The Transformation of the Security
Environment at the beginning of the XXIst Century

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Abstract: The current security environment is characterized by a high degree of instability and unpredictability, by the manifestation of new risks and threats, by redefining relations between the great powers and increased freedom of action of regional factors. The evolution of global security in the last decade, has confirmed that the success of actions and the stability can only be the result of a multidimensional cooperation of the international community, through emphasizing the dialogue in an institutional framework and activating the decisive role that the great international organizations play in defining the state of security of the world.

Keywords: security environment; global security; international organizations

1. Introduction

In this complex, dynamic and turbulent world, the main confrontation is between fundamentally different values, between democracy and totalitarianism, and it is determined by the major aggression of international terrorism of extremist religious source, structured in cross-border networks, against democratic countries of the national political forces of the States engaged in democratization process.

The world at the beginning of the century is characterized by instability, uncertainty and conflicts, all amid a galloping process of globalization. The aspiration of training and consolidating a new international democratic order in the political and economic relations system between countries and peoples became remarkable with the end of the bipolar period. However, the urgent need to change the world is far from being complete, being burdened by other more stringent challenges. Thus, the old problems of the contemporary world such as the uncontrolled demographic growth in some regions and dramatically aging of the population in others, poverty and lack of food, reducing reserves of energy sources, environmental degradation, etc. worsened and had unexpected effects until recently. In addition, new ones have appeared. Terrorism, proliferation of weapons

of mass destruction, organized crime represents a threat requiring action, other than those before the 90s. Enhancing crises and regional and local conflicts caused mainly by ethnic, religious, territorial or ideological causes imposed the development and perpetuation of non-military means of settlement, being the last desired military instrument. The perpetuation of such threats resulted, of course, the expansion of military operations types.

Facing with international terrorism, the totalitarian regimes or development of weapons of mass destruction, the armies of the world understood, especially after September 2001 the importance of translating their own forces, professionalization and modernization being the main priorities to meet the new challenges.

2. Defining the "Security"

In the case of the emergence of new risks, danger and actual threats to national and international security, as the ethnic clashes, economic transition in former communist states, increasing the number of immigrants and refugees, increased environmental degradation, increasing the importance of cultural and religious affiliation in international relations, the integration in the European and Euro Atlantic structures of Central and Eastern European countries etc. (Katzenstein, 1996)*,* the security concept acquires new values and thus it leads to the reconsideration of the different theoretical approach of various statements that have tried to define it over time. In this respect, starting from the concept of ***positive peace***, as set out in Johan Galtung, (Galtung, 1975, pp. 109-134) and ***stable peace***, of Kenneth Boulding (Boulding, 1978) and the definition of Walter Lippmann, published in 1962 in the study "*Discord and Collaboration. Essays on International Politics*" (apud Buzan, 2000), which states that" a nation is secure to the extent that they are not in the danger of having to sacrifice essential values, if it is desired to avoid war and, perhaps, when challenged, to maintain them, achieving the victory in war", the definition of security has undergone many changes, as follows:

• Ian Bellany writes that "security in itself, is a relative absence of war" combined with a newly introduced psychological factor, represented by "a relatively strong belief that no war that would take place would not end with a defeat";[1]

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[1] Bellany, Ian (1981). *Catre o teorie a securitatii nationale/Towards a theory of national security*, apud (Buzan, 2000).

• Laurence Martin emphasizes the economic dimension: "the Security is the future welfare"[1]. In the 60s, the welfare was seen as unproblematic and direct result of economic growth, but further economic and social theories have refuted this assumption, considering equally important the cultural and psychological factors;

• illustrating the linguistic explosion the studies of the '80s and '90s, Ole Waever defines security "as what is called the speech act in theory of language ... asserting itself represents the act ... Saying "security", a state representative shifts from particular to a specific area, claiming a special right to use all necessary means to block this development"[2];

• during the Cold War, the security was defined in military terms, thus reflecting the main concerns of the two opposing blocs;

• in the near future, the scope of the concept was broadened, including the non-military dimensions: political, economic, social, environmental one.

The summarized definitions merely highlight some of the security features, but none of them seems to be complete.

These were generated over time by different schools of thought that researched security, the main trends being: positivism, constructivism, postmodernism and the Copenhagen School, whose representatives - Barry Buzan, Ole Waever and Jaap de Wilde - are adepts of broadening the scope of the definition of security. They offer an operational constructivist method which involves on the one hand, the traditional incorporation of principles, and on the other hand, the elimination of artificial border between security and economics. Thus, the security studies should focus on identifying, locating and evaluating the most important measures of "security" initiated by the main actors of social life.

Today, the modern concept of security includes five cumulative factors, the security of a state entity, being ensured, if there are taken into account the following five components: political security, military component, the economic, societal and ecological component.

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[1] Martin, Laurence (1983). *Poate exista securitate nationala într-o epoca nesigura?/ Can there be a national security in an uncertain era?* apud (Buzan, 2000).
[2] Waever, Ole (1989). *Securitatea ca act de vorbire: analiza politica a unui cuvânt/ Security as a speech act: policy analysis of a word*, apud (Buzan, 2000).

3. International Security Environment - Developments, Prospects

Security environment is a reality represented by the conditions favorable system, internal and international, environmental, social, economic, military, diplomatic, political, and cultural information where it exists and operates any human community. It represents the space where it is manifested the security / insecurity, both at individual, group, state, regional, regional and global level. Security environment has a complex structure and its evolution depends on many national, regional and international factors.

The international security environment can be defined so that the whole world conditions that allow the development of life and human activity in all its organizational forms, without the people's fear that their life and property, their existence and evolution would be affected. Meanwhile, the international security environment can be seen as the result of the interaction and interdependence of regional security environments. (Duţu, 2007, p. 84)

In the evolution of the achieving security process in the recent years it shows an increase in efforts to build the regional stability, as an intermediate stage. The efforts of the international community for restoring peace in the Balkans, Middle East and Africa are conclusive. It was obvious the expansion of NATO defense and security system, by receiving new members and the EU efforts to develop a security management dynamics continent-wide. In this context, the many security problems that the states have proposed to address have lead to the increase of the number and volume of international organizations. The results of their work were relevant: have decreased the dangers and threats, although have not been eradicated the armed conflicts. The main areas of uncertainty were included in the process of stabilization, but not always the results were as expected. The effects of globalization began to be felt.

World economy, after a considerable period of reflux, seemed to revive, but since the second half of 2008, the major financial and economic markets entered into a world financial crisis and then the economic one, that resembled with the one from 1929 to 1933 and expanded in 2009 globally, with more unpredictable consequences.

The transnational threats (terrorism, migration and drug trafficking and strategic materials, organized crime), taking advantage of the permeability of borders, are more likely to spread on a worldwide level. Differential access of states to resources affected the relationship between them. *Although the number and the*

extent of conflicts that had at their origin territorial disputes have decreased, the diversified ways of solving by force the disputes of ethnic and religious nature have increased. (UNAp, 2004, p. 7)

The progress in science and technology with military application have led, on the one hand, to the polarization of the latest technologies in countries with developed economies, enabling them to prepare a war of generation IV (definition); and on the other hand, to got out of hand the arms trade and the NBC means. The instability of the transition period, which is crossed until a stable security system, will reflect on the coming years as well. Key drivers of instability will remain the same. If there will be no conditions and circumstances or a concentration of power achieved by an agreement between worlds' states that would reduce the sources of the existing instability, the world order trend will not lead towards a safer world. *The mixture of incoherent policies and strategies and hesitant in the field of security, proposed and developed by international actors and specialized institutions, the current aspect of the security environment will not be changed to better.* (Alexandrescu, 2004)

Now all worlds' countries face other type of threats and security risks, but also of the entire international community.

4. Defining Characteristics of the Current Security Environment

Currently, the world is characterized, in terms of security, through a set of defining features, (Duţu, 2007, p. 89) as follows:

• **emergence or configuration of transnational phenomena**

The landmarks as the notion of nation-state or state border seem to disappear or no longer have the same meaning. We assist in the proliferation of non state actors that are observed on the international scene going far beyond the concept of borders. For example there can quoted the multinational enterprises, cross border network of communications, lobbying and pressure groups, NGOs and non-stated armed actors, a category that regroups particularly the armed struggle movements, terrorist networks, and the transnational criminal organizations;

• **globalization**

This phenomenon, which in the economic domain it is translated by interdependence and market integration, has led to a specific evolution of the

power relations at global level. They are not only of political and military nature, but increasingly more of economic and media nature. In this context, the concept of enemy, ally and partner are becoming more and more ambivalent. Thus, military ally is at the same time a competitor in the economic sector. Here we can cite as an example, the relations between the U.S. and European Union in the economic background, but also the military and political relations between the U.S. and European Member States, both of North Atlantic Alliance and the EU. *If in the security area and that of collective defense the relations are very close, close in cooperation and understanding, in the economic domain the relations are of a different nature. In this sector, there are involved rivalry, competition, struggle for conquest and maintenance of markets with a large number of constant consumers.* (Duţu, 2007, p. 89) Globalization, among the processes that lie at the near and average horizon, will generate multiple tensions that will influence, and not always positively, the international security environment. The fragmentation and integration, localization and internationalization, centralization and decentralization are only few of the situations that can cause insecurity. So globalization is not only a direct and easy road to peace and stability, the ongoing phenomenon being able to create many moments that would threaten the existing security at certain levels and time periods. It creates a new context for expression of power held by the states. Regional and international institutions, local governments and non-state actors, especially cross-border corporations and some major non-governmental organizations, will use the tools of globalization to fight against nation-state monopoly on power. Part of the power is transferred to specialized international organizations (e.g. fight against terrorism and organized crime is becoming an unwanted component, but necessary to globalization), and some of the power is distributed at local level. In the great order that it builds, the national governments and the non-state actors, motivated not only by the economic issues, but also those of power (domination in the region, control of resources to obtain advantages in relations with neighbors), will lead to direct threats to regional and international peace and security. The mechanisms and international institutions, until the achievement of full globalization will act asymmetrically. Thus, in economic terms, globalization will be achieved in a much more accelerated pace, considering the progress made by the many existing international institutions and their development prospects. *In contrast, the institutions and security arrangements will remain, on one hand poor and vulnerable to any changes in the international environment. The proof is the current inability of international actors to perfect and respect the sustainable security standards, which do not generate armed*

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conflicts such as those known in Serbia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. (Alexandrescu, 2004) The development of new security structures impose to strengthen the regional cooperation instruments to reduce or even cancel the existing threats and prevent the emerging ones. *From this perspective, regional alliances and arrangements will remain features of the future international policy, even if they will adapt to new circumstances.* (Flanagan, Frost, & Kugler, 2001, p. 21)

• **technological advances and their consequences**

The progress in transport and telecommunications domain has led to an effective reduction of distances between different regions of the planet, the emergence of "global village". Compressing time and disappearing the distances induces a shortening decision cycles. Another fruit of technological progress takes the form of revolution in business and its branch, the revolution in military affairs (RAM). By RAM it is understood the means of integration in the military structures improved for management information systems, of evolved sensory equipment, and more precise weapons systems, with the greatest range of action and deadlier (without taking into account the other technological advances).

• **Highly sensitizing the public opinion**

The public opinion, driven by the information received in real time and live through the media, it is now very active and responsive, both to inform people and to "punish" leaders, persons (heads of state and government) or institutions.

• **dominance of asymmetric threats**

They are the most frequent and intense and they take the form of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, cross-border organized crime, urban violence, the cyber-attacks.

• **the existence of active or latent armed conflicts (frozen)**

These include the following:

the armed conflict between Israel and Palestine - basically, almost the entire Arab world directly or indirectly involved in this conflict, which has a strong negative influence on the strategic security environment;
conflicts in the former USSR (Chechnya, Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia, Transnistria);
Africa, where the armed conflicts both interstate and intrastate meet;

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the "frozen" armed conflict between India and Pakistan in Asia;

Intrastate armed conflict in Colombia, where legitimate armed forces are fighting with state legal paramilitary organization loyal to drug cartels.

• **emergence of global civil society**

This is a remarkable phenomenon with a significant impact on strategic security environment. The proliferation of NGOs is one of the most visible translations. The global civil society is based on developing a system of shared values, presented as being universal. *This model came with a "unique thinking" which, beyond the paralyzing look, can sometimes determine political leaders, especially in times of crisis, to give up to media and sensibility pressure on the count of reasoning and effectiveness. The made decisions can then be considered as adequate, but, in fact, prove to be counterproductive, even as a source of aggravation of the situation that he wanted to solve.* (Duţu, 2007, pp. 90-93)

5. Threats to Security Environment

Threat, in general, it may be a risk which became reality, that is a risk of passage between the latent state of potential danger to an active state, which effectively act on its manifest object. In other words, *the threat is the real danger of a specific area of human activity.* (Duţu, 2007, p. 102)

• **Political threats**

Most of political threats are directed against the rule of law in a state or the status of an international body and they can be achieved by:

pressure on decision-making bodies in favor of certain policy;

overthrowing the government of a state or collective management bodies of an international body;

developing and enforcing secessionism; destroying political structure; political isolation;

suspension or exclusion from the security structures, dismantling of security body, etc.

Threats to the national identity involve the "mother" state's attempts to strengthen the similar ethno-cultural identities within the Member concerned, in order to come out from their national specific context. The purpose could be:

the increase of target state government difficulties to govern;

federalization against the national will;

encouraging secessionism;

preparing the way for annexation of some territories by the neighboring state.

The political threats may have ideological or national feature and they can be intentional and structural.

The structural threats stem from the evolution of the global social system where certain entities may become obsolete in the whole of bilateral relations. They occur when the two main organizing states contradict each other, in a context where they cannot ignore each other. Recently, the structural threats can be based on some incompatibilities between different supranational structures and the states within.

The range of political threats is constantly filled with new forms and techniques. Mitigate them is an ongoing activity that requires appropriate methods and joint action. But, above all, the state of political stability characterized by a competitive and regulated political participation, open systems recruitment of the executive powers and independence of the states' power, substantially reducing the vulnerabilities upon which the threats can be directed. Thus, the state becomes credible, which attracts interest and investment as a source of economic development.

• **Social threats**

The aspect of social threats and its objectives are very close to the political ones. Many times in history, in the relations between states, the social external threats developed into attacks to the national identity, involving them directly into politics. However, most social threats have power within states. They occur due to social discontents of any kind.

Not solving or delaying the settlement of labor disputes, inter-ethnic or inter-confessional conflicts represent as much sources of threat to the national security. Under the conditions where the Social Security depends on the states' capacity to support traditional structures of language, culture, ethnic and religious identity, threats to these values are derived, mostly from outside the state, being able to be used inland as well. Understood as a feature of the current security environment, the growth of ethnic-religious conflicts in nature has determined a much careful approach of this field.

Multidimensional analysis of such confrontations has led to the elaboration by the international community of some strategies and tactics to solve emerging or

ongoing conflicts. Their main feature is the continuous improvement and constant adaptation to the sources of instability. *Thus, there are searched and often it succeeds that the tension sources, and thus the social threats to national security with direct implications on the international one would reduce significantly.* (Alexandrescu, 2004)

• **Economic Threats**

In a market economy, the normal situation of the participants is one of risk and uncertainty, caused by the competition to ensure progress and national prosperity. With all its imperfections, the market is still the most efficient mechanism by which it is safely obtained the increase of productivity, production, distribution and consumption. In order to achieve them in the market there are eliminated the inefficient actors. Thus the uncertainty generated by the game market is a fertile ground of a substantial package of economic threats. They can take many forms, of which most of them are not considered threats to national security.

The gravity of threat content of economic nature and the moment where they become disturbing factors of national security, they can only be established by the policy makers.

Dependence relationship of the military capacity to the economic one arises from the laws and principles of armed fight. From this perspective, where strategic raw materials depend on imports, threatening security of supply can be classified as a national security issue of the involved State. Political power is dependent on the state's economic basis and it affects the relations with other partners. *The economic decline may be due to internal causes, such as managerial incompetence and external causes, such as the emergence of new economic rival powers. The historical records present an endless list of increasing or decreasing powers.* (Mc Neill, 1982, p. 74)

Through the political and military implications, the relative economic growth of a rising power may be perceived as a threat to the national security - Paul Kennedy believed that "increased military expenses to counter the emerging power of a rival would simply increase the speed of its economic decline." (Irimia, 2002, p. 198)

Draining them by the poor nations, while maintaining a high rate of demographic population growth and some modest economic growth, will cause large migration flows, generating new sources of tension and conflict, great threats to global stability and peace.

A special case is that of Islamic nations, facing with deteriorating the living standards, much of the Muslim young people embracing the principles of Islamic fundamentalism. For the poor and less educated, or with a fundamentalist Islamic education, there were insufficient job opportunities to enable them to participate actively in companies or to lead a decent family life. This segment of the population found refuge in mosques that promoted Islamic fundamentalism, finding here the dignity in the practice of religion.

In the case of Islamic fundamentalism the secular government, tolerance, individualism and citizenship freedoms promoted by the Western civilization are unacceptable. The materialistic culture of the Western world is considered disrespectful to religious values and the democracy, human rights, gender equality and sexual freedom are considered heretics of Islamic traditions. (Barna, 2005, p. 42)

In the case of conservative religious populations, such as Islamic nations, the religious leaders are regarded as true opinion makers, and a feature of Islam is to divide the world into two well defined worlds, being in permanent conflict. This contributed to the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism, which considers the Western civilization as colonizing and imperialist.

Given the permissiveness of Western countries, a large percentage of Muslim population has emigrated in the search of jobs and good education facilities. However, due to high percentage of unemployment existing in the European countries, the population received them with some reserves, not accepting them into society, this attitude creating propitious conditions for terrorism and followers recruitment by terrorist groups. Religious terrorists perceive their actions as defensive, and the Djhad means a defensive doctrine of fighting the aggressors, in its most violent form, being justified as a last means of defense to prevent extinction of the Muslim community identity.

The popularity of which the religious terrorism enjoys, and the large number of followers, is explained by the Muslim admiration for martyrs, especially for those who die trying punishing the enemies of Islam. Committing such an action has valences of moral purification, the terrorist considers as being the chosen of God and thus legitimizing the religious violence. In this sense, the terrorists from the attacks of September 11 have imagined, probably, that will follow the path of the Prophet. *Moreover, the fundamentalist terrorism believes that only a transcendent purpose which fulfills the purposes of the universe, can justify terror and it evokes*

and associates divinity with this process. So, mentally speaking, the meaning of the religious fight is viewed in antithetical terms such as faith against unbelief, order against chaos and justice against injustice. (Pentilescu, 2008, p. 364)

• Military Threats

Until recently, military threats were perceived as the main type of security threat. The situation is understandable because the force action was the only force that could cause irreparable damages, for the organizational basis of the States concerned and the existence of their population. The use of force breaks peaceful relations between international actors and the end diplomatic recognition. Competitiveness common in the political, economic and social sectors is replaced by the military competitiveness and dramatic finalities.

The multiple, destructive and often irreparable consequences of military threats were the main concerns of the security specialists. Disproportion of the existing military potential is likely to disturb some countries or groups of states and it causes important asymmetric reaction. The channeling of military accumulation towards solving the historical problems between states explains the disproportionate emphasis placed on the military component of security, even during the current period where the threats in other areas present higher and closer danger.

The military sector has an independent dynamic development, even in countries where the civil control over the military is effective. Since military capacity is still a reality whose existence is crucial, for supporting and promoting the states in the international environment and strengthening the national security, which, in the case of joint alliances, the confusion can easily arise by the signs that the States generates continuously. The fear of defeat causes states to provide the armed forces at the required parameters for rejecting the effects perceived as threats. When the GDP of a country suffers from a significant and increasing military budget allocation, we appreciate that the situation tends to destabilize the strategic balance in that area, seriously threatening not only the national but also the international security.

Direct threats have different ways of expression: from harassment by those belonging to some states outside the national borders, to raids and incursions into its territory; from blockade and air or naval interdiction zones in demonstrations of force to mobilization of border troops, actions of the special forces and diversion of research within the state target. (Alexandrescu, 2004)

• **Terrorism**

This plague of XXIst century, by the degree of its danger, requires priority treatment because it is felt equally by countries of the world, due to drastic reduction of their security status. The effective combating of international terrorism involve: the maximum use of financial instruments to stop the flow of funds, substantial border cooperation, the exchange of information freely with all partners and the standardization of national and international law.

Although it is hard to accept by the civilized world, the phenomenon of terrorism has become a reality with global implications difficult to prevent and manage. It is no longer only a small criminal act, produced under the despair to some development of the social system. Now it has established as a claim against the rule of law, very violent and carried out outside and against the international norms.

With the military means and based on elements of psychological warfare, the terrorism seeks obtaining benefits exclusively for sect groups, taking of the so-called religious precepts, in fact slogans taken out of the darkness of history, seeking to stop the natural course of human society towards freedom and prosperity. The clashes between terrorists and security forces are sporadic, sometimes spectacular, conducted in the presence and with the sacrifice of peaceful population. The used weapons are a mixture of cybernetics, high-tech and media crafts. *The technical progress has made available to associated individuals destructive capabilities that once were destined for only governments and armies.* (Alexandrescu, 2003, pp. 135-139) Thus, the scourge of terrorism represents a serious threat to security.

International community response against terrorism encompasses the entire range of actions (political, diplomatic, economic and military), directed towards both causes and especially the effects. (Centre for Defense and Security Strategic Studies, 2004)

Almost without exception, after September 11, 2001, the international community has formed around the U.S.A. the antiterrorist coalition aimed at eliminating terrorism as a social phenomenon. The first major meeting of forces in history can be understood as a reaction of self-defense for all and a form of expression of the rule of law in difficult situations, amid efforts of eliminating the causes of world frustration of the civilized world.

The North Atlantic Alliance has established its own Action Plan against Terrorism, which was approved at the Prague Summit (November 21, 2002). (NATO, 2003, pp. 87-93) Compared with NATO, the EU lacked a coherent strategy to combat terrorism, having no means for this purpose. The terrorist attacks on March 11, 2004 in the Spanish capital stations showed vulnerability to the protection system of Western European states.

The terrorist threat with high potential of dangerousness will persist in this region until it will be achieved an effective harmonization of policies on issues of terrorism, human trafficking, drugs and weapons, corruption, money laundering and organized crime. (Coolsaet, December 2003 - January 2004, p. 38)

In the same sense, the NATO Summit Declaration in Bucharest in Chapter 15, recalls: "We condemn in the strongest terms all acts of terrorism, whatever their motivation or manifestation way. Our nations remain determined to fight this scourge, individually and collectively, as long as it is necessary and in accordance with international law and UN principles. Terrorists use a variety of conventional weapons and tactics, including asymmetric tactics and try to use weapons of mass destruction to threaten the international peace and security. We consider being of great importance the protection of our populations, territories, infrastructure and forces against the consequences of terrorist attacks. We will continue to develop and contribute to policies to prevent and combat proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to prevent access and use by terrorists. We will also continue to support the work program in order to develop advanced capabilities to help the defense against terrorist attacks, including through further development of new technologies. We remain committed to strengthening the Alliance's ability to exchange information on terrorism, especially in the support of NATO operations. Our Alliance provides an essential transatlantic dimension to the response against terrorism and our nations will continue to contribute to full implementation of UNSCR 1373 and other relevant resolutions, in particular UNSCR 1540 and to the wider efforts of the international community in this regard. Dialogue and cooperation, as appropriate, with other international organizations and with our partners are essential, and we welcome the efforts to revitalize the PfP Action Plan against terrorism. We reiterate our commitment to Operation "Active Endeavour", our maritime operation in the Mediterranean, which continues to make a significant contribution to the fight against terrorism".

• **Corruption and economy**

The new relations of the world generated by the race for achieving greater political and economic facilities and rapid enrichment, as manifested especially in young democracies, tend to generalize on a worldwide basis. The negative side effects of globalization in economic and political event offer plenty of opportunities for corruption and black market development. The situation creates a source of threat to political stability, as it affects the economic security of citizens; it cancels the right to participate with equal access to community problems. All this makes it lose confidence in politics. The frustrations will turn into action on the rule of law, which may take different forms.

• **Organized crime, trafficking in persons, drugs and strategic materials**

From some assessments presented at the recent specialized conferences held worldwide, it was showed that the underworld economy is the second business worldwide. (Chifu, 2003, p. 34)

The events are clear in presenting places on the globe where the cross-border crime ensures political control through the financing election campaign and corruption. Experts highlighted as a main current security threat the unification of three pillars at global level:

Illicit trafficking (human beings, weapons, strategic materials, drugs, cigarettes);
Crime and money laundering in the underground economy;
Terrorism.
Presence and the concerted action of the three elements threaten to take control in many places of the world. Seen at the global level, the cross-border crime could become a political instrument and a vector of domination and control on important areas. *Combating such threats can begin by determining the heated minds to give up their actions and, using the whole arsenal of methods available to the international community, bringing them to the respect of world order.* (Alexandrescu, 2004)

• **Ecological Threats**

Global security is a concept generated by the relationship between environmental conditions and security interests. This became a catalyst for socio-political stability in international facets. It occurs mainly in the security equation especially in the critical moments of social development. Thus, when environmental degradation coincides with the presence of a state of insecurity of a region or country, the

ecological threat is here. Animosities occur, absent before, between residents of different areas or between groups (ethnic, religious), generated from pollution or shortage of natural resources. The environmental changes, especially when they are not desired or when creating unilateral advantages, affect the system security. In certain circumstances, such threats can become causes of military confrontation (water distribution, excessive pollution, destruction of flora and fauna).

2200/XXI/16.12.1966 UN Resolution states that the states have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources of the national territory, according to national policy in the environment domain, and have a duty to ensure that their activities within their jurisdiction do not harm the environment in other countries.[1]

Otherwise, the cross-border nature of such threats and can be the cause of unmanageable conflict situations very hard to handle. In conclusion, ecological threats will be perceived at their fair value until future years, when large areas of Earth will reach to be uninhabitable.

• Information Threats

The cyberspace, where information flows no longer belong to states but become a universal good. Any touch of this area, invisible, in fact, but without which the progress cannot be conceived, is a threat with universal meanings. Unlike traditional threats, the information security threats require fewer resources and counterattack techniques easily hidden and concealed. They allow a high rate of improvement and diversification, difficult to follow and evaluate. In fact, this is why the estimates on information threats are dependent of the human factors, with full involved subjectivity and uncertainty. Information is vulnerable at all stages of obtaining, storing and disseminating them. This easement may be compensated by insurance coherent programs of insuring the vitality of cyberspace.

In the coming years, the importance of cyberspace will determine the awareness of protection not only by governments but by private companies and individuals as well. This combination will lead associating users in order to reduce vulnerabilities, combating and eradicating threats against cyberspace.

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• **Cross-border threats**

Current sources of security threat differ fundamentally from those of the end of the last millennium. Speech and action of the international community is continuously adapting to the new realities. The challenges are not confined to military conflicts between states, but are likely more complex. And there appeared alongside the state actors, the non-state actors or parastatal. Hazards, although latent, often got out of our attention, can generate insecurity with severe consequences on Earth's crust and its inhabitants. Although they are not explicit, they generate more diffuse threats and therefore more difficult locating and controlling them by traditional means. Such threats cannot be analyzed only geographically, firstly from the functional perspective. They are usually transnational in nature, they can be managed by only one country or one group of countries. It is therefore the need of a new, integrated, multidisciplinary, approach that would combine policy, economic, financial instruments, and a strategy of using new technologies and an appropriate organizational structure to respond effectively to the asymmetric threats, a main feature of cross-border threats.

6. Conclusions

In the tomorrow's world, the states affirm as important players of a security environment different form the past one, and it depends on how people, nations and world political leaders will create those institutions able to defend and, especially, to promote these values.

The double enlargement of NATO and the EU has determined the increase of the attention area and the fight against organized terrorism, which will result in a not too distant future, to the reduction of the threat of this kind on the continent. From this perspective, the strategies of the two organizations were targeted primarily at combating threats newer or older, originating outside their premises, paying particular attention to new borders resulting from the enlargement. Such a frontier area borders with the extended Black Sea, a bridge between Europe and Southeast West and Central Asia. This is the most direct way of access to Europe, of Caspian strategic resources and a two-way road; on one hand the use of trained terrorists on the territory of insecure territories and on the other hand the anti-terrorist coalition forces for their annihilation on the operation theaters and the bases from Central Asia and Extended Middle East.

The threats, dangers, risks and vulnerabilities in one place or only one part of them are acknowledged differently by the world's states, located in the same area. The sensitivity generated by the historical issues, the level of economic development, military power, hegemonic ambitions, fundamental national interests, membership or not to functional military alliance give meanings, nuances and national or group particularities. Thus, the national security can be provided either by reducing vulnerability or by preventing or reducing threats. This determines the orientation of the national security strategy that can focus inward, trying to reduce vulnerabilities of state or towards the exterior, allocating forces and means to act directly on the sources of threat.

The current threats to security differ essentially from those that poisoned the international relations a decade and a half ago. They no longer address directly and brutally the states on the other side of the Berlin Wall and of the North-South economic demarcation. Now the threats are more complex in nature. The current situation requires the use of new techniques of counterattacking, more appropriate to the specific circumstances.

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