

Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme between NATO and the State of Israel for 2017-2019

I. STRATEGIC COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK/PREAMBLE

1.1 NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue was initiated in 1994 by the North Atlantic Council with the broad objectives of contributing to regional security and stability, achieving better mutual understanding and dispelling any misconceptions between NATO and Mediterranean Partners.

1.2 It currently involves seven Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

1.3 The enhanced Mediterranean Dialogue is based on a number of principles which include: the mutually beneficial nature of the relationship, the need to advance the process (in close consultation with MD countries), the importance of being responsive to MD countries' interests and needs, and the preservation of self-differentiation notably through Individual Partnership Cooperation Programmes (IPCP), while maintaining the unity of the MD and its non-discriminatory character.

1.4 At the 2004 Istanbul Summit, the Mediterranean Dialogue was elevated to a genuine partnership, whose overall aim is to enhance the existing political dialogue, achieve interoperability, develop defense transformation, and contribute to the battle against terrorism.

1.5 IPCP aim at enhancing the political dialogue as well as tailoring the cooperation with NATO according to key strategic national needs.

II. ISRAEL'S POLICY ON COOPERATION WITH NATO

2.1 Israel shares the values on which NATO is based and considers itself part of the transatlantic family. It wishes to develop and upgrade its relations with the organization and in this regard welcomes the decision of NATO's Prague Summit (2002), the decision of the Istanbul Summit (2004) to elevate the Mediterranean Dialogue to a genuine partnership, the Lisbon Summit (2010) meeting whereby the NATO Strategic Concept was established, and the decision of the Chicago Summit (2012) to strengthen the political and practical dimensions of the Mediterranean Dialogue and the decisions of the Warsaw Summit (2016) to reinforce NATO's partners in the Mediterranean region, as an integral part of the Alliance's cooperative approach towards security.

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2.2 NATO's Strategic Concept, that was adopted at the 2010 Lisbon Summit and approved at the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Berlin, paved the way for a more flexible partnership by opening all cooperative activities and exercises to partners, establishing a single Partnership Cooperation Menu, and a tailored individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme. In this regard, Israel welcomes the NATO invitation to Israel to open a diplomatic mission at the Headquarters of the Atlantic Alliance and the accreditation of an Israeli Ambassador to NATO in Brussels and its subsequent approval by the NAC.

2.3 The main objective of Israel's dialogue with NATO is to strengthen cooperation and coordination, in order to promote security and stability in the Mediterranean region and the international arena. To this end, Israel views the Mediterranean Dialogue as an important tool that can foster better understanding and cooperation among its members as well as with NATO.

2.4 The dialogue should contribute to the collective effort to confront challenges and threats which are part of the new security environment such as the rising of ISIS/DAESH, the recent terrorist attacks in Europe, Turkey North America and the Middle East, the spread of violent radical groups and non-state actors which operate on a transnational level, spill over from failing and failed states, as well as radical regimes and movements which practice and incite for violence and hate.

2.5 Emerging security challenges, which include radicalization, cyber-attacks, hybrid warfare, CBRN and the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery, are relevant to the security of the Mediterranean Dialogue countries and to regional security, and they require a better collective response. The Mediterranean Dialogue can also provide more effective cooperation in areas such as Emergency and Response Preparedness, Search & Rescue, Humanitarian Relief, Border Security, Cooperation in the area of Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) and Medical Services.

2.6 Wider participation of Israeli representatives in NATO's activities and programs in the political, military, and scientific levels will contribute to a better exchange of knowledge and experience. Information sharing as well as technological, logistical, scientific, and operational cooperation will improve our mutual capabilities to respond to the above mentioned common threats.

2.7 Enhanced political and practical cooperation will create opportunities for better understanding, stronger mutual trust, confidence building and increased interoperability in order to act on the priority areas mentioned below.

2.8 The scope of the IPCP, detailed here, reflects the priority areas for cooperation as agreed between NATO and Israel to be implemented in accordance with established procedures and under the existing security of information agreement between NATO and Israel. Notwithstanding, it should be regarded as an active document to which future elements could be added.

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III. PRIORITY AREAS OF NATO-ISRAEL COOPERATION

3.1 Political dimension: The political relationship between Israel and NATO could be strengthened through use of the following mechanisms:

3.1.1 NATO-Israel Steering Committee that will meet once a year, headed by the Ambassador of Israel to the EU and NATO and the Deputy Secretary General (or the Assistant Secretary for Political Affairs and Security Policy), with the participation of high level experts, to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the IPCP and explore further venues of cooperation.

3.1.2 High level visits: The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense of Israel will be invited, on the basis of mutual interests, to attend meetings with their counterparts from NATO member states.

The Secretary General and high level officials, including heads of specialized agencies will be invited to Israel in order to strengthen contacts and to exchange views on security challenges and ways to deal with them.

3.1.3 Periodical dialogues (28+1) will take place regularly and will cover the following fields as well as additional fields which will be mutually determined in the future:

- i. Political/strategic
- ii. Military
- iii. Counterterrorism (including responses to radicalization, incitement to violence and to violent extremism)
- iv. Cyber Security
- v. Proliferation of WMD and Missile Defence

3.2 Education and Military Training:

3.2.1 Expand the participation of Israeli officials in NATO's courses and seminars. Continue inviting experts from Israel to participate as lecturers in various activities and frameworks.

3.2.2 NATO Defence College: Support the invitation and integration of Israeli senior lecturers into the academic programs of the NATO NDC in Rome and other NATO educational frameworks and affiliated institutions.

3.2.3 NATO Centers of Excellence (CoEs) Reinforce and formalize the connections between NATO's Centers of Excellence and the relevant professional organizations in Israel, inter alia by creating POC's. Israel is especially interested in enhancing the cooperation with the following CoEs:

- i. Defense Against Terrorism
- ii. Energy Security

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- iii. Strategic Communication
- iv. CBRN Defense
- v. Cooperative Cyber Defense
- vi. Counter – Improvised Explosive Devices
- vii. Analysis and Simulation for Air operations

3.2.4 PTEC: Proposing an Israeli Center for consideration by NATO for recognition as a Partnership Training and Education Center (PTEC) to offer niche capabilities to the NATO Education and Training Landscape and facilitate joint education activities with NATO and partners.

3.3. Professional Cooperation and Interoperability:

3.3.1 Increase the participation of the Israel Defense Forces in qualitative military exercises of NATO, increase the participation of representatives from NATO in relevant exercises in Israel, increase the participation of experts from NATO in professional tours and dialogues in Israel (identifying priority areas). Increase Military to Military cooperation to achieve interoperability, including the possible participation in the Operational Capabilities Concept and Interoperability Platform.

3.3.2 **NATO Working Groups:** Invite Israeli experts to participate in working groups, committee meetings and specialized exchange entities' conferences and promoting exchange of documents in the fields of:

- i. Ammunition and armament
- ii. Medicine
- iii. Counter Proliferation
- iv. Logistics
- v. Cyber
- vi. Counterterrorism
- vii. UAVs
- viii. NATO Aviation Committee and its subgroups
- ix. Forces for rapid deployment
- x. Other topics, to be determined by the Steering Committee.

3.3.3 **NATO Agencies:** enhance the cooperation and involvement of Israel with the relevant agencies and centers of NATO (including mutual visits of experts) and in particular:

- i. NATO Standardization Office (NSO).
- ii. NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA).
- iii. NATO Science and Technology Organization (STO).
- iv. NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA).

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3.4 Joint Capacity Building

3.4.1 NATO, Member States and Israel will be invited to participate in courses and specialized capacity-building conferences.

3.5 Cooperation in the area of Civil Emergency Planning

3.5.1 Promoting an MOU between National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA) and EADRCC.

3.5.2 Hosting of a NATO/ Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination (EADRCC) emergency exercise in Israel

3.5.3 Ongoing exchange of information between the EADRCC and NEMA

3.5.4 Inclusion of Israeli experts in NATO list of experts

3.5.5 Exchange of best practices in emergency management/development of exchange of knowledge and experts on various topics (technology, population behavior, Nation's resilience, analysis of threats etc.)

3.5.6 Exchange of knowledge on early warning system for civilians in case of missiles and other hazards (With emphasis on civil-military coordination)

3.5.7 Regular participation of Israel in NATO CEP meetings

3.6 Cooperation on Cyber Defense

3.6.1 Engage in mutual visits of the relevant high-level professionals and starting bilateral discussions with NATO authorities in order to explore most effective areas of mutual benefit.

3.7 Exchange of Intelligence

3.7.1 Conduct periodical briefings by intelligence experts, military and civilians, from NATO and Israel, on issues of mutual interests.

3.7.2 Activate the channels created for information transfers, when and as appropriate.

3.7.3 Establish working relations with the new joint Intelligence and Security Division.

3.8 International Law and Legal Cooperation

3.8.1 Participation of Israeli experts in meetings, discussions, working groups, bilateral dialogue of experts and seminars on international law and other relevant issues including:

- i. Hybrid warfare conditions

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- ii. Counterterrorism
- iii. Naval warfare
- iv. Aerial warfare
- v. Arms and ammunition
- vi. Cyber Security

3.8.2 Exploring a future Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) or alternative solutions:
i. In order to allow for adequate participation of Israel in NATO Partner military exercises, special attention should be given and an effort should be made towards the conclusion of a SOFA.

3.8.3 Promote the conclusion of an HNS agreement

3.8.4 Promote the conclusion of a support cooperation agreement with NSPA.

3.9 Scientific Cooperation

3.9.1 Expand the participation of Israeli scientists and entities in research under the STO Programme of Work and the SPS program.

3.9.2 Organize bilateral meetings and invite Israel to participate in special working groups of NATO which contribute to scientific/research cooperation.

3.10 Cooperation in the Area of CBRN

3.10.1 Aim for closer cooperation between Israel and NATO in the area of CBRN threats, with an emphasis on terrorism, in particular in the areas of exercises, R&D and the sharing of best practices for response to a possible CBRN use.

3.11 Cooperation on Hybrid Warfare

3.11.1 Develop a NATO-Israel dialogue on the challenges of hybrid warfare - political and military aspects.

3.12 Cooperation on Gender issues

3.12.1 Sharing experience on ways to empower the role and leadership of women in the defense and security sphere, including the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions.