

## Partnerships: a cooperative approach to security



NATO's Strategic Concept identifies "cooperative security" as one of NATO's three essential core tasks. It states that the promotion of Euro-Atlantic security is best assured through a wide network of partner relationships with countries and organisations around the globe. These partnerships make a concrete and valued contribution to the success of NATO's fundamental tasks.

Over the past two decades, the Alliance has developed a network of structured partnerships with countries from the Euro-Atlantic area, the Mediterranean and the Gulf region, as well as individual relationships with other partners across the globe.

Today, NATO engages with 41 countries as partners. Many of these partners as well as other non-member countries offer substantial capabilities and political support for Alliance missions. In December 2012, 24 non-NATO countries were contributing over 7000 troops to NATO-led operations.

NATO also engages actively with other international actors and organisations on defence and security-related issues, and is seeking to deepen this cooperation. The complexity of today's peace-support and stabilization operations and the multifaceted nature of 21st century security challenges call for a comprehensive approach that effectively combines political, civilian and military instruments.

### A network of partnerships with non-member countries

NATO pursues dialogue and practical cooperation with non-member countries on a wide range of political and security-related issues. Dialogue and cooperation with partners can make a concrete contribution to enhancing international security, to defending the values on which the Alliance is based, to NATO's operations, and to preparing interested nations for membership.

In both regional frameworks and on a bilateral level, NATO develops relations based on common values, reciprocity, mutual benefit and mutual respect.

In the Euro-Atlantic area, the 28 Allies engage in relations with 22 partner countries through the **Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council** and the **Partnership for Peace (PfP)** – a major programme of bilateral cooperation with individual Euro-Atlantic partners. Among these partners, NATO has developed specific structures for its relationships with Russia, Ukraine and Georgia.

NATO is developing relations with the seven countries on the southern Mediterranean-rim through the **Mediterranean Dialogue**, as well as with four countries from the Gulf region through the **Istanbul Cooperation Initiative**.

NATO also cooperates with a range of countries which are not part of these partnership frameworks. Referred to as "**partners across the globe**," they include Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Mongolia.

### Active engagement with other international organizations

Since the 1990s, NATO has developed close working relations with the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). This is an integral part of the Alliance's ongoing transformation to address effectively the complex challenges of crisis management, as well as terrorism and emerging security challenges.

The Alliance is also developing cooperation in specific areas with a number of other international and non-governmental organisations, including the African Union, the International Committee

of the Red Cross, the International Organization for Migration, the World Bank and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The Alliance seeks to enhance its relations with other relevant international organisations. Key objectives guiding this cooperation, as appropriate, are to:

- play complementary and mutually reinforcing roles in supporting international peace and security;
- engage actively before, during and after crises to encourage collaborative analysis, planning and conduct of activities on the ground, in order to maximise the coherence and effectiveness of the overall international effort;
- increase support for training and regional capacity building.

## Strategic objectives for partnership

Under the new partnership policy, the strategic objectives of NATO's partner relations are to:

- Enhance Euro-Atlantic and international security, peace and stability;
- Promote regional security and cooperation;
- Facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of common interest, including international efforts to meet emerging security challenges;
- Prepare interested eligible nations for NATO membership;
- Promote democratic values and reforms;
- Enhance support for NATO-led operations and missions;
- Enhance awareness of security developments including through early warning, with a view to preventing crises;
- Build confidence and achieve better mutual understanding, including about NATO's role and activities, in particular through enhanced public diplomacy.

## Priority areas for dialogue, consultation and cooperation

Within these strategic objectives for partnership, dialogue, consultation and cooperation will be prioritized in the following areas, as appropriate:

- Political consultations on security developments, as appropriate, including regional issues, in particular with a view to preventing crises and contributing to their management;
- Cooperation in NATO-led operations and missions;
- Defence reform, capability and capacity building, education and training;
- Interoperability;
- Counter-terrorism;
- Counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
- Emerging security challenges, including related to cyber defence, energy security and maritime security, including counter-piracy;
- Civil emergency planning.

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