

# NATO-Ukraine cooperation



## Political Framework

Ukraine is one of NATO's longest-standing and most active partners, a founder member of the Partnership for Peace. Over the past 20 years, NATO and Ukraine have built up cooperation in a wide range of areas.

This fact sheet sets out the main elements of NATO-Ukraine cooperation, as it stood before current crisis.

On 5 March 2014, after Russia's illegal aggression in Crimea, NATO Allies agreed to strengthen their support to Ukraine. At their meeting on 1 April, NATO Foreign Ministers have agreed to enhanced political and practical support for Ukraine.

The relationship between NATO and Ukraine is defined in the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, agreed in 1997. The Charter sets out the principles of NATO-Ukraine cooperation, including respect for international law, democracy, human rights and the respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states.

The key body involved in taking forward the relationship is the NATO-Ukraine Commission, a body in which the 28 NATO Allies and Ukraine sit as equal members. All decisions within the Commission are taken by consensus.

Ukraine is also a member of the 50-nation Partnership for Peace (PfP), which brings together NATO Allies and countries from across Europe and Central Asia on issues of common concern.



## Practical Cooperation

Consultations and cooperation between NATO and Ukraine cover a range of topics, including military operations, defence and security sector reform, civil emergency planning and science and environment.

### ***Military operations and exercises***

Ukraine has contributed significantly to NATO-led operations. In 2013, it became the first partner country to contribute a ship to NATO's counter-piracy operation, Ocean Shield.

As at February 2014, Ukraine provides 164 troops to NATO's peacekeeping mission in Kosovo, KFOR and 28 troops to the NATO-led ISAF mission in Afghanistan. Ukraine has also expressed its readiness to participate in the planned post-2014 follow-on mission to train, advice and assist Afghan security forces.

Ukraine regularly supports Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's maritime counter-terrorism operation in the Mediterranean. Ukraine has contributed ships to the operation six times since 2007, most recently in November 2010.

Ukraine also takes part in NATO-run exercises. In 2013, Ukrainian troops participated in Exercise Steadfast Jazz, the biggest NATO exercise in seven years, which took place in the Baltic Countries and Poland.

### ***Defence and security sector reform***

NATO is taking several measures aimed at supporting long-term systematic reforms of the Ukrainian defence and security sector, in order to strengthen Ukraine's ability to provide for its own security.

Through the **NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Defence Reform**, NATO experts are providing guidance to Ukraine on how to reform its defence sector and on how to adapt Ukraine's defence architecture, command and control arrangements, capabilities, plans and procedures. Reinforcing democratic control of the armed forces is the core principle of the effort.



Under the **Defence Education Enhancement Programme**, NATO experts are modernising a number of Ukrainian military education institutions by providing guidance in faculty development, language training classes and curriculum development.

As part of NATO's **Building Integrity Programme** NATO organises academic courses for Ukrainian civilian and military officers with the aim of promoting transparency, accountability and good governance in the defence sector.

**NATO-Ukraine Professional Development Programme** for civilian personnel of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence enhances capacity for democratic management and oversight in defence and security institutions.

Ukrainian officials also take part in NATO-run education and training programmes, including at the NATO Defence College in Rome, Italy, and the NATO School at Oberammergau, Germany.

### ***Retraining of former military personnel***

NATO is providing support to the retraining of released or retired military personnel to assist Ukraine in managing the socio-economic consequences of defence reform. A NATO-funded retraining programme is providing linguistic and specialised professional courses for several hundred former military personnel per year.

### ***Destroying stockpiles of legacy weapons and munitions***

Individual Allies are supporting the destruction of Ukraine's legacy stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, munitions and small arms through Partnership for Peace-Trust Fund projects. The first project destroyed 400,000 landmines. It was the first step in destroying Ukraine's stockpile of almost seven million anti-personnel mines.

A second project, costing some €25 million, to destroy over 130,000 tons of munitions, 1.5 million small arms and 1000 man-portable air defence systems is underway. It is the largest demilitarization project of its kind ever to be undertaken.

### ***Civil emergency planning***

NATO is assisting Ukraine to better prepare for civil emergencies and to handle their consequences more effectively. By participating in NATO-run exercise, Ukraine has tested its disaster-response capabilities to deal with natural emergencies such as avalanches and earthquakes, or man-made accidents or terrorist attacks involving toxic spills or chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agents.

### ***Science and environment***

NATO's Science for Peace Programme supports cooperation between scientists and civilian experts from NATO and partner countries. Ukraine's is receiving assistance in key priority areas such as environmental security, counter-terrorism, the protection of critical infrastructure and protection against Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Radioactive threats. A new Trust Fund is currently being considered that will help remove and decontaminate military sites with stored radioactive materials.



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