THE NATO PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE TRUST FUND: THE PROCESS AND THE ROLE OF THE NATO MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY AGENCY (NAMSA)

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Abstract
The NATO Partnership for Peace, PfP, assists PfP nations destroy anti-personnel mines and other light weapons. The Program considers projects on a case-by-case basis. Nations must agree to follow the NATO process of creating a feasibility study, proposing and outlining a means of completing the project, and agreeing on full disclosure of stockpile details during the completion of the project. This paper gives further details of the role of the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency, which operates as the organising force in demilitarization.

1. GENERAL

The NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) Trust Fund was established in November 2000, as a mechanism to assist PfP nations to destroy anti-personnel mine stockpiles under the Ottawa Treaty. Since then it has been extended to encompass destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and conventional ammunition and logistic support to defence reform activities.

Projects are considered on a case-by-case, project-based footing. Nations are responsible for developing proposals and presenting them to a special meeting of the PMSC in EAPC/PfP format. A proposal must be sponsored by at least one NATO member and one Partner nation, normally the host nation, with
overall responsibility for the development of the proposal, for securing project funding and reporting on project progress.

2. AGREEMENTS

In order for NAMSA to undertake this work, a number of Agreements will need to be prepared these include:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Partner Country and NAMSA which is the umbrella agreement enabling NAMSA to work in the country.
- An Implementing Agreement between the Partner Country and NAMSA as an annex to the MoU specifying the obligations of each in implementing the project.
- Executing Agent Agreement between the Lead Nation and NAMSA specifying the obligations of each in implementing the project.
- Financial Management Agreement between the Lead Nation, NATO Financial Controller and donors to formalise pledges sufficient to implement the project. NAMSA is only able to enter into commitments when sufficient funds had been committed by donor nations.

3. FEASIBILITY STUDY

3.1 Letter of Intent

NAMSA is tasked by a Letter of Intent (LOI) to undertake the Feasibility Study and produce a proposal detailing budgetary costs methodology and timeframe for approval by the Trust Fund. The LOI will specify the requirement to be addressed and will include the fee to be paid to NAMSA to cover travel, subsistence and personnel costs.

3.2 Elements of Feasibility Study

The Feasibility Study will examine all relevant technical data, undertake visits and detailed technical discussions aimed at assessing the full extent of the task, the requirements to address the task, the capability of the host nation, the shortfall in that capability, the options to overcome any shortfall including enhancing the capability or using third party facilities. It will include the following: