



Editorial

POLITICAL ANALYSIS AND CORPORATE SECURITY UNIT

ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

GLOBAL

The new strategic concept of NATO and its global implications

REGIONAL

The new ideological politics in Latin America

LOCAL

Expectations and challenges of the government of Gustavo Petro in Colombia

The new strategic concept of NATO and its global implications

On June 29 and 30 in Madrid, Spain; The most powerful political-military alliance in the world, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), agreed on a new strategic concept that will guide the decisions of the organization in the next decade. This concept is disclosed at a time when international logics present notable changes and events take place that put the capacities of the West, where the most notable is the war between Russia and Ukraine, a confrontation that has exceeded one hundred days. In this way, NATO presents some strategic elements for its projection and leadership in the face of various threats and effects on international stability.

The war scenario in Ukraine, the Russian threat to Europe, the strategic position of other actors of interest to NATO such as the People's Republic of China and new postures against cyber defense and terrorism mark a new concept, in addition to the considerations for entry of new members, such as Sweden and Finland¹. This document was approved by the thirty leaders that make up the alliance. Historically, there have already been eight strategic concept documents adopted by the organization since its creation, five of these being focused on the Cold War era².

Delving into the specific considerations of the document, the organization defines the Russian Federation as "the most significant and direct threat to the security of the allies and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic

The NATO command sees the actions and phenomena resulting from terrorism in Africa and the Middle East as threats to its security

1 <https://www.france24.com/es/europa/20220629-turquia-finlandia-suecia-veto-otan>

2 <https://www.unav.edu/web/global-affairs/conceptos-estrategicos-de-la-otan-los-predecesores-de-madrid-2022>



zone"³, it also points to China, for the first time, as a country that poses a challenge to the security, interests, and values of NATO members. For the alliance, China makes use of various political, economic, and military devices to increase its global presence and project power, while maintaining secrecy about its strategy, its true intentions and ensuring a constant accumulation of military power⁴. Likewise, NATO considers the weapons capacity of countries such as North Korea, Iran or Syria to be a threat to global stability.

On the other hand, the document also asserts the condition of cyberspace as an object of constant dispute and the implications that cyberwar scenarios entail, for which the organization considers it pertinent to adapt the information structures and improve the cyber defenses of the member countries. Finally, the alliance does not ignore the phenomena attributed to hybrid wars and now considers them direct armed attacks on its members, so the alliance would respond together to this type of aggression. In turn, the NATO command sees the actions and phenomena resulting from terrorism in Africa and the Middle East as threats to its security, where it has grown enormously to the point of controlling regions and possessing powerful war technologies.

This change in strategic language is significant in its unity and the way it seeks to deal with other powers and threats, where countries like Russia and China are challenges to its existing interests. This is because the concept presents a much more global and not strictly formal approach, a situation caused by the concern of the leaders and commanders of the alliance about what the Russian invasion of Ukraine implies in political and strategic terms⁵. In turn, this concern seeks to actively strengthen the three tasks that NATO fulfills with its allies: deterrence and defense; crisis prevention and management, and cooperative security⁶. This clash of interests between global powers puts in the direction of the dispute between liberal values against autocratic ones, because Russia and China are countries with authoritarian regimes, so the way in which these societies see the most suitable policy comes into play can become a struggle from the perspective of international power⁷.

3 <https://www.elperiodico.com/es/internacional/20220629/concepto-estrategico-otan-claves-13965292>

4 <https://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/06-29-2022-otan-redefine-concepto-estrategico-que-incluye-amenaza-de-china>

5 <https://elordenmundial.com/que-es-concepto-estrategico-otan/>

6 https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/otan-cumbre_puntos-esenciales-del-nuevo-concepto-estrategico-de-la-otan/47713964

7 <https://www.elviejotopo.com/topoexpress/aproximacion-al-nuevo-concepto-estrategico-otan-2022/>



The secretary general of the alliance, Jens Stoltenberg, pointed out that NATO will increase the number of troops on high alert by more than seven times, that is, to more than 300.000 troops, in the midst of what he characterized as "the most serious security crisis" since the Second World War⁸. Poland would be the headquarters of the fifth corps of the US Army in Europe, in addition to having a military presence in Romania and Great Britain, in order to protect nerve centers and maintain a constant and effective policy of deterrence. With this, the alliance will test its new concept in Europe and maintain a renewal and enhancement of the elements of the concept such as crisis management, collective defense, technology, and geostrategic imperatives⁹.

On a geopolitical level, the alliance is particularly interested, in addition to the Ukrainian scenario, in the Indo-Pacific and its strategic logics, being considered in its new concept as the two conclusive scenarios for global geopolitics¹⁰. The development of NATO's new strategy has corresponded consistently with its past strategies, which have always sought to adapt to global situations, which are constantly subject to change¹¹. With the alliance's concern for scenarios outside its natural orbit such as the North Atlantic and Europe, in the Indo-Pacific region, there is much more direct competition with China for control and hegemony in this area, which has become the global geostrategic focus.

⁸ <https://www.vozdeamerica.com/a/nuevo-concepto-estrat%C3%A9gico-otan-/6638723.html>

⁹ <https://www.elsaltodiario.com/analisis/aproximacion-nuevo-concepto-estrategico-otan-2022>

¹⁰ <https://www.politicaexterior.com/el-nuevo-concepto-estrategico-de-la-otan-novedades-y-prioridades/>

¹¹ <https://www.bloomberglinea.com/2022/06/27/que-esperar-del-nuevo-concepto-estrategico-de-la-otan/>



The new ideological politics in Latin America


In recent years, Latin America has presented a new wave of leftist governments, in a situation where the political pendulum swings again. Not counting the authoritarian lefts of the region such as Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua. It was in Mexico with Andrés López during 2018 that a gradual shift in the governments of Latin America towards the political left began, generating a change of political power in the region. This new wave, unlike the first of the years 2000 and 2010, seems to be more consolidated. The triumph of the left in these countries is due to various events such as the management of the pandemic, economic problems, the increase in inequality in the region and the governance problems of traditional right-wing governments¹². The leftist governments in Latin America do not present themselves in the same nuances and differ in specific agendas and interests. Latin America presents populist, progressive, social democratic and socialist lefts. Similarly, the main difference between these is shown between the democratically elected governments that for the time being have respected the fundamental rules of democracy and the lefts that have usurped democracy in their countries¹³.

After a decade in which the left was strengthened in the region between 2005 and 2015, Latin America turned to the right. Particular cases are that of Uruguay, a country that had fifteen years of left-wing government with José Mujica and Tabaré Vázquez, and which later elected Luis Lacalle, declared right-wing president in the 2019 elections. This situation also arose in Ecuador after the governments of Rafael Correa and Lenin Moreno. Although the latter broke ties with Correa, Ecuador elected the right-wing government of Guillermo Lasso in 2021. Brazil presented a much more complex scenario due to the ouster of Dilma Rousseff in 2016 and the provisional government of Michel Temer. After this, the Brazilians voted for the former army captain Jair Bolsonaro, who declares himself to be on the extreme right¹⁴. However, despite these triumphs, right-wing governments were hit by the pandemic and political crises, mainly in Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, and Chile, allowing left-wing political parties and candidates to take great advantage or triumph.

¹² <https://www.dw.com/es/una-nueva-ola-de-izquierda-avanza-en-am%C3%A9rica-latina/a-62196558>

¹³ <https://www.dw.com/es/una-nueva-ola-de-izquierda-avanza-en-am%C3%A9rica-latina/a-62196558>

¹⁴ <https://expansion.mx/mundo/2022/06/20/paises-de-izquierda-america-latina>



The economic situation in the region and the frustration of its population make democracy appear fragile and facilitate the manifestation of populist governments, which often do not maintain stability between the separation of powers of the State structures. This is even more affected due to the caudillismo that most Latin American governments present: Fujimorism, Correism, Chavism, Castroism, etc¹⁵. In this case, the Latin American left took advantage of the discontent towards the traditional politics of some countries and took over the spaces of power that were ceded due to the political weakness of the right-wing governments. The victory of Gustavo Petro in Colombia and the possibility that Ignacio Lula da Silva will come to power in Brazil in the elections in October, reinforce the presence of the left in the region almost entirely. It should be noted that with Colombia and a future Brazil under a leftist government, the Lima Group, the main body of pressure against the Venezuelan authoritarian regime, will have a definitive end¹⁶; releasing more pressure on the government of Nicolás Maduro.

A particular case would be to wait for the development of relations between Latin America and the United States. In the Trump era, although the former president ignored the region and only visited it once, he was lucky to coincide with presidents who favored the United States in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Ecuador¹⁷. Although the Democratic government of Biden has presented itself more flexible towards the left in Latin America than the Republicans presented themselves with Trump, it may happen that the new governments begin to apply an anti-American logic and approach countries contrary to the interests of Washington. such as Russia and China, a situation that has been applied by Bolsonaro's Brazil.

15 <http://centroestudiosinternacionales.uc.cl/medios/4325-gira-america-latina-a-la-izquierda>

16 <https://www.paginasiete.bo/ideas/america-latina-gira-otra-vez-a-la-izquierda-que-tipo-de-gobierno-hara-petro-BB2982120>

17 <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/opinion/america-latina-gira-izquierda-nid2576163/>

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Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic structurally affected Latin America and devastated economies that already had serious problems, but the weakness and inability of right-wing governments to intervene in the needs of the population had begun to cause the region's new political inclination before of the pandemic.

Corruption scandals, problems in infrastructure, employment, health, and education had generated problems in the countries of the region and their citizens were already beginning to have doubts about the effectiveness of their governments and public institutions¹⁸.

The new wave of the left in Latin America will make the reinvention of the traditional parties in the region and a new political composition for new possible actors who wish to dispute power in the countries, if the democratic institutions are not intervened by these new governments¹⁹.

18 <https://www.nytimes.com/es/2022/01/04/espanol/latam-izquierda.html>

19 <https://theconversation.com/el-colombiano-gustavo-petro-incrementa-el-poder-de-la-izquierda-en-america-latina-185449>



Expectations and challenges of the government of Gustavo Petro in Colombia

On August 7, Gustavo Petro Urrego will take office as the forty-second president of the Republic of Colombia, an event that will cause various reactions in the country but above all will leave many questions about what the new government will be like and what situation Colombia will have in the next four years. Petro rises to power in Colombia as part of the new wave of leftist governments that rise to power in the region, the most representative cases being Mexico, Peru, Chile, Argentina. Almost in unison, the region has swung to the right since the mid-2010s, when commodity prices plummeted to some of their lowest levels in the 21st century, devastating Latin American economies, which remain heavily dependent on from the export of raw materials²⁰

With the new left-wing government in Colombia, the expectations of how Petro will behave in power have been the subject of debate. Although Petro has already been in the Colombian institutionalists in various political positions, the most representative being his mayor of Bogotá and the congress, there is concern about the possibility that the democratic rules of the country will be affected. In this sense, it is worth analyzing in which political left the new government intends to position itself in the region²¹ Although Petro has presented an ambivalent position with authoritarian governments such as the Venezuelan one, he has also presented himself as much more moderate and conciliatory than other leftist leaders since he was elected.

²⁰ <https://www.opendemocracy.net/es/america-latina-gira-hacia-izquierda-nuevamente/>
²¹ <https://www.dw.com/es/una-nueva-ola-de-izquierda-avanza-en-am%C3%A9rica-latina/a-62196558>

The first steps that Petro has taken as president-elect have been in the process of calling for a national union against all political forces



In this way, it seems that the new government would be more linked to a democratic left that respects human rights, more likely to the left of Lula Da Silva or Gabriel Boric than to that of Maduro or Ortega²². Petro has much more progressive overtones and is linked to the demands of groups such as indigenous and Afro-descendants, as well as political ideas focused on climate change²³. The circumstances and alliances of Petro to achieve governance in Colombia, in addition to the system of separation of powers, could force him to distance himself from many ideas of his supporters, and even his own, taking a more pragmatic position, in addition to the Colombian context tends to be much more conflictive and complex compared to other countries in the region due to security and drug trafficking issues²⁴.

The first steps that Petro has taken as president-elect have been in the process of calling for a national union against all political forces, even his staunchest opponents, in order to have governability and launch legislative initiatives. The new congress installed on July 20 has legislative majorities in favor of the current government²⁵, so that Petro will have the opportunity to carry out initiatives almost at will in the first year, where the most heard have been the tax reform, the comprehensive rural reform, the anti-corruption political reform, the regulatory adjustments for peace, the ministry of peace, policies for security and coexistence and the ministry of equality²⁶.

Despite Gustavo Petro's attempt to end oil exploration and coal production, these 'commodities' will be necessary to have sufficient funds for its projects, so it is expected that Petro will not affect these sectors in the short and medium term, something detrimental to the country and its government²⁷. However, his projects focused on an agrarian reform, health system and pension system²⁸ generate fear due to the possibility of creating changes so drastic that they could endanger the relative stability of each of these systems if they are intervened without sufficient bases to be treated.

22 <https://www.elpais.com.co/politica/con-el-triunfo-de-gustavo-petro-colombia-gira-a-la-izquierda-sus-efectos-en-la-region.html>

23 <https://www.elpais.com.co/politica/con-el-triunfo-de-gustavo-petro-colombia-gira-a-la-izquierda-sus-efectos-en-la-region.html>

24 <https://www.elpais.com.co/politica/con-el-triunfo-de-gustavo-petro-colombia-gira-a-la-izquierda-sus-efectos-en-la-region.html>

25 <https://elpais.com/america-colombia/2022-07-20/gustavo-petro-logra-a-ultima-hora-la-mayoria-en-el-congreso.html>

26 <https://www.infobae.com/america/colombia/2022/07/20/gustavo-petro-afirmo-que-las-reformas-deben-hacerse-el-primer-ano-conozca-los-proyectos-que-cuentan-con-apoyo-en-el-congreso-de-la-republica/>

27 <https://www.larepublica.co/especiales/especial-elecciones-presidenciales-2022/estas-son-las-expectativas-de-los-analistas-y-los-retos-economicos-del-proximo-presidente-3387462>

28 <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-61861055>



Together with these policies, fiscal policy and the position towards economic development generate uncertainty. The appointment of José Antonio Ocampo²⁹, professor of economics at the University of Columbia (USA) and his profile as a pragmatic and responsible economist partially calmed the concerns of the markets. However, the future finance minister must execute an ambitious fiscal policy and establish an environment of confidence in the economy. Petro has made it clear that it seeks to establish higher progressive taxes³⁰, therefore, an irresponsible fiscal policy can cause great damage to the economy, so the position and actions of the new finance minister are key so that the country does not have fears regarding the management of the economy³¹.

In addition to the finance and economy issue, another ministry and complex issue for the new government of Gustavo Petro will be the country's defense and security. Petro recently appointed Iván Velásquez Gómez, a former assistant magistrate of the Supreme Court,³² as defense minister. Although Velásquez Gómez's journey has been presented in the legal field, DD. HH and investigations on crimes linked to drug trafficking, he is someone almost totally alien to the dynamics and logic of the defense sector.

29 <https://www.elespectador.com/economia/macroeconomia/quien-es-jose-antonio-ocampo-ministro-de-hacienda-de-gustavo-petro/>

30 <https://www.radionacional.co/actualidad/economia/gustavo-petro-cambios-en-materia-economica>

31 <https://www.portafolio.co/elecciones-2022/como-ven-el-proximo-gobierno-de-petro-jp-morgan-responde-567176>

32 <https://www.elespectador.com/judicial/el-exmagistrado-ivan-velasquez-sera-el-ministro-de-defensa-de-petro/>



Gustavo Petro lacks a strong position within the Armed Forces, due to his background as an M-19 guerrilla and the clashes he has had with members of the public force, mainly with the general and commander of the National Army, Eduardo Zapateiro³³. As a result, the expectations of this appointment may generate the impression that Petro does not have trusted people to strengthen its relationship with the country's defense sector, hinting at a future tense relationship that may endanger the complex security and defense scenarios of the country. since a correct development of the strategic needs cannot be expected if there is not total trust between the maximum commander of the Armed Forces, who is the president, and the military forces.

In turn, Petro has proposed resuming the peace talks with the guerrillas of the National Liberation Army (ELN), detained by the Government of Iván Duque, in addition to offering the submission of other organized armed groups³⁴. Petro, in turn, seeks to withdraw the National Police from the defense ministry and incorporate it into the justice or interior ministry, to demilitarize this element of the public force, for which the country's public force and security and defense will present changes that can handle an uncertainty of greater difficulty than the economy itself.

³³ <https://www.elpais.com.co/colombia/duro-choque-verbal-entre-gustavo-petro-y-comandante-del-ejercito.html>

³⁴ https://www.elconfidencial.com/mundo/2022-07-08/colombia-vive-la-expectativa-del-cambio-a-un-mes-de-la-investigacion-de-petro_3457257/

CONCLUSIONS:



1. With the development of the new strategic concept, NATO seeks to rise to the threats and obstacles of its international interests, so the new document establishes the priorities and strategic imperatives of the alliance in the next decade. The interest of the alliance in Eastern Europe and Russia, but mainly in the Indo-Pacific region and China, has made the alliance develop an approach that leaves its natural geopolitical zone, which is Europe. This change in the geostrategic interests of NATO and the recognition of China as a new threat will make the Pacific region the focus of global confrontation, so the interest of the great powers, awaiting the end of the war in Europe, the movements of Asia and the scene of its movements are under supervision, so Taiwan would be the possible future Ukraine on the international power board.

2. The new wave of leftist governments in the region, caused by the discomfort of the population of several countries and international circumstances such as the pandemic, has made Latin America gather new governments that seek a change that the population demands from public institutions. However, despite the triumph of the left in the region, Latin American politics continues to present itself as a pendulum, where the party or candidate who knows how to interpret the needs and seek solutions, often populist, can win over his people and return to pull the pendulum according to ideological interest. In this way, if the leftist governments of the countries fail to establish a correct political strategy and intervene in the problems of the region, they will lose power due to the change of the pendulum, unless they decide to become authoritarian leftists and are not willing to hand over power, a situation that clearly happened in Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua.

3. The incoming government of Gustavo Petro presents great challenges when he takes office on August 7. Various economic problems such as the affectation of investor confidence, the rise in inflation and unemployment, in addition to discussions related to the independence of State institutions and fiscal policies that do not affect the development of the national productive apparatus, are the greatest concern, for which Petro will put at stake his ability to govern and all the representation of the country's political left. On the other hand, the issue of the country's security and defense could be quite a complex challenge for the next government, due to the distrust of the Armed Forces towards the new president and Petro's difficulties in interpreting the needs and interests of the defense sector, so it is expected that the country may present strong difficulties in this regard.

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