Enabling public-private cooperation

01.
Cooperate and collaborate

02.
Identify essential capabilities together

03.
Train and exercise together

04.
Share best practices

05.
Establish shared situational awareness of risks

06.
Invest in resilience efforts

What we need to achieve together

NATO Allies are working to ensure that essential civilian services remain available in times of peace, crisis and conflict. NATO helps Allies strengthen resilience through enhanced cooperation between civilian and military actors and increased dialogue between the public and private sectors.

Working together benefits everyone

Keeping critical systems running requires cooperation across society. Businesses, governments and other partners need to understand their respective roles and responsibilities before, during and after a crisis.

Governments can better prepare for emergencies and ensure essential services remain available. Businesses gain trusted contacts, a better understanding of risks and greater clarity about what may be expected of them.

Useful NATO resources

NATO's 2026 Resilience Baseline Requirements

NATO's 2026 Guidance for enhancing public-private cooperation for resilience

2013-26 NATO Printing & Graphics

Working Together to Keep Essential Services Running

Promoting Public-Private Partnerships

Prepare in peace, protect in crisis, prevail in conflict

Keeping one billion people safe across Europe and North America is at the heart of NATO's mission. **Resilience is our first line of defence.**

Businesses and governments (national, regional and local) play an essential role in keeping our societies running. They provide the critical services, supplies and infrastructure on which we depend, from transport and energy to food and healthcare.

These services are also vital for our armed forces in crisis or conflict. NATO relies on civilian and private-sector organisations for its mission.

As the security environment becomes increasingly challenging, **the risks facing businesses, public services and critical infrastructure are growing**, including cyber attacks, sabotage and other hybrid threats.

Disruptions can have serious consequences for communities, businesses and governments alike.

We have a shared interest in keeping critical systems functioning and a shared responsibility to prepare together, before a crisis occurs.

Did you know?

90% of military transport across Allied territory relies on commercial transportation

85% of military requirements for food and water are sourced from the commercial sector

70% of military satellite communications are provided by commercial means

"I encourage Allied governments, at all levels, to work closely with the companies we rely on. Tell them what you need, but also listen to what they need from you.

And I encourage business leaders to do the same. Think about how you can make your companies stronger and better prepared for crises, because together we strengthen our resilience."

Mark Rutte, NATO Secretary General

Enabling public-private cooperation

01
Cooperate and collaborate

Public and private sectors should work together in national resilience structures that encompass all resilience baseline requirements areas, including considerations related to energy supply, food and water, communications, transport and more.

02
Identify essential capabilities together

Governments and businesses should jointly identify, map and regularly review critical systems and infrastructure to maintain continuity of government, deliver essential services to the civilian population, and provide civil support to the military.

03
Train and exercise together

Both public- and private-sector stakeholders should take part in national resilience training programmes for civilian entities as well as full-scale exercises. This is to test civilian planning and private-sector business continuity requirements in order to strengthen whole-of-society readiness in delivering essential services.

04
Share best practices

Governmentes and businesses should share best practices and lessons learned on operational continuity and system redundancy for critical services, including through back-up arrangements and redundancies.

05
Establish shared situational awareness of risks

Governments and businesses should coordinate with each other to understand, manage and mitigate risks and threats, and to address possible gaps in capacity across government, the military and essential service providers.

06
Invest in resilience efforts

Governments and businesses should cooperate to accelerate public- and private-sector investment in new and resilient infrastructure to ensure the resilience of the critical services, including the security of supply chains, inventories and strategic stocks.