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Postal address: Analysis and Strategic Studies Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sh.Gurbanov Str. 50, Baku AZ 1009

Tel.: 596-91-31, e-mail: mtsa@mfa.gov.az

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PREFACE



Foreword by H.E. Mr. Elmar MAMMADYAROV MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

This year, we mark the 25th anniversary of Azerbaijan's joining the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Program. On May 4, 1994, late President Heydar Aliyev visited NATO Headquarters and subscribed to the Partnership for Peace Framework Document. This milestone step from 1994 continues to be a significant factor in formulating Azerbaijan's foreign policy in the Euro-Atlantic direction.

Azerbaijan considers positively NATO's role in the maintenance of international peace and security, including through its partnership with non-member states. In this regard, we highly value the Partnership for Peace as an endeavor aimed at enhancing security in the Euro-Atlantic area by common action.

Over the past 25 years, Azerbaijan has enjoyed substantive political dialogue with NATO on peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area. This dialogue, which is marked by mutual respect and understanding, has greatly facilitated the practical cooperation in various fields, most notably on peace operations and defence reforms.

The continued support by NATO for the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is very important in many respects. On one hand, such position is quite natural since the Alliance itself is based upon these principles. On the other hand, it sends an unambiguous message indicating that the international community does not accept the forceful acquisition of territory.

Over the 25 years of cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO, my country has turned into a security provider, reliable and predictable partner contributing to a number of the Alliance's activities.

Azerbaijan is an early contributor to the Euro-Atlantic security by providing

troops to NATO-led peace operations. Particularly, Azerbaijan has provided steadfast support for the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan. My country has repeatedly increased the number of its military servicemen deployed in this operation. Azerbaijan also contributes to the training of Afghan security forces and renders financial assistance to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund.

Moreover, Azerbaijan provides significant support to NATO's mission in Afghanistan through its air and ground lines of communications. Allied nations use the territory of Azerbaijan to transport their forces and goods for the needs of the RSM. The launch of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway in 2017 increased the transit potential of Azerbaijan to that end. This railroad connected the missing link between railway systems of NATO countries and that of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Central Asia. The operationalization of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad and the new maritime cargo terminal in Azerbaijan enabled the launch of the Lapis-Lazuli corridor connecting Afghanistan with Europe.

At a practical level, Azerbaijan actively uses various cooperation mechanisms, including Individual Partnership Action Plan, and Planning and Review Process. The valuable experience and capabilities we received through practical cooperation with NATO and its member states enabled Azerbaijan to develop significant forces which are fully interoperable with NATO and which possess high-level readiness for participation in peace operations.

Today, Azerbaijan-NATO partnership goes beyond traditional military domain and involves wide-ranging issues of security sector reform, civil emergency planning, science and environment, humanitarian de-mining, Women, Peace and Security agenda, public diplomacy and many more.

The partnership between Azerbaijan and NATO is a promising avenue for future progress. New emerging challenges of different nature necessitate further development of this partnership. Azerbaijan is determined to continue to work with NATO towards the vision of building an effective security architecture in Euro-Atlantic area that is fully responsive to security concerns of all states in line with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and the Partnership for Peace Framework Document.



Foreword by **H.E. Mr. Jens STOLTENBERG** NATO SECRETARY GENERAL

In 1994, Partnership for Peace was founded with the aim to increase stability and strengthen security relationships between NATO and its partners in the wake of the Cold War. Since then, it has not only fulfilled this mandate, but served as the bedrock of NATO's partnerships programme.

As NATO has welcomed new members and built meaningful partnerships over the past decades, we have learned the importance of viewing security not only through the narrow lens of what happens within the Alliance's borders, but in the broader context of the Euro-Atlantic neighborhood. This is why, since the founding of Partnership for Peace, NATO includes among its essential core tasks the pillar of Cooperative Security.

We recognize that the Alliance is affected by, and can affect, political and security developments beyond its borders, so we are working with our network of partners to step up our efforts to project stability in our neighborhood. The way we see it, if our neighbors are more stable, so are we.

Over the course of these 25 years, Azerbaijan has been one of the most active and reliable partners in our ever-growing network. We are proud of the relationship that NATO and Azerbaijan have built and what we have achieved together.

We are grateful for the support Azerbaijan has provided not only to NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan and the ISAF operation preceding that, but also its contributions to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund. We look forward to growing and strengthening this cooperation going forward.

We are excited about the many opportunities to enhance NATO's practical cooperation with Azerbaijan on the basis of the Individual Partnership Action

Plan in areas such as the Defence Education and Enhancement Programme, Energy Security, Science for Peace and Security, Women, Peace and Security, and Public Diplomacy.

Maintaining security in the South Caucasus is of great importance to the Alliance, and we continue to support efforts towards the peaceful settlement of conflicts based upon the principles and the norms of international law, the UN Charter, and the Helsinki Final Act.

In 2019, we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Azerbaijan in Partnership for Peace, but amid the reflection and commemoration, we must also remain focused on the future. NATO's partnership with Azerbaijan has grown stronger over time, and NATO looks forward to continuing to promote democratic values and cooperative security in our shared neighborhood.



Colonel General Zakir HASANOV

MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

ENDURING PARTNERSHIP

The celebration of the 25th anniversary of our partnership with NATO is the incarnation of our achievements. This success is the result of the complex activities; which Azerbaijan had taken in very difficult circumstances 25 years ago.

Azerbaijan joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme on 4th May 1994, when the national leader of Azerbaijan Haydar Aliyev signed the PfP Framework Document, and this program, which has been successfully continued by the President of Azerbaijan and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev, has proved to be one of the most successful engagements in terms of developing effective military relationship and interoperability between NATO and Azerbaijan Armed Forces.

Developing mutually beneficial relationships with NATO constitutes one of the main directions of the Azerbaijan Army's military cooperation. The existing partnership between Azerbaijan and NATO as well as joint activities in various peace support operations are vivid examples of the efforts and the peaceful intent of our country to promote security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Despite facing challenges, Azerbaijan has contributed to the attainment of international stability by joining NATO-led operations in Kosovo and Afghanistan since the commencement of the missions.

Realizing the importance of the Resolute Support Mission to the security and continuous development of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as to the regional and global security, in 2018, we increased the number of our military contingent in Afghanistan by 30%. Additionally, Azerbaijan's contribution to Afghanistan also includes non-military aid such as political, financial and logistic support, land-air transit, various training, and mine clearance.

We clearly understand that in a globalizing world, every crisis or conflict has an unavoidable impact on other countries and therefore, Azerbaijan is and will be cooperating with NATO to further peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area.

It is no coincidence that Azerbaijan is one of the first countries to join the Planning and Review Process. This mechanism, which forms the basis of practical cooperation, has been contributing to the implementation of defence reforms, which are based on the principles of modern armed forces development, to the attainment of the necessary level of operational interoperability, and transformation of the Armed Forces.

Especially, I would like to emphasize that the Azerbaijan Army effectively utilizes Operational Capability Concept Evaluation and Feedback Programme to achieve operational interoperability. Azerbaijan Army joined the program with one company in 2004, today the units from all services are involved into the program and the gained experience is shared not only within the country, but also with partner nations, thus contributing to the development of the program.

Of course, to achieve success in the military sphere is directly interrelated with the level of operational interoperability. However, it is an undeniable fact that human interoperability and like-mindedness is a key to achieving a sustainable partnership. In this context, I would like to emphasize the importance of the Partnership for Peace Staff Post Concept.

24 officers of Azerbaijani Army have served at various NATO Headquarters and bodies within the framework of this program since 2002. Currently, eight Azerbaijani officers are working at various NATO Command structures. The experience, gained by working within the NATO HQs and in an international capacity during all these years, is valuable upon return of our officers to national duties. Knowledge and experience obtained in a multinational environment are seamlessly integrated into national practice to further contribute to the development of defence capabilities of our Army.

Our substantial cooperation with the Alliance also includes integration of NATO education and training standards into our professional military education system. For more than ten years, Azerbaijan has been using the NATO Defence Education Enhancement Programme to prepare leaders, ready to address new challenges and all kinds of threats in a complex and dynamic strategic environment.

NATO's various cooperation programs have proved themselves as an effective tool for positive changes. We think that the overall stability and security of the Euro-Atlantic area depend on the domestic reforms and international cooperation pursued by the regional countries. NATO's partnership mechanisms and co-operation programs, which we are

heavily involved in, play an important role in defining the framework of defence and security reforms of Azerbaijan and the entire region, and enhance security of the region, as well as the Euro-Atlantic area.

It is worth emphasizing that the historical success of the Alliance in preserving integrity, sovereignty and political independence of its members is one of the key factors that gathered so many countries around NATO in diverse partnerships, including the PfP countries. Not only does the Alliance uphold these principles, but also defends them politically in general as the basis of the Euro-Atlantic security. In this context, NATO member states' firm position on the settlement of conflicts in the South Caucasus is commendable and Azerbaijan is grateful to NATO for supporting its territorial integrity.

Located between Europe and Asia, the South Caucasus, especially Azerbaijan, play a significant role in the global energy market. The South Caucasus is a very important region for Europe in terms of energy security. The existence of unresolved conflicts in the region creates a big threat not only to energy security, but also to stability of Europe. In this perspective, resolution of the conflicts in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, as well as the UN Charter, is in the interest of the international community.

Our country always demonstrates its commitment to peace and supports regional as well as global stability by pursuing respective policies. 25 years of multidimensional cooperation, contribution to the international peace via peace support operations, and implemented successful projects in order to attain peace in the Euro-Atlantic area are the manifestation of our successful cooperation. I strongly believe that, the success that we have attained so far is the herald of the achievements yet to come.

I am confident that we will continue to develop and strengthen this strategic partnership.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart PEACH

CHAIRMAN OF THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE

STRONGER TOGETHER: 25 YEARS OF NATO-AZERBAIJAN PARTNERSHIP

On the 4 April 1949, four years after the end of the Second World War, twelve Nations signed the Washington Treaty which would officially create the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. As Nations rebuilt themselves following the ravages of war, the founding Nations placed their trust in each other and formed a defensive Alliance. War had taught them that they were stronger together and consequently their citizens and territory more secure. Over the course of the next seven decades, NATO has been fulfilling its three core tasks of collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security. This initial trust has been built upon as the Alliance faced together the Cold War, the Balkan Wars, the 9/11 attacks and subsequent involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Seventy years on, seventeen more Nations have joined the Alliance, with another Nation, the Republic of North Macedonia's accession now in process. The vital bond between Europe and North America has made NATO the strongest alliance in history - an alliance, bound by shared history, values and goals.

As the Alliance has grown, so too has its network of partnerships with non-member countries from the Euro-Atlantic area, the Mediterranean, the Gulf region, and other partners across the globe working together to promote international peace and security. In 1994 His Excellency Mr. Heydar Aliyev, the President of Azerbaijan visited NATO Headquarters and signed the Partnership for Peace Framework document which marked the beginning of NATO and Azerbaijan's partnership.

Twenty-five years on and this partnership has developed into the multifaceted relationship we have today. The Alliance is proud to call Azerbaijan a close, trusted and valued partner, who works with us in furthering international peace and security. Throughout the years, our partnership and interoperability has grown through Azerbaijan's involvement in our operations and missions. Your

troops participated in our NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo (KFOR) from 1998-2008, stood shoulder to shoulder with Allied troops during the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan from 2002 to the end of the NATO-led operation in 2014 to today where Azerbaijan currently supports the follow-on Resolute Support Mission (RSM) to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces by contributing to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund and by providing troops and assistance to NATO Allies on transit routes, on land, in the air and by rail, for example through the use of the Baku –Tbilisi – Kars rail link.

Our partnership has been strengthened by your Nation's participation in our Defence Education and Enhancement programme, cooperation with our Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre, to develop your national civil emergency and disaster management capabilities, as well as your involvement in our Partnership Interoperability Initiative to increase the interoperability of your troops. Your development of an Individual Partnership Action Plan with the Alliance and your commitment to the Planning and Review Process which works with you to develop forces and capabilities able to operate alongside Allied nations in operations and other activities is commendable. All these programmes and initiatives are a testimony of the efforts and commitment of your Nation to modernize and contribute to the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond.

Today our practical cooperation covers many areas, from capability development to energy security to cooperation in the defence and security sector, defence institution building, civil emergency planning, scientific cooperation, and public diplomacy. We are committed to continuing working with you in all areas that you have chosen.

NATO's partnerships are, and will continue to be, essential to the way NATO works. I want to recognize the achievements and progress Azerbaijan has made over the last twenty-five years as a trusted NATO partner, and the important role you have played strengthening regional stability and furthering international peace and security. I am confident that both the Alliance and Azerbaijan will continue to build on the last twenty-five years and invest in this partnership. I look forward to developing NATO-Azerbaijan relations further and deepening military cooperation with your Nation.



Dr. Antonio MISSIROLI

NATO ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR
EMERGING SECURITY CHALLENGES

NATO-AZERBAIJAN: 25 YEARS OF FRUITFUL SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

25 years ago, NATO and Azerbaijan agreed on a partner relationship based on a commitment to common values and principles, laying the foundation for a fruitful cooperation. Ever since Azerbaijan has been a reliable partner to the Alliance, contributing to fostering peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic framework through close cooperation in the military and in the non-military field.

The participation of Azerbaijani soldiers in NATO-led operations in Kosovo, Iraq and lately Afghanistan delivered concrete results and has proven time and again the serious commitment of Azerbaijan to foster peace and security. As NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, I would like to underline in particular our successful partnership in the non-military field. In today's security environment, NATO and its Partner countries face an increasing amount of transnational threats that cannot be tackled by one nation or international organization alone. Challenges such as worldwide terrorism, cyber defense, energy security and civil crisis response necessitate multilateral cooperation. NATO relies on the fruitful and reciprocal partnerships with partners such as Azerbaijan to tackle those challenges through practical cooperation in the spirit of collaboration and solidarity.

Back in 2006, Azerbaijan in cooperation with NATO's Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, established a mobile treatment plant, transforming over 1000 tons of highly toxic rocket fuel (mélange) – a legacy of the Cold War – into fertilizers. In the following years, the pioneering technic of this landmark SPS project was applied in Uzbekistan, another post-soviet country faced with the same challenge.

Today, 25 years after Azerbaijan joined NATO's Partnership for Peace programme, we can look back on a wide range of collaborative activities in the field of cyber defence, counter terrorism, critical infrastructure protection, advanced technologies and environmental security. Currently, Azerbaijan

is involved through NATO in securing a Georgian hydroelectric dam against geo-hazards, and last year Azerbaijani civil servants completed a training in the field of cyber security delivered by Turkish cyber experts. Furthermore, Azerbaijan is successfully cooperating with Italy on the development of portable sensors for unmanned aerial vehicles. Finally, NATO promoted regional cooperation in the Caucasus region by engaging experts in transboundary river monitoring projects. These activities are further forging the close civilian links between Azerbaijan and NATO Allies and have a high public diplomacy value, communicating the benefits of NATO's partnerships.

Along with Azerbaijan's longstanding commitment to NATO-led operations, these security-related civilian cooperative projects perfectly demonstrate that NATO and Azerbaijan have succeeded in building a truly multilayered relationship over the past decades.

Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has successfully adapted itself and its partnerships to an ever-changing security environment. NATO continues to support the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and will back efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the South Caucasus. I am confident that the partnership between Azerbaijan and NATO in the military as well as non-military field will continue to provide fruitful results and foster regional peace and security.



Mr. Patrick TURNER

NATO ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR
DEFENCE POLICY AND PLANNING

25 YEARS OF COOPERATION IN DEFENCE POLICY AND CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

It is a privilege for me to congratulate Azerbaijan on 25 years of cooperation with NATO in the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme.

At the end of the Cold War, PfP was established to reach out to Azerbaijan and the many other newly independent nations, to strengthen the security in the Euro-Atlantic area through cooperation and common action, based on the fundamental values of the Alliance.

By entering PfP, Partner nations agreed to cooperate with NATO in pursuing a number of objectives, among them to facilitate transparency in national defence planning and budgeting processes; to ensure democratic control of defence forces; to maintain the capabilities and readiness to contribute to operations on a case-by-case basis; to develop cooperative military relations with NATO; and to develop, over the longer term, interoperability with NATO.

Looking back over 25 years, Azerbaijan has made great progress in the achievement of these objectives, and in the development of its relationships with NATO. Azerbaijan has remained an active and engaged Partner, contributing forces to NATO-led operations, as well as to peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations. Azerbaijan has also contributed a substantial number of Partner Staff Officers to NATO staffs and the NATO Command Structure.

Azerbaijan was not only an early member of PfP, but also very quickly took full advantage of the opportunities offered by the Planning and Review Process (PARP), after its establishment in 1995. The implementation of the ambitious package of Partnership Goals agreed between Azerbaijan and the Allies, covering not just the armed forces, but also capabilities from a number of other ministries and agencies, continues at all levels, and in a host of annual courses, training events and exercises. The PARP process is also a key element in the political dialogue between Azerbaijan and Allies, in the area of defence policy and capability development.

Azerbaijan's commitment to the objectives of PfP, and our deep cooperation in a range of issues and activities, have made a significant contribution to NATO's overall objectives of preserving peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area, and to NATO's core tasks of crisis management and cooperative security.

This year, we also celebrate NATO's unprecedented success in helping to maintain peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area for 70 years. Our future success will depend on our ability to adapt to the current and future security challenges. As in the past, this ability will depend on the credible capabilities of the Alliance and, especially on operations, of the Partners. NATO defence planning, and our interaction with Partner nations through PARP, is not just conducted for the current challenges and ongoing operations, but even more so for the unknown challenges of the future. Together, we will be better prepared for these challenges.

As I, once again, congratulate Azerbaijan on the achievements of the past 25 years of cooperation with NATO, I look forward to continued cooperation between the Alliance and Azerbaijan in the areas of defence policy and capability development. I am convinced that this long-term cooperation will enhance our common objectives of peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond, for many years to come.



Dr. John MANZA

NATO ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR
OPERATIONS

AZERBAIJAN – A COMMITTED AND RELIABLE NATO PARTNER

I am very pleased to see that NATO and Azerbaijan are able to celebrate twenty-five years of successful cooperation through the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme. NATO-Azerbaijan relations have developed considerably over the years and cooperation now extends across many domains. Beginning with Azerbaijani officers participating in NATO training courses in 1994 and continuing with Azerbaijan's contribution to NATO missions, the relationship between the two sides has matured into a solid partnership.

Political instability and the threat of violence are constants of the international stage. Challenges cut across borders and are evermore globalized. Allied Nations and partners face a panoply of common security challenges such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, weapons trafficking and broad political instability. In this context, peace and security cannot be taken for granted and NATO's mission to provide peace and security should not be taken lightly.

NATO-led operations are at the core of this mission. Today, NATO's operations are adapted to the complex security environment and support wider international community objectives. One of the constant features of NATO missions, since our first operations in the Balkans in the 1990s, has been the participation of non-NATO countries, in particular our partners. Efforts to maintain peace bring nations together and reflect the inclusive nature of NATO operations.

Today, troops from Azerbaijan stand side by side with those of the Alliance as part of the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. Azerbaijani officers and soldiers serve with distinction and their contribution to the international community's efforts to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan is universally recognized by partners and Allies alike. This is not a single contribution on behalf of Azerbaijan; it follows other contributions to NATO's ISAF mission and to the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo.

Azerbaijan's contributions reflect, above all, a willingness to take on a greater share of responsibility for security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. But, our partnership is also the result of years of hard work. The basis for successful cooperation between NATO and Azerbaijani troops is a high degree of interoperability which has been methodically built over twenty-five years through training, exchange programmes, and practical field cooperation. Indeed, Azerbaijan has been participating in the PfP's Planning and Review Process since 1997 and in 2008 it started to integrate NATO standards into its teaching methodologies and curricula at its professional military institutions.

In addition to military-to military cooperation, NATO-Azerbaijan relations extend to other fields as well. For example, an Azerbaijani official works in the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre at NATO Headquarters, and this Centre provides support to help Azerbaijan to develop its national civil emergency and disaster management capabilities.

I hope that this publication will contribute to public interest in the NATO-Azerbaijan relationship, which I am convinced will continue to thrive and expand in the years to come.



Ambassador Tacan ILDEM

NATO ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

AZERBAIJAN AND NATO: 25 YEARS OF FOSTERING PEACE THROUGH PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Two-thousand and nineteen is an historic year for the NATO Alliance. This year, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, as well as the 10th, 15th, and 20th anniversaries of post-Cold War accession.

It is also a very important year for NATO partnerships, to which we owe a great deal of gratitude for continued peace and security in the European neighborhood. The 25th anniversary of Azerbaijan's participation in Partnership for Peace offer us an opportunity to reflect upon the achievements of our cooperation, and also our shared aspirations for the future.

As partners, NATO and Azerbaijan have much to be proud of—particularly our collaboration in my field, Public Diplomacy. Azerbaijan's contributions to Alliance communications efforts have been vital to maintaining stability in the region, and I look forward to working together to enhance awareness of and support for our partnership.

Security and public communication are deeply interconnected, from the nuance of diplomacy and negotiation to disinformation campaigns being waged on Allies and our Partners by state and non-state actors. In both of these domains, Public Diplomacy is one of our most powerful and adaptable tools.

When faced with the rise of so-called “fake news”, disinformation and propaganda, NATO and our Partners fight back with transparency and truth. Together, we set the record straight with facts, education, and confidence in our shared values.

The commemoration of Azerbaijan's 25th anniversary in Partnership for Peace is also the moment to look ahead to our future. Azerbaijan is a strong state and a strong partner to NATO. You bring

rich history, geopolitical expertise, and critical skills to the international table. Your active, ongoing diplomatic engagement with the region and the world are commendable. And there will always be room for Azerbaijan and NATO to grow stronger together, by communicating in one voice the importance of alliances and partnerships in promoting peace and stability for all.

Standing tall at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, a keystone partner connecting NATO to the Caucasus, Azerbaijan is in a unique position to promote the kind of intercultural dialogue and compromise that form the foundation of our shared fight against terrorism and other violent oppression. For 25 years, we have collaborated to build a common security culture based on respect for national sovereignty and the peaceful settlement of differences.

May we continue to grow and strengthen, together, for another 25 years and beyond.



Mr. James APPATHURAI

NATO SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
FOR THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

NATO-AZERBAIJAN PARTNERSHIP AT TWENTY-FIVE

Celebrating a quarter of a century of Partnership between the North Atlantic Alliance and the Republic of Azerbaijan is the perfect opportunity to look back and take stock of what has been achieved as well as to look ahead at future cooperation.

In 1994, the late President Heydar Aliyev signed the PfP Framework Document which initiated a process of practical cooperation and political dialogue between the Alliance and Azerbaijan. Today, as we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Azerbaijan's entry into the PfP, Azerbaijan-NATO relations have developed considerably.

What began in 1994 with just a few officers participating in NATO activities has grown into a substantial partnership across a wide variety of areas. Azerbaijan and NATO are working together in Afghanistan; Azerbaijani troops serve shoulder-to-shoulder with those of Allies and other Partners in the NATO-led Resolute Support; Azerbaijan provides land transit of supplies and overflight rights; it makes a key contribution to the Defence Education and Enhancement Programme (DEEP) for Afghanistan and shares with Afghanistan good practices and lessons learned in the field of defence reforms; it provides significant financial support to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund and its National Demining Agency (ANAMA) pursues its engagement in the field of humanitarian demining. Azerbaijan and NATO cooperate closely on defence reform and defence institution building in the framework of our Individual Partnership Action Plan; we also share best practices on the protection of critical infrastructure, including from malicious cyber and hybrid threats and. Every year, more than 450 Azerbaijani personnel take part in more than 120 NATO activities, including exercises and training; and our regular high-level political dialogue on regional security issues allows us to develop a shared understanding of Euro-Atlantic security.

Whether through the work on Afghanistan, or in the field of civil emergency planning during the disaster management SRBIJA 2018 Exercise, or through the implementation of the Jeyranchel

Clearance Project Trust Fund for the clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance, Azerbaijan has been an important partner of all NATO Allies in fostering security and enhancing development on Europe's frontiers and globally. These successes are based on our common interests and our common determination to work together to achieve common goals.

Twenty-five years of common endeavours have laid a strong basis for strengthening and deepening the NATO-Azerbaijan partnership. In the framework of our Individual Partnership Action Plan, much work has been done, but more lies ahead. For example, I see great potential in further developing our work on Women, Peace and Security to ensure women's full, active and meaningful participation in the defence and security sectors.

Going forward, I am confident that both the Alliance and Azerbaijan will continue to place a high priority on their relationship.

OVERVIEW OF AZERBAIJAN-NATO PARTNERSHIP



The history of Azerbaijan-NATO relationship dates back to March 1992 when Azerbaijan together with some Central and Eastern European countries, joined a newly established consultative forum – the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC), which was transformed into the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council later in 1997.

The cornerstone of the substantive partnership between Azerbaijan and NATO was laid down on 4 May 1994 when the late President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev signed the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Framework Document.

Azerbaijan conducts political dialogue with NATO on a broad range of issues of common concern based on the PfP principles. Within the political dialogue, which is held in different formats and levels, the issues like partnerships, regional security, Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, peace support operations, contribution to Afghanistan, emerging security challenges etc. are the matters of bilateral discussions and consultations. The high-level political dialogue based on mutual understanding promotes progress in practical cooperation.

Azerbaijan actively uses relevant partnership tools to achieve goals reflected in the PfP Framework Document as well as bilateral cooperation documents. The PfP Presentation Document (1996), Planning and Review Process (1997) and Individual Partnership Action Plan (2004) Documents are the main national papers that define key principles and goals of Azerbaijan's particular partnership with NATO. In these documents, Azerbaijan expressed its



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readiness for cooperation with NATO in the areas such as defence and security sector reforms, developing military forces according to NATO standards, participation in the NATO-led peace operations, civil emergency planning, addressing the emerging security challenges as well as science, environment and public diplomacy.

The Individual Partnership Action Plan, which Azerbaijan joined in 2004, enables to hold regular political dialogue, systematize bilateral cooperation as an overarching tool and agree on new cooperation activities of mutual interest in a more flexible manner. Azerbaijan successfully completed the first (2005-2007), second (2008-2010), third (2012-2013) and fourth (2014-2016) cycles and is currently conducting the fifth cycle (2017-2019) of the IPAP document.



In the framework of its Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme based upon the PfP Framework Document, Azerbaijan has been participating annually at more than 200 events. Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme enables Azerbaijan to benefit from various activities such as courses, exercises, conferences organised by NATO Allies and some Partners.

Another important mechanism is the Planning and Review Process, which is designed to help Partners identify and evaluate forces and capabilities which might be made available for multinational operations and exercises in conjunction with NATO forces. It also helps Partners to develop defence planning practices using NATO experience. Azerbaijan has undertaken a number of 'Partnership Goals' on defence planning and preparation of forces for peace support operations.

KEY MILESTONES OF AZERBAIJAN-NATO COOPERATION

1992	
31 March	Azerbaijan joins the newly created North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC).
1994	
10-11 January	NATO Summit in Brussels endorses Partnership for Peace (PfP), a programme aimed at increasing security and defence cooperation between NATO and individual partner countries. All partner countries involved in NACC, as well as CSCE participating states are invited to this programme.
4 May	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev signs the PfP Framework Document.
1995	
31 October	Azerbaijan and NATO sign the Security Agreement for the protection of sensitive or/and privileged information.
1996	
19 April	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev approves Azerbaijan's PfP Presentation Document.

23 April President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev presents Azerbaijan's PfP Presentation Document to NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Javier Solana during his visit to NATO HQ.

14 October North Atlantic Council (NAC) approves Azerbaijan's first Individual Partnership Programme (IPP).

1997

13 February NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Javier Solana visits Azerbaijan. He is received by the President, gives a briefing for the Parliament and holds meetings with several government officials.

30 May NACC is transformed into Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC).

14 November President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev signs a decree on measures to strengthen the cooperation with NATO. Under the decree a special Commission on Cooperation with NATO, composed of various Ministries is set up.

21 November President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev signs a decree to establish a diplomatic Mission of Azerbaijan to NATO.

November Azerbaijan joins PARP aimed at involving Azerbaijan more closely to NATO's defence planning for operations, among the first partner countries.

1998

12 May Azerbaijan's participation in the PfP and regional security issues are discussed at NATO Political Committee meeting in "19+1" format, including three states being invited for NATO membership.

30 September – 1 October	NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Javier Solana visits Azerbaijan. He holds meetings with the President, Speaker of the Parliament, Prime Minister and other government officials and visits “Chirag-1” Oil Platform, Baku Senior Military School and the Peacekeeping Unit of Azerbaijani Armed Forces.
15 November	Azerbaijan signs NATO’s PfP SOFA and its Additional Protocol. The Agreement enters into force on 20.11.1999.

1999

1 September	Azerbaijan sends a unit to support the NATO-led peacekeeping operation in Kosovo.
September	EAPC ad-hoc working group on prospects for regional cooperation in the Caucasus is established.

2000

27-28 April	Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Admiral G. Venturoni visits Azerbaijan. Future perspectives of Azerbaijan-NATO military cooperation are discussed with Azerbaijani authorities during his visit.
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2001

16-17 January	NATO Secretary General H.E. Lord George Robertson visits Azerbaijan. He holds meetings with the President, Speaker of the Parliament, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defence and other government officials. He is awarded the Honorary Doctorate by Baku State University.
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2002

17-18 January	President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (PA) H.E. Mr. Rafael Estrella pays a visit to Azerbaijan in response to an invitation from the Speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan. During the visit the NATO PA President meets senior figures in both government and the Parliament.
20 November	Azerbaijan sends a unit to support the ISAF operation in Afghanistan.
15-19 November	NATO PA adopts a decision on granting Azerbaijan an associate member status.

2003

2 April	NAMSA Memorandum of Understanding implementing the agreement for the PfP Trust Fund Project is signed between NATO and Azerbaijan.
23 April	Saloglu Trust Fund is presented at NATO HQ and approved by NATO Allied nations. NAMSA and ANAMA are identified as executive agents of the project.
15 May	NATO Secretary General H.E. Lord George Robertson pays his next visit to Azerbaijan. He participates in the opening of Virtual Silk Highway Project and meeting of the Commission on Cooperation with NATO and gives a briefing for the Parliament. During the visit Azerbaijan formally submits him a letter on its intention to join the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP).

2004

March	Azerbaijan joins NATO Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) and declares one infantry company in the Pool of Forces within the OCC Evaluation and Feedback programme.
19 May	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev visits NATO HQ, presents Azerbaijan's first IPAP Presentation Document to NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and addresses the NAC.
28 June	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev participates in the NATO Istanbul Summit. At the Summit, Allied leaders place special focus on the Caucasus – a special NATO representative and a liaison officer are assigned to the region.
6 July	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ. Azerbaijan's accession to IPAP and other issues of practical cooperation are discussed during the visit.
15 September	NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer appoints his first Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia.
17 September	On the basis of the goals related to security sector reform enshrined in the IPAP Presentation Document, a Working Group on National Security Policy of Azerbaijan is set up by the Presidential decree.
4-5 November	NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer visits Azerbaijan. He holds meetings with the President and Foreign Minister and participates in the meeting of the Commission on Cooperation with NATO.

2005

6-9 February	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. Robert Simmons pays a visit to Baku. He is received by the President and holds meetings in several Ministries.
14 February	Financial Management Agreement of the PfP Trust Fund for Azerbaijan is signed between NATO and Azerbaijan.
27 May	NAC approves Azerbaijan's first IPAP.
3 August	The President of Azerbaijan signs a decree on implementation of the IPAP.
17-20 November	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. Simmons pays his next visit to Baku. He is received by the President, participates in the opening of Saloglu Trust Fund and the meeting of the Commission on Cooperation with NATO at the level of deputy ministers, holds meetings in the Ministries of Defence and National Security and State Border Service, gives a briefing for the students of Baku State University.

2006

February	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP implementation in Baku.
15 March	The experts elaborate the Assessment Report on Azerbaijan's IPAP implementation. The report notes progress in Azerbaijan's IPAP implementation.
9-12 April	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. Simmons pays his next visit to Baku. He is received by the President, holds meetings in the Ministries of Foreign

	Affairs, Interior, Defence and National Security and the Parliament and participates in the meeting of the Commission on Cooperation with NATO at the level of deputy ministers.
April	A NATO PfP Trust Fund project is launched to clear unexploded ordnance from a former military base at Saloglu, Agstafa district.
July	With the support of the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, a mobile mélange treatment plant starts to operate in Azerbaijan to convert this highly toxic substance into fertilizer.
8-10 October	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. Simmons pays his next visit to Baku.
8 November	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev meets with the NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and addresses the NAC.
28-29 November	NATO Member States support the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Azerbaijan under the Declaration issued at the meeting of the NAC in Riga.

2007

11-16 February	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP implementation in Baku.
14-17 March	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. Simmons visits Baku.
2 May	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ.

27-28 September	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. Simmons visits Baku.
19 October	Azerbaijan doubles its military contingent in Afghanistan.

2008

4 March	Azerbaijan contingent completes its mission in KFOR.
5 March	President of the NATO PA H.E. Mr. José Lello pays a visit to Azerbaijan and meets the President, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence.
7 March	Azerbaijan and NATO agree on the second cycle of IPAP document.
2-4 April	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev joins the NATO/EAPC and ISAF format Summits in Bucharest. NATO Member States support the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Azerbaijan under the Bucharest Summit Declaration.
21-25 April	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP and PARP implementation in Baku.
25 June	The Mélange Project is concluded.
17 September	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ.
2 October	Azerbaijan re-doubles its military contingent in Afghanistan.
2 December	Foreign Ministers of NATO Member States reiterate their support to the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty

	of Azerbaijan and a peaceful conflict resolution founded on these principles.
9 December	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ.
16 December	NATO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero visits Azerbaijan.

2009

3-4 April	The Alliance reiterates its support to the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Azerbaijan and towards the settlement of the conflicts in the region, taking into account these principles at the NATO Strasbourg/Kehl Summit.
20-23 April	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP and PARP implementation in Baku.
29 April	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev meets the NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and addresses the NAC.
11-12 June	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, General Safar Abiyev participates at the Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers held in Brussels, Belgium.
15 July	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits the NATO HQ and participates in NAC+Azerbaijan meeting.
4 December	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ambassador Araz Azimov participates at the Meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers with non-NATO ISAF Contributing Nations.

2010

5 February	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, General Safar Abiyev participates at the Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers with non-NATO ISAF contributing countries held in Istanbul, Turkey.
16 May	Azerbaijani delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ambassador Araz Azimov pays a two-day visit to Afghanistan to assess the current state of Azerbaijan's non-military assistance to this country and discuss new cooperation opportunities.
11 June	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, General Safar Abiyev visits the NATO HQ to participate at the Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers with non-NATO ISAF contributing countries.
15-16 June	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. Robert Simmons visits Azerbaijan.
1 October	A delegation headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits the NATO HQ. He meets with the NATO Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Claudio Bisogniero and joins a meeting of the North Atlantic Council with Azerbaijan in "28+1" format.
20 November	NATO Lisbon Summit Declaration reaffirms the paragraph on supporting the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan by the NATO member nations in the context of the conflict resolution.

2011

11 March	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, General Safar Abiyev visits the NATO HQ to participate at the Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers with non-NATO ISAF contributing countries.
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14 April	Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ambassador Araz Azimov joins a meeting of NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs with non-NATO ISAF contributing nations held in Berlin.
5 May	Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan General Najmaddin Sadikov joins NATO's Military Committee meeting with Chiefs of Defence of ISAF Non-NATO Troop-Contributing Countries held in Brussels.
9 June	Minister of Defence of the Republic Azerbaijan, General Safar Abiyev visits the NATO HQ to participate at the Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers with non-NATO ISAF contributing countries.
5 July	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. James Appathurai visits Azerbaijan. He is received by President, holds meetings with high-level governmental and parliamentary officials and speaks to NATO International School of Azerbaijan (NISA) Summer Session participants.
8 July	Saloglu Trust Fund project designed to decontaminate a large area of 4400 hectares around Saloglu town in Azerbaijan from explosive ordnances posing a serious humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental threat to the local population comes to an end.
8 July	NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges Mr. Gabor Iklody visits Azerbaijan. He is received by the President, holds meetings with high-level governmental officials and attends the closing ceremony of Saloglu PfP Trust Fund project in Baku.
24-25 November	NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning Ambassador Huseyin Dirioz visits Azerbaijan. During the visit he attends the border security workshop held in Baku and co-sponsored

	by NATO and held bilateral meetings with the Azerbaijani relevant state organizations.
8 December	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ to attend the NAC meeting with non-NATO ISAF contributors held at the level of Foreign Ministers.
19 December	NAC approves the third cycle of Azerbaijan's IPAP.

2012

10 February	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. James Appathurai visits Azerbaijan. He is received by President, holds meetings with high-level governmental and parliamentary officials and speaks to NISA Winter Session participants, also meets with ADA students.
15 February	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev meets the NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen and addresses the NAC.
9-13 April	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP and PARP implementation in Baku.
19 April	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ to attend the NAC meeting with non-NATO ISAF contributors held at the level of Foreign Ministers.
21 May	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev attends the Meeting of Heads of States and Governments on Afghanistan in Chicago. NATO Chicago Summit Declaration reaffirms the paragraph on supporting the territorial integrity

24 June	of Azerbaijan by the NATO member nations in the context of the conflict resolution. NATO evaluation level 1 of Azerbaijan's infantry company under the Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) was successfully conducted
5 July	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. James Appathurai visits Azerbaijan. He speaks to NISA Summer Session participants and attends the Jeyranchel Trust Fund Project.
6-7 September	NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen visits Azerbaijan.
10 October	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, General Safar Abiyev visits the NATO HQ to participate at the Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers with non-NATO ISAF contributing countries.
31 October	Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ambassador Araz Azimov and Deputy Minister of Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Musa Panahov address the NAC with the presentation on transit opportunities in the context of ISAF redeployment, Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway and Baku International Seaport together with their Georgian and Turkish counterparts.
5 December	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ to attend the NAC meeting with non-NATO ISAF contributors held at the level of Foreign Ministers.

2013

22 February	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, General Safar Abiyev visits the NATO HQ to participate at the Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers with non-NATO ISAF contributing countries.
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8-9 April	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP and PARP implementation in Baku.
22 May	Baku hosts NATO Partnership Conference on "Emerging Security Challenges: to enhance energy security in XXI century". NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges Ambassador Gabor Iklody visits Azerbaijan.
31 May	NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security Ms. Mari Skaare and NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. James Appathurai visits Azerbaijan.
26 June	2013 IPAP Assessment Meeting is held at NATO HQ in 28+1 format.
6-10 November	Director of Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) Nazim Ismayilov visits NATO HQ and presents a report about the implementation of Jeyrachel Trust Fund project at PPC/EAPC format.
4 December	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ to attend the NAC meeting with non-NATO ISAF contributors held at the level of Foreign Ministers.

2014

15 January	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev meets the NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen and addresses the NAC.
22-23 January	Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan General Najmaddin Sadikov joins NATO's Military Committee meeting with Chiefs of Defence of ISAF Non-NATO Troop-Contributing Countries held in Brussels.

27 February	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan Colonel General Zakir Hasanov attends NATO's Defence Ministerial meeting at ISAF format in NATO HQ.
2-5 June	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan Colonel General Zakir Hasanov attends NATO's Defence Ministerial meeting at ISAF format in NATO HQ. He also visits SHAPE and meets SACEUR.
8 July	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. James Appathurai and General Manager of NSPA Mr. Mike Lyden visit Azerbaijan.
4 September	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev attends the Meeting of Heads of States and Governments on Afghanistan in Wales. NATO Wales Summit Declaration reaffirms the paragraph on supporting the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan by the NATO member nations in the context of the conflict resolution.
2 December	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ to attend the NAC meeting with non-NATO Resolute Support contributors held at the level of Foreign Ministers.

2015

16-19 March	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP and PARP implementation in Baku.
23 April	Minister of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan Colonel General Kamaladdin Heydarov visits NATO HQ.
13 May	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits Antalya to attend the NAC meeting with

	non-NATO Resolute Support contributors held at the level of Foreign Ministers.
21 May	Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan General Najmaddin Sadikov joins NATO's Military Committee meeting with Chiefs of Defence of NATO Countries at Resolute Support and interoperability formats held in Brussels.
1 December	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits NATO HQ to attend the NAC meeting with non-NATO Resolute Support contributors held at the level of Foreign Ministers.
17 December	2015 IPAP Assessment Meeting is held at NATO HQ in 28+1 format

2016

21 January	Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan General Najmaddin Sadikov joins NATO's Military Committee meeting with Chiefs of Defence of NATO Countries at Resolute Support format held in Brussels.
16 February	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. James Appathurai visits Azerbaijan.
7-11 March	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP and PARP implementation in Baku, Azerbaijan
20 May	Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits Brussels to attend the NAC meeting with non-NATO Resolute Support contributors held at the level of Foreign Ministers.

31 May – 1 June	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov attends high-level meeting on NAC + Azerbaijan format, as well as holds bilateral meeting with NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Jens Stoltenberg.
8-9 July	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev attends the Meeting of Heads of States and Governments on Afghanistan in Warsaw. NATO Warsaw Summit Declaration reaffirms the paragraph on supporting the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan by the NATO member nations in the context of the conflict resolution.
15-16 September	Director of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) Mr. Gazanfar Ahmadov visits NATO HQ and NSPA to hold constructive meetings on potential funding opportunities for Jeyranchel Trust Fund.
7 November	IPAP Assessment Meeting is held at NATO HQ in 28+1 format.
7 December	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov visits Brussels to attend the NAC meeting with non-NATO Resolute Support contributors held at the level of Foreign Ministers.
8 December	NATO Deputy Secretary General Ms. Rose Gottemoeller holds bilateral meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov in the premises of OSCE 23 rd Council of Ministers meeting during her visit to Hamburg, Germany.

2017

17 January	Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan General Najmaddin Sadikov joins NATO's Military Committee meeting with Chiefs of Defence of NATO Countries at Resolute Support format held in Brussels, Belgium.
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12-15 March	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP and PARP implementation in Baku, Azerbaijan.
7 April	The fifth cycle of Azerbaijan IPAP is approved by NAC.
4-5 May	NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy Ambassador Tacan Ildem pays visit to Baku for participation at IV International Intercultural Dialogue Forum and holds several high-level meetings.
17 May	Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan General Najmaddin Sadikov joins NATO's Military Committee meeting with Chiefs of Defence of NATO Countries at Resolute Support format held in Brussels, Belgium.
29 June	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan Colonel General Col attends NATO's Defence Ministerial meeting at RSM format in NATO HQ and holds bilateral meeting with NATO Deputy Secretary General Ms. Rose Gottemoeller.
7 September	In the frames of the meeting with Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Russian Federation General Valery Gerasimov, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee General Peter Pavel visits Azerbaijan and holds bilateral consultations with Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan General Najmaddin Sadikov.
25-27 September	NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. James Appathurai visits Azerbaijan and holds meetings with President, Chairman of Parliament and other officials.
27 September	Delegation from the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan and high-level clergy visit NATO HQ.

9 November	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan Colonel General Zakir Hasanov attends NATO's Defence Ministerial meeting at RSM format in NATO HQ.
23 November	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev meets the NATO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Jens Stoltenberg and addresses the NAC.
2018	
16 January	Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan General Najmaddin Sadikov joins NATO's Military Committee meeting with Chiefs of Defence of NATO Countries at Resolute Support format held in Brussels, Belgium.
18 April	NATO experts conduct an assessment of Azerbaijan's IPAP and PARP implementation in Baku, Azerbaijan.
19 April	General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and General Valery Gerasimov, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Minister of Defence meets in Baku.
14 May	Within the visit to Belgium Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov meets with NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Mr. James Appathurai.
22 May	IPAP Assessment Meeting is held at NATO HQ in 28+1 format.
8 June	Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan Colonel General Zakir Hasanov attends NATO's Defence Ministerial meeting at RSM format in NATO HQ.

11-12 July	President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev attends the Meeting of Heads of States and Governments on Afghanistan in Brussels. NATO Brussels Summit Declaration reaffirms the paragraph on supporting the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan by the NATO member nations in the context of the conflict resolution.
12-14 September	President of NATO Parliamentary Assembly Mr. Paolo Alli visits Azerbaijan.
19-20 September	A High Level NATO/EAPC Conference on Women, Peace and Security is co-organised by the Office of NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for WPS and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
20 September	NATO Deputy Secretary General Ms. Rose Gottemoeller visits Azerbaijan.
20 September	Azerbaijan and NATO mark the successful implementation of the final phase of the Jeyranchel NATO/PfP Trust Fund project.
05 December	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ambassador Araz Azimov participates at the meeting of the North Atlantic Council with Resolute Support Operational Partner and Potential Operational Partner Nations in Foreign Ministers' session.
12 December	General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe visits Azerbaijan to meet with General Valery Gerasimov, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. Mr. Scaparrotti is received by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev and meets the leadership of Ministry of Defence.

2019

16-19 April

NATO's Director General International Military Staff Lieutenant-General Jan Broeks visits Azerbaijan and discusses the issues regarding the security situation in the broader Caucasus region.

DEFENCE REFORMS

Evolving security circumstances and new threats demand a new approach and instruments within the national defence system. Azerbaijan is responding adequately by means of improving its defence and security sectors. Meanwhile, the on-going defence and security sector reforms are demonstrating Azerbaijan's commitments to the Euro-Atlantic values.

Azerbaijan was one of the first Partners to join the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) in 2004, which was suggested by NATO as a new PfP mechanism to provide Alliance's assistance in the field of defence reforms. In the IPAP framework Azerbaijan has launched various processes to develop effective defence system based on national strategy and procedures and efficient interagency cooperation.



Azerbaijan's National Security Concept (approved in 2007) continues to be the basis for the development of other strategic policy documents. It has served as a basis for the subsequent elaboration of Military Doctrine (approved in 2010) that defines the missions of the Armed Forces more comprehensively based on the strategic environment and threat assessment.



Military Doctrine details conditions, processes and factors that menace realization of the national interests and challenge national security of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Military Doctrine constitutes the military-strategic, military-economic, military-technical and organizational (structural) basis of the national security. Military Doctrine defines tasks and responsibilities, current and mid-term priorities for building, development and readiness of the Armed Forces and other legal armed formations (State Border Service, Internal Troops and others) of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The articles of the Military Doctrine, in a coordinated manner, provide the implementation of the military, political, economic, informative, legal activities by state and local self-governed organizations, Armed Forces and other legal armed formations that contribute to military security.

If necessary, citizen establishments (organizations) and individual representatives of the society can be involved in the implementation of the objectives laid out in these articles. In parallel, the implementation of the approved in 2013 Maritime Security Strategy document is underway. These were followed by the Strategic Defence Review (SDR), which lays out the basis for the development of more effective and capable defence system and armed forces.



Based on the principles of the National Security Concept and Military Doctrine, a number of relevant government agencies are involved in the SDR process carried out in the country. The Defense Ministry ensured the involvement of national experts in various areas of the SDR. Based on the provisions of the National Security Concept and Military Doctrine, SDR defines the structure, the infrastructure and tasks of the Armed Forces to meet the defence and security missions established by the Military Doctrine taking into due account the strategic environment, threat assessment and available resources.

The top objectives of the SDR are to define the functional efficiency of the security system and develop required capabilities measured against available resources, to tackle current and future threats. The other objectives are:

- Based on the directions of the National Security Concept to implement national security policy and support the missions identified in the Military Doctrine;
- In order to further develop national defence capabilities and increase the effectiveness of the national defence system to conduct an assessment of the current status of the armed forces and other military formations, to identify the gaps and shortfalls;
- Develop national defence transformation strategy. Define, develop and implement main programmes and conceptual documents;

- Define national procedures to adapt and integrate the modern standards in the defence and security system. These will support the training of capable defence forces.

The long-term development plan of the Armed Forces developed based on the results of the SDR, accurately reflects the details and priorities of defense plans. It includes, inter alia, the modernization of its logistics support and improvement of the logistics system, the gradual modernization and replacement of its military equipment, the establishment of a modern communication system within armed forces and infrastructure improvements. These priorities are included in the Azerbaijan IPAP as mid and long term objectives.



The Transition of the Armed Forces to the NATO Structure has played an important role in the overall transformation process and has created a basis for reform in the field of defense. During this process, the experience of many NATO countries has been investigated and studied, and the same time relevant expert support has been taken from the NATO Transformation Command.

MILITARY INTEROPERABILITY OF FORCES WITH NATO



In 1997 Azerbaijan joined PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP) aiming at providing a basis for defence and force planning in accordance with NATO standards and procedures, achieving interoperability with Allied forces, particularly, identifying forces and capabilities that might be available for multinational training, exercises and operations. In order to achieve these objectives, set up in PARP framework and make forces available for

PfP training and exercises and NATO-led peace support operations, the same year of 1997 MOD of Azerbaijan established peacekeeping unit.

Since then PARP has been playing an essential role in providing NATO's recommendations, support and guidance in the field of defence and force planning. Every year, Azerbaijan together with NATO experts and Allies review and further develop the set of Partnership Goals to support current national military goals and defence objectives. The number of Partnership Goals accepted by Azerbaijan has been increasing steadily since 1997 and usually, the package includes up to 40 Partnership Goals that covers the wide range of military and defence aspects and serves as the fundamental basis for units earmarked for peacekeeping operations.

Successful participation of Azerbaijan in the PARP process resulted in the establishment of the Peacekeeping Battalion in 2003. Currently, the establishment of Peace Support Brigade that can sustain an entire infantry battalion on operations including full combat support and combat service support, is well underway. The majority of designated forces for participation in NATO-led PfP operations is ready. These guarantee further acceptance and implementation of new Partnership Goals.

Through the regular meetings held in the PARP framework, Azerbaijan has also been developing defence planning practices based on NATO knowledge and experience.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Azerbaijan puts special focus on the improvement of the training and education of the Armed Forces. In the framework of cooperation programmes with NATO and Allies, education and training represents an area where the MOD has been making major efforts and good progress.

Several objectives of the Azerbaijan IPAP document aim at the integration of the NATO standards in the national military training and education system. As a long term objective, this includes a modification of the national military training and education programmes and curricula based on agreed NATO standards, embracing basic, tactical, operational and strategic level courses and NCO training.



To further reinforce the application of the NATO standards in education and training, following the decision of the MOD, Azerbaijan has requested NATO's (International Staff) support to further develop and improve certain areas of the national military training and education system. In this context, Azerbaijan has been continuing to improve its professional military education system with the support of NATO Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP), since 2008.

This programme provides tailored practical support to Azerbaijan for developing and reforming its professional military education system and fosters the defence reforms. Currently, the main efforts of the programme are focused on the areas of curriculum and faculty development at the Military College and Military High School of the Armed Forces. In addition to that, within the DEEP programme, Azerbaijan learns NATO's ADL experience to ensure its education and training is effective, efficient and reflected academic and industry advancements.

OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES CONCEPT (OCC)



To achieve a higher level of interoperability with NATO forces, Azerbaijan continues to use the tools of the Operational Capability Concept (OCC) Evaluation and Feedback (E&F) programme.

The OCC program is a practical multipurpose military tool that serves to establish close operational relationships between the Alliance and partner countries, which will potentially contribute to NATO-led operations by supporting partners' effort to develop fully interoperable and operationally capable forces in compliance with NATO standards and procedures.

Having participated in this program since 2006, Azerbaijan has successfully completed the evaluation exercises in a number of its units. In 2010, Azerbaijan, which had completed an infantry company evaluation, continued its efforts by declaring an infantry battalion to the OCC process. Finally, in 2014, after completing all the required evaluation levels of the OCC E&F program, this battalion obtained the relevant NATO certificate. In 2017, in order to revalidate its certificate for the next three years as required by NATO

regulations, the same battalion participated in the relevant exercise and completed this process successfully.

All the evaluations were conducted under the supervision of the NATO and national evaluators along with a number of experts from Allies, including the US and Turkey.

To enhance the effectiveness of the program in its Armed Forces, Azerbaijan declared a new reconnaissance company within the OCC framework in 2015 and this unit is involved in evaluation exercises. In the long-term, Azerbaijan is planning to complete the training and equipment of the brigade so it can sustain an entire infantry battalion in operations including full combat support and combat service support.

Along with these, the Armed Forces are also applying the benefits of the OCC Program to other services. In 2016, two MI-17 Transport Helicopters of the Air Force and the Maritime Interdiction Operations Boarding Party of the Naval Force were declared into the OCC Pool of Forces. Abovementioned units are systematically involved in required evaluation exercises.

Azerbaijan also attaches great importance to preparation pool of national evaluators through participation in OCC evaluation courses and in other Partner nations OCC evaluations. As part of NATO's OCC pool of experts, Azerbaijan officers are invited as evaluators and team leaders to OCC activities in Partner countries to provide relevant assistance and share their experience. OCC E&F programme helps Azerbaijan also to second its officers to the OCC staff position within the NATO Command Structure. Currently, a majority of Azerbaijan PSP officers are serving in OCC related positions at various NATO Headquarters.

PARTNERSHIP STAFF POST

Participation in training programmes, peacekeeping mission and exercises, helps foster a new generation of officers fully interoperable with their NATO counterparts. In this regard, the Partnership Staff Post (PSP) Concept is the most valuable tool. PSP Concept creates possibilities for Partners to second their officers within various NATO Headquarters and Commands, to gain experience and knowledge working side-by-side with Allies in the same headquarters and offices. Azerbaijan is effectively using this instrument and has provided more than thirty officers for PSP posts since 2002.

Azerbaijan officers taking service together with officers from different countries at various NATO headquarters are gaining a knowledge of NATO standards and procedures as well as the working experience of international environment. Experience achieved by PSP officers are effectively utilized in ongoing reforms of our Armed Forces conducted in the areas of their new assignment on their return to the country.



Azerbaijan continues to be one of the biggest partner staff contributors to NATO PSP program. Participation in the program has mutual benefits for both Azerbaijan and NATO. Our officers fulfill their designated responsibilities and contribute to NATO's Partnership Programs. Today, a number of PSP officers from Azerbaijan take an active part in organizing various NATO courses, training, exercises as well as conferences as an expert at various NATO Headquarters and in different Allied and Partner countries.

CONTRIBUTION TO NATO-LED OPERATIONS

Proceeding from the indivisibility of security, Azerbaijan participates in the NATO-led peace support operations which are sanctioned by the UN Security Council resolutions. Azerbaijan participated in the NATO's KFOR operation in 1999-2008. Azerbaijan also contributed to the NATO-led ISAF operation in Afghanistan during 2002-2014.

Azerbaijan has been participating in the NATO's Resolute Support Training, Advice and Assistance Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan since 1st January 2015 after the completion of ISAF. In January 2018, Azerbaijan increased the number of its peacekeepers in the RSM Mission from 94 to 120 servicemen, including 6 officers, who are represented at various headquarters of the RSM Mission, and 2 military doctors.



Azerbaijan continues its significant transit support for the needs of the RSM. The recently inaugurated Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway greatly improves the ability of Afghanistan to access the world markets, and facilitates smooth transit in support of the RSM.

In addition, Azerbaijan has made substantial donations to the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Trust Fund and continues its support to this Fund in line with the pledges made.



The Government of Azerbaijan and NATO have been co-organizing workshops and courses on "Civilian Oversight of the Armed Forces" for senior and mid-level Afghan officials since 2014. The last workshop on this subject was held on 17-21 September, 2018 at ADA University, Baku.

Azerbaijan actively participates in all relevant international political processes aimed at promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan. In 2017, Azerbaijan held co-chairmanship of the "Heart of Asia" process. On 28 June 2018, Azerbaijan hosted the meeting of International Contact Group on Afghanistan.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan implements various bilateral assistance and cooperation programs, including military assistance for the amount of millions of US dollars. The State Security Service, State Border Service, ADA University and other relevant agencies and institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan have organized different training courses for the government representatives of Afghanistan on counter terrorism, border security, good governance etc. In addition, Azerbaijan expressed its readiness to train Afghan cadets in military educational institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the framework of the bilateral cooperation. Afghanistan is successfully applying Azerbaijan's practice of "one stop shop" public service centers of "ASAN Khedmat".

Moreover, ANAMA provided active support to humanitarian mine action in Afghanistan. ANAMA conducted trainings and mentoring for Afghan experts on mine clearance, donated office equipment, printed and delivered books and manuals for schools on mine awareness.



Azerbaijan and NATO are continuing a political dialogue and exchanging experience on the protection of critical energy infrastructure as well.

Azerbaijan attaches importance to cooperation with NATO in the field of anti-terrorism, which the international community must tackle together. NATO has been actively engaged in the fight against terrorism and focuses on improved threat awareness and preparedness, developing adequate capabilities and enhancing engagement with partner countries and other international



actors. Azerbaijan is building its interaction with the NATO and EAPC countries in a wide range of areas relevant to the fight against terrorism, including the military response to terrorism, enhancement of national counter-terrorism training capabilities, intelligence and information sharing, border security and civil protection anti-terrorist measures.

Moreover, counter-terrorism training constitutes a priority for Azerbaijan. For this purpose, the State Security Service established the International Anti-Terror Training Centre, which, inter alia, serves as a yet another tool for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Establishment of this Centre will help Azerbaijan learn from foreign experience in combating international terrorism and create new opportunities to broaden international cooperation. The Centre will focus on education, training and academic research. Representatives of the corresponding bodies in both Azerbaijan and other states will participate in workshops, courses and other training and educational activities on combating terrorism. The International Anti-Terror Training Centre is closely cooperating with NATO to develop its curriculum since the relevant NATO-affiliated educational and training centres have vast experience leading anti-terror courses with the support of a valuable network of experts.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan is interested in cooperating with NATO on cyber defence. The communication and information infrastructures of Azerbaijan require a reliable, secure and protected network in the face of unforeseen cyber threats. In this context, Azerbaijan is interested in the exchange of experience and training with NATO countries on cyber defence. As for NATO, engagement with partners on cyber defence is tailored and is conducted on a case-by-case basis upon a decision by the Allies.

SCIENCE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

Fruitful cooperation in the framework of NATO's Science for Peace and Security Programme (SPS) is a noteworthy area of Azerbaijan-NATO partnership. Azerbaijan began getting regularly involved in NATO's science activities as early as 1995.

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 operation and missions, and advancing early warning and forecasting for the prevention of disasters and crises.



In order to further foster the cooperation in this field, the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme Information Day was held on 10 April 2014 in Azerbaijan. Scientists, researchers and experts from various countries gathered in Baku to exchange views on new initiatives and proposals to engage with NATO through science programmes and activities. Proposals touched on activities in the fields ranging from energy security and cyber defence through the promotion of the role of women in matters related to peace and security. The participants of the Information Day got acquainted with the SPS Programme, its priorities, application and selection procedures.

Azerbaijan is among the partner countries actively cooperating with NATO through the SPS Programme. The projects implemented via the Programme include areas like the analysis of the Caspian Sea ecosystem, protection of drinking water supplies vulnerable to eco-terrorism, management and sustainable development of urban water resources, dealing with the consequences of earthquakes, and assessment of the risks of seismicity along the oil and gas pipelines. Below are some examples of completed projects under the NATO SPS Programme.

Enhancing energy security in the XXI century. In May 2013, a conference was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, to discuss enhancing energy security in the 21th century. The conference was initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan's Diplomatic Academy,

the State Department of the United States, and NATO's Emerging Security Challenges Division. The event brought together leading experts in the fields of cyber defence, counter-terrorism and infrastructure security to discuss the cross-cutting character of emerging risks to energy security, with a special focus on the Caspian region.

Seismic Hazard and Risk Assessment for Southern Caucasus–Eastern Turkey energy corridors. The



Southern Caucasus–Eastern Turkey energy corridors were formed by several critical pipelines carrying crude oil and natural gas from Azerbaijan, via Georgia, to Turkey and world markets. The objective of the project was to identify the segments of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Crude Oil Pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum Natural Gas Pipeline that were vulnerable to earthquakes, and to provide mitigation strategies by performing a comprehensive seismic hazard

and risk study for the pipelines.

Hands-on Cyber Defence Training Course for System/Network Administrators. During the first two weeks of September in 2014 and February in 2016, network and system administrators from ministries and the national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) of Azerbaijan participated in the Hands-on Cyber Defence training course for System/Network Administrators. The hands-on training programme included both a theoretical session and practical laboratory exercises of core aspects of cyber security such as cryptography, cyber security monitoring, defending web applications, and conducting vulnerability assessments. Trainees also learned how to defend operating systems, user accounts and infrastructure. A penetration testing session and an exam allowed participants to apply and test their newly acquired expertise at the end of the course.

Advanced Cyber Defence Training course. During the month of September 2018 participants from relevant agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan participated in the two-week course taking place in Baku. The aim of the course was to provide the knowledge on operational cyber security and cyber security technology contents for ensuring cyber resilience, on the means for the global exchange of advanced cyber security concepts, best practices and experiences at the international level.

How to apply for NATO's financial support for a scientific project

Further information on SPS Programme, its grant mechanisms and application is available on the following website:



<http://www.nato.int/science>

HUMANITARIAN CLEARANCE PROJECTS

The activities related to the disposal of dangerous materials, mines and other explosive ordnances, left after the collapse of the Soviet Union, play a significant role in the practical cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO. In this regard, it is worth of mentioning the projects like Mélange, Saloglu and Jeyranchel implemented together with NATO.

Mélange is a highly toxic substance that was used by the former USSR's armed forces as one of the two components to propel small and medium range missiles. There were 1.400 tons of dangerous rocket fuel inherited from the stocks of the former Soviet Union stored in aluminum tanks which had been gradually corroding, posing a serious threat to public health and environment.

Azerbaijan requested NATO's assistance in destroying the mélange and the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme supported to launch a project for this purpose. The budget of this project (2.2 million Euros) was fully covered by NATO.

The NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) was designated as the project's executing agency and in two years starting from 2006 a mobile mélange treatment plant constructed in Azerbaijan neutralized in Alat (Garadagh district) and Mingachevir respectively 950 and 350 tons of mélange.

NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project on the clearance of unexploded ordnance at Saloglu, Azerbaijan. The Soviet military ammunition warehouse in Aghstafa district of Azerbaijan was the largest in the South Caucasus. In 1991, the warehouse was destroyed by the departing Soviet troops.

As the result of the explosion at the site, thousands pieces of unexploded ordnances (UXO) were scattered over a large area of 4,400 hectares continuously posing a serious humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental threat to the local population. Since 1991, 152 accidents with 32 people killed were reported.

Upon the request of Azerbaijan, a new Partnership for Peace (PfP) Trust Fund project aimed at addressing the UXO problem in Saloglu village was inaugurated in December 2005. NAMSA was designated the executing agency and Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) was awarded as the project contractor. The project aimed at locating and destroying all surface and immediate subsurface UXOs and explosive hazards in and around the former military

base and consequently making the Saloglu site safe for local population.

The project was implemented in three phases between 2005 and 2011. It was closed with the ceremonies held in Baku and Saloglu in July 2011 and at a NATO Political and Partnerships Committee (PPC) meeting in October 2011.



Considered as a high priority project, the Government of Azerbaijan provided its continued support to its implementation, and together with Turkey, the Lead Nation made substantial efforts to involve donors during all three phases. The total cost of the project was 3,2 million euros. Azerbaijan covered 50% of all the costs of the project.

Turkey has acted as the Lead Nation and besides its financial and in-kind contributions, Turkey has been instrumental in raising the required funds for the project. Other contributing nations and international organizations were: Australia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Island, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, USA and UNDP.

This project has also been unique in terms of the substantial financing by the host nation and contributions by a wide range of countries, including NATO nations, PFP countries, UNDP and NATO partners across the globe.

NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project on the clearance of unexploded ordnance at Jeyranchel yet another vivid example of practical cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO. This project is aimed at cleaning the area of 64 km² from mines and UXOs in Jeyranchel. The project started in 2012 and consisted of three phases. It was implemented by NATO Support Agency (NSPA) – former NAMSA and ANAMA.

The first phase of the Jeyranchel Clearance Project covered 19 km² out of totally contaminated area and was completed in the July 2014. The second phase of the project was launched immediately after the first phase in July 2014 and finalized on October 2016. The third and final phase of the project was finalized during the summer of 2018. The official Closing Ceremony of the project was held in Baku in September 2018 during the NATO Week with the participation of the NATO Deputy Secretary General Ms. Rose Gottemoeller.

As during the Saloglu project, the Government of Azerbaijan contributed 50% of the total project costs. US (during the first two phases) and Turkey (during the third phase) acted as the lead nation of the project. Alongside with Azerbaijan, US, Turkey, Germany, Hungary United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland, Japan, Italy and Iceland have also contributed to the budget of the project.

CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING

Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) occupies a prominent place in the cooperation of Azerbaijan with NATO. Over these years, Azerbaijan has steadily been increasing its CEP cooperation with NATO. Multilateral interaction within the EAPC and bilateral cooperation in the framework of IPAP are viewed as mutually reinforcing tools to this end.



Azerbaijan actively contributes to CEP Committee and Planning Groups (civil protection; transport; public health, food and water; industrial resources and communications) meetings in EAPC format. This format provides a useful forum for exchange of views, building mutual understanding and developing tools and guidelines relevant to national practice. 2010 NATO CEP Committee plenary meeting and Transport Group 2014 Inland Surface Transport seminar were hosted by Azerbaijan.

There is a network of more than 300 civil experts located in NATO and Partner countries across the Euro-Atlantic area. Civil expert teams can be deployed to assist nations in dealing with a certain issue. Azerbaijani experts on transport, ecology and agriculture are represented in this network as well and are frequently invited by NATO to attend and contribute the respective events.

Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) is an important partnership tool within NATO CEP. Created within the framework of the Partnership for Peace programme, the Centre coordinates responses among NATO and Partner countries to natural and man-made disasters in the Euro-Atlantic area. The representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan have been serving in this Centre since 2009 as a Voluntary National Contribution of Azerbaijan to NATO.

A more practical dimension for partners is an opportunity to participate in CEP-related exercises. In this context, Azerbaijan is interested in field exercises and “table-top” exercises conducted under the auspices of EADRCC. Azerbaijani teams participated in “UUSIMAA-2008”, “Jetisu-2009”, “CODRII-2011”, “Georgia-NATO 2012”, “Ukraine-2015”, “CRNA-GORA-2016”, “Bosnia-Herzegovina-2017” and “SRBIJA-2018” conducted respectively in Finland, Kazakhstan, Moldova,

Georgia, Ukraine, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. These exercises enhance practical skills and provide opportunity for live exchange of experiences.



Another tangible benefit for Azerbaijan is bilateral cooperation with NATO CEP. Priorities for bilateral interaction are focused on implementation of respective objectives in Azerbaijan's IPAP Document. The establishment of the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) in 2005, which brought relevant agencies under the authority of a single ministry, further enhanced bilateral cooperation. In November 2008, the NATO CEP Advisory Support Team (AST) visited Azerbaijan to advise on capacity development of the MES. Recommendations developed in their report served as important guidance among others for areas of expertise assistance, cooperation and concrete measures.

Additionally, NATO ASTs on communications and maritime visited Azerbaijan in 2010 and 2012 respectively. The recommendations have been provided on capacity development as well as efficiency enhancement of Ministry of Communications and High Technologies and State Maritime Administration.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan pays great attention to achieving public support for its policy on the partnership with NATO. Therein, public diplomacy occupies special place in practical cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO.

One of the main domains of cooperation in the field of public diplomacy are NATO's political and expert support for the activities carried out by NATO International School of Azerbaijan, Euro-Atlantic Center, as well as other relevant NGOs, academia and universities; visits of students, researcher and, representatives of various think tanks to NATO HQ, and organization of various events at the NATO HQ dedicated to the promotion of cooperation with NATO.

Regularly, numerous seminars, roundtables and other events are held on different topics, such as energy and border security, critical energy infrastructure protection, crisis management, peace support operations, maritime security, cyber defense, regional security, international crisis and etc,



involving local and foreign auditoria. During its 15 years of activity, NATO International School of Azerbaijan has become an active and efficient role-player as fora for international security issues.

In recent years, several study trips, such as visit of last year-bachelor and master students of ADA University in the frames of the program on the Role of European Union in International Relations, visit of high level clergy of Azerbaijan were organized to NATO

HQ. During the visits, participants were briefed on NATO's political priorities and relations with its partners, as well as on security issues that concern the world today.



Azerbaijan held NATO Week in September 2018. It consisted of several events aimed at addressing various issues of the Euro-Atlantic security and the cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO, as well as raising public awareness on NATO and Azerbaijan-NATO partnership.

NATO Deputy Secretary General Ms. Rose Gottemoeller and NATO PA President Mr. Paolo Alli traveled to Azerbaijan to participate at the NATO Week events and to meet senior government officials.

Since 2017 Embassy of Hungary in Baku deliver its responsibilities as NATO's Contact Point Embassy to Azerbaijan.



COOPERATION WITH NATO ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Azerbaijan attaches a great importance to gender equality and enshrined this fundamental aspect in its Constitution and all legal documents. Azerbaijan actively undertakes measures to reflect gender perspective in all spheres, including security and defense sectors as well as to ensure the equal and balanced participation of women and men in public and social life.



As the country suffering from armed aggression by Armenia,

Azerbaijan steadfastly supports the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which recognizes the adverse impact of armed conflicts on women and girls, and calls for empowering women in security sector with a view to promoting peace and understanding.

In this regard, Azerbaijan cooperates with NATO in implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. Azerbaijan closely participates in formulation and implementation of NATO/Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) Policy on Women, Peace and Security.

With the aim of facilitating dialogue on Women, Peace and Security issues within the EAPC, Azerbaijan initiated and hosted the first NATO/EAPC high level conference on Women, Peace and Security on 19-20 September, 2018 in Baku. The high level Conference, which was attended by NATO Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller and high ranking officials from NATO and partner countries, enabled substantive discussions on furthering international cooperation in the mentioned field. First Vice-president of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva received

Deputy Secretary General Gottemoeller and underscored Azerbaijan's support for advancing Women, Peace and Security agenda. Building on the success of Baku conference, NATO continues the practice of annual high-level EAPC conferences on women, peace and security.



At national level, Azerbaijan carries out comprehensive measures aimed at empowering women in defence and security sectors. Over the past years, number of women in defence sector grew significantly both in absolute and relative terms.

With its international partners, Azerbaijan continues its efforts towards worldwide implementation of the UN Security Council resolution № 1325 and related resolutions towards empowering women in wider security domain, ensuring their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance of peace and security and preventing gender based violence against women in the context of armed conflicts.

COOPERATION WITH NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Azerbaijan values the parliamentary dimension of its cooperation with the Alliance. The cooperation of Azerbaijan with NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) dates back to 1999, when Azerbaijan was granted observer status during NATO PA Session held in Poland. Since then Azerbaijan MPs contributed to fostering Azerbaijan-NATO PA cooperation by being involved in major events and participating in discussions on transatlantic security affairs, inter alia international cooperation against terrorism, security sector reform, developing military interoperability, NATO transformation, and role of NATO in security.



In 2002, NATO PA adopted a decision on granting Azerbaijan an associate member status. Today, the main forms of participation of Azerbaijani representatives in NATO PA activities are: involving and sharing of opinions in the Plenary Sessions of the Assembly held twice a year, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings and visits, NATO PA New Parliamentarians Programme, as well as annual Parliamentary Transatlantic Forums and Rose-Roth seminars.

Along with actively involvement in NATO PA Rose-Roth seminars held in other states by its MPs, Azerbaijan has hosted three such seminars. On 25-27 November 2004, the 58th NATO PA Rose-Roth Seminar on “Security in the South Caucasus”. NATO-Azerbaijan relations and its perspectives, Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, its implications on regional stability and political, economic and social development, the role of international community in the settlement process of this conflict, Caspian Sea energy resources and their transportation to European markets and other related issues have been among the top issues discussed during the seminar.

On 6-8 March 2008, the 68th NATO PA Rose-Roth Seminar on “Security in Caspian Region”. Security, political and economic development in the Caspian region and Central Asia, energy security and other issues relevant to the region were discussed during the seminar. Furthermore, the participants exchanged views on the region’s geographical location and its effects on the policy and practice of regional powers, situation in Afghanistan, developing market economy, state building process in Central Asia.



On 16-18 June 2014, the 85th NATO PA Rose-Roth Seminar on “South Caucasus: Challenges and Opportunities”. Azerbaijan’s foreign and security priorities and Euro-Atlantic integration, Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, its settlement process, security sector reforms in Azerbaijan, the Crimean crisis: implications for the South Caucasus, energy security: new opportunities in the Caucasus and Caspian regions, Afghanistan post-2014: supporting domestic and regional stability and other relevant regional issues were discussed within the framework of this seminar.

Mutual visits, meetings on the issues of common interest, consultations and deliberations at different levels contribute to strengthen partnership of Azerbaijan Parliament (Milli Mejlis) with NATO PA.

The NATO PA Sub-Committee on East-West Economic Co-operation and Convergence visited Azerbaijan on 12-14 May, 1999. During the visit NATO PA delegates and Azerbaijani officials discussed the security landscape of Azerbaijan, Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and its negative affects to the population and security of the region, energy security, Azerbaijan’s energy policy, political and economic foundations of development and macro- economic conditions in Azerbaijan.

The President of NATO PA Rafael Estrella (Spain) together with the Assembly Secretary General, Simon Lunn, made a visit to Azerbaijan on 17-19 January, 2002 and met the senior officials. The visit was in response to the invitation from the Speaker of the Azerbaijan Parliament (Milli Mejlis). The visit has played an indispensable role in shifting Azerbaijan's membership in NATO PA from observer status into associate member status.

Following the NATO PA President's visit, fifteen members of the NATO PA Sub-Committee on Democratic Governance of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security visited Azerbaijan on 16-17 September, 2002, to exchange views about the political, social, economic and security situation in the country. The visit took place on the eve of the opening ceremony of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, at the invitation of Ziyafat Asgerov, Deputy Speaker of the Milli Mejlis. The NATO PA delegates held discussions on Azerbaijan-NATO and NATO PA relations, possibility of granting Azerbaijan associate membership at the NATO PA, as well as regional security issues and relations with neighbor countries.



On the eve of the 68th Rose-Roth Seminar on "Security in the Caspian Region", in March 2008, NATO's next President, Jose Lello, visited Azerbaijan.

During the visit, Mr. Lello held meetings with the President of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister, Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministers and exchanged views on regional security issues.

From 12 to 14 April 2010, the NATO PA Political Committee's Subcommittee on NATO Partnerships visited Baku. A total of 14 parliamentarians from 8 NATO nations attended the visit to familiarize themselves with the latest situation in the country and the region. The NATO PA delegation held meetings with senior officials during the visit, including Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministers, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to NATO PA, and visited the Peacekeeping Battalion of Azerbaijan.



During the visit, the sides exchanged views on issues such as Azerbaijan-NATO relations, regional security issues, including relations with neighboring countries, energy security.

On 12-14 September 2018, the Delegation of the Subcommittee on Transition and Development of the NATO PA Committee for Economic and Security Affairs visited Baku to discuss issues of regional security and stability, as well as energy security. Within the framework of the visit, the NATO PA delegation led by the President of the Assembly Mr. Paolo Alli met with the senior officials of Azerbaijan and discussed the NATO-Azerbaijan cooperation as well as regional security issues.

Partnership for Peace: Invitation Document

issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council

Brussels, 10 January 1994

We, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance, building on the close and longstanding partnership among the North American and European Allies, are committed to enhancing security and stability in the whole of Europe. We therefore wish to strengthen ties with the democratic states to our East. We reaffirm that the Alliance, as provided for in Article 10 of the Washington Treaty, remains open to the membership of other European states in a position to further the principles of the Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area. We expect and would welcome NATO expansion that would reach to democratic states to our East, as part of an evolutionary process, taking into account political and security developments in the whole of Europe.

We have today launched an immediate and practical programme that will transform the relationship between NATO and participating states. This new programme goes beyond dialogue and cooperation to forge a real partnership - a Partnership for Peace. We therefore invite the other states participating in the NACC and other CSCE countries able and willing to contribute to this programme, to join with us in this partnership. Active participation in the Partnership for Peace will play an important role in the evolutionary process of the expansion of NATO.

The Partnership for Peace, which will operate under the authority of the North Atlantic Council, will forge new security relationships between the North Atlantic Alliance and its Partners for Peace. Partner states will be invited by the North Atlantic Council to participate in political and military bodies at NATO Headquarters with respect to Partnership activities. The Partnership will expand and intensify political and military cooperation throughout Europe, increase stability, diminish threats to peace, and build strengthened relationships by promoting the spirit of practical cooperation and commitment to democratic principles that underpin our Alliance.

NATO will consult with any active participant in the Partnership if that partner perceives a direct threat to its territorial integrity, political independence, or security. At a pace and scope determined by the capacity and desire of the individual participating states, we will work in concrete ways towards transparency in defence budgeting, promoting democratic control of defence ministries, joint planning, joint military

exercises, and creating an ability to operate with NATO forces in such fields as peacekeeping, search and rescue and humanitarian operations, and others as may be agreed.

To promote closer military cooperation and interoperability, we will propose, within the Partnership framework, peacekeeping field exercises beginning in 1994. To coordinate joint military activities within the Partnership, we will invite states participating in the Partnership to send permanent liaison officers to NATO Headquarters and a separate Partnership Coordination Cell at Mons (Belgium) that would, under the authority of the North Atlantic Council, carry out the military planning necessary to implement the Partnership programmes.

Since its inception two years ago, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council has greatly expanded the depth and scope of its activities. We will continue to work with all our NACC partners to build cooperative relationships across the entire spectrum of the Alliance's activities. With the expansion of NACC activities and the establishment of the Partnership for Peace, we have decided to offer permanent facilities at NATO Headquarters for personnel from NACC countries and other Partnership for Peace participants in order to improve our working relationships and facilitate closer cooperation.

In response to the Partnership for Peace Invitation
issued and signed
by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of
the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council held at
NATO Headquarters, Brussels, on 10th and 11th January, 1994,
I, the undersigned,
Head of State of Azerbaijan,
hereby accept the invitation to
the Partnership for Peace
and subscribe to the Partnership for Peace Framework Document.

Signed in Brussels,
this 4th day of May 1994,



Geidar Aliyev

Speech of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev at the meeting of NATO

May 4, 1994 / Brussels

*Distinguished Mr. Deputy Secretary-General,
distinguished members of NATO Council,
distinguished ambassadors,
ladies and gentlemen!*

I am grateful to you for the warm reception of me and the Azerbaijani delegation. I am glad that I have an opportunity to be among you today, and I consider it as an important event for the Republic of Azerbaijan. Thank you very much for the warm congratulations and kind wishes in the address of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijan people, having passed a long historical way of the development through numerous difficulties and obstacles, achieved its national independence in 1991. The independent Azerbaijani state was born and is a member of the United Nations Organization, CSCE and many other international organizations. And I feel great pride that today the Azerbaijani delegation is present at the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Republic of Azerbaijan follows the road of strengthening the independence. In its internal policy, it follows the way of construction of a democratic legal state, using the democratic values achieved by the mankind, creates conditions for the freedom of personality and protection of human rights, multiparty system and political pluralism. The republic has firmly follows the way of realization of economic reforms and establishment of market economy, free business and free initiative in the field of economy. We consider that all this is good base for the close integration of Azerbaijan into the world community. The Republic of Azerbaijan in its foreign policy is for building mutual relations, admit the principle of interdependence of the world as a basis, conducts a peace-loving policy and aspires to establish friendly relations with all the countries on the principles of sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders.

The Republic of Azerbaijan now experiences a heavy economic crisis. It is related, on one hand, with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, in the structure of which Azerbaijan has been within 70 years, infringement of close integration communications with all other republics of the Soviet Union, transition from one economic system to another. On the other hand, this economic crisis deepens in connection with war which the neighboring Armenia wages against Azerbaijan. But all these difficulties, we think, are surmountable, considering that Azerbaijan has chosen the way of independent development.

Independence of Azerbaijan is irreversible, and we are sure that the way which, we follow in the field of state construction, economic transformations, and conduction of democratic reforms, will allow to overcome these difficulties and integrate Azerbaijan into the world community, into the world economy with its rich opportunities, rich economic and intellectual potentials. As I already noted, the military aggression of Armenia against our Republic within six years complicates the situation in Azerbaijan in many respects. This aggression, perpetrated by the nationalist circles of Armenia, has brought incalculable disasters to both the Azerbaijani and the Armenian people, and it is very difficult problem for us today. You know well that as a result of the military aggression of Armenia, which pursues the purpose of annexation of a part of the Azerbaijani territory, the Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian armed formations have occupied a significant part of the Azerbaijani territory. In the war which is going on six-years more than 20 thousand persons have been killed, about four thousand have been taken captives, and thousands of dwelling houses, hospitals, schools, social buildings, industrial and agricultural enterprises have been destroyed in the territory of Azerbaijan. The damage is estimated at billions of dollars.

But the most terrible fact is that almost 20 percent of the Azerbaijani territory has been occupied by the Armenian armed units, and the inhabitants of these regions –more than one million have lost their residences, live in very critical condition and have become refugees in their own country. All the people of the Azerbaijani nationality have been expelled from the territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh. The Nagorno-Karabakh and seven districts of Azerbaijan around it are, as I already said, under the occupation of the Armenian armed units.

We have always supported the peaceful settlement of the conflict and now we maintain the same position. We aspire to use actively the opportunities of international organizations - the United Nations, CSCE and its Minsk Group. In 1993, the United Nations Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the territory of Azerbaijan, but Armenia ignored these resolutions. Efforts by the Minsk Group GTSCE have not led to positive results yet. Military operation are still going on, the Armenian armed formations, having occupied as I already said, a significant part of the Azerbaijani territory, attack to defensive positions of Azerbaijan. Every day blood is shed, people are killed. It is impossible to endure all these any more.

Therefore, today I, using my presence here, at the headquarters of NATO, once again declare the position of Azerbaijan. We support the peaceful settlement of this question, immediate cessation of hostilities, we are for negotiations, which will cause the immediate withdrawal of the occupation armies from the territory of Azerbaijan and ensure its territorial integrity, inviolability of its borders. Under these conditions we are ready to consider the question on granting autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh. Speaking on the Azerbaijani TV and radio on April 12, I addressed the Armenian people, to the administration of Armenia, to the Armenian population of the

Nagorno-Karabakh and called them to stop this bloodshed. The destiny predetermined the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples to live side by side, and they have lived side by side for centuries. We consider that the solution of the problem by violence has no prospects, this war is unpromising, and it is necessary to put an end to bloodshed, to establish peace in our region as soon as possible.

Today, we again express the confidence that the international organizations, first of all CSCE, and the CSCE Minsk Group, will take additional measures to put our peaceful initiatives into practice. Today, being at NATO headquarters, I would like to express my deep respect for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which during the period of its existence has contributed greatly to the establishment of stability, peace and cooperation in Europe and all over the world. We approach to NATO with great respect and we attach great value to its activity at the present stage. Creation of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council became an important stage in NATO's activity, this will create an opportunity for other states to be involved in the orbit of NATO.

We meet with satisfaction the decision of NATO, dated on January 10 of this year, on acceptance of the document "Partnership for Peace", and we consider it also as an important step for the further development of cooperation between the countries in the activity of NATO. We attach great importance to the decision of NATO dated on January 10th, in which a special concern is expressed for the situation in the Southern Caucasus, and conviction of the necessity to terminate the conflicts in our region, including in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. All this attracts us and causes interest. Assuming it as a basis, we received the invitation of NATO with great satisfaction to join the "Partnership for Peace" program. We decided to sign it, and we cherish great hopes for cooperation with NATO. It is very important for us and from the point of view of getting acquainted with the western democracy and cooperation with NATO, searching for additional ways for the stabilization of situation in the region, to the termination of war, establishment of peace and good neighborhood between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

We have arrived with such ideas and hopes, and we are ready to sign today the program "Partnership for Peace". Once again, I wish to express the hope that this step by the Republic of Azerbaijan will be decently estimated by NATO, it will bring mutual benefit, and what the most important for us is that it will contribute to the stabilization of situation in our region. I wish your organization further successes. Thank you for the attention and I am ready to sign the framework document "Partnership for Peace".

Partnership for Peace: Framework Document

Issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the NAC
Brussels, 10 January 1994

1. Further to the invitation extended by the NATO Heads of State and Government at their meeting on 10th/11th January, 1994, the member states of the North Atlantic Alliance and the other states subscribing to this document, resolved to deepen their political and military ties and to contribute further to the strengthening of security within the Euro-Atlantic area, hereby establish, within the framework of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, this Partnership for Peace.
2. This Partnership is established as an expression of a joint conviction that stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area can be achieved only through cooperation and common action. Protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms and human rights, and safeguarding of freedom, justice, and peace through democracy are shared values fundamental to the Partnership.

In joining the Partnership, the member States of the North Atlantic Alliance and the other States subscribing to this Document recall that they are committed to the preservation of democratic societies, their freedom from coercion and intimidation, and the maintenance of the principles of international law.

They reaffirm their commitment to fulfil in good faith the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights; specifically, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, to respect existing borders and to settle disputes by peaceful means. They also reaffirm their commitment to the Helsinki Final Act and all subsequent CSCE documents and to the fulfilment of the commitments and obligations they have undertaken in the field of disarmament and arms control.

3. The other states subscribing to this document will cooperate with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in pursuing the following objectives:
 - a. facilitation of transparency in national defence planning and budgeting processes;
 - b. ensuring democratic control of defence forces;
 - c. maintenance of the capability and readiness to contribute, subject to constitutional considerations, to operations under the authority of the UN and/or the responsibility of the CSCE;

- d. the development of cooperative military relations with NATO, for the purpose of joint planning, training, and exercises in order to strengthen their ability to undertake missions in the fields of peacekeeping, search and rescue, humanitarian operations, and others as may subsequently be agreed;
 - e. the development, over the longer term, of forces that are better able to operate with those of the members of the North Atlantic Alliance.
4. The other subscribing states will provide to the NATO Authorities Presentation Documents identifying the steps they will take to achieve the political goals of the Partnership and the military and other assets that might be used for Partnership activities. NATO will propose a programme of partnership exercises and other activities consistent with the Partnership's objectives. Based on this programme and its Presentation Document, each subscribing state will develop with NATO an individual Partnership Programme.
5. In preparing and implementing their individual Partnership Programmes, other subscribing states may, at their own expense and in agreement with the Alliance and, as necessary, relevant Belgian authorities, establish their own liaison office with NATO Headquarters in Brussels. This will facilitate their participation in NACC/Partnership meetings and activities, as well as certain others by invitation. They will also make available personnel, assets, facilities and capabilities necessary and appropriate for carrying out the agreed Partnership Programme. NATO will assist them, as appropriate, in formulating and executing their individual Partnership Programmes.
6. The other subscribing states accept the following understandings:
 - o those who envisage participation in missions referred to in paragraph 3(d) will, where appropriate, take part in related NATO exercises;
 - o they will fund their own participation in Partnership activities, and will endeavour otherwise to share the burdens of mounting exercises in which they take part;
 - o they may send, after appropriate agreement, permanent liaison officers to a separate Partnership Coordination Cell at Mons (Belgium) that would, under the authority of the North Atlantic Council, carry out the military planning necessary to implement the Partnership programmes;
 - o those participating in planning and military exercises will have access to certain NATO technical data relevant to interoperability;
 - o building upon the CSCE measures on defence planning, the other subscribing states and NATO countries will exchange information on the steps that have been taken or are being taken to promote transparency in defence planning and budgeting and to ensure the democratic control of armed forces;

- they may participate in a reciprocal exchange of information on defence planning and budgeting which will be developed within the framework of the NACC/Partnership for Peace.
7. In keeping with their commitment to the objectives of this Partnership for Peace, the members of the North Atlantic Alliance will:
- develop with the other subscribing states a planning and review process to provide a basis for identifying and evaluating forces and capabilities that might be made available by them for multinational training, exercises, and operations in conjunction with Alliance forces;
 - promote military and political coordination at NATO Headquarters in order to provide direction and guidance relevant to Partnership activities with the other subscribing states, including planning, training, exercises and the development of doctrine.
8. NATO will consult with any active participant in the Partnership if that Partner perceives a direct threat to its territorial integrity, political independence, or security.

Basic Document of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council

Sintra, Portugal, 29-30 May 1997

1. The member countries of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and participating countries of the Partnership for Peace, determined to raise to a qualitatively new level their political and military cooperation, building upon the success of NACC and PfP, have decided to establish a Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. In doing so, they reaffirm their joint commitment to strengthen and extend peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, on the basis of the shared values and principles which underlie their cooperation, notably those set out in the Framework Document of the Partnership for Peace.
2. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will be a new cooperative mechanism which will form a framework for enhanced efforts in both an expanded political dimension of partnership and practical cooperation under PfP. It will take full account of and complement the respective activities of the OSCE and other relevant institutions such as the European Union, the Western European Union and the Council of Europe.
3. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, as the successor to NACC, will provide the overarching framework for consultations among its members on a broad range of political and security-related issues, as part of a process that will develop through practice. PfP in its enhanced form will be a clearly identifiable element within this flexible framework. Its basic elements will remain valid. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will build upon the existing framework of NATO's outreach activities preserving their advantages to promote cooperation in a transparent way. The expanded political dimension of consultation and cooperation which the Council will offer will allow Partners, if they wish, to develop a direct political relationship individually or in smaller groups with the Alliance. In addition, the Council will provide the framework to afford Partner countries, to the maximum extent possible, increased decision-making opportunities relating to activities in which they participate.
4. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will retain two important principles which have underpinned the success of cooperation between Allies and Partners so far. It will be inclusive, in that opportunities for political consultation and practical cooperation will be open to all Allies and Partners equally. It will also maintain self-differentiation, in that Partners will be able to decide for themselves the level and areas of cooperation with NATO. Arrangements under the Council will not affect commitments already undertaken

bilaterally between Partners and NATO, or commitments in the PfP Framework Document including the consultation provisions of its article 8.

5. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will meet, as required, in different formats:
 - In plenary session to address political and security-related issues of common concern and to provide information as appropriate on activities with limited participation.
 - In a limited format between the Alliance and open-ended groups of Partners to focus on functional matters or, on an ad hoc basis, on appropriate regional matters. In such cases, the other EAPC members will be kept informed about the results.
 - In a limited format between the Alliance and groups of Partners who participate with NATO in a peace support operation or in the Planning and Review Process, or in other cases for which this format has been agreed. The other members of the EAPC will be informed as appropriate.
 - In an individual format between the Alliance and one Partner.

Structure

6. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will meet, as a general rule, at Ambassadorial level in Brussels and on a monthly basis.
7. The Council will meet twice a year at both Foreign Ministers and Defence Ministers level; additional meetings can be envisaged as required. It may also meet at the level of Heads of State or Government, when appropriate.
8. The Council will be chaired by the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Alliance or his Deputy. The representative of a member country will be named President d'Honneur for six months according to modalities to be determined.
9. The work of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will be supported regularly by the Political-Military Steering Committee (PMSC) and the Political Committee (PC) in their configurations at Alliance with all Partners. On an ad hoc basis an EAPC Senior Political Committee would address issues referred to it, as required. The EAPC will consider, based on evolving practical experience, whether this support could be improved by an EAPC Steering Committee (EAPC-SC) which would integrate the functions of the former enlarged Political Committee and the PMSC in NACC/PfP format.

The PMSC will meet, as appropriate, in an Alliance with individual Partners or Alliance with groups of Partners (e.g. PARP) configuration. The PMSC and PC with Partners will meet at least once a month, or more frequently if required. Other NATO Committees will expand opportunities for work with Partners on cooperation issues and will inform the EAPC on their work in this regard. Their activities will become part of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council framework. An important part of this framework will be new

opportunities for Partner consultations with the Military Committee. The Military Committee will also play a major role in the expanded range of opportunities for consultation and cooperation provided by the future support structure for the EAPC.

Substance

10. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will adopt at the time of its establishment the NACC Work Plan for Dialogue, Partnership and Cooperation and will replace it with an EAPC Work Plan as part of its future work. The activities included in the Partnership Work Programme (PWP) will also come under the general purview of the EAPC.
11. Specific subject areas on which Allies and Partners would consult, in the framework of the EAPC, might include but not be limited to: political and security related matters; crisis management; regional matters; arms control issues; nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) proliferation and defence issues; international terrorism; defence planning and budgets and defence policy and strategy; security impacts of economic developments. There will also be scope for consultations and cooperation on issues such as: civil emergency and disaster preparedness; armaments cooperation under the aegis of the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD); nuclear safety; defence related environmental issues; civil-military coordination of air traffic management and control; scientific cooperation; and issues related to peace support operations.

Eligibility

12. Present NACC members and PfP participating countries automatically become members of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council if they so desire. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council is open to the accession of other OSCE participating states able and willing to accept its basic principles and to contribute to its goals. New members may join the EAPC by joining the Partnership for Peace through signing the PfP Framework Document and by stating their acceptance of the concept of the EAPC as laid out in this document. The EAPC would be invited to endorse the accession of its new members.

Excerpts from NATO Documents on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan

“3. ... The plan for a CSCE Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh in Minsk continues to offer the best chance of finding a lasting solution to that conflict and of establishing good neighbourly relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We strongly support UNSCR 822 which must be implemented fully and without delay by all countries and parties to the conflict. We call for the immediate cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Kelbadzhar and other recently occupied districts of Azerbaijan, unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts, the creation of the necessary conditions for the return of displaced civilians to their homes and resumption of negotiations. We support the initiative of the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group, aimed at the implementation of a peace plan within the framework of the Minsk process, and urge the parties to accept it.”

Statement of the Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council

11 June 1993 Athens, Greece

“21. The situation in Southern Caucasus continues to be of special concern. We condemn the use of force for territorial gains. Respect for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia is essential to the establishment of peace, stability and cooperation in the region. We call upon all states to join international efforts under the aegis of the United Nations and the CSCE aimed at solving existing problems.”

Brussels Summit Declaration,

11 January 1994

“43. We regret the persistence of regional conflicts in the South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova. Our nations support the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova. We support continued efforts to achieve peaceful settlements to the conflicts involving these countries.”

Riga Summit Declaration,

28-29 November 2006

“43. We are concerned with the persistence of regional conflicts in the South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova. Our nations support the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. We will continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of these regional conflicts, taking into account these principles.”

Bucharest Summit Declaration,

02-04 April 2008

“35. We remain concerned with the persistence of regional conflicts in the South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova. We continue to support the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. Peaceful conflict resolution founded on these principles has gained increased relevance for overall stability in the region. We will further support efforts to this aim, and stand ready to enter into consultations

with these countries on matters of regional concern. We will also support these countries in their efforts to make full use of the mechanisms for conflict prevention and peaceful conflict resolution.”

**Final communiqué of the Meeting of the
NAC Foreign Ministers,
02-03 December 2008**

“58. We remain concerned with the persistence of protracted regional conflicts in the South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova. It is essential for all parties in these regions to engage constructively in peaceful conflict resolution. We call on them all to avoid steps that undermine regional security and stability, and to respect the current negotiation formats. We continue to support the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, and will also continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of these regional conflicts, taking into account these principles. We welcome OSCE efforts and processes in these regions, to which the Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform could be a useful complement.”

**Strasbourg / Kehl Summit Declaration,
03-04 April 2009**

“35. With our vision of a Euro-Atlantic area at peace, the persistence of protracted regional conflicts in South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova continues to be a matter of great concern for the Alliance. We urge all parties to engage constructively and with reinforced political will in peaceful conflict resolution, and to respect the current negotiation formats. We call on them all to avoid steps that undermine regional security and stability. We remain committed in our support of the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, and will also continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of these regional conflicts, taking into account these principles.”

**Lisbon Summit Declaration,
19-20 November 2010**

“47. With our vision of a Euro-Atlantic area at peace, the persistence of protracted regional conflicts in South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova continues to be a matter of great concern for the Alliance. We welcome the constructive approach in the renewed dialogue on Transnistria in the 5+2 format, and encourage further efforts by all actors involved. With respect to all these conflicts, we urge all parties to engage constructively and with reinforced political will in peaceful conflict resolution, and to respect the current negotiation formats. We call on them all to avoid steps that undermine regional security and stability. We remain committed in our support of the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova, and will also continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of these regional conflicts, based upon these principles and the norms of international law, the United Nations Charter, and the Helsinki Final Act.”

**Chicago Summit Declaration,
20-21 May 2012**

“30. ... Allies will continue to support the right of partners to make independent and sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, free from external pressure and coercion. Allies also remain committed in their support to the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.

31. In this context, we will continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the south Caucasus, as well as in the Republic of Moldova, based upon these principles and the norms of international law, the UN Charter, and the Helsinki Final Act. The persistence of these protracted conflicts continues to be a matter of particular concern, undermining the opportunities for citizens in the region to reach their full potential as members of the Euro-Atlantic community. We urge all parties to engage constructively and with reinforced political will in peaceful conflict resolution, within the established negotiation frameworks.”

**Wales Summit Declaration,
04-05 September 2014**

“24. We continue to support the right of all our partners to make independent and sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, free from external pressure and coercion. We remain committed in our support for the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova. In this context, we continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the South Caucasus, as well as in the Republic of Moldova, based upon these principles and the norms of international law, the UN Charter, and the Helsinki Final Act. We urge all parties to engage constructively and with reinforced political will in peaceful conflict resolution, within the established negotiation frameworks.”

**Warsaw Summit Communiqué,
08-09 July 2016**

“67. We continue to support the right of all our partners to make independent and sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, free from external pressure and coercion. We remain committed in our support for the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova. In this context, we continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the South Caucasus, as well as in the Republic of Moldova, based upon these principles and the norms of international law, the UN Charter, and the Helsinki Final Act. We urge all parties to engage constructively and with reinforced political will in peaceful conflict resolution, within the established negotiation frameworks.”

**Brussels Summit Declaration,
11-12 July 2018**



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