Developing Practical Cooperation through Science

The UAE 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.

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is engaged with the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme and NATO through the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) launched in 2004. At present, there are no ongoing SPS activities with the UAE.

The SPS Programme is open to all projects with the UAE, in line with the political guidance from Allies in the form of the 2012 SPS Key Priorities and the 2013 Overarching Guidelines. The 2016-2018 Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme (IPCP) between NATO and the United Arab Emirates gives specific reference to cooperation in the framework of the SPS Programme.

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. Initially, six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council were 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, where special emphasis is placed on practical cooperation. The SPS Programme is an excellent basis for such practical and concrete partnership activities.

Cooperative Activities

ENHANCING WOMEN’S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE) EFFORTS

The Alliance and its partners have identified UNSCR 1325 implementation as a priority, including for instance developing indicators to evaluate how the Resolution is implemented and mapping how women are included in armed forces and security organizations.

This workshop, organised by the Hedayah Countering Violent Extremism Centre of Excellence, Global Counter Terrorism Forum and the FAES Foundation, focused on the integration of the Women, Peace and Security agenda with the counter-terrorism and CVE efforts within NATO.

www.nato.int/science
The event took place on 19-21 March 2018 and provided a platform to discuss good practices, especially regarding where women’s involvement in peace and security efforts enhance operational and programmatic abilities to prevent and counter violent extremism on the ground. This SPS activity was led by Spain and the United Arab Emirates [SPS ref. G5370].

TRAIN THE TRAINERS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS TO CBRN INCIDENTS

This tailor-made training course was the first SPS activity involving the United Arab Emirates. A quick and effective response must be given the highest priority following a CBRN incident. In this training course, CBRN practitioners cooperated closely to develop a common knowledge base and ensure a minimum level of preparedness for first responders to a CBRN incident. The course, conducted in June 2013, helped nations improve their civil emergency plans, complement national training systems and improve co-operation between first responders. This course was provided for trainees from Egypt, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates at the NATO Joint CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence in the Czech Republic [SPS ref. G4671].