

32. Further to the adoption of a new National Programme to Combat **Organized Crime** in December, Armenia adopted a related Action Plan in April 2012. The new National Programme focuses on preventing illegal migration, instituting harsher penalties for cases of Intellectual Property theft, and harmonizing Armenian legislation with EU legislation in the area of cyber crime.

33. Over the past year, Armenia's **Council on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings** continued its work. Armenia has prepared a new tri-annual work plan to combat trafficking in human beings (for 2013-2015), which is to be approved in the near future. The new strategy builds on preceding plans, but also promotes a more victim-oriented approach. In cooperation with the US Embassy, Armenia organized a training event entitled "Capacity Building of Peacekeepers in Combating Trafficking in Persons" in December 2012.

34. Since late 2011, Armenia has a **State Anti-Cyber Crime Commission**. Activities to strengthen cyber security are guided by Armenia's "Electronic Society establishment concept". The new national programme on combating terrorism also contains sections on cyber security. Armenia does not yet have either a National Cyber Security Strategy or a duly mandated and functioning Computer Security Incident Response Team. Due to the inherently dual-use nature of the cyber domain, it is advised that Armenia develop these and other capabilities to protect its national networks and critical communication and information systems. Armenia cooperates with the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the United States to address the issue of cyber crime. Armenia emphasizes its wish to step up cooperation with NATO in the area of cyber security. Armenia intends to participate in training opportunities in this area provided by the NATO CIS School in Latina and participate in the NATO Information Assurance Symposium at SHAPE from 17-19 September.

### **Border security management**

35. The responsibility of the **State Border Troops (SBT)** is mainly the border with Georgia; other borders and international airports are controlled together with border personnel from the Russian Federation and the border with Azerbaijan by the armed forces. The United States continues to support the SBT with training and equipment to detect possible weapons of mass destruction material at main checkpoints. Equipment priorities have been identified by the SBT as being unattended ground sensors which could be connected to an alarm network, all-terrain vehicles and helicopters for rapid reaction units.

36. The National Security Council has developed, with the support of all agencies involved in border security, a **border security strategy** which was followed by an action plan providing guidance to individual agencies to implement the priorities of the strategy, which includes a review of legislation, clarification of function and roles of agencies to implement an integrated border management system. The implementation plan also identifies the need for improved human resources management and training to improve

technical capacity and professional skills of personnel within agencies. It also sets a priority to improve main border check points including facilities, equipment and infrastructure. The action plan also directs improvement of inter-agency cooperation and cooperation at regional and international level to improve exchange of information and improve the effectiveness of border security. Armenia has established a task force under the Secretary of the National Security Council. Every three months each agency involved in border security, which has also established its own task force, reports progress achieved in its respective portion of the implementation plan to the National Security Council.

37. The European Union is providing **border security support** throughout the South Caucasus under the South Caucasus Integrated Border Management (SCIBM) programme. This programme is organised in a similar fashion for each country of the South Caucasus and includes five modules covering Integrated Border Management (IBM) awareness and strategic border management capacity, operational techniques and procedures, training and a pilot project which is the establishment of a border crossing point using IBM techniques and equipment. The programme also provides border security equipment and information technology equipment. There is a project headed by Frontex to upgrade four checkpoints at a cost estimated at €30 million.

### **Economic Development and Policy Priorities**

38. The Armenian economy's **growth rate accelerated** during 2012 to some 7% (growth during 2011 was about 4%). This was due largely to strong growth of the mining industry, as well as growth of the services sector and agricultural output. Inflation decreased to some 2.4%. Foreign direct investment fell significantly over 2012, but the mining and telecommunications sectors continued to attract international investors. Rates of unemployment are declining but remain high. The gap in wealth between the poor and rich is widening with some 36% of the population living below the poverty line. Armenia's Central Bank has moved de facto from a pegged exchange rate system to a free floating exchange rate system, and the Dram has gradually depreciated against the US Dollar and the Euro over 2012.

39. Armenian authorities made limited progress in promoting more efficient tax collection. The overall ratio of **tax collection** to GDP remains low in Armenia and this issue will need to be addressed, including widespread underreporting of earnings and arbitrary decisions by tax and customs officials. Armenia's economy also continues to be held back by a lack of free competition, particularly in the retail sector.

40. During 2012, the discussions between Armenia and the European Union on a **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement** progressed at a good pace. Armenia is already a GSP+ beneficiary (duty-free access to EU markets) since January 2009.

41. Based on its 2008 **energy development** strategy, Armenia continues to develop its energy sources and improve the reliability of energy supply and domestic distribution. For instance, work is ongoing on the technical annexes to the agreement between Georgia

and Armenia to build a 400kV Overhead Line, which would be a step towards Armenia's integration into the regional electric power market. Armenia, however, still faces some challenges in the energy sector: an emerging supply gap due to the need to decommission old energy infrastructure while having to cope with steady growth in demand; heavy reliance on imported fuels, which makes the country vulnerable to supply interruptions; and rising fuel prices; as well as the need to build new electricity generating units, which may be a challenge to energy affordability in the country. Nuclear power continues to provide some 40% of Armenia's electricity, followed by hydro electricity with some 35%. The country has decided to extend the operational life of its nuclear power plant in Metsamor until 2016, but a detailed decommissioning plan has not yet been drawn up. Armenia intends to start the construction of a new power plant later this year.

42. The latest **World Bank Doing Business Report** ranked Armenia 32nd out of 183 economies (from 55<sup>th</sup> place during the previous year). The report noted in particular improvements made by Armenia in protecting investors, ease of paying taxes, and ease of getting electricity, whilst it signalled continued challenges in "trading across borders" and "enforcing contracts".

## **CHAPTER II: DEFENCE, SECURITY, AND MILITARY ISSUES**

### **Defence Planning and budgeting**

43. There is now a clear process to develop an annual plan, supported by the necessary funding, to implement the **Armed Forces Development Plan 2011-2015**. This plan is developed by the Strategic Planning Department of the General Staff while the budget supporting this plan is developed by the Financial Department of the MOD in cooperation with the Financial Department of the General Staff. The draft budget is discussed by a board composed of personnel of the MOD, General Staff and Minister's staff. After this review, it is further reviewed by the Minister and then passed to the Ministry of Finance to be integrated within the State Budget.

44. The main **defence planning objectives** are to generate savings by reducing personnel, infrastructure and outdated equipment by replacing personnel by equipment and technology where this will prove possible. Savings are to be reinvested in the modernisation of the armed forces. Plans include the identification of functions currently performed by the armed forces that could be contracted out at a lower cost. It also includes an increase in the number of professional non-commissioned officers to improve combat effectiveness and reduce dependency on conscription. The latter objective is to be supported by improved personnel management and education to improve selection of personnel but also to make the military career more attractive. Each department of the Ministry is monitored and supported by a budgetary oversight commission which delivers a monthly report to the Minister of Defence. The Ministry of Finance pursues the implementation of a programme-based budgeting and the MOD has started to produce its estimates using this system for three programmes, medical services, social protection and education. The MOD Audit Department is supporting the MOD Financial and Budgeting

department towards the necessary changes that will be necessary to put in place a programme-based budgeting system. All these activities are part of a concept of financial planning and budgeting that was approved in 2012 which continues to generate three-year financial estimates and a five-year programme

### **Mobilisation system and reservists training**

45. The Law on Mobilisation defines procedures for the **call-up and training of reservists**. The armed forces are based on conscription with a call-up twice a year. In case of mobilisation, military and civilian entities would be created to conduct the mobilisation and the assignment of resources. There are four types of service, regular for professional personnel, compulsory for conscripts, alternative service for conscientious objectors and the reserve. The normal term of compulsory service is 24 months. Reservist training is conducted annually, both separately and as part of other military exercises with active troops. Special training goals are established for each group of reserve according to the specialty of the reservist and the type/role of the unit he is assigned to. The Strategic Defence Review process put much emphasis on this area and experiences of other nations were studied which resulted in the development of a new reserve training concept. This concept includes a review of by-laws and regulations, plans including those for civilian organisations involved in this process and a re-evaluation of resources needed to implement this revised concept.

### **Military interoperability**

46. The 12<sup>th</sup> Peacekeeping Brigade continues to provide **troops for NATO-led operations** while pursuing its development so it can deploy and sustain up to one battalion with, if necessary, combat and combat service support by the end of 2015. Armenia currently has 126 personnel under German contingent in Afghanistan. Forces include one light infantry platoon, three staff officers and one medical assistant in Kunduz and two additional light infantry platoons in Mazar-i-Sharif. Of these five are infantry trainers (NTM-A). It also redeployed one platoon (37 personnel) in KFOR in July 2012 under the United States contingent. Armenia has offered to increase its contribution to KFOR to a light infantry company (up to 130 personnel) later this summer.

47. Armenia established the **12<sup>th</sup> Peacekeeping Brigade** on 1 October 2007. The unit is subordinated to the Deputy Chief General Staff and its international activities are coordinated by the Defence Policy Department of the MOD. The brigade headquarters is organised using the NATO G-structure and the brigade is now 65% manned. Some units are still being formed but it is aimed to have the capacity to deploy and sustain one infantry battalion with necessary combat and combat service support to sustain three six-month rotations by the end of 2015. The 12<sup>th</sup> Peacekeeping Brigade currently provides troops involved in KFOR and ISAF operations, and deployed an officer to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) during 2012, and is exploring increasing its commitment to UN operations.

48. Training of the 12<sup>th</sup> Peacekeeping Brigade is based on national standards and NATO doctrine and lessons learned from exercises and operations and some of its officers are trained abroad. In the framework of the **OCC process**, it is intended to conduct a NATO level 1 evaluation of one battalion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Peacekeeping Brigade in September 2013. It is also intended to conduct a level 2 self-evaluation in 2014, followed by a NATO level 2 evaluation in 2015, of one battalion within the OCC framework. Specific pre-deployment training of units participating in ISAF is conducted in cooperation with Germany and with the United States (in Germany) and the 12<sup>th</sup> Peacekeeping Brigade for units participating in KFOR. Lessons learned, experience from previous contingent commander and study material are used for this purpose. Participation in operations substantially contributed to the enhancement of interoperability of the Armenian Armed Forces with those of Allied and Partner nations.

### **Personnel training and management**

49. Armenia wants to reduce its dependence on foreign education for its personnel and is working with international education experts to review courses from the level of NCO to general officers. In support of these efforts, a **Military Education** Concept agreed with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders was approved in March 2012 by Cabinet Ministers and became the overarching guidance. Current priorities are the development of military curricula for NCO professional development, development of a Command Staff course and the refinement of existing curricula and faculty for junior officers' courses at the Military Institute. Officers' education is developed in cooperation with PfP Consortium while NCO education is developed jointly in cooperation with the PfP Consortium and the United States. NCO training is being reviewed with United Kingdom and United States experts along with the development of a personnel management framework for NCOs. The MOD is making efforts to improve the overall institutionalisation of education and training systems and their linkage with the personnel management system to put in place a continuous professional development system. Military educational standards have been harmonised with the Ministry of Education and the Military Institute can now offer junior officers a Bachelor of Military Management. It is also planned, once the command and staff course is well established, to offer students the possibility to combine this course with a Masters of Military Management. The junior officer course is already in place while the first command and staff course will run in September 2013. Armenia is also developing a flag officer course with a first course planned for early 2014.

50. Using a personnel database, the MOD determines the number of **promotions** to the next rank. Corps commanders are then requested to provide names of candidates suitable for these posts. Selected candidates take a promotion course followed by a test; the files of those individuals who have successfully passed the course are reviewed by the MOD and General Staff personnel department and individuals are recommended for promotion to the Chief of the General Staff responsible to approve the promotions. For senior officers, this approval is provided by the Minister of Defence. Selected conscripts are promoted to junior NCO ranks after six months of training. Some of these selected conscripts prefer to become professionals and sign a contract after completion of their compulsory service. Job descriptions and length of service before being eligible for

retirement, assignment or promotion have been reviewed in parallel to the development of a personnel management for civilian personnel.

51. An English **language training** centre within the personnel development and education department sets standards on English language training within the different institutes and is also responsible for the testing of individuals in accordance with STANAG 6001 up to level 3-3-3-3. This testing has been developed in cooperation with the British Council while teachers have been trained abroad. Senior officers have access to courses at the MoD and a database is used to compile individual qualifications and to select individuals for international courses or to assign them to additional English language training prior to attending a foreign course or training. Language training equipment has been provided by the United Kingdom and the United States including a modern computer aided laboratory in 2012. Every year, approximately 80 officers receive basic English training in Armenia while 30 officers take more advanced English language courses prior to joining their specialist courses abroad. Armenia indicated that a sufficient number of personnel has reached the required level of knowledge of the English language within the 12<sup>th</sup> Peacekeeping Brigade and efforts will be maintained to keep this level while continuing working toward ensuring that all personnel dealing with NATO have a good knowledge of English. A Russian-language laboratory, offered by the Russian Federation, was inaugurated in February 2011; this facility will allow officers to improve their knowledge of Russian prior to attending military-educational institutions of the Russian Federation.

52. The SDR process resulted in the rationalisation of MOD and General Staff personnel and the decision to develop a **NCO corps** supported by improved personnel management, including a promotion system, with the aim of having better trained NCOs who can be given greater responsibilities. Legislation has been changed to establish five ranks within the revised NCO corps so these match employment at squad, platoon, company and battalion level. Armenia has also received support to develop pay scales for these new NCO ranks from experts from the United Kingdom and the United States. The MOD continued to improve the personnel management of military personnel through the development of new promotion tests and a revised promotion board now composed of permanent members and independent military field specialists. Each officer must pass qualification and certification every three years.

53. The Law on Special Civil Service governs the employment of **civilian personnel** within the MOD, Police and the National Security Council administrative staff. Under the new organisation the MOD is composed of the Minister's administrative support personnel and 11 departments with a mix of civilian and military personnel at different levels within the organisation. All career civilian personnel are now hired using a competitive process. Training of civilian staff is harmonised using a qualification and attestation process to prepare staff for new appointments using national university as necessary; it is also intended to seek additional training opportunities to improve the qualifications of civilian personnel. Specific financial salary scales standards exist for military servicemen and civilian personnel.

### **Long-term plan for command and control and logistics**

54. The assessment of **modernisation** needs was covered during the SDR where a modernisation plan was developed and approved by the National Security Council and eventually by the President. This modernisation plan has been presented to the Cabinet of Ministers for implementation and funding through the Mid-Term Expenditure Programme.

### **National military-industrial system and its relevance to defence**

55. Reforms to the **military industry complex** were initiated during the SDR and resulted in the approval of the Concept on Reforms and Development of Military Industrial System in January 2012. The concept supports the provision of opportunities for the development of industry by encouraging the production of items that can be used for civilian or military purpose while encouraging a clearer basis for development of this sector. It also aims at stimulating other production while generating profits that can be invested in the production of military items and to attract new technologies within the Armenian military industry. In order to support these efforts, two new laws (Law on Military Industrial System and Law on State Defence Procurement) are being developed; these cover aspects such as taxation, out-sourcing mechanisms and credit support, to name a few. The government has also approved an action plan supported by funding to support work in two areas covering imports of new technologies and production of civilian items. As funding has just been approved, it is too early to assess progress achieved in these two areas.

### **Cyber-Defence**

56. The Partnership Goals relating to **information assurance and cyber defence** at the level of the MOD are being implemented concurrently. The Minister of Defence and the Chief of General Staff approved procedures related to data security and protection measures. The Communications and Automated Management Systems department of the General Staff is leading the technical security measures using advanced software and equipment. In 2012, Armenia selected NATO courses related to the security of communication lines and participated in international events dedicated to cyber defence and this will be continued in 2013. Armenian representatives also improve their knowledge on the subject by participating in the United States-sponsored "Cyber Endeavour" seminars and "Combined Endeavour" exercises in 2012

### CHAPTER III: PUBLIC INFORMATION, SCIENCE, CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING, AND ENVIRONMENT

#### Public Information

57. Over the past year, the **Ministry of Defence** carried out further activities to provide official information on defence issues to, and carry out a dialogue with, civil society. Public information is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the revised Public Information Concept approved by the Minister of Defence in April 2010. The MOD's press secretary coordinates the MOD relationship with the different media and has populated its website with information relating to the structure and policies of the Ministry, its military education programmes, press reports and a library of documents available for consultation. Unit commanders receive regularly information on decisions made at the MOD level and how they will affect units and information is also provided directly to soldiers through the weekly newspaper "Armenian Soldier", quarterly magazine "Armenian Army" and through the television programme "Armed Forces". Armenia also published a releasable version of the SDR covering the process and its main recommendations and has made its IPAP available to the public, as during earlier cycles, ([www.mfa.am/u\\_files/file/IPAP-2011-2013-ENG-Declassified.pdf](http://www.mfa.am/u_files/file/IPAP-2011-2013-ENG-Declassified.pdf)). It also put in place a hotline to strengthen the armed forces public relations. A revised Public Information Concept was also posted on the website. Other key documents remain classified and thus outside the purview of public debate. Armenian authorities should continue the efforts enhance transparency, including on sensitive issues, in order to foster greater public interest in and more effective democratic oversight of defence issues.

58. A Ministerial Directive on procedures regarding the combined activities between the units of the Ministry of Defence, the office of the Ombudsman, NGOs and the representatives of the media, approved in January 2012, has contributed to the better regulation of the interactions between the key stakeholders in this area, and inter alia, promoting also the transparency of the defence sector. The Ministry of Defence renewed the mandate of its **Public Council** for an additional three years. The body advises the Minister of Defence and maintains links with civil society representatives on issues including soldier's welfare and call-up procedures for conscripts. The new Public Council has a broader composition. This council responds to requests from the Minister but can also react from media reports or complaints from the public. The Public Council also reviewed complaints by conscripts and provided recommendations which resulted in some cases on the reversal of decisions from agencies dealing with call-ups of conscripts. The Council also reviewed and provided recommendations concerning complaints from conscripts which, in a number of cases, helped turn the decision in favour of the complainant. The Public Council is seen by a number of NGOs as insufficiently independent. The Council would play its role more fully if it made its recommendations publicly available, for instance through its own website, or posted on the MOD's website. The MOD may also wish to develop a dialogue with specialized NGOs on issues such as defence reform.



59. Over the past year, Armenia continued efforts to publicise the country's relations with NATO. The administration mainly focused on the organisation of the annual **NATO Week** (1-8 November), which was the sixth such event. In the framework of this week, Armenia hosted an international seminar on NATO partnerships, a TV bridge between Yerevan and Armenian forces in theatre in Afghanistan was established, and visits were organized to the Ministry of Emergencies and Peacekeeping Brigade for the international community based in Yerevan.

60. **PDD** hosted a group of Armenian think tankers, journalists, and officials in June 2012. During his visit to Armenia, the NATO Secretary General gave interviews to the H1 Public TV and Azatyun Radio Station, as well as a speech at the Yerevan State University. Over the past year, the Secretary General's Special Representative for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, Mr. Appathurai did interviews with Armenia Public TV and ARMNEWS. He also gave a lecture at the Diplomatic Academy. To encourage local NGOs to disseminate information about NATO, PDD co-sponsored three projects in 2012 (NATO Days, Armenia-NATO, The Security of South Caucasus and NATO). The NATO Contact Point Embassy (the United Kingdom) was also active in building the capacity of local NGOs, including in relations with NATO PDD.

61. The Armenian Centre for Transatlantic initiatives, a non-governmental organisation, runs the **Information Centre on NATO** in Yerevan, which receives funding from both the Armenian government and from NATO. The Centre remained the focal point for information on NATO's policies and Alliance cooperation with Armenia. As in previous years, the Centre performed good work in support of common public diplomacy objectives. The centre hosted a round table discussion with the NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning in February 2012. Furthermore, it organized lectures at local universities and Video Tele Conferences with NATO HQ.

### **Civil Emergency Planning**

62. Armenia is prone to **natural disasters**; consequently eight out of ten persons in the country face the probability of experiencing a natural disaster such as an earthquake, landslide, or flood. Every year, Armenia incurs 33 million dollar in damage from such disasters. Against that background, disaster risk reduction has become an important aspect of Armenia's overall efforts in the area of Civil Emergency Planning and Emergency Preparedness.

63. With the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) developed a national **Disaster Risk Reduction** (DRR) strategy. A DRR National Strategy Implementation Plan was developed and adopted by the Government in March 2012. With this implementation plan, the government has taken ownership of this process, aiming at further capacity building at national, regional, and local level. All Ministries with a role in Emergency Preparedness participate in the risk reduction platform which has been established and meets on a regular basis.

64. Within the Ministry of Emergencies, a **Crisis Management Centre** has been operational since the autumn of 2011. Since the establishment of the Centre, major improvements have been made in the technical facilities available to the Centre.

65. The Centre has multiple functions, on the one hand it serves as the “situation room” for the Ministry of Emergency Situations, while on the other hand it performs the function of an interagency National Crisis Management Centre. The situation room also serves as the central node for the **emergency call number** (911) of the MES, which received during 2012 more than one million calls. Because the existing emergency call numbers for the police, the ambulance service, and the fire service will remain in existence, many of these calls are not directly related to the work of the MES and additional actions need to be undertaken to alert other blue light services. It could be worthwhile to consider establishing one unified emergency call number, through which all emergency services can be alerted directly. This could also lead to efficiencies as also staff of other emergency services could assist in maintaining a 24 hour 7/7 services and only one call centre would have to be maintained.

66. In case of a major emergency, the **national crisis management** centre would be activated, with the capacity to accommodate representatives of other ministries involved in a particular crisis. This national crisis management centre would also have the capacity to assess and interpret on a continuous basis Information related to an ongoing emergency situation. As this part of the Crisis Management Centre became only operational in the beginning of 2013, no experience has been gained in the actual use of the Centre so far; however, several interagency exercises have been conducted, with the aim to test standard operating procedures and equipment. In order to make maximum use of this facility, it is recommended to use the centre for any emergency situation that would involve more than one ministry.

67. **Information to the public** remains an important aspect of the work of the MES. The “Emergency Channel” newspaper is published on a regular basis and a programme called “911” is broadcast frequently on national television. Increasing public awareness of disasters and disaster risks can help to limit the impact of disasters and is therefore a useful tool for disaster risk reduction.

68. On 10 December 2012, Minister Armen Yeritzian visited NATO headquarters and met with the Civil Emergency Planning Committee to discuss the ongoing reform in Armenia’s crisis management system. Armenian representatives also participated in many other **NATO Civil Emergency Planning activities** such as the meetings and training activities of the Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC), the Planning Groups, and the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC). While on a regular basis interagency meetings are conducted to deal with the practical aspects of emergency response, a mechanism (formal or informal) to coordinate and harmonise the input and feedback from the experiences gained from the participation in NATO activities is still lacking. Establishment of such a mechanism would also enhance Armenia’s interagency coordination.

## **Science for Peace and Security**

69. Over 2012, Armenian scientists continued to participate in activities funded by the **SPS Programme**. As many projects were completed during 2012, the overall number of SPS funded projects involving Armenia declined over 2012. From 2007-2012, experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the United States cooperated within a project on 'Water Resources Management of Agro-Ecosystems in the South Caucasus Transboundary Regions (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)' (ref: 982227). The project aimed to improve water resource management of agro-ecosystems in the South Caucasus by testing new irrigation techniques and using more accurate methods of estimating water use. (see also: 'The Fruits of Peace' [www.euronews.net/2011/01/27/the-fruits-of-peace/](http://www.euronews.net/2011/01/27/the-fruits-of-peace/) )

70. A **cyber infrastructure project**, led by the Armenian e-Science Foundation, the State Engineering University of Armenia, the University of Tennessee, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center of the United States, initially awarded in 2008, was completed in early 2012. Another project 'Building Networked Content Creation Centre for Distance Learning Programmes' (ref. 984285), awarded in 2010, is led by the Academy of Sciences of Armenia and Middlesex University of the United Kingdom. The project will enable academics and young scientists to have easy access to the Internet and allow them to exchange large documents and datasets with both local and foreign counterparts. In addition, researchers can sign up to distance learning programmes.

71. **Two multi-year research projects**, oriented towards regional priorities, were awarded in 2008. One of these projects, entitled 'Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis of Obsolete Pesticides in Armenia for Environmentally Sound Disposal' (ref. 982812), conducted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Armenia in cooperation with the Masaryk University of the Czech Republic, aims to make an inventory of, monitor, and analyse the obsolete pesticides in Armenia, with the goal of an environmentally sound disposal. The project was completed in 2012. The second project entitled 'Caucasus Seismic Emergency Response' (ref. 983284) focuses on training and equipping monitoring teams for early deployment after an earthquake in the Caucasus region. It will also improve earthquake monitoring through the establishment of a regional digital strong motion network. In late 2012, the project was given a six-month extension until mid-2013.

72. In 2011, a new grant titled 'Technological Advances in **CBRN Sensing and Detection for Safety, Security and Sustainability**' (ref. 984378) was awarded for a workshop with the objective to make an inventory of the technological advances in CBRN sensing and detecting. This workshop, a collaboration of the NUARI Institute from the United States and State Engineering University of Armenia took place from 29 September to 1 October 2012.

#### CHAPTER IV: ADMINISTRATIVE, PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, AND RESOURCE ISSUES

73. Armenian government bodies continued to carry out wide-ranging **interagency coordination and cooperation** on IPAP implementation in a number of bodies. The "IPAP Interagency Commission", the principal body for information exchange and coordination on IPAP implementation, co-chaired by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, met regularly during 2012. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs acts as the Secretariat of the Commission. The MFA as co-chair has taken the lead in developing IPAP objectives for the coming two years and developing self-assessments. However, no executive functions are vested in the IPAP Interagency Commission. Monitoring is done by a second inter-governmental commission under the Secretary of the National Security Council, who reports to the President. The National Security Council receives quarterly reports from all agencies responsible for the implementation of specific IPAP activities. The IPAP Interagency Commission also met with the NATO Internal Staff during the IPAP/PARP visit in February 2013.

74. Armenia does not **budget** any specific resources for IPAP priorities within the budgets of any of the Ministries concerned. Similarly, the Ministry of Defence does not have a specific budget for PfP participation, but includes these within the budget for overall military cooperation. However, activities that have been included in the IPAP are considered as priority items and receive the necessary funding on that basis.

75. Armenia continued to ensure effective **liaison** with NATO at various levels, including through the NATO Liaison Officer for the South Caucasus, Mr William Lahue.

#### Protection of Classified Information

76. Armenian compliance with the Armenia-NATO Security Agreement signed on 13 January 1995 is monitored by the NATO Office of Security (NOS). The last **security inspection** took place in March 2009. During this inspection the NOS concluded that the security arrangements in Armenia met the standards established by the NATO Security Policy. A new security inspection is envisaged for this year, but no date has yet been set.