



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL REPORT 2024

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Presidential Report provides a comprehensive overview of the Assembly's achievements, activities, and initiatives over the past year. As an essential link between NATO and the parliaments of its member states, the Assembly continues to play a pivotal role in fostering dialogue, strengthening transatlantic ties, and addressing the complex challenges to our shared security. This report reflects the Assembly's unwavering commitment to promoting democratic values, enhancing transparency, and supporting NATO's core objectives in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

TABLE OF CONTENT

FOREWORD	2
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE.....	3
NATO @75: THE PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION	5
NATO AND THE DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY	7
BOLSTERING DETERRENCE AND DEFENCE	9
ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS.....	11
ADDRESSING TECHNOLOGICAL AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES	13
WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY	15
BUDGET & FINANCE	17

FOREWORD

Marcos PERESTRELLO

President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

[Video address](#)

Ruxandra POPA

Secretary general of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

As the NATO Parliamentary Assembly stands at the dawn of its 70th anniversary, which we will celebrate in 2025, this report highlights how, throughout 2024, the Assembly has continued to play its part in helping defend the security of NATO's one billion citizens.

[Established in 1955](#), the Assembly has helped inform the public, influence Alliance policies, strengthen the unique transatlantic bond and further the Alliance's values through parliamentary dialogue, diplomacy and partnerships. While independent from NATO, [it serves as an essential link between the Alliance and its citizens through their elected representatives](#).

Led successively by Presidents Michal Szczerba of Poland, [Gerry Connolly of the United States](#) and [Marcos Perestrello of Portugal](#), the Assembly and [its 281 members](#) have continued, in 2024, to carry the voice of the Alliance's 32 parliaments on all the key priorities for Euro-Atlantic security and cooperation.

The year 2024 has been consequential for the Alliance. NATO has continued to adapt in response to Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and its direct threat to Euro-Atlantic security. The United States hosted NATO's 75th Anniversary Summit in Washington, D.C. The Alliance also welcomed its 32nd member with the accession of Sweden on 7 March 2024. And on 1 October 2024, Mark Rutte succeeded Jens Stoltenberg as NATO's new Secretary General. Reflecting the Alliance's profound adaptation to an increasingly complex and challenging security environment, the work of the Assembly's leadership – the [President](#), the [Bureau](#), the Standing Committee – and of its five [Committees](#) – [Democracy and Security](#), [Defence and Security](#), [Political](#), [Economics and Security](#), [Science and Technology](#) – focused largely on five main priorities:

- Sustaining Allies' steadfast support to Ukraine;
- Ensuring that NATO steps up to the threat posed by autocrats increasingly working together to undermine democracies and the rules-based international order;
- Continuing to support the strengthening of NATO's deterrence and defence;
- Stepping up engagement with partners in key regions;
- Addressing climate change-related and technological challenges.

Support for Women, Peace and Security remains an ongoing, additional priority.

Ukraine and NATO's adaptation grounded in shared democratic values was at the core of the [Assembly's recommendations for the NATO Summit in Washington, D.C.](#), which the Assembly's President was once again invited to address. He reiterated to Allied Heads of State and Government the Assembly's call to operationalise the Alliance's commitment to defend democracy by establishing a [Centre for Democratic Resilience at NATO Headquarters](#). On the eve of the NATO Summit, the United States delegation to the NATO PA hosted [a NATO Parliamentary Summit](#), which brought together leaders of the 32 Allied parliaments plus Ukraine, including 23 Speakers of Parliament.

The Assembly concluded the year with [an Annual Session hosted by its other North American member – Canada](#). In Montréal, the Assembly elected its [new President, Marcos Perestrello](#), and took stock of the major developments of this significant year, which also saw a historically high number of consequential elections in NATO member and partner countries.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Now in its third year, Russia's brutal full-scale aggression against Ukraine continues to drag along as a gruelling war of attrition, inflicting enormous suffering on the Ukrainian people.

During the [visit of the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council \(UNIC\) to Kyiv in June 2024](#), Ukrainian government officials and military leaders told Allied legislators that the situation on the battlefield was the most challenging since the start of the full-scale invasion. Despite their surprising incursion into Kursk in August, Ukrainian forces were stressed at every level, and the Russian aggressors, disregarding their own record casualties, have advanced in Eastern Ukraine. Addressing the [Rose-Roth Seminar in Warsaw, Poland, in September](#), Polish and Ukrainian interlocutors observed that the coming winter will prove particularly challenging and potentially decisive, warning that if Russia were to prevail in Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic States would be among its next objectives.

Throughout this difficult period, Presidents Szczerba and [Connolly](#) continued to rally the Assembly around its resolute stance on Russia's illegal war as well as its unwavering support for Ukraine's democracy, independence, territorial integrity, self-defence, and NATO membership. The [UNIC](#), co-led by [Audronius Azubalis](#) (Lithuania) and [Oleksandr Korniyenko](#) (Ukraine), also continued to spearhead the Assembly's support for Ukraine through its statements and meetings, including its landmark visit to Kyiv.

In May, at the [Spring Session in Sofia, Bulgaria](#), President Szczerba called on the Allies to "speed up and step up" military assistance and "give Ukraine everything it needs" without delay. In order to stop the Russian terror, Ukraine's Defence Minister Rustem Umerov told the Assembly that Ukraine needed "more anti-aircraft weapons, more long-range capabilities for our soldiers." In [declaration 489](#), the Assembly adopted an important recommendation urging Allied governments "to support Ukraine in its international right to defend itself by lifting some restrictions on the use of weapons provided by NATO Allies to strike legitimate targets in Russia."

"The security of Europe today is being decided in Ukraine."

Former NATO PA President, Michal SZCZERBA, Spring Session, Sofia, Bulgaria, May 2024

At the Annual Session in Montréal in November, Allied legislators reiterated their [call on their governments](#) to "provide Ukraine with all the means, including medium-range missiles, to defend itself and deter further aggression." A [report](#) drafted by US Congressman [Rick Larsen](#) [warned that](#) with limited air-defence capabilities, Ukraine "[was] being forced to make devastatingly costly decisions to either protect frontline defences or critical civilian infrastructure and citizens." The Assembly also repeatedly denounced the military assistance provided to Russia's aggression by the Belarusian, North Korean and Iranian regimes. This assistance escalated to new levels with the deployment of thousands of North Korean soldiers to support Russia's counteroffensive in Kursk.

[In his acceptance speech](#), the new [NATO PA President Marcos Perestrello](#) (Portugal) stressed: "As elected representatives of our people, we parliamentarians have a crucial role in pushing back against the creeping 'Ukraine fatigue' and urging our governments to increase and accelerate the support to Ukraine."

In 2024, the Assembly also continued to champion Ukraine's future membership in NATO. [Addressing the Annual Session in Montréal, Canada](#), Chairman Stefanchuk stressed that "NATO membership is key and the greatest guarantee of Ukraine's security and future." He argued that "an invitation [to join the Alliance] would serve as a powerful motivational signal for the entire Ukrainian society, including our defenders, our troops on the frontline." [Yehor Cherniev](#), head of the Ukrainian delegation to the Assembly and UNIC Rapporteur, [noted](#) that "Ukraine continues its Euro-Atlantic integration path as a civilisational choice of the Ukrainian people, who have sacrificed their lives for the right to be part of the free and democratic world." Presenting the first [report of the UNIC](#) to the Assembly, he outlined how Ukraine is making solid progress on reforms towards its goal of NATO membership.

The Assembly's documents and statements reaffirmed the NATO PA's unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty within the internationally recognised borders. In October, [President Connolly](#)



[addressed the 3rd Crimea Platform Parliamentary Summit](#) hosted by the Latvian Saeima, delivering a strong message of unwavering support for Ukraine’s victory, territorial integrity and self-determination. At the conclusion of the Summit, President Connolly received from Chairman Stefanchuk the state award of the order of Yaroslav the Wise in recognition for his long-standing and strong support to Ukraine.

The Assembly also continued to [denounce Russia’s crimes and terror actions](#). In her report, Canadian lawmaker [Julie Dzerowicz](#) explored [how Russia has been weaponising cultural heritage](#) in its war against Ukraine, damaging or destroying numerous sites of cultural significance. “Allied governments should systematically sanction individuals and entities involved in the destruction, misappropriation, and illicit traffic of cultural heritage from conflict zones,” the report emphasised.

In 2024, the Assembly further stepped up its practical and political support for Ukraine and its parliament, including by making full use of the Assembly’s special fund for Ukraine. The status of the Ukrainian delegation was upgraded to “NATO Candidate” and its size increased from 8 to 12 members, with additional privileges. The Assembly also facilitated the first online exchange of experience for members of the Ukraine’s defence committee with their counterparts in an Allied parliament, namely Norway. Furthermore, following a request by the Verkhovna Rada to the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) to support their military justice reforms, the Assembly and the DCAF joined forces and published the study [Military Justice: A Comparative Study of Parliamentary Oversight in EuroAtlantic Countries](#).

NATO @75: THE PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION

The year 2024 has been consequential for the Alliance.

As NATO marked its 75th anniversary, it has continued to adapt to respond to Russia's direct threat to Euro-Atlantic security. The United States hosted NATO's 75th anniversary Summit in Washington, D.C. on 9-11 July, a Summit focused on the Alliance's support to Ukraine and on strengthening NATO's deterrence and defence. The Alliance also welcomed its 32nd member with the accession of Sweden on 7 March. And on 1 October, Mark Rutte succeeded Jens Stoltenberg as NATO's new Secretary General. Throughout 2024, the Assembly played its part in celebrating the Alliance's achievements as well as in highlighting the critical importance of NATO in a security environment marked by a renewed geopolitical confrontation.

Ahead of NATO's 75th anniversary on 4 April, [the Assembly's Standing Committee issued a statement](#), stressing that "NATO has succeeded throughout all shifts in the security environment because it is defined not by what it stands against but by what it stands for – the defence of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law." As elected representatives of one billion citizens of the Alliance, Allied parliamentarians reaffirmed their commitment "to play [their] part in shaping the Alliance for the next generations."

Vice-President [Theo Francken \(Belgium\)](#) represented the Assembly at the ceremony commemorating the Alliance's 75th anniversary at NATO Headquarters. Throughout the year, various visiting Assembly groups also joined national commemorations marking NATO's 75th anniversary or the anniversary of the host country's accession to the Alliance.

In the run-up to the Washington Summit, the Assembly adopted a [comprehensive set of recommendations](#) to Allied leaders, urging them to "make clear that NATO is prepared and will defend every inch of Allied territory at all times under Article 5." The legislators also urged the 32 leaders to deliver fully and without delay on their pledge to invest at least 2% of gross domestic product (GDP) on defence spending. The Assembly underscored the urgent need to step up and speed up the delivery of military assistance to Ukraine in order to ensure Russia's defeat in Ukraine. Decisions taken by Allied leaders at the Washington Summit were well in line with many of the Assembly's recommendations.

As per tradition, the NATO PA President, [Gerald E. Connolly](#), [addressed Heads of State and Government at the NATO Summit](#). He stressed the need for NATO to act upon the commitment, expressed in the 2022 Strategic Concept, to explicitly rededicate the Alliance to its founding democratic values. He called upon leaders to implement the NATO PA's top recommendation: to create a [Centre for Democratic Resilience at NATO Headquarters](#). The President was accompanied by a delegation from the Bureau, including four Vice Presidents. Bureau members and, for the first time, Heads of NATO PA delegations were invited to participate in the NATO Public Forum, a high-level conference running parallel to the NATO Summit.

"As NATO commemorates its 75th anniversary, Allied leaders must recognise that the next front for NATO evolution will be in the battle between democracy and authoritarianism."

Gerald E. CONNOLLY, former NATO PA President, NATO Summit, Washington, D.C., 2024

On the eve of the NATO Summit, [the US delegation to the NATO PA hosted a NATO Parliamentary Summit](#) bringing together leaders of the Alliance's 32 parliaments plus Ukraine, including 23 Speakers of Parliament. The meeting reaffirmed parliaments' ironclad commitment to NATO and to its democratic foundations. Addressing the Parliamentary Summit, [Congressman Michael R. Turner](#), head of the US delegation to the NATO PA, stated that, faced with Russia's aggression, Allies became "even more resolved to [their] commitment to NATO and more resolved of [their] commitment to Ukraine [...]. And it's certainly [their] honour to be able to support them in their fight for democracy."

Looking beyond NATO's 75th anniversary, [the Assembly adopted, at its Annual Session in Montréal, a resolution](#) which called, inter alia, to consider further raising NATO's defence spending target beyond 2% of GDP in order to ensure full implementation of NATO's new defence plans. The resolution built on the report by [Tomas Valasek \(Slovakia\)](#), which [called for greater efforts by European Allies to meet](#)



[defence spending targets, increase force numbers, rectify key equipment shortages and ramp up defence production](#). “Europe must step up,” Valasek insisted.

Throughout 2024, the Assembly actively engaged with NATO leadership, including through its [annual meeting with the North Atlantic Council in February](#) as well as its [exchange with then Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg](#) at the Spring Session in May. Two successive NATO PA Presidents – Gerald E. Connolly and Marcos Perestrello – met with the new NATO Secretary General, Mark Rutte, in October and in December, respectively. In his [message to the Assembly’s Annual Session in Montréal](#), Mr Rutte warned: “We face a more dangerous and uncertain world. There’s war in Europe. We see China, Iran, North Korea and Russia joining forces to undermine us, and threats continue to transcend borders, from terrorism to cyberattacks. So it is vital that NATO becomes stronger, more capable and more agile.”

The year 2024 saw a particularly high Assembly engagement in North America, including the [NATO Parliamentary Summit in Washington](#), the [Annual Session in Canada](#), two Committee visits to the United States – by the [Political Committee and the Economics and Security Committee](#), and the [Defence and Security Committee](#) respectively – and the Annual [Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum](#) in Washington, D.C. These engagements highlight the importance of the parliamentary contribution to strengthening the transatlantic bond. In his [acceptance speech](#), [the Assembly’s new President Marcos Perestrello](#) pledged to “work tirelessly to further foster the bond between Europe and North America.”

NATO AND THE DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY

The year 2024 has been consequential for the Alliance.

Since NATO's 70th anniversary in 2019, the NATO PA has made reaffirming NATO's commitment to its foundational democratic values a key priority.

Thanks, in no small part, to the Assembly's insistence, NATO's new Strategic Concept, adopted at the 2022 Madrid Summit, marked a significant milestone in recognising the threat posed to democracy by a growing authoritarian onslaught. Since then, however, little has been done to operationalise the recommitment to democratic values in the Strategic Concept. Yet authoritarian attacks on Allied and partner democracies have only intensified, with growing evidence of collaboration between regimes in Moscow, Beijing, Pyongyang and Tehran. As NATO commemorated its 75th anniversary in 2024, the Assembly has stepped up its efforts to press for the establishment of a [Centre for Democratic Resilience at NATO Headquarters](#) – a top recommendation supported by 18 resolutions and numerous reports.

Consecutive NATO PA Presidents Michal Szczerba, [Gerald E. Connolly](#), and [Marcos Perestrello](#) have continued to spearhead these efforts. Thanks to generous funding from the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, the Assembly recruited a Policy Fellow to support its work on democratic resilience.

In the run-up to NATO's Washington Summit, [declaration 490 adopted by the Assembly at its Spring Session in Sofia, Bulgaria](#) urged Allied leaders “to fully recognise the threat that autocracies pose to democracies, as laid out in NATO's 2022 Strategic Concept, and operationalise NATO's commitment to defending shared democratic values by establishing a Centre for Democratic Resilience at NATO Headquarters.” This recommendation was reiterated in two further resolutions – put forward by the [Committee on Democracy and Security](#) and the [Political Committee](#) respectively – adopted by the Assembly in Montréal, Canada.

President Connolly made NATO's role in defending democracy the key theme of his [address to the NATO Summit in Washington](#). Warning that “the alternative is building, every day, the intellectual and operational framework to undermine democracies through cyberattacks, disinformation assaults, and propaganda campaigns”, he urged Allied leaders to “meet that challenge and operationalise our own commitment to our founding democratic values by establishing concrete architecture at NATO Headquarters itself dedicated to democratic resilience.”

“Democracy is the underlying raison d'être of who we are, and it must permeate everything we do. We are far more than a military alliance that just does not like Russia. NATO is, it must be, the indispensable bulwark for democracy itself”.

Gerald E. CONNOLLY, former NATO PA President, NATO Summit, Washington, D.C., 2024

Ahead of the Summit, President Connolly and the Head of the US delegation, [Michael R. Turner](#), co-signed an [article in which they made the case that “the fight for democracy in the 21st century is an existential one](#) and [that] NATO is an indispensable party to the conflict.” President Connolly's [visit to the Czech Republic, Estonia and Latvia in October](#) further highlighted the mounting evidence of authoritarian regimes' hybrid campaign against Allies' and partners' democratic institutions and critical infrastructure, and the need for NATO to operationalise its defence of democracy.

In [his acceptance speech](#), [President Marcos Perestrello](#) committed to continuing in outgoing President Connolly's footsteps, stating that “democracy is the best instrument we have to achieve lasting peace, stability and prosperity.”

Committee reports looking at developments from Ukraine to the Western Balkans, from Georgia to the Global South and from the Republic of Moldova to Asia showcased the intensity, breadth and global nature of the threat posed by autocracies to Allied and partner democracies. In his [report on NATO and the Global South](#), [Audronius Azubalis](#) writes that “the Euro-Atlantic community has the ability to change the dynamics and, in collaboration with the Global South, to stabilise the international system and push back against aggressive revisionism.” Closer to home, in her report on [NATO's approach to so-called partners at risk](#), Romanian lawmaker Ana Maria Catauta warns that “Russia employs the entire hybrid-war arsenal, including disinformation, intimidation, espionage and organised crime networks as well as

bribing the population to achieve its goals. In this context, it is imperative for democratic countries to step up and help Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova to withstand these very real threats which they are facing.”

Throughout 2024, the Assembly monitored and denounced Georgia’s democratic backsliding, while affirming its continued support to the Georgian people’s democratic and Euro-Atlantic aspirations. “Respect for the shared values of individual liberty, democracy and the rule of law is an essential condition for becoming a NATO member”, the head of the [NATO PA delegation for the observation of the 26 October parliamentary elections](#), [Turkish lawmaker Faik Oztrak](#), stressed at the post-election press conference. “This election was yet another critical test for Georgia’s democracy, and its aftermath will be another,” he added.

Reinforcing democratic resilience in Allied and partner countries through whole-of-society approaches emerged as a central theme of the [Rose-Roth seminar hosted by Poland in September](#). “Hybrid wars are now being waged in the minds of our citizens”, warned Senate Speaker Malgorzata Kidawa-Blonska. The seminar focused in particular on the importance of continued support for Ukraine, as well as on ways to support the Belarusian people’s aspiration for democracy.

Speaking at the Annual Session in Montréal, Canada, in November, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, leader of the Belarusian democratic forces and head of the country’s United Transition Cabinet, highlighted how “the only ones who should be afraid of NATO are dictators. And dictators are afraid. They fear what NATO represents — freedom, democracy, and solidarity.”

The commitment to shared democratic values and the rules-based order stands at the heart of the reform of the Assembly’s partnerships initiated in the wake of Russia’s renewed invasion of Ukraine. The Assembly took important steps in 2024, and the reform will be completed in 2025.

The Assembly also stepped up its public engagement on the issue of democratic resilience, with addresses by the NATO PA President and the Policy Fellow for Democratic Resilience at think tank events and conferences, notably on the margins of the NATO Summit in Washington and during President Connolly’s visit to Prague.

BOLSTERING DETERRENCE AND DEFENCE

An ironclad commitment to collective defence is the foundational pillar of NATO, enshrined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

By extension, strong and interoperable armed forces are the tensile strength of the Alliance's deterrence and defence posture. The Assembly's work on deterrence and defence throughout 2024 highlighted how the ability to adapt this posture to meet the challenge of the evolving international security environment has been the measure of the Alliance's success for 75 years.

The year 2024 was marked by an increasingly complex, interconnected, and fast-changing threat environment. Russia's large-scale attacks across Ukraine included Iranian drones and North Korean missiles and artillery shells, while Chinese technologies sustained Russia's defence industrial production – North Korea even went so far as to send its own forces into Russia's Kursk region to fight alongside Russia. A growing wave of grey zone attacks across the Alliance underscored Russia's intensifying confrontation with the Allies and their partners. The most striking examples included severed undersea cables, large-scale election interference, industrial sabotage, and assassinations. The continuation of large-scale conflicts in the Middle East threatened broader disruption and violence across NATO's Southern Flank.

In their [declaration in the run-up to the Washington Summit in July](#), NATO PA legislators summed up today's international security environment as the "greatest test for collective security and defence in a generation." Indeed, the Assembly called for Allied leaders to focus on making the Alliance capable of defending "every inch of Allied territory at all times under Article 5" via significantly augmented defence investments and the elimination of "obstacles to defence trade and investment among Allies", and "to reaffirm the commitment to collective defence at 360 degrees against all threats from all directions."

The Washington Summit continued with a range of transformative decisions to further bolster collective defence and deterrence. Such decisions began in 2014 but have taken on a new significantly heightened pacing after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

"Russia remains the most significant and direct threat to Allied security [...] this threat will persist into the long term," stated a [resolution](#) presented by [Slovak lawmaker Tomas Valasek](#) and adopted by the Assembly at its Annual Session in Montréal.

The Assembly championed the new tempo of collective defence and deterrence adaptation and modernisation throughout its 2024 programme by urging Allied governments to sustain the political need to implement and maintain NATO's new deterrence and defence baseline. Across the Assembly's Committees, Allied legislators engaged with wide-ranging agendas that included visits to 18 of the 32 Allied nations in order to understand first-hand how Allied defence industry, Allied national and NATO military commands, and governments are positioning themselves to implement the new baseline for deterrence and defence across the Alliance.

A report by [Turkish lawmaker Utku Cakirozer centered on the growing complexity of air and missile threats to Allied security](#). "Integrated Air and Missile Defence is fundamental to the Alliance's core tasks of deterrence and defence, but since the end of the Cold War, we have neglected this crucial pillar of collective security," Cakirozer warned. "We are, in effect, shields down as the international security environment evolves rapidly around us." [The related resolution](#), adopted by the Assembly at the Montréal session, tasked NATO governments to "adapt the Alliance's missile-defence architecture to the state and non-state threats it faces, particularly to the clear and present challenge of Russia."

As the Assembly's work highlighted, getting Allied adaptation and modernisation right is both an urgent priority today, and a long-term pacing challenge to sustain strong, modern, and capable deterrence and defence for tomorrow. "Maintaining NATO and Allied technological superiority is paramount in a security environment characterised by renewed strategic competition between democratic allies and autocratic powers," said a [resolution adopted by the Assembly in Montréal](#).

[A separate resolution](#) called on Allies to consider further raising NATO's defence spending target beyond 2% GDP in order to ensure full implementation of NATO's new defence plans. This was a main theme



of the [Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum](#), which stressed that the need for higher investment in defence will be a major focus of the 2025 NATO Summit. Closely linked to increased defence spending, another crucial element for success is a strategic focus on an expanded and much more robust defence industrial capacity. [NATO PA President Marcos Perestrello](#) has made strengthening Europeans' contribution to transatlantic security and industrial capacity a key priority and highlighted this as essential for further bolstering the all-important transatlantic bond.

A [report](#) by [Hungarian legislator Tamas Harangozo](#) warned that Russia has built a “more insulated war-time economy,” supported by steady oil and gas revenues as well as high defence spending. It called on Allies and partners’ “need to establish far more effective enforcement regimes,” including with secondary sanctions on countries re-exporting proscribed goods to Russia, and criminal penalties for sanctions-busters.

“Strong and credible deterrence and defence is the best guarantee for peace”.

Marcos PERESTRELLO, NATO PA President, Annual Session, Montréal, 2024

Looking ahead to 2025, Allied parliamentarians stressed the need to develop, by the next Summit in the Netherlands, a common strategic approach to Russia, focusing on fully preparing the Alliance to contain and counter Russia’s hostile actions across the board.

ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS

In 2024, the NATO PA took substantial steps to strengthen its partnerships, responding to a rapidly changing security landscape shaped by renewed geostrategic competition.

Reforms to the Assembly's partnership framework and a focus on four key regions – the Western Balkans, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova; the Southern neighbourhood; and Asia and the Indo-Pacific – reflected the NATO PA's dedication to fostering dialogue, resilience, and security, while promoting shared democratic values, both within and beyond the Euro-Atlantic area.

A key milestone in 2024 was the adoption of a comprehensive reform of the NATO PA's partnership framework during the Spring Session in Sofia. This reform aimed to adapt the Assembly's partnerships to a world of renewed geopolitical competition by better aligning them along shared interests as well as, crucially, along a commitment to shared democratic values. The framework includes updated categories, statuses, and benefits for partner countries, to be implemented in phases.

A central feature of this reform was the [recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Ukraine as NATO Candidates](#), granting them greater participation and representation in NATO PA activities. This recognition underscored the Assembly's support for the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of their populations. Furthermore, Malta joined as a new Associate Member, and the Assembly of Kosovo's status was upgraded from Parliamentary Observer to Associate Member.

To further enhance cooperation, the reform introduced tailored measures for engagement with specific groups of partners: those in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa; the Indo-Pacific; and partners at risk in the Alliance's neighbourhood – namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova.

The reform also aimed to reinvigorate the [Rose-Roth Programme](#) – the Assembly's main platform for engagement with partners, with a renewed focus on democratic resilience. The Assembly expresses its gratitude to Switzerland and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) for their continued support to this Programme.

2024 PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS IN FOUR KEY REGIONS

Beyond a steadfast support for [Ukraine](#), the NATO PA's partnership efforts prioritised four critical regions in 2024:

THE WESTERN BALKANS

The Western Balkans remain vital to Euro-Atlantic security. Significant progress has been made in regional integration within NATO and the EU. However, unresolved issues such as corruption, political instability, and external interference continue to pose risks that could destabilise the region if left unaddressed.

In his [report on the region](#), [Lord Lancaster \(United Kingdom\)](#) calls for a renewed NATO commitment to the Western Balkans. He notes that “Moscow uses its influence not only to shape regional politics, but to have broader influence in Europe as well.” While they may have different regional objectives, Moscow and Beijing “are aligned in their broader counter-West efforts, which include the splintering of Allied consensus and blocking the consolidation of the Euro-Atlantic,” the report argues.

NATO PA delegations visited [Albania](#), [Croatia](#), [Montenegro](#), and [Slovenia](#) – four NATO Allies playing a leading role in relations with the Western Balkans. These visits offered valuable insights into the region's security dynamics and reaffirmed the importance of sustained NATO and EU involvement to mitigate vulnerabilities and prevent renewed tensions.

GEORGIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

In 2024, the NATO PA marked 25 years of partnership with Georgia, reaffirming its support for the Georgian people's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. However, concerns about democratic backsliding and political polarisation cast doubt on Georgia's trajectory towards NATO and EU membership.

In May, the [NATO PA Bureau condemned](#) the adoption of the repressive law on foreign influence, and issued a statement urging the government to “return onto the path of democratic reform and democratic consolidation.” In October, a NATO PA delegation observed the parliamentary elections in Georgia and [expressed concerns about voter pressure, divisive campaign rhetoric, and increasing polarisation](#). Given the persistence of this democratic backsliding, the Assembly decided, at its Montréal Annual Session, that it will review its relations with Georgia.

In her [report on NATO’s partners at risk](#), Romania lawmaker Ana-Maria Catauta contrasts developments in Georgia and in the Republic of Moldova. The report urges Moldova’s democratic partners to provide “urgent and comprehensive support to strengthen the country’s resilience,” noting that “Moldova’s progress on its ambitious reform agenda and its commitment to democratic values continue to be pivotal, not only for its stability but also as a testament to Euro-Atlantic solidarity with nations facing authoritarian pressures.”

THE SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Southern Neighbourhood continued to be a priority for the NATO PA in 2024, given its strategic importance for Euro-Atlantic security. “While NATO Allies are very focused on deterring Russia along the Eastern flank and supporting Ukraine, they must also pay heed to the malignant influence Moscow is exercising throughout the Southern neighbourhood,” [Theo Francken](#) (Belgium) writes in his [report](#) for the Assembly’s [Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group](#) – the Assembly’s main platform for engagement with partners across the Southern neighbourhood.

The Assembly continued to call for enhanced attention to the Southern neighbourhood, including in its engagements with the independent group of experts on relations with the South, appointed by the NATO Secretary General. In a [resolution adopted at the Annual Session in Montréal](#), Canada, it urged Allies “to expand NATO’s engagement with Southern partners, building on the action plan adopted at the Washington Summit.” The [GSM seminar in Italy](#) and visits to [Algeria](#), [Greece](#), and [Portugal](#) emphasised the importance of the region for the Alliance and explored avenues for collaboration.

Looking further afield, a [report](#) by Lithuanian lawmaker [Audronius Azubalis](#) on the Global South urges Allied governments and parliaments to “enhance NATO’s capacity as an organisation to engage with its Southern neighbourhood and partners across the globe,” as well as “utilise fully the parliamentary track of engagement with the Global South.”

ASIA AND THE INDO-PACIFIC

The Indo-Pacific emerged as a critical area of focus for the NATO PA in 2024, reflecting its growing significance in global security. “Despite the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine, the global centre of gravity continues to shift to the Indo-Pacific,” Slovak lawmaker [Tomas Valasek](#) writes in his [report on NATO’s priorities after the Washington Summit](#).

A separate [report](#) by US Congressman [Neal Patrick Dunn](#) highlights the growing linkages between developments in the Euro-Atlantic and in Asia. “In the high-stakes game of deterrence, [...] the battlefields of Eastern Ukraine and the Straits of Taiwan are now inextricably linked,” he writes. “If China judges that Russia’s strategy has succeeded, Beijing might then pursue a more aggressive path to achieve its aims in Taiwan,” he warns.

In a world of growing strategic competition and authoritarian collaboration, Mr Dunn’s report, as well as [declaration 490](#) and resolutions [493](#) and [494](#) all call for Allies to strengthen collaboration with like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific to help defend the rules-based international order. The first-ever participation of a parliamentary delegation from New Zealand at the Annual Session in Canada marked a milestone in the NATO PA’s engagement with the Indo-Pacific, reflecting the Assembly’s commitment to deepening ties with regional democracies under its newly reformed partnership framework.

“Strong as our Alliance is, when faced with threats of such magnitude, we must continue expanding the network of friends both in our direct neighbourhood and far beyond”.

Marcos PERESTRELLO, NATO PA President, Annual Session, Montréal, 2024

ADDRESSING TECHNOLOGICAL AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Emerging and interconnected threats, such as climate challenges and the geopolitical implications of technological competition, remained at the top of the agenda for the Assembly throughout 2024.

When unchecked, the application of emerging technologies across a spectrum of uses and domains raises numerous challenges for the Alliance. The Assembly urged NATO to continue to demonstrate, just like it has done over the past 75 years, that its success largely relies on its ability to adapt and maintain its technological edge.

In his report, [Sven Clement](#) (Luxembourg), [explores the challenges and opportunities of the military applications of Artificial Intelligence](#) (AI). Mr Clement argues that the incorporation of AI into the work of the Allies' armed forces constitutes an irreversible trend, adding that, NATO as a democratic Alliance should "engage in close discussions to strike a balance between political and military considerations to ensure an ethical, legal, and responsible use [of AI] whilst reaping military rewards." In the related [resolution](#) adopted at the Annual Session in Canada, the Assembly urges NATO Allies to "continue developing and enforcing joint operational and tactical standards to strengthen collective defence and address future interoperability challenges, including misaligned data, data sovereignty issues, and system integration gaps."

The challenge posed by autocrats' investment in critical technology was in sharp focus. In her report on [Critical Dual-Use Technologies](#), Harriett Baldwin (United Kingdom), warns that "authoritarian technology leaders like China are now selling these technologies to like-minded regimes sharing their anti-democratic ambitions. This poses a growing military, political and commercial challenge to Allied democracies." The report urges Allies to "continuously work to coordinate export controls on emerging dual-use technologies and protect strategic intellectual property so that technology developed for Allies is not easily available to rival states like Russia and China."

In [his report on the pivotal role semiconductors play in the geopolitics of technology and strategic competition](#), [Njall Trausti Fridbertsson](#) (Iceland) points out that semiconductors are "central to and indicative of today's technological competition, which carries both economic and strategic implications." Mr Fridbertsson urges Allies to "critically assess dependencies and supply chain risks vis-à-vis China in the area of semiconductors, whilst continuing to engage with the PRC wherever possible and when it is in the Alliance's interest to do so, using the engagement opportunities to encourage China to act as a responsible global player."

US Congressman [Neal Patrick Dunn](#) makes a similar case in [his report on the need for Europe and North America to deepen their partnership with the Indo-Pacific](#). He presses NATO governments to secure vital supply chains by reducing dependence on China in certain strategic sectors, and to work closely with partners in the Indo-Pacific to manage strategic competition.

Synthetic biology is another area of strategic competition expected to benefit from advances in AI. In his [report](#), German member [Joe Weingarten](#) explains that synthetic biology presents opportunities for armed forces in domains such as energy storage and generation, novel and advanced materials, sensing, medical treatments, and human enhancement. "There are security risks, including the possibility of using synthetic biology to (re)create and modify pathogens. Even if many of these possibilities are not yet a reality, there is no time to lose in accelerating synthetic biology advancements," Weingarten noted.

Extreme climate events also remain a growing security risk to all Allies and their partners, causing wildfires, floodings and draughts. Water scarcity is one major challenge, and as it becomes more acute, tensions over water access and distribution heighten, potentially sparking conflicts and exacerbating existing geopolitical frictions. In [her report on the topic](#), [Merle Spellerberg](#) (Germany), stresses that "as of 2022, roughly half of the world's population had already experienced severe water scarcity for at least part of the year, and climate change will only further worsen the situation." Warning that "the proliferation of water crises beyond the Alliance's borders can have a detrimental impact on Euro-Atlantic security", Ms Spellerberg emphasised that "addressing water-related challenges on a global scale is therefore

imperative for safeguarding the stability and security of the Euro-Atlantic area in an era marked by complex interdependencies and shared vulnerabilities.”

NATO Parliamentarians explored Allies’ response to pressing challenges in technology and climate during their visits to [Belgium and the Netherlands](#), the [Czech Republic](#) and [Norway and Sweden](#).

“Maintaining NATO and Allied technological superiority is paramount in a security environment characterised by renewed strategic competition between democratic allies and autocratic powers.”

Resolution 493, presented by the Economics and Security Committee and adopted by the Assembly at its Annual Session in Montréal, Canada, November 2024.

WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY

Throughout 2024, the Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

Through debates, reports, and resolutions, parliamentarians underscored the importance of integrating gender perspectives into security and defence policies while strengthening the Alliance's efforts to promote gender equality and the meaningful participation of women.

The Assembly [presented its annual “Women for Peace and Security” award to Avril Haines](#), the first woman to serve as United States Director of National Intelligence. Ms. Haines was honoured for her leadership of the US intelligence community and her steadfast support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia's aggression. In her acceptance speech at the Annual Session in Montréal, she commended “the thousands of deeply committed professionals — many of them women — who work tirelessly across NATO's intelligence services to keep us safe.”

“Only by ensuring that women are represented, supported, safe, and empowered will all NATO strengthen its capacity and show that we are serious in our collective efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability throughout the world.”

Avril HAINES, United States Director of National Intelligence, winner of the NATO PA Women for Peace and Security Award

At the same session, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, leader of the Belarusian democratic forces, head of the country's United Transition Cabinet, and 2023 recipient of the NATO PA “Women for Peace and Security” award, addressed parliamentarians. She emphasised that Ukraine's fight is crucial for safeguarding freedom and democracy across Europe and beyond. “Without Ukraine's victory, Belarus cannot be free,” she stressed.

Through their work, Assembly members continued to prioritise the implementation of the WPS agenda. In a [resolution on conflict-related sexual violence](#), authored by [Julie Dzerowicz](#) (Canada), the Assembly highlights that “the empowerment of women and girls is a core principle of the WPS agenda and a key component in the realisation of durable peace and security.” The resolution calls for greater representation of women, as well as victims and survivors, “in security, peacekeeping, law enforcement, and military roles to foster trust in institutions, empower survivors and victims as agents of change, and contribute to durable peace.”

In a [report on the same topic](#), Ms Dzerowicz stresses that women and girls disproportionately bear the burden of conflict-related sexual violence. “Sexual violence is often rooted in structural inequalities between women and men, perpetuated by societal acceptance of harmful gender norms that uphold male dominance and promote macho and misogynistic ideas of masculinity,” she adds. She further underscores that “women and girls are by far the most affected by sexual violence.”

In her [report on the need to protect cultural heritage in conflict](#), Ms. Dzerowicz highlights the intersection of gender and cultural heritage, noting that “the production, identification, and preservation of cultural heritage has traditionally been influenced by power imbalances between women and men.” She further emphasises that “cultural heritage destruction in conflict has a differential impact on men and women.” The report calls for gender considerations to be fully integrated into all cultural heritage protection policies and practices.

Similarly, in her [report on the link between water insecurity and conflict](#), [Merle Spellerberg](#) (Germany) highlights that “women and girls bear a disproportionately heavy burden when it comes to water insecurity,” with detrimental effects for their health, education, security, and socioeconomic opportunities.

Discussions on Allies' implementation of the WPS agenda featured prominently throughout the year. During a [visit to Albania](#), for instance, the Committee on Democracy and Security engaged with key stakeholders, including the country's first female Deputy Chief of the General Staff, the UN Women country representative, and the leader of an NGO supporting women and girls facing domestic violence.

At the Annual Session in Montréal, Canada's Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security, Jacqueline O'Neill, shared best practices and challenges in implementing the WPS agenda.

The NATO PA Secretary General's latest [report on gender mainstreaming](#) highlights continued progress in gender balance within the Assembly, with women comprising a record 20.7% of national delegations in March 2024. However, it also notes persistent challenges: only six delegations were led by women, and eight were composed entirely of men. Some indicators, such as the representation of women in top leadership roles (down from 43% in 2023 to 35.7% in 2024), showed a decline, underscoring the need for continued efforts toward gender equality.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Most of the Assembly's funding comes from contributions from the parliaments or governments of member nations.

National contributions are determined according to the same budget key used for the NATO civil budget. The Assembly also receives a subsidy from NATO.

Over the past 25 years, special contributions have been made at various points by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), the governments of Switzerland, Norway, Luxembourg and Denmark, as well as NATO to support the Assembly's Rose-Roth outreach seminars and training programmes.

The annual budget is used to cover the International Secretariat's operating costs. National delegations are responsible for funding the participation of their members in Assembly activities.

The Assembly's budget amounted to EUR 4,486,225.00 in 2023. Execution of the budget led to a surplus of EUR 219,430.73 at the end of 2023.

The Assembly's Treasurer, a parliamentarian who is an elected officer of the Assembly and who ensures that the budget is consistent with the Assembly's political objectives, is responsible for drafting the Assembly's budget.

The Treasurer submits the draft budget to the Standing Committee and the full Assembly for consideration and adoption. The Secretary General implements the budget under the oversight of the Treasurer.

The Assembly's finances are audited by the International Board of Auditors for NATO (IBAN). In its audit, IBAN considers whether, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework adopted by the Assembly's Standing Committee, the information in the financial statements fairly presents the financial year-end position, the financial performance, and cash flows for the year as well as whether accounts are properly supported by underlying records and source documentation. In addition, IBAN also considers whether transactions are in compliance with budgetary authorisations and applicable NATO PA regulations.

Because the audit takes place in the spring of the following year, the figures are the audited [financial statements for 2023](#). The 2024 audited finances will be made public on the NATO PA website after adoption by the Plenary Assembly in May 2025.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

INCOME	2023
CONTRIBUTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">From member countriesNATO subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">€ 4,427,892.00€ 58,333.00
BUDGET UPDATES, FUNDING, PROVISIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Updates of the budgetFunding Swiss Ministry of DefenceUse of provisionsUse of Emergency Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">€ 0€ 15,000.00€ 35,678.82€ 0

	€ 50,678.82
TOTAL INCOME OF THE YEAR	€ 4,536,903.82

EXPENDITURE	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1- Personnel costs • Chapter 2- Operational costs • Chapter 3- Sessions • Chapter 4- Missions, seminars, external relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • € 3,349,333.65 • € 333,042.94 • € 352,396.49 • € 343,064.50
TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF THE YEAR	€ 4,377,837.58
Surplus (within the budget)	€159,066.24
Total Other Income/Expenditure	€60,364.49
TOTAL SURPLUS	€219,430.73

Contributions 2023 from Members countries - Based on the NATO civil budget key

Member Country	Contribution key %	Contribution
Albania	0.0908%	€ 4,021
Belgium	2.1043%	€ 93,176
Bulgaria	0.3656%	€ 16,188
Canada	6.8789%	€ 304,590
Croatia	0.2995%	€ 13,262
Czech Republic	1.0558%	€ 46,750
Denmark	1.3116%	€ 58,076
Estonia	0.1248%	€ 5,526

France	10.4913%	€ 464,543
Germany	16.3444%	€ 723,712
Greece	1.0573%	€ 46,816
Hungary	0.7595%	€ 33,630
Iceland	0.0642%	€ 2,843
Italy	8.7812%	€ 388,822
Latvia	0.1595%	€ 7,062.00
Lithuania	0.2566%	€ 11,362
Luxembourg	0.1693%	€ 7,496
Montenegro	0.0291%	€ 1,290
Netherlands	3.4506%	€ 152,789
North Macedonia	0.0778%	€ 3,445
Norway	1.7771%	€ 78,688
Poland	2.9861%	€ 132,221
Portugal	1.0491%	€ 46,453
Romania	1.2279%	€ 54,370
Slovakia	0.5160%	€ 22,848
Slovenia	0.2276%	€ 10,078
Spain	5.9908%	€ 265,266
Türkiye	4.7266%	€ 209,289
United Kingdom	11.2823%	€ 499,568
United States	16.3444%	€ 723,712

In accordance with previous practices, the pro rata contribution for 2023 from Finland (EUR 30,077) has been added to the provision of Chapter 4.