The NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme is open to collaboration with scientists and experts from Pakistan.

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 forecasting 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.

NATO cooperates with a number of countries that 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. Some contribute actively to NATO operations either militarily or in some other way. Political dialogue and practical cooperation with Pakistan have expanded significantly in recent years, particularly with regards to Afghanistan. Allied nations and Pakistan share a common interest in stabilizing the region and defeating extremism.

Cooperative Activities

The SPS Programme is open to all activities with Pakistan in line with the political guidance from Allies in the form of the 2012 SPS Key Priorities and the 2013 Overarching Guidelines. Pakistan’s participation in the SPS Programme has focused on developing effective public safety communication in the context of terrorist attacks, and on exploring the potential for and related challenges of a partnership approach to regional security, including cooperation with other international actors.
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION IN THE CONTEXT OF TERROR ATTACKS

This ongoing Multi-Year Project (MYP), which was launched in June 2018, aims at developing technologies for the transmission of information from available devices, like smartphones and other On-Scene Available (OS-A) devices in emergency situations related to terrorist attacks. The timely availability of information is expected to reduce response time, and consequently help to preserve lives and critical infrastructure.

The project is expected to make significant technological advancements in the field, and to develop a hardware prototype to be tested in a live experiment in a relevant public space, such as a transport hub, station, or shopping mall. Being the first MYP involving Pakistan, this activity is expected to strengthen ties between NATO and this important partner nation. This project is led by national scientists and experts from Pakistan, Estonia and Italy [ref. G5482].

PAKISTAN, NATO AND SOUTH ASIA: POST-2014 REGIONAL SECURITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

This Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) was planned for August 2014, to be held in Islamabad. Its goal was to explore the potential for and challenges of the partnership approach in addressing two SPS Key Priorities: how "cooperation with other international actors" would have supported NATO-led mission International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in the short-term, and how greater insight into the "human and social aspects of security" would have contributed to regional crisis prevention in the long-term. Due to turmoil in the region at the time, the event was postponed indefinitely and did not go forward. However, many important networks were created as a result of the planning process. This activity was led by national scientists and experts from Pakistan and Denmark. [ref. G4847].

ANALYSIS, DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN END-TO-END 400KM QKD LINK

Pakistan is currently participating in this ongoing MYP, which is led by the United States and Israel, and also involves Italy. The main goal of this project is to develop new methods of long-distance secure communication, thus allowing militaries to connect and communicate safely and effectively in protected cyber-space. The project was launched in May 2017 and is currently on track to meet its objectives. This project is led by experts from the United States and Israel, and involves scientists and experts from Pakistan and Italy [ref. G5263].