

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 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.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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

The SPS Programme is open to all activities 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 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.

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

The Alliance and its partners have identified implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as a priority. Efforts in this area include, for instance, the development of indicators to evaluate how the resolution is implemented and to map how women are included in armed forces and security organizations.

This Advanced Research Workshop (ARW), organised by the Hedayah Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Centre of Excellence, Global Counter Terrorism Forum and the FAES Foundation, provided a platform to discuss good practices regarding women's involvement in peace and security efforts, and to enhance operational and programmatic abilities to prevent and counter violent extremism on the ground. *This SPS activity, led by scientists and experts from the United Arab Emirates and Spain, took place from 19 to 21 March 2018.* [ref. G5370].



TRAIN THE TRAINERS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS TO CBRN INCIDENTS

This tailor-made Advanced Training Course (ATC) was the first SPS activity that involved the United Arab Emirates. A quick and effective response must be the highest priority following any incident involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents. In this training course, CBRN practitioners cooperated closely to develop a common knowledge base and to ensure a minimum level of preparedness for CBRN incidents for first responders. The course helped nations improve their civil emergency plans, complemented national training systems and improved co-operation between first responders. *This course, led by experts and scientists from the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Jordan, was conducted in June 2013 at the NATO Joint CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence in the Czech Republic.* [ref. G4671].



The NATO Science for Peace
and Security Programme

www.nato.int/science