NATO MEASURES TO PREVENT TERRORISTS FROM ACQUIRING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (Resolution 67/44)

Executive Summary

Proliferation of WMD

- At their Summit meeting in Chicago in May 2012, NATO Heads of State and Government called for universal adherence to, and compliance with, the NPT and the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguard Agreement, as well as for full implementation of UNSCR 1540 and further work under UNSCR 1977. They also endorsed NATO’s Policy Guidelines on Counter-Terrorism, which identify three key areas of focus for NATO’s efforts: awareness of the threat, capabilities to counter it and engagement with partners and other international organisations. NATO appealed to all states to strengthen the security of nuclear materials within their borders, as called for at the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. NATO also called upon Iran and North Korea to fully comply with all their international obligations.

CBRN Defence Capabilities

- Within the NATO Response Force (NRF), the multinational Combined Joint CBRN Defence Task Force, including the CBRN Joint Assessment Team, is the key asset to protect from, and respond to, an attack or event involving CBRN materials. This high-readiness force significantly adds to the specialised capabilities that the Alliance has to offer to Allies and Partners.

- NATO CBRN defence activities are supported by the Joint CBRN Defense Capability Development Group (JCBRND/CDG), the CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence (COE) in the Czech Republic, the Defence Against Terrorism Programme of Work (DAT POW) and Weapons of Mass Destruction Non-Proliferation Centre (WMDC).

Cooperation with Partners

- Through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) and with other partners across the globe, NATO has deepened cooperation and information sharing on WMD threats and strengthened non-proliferation initiatives.

- The Annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation is one of NATO’s largest outreach activities. It gathers together decision-makers, senior officials and distinguished academics in the field of WMD and security from a wide range of countries and enables them to openly exchange views. On average, 120 participants from more than 50 countries attend this event every year.

Science Cooperation

- Defence Against Terrorist Threats is one of the key priority areas under NATO’s Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. This programme supports security-related civil science and technology collaboration between scientists and experts from NATO and those from partner countries. Between 2008 and 2013, a total of 120 SPS activities focusing on Counter-Terrorism and CBRN Defence were completed.
Full Submission

Proliferation of WMD

- Non-adherence to international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation commitments and programmes to develop WMD and their means of delivery undermine global norms and pose a threat to Alliance security. Nuclear weapons and radiological and chemical agents could be vulnerable to exploitation if not properly secured. Rapid advances in biological science and technology continue to increase the bio-terrorism threat and there are indications that terrorists intend to acquire chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials for malicious purposes. In response to this threat, NATO places a high priority on preventing the proliferation of WMD and defending against CBRN threats and hazards.

- The 2009 Comprehensive Strategic-Level Policy for Preventing the Proliferation of WMD and Defending Against CBRN Threats, adopted at the Strasbourg-Kehl Summit, states that NATO will work actively to prevent the proliferation of WMD by state and non-state actors. The 2010 Strategic Concept, agreed at the Lisbon Summit, identifies terrorism as a direct threat and reaffirms the Alliance’s determination to ensure that NATO has the full range of capabilities necessary to deter and defend against any threat to the safety of its populations and security of its territories. It specifically emphasises the need to further develop NATO’s capacity to defend against the threat of CBRN weapons. NATO’s Policy Guidelines on Counter-Terrorism, endorsed at the 2012 Chicago Summit, identify three key areas of focus for NATO’s efforts to address the challenge of terrorism: awareness of the threat, including terrorists’ use of WMD, capabilities to counter it and engagement with partners and other international organisations.

- At their Summit meeting in Chicago in May 2012, NATO Heads of State and Government called for universal adherence to, and compliance with, the NPT and the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguard Agreement, and for full implementation of UNSCR 1540. They welcomed further work under UNSCR 1977. NATO also appealed to all states to strengthen the security of nuclear materials within their borders, as called for at the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. NATO also called upon Iran and North Korea to fully comply with all their international obligations, including all relevant Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors.

CBRN Defence Capabilities

- The probability of large-scale aggression against the Alliance continues to be assessed as highly unlikely. However, an attack from beyond the Euro-Atlantic area involving unconventional forms of armed attack may occur sometime in the future. Potential aggressors might include non-state actors or terrorist groups. Modern technology increases the threat and potential impact of terrorist attacks, in particular if terrorists were to acquire nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological capabilities.

- NATO and NATO Allies have significantly improved and are further improving the Alliance’s CBRN defence activities. This work is supported primarily by the Joint CBRN Defense Capability Development Group and the CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence (COE) in the Czech Republic. At the NATO HQ the Weapons of Mass Destruction Non-Proliferation Centre supports the work of the NATO Committee on Proliferation in
Within the NATO Response Force (NRF), the multinational Combined Joint CBRN Defence Task Force, including the CBRN Joint Assessment Team, is the key asset to protect from, and respond to, an attack or event involving CBRN materials. This high-readiness force, currently comprised of around 20 national forces, regularly participates in NRF rotations and adds significantly to the specialised capabilities that the Alliance has to offer to Allies and partners. This force also serves as a catalyst for further transformation of our armed forces, not only for the benefit of NATO, but also for EU, UN or national purposes.

Cooperation with Partners

NATO’s partnership network has been an area of great success for the Alliance. Through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) and with other partners across the globe NATO has deepened cooperation and information sharing on WMD threats and strengthened non-proliferation initiatives. These efforts allow us to exchange information more regularly on CBRN threats that may be developing regionally.

The Alliance has actively contributed to partners’ implementation of UNSCR 1540 in recent years. Together with the Moldovan authorities, NATO’s WMD Non-Proliferation Centre organised a workshop in Chisinau on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 on 9-10 October 2012. Increasing the efficiency of customs, border and export controls for preventing trafficking in WMD-related materials, technologies and dual-use goods, as well as regional and international cooperation among the competent agencies in this field were the main topics of discussion by more than 50 participants from a number of NATO and EAPC partner nations.

The Annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation is one of NATO’s largest outreach activities. It gathers together decision-makers, senior officials and distinguished academics in the field of WMD and security from a wide range of countries and global regions and enables them to openly exchange views. On average, 120 participants from more than 50 countries attend this event every year. The most recent conference was held in Split, Croatia, on 6-7 May 2013. Traditionally, one of the conference’s general themes has been the link between terrorism and WMD proliferation.

Counter-Terrorism is a key priority for Allies and partner countries, as reflected in NATO’s Partnership Policy, Individual Partnership Cooperation Programmes and the Partnership Action Plan Against Terrorism. Areas of cooperation to enhance partner capacities to counter terrorism include training and exercises, capability development, border security and consequence management. NATO conducts political consultations and shares information on terrorist threats with partner countries. NATO and Russia also cooperate in the framework of the NATO-Russia Council Action Plan on Terrorism.
• The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, international conventions, protocols and relevant UN Resolutions provide the framework for national and multilateral efforts to combat terrorism. NATO, where it can provide clear added value, engages with other international organisations, in particular with the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union through reciprocal briefings and practical cooperation.

**Science Cooperation**

Through the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, NATO promotes security, stability and solidarity in the North Atlantic area and beyond by encouraging scientists and experts to work together to address security issues of mutual concern.

The SPS Programme supports multi-year research projects, collaborative workshops and advanced training in accordance with key priorities in support of NATO’s strategic objectives. Counter-terrorism and CBRN defence are among these key priorities.

Between 2008 and 2013, a total of 120 SPS activities were completed in these two areas, including the following examples:

• In June 2012, an Advanced Training Course on ‘Capacity Building in the Fight Against Terrorism’ was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The course aimed to provide military and civilian experts with a common approach and methodology to help them successfully build their national counter-terrorism capacity.

• Scientists from France and Ukraine are leading a multi-year project to develop a working prototype of a new generation x-ray scanner for the detection of explosives and other illicit objects and materials.

• NATO organised an SPS supported workshop in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 9-10 October 2012 for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 on the prevention of proliferation and smuggling of weapons of mass destruction, as well as dual-use materials and technology.

• In December 2012, experts from NATO and partner countries came together for a workshop on WMD Terrorism organised at the Centre of Excellence for Defence Against Terrorism in Ankara, Turkey.

• In 2013 SPS supported International Partners’ CBRN Defence Outreach Event of the NATO Committee on Proliferation in Defence format, entitled “NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Advanced Research Workshop on CBRN Defence and Border Security Capability Building in the Western Balkans”. This event took place in Budva, Montenegro in March 2013.