



Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP)

Introduction

The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) is a set of measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening Georgia's defence capabilities and developing closer security cooperation and interoperability with NATO Members. The SNGP includes support to 13 different areas of the defence and security-related sectors, across all three military services. It involves strategic level advice and liaison, defence capacity-building and training activities, multi-national exercises and enhanced interoperability opportunities. As of late 2015, some 20 NATO Members and Partner States have provided generous support to the implementation of the package in the form of expertise and resources.

Deepening NATO-Georgia Cooperation

The SNGP is building on a solid foundation of NATO-Georgia cooperation which has grown since the early 1990s. In recent years, this has been strengthened through mechanisms such as the NATO-Georgia Commission, Military Committee with Georgia and NATO Liaison Office, as well as through many capacity-building and partnership programmes. In addition, Georgia and NATO discuss progress in priority reforms in a broad range of areas, through a jointly agreed Annual National Programme.

At the NATO Wales Summit in September 2014, Allied Heads of State and Government further deepened this partnership by identifying Georgia as one of five countries eligible for enhanced cooperation and dialogue opportunities with the Alliance, and endorsing the Substantial NATO-Georgia Package. With these decisions, Allies recognised Georgia's significant contributions to NATO operations and Alliance objectives, such as NATO missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo, the counter-terrorism maritime surveillance operation in the Mediterranean and NATO's Response Force (NRF). Thanks to the SNGP, Georgia is a primary beneficiary of NATO's Defence Capacity Building Initiative, set up to project international stability through concrete support and activities with key nations.

The SNGP will strengthen Georgia's ability to ensure security for its people. It will also enhance Georgia's participation in future international missions, and its opportunities to contribute to Euro-Atlantic security. In broader terms, the measures constitute another tool to help Georgia advance in its preparations for eventual NATO membership.

Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP)

A Comprehensive Approach

The SNGP comprises measures at the strategic, tactical and operational levels across 13 areas including strategic and operational planning, aviation, air defence, maritime security, strategic communications, special operations, military police, cyber defence, acquisition and procurement, and intelligence-sharing. The SNGP also includes the establishment of a Defence Institution Building School, NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre and Logistics Facility, and the facilitation of multi-national and regional exercises.

The projects are managed by Project Team Leaders and experts from some 20 NATO Members and Partner States. They work with counterparts in the Ministry of Defence, General Staff and Army and related institutions to build expertise and encourage key reforms. The SNGP implementation process is managed by a Core Team of three experts who provide guidance and coherence to the projects and ensure necessary coordination and resources. The SNGP Core Team is based at Georgia's Ministry of Defence in Tbilisi.



SNGP Implementation

In the first phase of implementation in 2014-15, SNGP achieved its declared goals of establishing the Core Team and relevant coordination processes and launching several projects through intense collaboration and concept development. Exercise Agile Spirit was held in July 2015 - the first NATO-Georgia military exercise open to partners - and the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre was inaugurated. In the next phase, more projects will be launched and further developed, in close cooperation with Georgian officials.

Projects will progress through phases at different paces and in differing scales, subject to resources, requirements and other factors.

Key Projects in Progress

NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC)

The JTEC is a combined NATO-Georgia project based on Georgian and regional needs and complementary to existing training programmes, policies and doctrines. It is tasked with strengthening the capabilities of Georgia's defence and security sector in addressing a range of threats, as well as improving the interoperability of Georgian and Allied Forces, and contributing to regional security cooperation. It will achieve these goals through promotion of inter-agency coordination, facilitation of national, bilateral and multilateral exercises, and training, evaluation and certification activities, supported by the use of modern training technologies – live, virtual and constructive simulation.



The Project Team, including NATO Nordic-Baltic personnel and Georgian military officers, are continuing to develop plans and procure resources, which includes support from the US Office of Defence Cooperation. Training of Georgian military units is expected to start in 2016. The JTEC will also help facilitate all joint exercises between troops from Georgia, NATO and Partner Nations.

JTEC Inauguration, August 27 August 2015

The NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre was inaugurated in 2015 by Georgian leaders and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, at its new headquarters in Krtsanisi, where it is now part of Georgia's Training and Military Education Command.



Defence Institution Building School (DIB School)

This Georgian institution is planned to offer professional development programmes and quality training to support institutional reforms and good governance of the security sector, including the civil service. It will build on training currently offered through the Defence Ministry's Professional Development Centre, under the auspices of the National Defence Academy, as well as NATO-supported capacity building programmes such as the Defence Education Enhancement Programme and Building Integrity Programme.



Logistics Facility

This project is designed to facilitate the reception and movement of NATO and Partner forces, equipment and supplies during participation in military training and exercises, crisis management operations and NATO-led and other international operations. This initiative will also support the training of the Georgian Armed Forces and the Joint Training and Evaluation Centre.

Strategic Communications

This area of support is aimed at developing the strategic communications capability of the Ministry of Defence and Army, in order to demonstrate transparency and promote security-related policies and activities to key audiences and stakeholders at home and abroad. Coordination across Government in communicating security issues as part of an overall Government vision will be developed.

All other projects are in various stages of development and will be furthered over the coming months.



SNGP Principles

Supporting Georgia's Security Vision: The SNGP is committed to supporting Georgia's vision of defence transformation, including a combat-ready Armed Forces and enhanced defence management system, on its journey towards improved security, stability and prosperity. The SNGP is building on existing infrastructure and capabilities, and is compatible with national strategies, reforms and priorities. It is designed to bring sustainable, institutionalised and long term benefits to the country's security capabilities, and management and accountability systems.

Building on Capacity-Building Experience: The SNGP is building on several years of NATO capacity building assistance provided through the Defence Education Enhancement Programme, Professional Development Programme and Building Integrity Programme. These initiatives have strengthened defence education and capacity in many areas, including the democratic management of security sector institutions.

Strengthening Defence Capabilities and Preparedness: The SNGP is strengthening Georgia's ability to react effectively to a range of security threats and challenges including disaster management.

Promoting Regional Stability: The SNGP aims to contribute to improved regional stability through bolstering defence cooperation in the wider Black Sea region and supporting regional dialogue and peace.

Supporting Broader Reforms: The SNGP is complementing NATO support to broad reforms in the political, economic, defence, resource, security and legal arenas, as outlined in the Annual National Programme, as well as other agreed goals for defence transformation under the Partnership for Peace's Planning and Review Process (PARP).

Advancing Interoperability: The SNGP is helping Georgia build deployable units which operate according to NATO standards and which can continue to serve effectively alongside Allied Forces in operations that address shared security challenges.



For further information, see NATO Website http://nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_38988.htm