INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME
BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NATO
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1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

1.1 Recognising our common values, our experience of working together in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan, and our shared vision to promote stability and peace through cooperation, Australia and NATO are committed to strengthening our partnership in areas of mutual interest. The dialogue between NATO and Australia is based on a shared commitment to peace, democracy, human rights, rule of law, and promoting international security. The present Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme complements the Joint Political Declaration, signed during the visit by NATO Secretary General to Australia on 14 June 2012, and further details our practical cooperation.

1.2 The Strategic Concept adopted by NATO at the 2010 Lisbon Summit paved the way for a more flexible partnership policy approved at the Foreign Ministers Meeting in Berlin, offering to streamline its partnership tools to open all cooperative activities and exercises to partners and establishing a single Partnership Cooperation Menu and a tailored Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme as an entry-level programme available to all partners. In pursuit of mutual benefit, Australia and NATO undertake this Partnership to: promote understanding through consultation; share experiences of and approaches to managing crises and conflicts; stabilise post-conflict situations; support reconstruction and facilitate humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; and, as appropriate, enhance interoperability, create opportunities for technological or scientific exchange and build capacity through personnel exchange, education and training.

1.3 The development of this Partnership also aims to support NATO's strategic objectives by contributing to Euro–Atlantic security, peace and stability, and by enhancing support for NATO's operations and missions.

1.4 The Alliance values Australia as a leading contributor to the NATO-led ISAF mission in Afghanistan, which works under a UN Security Council mandate and at the invitation of the Afghan Government. NATO and Australia will continue to contribute to efforts by the international community towards security, governance and economic and social development in a sovereign, secure and democratic Afghanistan.

1.5 Australia can complement NATO's expertise and potential to successfully address common challenges, including by sharing Australia’s experiences gained through its long history of participation in international and regional peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations, most recently in Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.
2. PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSE

2.1 Australia and NATO remain committed to the exchange of information and intelligence, to joint operational and training activities and to secondments of Australian defence and civilian personnel to NATO. Visits and exchanges by officials and defence personnel are encouraged.

2.2 The mutually beneficial objectives sought through this Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme may be summarised as follows:

2.2.1 To promote political and military interaction in order to strengthen peace and security efforts.

2.2.2 To promote the mutual development of military capabilities in technological, operational, logistic and scientific fields, including through defence education.

2.2.3 To support Australian Defence Force interoperability, deployability and mobility to facilitate future participation in NATO exercises and operations.

2.2.4 To contribute to the identification of peaceful solutions to conflicts and foster peace by exchanging lessons learned.

3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

3.1 In accordance with our commitment under the Joint Political Declaration, Australia and NATO will undertake regular high-level political dialogue on mutually identified security issues of common concern. Australia and NATO will consult on security developments with a view to preventing crises and, as required, contribute to their management. Australia and NATO will carry out activities and share experiences related to many of the areas in NATO’s Partnership Cooperation Menu, including in the following priority areas:

3.1.1 Enhancing interoperability, effectiveness and efficiency in military operations, as well as enabling support, logistics, doctrine, and education and training cooperation, which would assist Australian Defence Force engagement in ISAF and any possible future NATO-led mission.

3.1.2 Addressing global security challenges posed by terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

3.1.3 Continuing to support international efforts to combat maritime piracy and maintain the freedom of the seas and the security of maritime routes of supply and communication.

3.1.4 Promoting exchanges on cyber issues.

3.1.5 Enhancing mutual understanding of, and interoperability in, the field of civil–military cooperation (CIMIC) to support a civil–military approach to conflict management which focuses on improving cooperation between the military and civilian actors.
3.1.6 Further developing cooperation in the area of defence science and technology.

3.1.7 Exchanging best practice to mainstream a women, peace and security perspective (UN Security Council Resolution 1325) into the full spectrum of NATO and ADF missions.

3.1.8 Negotiating and finalising an arrangement to support cooperation in the field of logistics.

3.1.9 Developing cooperation in the field of public diplomacy, in order to increase mutual understanding and transparency, including through facilitating regular discussions among parliamentarians, officials, security experts and academics, as well as cooperation among think tanks and academic institutions on security and cooperation issues of common interest.

3.2 The cooperation resulting from this programme should be reviewed at regular intervals by Australia and NATO through a jointly-owned process.

3.3 This programme will enter into force at the date of approval by the North Atlantic Council and Australia and is foreseen to be implemented over a two-year period.

4. LIST OF PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Activities will closely follow the priorities identified in Section 3 as well as the purpose and principles outlined in Section 2 of this document. An updated list of activities carried out between Australia and NATO will be stored and updated in the Electronic Partnership Realtime Information, Management and Exchange System (ePRIME) database.

Signed in Brussels on 21 February 2013 in two originals.

[Signatures]

The Honourable Stephen Smith, MP
Minister for Defence of Australia

Mr Anders Fogh Rasmussen
Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization