

## NATO-Georgia relations



Georgia is one of NATO's closest partners. Allied Heads of State and Government agreed that Georgia will become a member of NATO at the Bucharest Summit in April 2008. This decision was reconfirmed at successive NATO Summits. Georgia's relationship with the Alliance contains all the practical tools to prepare for eventual membership.

The NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC) serves as a forum for political consultations and oversees the practical cooperation between Georgia and NATO. In July 2018, NATO Heads of State and Government and the President of Georgia adopted a Declaration to mark the NGC's tenth anniversary ([https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\_texts/156627.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts/156627.htm)).

Since 2008, Georgia submits every year to NATO Allies an Annual National Programme with a wide range of reform objectives to support Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. Based on the ANP, NATO provides focused and comprehensive advice towards Georgia's reform goals, both in civilian and military frameworks.

The NATO Liaison Office in Tbilisi (NLO) ensures liaison with the Georgian Government. It also maintains contacts with NGOs, supports public diplomacy and assists Georgia's reform efforts.



### Substantial NATO-Georgia Package

NATO supports Georgia with a Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP). This aims to strengthen Georgia's defences and ability to work side-by-side with NATO forces and to help Georgia advance in its preparations for membership in the Alliance. The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package was endorsed by Allied Heads of State and Government at the 2014 Wales Summit.

Almost 40 resident and non-resident experts from NATO Allies and several partner countries currently provide advice and training across 14 different areas of work, ranging from Defence Institution Building School, logistics, intelligence sharing and secure communications and acquisition, to aviation, air defence, special forces, maritime security, military police, cyber defence, strategic communications, counter-mobility and crisis management. One major initiative from the Substantial Package is the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC). Inaugurated in Tbilisi in August 2015, the centre assists Georgia in reforming, modernising and strengthening its security and defence sector. It offers multi-national training and exercise opportunities, fostering cooperation between forces from Georgia, NATO and interested partner countries. Through regional training opportunities, the Centre also contributes to promoting stability in the Black Sea and Caucasus region.

In March 2019, the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre conducted the 2019 NATO-Georgia joint military exercise with the participation of 21 NATO Allies and 3 Partner Nations. This was the first time the Georgian General Staff and JTEC planned and led a multinational crisis response exercise according to NATO procedures from start to finish.

## Dialogue and Cooperation on Black Sea Security

Allies have also decided to deepen their focus on security in the Black Sea region. Georgia provides regular contributions to NATO's political-military assessments on Black Sea security. Allied personnel are conducting training activities for Georgian Coast Guard Units. Contacts between NATO's Maritime Command and the Georgian Coast Guard have been strengthened and the number of port calls to Poti and Batumi has been enhanced.

Bilaterally, Allies are implementing programmes to enhance Georgia's self-defence and resilience.

## Contributions to NATO-led operations and missions

Georgia is the fifth largest contributor to the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces in Afghanistan, with 870 personnel deployed. They are located in Bagram, Kabul and in Mazar-i-Sharif.

The Georgian government has also pledged financial support to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces. Georgia was the largest non-NATO troop contributor to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) which came to an end in December 2014.

Georgia also supported Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's counter-terrorism maritime surveillance operation in the Mediterranean, which was succeeded by Operation Sea Guardian in October 2016. Georgia further contributes to the NATO Response Force (NRF).



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