

### The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package Building defence and related security capabilities and interoperability



The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) aims to strengthen Georgia’s ability to defend itself and advance in its preparations for NATO membership. The package was first endorsed by NATO Heads of State and Government at the Wales Summit in September 2014 and further expanded on the occasion of the Warsaw Summit in July 2016. In December 2020, NATO Allies and Georgia adopted a refreshed SNGP. The refreshed package expands Georgia and NATO’s level of ambition in areas of mutual interest.

The upgraded package demonstrates strong political and practical support by NATO Allies for Georgia, its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The First Deputy Defence Minister of Georgia, who chairs the SNGP Interagency Governing Board, and NATO’s Assistant Secretary General for Operations oversee the package’s implementation with the support of their respective staffs. As the main vehicle for practical cooperation between Georgia and NATO, the SNGP brings Georgia closer to the Alliance by:

- Acting as a catalyst for the implementation of Georgia's defence reforms;
- Enhancing Georgia's interoperability with NATO;
- Supporting Georgia's efforts to contribute to Euro-Atlantic security;
- Enhancing accountability and transparency;
- Enhancing Georgia's resilience; and
- Enhancing Georgia's interagency coordination and interaction.

Since 2014, the SNGP has covered 18 defence and security areas of cooperation:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition,</li> <li>• Air Defence,</li> <li>• Aviation,</li> <li>• Crisis Management,</li> <li>• Cyber Defence,</li> <li>• Defence Institution Building School,</li> <li>• English Language Capacity Building,</li> <li>• Information Exchange and Secure Communications,</li> <li>• Logistics Capability,</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre,</li> <li>• Maritime Security,</li> <li>• Military Engineering,</li> <li>• Military Medical Capability Development,</li> <li>• Military Police,</li> <li>• Special Operations Forces,</li> <li>• Standardization and Codification,</li> <li>• Strategic Communications; and</li> <li>• Strategic and Operational Planning.</li> </ul> |
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Today, the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre and the Defence Institution Building School serve as SNGP flagship initiatives. These organisations serve as defence and security engines capable of exporting stability to the country, the region and beyond.

The SNGP remains NATO's largest Defence and Related Security Capacity Building (DCB) package and demonstrates the importance the Alliance places on NATO-Georgia partnership. All NATO Allies and two partner countries have provided support to the package in the form of resources (financial contributions via the DCB Trust Fund) and tailored NATO-expert advice (Voluntary National Contributions). As of November 2021, the SNGP consists of 16 interrelated initiatives, each led by an Allied country and in varying stages of delivery. Regardless of the initiative's status (new or updated), all SNGP initiatives have agreed end states by Georgia and NATO with concrete, detailed implementation plans for the coming years.

## **EVOLUTION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NATO-GEORGIA PACKAGE: A SHORT CHRONOLOGY**

### **“MORE NATO IN GEORGIA AND MORE GEORGIA IN NATO”**



**In 2014** ... NATO Heads of State and Government endorsed the Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) under NATO's Defence and Related Security Capacity Building (DCB) Initiative at the Wales Summit. The SNGP's aims included strengthening Georgia's defence and interoperability capabilities with the Alliance to help Georgia advance in its preparation towards NATO membership. Following the summit, 13

SNGP initiatives were defined and launched with the support of different NATO member and partner countries, whose advisors started working shoulder-to-shoulder with their Georgian counterparts in the following areas: acquisition, air defence, aviation, cyber defence, Defence Institution Building School, intelligence-sharing and secure communications; NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre, logistics, maritime security, military policy, Special Operations Forces, strategic and operational planning, and strategic communications.

**In 2015** ... a NATO Core Team comprised of a Core Team Leader (Germany) and two Deputy Core Team Leaders (Romania and the United States) arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia to coordinate the implementation of the Package. On behalf of the Government of Georgia, the Ministry of Defence assumed the lead for implementation and monitoring of SNGP initiatives. NATO also established the DCB Trust Fund to provide financial support and resources to implement the DCB Initiative, including SNGP. In August, Georgia celebrated the inauguration of the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC).





**In 2016** ... at the Warsaw Summit, NATO members expanded SNGP's mandate by adding two new initiatives: Crisis Management and Counter Mobility (currently known as Military Engineering). In addition to inaugurating the Defence Institution Building School (DIBS), Georgia hosted the first-ever NATO-Georgia Exercise in November. The exercise included 11 NATO members and two partner countries, and served as the first in a series of jointly planned exercises by NATO and the Georgian Defence Forces.

**In 2017** ... having successfully accomplished its end state, the Strategic and Operational Planning Initiative was closed. The SNGP also developed the concept for and executed synchronisation workshops to align bilateral, NATO and other multilateral efforts for increased efficiency and optimisation of stakeholder resources.

**In 2018** ... the SNGP, with support from the Georgian Ministry of Defence, hosted a conference to bring together NATO members and partners to review initiative implementation progress and develop a common understanding of near-term goals. Georgia also had the opportunity to share its experience with other DCB recipient countries. In the Secretary General's Annual Report for 2018, Georgia was identified as a "critical partner" and "significant contributor to NATO's operations and mission". The report also recognised the SNGP as an example for other DCB efforts.

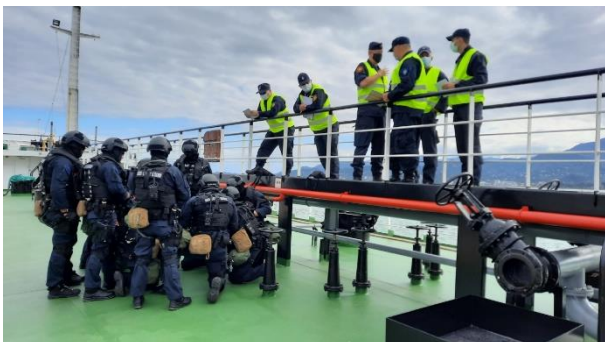
**In 2019** ... Georgia hosted 24 Allies, partners, and NATO command headquarters and affiliated centres for the second NATO-Georgia exercise. Following the exercise, the Chair of the Military Committee visited Tbilisi and commented that "Georgian forces are more interoperable than ever before with NATO troops." In autumn, when visiting Georgia, the NATO Secretary General also noted that "NATO Allies have clearly stated that Georgia will become a member of the Alliance and we are supporting, helping Georgia to meet NATO standards, to continue to reform and then to be ready to join." The year concluded with a decision by the North Atlantic Council to refresh the SNGP and a decision by the Prime Minister of Georgia to establish an SNGP Interagency Governing Board to support decision-making related to the SNGP refresh process. Allies also agreed to increase NATO's support to Georgia in the maritime domain. Two Deputy Core Team Leaders (Turkey and the United Kingdom) took over their responsibilities at the beginning of 2022.



**In 2020** ... On behalf of the North Atlantic Council, the Partnership and Cooperative Security Committee led the SNGP refresh process in cooperation with Georgia. The process sought to better align existing initiatives to Georgia's needs and identified three new areas for cooperation, namely English Language Capacity Building, Military Medical Capability

Development, and Standardization and Codification. The process was completed in December with the endorsement by the Foreign Ministers in the NATO-Georgia Commission. “Just the fact that we had this meeting at the ministerial level sends a very clear message of support. It demonstrates the strong political support from all NATO Allies to Georgia, its sovereignty, territorial integrity and the fact that we provide both political support but also practical support,” stated NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

**In 2021 ...** During the Brussels Summit in June, NATO Heads of State and Government welcomed the steps taken to implement the refreshed SNGP. In October, the NATO Military



Committee returned to Georgia where it saw first-hand how the JTEC enables Georgia and NATO to work side by side and explore multinational training and exercise opportunities designed to increase interoperability. Also in October, two Georgian Coast Guard boarding teams received NATO certification, enabling their future participation in NATO’s maritime Operation Sea Guardian.

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