Twenty-nine members contribute to promoting security and stability through diplomatic, political and military means. They are committed to the principle of collective defence, which means that an attack against one member or more is considered as an attack against all. NATO also develops partnerships with non-NATO countries and is involved in crisis management operations and missions.

Partnership with non-NATO countries started as early as 1991 to help often newly independent states build a solid democratic environment, maintain political stability and modernise armed forces. Discussions on security issues of common interest take place within a multilateral forum called the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and practical cooperation is organised with individual partner countries through NATO’s Partnership for Peace programme.

Partners across the globe
NATO has developed bilateral relations with a number of countries which are not part of NATO’s official partnerships frameworks. They include countries such as Australia, Colombia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Mongolia. They develop cooperation with NATO in areas of mutual interest and some contribute actively to NATO operations either militarily or in some other way.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by NATO.

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