



Updated: 02-May-2003

NATO Issues

Information
correct as of
May 2003

Upgrading the Mediterranean Dialogue Including an Inventory of Possible Areas of Cooperation

I. Background

1. At their meeting in Reykjavik in May 2002, NATO Foreign Ministers decided *“to upgrade the political and practical dimensions of our Mediterranean Dialogue, including by consulting with Mediterranean partners on security matters of common concern, including terrorism-related issues, as appropriate. These efforts aim at bringing our Mediterranean partners even closer to NATO, and give fresh impetus to the Dialogue by the Prague Summit.”* (1)
2. In July 2002, the North Atlantic Council agreed that the strengthening and deepening of relations between NATO and Mediterranean Dialogue countries is among the highest priorities for the Alliance.
3. The current objective of NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) is to contribute to regional security and stability, achieve better mutual understanding and dispel any misconceptions about NATO among Dialogue countries. Since its establishment in 1995, the MD has been gradually strengthened in line with its progressive character. In particular, at their Summit in Madrid in July 1997 NATO Heads of State and Government (HOSG) decided to establish the Mediterranean Cooperation Group (MCG) operating under the authority of the North Atlantic Council (NAC). Subsequently, at their Summit in Washington in April 1999 HOSG endorsed the enhancements to the political and practical dimensions of the MD then agreed by the NAC. In July 2001, the NAC agreed on the way ahead for the MD. In January 2002 and again in June 2002, the NAC agreed to a series of measures aimed at strengthening the MD in the aftermath of 11 September, including consultations between NATO and MD countries on terrorism.
4. Since 1997, meetings between NATO and MD countries in the 19+1 and 19+7 format have been taking place on a regular basis and an annual MD Work Programme (MDWP) has been established. Currently, the MDWP includes activities in the areas of information, civil emergency planning (CEP), science & environment (SEA), crisis management, defence policy & strategy, small arms & light weapons (SALW), global humanitarian mine action (GHMA), proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), terrorism, as well as a MD Military

Programme (MDMP).

5. The following takes into account all of the above and includes an inventory of possible areas of cooperation between NATO and MD countries which is based on proposals and comments made at the 19+7 and 19+1 meetings at Ambassadorial level held respectively in May and June-July 2002.

II. Upgrading the political dimension

1. The MD political dimension should be upgraded by further exploiting the opportunities offered by the existing multi/bilateral dialogue; by further promoting high-level contacts and the involvement of decision-makers as appropriate; by bringing MD partners even closer to NATO; and by strengthening complementarity with other international efforts. The aim would be to establish a process-oriented, long term relationship between NATO and the MD countries based on mutual security interests, and enable NATO to make a significant contribution to the promotion of dialogue and cooperation within the Mediterranean region.

Multi/bilateral dialogue

2. Since the establishment of the MCG in 1997, meetings between NATO and the MD countries in the MCG in the 19+1 and 19+7 format have been taking place on a regular basis. Following a NAC decision, since October 2001 these meetings take place at Ambassadorial level (NAC+1 and NAC+7). Furthermore, MD Conferences at Ambassadorial level have been organised on at least two occasions (1997, 1999).
3. Annual 19+1 meetings at Ambassadorial level (NAC+1) should continue to be held with a view to exchanging views on the regional situation and to discussing the status and further development of the MD. 19+7 meetings at Ambassadorial level (NAC+7) should continue to be organised at least twice-a-year, in particular following NATO Ministerial meetings and HOSG Summits, with a view to briefing MD Ambassadors on the outcome of such meetings and to exchanging views on MD-related subjects.
4. MD Conferences at Ambassadorial level, such as those organised in Rome (1997) and Valencia (1999), should be resumed in earnest and, as intended, become a regular feature of the MD. NATO and MD countries should be encouraged to organise such Conferences with the support of the NATO Office of Information and Press (OIP), including in the Mediterranean region when appropriate.
5. Consideration could be given to further intensifying the political relationship, including by inviting, on a case-by-case basis, high-level representatives from MD countries to appropriate NATO meetings on specific topics.

6. 19+1 and 19+7 meetings at working level - or the level that is considered the most appropriate by NATO and MD countries - should continue to be organised as appropriate . These meetings, which could include expert participation from NATO and MD countries, should focus on practical cooperation offered by the MD including the preparation and implementation of the annual MDWP, and could include discussions at 19+7 on security matters of common concern. They could be complemented by expert-level meetings and visits involving the NATO Staffs and experts from NATO and MD countries, to be organised either at NATO HQ or in the requesting MD country (see also Section III, para. 4).
7. Within the non-discriminatory framework provided by the MD, consideration could also be given to organising, with interested MD partners on a case-by-case basis, 19+n meetings involving at least two MD partners at working level - or the level that is considered the most appropriate by NATO and MD countries - with the aim of discussing security matters of common concern such as terrorism and border security.

Visits by NATO Senior Officials to MD countries

8. Following agreement in the MCG, a first series of visits were conducted by the Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs (ASG/PA) or his Deputy (DASG/PA) to the seven MD countries between March 2000 and March 2001. Visits by the Chairman of the Military Committee (CMC) are also contemplated as one of the activities included in the MDMP. The Secretary General has repeatedly been invited to visit the MD countries.
9. Visits by NATO Senior Officials including the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General, ASG/PA and DASG/PA could be conducted to the MD countries with the aim of following-up on the MD and fostering strengthened ties with the Alliance. Such visits could also provide an opportunity for NATO Senior Officials to meet with a wider audience including representatives from the society at large. Consideration would also be given to organising the first ever visit by the Secretary General to the seven MD countries as early as possible.

Taking advantage of EAPC and PfP cooperation

10. Consideration should be given to taking advantage of Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and Partnership for Peace (PfP) cooperation. This could include exploring possibilities of associating the MD countries with specifically selected EAPC and PfP activities on a case-by-case basis, and encouraging MD partners to participate more substantially in those activities already opened to them in the framework of EAPC and PfP cooperation.

Strengthening complementarity

11. The existing complementarity between the MD and other international efforts such as the EU's Barcelona Process and the OSCE Mediterranean Dialogue should be further strengthened, with a view to fostering fruitful synergies, and to avoiding unnecessary duplication.
12. With respect to the OSCE Mediterranean Dialogue, and following on previous successful experiences, consideration could be given to convening expert-level meetings between NATO and OSCE on issues of common concern in the area of security and stability in the Mediterranean region.
13. With respect to the EU's Barcelona Process, in June 2002 the NAC agreed that NATO should propose to the EU the holding of regular briefings and exchanges of information on each organisation's activities in the area of security and stability in the Mediterranean region. The proposal is currently under EU's scrutiny.
14. Consideration could also be given to organising staff-level exchanges of views between organisations with respect to the complementary Mediterranean dialogues and partnerships.

III. Upgrading the practical dimension

1. The MD practical dimension should be upgraded by further developing cooperation in security matters of common concern. This should include focussed activities, a tailored approach to cooperation, and a continuous process of consultations at expert-level. It should cover areas where NATO has a recognised comparative advantage and can add value, especially in the military field, and where MD partners have expressed interest. It should also include a greater number of in-country training opportunities. Such cooperation should be achieved by emulating the experience gathered in the Partnership for Peace (PfP), including by opening additional PfP activities to MD countries' participation and/or adapting such activities to the specific requirements of the MD. Prior consultation with MD countries should be further emphasised.
2. The scope for expanding and deepening existing cooperation, including on defence and military issues, aimed at building sustainable peace and security and averting conflicts, encompasses the following inventory of possible areas of cooperation:
 - a. Military education, training and doctrine to address basic operational requirements, including by expanding current Mobile Training Team (MTT) activities. The participation in these activities will make MD partners acquainted with NATO terminology, doctrine, and procedures and thus better prepared to participate in military exercises and related training activities.
 - b. Military exercises and related training activities in fields

such as search and rescue, maritime safety, medical evacuation, humanitarian relief, and peace support operations. The participation of MD partners in these activities could improve the ability of MD countries' forces to operate with those of the members of NATO and thus facilitate the integration into NATO Forces of MD countries willing to contribute to NATO-led non-Article 5 crisis response operations.

- c. Military-to-military contacts at CHOD, staff and expert level to exchange information and reciprocal experiences on MD military co-operation issues, including in the field of peace support operations and related activities such as logistic support for MD country forces involved in NATO-led non-Article 5 crisis response operations, in order to improve the ability of MD countries' forces to operate with those of the members of NATO.
- d. Military medicine to ensure an adequate protection of forces, including in the area of preventive measures, health surveillance systems, and NBC-related preventive measures.
- e. Information exchange in the area of Logistics including best practices in military logistic structures, procedures and processes appropriate to improving the ability of MD countries' forces to operate with those of the members of NATO.
- f. Expert-level consultations on political and defence efforts against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).
- g. Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW), including seminars aimed at sharing experiences, expert-level consultations & visits, and training.
- h. Global Humanitarian Mine Action (GHMA), including seminars and training in such areas as mine detection/clearance and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance. Other activities in this field might be considered on a case-by-case basis and in light of the provisions of the Ottawa Convention.
- i. Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) seminars and expert-level meetings in both NATO and MD countries.
- j. Participation in selected activities of the CEP Planning Boards and Committees, to enhance interaction at technical level between civilian ministries which could be activated in times of complex emergencies.
- k. Crisis Management, including briefings on crisis management exercises, NATO crisis management

arrangements, and the operational organisation of the NATO Situation Center. Consideration could also be given to opening the Council Operations and Exercise Committee (COEC) to the participation of all MD countries in selected activities related to the MD.

1. Science and Environment (SEA), including activities in the fields of desertification, drought, management of water and other natural resources, effects of climate on agriculture, marine science in the Mediterranean Sea, regional medical problems, biotechnologies for agriculture, cooperation on environmental pollution possibly including Environmental Protection, and Challenges of Modern Society.
 - m. Encourage NATO and MD countries to further contribute to the MDWP by promoting additional nationally sponsored activities or activities “in the spirit of the MD”, including training in the areas of peace-keeping, SALW, GHMA, borders security, and satellite imagery analysis.
 - n. Step-up NATO’s information effort by further engaging the civil society in the MD countries with the twofold objective of providing a better understanding of NATO's policies and of the MD, and of stimulating the growth of a "security community" in these countries. This includes expanding the existing networks of academics, parliamentarians, media representatives, and opinion leaders; co-sponsoring the organisation of international conferences and seminars in NATO and MD countries as appropriate; organising visits to NATO HQ by selected target audiences, such as those shaping public attitudes and having direct impact on national decision making processes, and by special groups such as for example trainee diplomats; and by regularly updating the MD Internet web module established within the NATO Internet web site to provide policy makers, opinion leaders, the academic community, the media and public opinion at large with up-to-date information on the MD.
 - o. Strengthen the role of the NATO Contact Point Embassies (CPE) in MD countries with the aim of promoting further interaction and increased transparency between NATO and its MD partners.
3. The scope for establishing new areas of cooperation, including on defence and military issues, aimed at building sustainable peace and security and averting conflicts, encompasses the following inventory of possible areas of cooperation:
 - a. Specially selected activities in order to improve the ability of MD countries to contribute to NATO-led non-Article 5 crisis response operations including training for possible participation in and operation with a Multinational Joint Logistic Coordination Centre (MJLC); introduction to the concept of Multinational Integrated Logistic Units

(MILUs); preparation for the implementation of the Single Fuel Concept (SFC); and cooperation in the area of Tactical Fuels Handling Equipment (TFHE).

- b. Defence reform and defence economics including best practice in the economic and civilian management of defence forces. This includes resource management in defence spending ad affordability and sustainability of defence expenditures; the consequences of defence reform; the conversion of military personnel; and the management of former military sites. Consideration should be given to addressing the security aspects of economic development and the security-related economic aspects of the international fight against terrorism. Consideration should also be given to opening selected EAPC/PfP seminars and conferences in the field of defence reform and defence economics to MD countries' participation.
 - c. Consultations on terrorism, including intelligence-sharing, and expert-level meetings on the terrorist threat and measures taken, individually or together with others, to counter it. Consideration could also be given to involving MD partners in the activities foreseen in the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism on a case-by-case basis.
 - d. Consultations and cooperation on borders security, especially in connection with terrorism and organised crime, including the provision of training, technical and other forms of support to facilitate borders monitoring against the smuggling of small arms & light weapons and other illegal activities.
 - e. Participation in the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD)'s Partnership Group on the NATO Codification System (NCS).
 - f. Invitation in the CNAD's Partnership Group on Safety Aspects of Transportation and Storage of Military Ammunition and Explosives; exchanges on obsolete or excess ammunition and explosives destruction matters.
 - g. Consultation on air traffic management issues to promote flight safety and information exchange on civil/military air traffic control procedures.
 - h. Disaster management, including the possibility for the relevant bodies to take into consideration specific needs of MD countries and envisage the extension of the policy on Enhanced Practical Cooperation in the Field of International Disaster Relief to those countries.
4. Such enhanced cooperation should be achieved by inter alia organising expert-level meetings and visits involving the NATO Staffs and experts from NATO and MD countries as appropriate,

with the aim of involving the highest possible number of decision-makers including from the military. Such meetings and visits, which should be organised either at NATO HQ or in the requesting MD country, should focus on areas of cooperation of specific interest to NATO and individual MD partners. The MCG will be regularly kept informed of any such activities.

5. Practical cooperation should be further enhanced by emphasising prior consultation with individual MD countries, including in activity planning and preparation. This could be achieved by further involving the MD countries in the preparation of the annual MD Work Programme (MDWP) and by jointly developing individual cooperation programmes that would best meet each MD country's specific requirements as well as NATO's objectives. While fully respecting the principle of non-discrimination embedded within the MD and personified by the common MDWP, this would help promoting a degree of self-differentiation recognising that the needs and situations of each MD country vary and that it is for each one of them to identify the forms of activity and cooperation most suited to their needs.

IV. Implementation

1. The approval and implementation of the activities listed in Section II and III above is subject to the consideration by the relevant committees in the NATO framework in their respective fields of competence, taking into account the availability of appropriate financial and human resources.
 2. In principle, activities within the Dialogue take place on a self-funding basis. However, NATO may exceptionally grant financial assistance in support of MD partners' participation in the MD on a case-by-case basis.
 3. The possibility of using a trust fund mechanism to assist MD countries to support specific activities could be explored. Similarly to other NATO trust fund mechanisms, these activities should be project-based and sponsored by at least one NATO member and one MD country.
1. Para. 15 of the Reykjavik Communiqué.

