

NATO-Georgia relations



Georgia is an aspirant for NATO membership, actively contributes to NATO-led operations and cooperates with the Allies and other partner countries in many other areas.

At the Bucharest Summit in April 2008, Allied Heads of State and Government agreed that Georgia will become a member of NATO. This decision was subsequently reconfirmed at successive NATO summits in 2009, 2010 and 2012.

The NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC) provides the framework for cooperation between NATO and Georgia. Created in September 2008, the NGC serves as a forum for both political consultations and practical cooperation to help Georgia advance its Euro-Atlantic aspirations. Cooperation programmes take place within the framework of the NGC.

In December 2008, NATO foreign ministers decided to further enhance the NGC through the development of an Annual National Programme (ANP).

In addition to Georgia's contributions to Euro-Atlantic peace and stability, key areas of cooperation under the Annual National Programme include political, military and security-sector reforms. NATO agrees to support Georgia in these reforms by providing focused and comprehensive advice and activities in several frameworks (both civilian and military) towards its reform goals

Contributions to NATO operations and missions

Georgia is currently the largest non-NATO troop contributor to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Georgia has also indicated willingness to participate in the post-2014 follow-on mission to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces, after the transition to full security responsibility of the Afghani National Security Forces (ANSF) is completed at the end of 2014, when ISAF's mission will end. The Georgian government has also pledged financial support for the future development of the Afghan National Security Forces. Georgia also supports Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's counter-terrorist maritime surveillance operation in the Mediterranean.

Georgia has offered to contribute to the NATO Response Force (NRF) and is expected to join the NRF for its 2015 rotation.

Making use of Partnership tools

Georgia also cooperates with NATO and other partner countries in a wide range of areas through the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC).

In parallel with the establishment of the NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC), the Military Committee with Georgia was also created for meetings focused on military cooperation. The principal aim of NATO-Georgia military cooperation is to assist Georgia with strategic planning, defence reforms and with the implementation of military and defence-related issues of the Annual National Programme (ANP). The work of the Military Committee with Georgia also helps to increase interoperability in support of Georgia's contributions to NATO-led operations. The Military Committee with Georgia Work Plan defines key areas and objectives for military cooperation between NATO and the Georgian Armed Forces.

Georgia's participation in the Planning and Review Process (PARP) since 1999 has helped develop the ability of Georgia's forces to work with NATO and is also providing planning targets that are key to security reform objectives in several areas. NATO support has, for example, helped Georgia

build units that are deployable according to NATO standards and interoperable with Allied forces. Georgia's defence reform objectives within the Planning and Review Process have facilitated improved financial management in the Ministry of Defence, assisted in reforming the intelligence structure of the armed forces and ensured that a credible Strategic Defence Review was conducted.

One priority in the area of defence and security-sector reform has been to support demilitarization projects in Georgia through the NATO/PfP Trust Fund mechanism. This mechanism allows individual Allies and partner countries to provide financial support to key projects in partner countries on a voluntary basis. Over the years, a number of Trust Fund projects have helped to address problems posed by stockpiles of surplus and obsolete weapons and munitions, and promoted their safe disposal. Currently, the Czech Republic and Lithuania are leading the Georgia IV Trust Fund which aims to clear mines and unexploded munitions from the partially exploded ammunition depot at Skra in Georgia.

Training and Education

Defence education and training is also a key objective of NATO-Georgia cooperation. NATO is leading a tailored programme for Georgia – the Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP) – with the support of the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes, which are formed by the Partnerships Training and Education Centres and Allied defence institutions. The Defence Education Enhancement Programme focuses primarily on the development of the National Defence Academy of Georgia. Georgia has a mountain training site, which is accredited as a Partnership Training and Education Centre and offers courses and training to Allies and other partner countries.

Following Georgia's request in 2008, NATO and Georgia launched a Professional Development Programme for Civilian Personnel in the Ministry of Defence and other Security Institutions in Georgia. The programme, launched in 2009, provides training with the aim of strengthening the capacity for democratic management and oversight in the Ministry of Defence, as well as other security sector institutions. Current priorities are to support Georgia's civil service reform and enhance Georgia's own capacity for providing training to security sector civilian personnel.

Finally, a NATO Liaison Office was established in Tbilisi in 2010 to assist and support Georgia's reform efforts.



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