



**Members**

NATO was founded on April 4, 1949, by twelve countries from Europe and North America.

Since then, 20 additional countries have joined NATO in various rounds of enlargement (1952, 1955<sup>2</sup>, 1982, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2017, 2020 and 2023/24).

**Partnerships (not exhaustive)**

NATO maintains relations with more than 40 non-member countries and international organisations.

NATO works with these partners through a variety of different structures, primarily based on the geographical region.

**Partnership for Peace (PfP, since 1994)**

The Partnership for Peace is a programme of practical bilateral cooperation between NATO and partner countries in the Euro-Atlantic area.<sup>3</sup>

**Mediterranean Dialogue (MD, since 1994)**

The Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) is a partnership forum that aims to contribute to security and stability in the wider Mediterranean region (seven partner countries in total).

**Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI, since 2004)**

The Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) is a partnership forum that offers non-NATO countries in the broader Middle East region the opportunity to cooperate with NATO. To date, four countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council have joined NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative.<sup>4</sup>

**Partners across the globe**

Outside of its formal partnership structures, NATO cooperates with a range of countries – called Partners across the globe – on an individual basis.<sup>5</sup>

# NATO

## More than (just) the North Atlantic<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All information is based on NATO 2024: NATO's partnerships, 7 Mar 2024, in: <https://ogy.de/yqij> [7 Mar 2024].  
<sup>2</sup> The Federal Republic of Germany joined NATO on 6 May 1955. The GDR was a founding member of the Warsaw Pact and left shortly before reunification.  
<sup>3</sup> NATO's partnerships with Belarus and Russia are currently suspended.  
<sup>4</sup> Oman and Saudi Arabia also participate in selected activities within the framework of the ICI.  
<sup>5</sup> NATO's partnership with Afghanistan is currently suspended due to decisions taken by the North Atlantic Council.