

Developing Practical Cooperation through Science

Kuwait has been engaged with NATO since the creation of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), launched at the Istanbul Summit in 2004.

The NATO 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.

KUWAIT

Kuwait engages with NATO through the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) launched in 2004. As a NATO partner country, Kuwait is eligible for support through the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. At present, there are no SPS activities with Kuwait.

THE SPS PROGRAMME IS OPEN TO ACTIVITIES WITH KUWAIT

The SPS Programme is open to all projects with Kuwait, in line with the political guidance from Allies in the form of the 2012 SPS Key Priorities and the 2013 Overarching Guidelines.



Kuwait created their first Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme (IPCP) with NATO in 2014, and while it does not explicitly mention the SPS Programme, there are a number of Key Priority areas highlighted in it.

THE ISTANBUL COOPERATION INITIATIVE

The Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) focuses on practical cooperation in areas where NATO can add value, notably in the security field. Six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council were initially invited to participate. To date, four of these – Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates – have joined. Saudi Arabia and Oman have also shown an interest in the Initiative. Based on the principle of inclusiveness, the Initiative is, however, open to all interested countries of the broader Middle East region who subscribe to its aims and content, including the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The ICI is a 'two-way' partnership, in which NATO seeks partners' contribution for its success, through a regular consultation process; special emphasis is placed on practical cooperation. The SPS Programme is an excellent basis for such practical and concrete partnership activities.