

**INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME
BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NATO**

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1. SHARED PRINCIPLES

1.1 Australia and NATO have a long history of working together over many decades on the basis of our common values, shared commitment to democracy, peace, human rights, the rule of law and the promotion of international security. Over the last decade, Australia's significant contribution to NATO's operations in Afghanistan has further strengthened the Australia-NATO partnership and improved interoperability. The present Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme complements the Joint Political Declaration, signed by then NATO Secretary General and then Australian Prime Minister on 14 June 2012, and further details our practical cooperation.

1.2 Following the 2014 Wales Summit, in recognition of the closeness of the partnership between Australia and NATO, NATO recognised Australia as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner. Noting Australia's status as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner, reaffirmed at the 2016 Warsaw Summit, Australia and NATO will strive for greater interoperability.

1.3 In pursuit of mutual benefit, Australia and NATO undertake this IPCP to facilitate cooperation and enhance interoperability in areas including:

1.3.1 Promoting understanding of global security issues through consultation;

1.3.2 Sharing experiences of, and improving approaches to, managing crises and conflicts;

1.3.3 Stabilising post-conflict situations;

1.3.4 Supporting reconstruction and facilitating humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

1.3.5 Enhancing interoperability and participation in NATO exercises and operations;

1.3.6 Building capacity through personnel exchanges, training, capability and continued science, research and technology cooperation; and

1.3.7 Promoting opportunities for information exchange.

2. SCOPE OF COOPERATION

2.1 Australia and NATO remain committed to strategic dialogue, the exchange of information and intelligence as appropriate, joint operational and training activities, secondments of Australian military and civilian personnel to NATO, and visits and exchanges by military and civilian personnel.

2.2 The key objectives of this cooperation include, but are not limited to:

2.2.1 Promoting political and military interaction in order to strengthen peace and security efforts, including NATO's projecting stability efforts, and encouraging commitment to a stable rules-based global order as the foundation of global security and stability.

2.2.2 Providing an Australian perspective on developments within the Indo-Pacific region, enriching NATO's understanding of the region.

2.2.3 Supporting Australian Defence Force interoperability, deployability and mobility, including through participation in NATO operations and exercises.

2.2.4 Promoting the development of military capabilities in the fields of science and technology, operations, and logistics.

2.2.5 Exchanging lessons learned that inform peaceful solutions to conflict.

3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

Global and Regional Peace and Security

3.1 Australia and NATO will:

3.1.1 Undertake regular high-level political and strategic dialogue, including in committee meetings in 29 +1 format, on mutually identified security issues of common concern, with a view to preventing crises and, as required, contribute to their resolution;

3.1.2 Share views on emerging and current global security developments including those posed by technology, terrorism, state and non-state actors that act in contravention of the rules-based international order, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

3.1.3 Consult on matters relevant to Australia's strategic interest, including the Indo-Pacific region and matters related to countries where the Australian Defence Force maintains a presence; and

3.1.4 Exchange views and information and, as appropriate, undertake practical cooperation to support our shared interest in international efforts to protect the global commons, including aspects of maritime security and maintenance of the freedom of the seas.

Interoperability, Deployability and Mobility

3.2 Australia will continue its membership in NATO's Interoperability Platform, drawing on its active participation of the Partnership Interoperability Advocacy Group (PIAG).

3.3 Australia and NATO will maintain a mutual understanding of the importance of a comprehensive approach to operational planning, particularly in the area of crisis management.

3.4 NATO will facilitate the streamlined and timely release of NATO classified operational documents (Operational Plans and Rules of Engagement, for example) to Australia, on written request from the Australian Chief of the Defence Force and before recognition as a potential operational partner, on a case by case basis and with North Atlantic Council (NAC) approval.

3.5 Enhanced opportunities to facilitate Australia's contributions, including assured participation in NATO exercises, and NATO courses, open to partners and, as appropriate, NATO Response Force (NRF) exercises, including early-stage planning. Should Australia wish to participate in Article 5 and cyber exercises, North Atlantic Council (NAC) approval will be sought separately.

3.5.1 NATO may consider contributing assets to Australian exercises and operations, where NATO participation is appropriate.

3.6 NATO and Australia will cooperate to accommodate appropriate legal coverage for Australian Defence Force participation in NATO operations and exercises.

3.7 NATO and Australia will examine avenues to further support cooperation in the field of logistics.

Capability Development and Scientific Cooperation

3.8 Australia and NATO will continue cooperation in the areas of:

3.8.1 Defence capability development including, but not limited to:

3.8.1.1 Shared expertise in countering improvised explosive devices (CIED) and explosive ordnance devices (EOD).

3.8.1.2 Continued cooperation in the area of communications, including the Federated Mission Networking project.

3.8.1.3 Australian participation in NATO Smart Defense Projects, where it is mutually beneficial to do so.

3.8.2 Defence science, research and technology, particularly between the Australian Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) and the NATO Science Technology Organisation (STO).

3.8.3 Australia will continue to cooperate with the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, in particular in the following areas: energy security, support for NATO-led operations and missions; support to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (UN Security Council Resolution 1325) agenda, advanced technologies with security applications, regional cooperation, CBRN and cyber defence.

3.9 This continued cooperation will be supported by NATO's facilitation of the timely release of NATO classified Allied Publications (APs) and Standardisation Agreements (STANAGs) relevant to Australia.

Lessons Learned

3.10 NATO will facilitate the timely release of relevant lessons learned documents to Australia, including those related to operations and exercises in which Australia has been an operational partner.

3.11 NATO and Australia will exchange best practice and lessons learned to mainstream a women, peace and security perspective (UN Security Council Resolution 1325) into the full spectrum of NATO and ADF missions.

3.12 Where our interests intersect, Australia and NATO will exchange best practice and lessons learned on UN Security Council Resolution 1612 and the protection of civilians generally.

4. COMMENCEMENT OF IPCP

This IPCP will come into effect at the date of endorsement by the Australian Government and the North Atlantic Council.

5. REVIEW OF IPCP

Australia and NATO will jointly review the cooperation resulting from this IPCP at regular intervals.

Signed in Brussels on 29 June 2017 in two originals.



Senator the Honourable Marise Payne

Minister for Defence
Australia



Jens Stoltenberg

Secretary General
North Atlantic Treaty Organization