

## **Address of Prime Minister of Albania, Mr. Sali Berisha**

Dear fellow citizens,

The document you have, the Strategic Defence Review, is a document of great importance, especially for the citizens of the Republic of Albania, and then for the experts, planners and suppliers of security and national defence.

The Strategic Defence Review is a contemporary analytical approach to the risks and dangers of the environment of national and regional security, which should be treated and it will be treated as a prerequisite for well-thought demands for our national defence capabilities, in the medium term, also supported and guided by the principles of the Lisbon Strategic Concept.

The strategic review of our national defence occurs after a short, but intensive period of integration reforms, since 2009, the year of NATO membership. The conclusions and recommendations of this document will accelerate the closure of the Albania's integration process in NATO, because the implementation of these recommendations will shape an efficient, interoperable Armed Force, and above all, an Armed Force of the Alliance, where collective defence is alongside the conventional defence, complementing each other.

Recommendations of the Strategic Defence Review are the foundation for the Armed Forces transformation in accordance with the growth of professionalism and fulfilment of the most advanced standards of the Alliance. I take this opportunity to congratulate the institutional dimension of the Strategic Review process, which reinforces the belief that national security and defence is implemented in coordination between relevant structures.

## **Address of the Minister of Defence, Mr. Arben Imami**

After a working period and efforts of 18 months, we present to the Albanian citizens the Albania's Strategic Defence Review document, the first document of this kind as an ally country of NATO.

It was initiated by the Prime Minister of Albania, it was formulated by teams of the best national expertise and it was supported constantly by NATO allies.

The Strategic Defence Review is a document for all: for the politicians, citizens, experts, military personnel, journalists, groups of interest and civil society, including the international community. The public edition of this document, besides the respect of democratic norms, is an expression of transparency in the field of defence.

Strategic Defence Review was initiated as a necessity to:

1. Address the new risks of security environment at the national level confronted simultaneously with the regional and global ones,

2. Creation, development and ongoing support of defence and security capabilities, capabilities which serve to the country and to the Alliance we adhere,
3. Building an efficient, well-equipped and well-trained Armed Force, under the conditions of financial constraints of the mid-term macro-economic projections.

Starting from these premises, the Strategic Defence Review process served primarily as an instrument of rational analysis as a tool in planning as closely as possible with the most contemporary methods of NATO planning.

As such, the “implementation” of SDR focused on trying to achieve a well-balanced budgeting among three components: Personnel, Operations and Maintenance, and Investment/Modernization. This balanced budget will lead, in medium terms, towards an efficient Armed Force in fulfilling its constitutional mission and obligations in the framework of Alliance’s collective defence.

Recommendations made in this document - required capacities, expected availability and dimensions of the Armed Forces - are in full compliance with the initial goal of the process, increase the capacities of the Armed Forces, balancing them with the level of ambition and financial resources.

The review process significantly exceeded the dimensions of the institution of defence. Ten other institutions were represented actively in it. Further, it was consulted with other non-governmental actors and with the civil society.

I am convinced that this review was worth to everyone, as good practice of institutional action.

I thank all the participating institutions and individuals who were involved in this very important process for the future of security and defence of our country.