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# **Kosovo Security Strategy**

**2022-2027**

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## Statement of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

As the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, I have the honour and pleasure to present the Kosovo Security Strategy, the strategic vision and the goals of the people of Kosovo and its institutions, for a secure, prosperous and stable Kosovo and at peace with its neighbours.

Kosovo has made significant progress in consolidating its statehood and internal democracy, and has embodied the highest democratic values in the culture of its people and institutions, reflected in the constitutional order and in the daily social and institutional life.

The Security Strategy, the second in a row since Kosovo's independence, recognizes the country's real security risks, threats and challenges, but concurrently offers the vision and goals for building a secure state and society, which is capable of defending itself and a reliable partner to regional peace and security, and beyond.

Kosovo is part of the European family and, as such, aims to offer all of its citizens a dignified, free, peaceful and prosperous life, where perspectives and opportunities are achievable and where institutions provide safety, security and where, together, we build and protect a lasting peace.

We aim for peace with justice and building of bridges of inter-social, inter-ethnic, inter-religious and neighbourly cooperation and understanding, rather than dividing and inciting hatred and fear. Kosovo's future is bright and secure, which is being proven day in day out with the success of our young men and women in all fields of life. And this shall be cherished and preserved.

Kosovo remains committed to facing the current challenges in the country but also to resolving disputes with its neighbours through dialogue; in particular with Serbia, as an equal party, based on the principles of reciprocity focusing on mutual recognition among states.

Peace and security in Europe cannot be guaranteed without the Balkans being integrated in the European family and in the security structures. Our strategic goal for integration in the Euro-Atlantic structures is not directed against anyone, but is directed towards the future, the strengthening of peace and security in the Republic and in the region, towards sustainable economic and social development, for the good of the state, the region and Europe.

The path to achieving these goals will be neither short nor easy, but together with our continued commitment, we will jointly succeed.

Albin KURTI

Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo



## 1. Introduction

The Republic of Kosovo, as a young state, has inherited a history which is characterised by survival and attempts for freedom. As a country in the central part of Southeast Europe, liberated after a brutal war and subsequent international intervention, it gained independence in partnership with its democratic allies.

The struggle of the people of Kosovo to be free and to live in peace was a painful and historic journey which ended in 1999. In 2008, Kosovo declared its independence as a sovereign republic, embracing its ethno-cultural diversity where all its citizens enjoy equal rights and freedoms, while as a democratic state, Kosovo makes no territorial claims against any other country. The Republic of Kosovo embodies these values and principles in the Constitution, laws, and in other state and sectoral policies and documents.

The Republic of Kosovo since the end of the war and declaration of independence has built its structure of security and defence architecture, in order to effectively and efficiently respond to the people's needs for security. Kosovo has gradually taken on its responsibilities to address challenges, risks and threats on all levels that it is facing. The country has marked a rapid development of its security institutions and is more secure and self-sustaining with a clear goal of further developing, strengthening and consolidating the security and defence sector. Kosovo contributes to global security through co-deployment missions and cooperation with the armies of allied countries.

The Kosovo Security Strategy is the country's core strategic document laying out the long-term direction of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo required to achieve the aspirations of the people of Kosovo to live in peace, freedom and democracy. The people of Kosovo and its representatives, freely elected, in coordination with international institutions and partners, will be committed to achieving the vision and long-term strategic goals of the country.

### Vision

The Republic of Kosovo aims to be a country at peace, free, secure and prosperous, by way of sustainable development, where the rule of law prevails, where culture, heritage and environment are cherished and preserved, and which is permanently committed to the promotion and cultivation

of good neighbourly relations, friendship and lasting partnership with other countries, based on Euro Atlantic values.

## 2. Security Environment

### 2.1 Global

The global security environment is characterized by instability and uncertainty, therefore, challenges, risks and threats are complex with an impact on the security of states and citizens.

In order to increase the capacity to preventing and limiting risks and threats, as well as to minimizing their effects, the responsible institutions of the Republic of Kosovo will pay special attention to the ongoing monitoring and analysis of the international environment.

The democratic system based on shared values, principles and rules has been seriously challenged recently. The traditional Euro-Atlantic political, economic and security architecture is now facing challenges which highlight a fragile world order. Authoritarian states throughout the world in their effort to consolidate and project their power, and dominate and expand their hegemony, pose a significant risk to the democratic world.

An increasingly interdependent and interrelated world requires the need to reassess traditional security concepts by increasingly focusing on human security aspects as an integral part of national and international security. Challenges which the global security environment is facing, such as the transnational criminal groups, violent extremist groups, climate change, environmental pollution, energy security, crime and cybersecurity and the spread of infectious diseases are not limited by boundaries. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that in the face of complex challenges and threats it is imperative that there is close cooperation among states and international organizations and a higher sensitivity and solidarity is required to mitigate the devastating effects on human lives, economies and markets.

Human security aspect therefore requires the need to build the capacity and capability to respond in order to prevent and manage crises, with an emphasis on building early warning systems as well as increasing available institutional resources. While climate change, environmental preservation energy security and the spread of infectious diseases continue to pose a challenge to global and

domestic security, the situation is further complicated by limited resources and their non-rational use, compounded by the need for diversification.

The emergence of conventional wars on the European continent, amplified by hybrid elements, has become the new reality posing significant threats to peace, stability and security in Europe and throughout the world. Russian unprovoked aggression against Ukraine with the intent to invade and occupy a sovereign and democratic state is the main threat, with the potential to cause a spill over effect to other parts of Europe. At the same time, the confrontation between democracies and autocracies on a larger scale and with devastating effects to the world order is much more possible. The aim of Russia and other authoritarian states, which consider international relations as transactional relations between parties, is to destabilize the democratic world via the disintegration of Western alliances. The combination of these destructive interests, combined with elements of transnational organized crime and terrorism raises serious alarms to the global security environment.

## 2.2 Regional

The global security environment affects the situation of the South-east European Peninsula, where uncertainties concerning the prospect of the integration of the countries of the region into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation have challenged regional peace, stability and security. The Western Balkans Region has been characterized by political, social and economic turbulences. Moreover, bilateral disputes driven by Serbia against the countries of the region multiply the potential for regional destabilization, which is significantly exacerbated by Russian intervention through its satellites in the region as an external factor. In addition, other challenges, such as lack of the rule of law, organized crime and corruption, lagging growth and lack of social cohesion negatively affect the security situation.

While most countries in the region have joined or want to join NATO and have a clear goal of EU integration, the Serbian state has chosen to stay with Russia, objecting to NATO membership and not aligning its foreign policy with that of EU. Moreover, Serbia has intensified political, economic, military and intelligence cooperation with Russia. At the same time, Serbian-Russian cooperation occurs in the context of Russia's ongoing efforts to weaken the order established by long standing international efforts designed to bring peace and democracy to the region, which are most recently evidenced by challenging the constitutional order in Kosovo, Montenegro, and

Bosnia and Herzegovina. Serbia's persistent lobbying efforts to prevent Kosovo from becoming part of international and regional organizations clearly demonstrate its disruptive approach to the order established in the region.

On the other hand, the increasing militarization of Serbia, whose intent is to become the regional hegemon, directly raises the security dilemma and remains an identified source of threat to both Kosovo and the countries in the region. Moreover, Serbia, as the bellicose country in the region which has involved almost all countries in the region in not too distant time period, has not demonstrated any willingness to accept responsibility for its genocidal past, which undermines efforts for reconciliation and cooperation among the peoples in the region.

Serbia's territorial claims against the Republic of Kosovo and its efforts to destabilize our constitutional order through the establishment of obstructive parallel structures within the country and abroad negatively affect relations between the two states. This type of approach increases uncertainty and poses an obstacle to integration processes. Within the framework of the European Union mediation-dialogue with Serbia, a number of special agreements have been reached, but their implementation of which has stalled, primarily due to lack of willingness by the Serbian side. Therefore, the conclusion of the dialogue in the centre of which is mutual recognition between both countries concludes the process of the establishment of long-lasting peace in the region. The Republic of Kosovo will continue its constructive commitments in improving the cooperation climate with its neighbours and, in particular, with Serbia, based on the principle of reciprocity.

### 2.3 Threats, Risks and Challenges to the Republic of Kosovo

Peace and security in the Republic of Kosovo is violated by external and internal risks and threats. As a result of dynamic global developments, the dividing line between external and internal threats and risks has become almost invisible.

The core security threat for the Republic of Kosovo derives from Serbia's territorial claims, violation of sovereignty by illegal structures supported by the Serbian state and from the active and ongoing efforts of the Serbian state to prevent Kosovo's advancement and integration into Euro-Atlantic structures, and other international organizations and mechanisms.

The possibility of a conventional military attack against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Kosovo is low, primarily due to the presence of the NATO-led Kosovo Force

(KFOR) and the increase of Kosovo Security Force protection capacities. The global and regional security environment requires that such a threat be constantly assessed and considered, because despite the fact that the potential of any military action remains deterred, Serbia has made its intervention intent clear and continuously demonstrates military means and capabilities.

Interference in the internal affairs of Kosovo by the Serbian state through the influence and instrumentalisation of the Serb community and the activity of illegal structures supported by the Serbian state is mainly concentrated in the northern part of Kosovo. Incomplete integration of this part of population is a result of Serbia's unfriendly intentions and its constant tendencies to have an impact on ruining interethnic relations. These activities aim at destabilizing and obstructing the integration processes and long-term development of the country.

The Republic of Kosovo is exposed to hybrid threats that include unconventional and asymmetric elements, influence operations and cyber-attacks the aim of which is weakening the country's sovereignty, violating its integrity and damaging the image of the country in the international arena.

The Republic of Kosovo is constantly exposed to hostile political and intelligence activities of foreign state and non-state actors seeking to damage Kosovo's national interests, aspirations and Euro-Atlantic orientation. These actors threaten the internal stability of the country, its economic development, and the security and defence sectors, and their intent is not only in gathering information, but also in disseminating disinformation to instigate confusion, incite divisions, unrests and inter-ethnic conflicts.

The implications of climate change, potential natural and manmade disasters and most importantly the deliberate efforts of state and non-state actors to compromise or take control of critical national infrastructure have been constant. Moreover, the risk increases from the implications caused by lacking advanced infrastructure, insufficient industrial development and energy instability in the pre and post-war period, challenging the further economic development and security in Kosovo. A critical challenge is lack of interoperability, coordination and communication for the emergency crises management between security sector structures and public safety.

Citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, both domestically and abroad, are potential targets for recruitment by violent extremist organizations with ethno-nationalist or religious political orientation. The possibility of terrorist attacks in Kosovo and even the use of the territory

temporarily for shelter or as a transit route by individuals, terrorist organizations or their resources would adversely affect the country's political and economic stability.

Similar to other countries in the region, the level and perception of corruption in the country negatively affects attracting foreign investment and image in the international arena. It also directly impacts economic development, effective and efficient public and state services, and significantly affects the trust on state institutions. The rule of law sector continues facing challenges although important reforms have been undertaken by institutions during the last year. While procurement, and granting of permits and licenses remain vulnerable to corruption.

Non-membership in INTERPOL and in similar international and regional security organizations has forced the state to rely on a number of complex bilateral cooperation agreements. At a time when the transnational criminal organizations make use of sophisticated technology, this situation results in delays and affects the efficiency of law enforcement institutions to effectively prevent such criminal activities. Additionally, the lack of trust of citizens on the justice system, poor results over the last decade to the successful fight against crime and corruption increases perception and affects lack of security in the country.

Slow reforms in the justice system, economic development, education, health and public administration continue to pose a challenge to meeting the current and future needs of citizens although important reforms have been undertaken by institutions during the last year, especially in the area of the rule of law. These challenges have led to periodic intervals of legal and illegal emigration in the last decade, mainly towards the developed western countries.

Facing the threats, risks and challenges which are endangering the Republic of Kosovo require increased efforts towards the continued identification, recruitment, development and retention of public sector officials and other professionals serving the state and its citizens with integrity, competence, professionalism and pride. The resilience, determination and commitment of every man, woman and child to never forget the cost of freedom requires that the state and its citizens address all challenges with honour and pride, and in partnership built on the principles of respect and professionalism.

### 3. Strategic Interests of the Republic of Kosovo

The Republic of Kosovo fulfils and protects its vital interests, respecting the principles of freedom, equality and democracy, being committed to peaceful settlement of disputes by promoting peace, stability and cooperation with other countries.

Vital security interests are:

- Protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- Upholding constitutional order and public safety;
- Human security and social development;
- Integration into Euro-Atlantic structures and other international mechanisms.

The fulfilment and maintenance of these interests are secured through the attainment of strategic objectives, which are interrelated and reflected in one or more state interests.

#### 3.1 Protection of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity

It is in the vital interest of the Republic of Kosovo to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity against all internal and external threats. The Republic of Kosovo mobilizes its entire population and uses all its military, economic and other capabilities in the defence of the country, irrespective of the strength of the adversary.

The protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity is implemented in full coordination and cooperation with the presence of NATO-led international military presence and with Kosovo's strategic partners.

##### 3.1.1 Developing and Maintaining a Powerful Defence System

Security and defence institutions are further strengthened by continuously building human, technological capacities and defence systems.

The principal function of the Kosovo Security Force is to protect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the independence of the Republic of Kosovo from the threats and risks that may arise. The Kosovo Security Force develops and maintains military capabilities for defence, mobility and manoeuvring and other combat support capabilities for the purpose of achieving objectives and accomplishing the mission.

Security and defence institutions will develop and modernize the system of active and reserve personnel, the capacities of state and defence intelligence, armament systems and other special capacities in accordance with the needs of the country.

Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, in cooperation with states and partner organizations, will develop the necessary capacities for timely identification and confrontation with hybrid threats organized and directed by hostile states, organizations, groupings or individuals.

The aim of the Republic of Kosovo is to increase the budget in the defence sector up to 2% objective of Gross Domestic Product, where budget allocations and investments for all security sectors will be increased.

The revision of the organizational structure of security and defence sector will be ongoing in order to adapt to security environment and tasks emerging in the function of implementation and preservation of the vital state interests. The Republic of Kosovo will also assess the possibility of developing appropriate reserve force model as well as that of a conscription service according to contemporary practices of Western Countries in accordance with domestic circumstances, conditions and resources.

The Republic of Kosovo is committed to support and facilitate the development of the defence industry.

### 3.1.2 Developing State Intelligence

The Republic of Kosovo will strengthen the intelligence services to consolidate a competent, professional, reliable, monitored and well-managed system. Human, financial and technical capacities as well as inter-institutional coordination and cooperation are constantly growing and developing, thus aiming for quality products, which enable the operationalization of information as well as decision-making based on accurate, relevant and timely information and analyses, as part of an integrated intelligence system. The Republic of Kosovo will continue to increase cooperation with strategic partners in the state intelligence sector in order to protect national interests.

### 3.1.3 Developing and Protecting Critical National Infrastructure

The Republic of Kosovo will improve, develop and protect its critical national infrastructure as an integral part of the protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity. The process of building

critical national infrastructure is synchronized at the state level and with the private (industry) sector, with full interoperability in both development plans and execution and monitoring.

Development plans determine the responsibilities and tasks of national institutions for cybersecurity and critical infrastructure, starting from the coordination of legal and strategic initiatives to the development of their defence capacities and functions. The focus is on developing collective (public and private) skills for information sharing, early warning capability, collective awareness and critical infrastructure protection capability. A priority is also the development of policies for the establishment of state reserves in case of crisis to cope with the crises and alleviate the consequences.

The Republic of Kosovo will invest in the field of cybersecurity, critical infrastructure, innovation and technology and capacity building - while also orienting and promoting development in relation to regional and sectoral (within the state) priorities.

## 3.2 Upholding Constitutional Order and Public Safety

Upholding public and constitutional order is a vital state interest, which will be implemented throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Kosovo. The institutions of the Republic of Kosovo are committed to strengthening the democratic functioning of institutions and respecting fundamental freedoms and rights. To empower the functioning of the rule of law, economic development and well-being of citizens, our aim will be to further improve the justice system and law enforcement agencies, strengthen citizens' trust in the justice system and reform the justice system and law enforcement agencies in consultation with civil society and its partners, such as, the United States of America, the European Union and other strategic partners.

### 3.2.1 Kosovo Police Capacity Building

The Ministry of Internal Affairs will continue to advance policies to build the capacity and efficiency of the Kosovo Police. In order to continuously reform and modernize, the Police will review its internal organization to use human resources as efficiently as possible to perform regular, special and specialised duties of the Police. As provided for in the Law on Police, the Reserve Police will be established, which could be engaged in assisting the police in upholding public order and security in exceptional or emergency circumstances. Constant investment will be made in building and developing the capacity of the Kosovo Police, providing the necessary

equipment to Police to perform its operational tasks as well as to control and supervise the state border.

### 3.2.2 Fighting Corruption and Organized Crime

The institutions of the Republic of Kosovo are committed to the effective fight against organized crime and corruption, by updating, advancing and implementing the policy framework in the field of trafficking in human beings, narcotics, weapons, cybercrime and migrant smuggling. In addition, the integrity and credibility of the Police and the judicial and prosecutorial system will be strengthened and preserved as well as the proper public-private communication and the cultivation of a culture of cooperation between citizens and law enforcement agencies will be achieved for their active participation in the system of national security. To this end, security and law enforcement institutions will strictly enforce the Law on Protection of Whistle-blowers and build capacities for their protection, in addition, a State Bureau will be established for Confiscation of Unjustified Assets. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, among others, will increase cooperation with the countries of the region in the fight against cross-border organized crime.

### 3.2.3 Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Terrorism and violent extremism remain among the main threats to global, regional and domestic security. In addition to the lives and property of citizens, they also threaten democratic values and the foundations of society.

The Republic of Kosovo will take an active part in the global fight against terrorism and its financing, and will support UN Resolution 2396, as well as partners and the international mechanisms dealing with this area. The Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo will conduct continuous analyses of achievements and will continue with deradicalization programmes, along with those for the rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign fighters and their families returning from conflict zones. In order to counter terrorism and violent extremism, the Strategy for Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism that leads to Terrorism will be drafted defining the tasks and responsibilities of institutions and their forms of interaction.

### 3.2.4 Emergency Management

Kosovo has a relatively significant exposure and vulnerability to natural and other types of disasters. Various types of natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, fires, earthquakes, rising

temperatures, as well as the presence of large amounts of hazardous materials directly and indirectly affect the level of risk and security of people, property, animals, cultural heritage and the environment. Climate changes have a significant impact on the quality of the environment and resources of the Republic of Kosovo and, consequently, on its security. In addition to environmental concerns, climate change can have significant consequences in the field of economy, mainly in agriculture, water and energy management, as well as in social change associated with security risks.

For this purpose, the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo will fully implement legislation in force on state reserves and will update it by providing the necessary reserve equipment for civilian emergencies, so that the country is able to cope with crises and emergencies that may threaten them.

Through planning and actions, according to the cycle of emergency management, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo will work to enable society to be sustainable to successfully handle all the disasters. In this regard, the Republic of Kosovo will strengthen communication and information sharing in order to improve interoperability among all state institutions, the private sector and NGOs, where among others, the natural and other disaster warning system will become operational.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs will change the current legislation and will draft a new strategic framework in order to prevent, prepare, respond and recover in case of emergencies. The Civil Protection Brigade will be established, and the number of firefighters engaged will increase in order to enhance EMA's response capacities in accordance with international standards. State Structures for Assistance and Rescue will be established and functionalized, programmes for Emergency Management Functions will be drafted and activities will be coordinated with institutions and publicly owned enterprises to increase and strengthen technical capacities of emergency response.

### 3.3 Human Security and Social Development

#### 3.3.1 Citizens' Well-being and Prosperity Domestically and Abroad

##### *Education*

The Republic of Kosovo is committed to developing a quality education system by implementing a long-term and comprehensive strategy at all levels of education and scientific research. The Republic of Kosovo will implement a strategy that integrates economic development with vocational education to urge innovation and the application of new technologies and to create a skilled workforce.

Kosovo aims to foster the primary development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a strong and broad basis for lifelong learning and well-being as well as the establishment of a system that provides accountability to all levels of the education system. Review of the offer of vocational education and training as well as quality improvement in terms of the development of transferable skills, digital skills, entrepreneurial skills and professional technical skills in accordance with the needs of the labour market and the trends of digital and the green transformation have been an ongoing process.

##### *Health*

The COVID 19 pandemic has revealed the challenges that the health system has been facing both in Kosovo and all over the world. The pandemic's effects have caused serious consequences to not only the health of the population and the health system but also to society and the economy and has highlighted that the health system needs to be addressed with a comprehensive approach.

Insufficient financial and infrastructural resources, human resources and lack of early warning and response system, coupled with new trends of medical professionals leaving the country, are some of the challenges that the health sector has been dealing with.

Therefore, the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo will reform the health system by building a comprehensive strategic approach in the advancement of health policies, which among other things, aim at improving professional medical services, and build infrastructure and human capacities. This will be achieved through the increase of the health budget as well as through the restructuring and normalization of work on the establishment of the Health Insurance Fund, as conditions for full functionalization. In parallel, work will be done on finalizing the integrated

Health Information System that regulates the patient referral system at all levels of health care and exempting from payment of premiums, co-payments and co-financing for health services.

Furthermore, capacities for combating contagious, non-contagious and rare diseases and health emergencies will be strengthened and regional and international cooperation enhanced. It will also be aimed at performing networking of Kosovar doctors in the diaspora and liaise with organizations and chambers of health professionals through a professional exchange programme.

### *Diaspora*

The Diaspora has provided a historic contribution to building a free, democratic and peace-loving country and is now a key contributor to the country's political, economic and social development. In addition, the diaspora is a contributor and promoter of Kosovo's cultural values and influences the promotion and improvement of Kosovo's representation and image around the world.

Kosovo, in cooperation with the Republic of Albania, helps preserve cultural identity of the diaspora through the development and support of professional and academic exchange programmes and language learning. By relying on the potential of the diaspora to help the socio-economic development of the country, the Republic of Kosovo also creates policies that promote, facilitate and stimulate diaspora investments in the country.

### 3.3.2 Economic Sustainability

The Republic of Kosovo develops a sustainable economy by effectively and efficiently utilizing its human, financial and capital capacities, by maintaining the economic stability and implementing policies that increase the well-being of citizens that affect the improvement of the security environment.

Institutions are seriously engaged in the continuous improvement of the trade balance by increasing the competitiveness of the country's economy and creating opportunities for Kosovar businesses in the increase of their exports. The Republic of Kosovo will welcome competition with the countries it builds fair and reciprocal relations, while imposing reciprocity and other measures to the countries that violate cooperation on equal terms and which act against the principles and rules of the international law.

### 3.3.3 Energy Security

Energy sustainability is one of the most significant issues, directly related to state security, economic development and the well-being of citizens. The Republic of Kosovo will take measures to improve the management of the energy sector, face the changes in energy supply in regional and European markets, various disasters and emergencies, outdated infrastructure, hybrid threats and cyber-attacks. The security of energy supply and the sustainability of this sector are achieved through the increase of energy production (by investing in the improvement of existing and new capacities from renewable sources), investments in (interconnection and storage) energy infrastructure, the advancement of policies and implementation measures of renewable energy, energy efficiency as well as integration into the regional energy market, as indispensable measures for the energy transition.

Improving policies for renewable resources and developing infrastructure related to the protection of the country's critical infrastructure, including provision of uninterrupted water supply from the Ujmani Lake and other alternative sources, will have a positive impact on mitigating the risk of insufficient energy generation, making Kosovo less dependent on imports and an important factor in energy flows in the region.

Improving policies and implementing energy efficiency measures is expected to have a positive impact on reducing costs and improving living conditions of the population of the Republic of Kosovo. Inter-institutional cooperation for early warning and timely communication on potential threats to energy infrastructure as well as the establishment of CERT will be of a priority in order to reduce risks.

Therefore, aiming for a long-term energy security and sustainability, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has compiled the Energy Strategy draft 2022-2031, which will set policies and measures on the achievement of cost-effective targets, while maintaining the objectives of sustainable development and opting for energy transition, in accordance with the requirements of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and the Treaty establishing Energy Community and Sofia Declaration.

### 3.3.4 Environmental Security

The Republic of Kosovo has scarce water resources and faces significant environmental pollution, damaged ecosystems and degradation of urban areas, which are exacerbated by climate change. For this purpose, the Republic of Kosovo will intensify measures to preserve and protect the environment, through the application of a comprehensive approach, which will rationalize the use of current resources ensuring their renewal.

In this regard, investments will be made in the modernization of public water supply systems, protection from pollution, giving priority to investments in wastewater treatment plants, while a special focus will be the creation of new reservoirs in existing water basins to facilitate water supply during droughts as well as to protect against floods. In addition, investments will be made to avoid unregulated use of gravel and sand from riverbeds, damage to forest ecosystems, reforestation of forest areas and the application of an integrated waste management system, including the treatment of hazardous waste. To improve air quality, further investment will be made in ensuring district heating for large urban centres, reducing emissions from industrial pollutants as well as from households.

### 3.3.5 Digital Transformation

Kosovo's ample potential to enable digital transformation due to its skilled youth and thriving businesses, will enable maximizing potential via the use of technological innovation to promote economic and social development. The digital transformation is put into operation with the encouragement and support of state institutions led by the Kosovo Digital Agenda, to be drafted by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo.

To enable digital transformation, primary efforts are focused on promotion and investment in: people, infrastructure, innovation eco-system, public-private partnerships, digitalization of services, cyber security and membership in international organizations.

## 3.4 Integration in Euro-Atlantic Structures and Other International Mechanisms

### 3.4.1 Foreign Policy

The foreign and security policy of the Republic of Kosovo are a reflection of the interest and aspirations of the people of Kosovo for membership in Euro-Atlantic structures, NATO, the

European Union and the United Nations, as the sole guarantee to long-term peace, stability and security in the region.

Kosovo will intensify its diplomatic efforts to achieve this strategic goal in full cooperation and coordination with Kosovo allies and partner countries. In this regard, foreign policy will strengthen international subjectivity, in particular, through recognition from the five European Union countries that have not yet recognized Kosovo.

Establishing and deepening bilateral relations enjoys a special role, as does joining in international and regional security organizations. The strengthening and deepening of relations and partnership with the United States of America and European allies as well as with the neighbours of the region remains at the core of bilateral relations, with special emphasis on the development of strategic partnership with the Republic of Albania.

Kosovo will align its foreign and security policy with that of the EU serving as a reliable partner and a factor for peace in the region and beyond. Kosovo is part of the global coalition in the fight against terrorism and upholds allied countries in keeping peace and stability. Increased participation in international military missions and the organized reception of humanitarian evacuation of refugees is a proof of Kosovo's seriousness in international security.

The foreign policy of the Republic of Kosovo is based on principles of justice, cooperation and good neighbourliness, peace and stability with the countries of the region and beyond. In light of this, Kosovo promotes good neighbourly relations, is committed to deepening strategic relations and regional partnership, active participation in regional organizations and initiatives that contribute to the Euro-Atlantic integration of the country and to the conclusion of dialogue with Serbia through mutual recognition.

### 3.4.2 NATO Membership

The irreplaceable aim of the Republic of Kosovo is NATO membership and integration as the mechanism that provides long-term strategic security. This will be done through strengthening diplomatic, political and military efforts and securing support from Kosovo's strategic partner, the United States and other member countries, which are part of the North Atlantic Alliance. In this regard, Kosovo's aim is to become part of the Partnership for Peace programme and a member of the Adriatic Charter in its preparations for NATO membership. At the same time, the Republic of

Kosovo is committed to reach strategic agreements for military cooperation in the field of defence with allied countries.

The Republic of Kosovo will implement the Comprehensive Transition Plan of the KSF and will direct the development of defence capacities in line with NATO policies. The KSF continues to build and develop combat capabilities and capacities for the protection of the territory, maintain and develop capacities for military support for civilian authorities as well as contribute to security through participation in military missions abroad. The KSF will develop the doctrine, standards and capabilities in line with those of NATO and will increase training activities and joint exercises with NATO countries, in order to train in interaction with their armed forces.

#### *Cooperation and Contribution to Regional and Global Security*

The Republic of Kosovo will be committed to establishing good relations with all countries in the region. The main principles guiding the Republic of Kosovo in relation to cooperation with neighbours will be mutual cooperation, equality and reciprocity. Based on strategic interests, the Republic of Kosovo will engage in building special bilateral and multilateral cooperation with those countries and initiatives with which it shares common values and goals.

The state security institutions of the Republic of Kosovo are committed to active participation in international organizations, regional initiatives and multilateral activities in the field of security in order to contribute to stability, security and peace of the region.

The Republic of Kosovo will continue to increase its participation in multinational peace support operations based on its foreign policy and the interests of its people. In terms of civilian emergencies, relevant institutions will contribute to the region by supporting civilian emergency response.

#### **3.4.3 European Union Integration**

The Republic of Kosovo is historically, culturally and geographically part of Europe, and the aspiration and the major goal of its people is integration into the European Union.

Kosovo will be advancing its relations with the EU through the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and the reform package to strengthen the rule of law and good governance, improve the competitiveness of the economy and investment climate, as well as the

education system and employment. In light of advancing the European agenda for EU integration and membership, Kosovo will apply for the country's candidate status.

Despite the progress in implementing the criteria for the visa liberalization roadmap, Kosovo remains the only country in the region that does not enjoy free movement in the European Union countries. Kosovo will therefore intensify the lobbying campaign in the sceptical states to enable free movement to its citizens.

Kosovo is also committed to be part of joint regional initiatives, especially when they encourage the European integration of the countries of the region through the promotion and cultivation of good neighbourliness, respect for the principles and values of freedom, equality, recognition and mutual respect as well as resolving open issues through dialogue as an equal party.

Kosovo will use funds provided by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III) focusing on the implementation of EU priorities for the region, provided as part of the EU Economic Plan initiative and Investments for the Western Balkans. These funds are implemented in combination with borrowings granted by credible international financial institutions in order to finance the country's priorities in accordance with the conditions, standards and practices of democratic countries, preventing the possibility of being influenced by potentially destabilizing factors.

## 4. KSS Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Kosovo Security Strategy is a central strategic document which lays out the long-term orientation of the policies and the vision of the Republic of Kosovo for the security sector. This document outlines the instruments and institutional mechanisms for the protection of sovereignty, upholding constitutional order and public safety, social and human security as well as integration into Euro-Atlantic structures and other international mechanisms in cooperation with allies and strategic partners. The Strategy has been and will be harmonized with the National Strategy for Development and other strategic documents in order to create synergy effects for achieving the expected results.

The analysis and evaluation of the Kosovo National Security Strategy is a dynamic process and will be carried out at least every two years, while it will be updated depending on global, regional and domestic security circumstances and environment and on the change of nature of risks and threats. In this regard, the analysis of the security sector review will be carried out, that will serve the purpose for the future revision of the security strategy.

In order to implement this Strategy, the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo will consolidate the state security structures through an integrative and comprehensive approach. Whereas, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation will be done by the Secretariat of the Kosovo Security Council. In addition, the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo will have a special role in monitoring the implementation of the Strategy to ensure accountability. The Strategy will be implemented through sectorial strategies. All relevant institutions are obliged to prioritize and budget the public policies in the function of implementation of the Kosovo Security Strategy.

The Secretariat of the Kosovo Security Council will draft the annual report on the implementation of the Strategy, which will contain the developments, setbacks and challenges of all institutions responsible for its implementation.

The Secretariat of the Kosovo Security Council will also develop a detailed matrix for monitoring the implementation of this strategy three months following its approval. This matrix will contain more detailed indicators based on the impact indicators included in this Strategy. The monitoring matrix will further break down these impact indicators into outcome and product indicators, in cooperation with relevant sectors.

In conclusion, the approach to drafting, implementing and monitoring of the KSS will enable sustainable national security policy planning and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo will make available all human, financial and material resources required to improve institutional efficiency, and critical and strategic thinking in the field of security, in support of decision making.

## Appendix 1: Impact Indicators

### Protection of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity

This Strategy's pillar will be implemented through the following objectives:

1. Developing and Maintaining a Powerful Defence System;
2. Developing State Intelligence;
3. Developing and Protecting Critical National Infrastructure.

On the other hand, the achievement of these objectives will be measured through the following indicators:

<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>BASE VALUE (YEAR)</b>	<b>WESTERN BALKANS AVERAGE 6</b>	<b>AIM (2027)</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>DEFENCE BUDGET AS % OF GDP</b>	1.3% (2021)	1.5%	2%	Ministry of Defence	Presents the budget for defence as percentage of GDP.
<b>IMPORT OF WEAPONS</b>	1/5 (2020)	1.3	1	Global Peace Index	Assesses the import of weapons of a country.
<b>GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY INDEX</b>	N/A (To date, Kosovo has not been included in this index)	64	WB Average 6	International Telecommunication Union	Assesses the preparation of the country through legal, technical, organizational and capacity building measures.
<b>DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS</b>	Rank 44/45 in Europe (2020)	34/45	35/45	Varieties of Democracy	Assesses the involvement of foreign governments through misinformation and campaigns as well as the country's efforts to object them.
<b>FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGNS</b>	Rank 42/45 in Europe (2020)	31/45	32/45	Varieties of Democracy	Assesses the involvement of foreign governments through misinformation and campaigns as well as the country's efforts to object them.

As has been mentioned above, the implementation of KSS will be done through sectoral strategies. For this pillar, the Defence Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo and the State Strategy for Cybersecurity will have special importance.

### Upholding Constitutional Order and Public Safety

In terms of this security interest, it will be ensured through the achievement of the following objectives:

1. Kosovo Police Capacity Building;
2. Fighting Corruption and Organized Crime;
3. Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism; and
4. Emergency Management.

The progress in the achievement of these objectives will be measured through the following indicators:

<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>BASE VALUE (YEAR)</b>	<b>WESTERN BALKANS AVERAGE 6</b>	<b>AIM (2027)</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>SECURITY (IS ASSESSED FROM 1 TO 5, THE LOWER THE VALUE THE BETTER)</b>	2 of 5 (2020)	1.9	< 2	Global Peace Index	Assess the country's security by focusing on the level of crime, terrorist activities, and violent demonstrations, relations with neighbouring countries, the political scenes and refugees.
<b>RULE OF LAW</b>	5.5 of 10 (2021)	5.9	> 6	Bertelsmann Stiftung	Presents the assessment of where Kosovo stands in terms of rule of law, based on the justice independence, prosecution and human rights.
<b>ORGANIZED CRIME INDEX</b>	5.19 of 10 (2020)	5.88	6/10	Organized Crime Index	Analyses the human trafficking situation, drug trafficking, weapons trafficking, flora and fauna, and government efforts.
<b>PERCEPTION TO CORRUPTION</b>	39/100 (2022)	38	45	Transparency International	This index collects data from a number of sources providing perceptions of businesses and experts to the level of corruption in the public sector.

<b>CONTROL OF CORRUPTION</b>	Percentile 48 (of 100) (2020)	38	55	World Bank Governance Indicators	Consists of perceptions to the extent to which public power is used for personal gain, as well as the state capture by elites and private interests.
<b>GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX</b>	0.29/9 (2022)	0.09	0	Global Terrorism Index	Assess incidents, fatalities, injuries and property damage from terrorist activity.
<b>RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS</b>	174 of 360 (2020)	N/A	140/360	The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery	Assesses the country's preparedness to face an emergency situation by analysing the legal, institutional and information framework as well as equipment and personnel.

Achieving the targets in this area will be done through a number of sectoral strategies and especially through: Strategy for Rule of Law, Strategy against Organized Crime, Strategy against Corruption, Strategy against Terrorism, Strategy against Narcotics Trafficking and Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## Human Security and Social Development

Human security and social development will be improved through the achievement of the following objectives:

1. Citizens' Well-being and Prosperity Domestically and Abroad;
2. Economic Sustainability;
3. Energy Security;
4. Environmental Security;
5. Digital Transformation.

<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>BASE VALUE (YEAR)</b>	<b>WESTERN BALKANS AVERAGE 6</b>	<b>AIM (2027)</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES (% OF GDP)</b>	21.60% (2020)	40.20%	35.00%	Kosovo Agency of Statistics and Central Bank of Kosovo	The indicator represents the value of all goods and services exported, compared to GDP. This indicator presents the country's competitive position. Exports include the value of goods, cargo, insurance, transportation, travel, fees, license fees and other services such as communication, construction, financial services, information, business, personnel and government.
<b>INTENSITY OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION - GHG (CO2E KG/GDP)</b>	1.36 kg/EUR (2020)	N/A	1.00 kg/EUR (2020)	Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency	The indicator illustrates the amount of GHG emissions generated per unit of GDP. Greenhouse gases (GHG) are a group of substances that contribute to global warming. They include carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), sulphur hexafluoride (SF6), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and many other compounds.
<b>PISA RESULTS</b>	Reading: 353.1; Math: 365.9; Science: 364.9 (2018)	Reading: 402; Math: 414; Science: 408	An increase of 5% in Reading, Math and Science	OECD	Results in the PISA test, of OECD in reading, math, and science. Content: basic understanding of the material; Progress: more complex thoughts, such as interpretation and analysis; Context: the application of knowledge in real life situations.
<b>EMPLOYMENT RATE</b>	Total: 29.3%; Women: 15.9%; Youth: 12% (Q1 2021)	45.40%	54%	Kosovo Agency of Statistics	The employment-to-population ratio also known as the employment rate is the percentage of the working-age population of a country, which is employed.

<b>LONGEVITY INDEX IN HDI</b>	73 (2019)	77	75	Ministry of Health	The number of years that a new-born baby would live if the prevailing mortality rates at the time of baby's birth remained the same throughout his life.
<b>THE POPULATION RATE REPORTING A FORM OF LACK OF MATERIAL</b>	44.1% (2019)		20.0%	Kosovo Agency of Statistics	Percentage of family members living in households deprived of three out of the nine dimensions: Cannot afford: 1) To pay rent or utility bills, 2) To keep the house warm enough, 3) To afford unexpected expenses, 4) To eat meat, fish or protein equivalent every other day, 5) one-week holiday away from home for all family members, 6) car, 7) washing machine, 8) TV and, 9) telephone.
<b>THE SYSTEM AVERAGE INTERRUPTION DURATION INDEX (SAIDI) OF ENERGY</b>	80.83 or 62 min/year (2021)	N/A	<50 min/year	Ministry of Economy	The indicator represents the average duration of interruption per customer during the year. It is the ratio of the annual duration of (stable) interruptions to the number of customers.
<b>PERCENTAGE OF ENERGY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES TO THE TOTAL CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY</b>	25.69% (2021)	26%	35%	Energy Community and EUROSTAT	Represents the percentage of energy from renewable energy sources, from the overall total energy consumption of a country.
<b>NETWORK READINESS INDEX</b>	N/A (2022) (1-100)	45	50	Network Readiness Index	The indicator represents a country's readiness for digitalization starting from the individual, government and economy.

The objectives of this field will be implemented through sectoral strategies, focusing on the following: Sectoral Strategy for Employment and Social Welfare, Strategic Education Plan in the Republic of Kosovo, Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo, Sectoral Health Strategy, National Emission Reduction Plan and Sectoral and Multimodal Transport Strategy.

## Integration in Euro-Atlantic Structures and Other International Mechanisms

This vital security interest will be achieved through these strategic objectives:

1. Strengthening Foreign Policy;
2. NATO Membership;
3. EU integration.

<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>BASE VALUE (YEAR)</b>	<b>WESTERN BALKANS AVERAGE 6</b>	<b>AIM</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES</b>	3/5	N/A	2/5	Global Peace Index	The indicator assesses the country's efforts for good neighbourliness. It also assesses the approach of neighbouring countries.
<b>THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THERE KOSOVO IS PART</b>	International organizations: 16 Semi-independent international organizations: 14	N/A	>25	MFAD	The indicator represents the number of international organizations to which Kosovo belongs.
<b>NATO MEMBERSHIP</b>	Preparations for membership (2022)	All with the exception of Serbia and BiH	NATO member	Government of Kosovo	The indicator presents the current and targeted situation for the NATO membership process.
<b>EU MEMBERSHIP</b>	Preparations for membership application (2022)	All countries of the region enjoy the status of the candidate country	Candidate country	Government of Kosovo	The indicator presents the current and targeted situation for the EU membership process.

The implementation of these objectives will be done through strategies such as the Foreign Affairs Strategy, and the respective plans for NATO membership and EU integration.