral governance across countries, but will need to translate it into coherent international action.