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**MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY****RENEWAL OF THE DEPUTY MINISTERS'  
NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE (DMNS)**

(Decision Sought)

**ISSUE**

In January 2023, DMNS co-chairs directed the Committee Secretariat to prepare a renewed vision for DMNS to focus on strategic discussions of pressing or emergent national security issues. The Secretariat drafted a 2023-2024 Forward Plan which covers a broad variety of national security issues, tied to Canada's 2023-2025 Intelligence Priorities. This memorandum is seeking approval of the following documents supporting this renewed vision for the Committee:

- 2023-2024 Forward Plan (TAB A);
- Participant List (TAB B);
- Ian Bremmer, Biography (TAB C).

**BACKGROUND**

The DMNS was mandated by the Clerk of the Privy Council Office (PCO) to focus on current and emerging issues related to Canada's national security. The Committee aims to take a relevant, proactive approach to addressing horizontal issues and priorities affecting the full range of departments implicated in Canada's national security environment. DMNS meetings are meant to engage Deputy Ministers (DM) in the provision of advice on current or prospective policies, while simultaneously helping to establish - given the current realities of the security environment - a clear and consistent national security narrative within the Government of Canada. As required, DMNS will also be responsible for the management of urgent and/or unexpected policy issues in the national security domain.

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*Governance*

The Committee convenes on a monthly basis, or as required ad hoc, with the exception of the summer period. Public Safety Canada (PS) leads the DMNS Secretariat, supported by PCO to coordinate the distribution of meeting materials. The work of DMNS is informed by external participants such as non-member deputy heads, experts, Indigenous peoples and representatives from other orders of government. As required, DMNS may identify task teams to focus on specific implementation issues or policy deep-dives. In addition, DMNS may occasionally be tasked by Cabinet committees.

**CONTEXT**

The Committee Secretariat has worked with PCO to identify key national security issues with broad reach and impact. Issues have been selected for their horizontal value and connection to ongoing policy priorities. These issues have been organized as topics in the 2023-2024 Forward Plan (**TAB A**) with tentative dates and leads identified. To better structure the discussions at meetings, each topic will have an associated scene setter document to situate the issue, identify any concomitant risks and challenges for Canada, and present questions to spur discussion.

As part of the January 2023 agreement to renew DMNS, discussions also focused on revising Committee membership. A revised Participant List (**TAB B**) is attached to support more strategic conversations with key agencies and departments from the core national security community. Core Committee members will receive a standing invitation, with other members being invited on a subject-specific basis.

These two documents would act as the foundation for a renewed DMNS to begin in September 2023, with a DM retreat (which are held annually for DMNS) on national security and artificial intelligence. The possibility of having a guest speaker for the retreat is currently being considered. Any proposed guest speakers will be brought to the co-chairs for approval. In addition, we are seeking approval on having a guest speaker for October 2023 DMNS. Ian Bremmer (see Biography, **TAB C**), is the President of the Eurasia Group, a geopolitical thinktank and risk management firm. Bremmer has signaled interest in participating at DMNS and has provided a date he is available in October. Finally, the Committee Secretariat is aware of the proliferation of DM national security committees, such as Deputy Minister Foreign Interference, and Deputy Ministers' Intelligence Committee. PS and PCO are working to ensure alignment between the committees.

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**NEXT STEPS**

We are seeking your approval of the 2023-2024 Forward Plan, Participant List, and for Ian Bremmer to be invited as a guest speaker for the October 2023 DMNS.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 613-990-4976 or Director-General Lesley Soper at 613-991-1970.

Patrick Boucher

Enclosures: (3)

I approve:

I do not approve:

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Shawn Tupper

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Shawn Tupper

Prepared by: , NCSB-NSPD

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# TAB A

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**Deputy Minister National Security (DMNS) Committee  
September 2023 – June 2024 Forward Plan**

Big picture topic	Sub-topics for discussion	Tentative Date <sup>1</sup>	Leads
<b>Artificial Intelligence and National Security</b>	<p><b>DMNS Retreat: AI and National Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rapid acceleration of generative AI - such as deepfakes and chat bots - funded and overseen by private industry are upending public understanding while outpacing government oversight and regulation.</li> <li>What are the existing or developing approaches within Government towards generative AI and national security?</li> <li>How are Canadian decision-makers informed of their potential risks, and how is this information used for effective policy responses and risk mitigation?</li> <li>Risks associated with AI growth and development include: governance lag, societal disruption, economic impact, systemic vulnerability, and strategic surprise.</li> <li><u>Guest Speaker:</u> Geoffrey Hinton, computer scientist 'Godfather of AI'; Yoshua Bengio, computer scientist (TBC)</li> </ul>	Sept. 2023	PS PCO TBS CSE CSIS DRDC DND
<b>International Governance</b>	<p><b>Changing Global Power Dynamics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concept of a 'rules-based international order' is being challenged, and the emerging multipolar world is one that requires new approaches.</li> <li>How are global initiatives Canada either leads or participates in impacted by shifts in global governance? What are key national security blind spots in a future no longer defined by a Western-dominated world?</li> <li><u>Guest Speaker:</u> Ian Bremmer, President and Founder of the Eurasia Group (TBC)</li> </ul>	Oct. 2023	PCO GAC DND PS
<b>Economic Security</b>	<p><b>Foreign Economic Activity In Canada: Existing Tools in an Evolving Threat Landscape</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is Canada modernizing existing tools and establishing new initiatives to mitigate foreign intrusion into key sectors? (e.g. <i>Investment Canada Act</i> modernization; FC3; Sensitive Technologies List)</li> <li>What policies (domestic and international) have proved effective in addressing foreign threats and what are we learning from ongoing responses (e.g. Research Security)?</li> <li>How can emerging non-traditional threats to economic security be addressed?</li> </ul>	Nov. 2023	PS ISED GAC

<sup>1</sup> No dates have been confirmed with any potential leads. They are estimates only.

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<b>Foreign Interference</b>	<p><b>Foreign Interference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreign interference threats are evolving constantly. What are the tactics that are being used by our adversaries, and how is the Government working to counter these threats (e.g. Foreign Influence Transparency Registry)?</li> <li>How can intelligence be better utilized to proactively identify and counter foreign interference?</li> <li>Additional consideration to the recommendations of the Johnston Reports and the forthcoming NSICOP/NSIRA reports.</li> </ul>	Dec. 2023	PS PCO CSIS CSE GAC
<b>Industry and National Security</b>	<p><b>Supply Chain Stocktake: Gaps, Dependencies and Emerging Sectors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What gaps exist in maintaining access and securing Canadian supply chains in a variety of sectors (e.g. energy, military procurement, sensitive technologies)?</li> <li>What are our geographic supply chain dependencies and how might they be impacted by increased global insecurity? What contingency plans exist?</li> </ul>	Jan. 2024	PS TC PSPC ISED PHAC
<b>Social Cohesion</b>	<p><b>The National Security Impacts of Social Division</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What tools can mitigate social cohesion challenges such as polarized politicization? What forecasting can be done to anticipate and address threats to social cohesion over the long term?</li> <li>How can the S&amp;I community contribute to bolstering societal resilience to threats posed by state and non-state actors?</li> <li>How can the GoC be more transparent and bolster trust with the Canadian public?</li> </ul>	Feb. 2024	CSIS CSE PCO PCH PS
<b>Emerging Technology</b>	<p><b>Quantum Computing and National Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantum computing presents a new frontier to innovate far beyond classical computers, solving highly complex problems and producing potentially groundbreaking discoveries in a range of fields from health to physics. Quantum computing also poses serious risks to the global system, from encryption schemes used for banking to military decision making and cybersecurity.</li> <li>What work has the Government done to better understand the benefits and risks of quantum computing? How is Canada positioned to both benefit from emerging technology such as quantum computers while managing the potential national security risks?</li> </ul>	Mar. 2024	PS PCO TBS CSE CSIS DRDC DND
<b>Transparency</b>	<p><b>National Security Transparency and the Impact of Digital Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How could the national security community better align viewpoints on privacy and enhance collective understanding of the use of tech within our respective mandates, while upholding the Government's commitment to transparency?</li> <li>What engagement initiatives could the national security community pursue to increase collaboration with experts and enhance dialogue with Canadian communities on the use of digital tools in the protection of national security (e.g. ongoing work on digital investigative capabilities)?</li> <li><u>Guest Speaker:</u> Professor Mary Franco, NS-TAG co-Chair</li> </ul>	April 2024	PS PCO CSE CCC

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<b>Climate Change and National Security</b>	<p><b>Climate Change and National Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will a rapidly changing climate impact global and regional security and how might this generate new security threats (e.g. new migratory trends; climate refugees)?</li> <li>• How will a changing climate impact geopolitics and how may these shifts impact traditional Canadian alliances?</li> </ul>	May 2024	CBSA IRCC GAC PCO DND ECCC
<b>New Frontiers</b>	<p><b>Canadian Sovereignty and Continental Defence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NORAD modernization began in 2022. What are the missing policy pieces? The February 2022 balloon episodes highlight the need for policy coherence in the face of new adversarial meddling.</li> <li>• What steps beyond traditional defence can be taken to secure Canada in the face of new threats such as nuclear submarines, or hypersonic missiles?</li> <li>• What is Canada's ability to protect its sovereignty and resources in the North and Arctic region, what are Canadian interests and what security gaps exist? What is the outlook for the late 2020s?</li> </ul>	June 2024	DND CAF GAC CSIS

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# TAB B



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## Deputy Ministers' National Security (DMNS) Committee Core and Subject Specific Committee Members

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### Core Committee Members

- Canadian Armed Forces
- Canadian Border Services Agency
- Canadian Security Intelligence Agency
- Communications Security Establishment
- Department of Justice
- Department of National Defence
- Global Affairs Canada
- Innovation, Science, Economic Development Canada
- Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
- Privy Council Office
- Public Safety Canada
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police

### Committee members to be invited on a subject-specific basis

- Canada Revenue Agency
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Finance Canada
- Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada
- Health Canada
- Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Public Services and Procurement Canada
- Transport Canada

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# TAB C

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**Ian Bremmer**

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**Founder and President Eurasia Group**

Ian Bremmer is a renowned political scientist, political advisor, professor, author, tv host and entrepreneur who founded Eurasia Group in 1998. Eurasia Group was created to assist business organizations understand the political landscape and the diplomatic and political risks in the international sphere where they work.

Eurasia Group has now become a leading organization in political risk analysis and advisory with a reach of four continents and assisting some of the world's largest corporations. It is also now the home to top researchers, political scientists and country experts.

Mr. Bremmer began his career by earning his Bachelor's degree in international relations from Tulane University and earning a Master's degree and PhD in political science from Stanford University. Mr. Bremmer was also the youngest national fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He has published 11 books including two New York Times bestsellers, "Us vs Them: The Failure of Globalism" and "The Power of Crisis: How Three Threats-and Our Response-Will Change the World". Moreover, Mr. Bremmer is a foreign affairs columnist and editor-at-large for Time Magazine. He has also written for the Financial Times.

Mr. Bremmer has taught at New York University, had positions at the East/West Institute, the World Policy Institute and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He currently teaches at Columbia University.

Mr. Bremmer also hosts the show GZERO World podcast, and is an expert commentator and guest on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC among other news stations.

Currently, Ian Bremmer lives in New York City with his wife and dog Moose.