Functions. MSF was one of the first non-governmental organizations to provide both urgently needed medical assistance and to publicly bear witness to the plight of the people it helps. Today MSF is an international medical humanitarian organization with 19 sections and several additional offices around the world. Every year MSF sends around 3,000 volunteer doctors, nurses, other medical professionals, logistical experts, water and sanitation engineers, and administrators to join approximately 25,000 locally hired staff to provide medical aid in over 60 countries. MSF was awarded the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize.

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> *Website:* http://www.msf.org
> *International President:* Dr Joanne Liu (Canada).
> *Secretary-General:* Jérôme Oberreit (France).

Nobel Prizes

When the scientist, industrialist and inventor Alfred Nobel died in 1896, he made provision in his will for his fortune to be used for prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace. The Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the Nobel Peace Prize, and the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm (founded 1900; Mailing address: Box 5232, SE-10245, Stockholm, Sweden) awards the other four prizes plus the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel (often referred to as the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences). The Prize Awarding Ceremony takes place on 10 Dec., the anniversary of Nobel's death. The last ten recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, worth 8m. Sw. kr. in 2016 (unchanged since 2012, although down from 10m. Sw. kr. for the previous 11 years), are:

2007 – the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Al Gore for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change.

2008 – Martti Ahtisaari (Finland) for his important efforts, on several continents and over more than three decades, to resolve international conflicts.

2009 – Barack Obama (USA) for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and co-operation between peoples.

2010 – Liu Xiaobo (China) for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.

2011 – Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (Liberia), Leymah Gbowee (Liberia) and Tawakkul Karman (Yemen) for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work.

2012 – the European Union (EU) for its contribution for over six decades to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights.

2013 – the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for its extensive work to eliminate chemical weapons.

2014 – Kailash Satyarthi (India) and Malala Yousafzai (Pakistan) for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.

2015 – National Dialogue Quartet (Tunisia) for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011.

2016 – Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia) for his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end.

Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel was set up by the Swedish central bank in 1968. The last ten recipients of the prize, worth 8m. Sw. kr. in 2016 (unchanged since 2012, although down from 10m. Sw. kr. for the previous 11 years), are:

2007 – Leonid Hurwicz (Poland/USA), Eric S. Maskin (USA) and Roger B. Myerson (USA) for having laid the foundations of mechanism design theory.

2008 – Paul Krugman (USA) for his analysis of trade patterns and location of economic activity.

2009 – Elinor Ostrom (USA) for her analysis of economic governance, especially the commons, and Oliver E. Williamson (USA) for his analysis of economic governance, especially the boundaries of the firm.

2010 – Peter A. Diamond (USA), Dale T. Mortensen (USA) and Christopher A. Pissarides (Cyprus) for their analysis of markets with search frictions.

2011 – Thomas J. Sargent (USA) and Christopher A. Sims (USA) for their empirical research on cause and effect in macroeconomy.

2012 – Alvin E. Roth (USA) and Lloyd S. Shapley (USA) for the theory of stable allocations and the practice of market design.

2013 – Eugene Fama (USA), Lars Peter Hansen (USA) and Robert J. Shiller (USA) for their empirical analysis of asset prices.

2014 – Jean Tirole (France) for his analysis of market power and regulation.

2015 – Sir Angus Deaton (UK/USA) for his analysis of consumption, poverty and welfare.

2016 – Oliver Hart (UK/USA) and Bengt Holmström (Finland) for their contributions to contract theory.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Origin. On 4 April 1949 the foreign ministers of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the UK and the USA signed the North Atlantic Treaty, establishing the *North Atlantic Alliance*. In 1952 Greece and Turkey acceded to the Treaty; in 1955 the Federal Republic of Germany; in 1982 Spain; in 1999 the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland; in 2004 Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia; and in 2009 Albania and Croatia, bringing the total to 28 member countries.

Functions. The Alliance was established as a defensive political and military alliance of independent countries in accordance with the terms of the UN Charter. Its fundamental role is to safeguard the freedom and security of its members by political and military means. It also encourages consultation and co-operation with non-NATO countries in a wide range of security-related areas to help prevent conflicts within and beyond the frontiers of its member countries. NATO promotes democratic values and is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military capacity needed to undertake crisis-management operations alone or in co-operation with other countries and international organizations.

Reform and Transformation of the Alliance. Following the demise of the Warsaw Pact in 1991, and the improved relations with Russia, NATO established security dialogue and co-operation with the states of Central and Eastern Europe and those of the

former USSR. These changes were reflected in the publication in 1991 of a new Strategic Concept for the Alliance outlining NATO's enduring purpose and nature, and its fundamental security tasks. Further changes in the security environment during the 1990s led to the development of the current Strategic Concept, published in 1999 to address new risks such as terrorism, ethnic conflict, human rights abuses, political instability, economic fragility, and the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery. A new Strategic Concept, which reflects new and emerging security threats, was published at a NATO summit meeting in Nov. 2010.

The Euro-Atlantic Partnership. In 1991 the North Atlantic Co-operation Council (NACC) was established as a forum for dialogue with former Warsaw Pact countries. The NACC was replaced in 1997 by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), which brings together all 50 NATO and partner countries in the Euro-Atlantic area for dialogue and consultation on political and security-related issues. It provides the overall political framework for NATO's co-operation with partner countries and the bilateral relationships developed between NATO and individual partner countries under the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme, which was launched in 1994.

Since its launch, the PfP programme has been adapted to expand and intensify political and military co-operation throughout Europe. Core objectives are: the facilitation of transparency in national defence planning and budgeting processes; democratic control of defence forces; members' maintenance of capability and readiness to contribute to operations under the authority of the UN; development of co-operative military relations with NATO (joint planning, training and exercises) in order to strengthen participants' ability to undertake missions in the fields of peacekeeping, search and rescue, and humanitarian operations; development, over the longer term, of forces better able to operate with those of NATO member forces. NATO will consult with any active partner which perceives a direct threat to its territorial integrity, political independence or security.

One of the most tangible aspects of co-operation between partner countries and NATO has been their individual participation in NATO-led peace-support operations. In Feb. 2017 NATO had 22 PfP partners: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Country Relations. On 27 May 1997 in Paris, NATO and Russia signed the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Co-operation and Security, committing themselves to build together a lasting peace in the Euro-Atlantic area, and establishing a new forum for consultation and co-operation called the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council. In May 2002 the Permanent Joint Council was replaced by a new NATO-Russia Council which brought together all NATO member countries and Russia in a forum in which they would work as equal partners, identifying and pursuing opportunities for joint action in areas of common concern. However, NATO's ties with Russia deteriorated during 2014 when Moscow sanctioned the annexation of Crimea following the ousting of Ukraine's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovych, in Feb. of that year.

At the meeting in Sintra, Portugal in May 1997 a NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership was drawn up and signed in Madrid in July, establishing the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC). Dialogue and co-operation has become well-established with NATO and individual allies supporting Ukraine's ongoing reform efforts, particularly in the defence and security sectors.

NATO launched the Mediterranean Dialogue with six countries of the Mediterranean (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) in 1995. In 1997 allied foreign ministers agreed to enhance the Dialogue. A new committee, the Mediterranean Co-operation Group, was established to take the Mediterranean Dialogue forward and Algeria joined in March 2000. Later, in 2004, NATO also launched the İstanbul Co-operation Initiative that aims to develop bilateral co-operation with countries in the broader Middle East. Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have since joined the Initiative.

Relations with other international organizations. NATO is gradually developing a strategic partnership with the European Union. Efforts to strengthen the security and defence role of NATO's European allies were initially organized through the Western European Union (WEU) during the 1990s, when there was a growing realization of the need for European countries to further develop defence capabilities and to assume greater responsibility for their common security. In 2000 the crisis management responsibilities of the WEU were increasingly assumed by the EU. Institutionalized relations between NATO and the EU were launched in 2001. The political principles underlying the NATO-EU relationship were set out in the Dec. 2002 NATO-EU Declaration on ESDP (European Security and Defence Policy). These decisions paved the way for the two organizations to work out the modalities for the transfer of responsibilities to the EU for the NATO-led military operations in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2003 and, from Dec. 2004, in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

NATO and the UN share a commitment to maintaining international peace and security and have been co-operating in this area since the early 1990s with consultations established between NATO and UN specialized bodies on a range of issues including crisis management, combating human trafficking, mine action and the fight against terrorism.

NATO and the OSCE work together to build security and promote stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, co-operating at both the political and the operational level in areas such as conflict prevention, crisis management and addressing new security threats.

Operations. One of the most significant aspects of NATO's transformation has been the decision to undertake peace-support and crisis-management operations in the Euro-Atlantic area and further afield.

In the wake of the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, the Alliance has focused much of its attention on the Balkans. NATO first committed itself to peacekeeping in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Dec. 1995, through the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR), which was replaced by the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in 1996. Improvements in the security situation allowed NATO to hand over its operation to the EU in Dec. 2004.

Since 1999, following a 78-day air campaign against the Yugoslav regime to bring an end to the violent repression of ethnic Albanians, NATO has led a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo (the Kosovo Force, or KFOR). NATO also intervened in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the request of the government to help avoid a civil war in 2001, and maintained a small peacekeeping presence there until March 2003, when the operation was handed over to the EU.

Following the attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. on 11 Sept. 2001, NATO invoked article five of the Washington Treaty (the collective defence clause) for the first time in its history, declaring it considered the attack on the USA as an attack against all members of the Alliance. It subsequently launched a series of initiatives aimed at curtailing terrorist activity. Operation *Active Endeavour* was a maritime operation led by NATO's naval forces to detect and deter terrorist activity in the Mediterranean. It was succeeded by Operation *Sea Guardian* in Oct. 2016. Operation *Eagle Assist* was one of the measures requested by the USA in the aftermath of the attacks in Sept. 2001. Aircraft from

NATO's Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) patrolled American airspace from mid-Oct. 2001 to mid-May 2002.

In Aug. 2003 NATO took over responsibility for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Initially centred on the capital, Kabul, by Oct. 2006 it covered the entire country. Troop numbers peaked at 140,000 in 2011, but ISAF ceased combat operations at the end of 2014. On 1 Jan. 2015 the NATO-led Operation *Resolute Support* began to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces. As of Jan. 2017 its personnel numbered 13,300.

From 2004 until 2011 NATO helped train Iraqi military personnel and supported the development of security institutions in Iraq. From 2005 to 2007 it provided logistical support to the African Union's mission in Darfur, Sudan.

In late 2008 NATO conducted counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, where piracy threatened to undermine international humanitarian efforts in Africa, as well as the safety of commercial maritime routes and international navigation. From 2009 until the end of 2016 NATO conducted a similar operation off the Horn of Africa.

From March until Oct. 2011 a coalition of NATO allies and partners conducted Operation *Unified Protector* in Libya. Using only air and sea resources, its aim was to protect civilians, enforce an air embargo and maintain a no-fly zone. It was widely regarded as instrumental in the downfall of the Libyan leader, Col. Gaddafi.

Since the establishment in 1998 of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Co-ordination Centre to serve as a focal point for co-ordinating the disaster-relief efforts of NATO member states and partner countries, NATO plays an increasingly important role in humanitarian relief. Most notably, in 2005 some NATO capabilities and forces were deployed to support relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina in the USA and the devastating earthquake in Pakistan and in 2010 after the Haitian earthquake and flooding in Pakistan.

In Sept. 2014 the outgoing NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, identified Russian aggression in Ukraine and the militant Islamic State group's advance in the Middle East as the chief threats to Western security. In the same month NATO announced the creation of a rapid-deployment 'spearhead' force, which numbered 40,000 personnel by 2016. In July that year the Alliance also agreed to station multinational battalions from early 2017 in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland—each considered a front-line target in any potential Russian expansionism.

Defence capabilities. This widened scope of NATO military operations is radically transforming the military requirements of the Alliance. The large defence forces of the past are being replaced by more flexible, mobile forces which are able to deploy at significant distances from their normal operating bases and to engage in the full range of missions, ranging from high-intensity combat to humanitarian support. A modernization process was launched at the Prague Summit in 2002 to ensure that NATO could effectively deal with the security challenges of the 21st century and measures to enhance the Alliance's military operational capabilities were agreed. A new capabilities initiative (the Prague Capabilities Commitment) and a NATO Response Force were created and the Alliance's military command structure streamlined. In addition, steps were taken to increase efforts in the areas of intelligence sharing and crisis response arrangements, as well as greater co-operation with partner countries. Five nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons defence initiatives were also endorsed, as well as the creation of a multinational chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear battalion. At subsequent NATO summit meetings in İstanbul in 2004 and Riga in 2006, further initiatives were taken to promote the Alliance's ongoing transformation.

Organization. The North Atlantic Council (NAC) is the highest decision-making body and forum for consultation within the Atlantic Alliance. Composed of Permanent Representatives of all the member countries, it meets at least once a week and also meets at higher levels involving foreign ministers, defence ministers or heads of state or government. The authority and powers of decision-making and status and validity of its decisions remain the same at whatever level it meets. All decisions are taken on the basis of consensus, reflecting the collective will of all member governments. The NAC is the only body within the Atlantic Alliance which derives its authority explicitly from the North Atlantic Treaty.

The Military Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the NAC and the Defence Planning Committee on military matters and for supplying guidance to the Allied Commanders. Composed of the Chiefs-of-Staff of member countries (Iceland, which has no military forces, may be represented by a civilian), the Committee is assisted by an International Military Staff. It meets at Chiefs-of-Staff level at least twice a year but remains in permanent session at the level of national military representatives. The military command structure of the Alliance is divided into two strategic commands, one based in Europe and the other based in the USA.

Finance. The greater part of each member country's contribution to NATO, in terms of resources, comes indirectly through its expenditure on its own national armed forces and on its efforts to make them interoperable with those of other members so that they can participate in multinational operations. Member countries usually incur the deployment costs involved whenever they volunteer forces to participate in NATO-led operations, although in 2006 agreement was reached on using common funding for some aspects of deployments on a trial basis.

Member countries make direct contributions to three budgets managed directly by NATO: namely the Civil Budget, the Military Budget and the Security Investment Programme. Member countries pay contributions to each of these budgets in accordance with agreed cost-sharing formulae broadly calculated in relation to their ability to pay.

Under the terms of the Partnership for Peace strategy, partner countries undertake to make available the necessary personnel, assets, facilities and capabilities to participate in the programme, and share the financial cost of any military exercises in which they participate.

Current Leaders

Jens Stoltenberg

Position
Secretary General

Introduction
Jens Stoltenberg became Secretary General of NATO on 1 Oct. 2014. Previously a three-term prime minister of Norway, he is a social democrat with a reputation for consensus-building. He succeeded Denmark's Anders Fogh Rasmussen at NATO.

Early Life
Jens Stoltenberg was born in Oslo on 16 March 1959, the son of politicians (his father, Thorvald, served as Norway's defence minister). He studied economics at Oslo University, where he joined the Norwegian Labour Party (Det Norske Arbeiderpartiet, DNA). In 1985 he was appointed leader of the Labour Youth League and from 1985–89 was vice president of the International Union of Socialist Youth. He also worked briefly at the National Statistics Office and was an economics lecturer at Oslo University before serving for two years as leader of the Oslo Labour Party (1990–92).

Elected a member of the *Storting* (parliament) for Oslo in the Sept. 1993 general election, Stoltenberg served as minister of trade