

# **PART IX**

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## **THE WIDER INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SECURITY**

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# CHAPTER 29

## NATO'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations (UN) is at the core of the wider institutional framework within which the Alliance operates, a principle which is enshrined in NATO's founding treaty. UN Security Council resolutions have provided the mandate for NATO's major peace-support operations in the Balkans and in Afghanistan, and also provide the framework for NATO's training mission in Iraq. More recently, NATO has provided logistical assistance to the African Union's UN-endorsed peacekeeping operation in the Darfur region of Sudan.

In recent years, cooperation between NATO and the United Nations has developed well beyond their common engagement in the western Balkans and in Afghanistan. The relationship between the two organisations has been steadily growing at all levels – on the ground, conceptually and politically, as well as institutionally. Cooperation and consultations with UN specialised bodies go beyond crisis management and cover a wide range of issues, including civil emergency planning, civil-military cooperation, combating human trafficking, action against mines, and the fight against terrorism.

### The North Atlantic Treaty and the UN Charter

The acknowledgement of a direct relationship between the North Atlantic Treaty and the Charter of the United Nations is a fundamental principle of the Alliance. The Charter, signed in San Francisco on 26 June 1945 by fifty countries, provides the legal basis for the creation of NATO and establishes the overall responsibility of the UN Security Council for international peace and security. These two fundamental principles are enshrined in NATO's North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington on 4 April 1949.

The preamble to the Washington Treaty makes it clear that the UN Charter is the framework within which the Alliance operates. In its opening phrases, the signatories of the Treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter. In Article 1 they also undertake to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the UN Charter. Article 5 of the Treaty makes explicit reference to Article 51 of the UN Charter in asserting the right of the Allies to take, individually or collectively, such action as they deem necessary for their self-defence. This includes the use of armed force. Moreover, it commits the member countries to terminating any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result, when the UN Security Council has itself taken

the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

Further reference to the UN Charter can be found in Article 7 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which states that the Treaty does not affect and shall not be interpreted as affecting in any way the rights and obligations of Allies under the Charter and reaffirms the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security. And finally, a clause in Article 12 of the Treaty provides for a review of the Treaty after ten years if any of the Parties to it so requests. It stipulates that the review would take place in the light of new developments affecting peace and security in the North Atlantic area, including the development of universal and regional arrangements under the UN Charter.

The North Atlantic Treaty came into force on 24 August 1949. None of the Parties to it have requested a review of the Treaty under Article 12, although at each stage of its development the Alliance has kept the implementation of the Treaty under continuous review for the purpose of securing its objectives.

## **Practical cooperation**

Although the formal link between the United Nations and the North Atlantic Alliance has remained solidly anchored in the connection between their respective founding documents since the foundation of the Alliance in 1949, working relations between the institutions of the United Nations and those of the Alliance remained limited for most of this period. The situation changed in 1992, against the backdrop of growing conflict in the western Balkans, where their respective roles in crisis management led to an intensification of practical cooperation between the two organisations.

In July 1992, NATO ships belonging to the Alliance's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean, assisted by NATO Maritime Patrol Aircraft, began monitoring operations in the Adriatic in support of a UN arms embargo against all the republics of the former Yugoslavia. A few months later, in November, NATO and the Western European Union (WEU) began enforcement operations in support of UN Security Council resolutions aimed at preventing an escalation of the conflict.

The readiness of the Alliance to support peacekeeping operations under the authority of the UN Security Council was formally stated by NATO foreign ministers in December 1992. Measures already being taken by NATO countries, individually and as an Alliance, were reviewed and the Alliance indicated that it was ready to respond positively to further initiatives that the

UN Secretary General might take in seeking Alliance assistance in this field. A number of measures were subsequently taken, including joint maritime operations under the authority of the NATO and WEU Councils, NATO air operations, close air support for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), air strikes to protect UN “Safe Areas”, and contingency planning for other options which the United Nations might take.

Following the signature of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Dayton Agreement) on 14 December 1995, NATO was given a mandate by the United Nations, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1031, to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement. This was NATO’s first peacekeeping operation. A NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) began operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to fulfil this mandate on 16 December 1995. One year later, it was replaced by a NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR). Throughout their mandates both multinational forces worked closely with other international organisations and humanitarian agencies on the ground, including UN agencies such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Police Task Force (IPTF).

From the onset of the conflict in Kosovo in 1998 and throughout the crisis, close contacts were maintained between the UN Secretary General and NATO’s Secretary General. Actions were taken by the Alliance in support of UN Security Council resolutions both during and after the conflict. The Kosovo Force (KFOR) was deployed on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 12 June 1999 to provide an international security presence as the prerequisite for peace and reconstruction of Kosovo.

In 2000 and 2001, NATO and the United Nations also cooperated successfully in containing major ethnic discord in southern Serbia and preventing a full-blown civil war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.\*

More recently, cooperation between NATO and the UN has played a key role in Afghanistan. On 11 August 2003, the Alliance formally took over the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a UN-mandated force originally tasked with helping provide security in and around Kabul. ISAF has subsequently been authorised by a series of UN Security Council resolutions to expand its presence into other regions of the country to extend the authority of the central government and to facilitate development and reconstruction. The Alliance also temporarily deployed extra forces to Afghanistan to increase ISAF’s support for the Afghan authorities’ efforts to provide a secure environment for presidential elections in October 2004 and for the parliamentary and municipal elections in September 2005.

In Iraq, under the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1546 and at the request of the Iraqi Interim Government, NATO is providing assistance in training and equipping Iraqi security forces.

In June 2005, following a request from the African Union and in close coordination with the United Nations and the European Union, NATO agreed to support the African Union in the expansion of its mission to end the continuing violence in the Darfur region of Sudan. NATO assisted by airlifting peacekeepers from African troop-contributing countries to the region over the summer months, and also helped train African Union officers in running a multinational military headquarters and managing intelligence.

### *Regular contacts*

NATO's Secretary General reports regularly to the UN Secretary General on progress in NATO-led operations and on other key decisions of the North Atlantic Council in the area of crisis management and in the fight against terrorism.

Staff-level meetings have become more frequent and a number of high-level visits take place between the United Nations and NATO each year. For instance, a NATO-UN Round Table meeting was held in March 2004 in New York. In April 2004, UN Deputy Secretary General Louise Fréchette visited NATO and, in November 2004, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer addressed the UN Security Council. In September 2005, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer returned to New York to meet the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, for discussions on current operations and to launch ideas for a more structured relationship with the United Nations.

Staff-level meetings also take place with other UN organisations, such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and NATO experts participate in events organised by other UN bodies. In the area of civil emergency planning, contacts are well established between the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Co-ordination Centre (EADRCC) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, which maintains a liaison officer at the EADRCC on a permanent basis.

NATO also contributes actively to the work of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTC) – established in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1373 adopted in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States – and participates in special meetings of the Committee that bring together international, regional and sub-regional organisations involved in this process.

# CHAPTER 30

## NATO AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) have complementary roles and functions in promoting peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region in areas such as conflict prevention and crisis management. The NATO-OSCE relationship is manifested at both the political and the operational level. The two organisations have cooperated actively in the field in the western Balkans since the 1990s, and regularly exchange views and seek to complement each other's activities on issues of common interest, such as crisis management, border security, disarmament, terrorism and initiatives towards specific regions.

### The political basis for cooperation

The NATO-OSCE relationship reflects the Alliance's commitment to a broad approach to security and the desire of NATO member countries, expressed in the Alliance's 1999 Strategic Concept, to establish cooperative relationships with other complementary and mutually reinforcing organisations.

Political relations between the two organisations are governed by the "Platform for Cooperative Security" launched at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999. The Platform calls for reinforced cooperation between international organisations, drawing on the resources of the international community to drive for democracy, prosperity and stability in Europe and beyond. It provides for meetings between the organisations to discuss operational and political issues of common interest.

At the Prague Summit in November 2002, NATO leaders expressed their desire to extend cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation operations. They also highlighted the need to exploit the complementarity of international efforts aimed at reinforcing stability in the Mediterranean region. Following this statement, the two organisations began developing closer contacts affecting their respective dialogues with countries in the region.

In light of changes in the security environment, both organisations have also extended their dialogue to other areas of common interest, including terrorism. In December 2003, the OSCE Ministerial Council, meeting at Maastricht, the Netherlands, adopted a new "Strategy to Address Threats to Security and

Stability in the 21st Century". This document recalls the need, in a constantly changing security environment, to interact with other organisations and institutions cooperating in the context of the Platform for Cooperative Security, and to take advantage of the assets and strengths of each.

With regard to the fight against terrorism, NATO's efforts, particularly within the framework of partnerships with non-member countries, complement those of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. A number of OSCE initiatives have been launched since the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, including the Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism adopted in Porto in 2002.

## **Practical cooperation**

Practical NATO-OSCE cooperation is best exemplified by the complementary missions undertaken by the two organisations in the western Balkans. In 1996, after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accord they developed a joint action programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) established to implement the military aspects of the peace agreements, and the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) which succeeded it (see Part IV on NATO operations), provided vital support for implementation of the civilian aspects of the agreements. By ensuring the security of OSCE personnel and humanitarian assistance, NATO contributed, among others, to the smooth organisation of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina under OSCE auspices.

In October 1998, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe established a Kosovo Verification Mission to monitor compliance on the ground with cease-fire agreements concluded after the deterioration of the situation in Kosovo and the efforts of the international community to avert further conflict. NATO conducted a parallel aerial surveillance mission. Following a further deterioration in security conditions, the OSCE Verification Mission was forced to withdraw in March 1999.

Following the NATO air campaign in Kosovo, in July 1999, a new OSCE Mission to Kosovo was established as part of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. The role of the OSCE Mission, among other things, is to oversee the progress of democratisation, the creation of institutions and the protection of human rights. The Mission maintains close relations with the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR), which has a mandate from the United Nations to guarantee a safe environment for the work of the international community.

NATO has also cooperated closely with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.\*



A NATO task force was set up in September 2001 to provide additional security for EU and OSCE observers monitoring the implementation of a framework peace agreement, which had been reached in the summer after a period of internal ethnic unrest in the spring. The European Union officially took over this operation, renamed Concordia, from March 2003 until its conclusion in December 2003.

NATO-OSCE cooperation has also contributed to promoting better management and securing of borders in the western Balkans. At a high-level conference held in Ohrid in May 2003, five Balkan countries endorsed a Common Platform developed by the European Union, NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Stability Pact,<sup>1</sup> aimed at enhancing border security in the region. Each organisation supports the countries involved in the areas within its jurisdiction.

NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe also seek to coordinate their efforts in other areas. Initiatives taken by NATO in areas such as arms control, mine clearance, elimination of ammunition stocks and efforts to control the spread of small arms and light weapons dovetail with OSCE efforts aimed at preventing conflict and restoring stability after a conflict. Moreover, in the regional context, both organisations place special emphasis on southeastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Each has also developed parallel initiatives directed towards the countries of the Mediterranean region.

### *Regular contacts*

Contacts between NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe take place at different levels and in different contexts, including high-level meetings between the NATO Secretary General and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Periodically, NATO's Secretary General is invited to address the OSCE Permanent Council. Similarly, the North Atlantic Council may from time to time invite the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to address one of its meetings.

Exchanges of views on issues of common interest such as crisis management, border security, disarmament and terrorism regularly take place between

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1 The Stability Pact was initiated by the European Union in May 1999. It was subsequently formally adopted at an international conference held in Cologne on 10 June 1999 and placed under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The Stability Pact is designed to contribute to lasting peace, prosperity and stability in southeastern Europe through coherent, coordinated action, by bringing together the countries of the region and other interested countries and organisations with capabilities to contribute. It establishes specific mechanisms to coordinate joint actions.

officials from both organisations. Their respective representatives in the field meet regularly to share information and discuss various aspects of their cooperation.

# **CHAPTER 31**

## **COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

NATO is keen to deepen its relations with other international organisations to share information and promote appropriate and effective action in areas of common interest. The primary focus of its relations with other international organisations concerns cooperation with the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, as described in the previous chapters. NATO also holds consultations and engages in differing forms of cooperation with a number of other important international institutions.

### **The Council of Europe**

The Council of Europe was established on 5 May 1949, “to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their social and economic progress”. The Council’s overall aim is to maintain the basic principles of humanitarian rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law, and to enhance the quality of life of European citizens.

NATO regularly receives documents, reports and records from the Council of Europe and is kept informed of different parliamentary sessions or upcoming events. The outcome of various sessions and reports on issues of common interest is monitored by NATO’s International Staff and this information is distributed to relevant divisions within the organisation.

### **The International Organisation for Migration**

The International Organisation for Migration is the leading international organisation working with migrant populations and governments on issues relating to migration challenges. It is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and the societies in which they live. Established in 1951 and tasked with the resettlement of European displaced persons, refugees and migrants, the organisation now encompasses a variety of migration-management issues and other activities throughout the world.

With offices and operations on every continent, the organisation helps governments and civil societies, for example, in responding to sudden migration

flows, post-emergency returns and reintegration programmes, and providing assistance to migrants on their way to new homes. It also promotes the training of officials and measures to counter trafficking in human beings.

Cooperation with NATO takes place in several fields such as combating trafficking in human beings, border security and reconstruction in post-conflict regions. Regions where there is great potential for cooperation include the Caucasus and Central Asia. The first formal and structured contacts between the two organisations took place in staff-level meetings in September 2004.

## **The Assembly of the Western European Union**

NATO also has contacts with the Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU). Although not an international organisation in the strict sense of the term, the Assembly was created in 1954 under the modified Brussels Treaty of 1948, which is the founding document of the Western European Union. Called upon in 1984 to contribute to the process of establishing a stronger European security and defence identity, the Western European Union was later relieved of these responsibilities, which were transferred to the European Union at the end of 1999 in the context of the latter's evolving European Security and Defence Policy (see Part VIII). The Western European Union itself remains extant with a small secretariat located in Brussels with residual responsibilities.

The WEU Assembly remains active as an interparliamentary forum for general strategic reflection and contributes to intergovernmental and public debate on security and defence matters. National parliamentarians from 28 European countries send delegations to the Assembly, which currently has 370 members. Its work is allocated to four principal committees dealing respectively with defence matters, political issues, matters relating to technology and aerospace, and parliamentary and public relations. The WEU Assembly meets at least twice a year for plenary sessions and throughout the year in committee meetings, conferences and colloquia.

## **The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**

Another of the organisations with which NATO cooperates in the field of civil emergency planning is the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The Organisation, established in 1997 by the countries that joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, seeks to ensure that the Convention works effectively and achieves its purpose. All NATO Allies are members of the Organisation, which currently totals 174 member states.

One of the Organisation's responsibilities is to provide assistance and protection to countries if they are attacked or threatened with chemical weapons, including by terrorists. It is in this area in particular that the Organisation can be helpful to NATO's civil protection efforts which, following the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, have increasingly focused on protecting populations against the potential consequences of attacks using chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents.



# CHAPTER 32

## COOPERATION WITH PARLIAMENTARY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

NATO cooperates with parliamentarians and non-governmental organisations, which contributes to understanding and support for NATO's policies and objectives beyond the arena of international organisations.

### The International Committee of the Red Cross

One of the most significant non-governmental organisations with which NATO cooperates is the International Committee of the Red Cross – an impartial, neutral and independent organisation exclusively concerned with humanitarian action to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with necessary assistance.

The International Committee of the Red Cross directs and coordinates international relief activities conducted in situations of conflict. In addition, the Committee endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting the strengthening of international humanitarian law and of universal humanitarian principles. It is in this context that its contacts with NATO have developed. In their operational planning, NATO authorities take account of the provisions of international humanitarian law; the operational plans embody references to implementation of and respect for international humanitarian law. While the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law is, in principle, a matter for the member states themselves, NATO may consider appropriate action to stimulate this process with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Relations between the two organisations have focused on *ad hoc* co-operation, with occasional informal exchanges of views between staff and high-level meetings when required. Cooperation has taken place in the context of a number of issues in different countries and regions, for example in the Balkans, in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

The principal concerns of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the context of its relations with NATO relate to the application of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts, the complementarity of the military, political and humanitarian approaches to a crisis situation and respect for the differences between them, and NATO's responsibility regarding the implementation of international humanitarian law.

At the practical level, the International Committee of the Red Cross has provided support for training courses on peacekeeping and civil emergency planning at the NATO School in Oberammergau, organised in the framework of the Partnership for Peace programme. Cooperation has also taken place in the context of NATO's role with respect to Kosovo, and the Committee has provided input in the framework of some of the "lessons learned" evaluations undertaken by NATO.

In the context of civil emergency planning activities and exercises, NATO also often cooperates with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

## **The NATO Parliamentary Assembly**

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) is an interparliamentary organisation which, since its creation in 1955, has acted as a forum for legislators from the North American and western European member countries of the Alliance to meet together to consider issues of common interest and concern. While its principal objective is to foster mutual understanding among Alliance parliamentarians of the key security challenges facing the transatlantic partnership, its discussions also contribute to the development of the consensus among member countries that underpins the decision-making process in the Alliance.

The specific aims of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly include the following:

- to foster dialogue among parliamentarians on major security issues;
- to facilitate parliamentary awareness and understanding of key security issues and Alliance policies;
- to provide NATO and its member governments with an indication of collective parliamentary opinion;
- to provide greater transparency in NATO policies as well as collective accountability;
- to strengthen the transatlantic relationship.

In keeping with the major political changes which have occurred since the late 1980s, the Assembly has significantly broadened both its membership and its mandate. Several Partner countries of the Alliance have associate delegation status in the Assembly, enabling them to participate in its work and in its debates. Increasingly these focus on the security of Europe as a whole and on the specific economic, political, environmental and cultural problems of central



and eastern Europe. The Assembly therefore provides an extensive network for addressing cooperation in relation to security issues and a forum for international parliamentary dialogue on security, political and economic matters, over a wide spectrum embracing interests well beyond those that only concern NATO member countries. Since 1989, the Assembly has had the following additional objectives:

- to assist in the development of parliamentary democracy throughout the Euro-Atlantic area by integrating parliamentarians from non-member countries into the Assembly's work;
- to assist directly those parliaments of countries actively seeking Alliance membership;
- to increase cooperation with countries who seek cooperation with NATO rather than membership, including those of the Caucasus and the Mediterranean regions;
- to assist in the development of parliamentary mechanisms, practices and know-how essential for the effective democratic control of armed forces.

In fulfilling these goals, the Assembly provides a central source of information and point of contact for member legislators and their respective national parliaments. Its activities also enable it to contribute to making the workings and policies of the Alliance more transparent and comprehensible to parliaments and to their publics.

The Assembly is completely independent of NATO but constitutes a link between national parliaments and the Alliance which encourages governments to take Alliance concerns into account when framing national legislation. It also acts as a permanent reminder that intergovernmental decisions reached within NATO are ultimately dependent on political endorsement in accordance with the due constitutional process of democratically elected parliaments.

The Assembly was directly concerned with assisting in the process of ratification of the Protocols of Accession signed at the end of 1997, which culminated in the accession of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to the Alliance in March 1999, and played the same role with respect to the ratification process leading to the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia in March 2004.

Delegates to the Assembly are nominated by their parliaments according to their national procedures, on the basis of party representation in the parliaments. The Assembly therefore represents a broad spectrum of political opinion and constitutes an important touchstone for assessing parliamentary and public

opinion on Alliance issues, in this sense playing an indirect but important role in policy formation.

The Assembly functions through five committees (Political; Defence and Security; Economics and Security; Science and Technology; and the Civilian Dimension of Security) as well as a Mediterranean Special Group. These are study groups as well as major fora for discussion which meet regularly throughout the year. Biannually the Assembly meets in plenary session.

The International Secretariat of the Assembly conducts much of the research and analysis necessary for the substantive output of the Assembly's Committees and provides the administrative support for meetings and other Assembly activities. It comprises the Secretary General of the Assembly and approximately 30 staff. The Secretariat maintains a close working relationship with NATO and other international organisations and gives briefings on NATO PA activities and concerns to visiting parliamentary groups, journalists and academics. In recent years, the Secretariat has also organised and hosted training programmes for parliamentary staff from countries with associate member status of the Assembly. Typically the Assembly holds nearly forty events each year, including two plenary sessions – one in spring, usually towards the end of May, and one in autumn (either October or November) – held in member or associate member countries.

For the first time in the Assembly's history, the Permanent Representatives of NATO member countries participated in a special joint meeting of the North Atlantic Council with the full Assembly, co-chaired by the NATO Secretary General, which took place during the 50th annual session of the NATO PA, held in Venice from 12 to 16 November 2004.

The Assembly's role in developing relations with central and eastern European parliaments (through the so-called Rose-Roth Initiative) is recognised in both the NATO-Russia Founding Act and the NATO-Ukraine Charter signed in 1997. These documents call for expanded dialogue and cooperation between the NATO PA and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada (parliament) respectively.

The Assembly's outreach programme is separate from but reinforces the work of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Partnership for Peace initiative. Particular emphasis is placed on helping to achieve a key objective of the Partnership for Peace programme, namely the establishment of democratic control of armed forces. Assembly activities aim to provide the expertise, experience and information needed to help parliamentarians from Partner countries to become more effective in influencing the development of national defence policies and in ensuring that the control of their national armed forces is fully democratic.

Much of the Assembly's outreach work is organised in close cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), which also contributes financial support for a number of the Assembly's activities.

The changing nature of security and NATO's transformation have given a new salience to the role of parliaments in defence and security. Traditional parliamentary tasks in this field include oversight of defence budgets and of the armed forces, authorisation of expenditure and deployments abroad, building consensus, ensuring transparency, and generating and sustaining public support. The more demanding environment in which these tasks have to be carried out today embraces new roles and missions for armed forces, defence reform and restructuring and the revolution in information technology, particularly with regard to the role and influence of the media. The scope and significance of parliamentary involvement has increased proportionately.

Further information on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly can be found on its website ([www.nato-pa.int](http://www.nato-pa.int)).

## **The Atlantic Treaty Association**

The Atlantic Treaty Association, created on 18 June 1954, brings together, as members, national voluntary and non-governmental organisations in Alliance member states to support the activities of NATO and promote the objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, the ATA has regularly admitted as associate members national voluntary and non-governmental organisations established in NATO's Partner countries. There are currently 18 associations which are associate members. In accordance with the constitution of the ATA, associate members may become full members of the Association when their countries become members of NATO and when their new position has been recognised by the ATA Assembly upon the proposal of the ATA Council.

Since 1999, following the amendment of the constitution, the ATA Assembly may also, on proposal by the Council, grant observer member status to non-governmental organisations created in the countries participating in NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue or in those which are directly or geographically concerned with Euro-Atlantic security problems, even if they have not signed Partnership for Peace agreements.

The objectives of the ATA and of its affiliated national organisations are:

- to inform the public about the missions and responsibilities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation;

- to conduct research into the various purposes and activities of NATO and their extension to countries of central and eastern Europe as well as the furtherance of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue;
- to promote the solidarity of the people of the North Atlantic area and of those whose countries participate in NATO's Partnership for Peace programme;
- to promote democracy;
- to develop cooperation between all its member organisations in order to promote the above objectives.

An **Atlantic Education Committee** (AEC) and an **Atlantic Association of Young Political Leaders** (AAYPL) are active in their own fields. A **Youth Atlantic Treaty Association** (YATA) was formed within the ATA in 1996.

The names and addresses of the different national member, associate and observer associations affiliated with the Atlantic Treaty Association as well as further information concerning ATA activities are available from the ATA secretariat at the following address:

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