The Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) was established in 1969. The mandate of the CCMS is to improve in every practical way the exchange of views and experience within the Alliance on methods of creating a better environment for Allied societies. Specifically, the CCMS is called upon to consider the problem of the human environment for Allied socieites in its broadest terms (including socio-economic processes) with the objective of stimulating action by member governments.

As a result of the influence of the "environmental revolution" of the early 1970's, much of the work of the CCMS has been oriented to physical environmental problems. Governments propose prior studies on specific subjects which other governments may join, or not, in accordance with their own priorities. Nearly 30 studies have been completed. Canada took a lead in two of those studies: "Inland Water Pollution" and "Nutrition and Health". Most recently Canada has been involved in studies on dioxin, aircraft noise pollution and the health and medical aspects of disaster preparedness. Other pilot studies of note have included work on forest fires and the preservation of stained glass windows from the effects of air pollution. The CCMS also administers a fellowship programme linked to on-going pilot studies.

- The Information Programme assists member nations in informing their publics on NATO through the provision of publications and audio-visual material, the co-ordination of visits to NATO Headquarters (about 10,000 people a year), the joint organization of seminars, displays and lecture tours, and the NATO Research Fellowship Programme. NATO's information activities are supervised by the Information Committee.
- NATO Common Financing, other than that provided by the Infrastructure Programme, is chiefly organized under the Military and Civil Budgets. The former, controlled by the Military Budget Committee, covers some 40 budgets for military headquarters, agencies, and special undertakings. The Civil Budget, administered by the Civil Budget Committee, covers the costs of NATO Headquarters and the International Staff as well as the programmes for Science, Information and Cultural Relations, CCMS, and the costs of the NATO Industrial Advisory Group (NIAG) pre-feasibility studies. A number of special programmes, such as the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) and the NATO Central Europe Pipeline System (CEPS), are also commonly funded.