NATO MEASURES ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Proliferation of WMD

- NATO’s policies against the proliferation of WMD are rooted in the 1999 Strategic Concept and were reaffirmed in the Comprehensive Political Guidance of 2006. In this Political Guidance, Allies expressed their concern that terrorism and the spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) are likely to be the principal threats to the Alliance over the next 10-15 years; most seriously in the event of terrorists armed with WMD.

- At the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit in 2009, Heads of State and Government reiterated NATO’s resolve to strengthen efforts to combat the illicit spread of WMD, and in this vein endorsed the Alliance’s Comprehensive Strategic-Level Policy for Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Defending Against Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Threats. This document was then declassified by the North Atlantic Council (NAC) on 31 August 2009 and provides the framework by which NATO will conduct its non-proliferation and CBRN defence activities.

- Reaffirming its support to existing multilateral non-proliferation agreements, NATO calls for universal compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and universal adherence to the Additional Protocol to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguard Agreement and full compliance by all parties with UNSCR 1540.

- Heads of State and Government also declared at the Strasbourg-Kehl Summit that the Alliance remains deeply concerned about the Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and related proliferation risks and calls on Iran to comply with relevant UNSCRs. It is also deeply concerned by the programmes and proliferation activities of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and calls on it to fully comply with relevant UNSCRs.

CBRN Defence Capabilities

- NATO has developed a multinational CBRN Defence Task Force, which regularly participates in NATO Response Force (NRF) rotations. This high readiness force serves to protect against, and respond to, any events involving CBRN materials and significantly adds to the specialised capabilities that the Alliance has to offer Allies and partners. It has also been deployed to support high visibility events following requests from nations such as during Olympic Games and NATO Summits.
• NATO is finalising a disease surveillance system (DSS) which will be centrally hosted in Germany and will enhance Alliance efforts to prevent and respond to any outbreaks of biological agents. This capability has been operationally tested and is being deployed to add a further element of monitoring, reachback and recovery to NATO's existing portfolio.

• To complement DSS and operational capabilities, the valuable role of NATO's Centres of Excellence (CoE) and training centres for Partnership for Peace nations was recently reaffirmed at the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit. These include the Defence Against Terrorism CoE in Turkey and, the Joint CBRN Defence CoE in the Czech Republic.

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), and with other partners around the globe (Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Singapore), NATO has deepened cooperation and information sharing on WMD threats and strengthened non-proliferation initiatives.

• More than 60 countries participate regularly in the Annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, held under the auspices of the Senior Politico-Military Group on Proliferation. The most recent one took place in Warsaw, Poland in December 2009 and delegates had the opportunity to listen to and discuss presentations covering an array of topics including non-proliferation regimes, proliferation threats and challenges, NATO's contributions to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as WMD and Terrorism issues. These conferences consistently attract over 150 participants from over 50 different countries, representing a diverse array of experience and specialised knowledge.

• High-level experts from EAPC Partners, MD members, ICI and countries and partners around the globe, as well as from International Organisations regularly participate in the Senior Defence Group on Proliferation's annual CBRN Defence Outreach event. This year, a workshop and exhibition was held at NATO HQ in Brussels and attracted participation from over 220 individuals from 45 countries.

• NATO has also recently developed a WMD Maritime Interdiction Operations course that takes place at the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operations Centre in Souda Bay, Greece. This provides an operational dimension to cooperation between Allies and partners in interdicting the illicit trafficking of WMD materials.
Science Cooperation

- Defence Against Terrorism is one of three key priority areas under NATO’s Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme which supports security-related civil science and technology collaboration between NATO and partner countries, thereby contributing to NATO’s Strategic Objective “Partnership”.

- Between 2006 and 2009, 50 activities (workshops, team collaborations, trainings) have been completed under this Programme, in a range of CBRN-related areas such as: Physical protection, rapid detection, decontamination and destruction of CBRN agents and weapons, rapid diagnosis of their effects on people and medical countermeasures, and explosives detection. There are also 33 ongoing multi-year projects on these topics. The launch of the STANDEX Programme on Stand-off Detection of Suicide Bombers and Mobile Projects in May 2009 was one of the most prominent milestones of the SPS Programme.