The NATO cooperates with a number of countries, which are not part of its regional partnership frameworks. Often referred to as “partners across the globe”, these countries develop cooperation with NATO in areas of mutual interest, including emerging security challenges, and some contribute actively to NATO operations either militarily or in some other way.

In December 2016, discussions with Colombia started on developing an Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme to set out priority areas for dialogue and cooperation, and concluded successfully in May 2017. The objectives of the partnership are to develop common approaches to global security challenges such as cyber security, maritime security, and terrorism and its links to organised crime; to support peace and security efforts including human security, and promoting the role of women in peace and security; and to build the capacities and capabilities of the Colombian armed forces.

The SPS Programme enables close collaboration on issues of common interest to enhance the security of NATO and partner nations by facilitating international efforts to meet emerging security challenges, supporting NATO-led operations and missions, and advancing early warning and forecast for the prevention of disasters and crises.

The current SPS Key Priorities include:

- Counter-Terrorism;
- Energy Security;
- Cyber Defence;
- Defence against CBRN Agents;
- Environmental Security;
- Security-related Advanced Technology;
- Border and Port Security;
- Human and Social Aspects of Security.

Additionally, the SPS Programme helps to promote regional security through scientific cooperation among partners. The programme also helps to prepare interested eligible nations for NATO membership. SPS activities often have a high public diplomacy value.

Cooperative Activities

The SPS Programme is open to all activities with Colombia in line with the political guidance from Allies in the form of the 2012 SPS Key Priorities and the 2013 Overarching Guidelines. At present, the SPS Programme does not have any activities led by Colombia.
COUNTER-TERRORISM LESSONS FROM MARITIME PIRACY AND NARCOTIC INTERDICTION

This three-day Advanced Research Workshop, to be held in Bogota, Colombia will gather thirty policymakers, practitioners, and academics from fifteen NATO member states and two partner nations. Participants will engage in high-level, intensive discussions, focusing on methods for protecting critical maritime infrastructure, such as ports, supplies, and personnel, from terrorist attacks. Presentations and roundtables will also address the human and social factors that contribute to the defence against terrorism [ref. G5549]. The discussions will enhance cooperation between maritime security experts across four continents. By sharing knowledge from diverse national perspectives and research communities, the workshop will facilitate the transmission of lessons learned from counter-piracy and counter-narcotic operations to formulate recommendations for best practices and technological innovations to manage seaborne terrorism. This activity, to be held in 2019, will be led by national scientists and experts from Colombia and Denmark.

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