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NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE USA

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1. **ABSTRACT**

The National Security Strategy of the USA is a document of the highest level, in which the presidential administration reflects its vision of the world, evaluates the opportunities and threats that derive from the external context, and enunciates in a very general way how they are going to be confronted, always with the final aim to preserve the national interests, among which it is included to continue being the leading nation of the globalized world.

With these principles, and taking into account the stable character of the national interests, no radical changes can be expected in the successive editions of the document, even when there is a change in the White House between the two main parties. Nevertheless, it is possible to identify some modifications, which are very representative of the different vision of the world of both administrations.

In that sense, the NSS 2010 assumes that the national security of the USA begins inside its own borders, so it gives a higher importance to the internal initiatives than the previous strategies. The base of the American power is the economy, and its recovery and the prosperity of the society should be based on the investment in education, science and innovation, the transformation of the energetic model to reduce the dependence of external sources, and the reduction of the public deficit.

In any case, the document does not forget that the main responsibility of the US government is the protection of the American population. Consequently, the promotion of the US values is still an aim, but with a different approach on how reaching it. The first thing that the USA must do is to give moral example, with a clear reference to the rejection of any type of torture and to the firm intention to respect international law. Abroad, it is assumed the difficulty of imposing models of government to other countries, and the elements of the so-called "smart" power (comprehensive vision of "soft" and "hard" power) are prioritized as the most suitable approach to promote democracy, freedom, and human rights.

In what concerns the traditional questions related to security, it is established as a priority goal to do the nation more resilient in front of any type of threat, as well as to be more capable of reacting in emergency situations. In the exterior, the controversial concept of the "global war on terror" is abandoned, to be substituted by the concrete fight worldwide against Al-Qaeda. Due to the risk represented by the networks of international terrorism obtaining weapons of mass destruction, the initiatives against their proliferation are

bolstered. Besides traditional threats as failed states and transnational crime, new risks are contemplated as cyber threats, energetic dependence, climate change and pandemics.

Finally, it is very significant the change in the vision of the international order in the NSS 2010, when compared with that of the previous administration. Though, of course, it does not discard the use of the force of a unilateral way when the interests of the USA are at stake, an eminently multilateral approach is adopted, provided that no nation is able of facing alone the global challenges. For it, the USA will seek to support and to transform the existing alliances, to cooperate with the other centers of influence (on the basis of the common interests), and to strengthen the institutions of world governance.

It must be pointed out the support for the concept of “regionalization of security”, as the NSS-2010 recognizes that the closer is geographically an organization to the challenges, the more effective it is its action facing them. This connects with the vision of "shared burden" of the Clinton’s administration in the nineties, and is also aligned with the liberal internationalism and cooperative security “grand strategy” of previous democratic presidents as Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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