

Planning Committee (DPC), which became the co-ordinating and decision-making body for all questions concerning the Integrated Military Structure and defence planning and the Nuclear Planning Group (NPG), which provided the forum in which Defence Ministers discussed nuclear policy.

- In 1967, the North Atlantic Council adopted the Harmel Report on the Future Tasks of the Alliance, which established the framework for renewed efforts to reduce East-West tensions through intensified studies in the disarmament and arms control field, and for initiatives for multilateral negotiations with the Warsaw Pact, notably the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) talks in Vienna.
- In 1969, the non-military concerns of NATO were further broadened with the creation of the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) focussing on the problems of the human environment.
- During the 1970's and 1980's a number of initiatives were taken in both political and military spheres of the Alliance to enhance further co-ordination and co-operation - e.g. the 1977 commitment of NATO Heads of Government to a target of 3% real growth in defence expenditures, and the 1984 Appraisal of East-West Relations (Harmel II).
- In 1982, Spain became the sixteenth member of NATO. Like France its forces are not part of the Integrated Military Structure.

The obligations of Alliance membership are those established by the North Atlantic Treaty; the fundamental commitment (Article 5) is that each member shall, individually or in concert with other members, take such action as it deems necessary in the event of an armed attack against one or more of them. It is on the basis of this and other articles of the Treaty (dealing with consultations (Article 2), the maintenance of individual and collective defensive capability (Article 3), and the establishment of the Council and subsidiary bodies (Article 9)) that the NATO superstructure has been constructed. NATO operates on a consensus basis and has no supra-national authority.

II. Organization of NATO

The supreme decision-making body is the North Atlantic Council, which can meet at Heads of State/Government level