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Information sheet: Objectives of cooperation between Switzerland and NATO for 2023 and 2024

Switzerland has been participating in the Partnership for Peace (PfP) cooperation programme since 1996. The Federal Council defines the content of this programme every two years. In particular, it sets out the principles governing cooperation (e.g. voluntary cooperation, with no legal obligation), the priorities and aims of cooperation, the activities that Switzerland may propose to other participating countries, as well as the activities in which Switzerland may participate.

On the basis of the PfP programme, Switzerland and NATO have been working together for the last few years under a non-legally binding instrument called the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme (IPCP). One of the tools of this programme is the Planning and Review Process (PARP), which sets out specific goals to enhance interoperability and the capabilities of armed forces personnel involved in training activities, exercises and international operations in partnership with NATO.

In 2023, NATO introduced a lightly modified concept to facilitate cooperation with its partners, including Switzerland. This new instrument is known as the Individually Tailored Partnership Programme (ITPP). It replaces the IPCP/PARP and is also non-legally binding.

The ITPP strategic objectives and cooperation targets

Switzerland and NATO drew up an ITPP for the first time in 2023, for an initial period of two years. The document sets out the strategic objectives of cooperation between the two parties and expounds these objectives in a number of concrete and measurable cooperation targets.

The three strategic objectives are: strengthen dialogue and practical cooperation (Objective 1); develop interoperability, particularly between the armed forces (Objective 2); cooperate in current or future areas of common interest (Objective 3).

Under the ITPP, these three strategic goals have been translated into 29 cooperation targets. The targets concern not only the capability and interoperability of the armed forces, but also other areas and federal agencies. While 25 of these cooperation targets fall under the remit of the DDPS, four principally concern the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

Of the 25 cooperation targets relating to the DDPS, 22 concern land forces, two concern air forces and one relates to the command of special forces. The targets

concerning the armed forces are aimed at enhancing interoperability, particularly in the context of Switzerland's participation in military peace support operations led by NATO and conducted under a UN or OSCE mandate. Within the framework of these cooperation targets, Switzerland benefits from NATO's expertise, in particular through access to its standards, norms and doctrines. This ultimately enhances interoperability.

In contrast to the IPCP/PARP, the ITPP defines eight cooperation targets: Dialogue and Consultation; Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation; Women, Peace and Security; Human Security; Resilience and Civil Preparedness; Armaments Cooperation; Emerging Disruptive Technologies; Climate change and Security.

The ITPP cooperation targets in detail

For 2023 and 2024, Switzerland has identified the following cooperation targets to strengthen dialogue, interoperability and military capabilities that can be used in training, exercises and international military peace support operations.

1. **DIALOGUE AND CONSULTATION:** Ensure political and operational dialogue and consultation, in particular to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest.
2. **ARMS CONTROL, DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION:** Facilitate exchanges, contribute to the defence of a rules-based international order, and strengthen global arms control.
3. **WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY:** Actively cooperate in this area in accordance with the Swiss National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
4. **HUMAN SECURITY:** Work together to advance and promote issues such as the protection of civilians and children in armed conflict, cultural property, human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence, in a way that is in line with Switzerland's commitment to international humanitarian law.
5. **RESILIENCE AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS:** Strengthen dialogue and cooperation on resilience and civil preparedness.
6. **CAPACITY BUILDING AND INTEROPERABILITY:** Enable practical cooperation and dialogue in order to promote interoperability in the broadest sense.
7. **COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:** Strengthen practical cooperation and dialogue in defence innovation, scientific research and technological development.
8. **EVALUATION AND CERTIFICATION OF CAPABILITIES:** Ensure that Swiss forces participating in NATO military peace support operations under UN or OSCE mandates are assessed in accordance with NATO standards.

9. CONTRIBUTION OF NON-COMBAT UNITS TO PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS: Ensure that Switzerland is able, if needed, to deploy non-combat forces with an appropriate level of readiness to military peace support operations, including NATO-led operations, conducted under a UN or OSCE mandate.
10. CONTRIBUTION OF SUPPORT CAPABILITIES TO PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS: Ensure that Switzerland is able, if necessary, to deploy support capabilities with an appropriate level of readiness to military peace support operations, including NATO-led operations, conducted under a UN or OSCE mandate.
11. CONTRIBUTION OF COMBAT SUPPORT CAPABILITIES TO PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS: Ensure that Switzerland is able, if needed, to deploy combat support capabilities with an appropriate level of readiness to military peace support operations, including NATO-led operations, conducted under a UN or OSCE mandate.
12. PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING: Ensure that personnel deployed in military peace support operations, including NATO-led operations, conducted under a UN or OSCE mandate have received adequate training and information.
13. JOINT INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, TARGET ACQUISITION AND RECONNAISSANCE: Improve intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance structures and capabilities to provide the essential information required at strategic, operational and tactical levels, including in support of multinational operations.
14. NATO-COMPATIBLE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS: Ensure that all aircraft, air surveillance and ground-based air defence systems that may be used in multinational operations comply with current civil and military identification requirements, and help reduce the risk of friendly fire/fratricide.
15. SWISS HUMINT CAPABILITY: Ensure that human intelligence (HUMINT) capabilities are available to support Swiss units participating in military peace support operations.
16. INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SYSTEM: Ensure the capability to establish an integrated, coordinated and efficient logistics support system for the Swiss Armed Forces' units and other organisations contributing to military peace support operations, in accordance with NATO logistics standards.
17. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES FOR DEPLOYED FORCES: Ensure that the environmental impact of military camps and forces deployed in military peace support operations is reduced in accordance with NATO standards.

18. MEDICAL SUPPORT: Ensure that the military medical system is set up to provide, where necessary, effective medical support to units and personnel deployed in military peace support operations.
19. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND ANALYSIS CAPABILITIES: Ensure that Switzerland is able to provide, if necessary, epidemiological surveillance and detection capabilities to support forces participating in military peace support operations.
20. GEOSPATIAL SUPPORT: Ensure that Switzerland is able to exchange geospatial information as needed within a multinational geospatial infrastructure.
21. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS: Ensure that Switzerland's communication and information systems and networks are interoperable with NATO and compatible with NATO's Federated Mission Networking (FMN).
22. EMERGING AND DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES: Enable effective cooperation on current and future challenges and opportunities posed by emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs), in particular with a view to promoting their responsible use.
23. CYBER DEFENCE: Promote a cyber defence system that is capable of preventing, monitoring, detecting and defending against malicious cyber activity.
24. CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY: Promote cooperation on climate change and security issues and raise awareness of climate change in the defence and security sector.
25. JOINT URBAN OPERATIONS: Ensure that personnel deployed in military peace support operations are trained and equipped to conduct effective joint operations with other armed forces in urban environments.
26. IMPROVE CAPABILITY FOR MINE DETECTION, DEMINING AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL: Ensure an effective capability for mine detection, demining and explosive ordnance disposal to support Swiss forces deployed on military peace support operations.
27. AIR SURVEILLANCE AND SHARING THROUGH ASDE: Enable Switzerland to share classified and recognised air pictures with NATO under the Air Situation Data Exchange (ASDE) programme.
28. AIRCRAFT SELF-PROTECTION: Ensure that all aircraft likely to be flown over hostile areas are equipped with appropriate self-protection systems.

29. SPECIAL FORCES COMMAND: Ensure Switzerland's Special Forces Command is interoperable and able to participate in military peace support operations if necessary.