# NATO's Relations with Ukraine

Ukraine and NATO have been partners for almost 20 years. They have built a distinctive partnership, which has been strengthened over the years. Ukraine is the only partner to have actively contributed to all major NATO-led operations and missions.

NATO provides both political and practical assistance to Ukraine in response to the serious challenges the country faces. NATO support to Ukraine is helping the country's reform efforts, in order to better provide for its security and to strengthen its democratic institutions.

NATO has stressed that the full implementation of the Minsk agreements is the path to peace in Ukraine. Russia has a special responsibility in this regard.

## Strengthening cooperation

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg visited Ukraine in on 21-22 September 2015. He stressed the Alliance's wish to strengthen cooperation with Ukraine and welcomed the country's progress on reforms.

In Kiev, the Secretary General signed an Agreement on the Status of the NATO Representation to Ukraine that will provide the NATO Liaison Office and NATO Information and Documentation Centre in Kiev with the necessary legal framework. Two additional documents were signed during the visit. One expresses NATO's intent to support Ukraine on communications. The other steps up defence-technical cooperation and will enable Ukraine's armed forces and defence industry to benefit from advice and closer cooperation with counterparts from NATO members.

The five Trust Funds that NATO leaders launched at the Wales Summit in September 2014, are up and running. Projects are being developed in command and control, cyber defence, logistics, medical rehabilitation and military career transition. In June 2015, another Trust Fund on Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices and Explosive Ordnance Disposal has been set up.

Allied advisors continue to work in Ukraine supporting the Ministry of Defence and other institutions on defence reform and planning.

NATO and Ukraine are also working together to better address civil emergencies. In September 2015 NATO and Ukraine held the field exercise "Ukraine 2015", their third joint exercise in emergency response, hosted by Ukraine. The exercise hosted teams from 28 NATO and partner nations.

## Steadfast political and practical support

NATO has been steadfast in its political support for Ukraine since Russia's illegitimate annexation of Crimea and the consequent conflict in eastern Ukraine.

NATO's support for Ukraine has been stated at regular meetings of the NATO-Ukraine Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers, Defence Ministers and at the Summit in Wales in September 2014.

In the wake of the ongoing conflict, practical cooperation with Ukraine has been stepped up through dialogue, exercises, and building the capacity of the Ukrainian forces. Five new Trust Funds were established in the areas of Logistics and Standardization, Command, Control, Communications and Computers, Cyber Defence, Military Career Management and Medical Rehabilitation.

In 2014, Ukraine became the largest beneficiary of NATO grants for scientific collaboration (NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme - SPS). NATO has also helped coordinate humanitarian and medical aid for internally displaced persons. And a NATO project to support humanitarian de-mining in Ukraine has been launched.

Many Allies have also offered bilateral training, humanitarian, medical and other non-lethal aid. They have deployed additional support to the NATO Liaison Office in Kiev and sent advisors to the Government of Ukraine.

## Closer partnership

Following the "Orange Revolution" of 2004-05, NATO and Ukraine intensified their dialogue and cooperation. NATO continued to support Ukraine's defence and democratic reforms. At the NATO Summit in Bucharest in April 2008, Alliance leaders welcomed Ukraine's and Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations for membership in NATO.

Over the years, Ukrainian troops have worked alongside NATO troops in the NATO-led missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Ukraine's contribution to NATO's work in Afghanistan continued after the end of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in 2014. Ukraine continues its support through participation in the NATO-led Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan.

From 2005 on, Ukraine contributed officers to the NATO Training Mission in Iraq. Ukraine deployed ships in support of Operation Active Endeavour – NATO's maritime operation in the Mediterranean - six times since 2007. At the end of 2013, Ukraine also contributed a frigate to NATO's counter-piracy Operation Ocean Shield off the coast of Somalia.

Ukraine was also the first partner country to contribute to the NATO Response Force (NRF) in 2011, with a platoon specialised in nuclear, biological and chemical threats and strategic airlift capabilities. In 2013, Ukraine participated in NATO's exercise "Steadfast Jazz".

## The NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership

On 9 July 1997 NATO and Ukraine signed a charter establishing a distinctive partnership. The Charter (here) set out areas for potential cooperation, including civil emergency planning, military training and environmental security. It established the NATO-Ukraine Commission where NATO Allies and Ukraine work together to deepen their cooperation.