



# International Organisations in Perspective



This publication is co-sponsored by the  
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

# Contents

- Preface ..... 3
- The United Nations (UN) ..... 4
- The United Nations and the state of international affairs..... 4
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)..... 6
- NATO and the state of international affairs ..... 6
- The European Union (EU) ..... 8
- The European Union and the state of international affairs ..... 9
- Other international organisations..... 10
- The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe..... 10
- The Council of Europe ..... 10
- The Organization of American States (OAS)..... 11
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ..... 11
- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)..... 12
- The African Union (AU) ..... 12
- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement..... 12
- Further Reading ..... 14

# Preface

The countries of this world are closely tied to each other by a network of international organisations and agreements. This applies with special force to the field of security policy within which there are particularly many organisations whose objectives, structures and responsibilities are not always self-evident and clear.

This brochure describes the three central organisations, the UN, NATO and the EU, and discusses their position vis-à-vis the latest political challenges. They were chosen because they are particularly important from a security policy perspective. Other important aspects when choosing them were their position in the international community and their relevance to Denmark.

The reader will also find brief descriptions of a number of other organisations that are involved in security matters, including an introduction to the international humanitarian organisation known as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The brochure is published with the purpose of introducing the reader to a wide selection of international security policy organisations. As the literature on this subject is quite comprehensive and provides the reader with more in-depth information about all these and other international organisations, we have included a list of other relevant sources of information at the end of the brochure. In addition to that the reader will find information about links on the Internet together with the description of each international organisation.

This edition of International Organisations in Perspective seeks to include the latest international developments.

We hope you will enjoy reading the brochure.



**Writers:**

Mia Lund Rasmussen, Head of Section  
Rikke Lauritsen, Intern

**Editor responsible  
under the press law:**

Troels Frøling, Secretary-General

**English Translation:**

Allan Steen Rasmussen,  
state-authorized public  
translator and interpreter at  
DK-4800 Nykøbing Falster

**Layout:**

Folkman Design A/S

**Print:**

Als Offset ApS

2006

**ISBN:** 87-87008-661

This edition closed for contributions  
in November, 2006.

# The United Nations (UN)

## Objectives:

- to maintain international peace and security
- to solve international conflicts and establish international co-operation
- to maintain and uphold international law
- to solve humanitarian problems
- to uphold the Human Rights
- to endeavour to establish sustainable economic growth and anti-poverty programmes

## The organisation:

- 192 member countries
- established in 1945 by the adoption and final ratification of the United Nations Charter
- international co-operation
- The General Assembly consists of the representatives of the member countries and is situated in New York City. Resolutions are passed by an ordinary majority vote and in some cases by a two thirds majority vote.
- The Security Council, situated in New York City, has five permanent members representing China, France, Russia, the U.K and the U.S.A., each of which nations has the right of veto on substantive questions. In addition to these members there are 10 non-permanent, i.e. rotating, member countries elected to the Council by the Assembly. Resolutions must be passed by at least nine votes.
- The International Court of Justice, with its permanent seat at The Hague, is the judicial organ of the UN, and was created by the UN Charter. It tries cases involving certain disputes between states, provided the disputing states agree to let the Court decide the matter.
- There are a number of specialized agencies and organisations of the UN, e.g. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), The World Health Organisation (WHO) the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), and The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

- The UN played an active part in establishing The International Criminal Court (ICC). This court, however, is an independent institution which was set up by the international community solely for the purpose of prosecuting individuals who are charged with genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

## LINKS:

[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

[www.unsystem.org](http://www.unsystem.org)

## The United Nations and the state of international affairs

With its 192 members the UN is a unique forum where the nations of this world can meet and exchange views. In 2005 the UN celebrated its 60th anniversary. Prior to the anniversary Secretary-General Kofi Annan proclaimed that 2005 was to be the year when important reforms were to be introduced. For many years reforms of the UN have been under debate, as the system has often been criticized for being inefficient and obsolete. The permanent members of the Security Council are the victors of World War II, and their right of veto in the Security Council means that it can be difficult to reach an agreement and pass resolutions. Consequently, it may be necessary to abolish or limit the use of this right of veto to achieve higher efficiency within the UN system. The crises in connection with Kosovo – and more recently in Iraq – emphasized the necessity for reforms. If the veto power is to be changed the UN Charter will have to be amended, which is a very comprehensive and difficult process.

At the same time it is widely held that the Security Council should be enlarged to reflect the world's geographical, cultural and religious diversity in a more just and equitable way. Nations such as Japan and Germany could claim membership of the Council with the same great weight in the international community as e.g.



France. At the same time countries in Africa, Latin-America and Asia (apart from China) may also make a demand for permanent membership of the Council. Reforms of the Security Council, however, are a huge challenge, and until now the member countries have only agreed on the need for reform.

Another item on the agenda is the reform of the organisation and administration of the UN. In particular, the corruption scandal and the food-for-oil-programme in Iraq emphasized the necessity for imposing stricter controls on all UN activities. Reorganisation and more efficient management as well as changes in the order of priorities are equally important issues for debate. These reforms are extremely important for the credibility and efficiency of the UN.

At the summit in September 2005 Kofi Annan submitted an ambitious plan of action that was meant to improve the efforts of the UN to work for the preservation of peace and security, and for the extension of human rights, social progress, and better standards of living throughout the world. The plan also included comprehensive UN reforms of profound significance. The result of the summit, however, was a rather watered down manifesto according to many observers.

One positive result of the summit was that the manifesto mentioned the targets of year 2015 including a 50% reduction in the worst poverty and encouraging all the rich countries to live up to the ideal aim of contributing 0.7% of their GDP as aid to the developing countries. Also a new Human Rights Council was set up to replace the Commission on Human Rights. One decisive change is that dictatorships and nations violating the human rights cannot be members of the Council. The manifesto includes a declaration stating that the international community is under an obligation to intervene if the government of any country cannot protect its civilian population. On paper this development is extremely

important, but time will tell if the international community will suit the action to the word.

The differences of opinion were bigger when the nations of this world were to agree on a common definition of terrorism. Egypt, Iran and the Palestinian delegation wanted to distinguish between terrorists and members of a resistance movement. This is no matter for surprise and at the same time it shows how national interests can slow down or even stop the international decision-making process. The manifesto does not deal with the proliferation of nuclear weapons either, even though the vast majority of nations generally agree that weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists constitute a horrifying threat to the world. Countries such as Iran and North Korea are determined, it seems, to develop nuclear weapons, and today's atomic powers do not want to phase out the weapons they already have.

The UN is in the middle of a process of reform that will take time and will be very difficult. The fact that big countries such as the U.S.A. are very reluctant to accept changes of the UN system which they deem are to their disadvantage does not smooth the way for change. Nevertheless, the importance of the UN organisation is still unquestionable. Its large membership strengthens its international legitimacy and provides the best means for the protection of the human rights and for the preservation of peace and security. That is why it is decisive that the strongest member states support the efforts of reforming the UN in an attempt at making the organisation more efficient.

# The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

## Objectives:

- to preserve peace and security first and foremost in the territories of the member states
- to provide for the common defence of the member states, cf. Article 51 of the United Nations Charter
- to protect freedom, culture and civilisation on the basis of democracy, individual freedom and the rule of law

## The organisation:

- came into existence in 1949 with the signing of The North Atlantic Treaty
- international regional co-operation
- 26 member states (2004): Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and the U.S.A.
- The supreme decision-making NATO body is The North Atlantic Council. Decisions are made by consensus (unanimity of opinion).
- The NATO-Russia Council (Russia takes part in NATO's decision-making process in certain areas) Decisions are made by consensus.
- Military as well as political co-operation
- The North Atlantic Parliamentary Assembly (NPA) is a consultative parliamentary body consisting of national parliamentarians from all the member states.
- Partnership for Peace (PfP): Co-operation on security policy issues between NATO and non-member countries. There are 20 partner countries. The co-operation is linked with The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). The EAPC has 46 members, i.e. 26 NATO countries and 20 partnership countries (advisory status).

## LINKS:

[www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)  
[www.ataedu.org](http://www.ataedu.org)

## NATO and the state of international affairs

The role of NATO has changed considerably since the end of the Cold War. After the events of 11 September 2001 new dangerous threats such as international terrorism are being debated almost daily; and NATO has developed and is increasingly acting on a global scale, some of the reasons being that the new threats emanate far away from NATO's territories.

The traditional role of NATO as a military alliance between states has changed, and there are now more political issues on the agenda. At the same time the new threats call for changes in NATO's military structure so that large and heavy military forces are changed into lighter and more mobile forces that can be deployed more quickly and sometimes far away from the territories of the member countries.

NATO is also taking an active part in the fight against terrorism through military operations in Afghanistan, in the Balkans and in the Mediterranean area. In 2003 NATO took command of The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). The mission is based on a UN mandate to assist the Afghan authorities in achieving peace and stability in the country.

"Operation Active Endeavour" is the name of an activity in which NATO is patrolling the Mediterranean, in particular the Strait of Gibraltar. The operation seeks to monitor the navigation in the area, and NATO keeps a watchful eye on the cargo of the vessels. The aim is to put a stop to the transport of dangerous arms and equipment that can be used for the manufacture of



weapons of mass destruction. In Iraq NATO has established a training mission which assists in for instance the military training of the Iraqi forces. In the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction NATO also tries to form close and useful connections with countries such as Russia, Ukraine and countries in the Mediterranean region and with other international organisations. For instance NATO and the EU have established a strategic partnership because both organisations share many security policy interests.

In consequence of the earthquake in Pakistan killing 80,000 people and destroying the homes of 3 million people NATO – together with the UN – sent relief supplies totalling 3,500 tons to the emergency area. At the same time NATO sent in engineers, physicians and surgeons as well as special equipment. In this way NATO – in collaboration with other international organisations – plays a central role in critical situations where people are in need of help.

However, these new challenges and the resulting reorganisation processes in NATO are not unproblematic. How to fight terrorism is a highly political question, and consequently the international community is not always in agreement about a solution to the problem. This became quite evident in the critical period prior to the war in Iraq. With the U.S.A. holding one view and the EU holding another the Allies are at the same time discussing how much money is to be spent on military hardware. This was also brought up for discussion during the Cold War, but the topic is equally important even today when the military forces are to be transformed to reflect the technological development in the new millennium.

In November 2006 NATO will hold a summit meeting in Riga, the capital city of Latvia. At this

meeting NATO is expected to discuss the security of energy supplies and the admission of three new potential member countries, i.e. Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. NATO's Secretary-General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, has also introduced the idea of NATO establishing a global political partnership with Australia and Japan, whose troops are already taking part in NATO's operation in Afghanistan. This idea will probably also be debated at the summit at the end of 2006.

# The European Union (EU)

## Objectives:

- to promote peace, EU values and the well-being of its people
  - to maintain freedom, security and justice as well as one single market with free and undistorted competition
  - to aim at creating sustainable development in Europe based on balanced economic growth, a highly competitive social market economy that promotes full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the environment
  - to combat social exclusion and discrimination, and to promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and the protection of the rights of the child
  - to promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, solidarity among member states, as well as respect for linguistic and cultural diversity so that the European cultural heritage is protected and developed
  - to uphold and promote its values and interests, and to contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development, solidarity and mutual respect among people, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty, the protection of human rights, strict observance and development of international law, in particular respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter
- in the organisation and the decision making process of the EU. After the rejection the European political leaders agreed that they needed more time to think. This pause for thought is expected to last two years.

## The organisation:

- ...takes as its starting point the codification of the EU's two primary existing treaties, the Treaty of Rome of 1958 (the EEC and the EC) and the Maastricht Treaty 1993, as modified by the treaties of Amsterdam 1999) and Nice (2003).
  - In referenda held in 2005 France and the Netherlands rejected the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (TCE), commonly referred to as the European Constitution, which would introduce profound changes
- 25 member countries (as of 2004): Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
- There are other countries that want to be members of the EU. Bulgaria and Romania will enter the Union in 2007, whereas Croatia may have to wait even longer. Another applicant country is Turkey which is not expected to get full membership within the next decade.
  - Members of the European Council are the heads of state or government of the European Union and the President of the European Commission. Discussion and decisions take place on the matters of key issues and the direction of the EU, ensuring that the development of the EU does not stop completely.
  - The Council of the European Union is a legislative and decision-making body of 25 members. They are the ministers of the governments of each of the EU member states, i.e. the ministers with the relevant portfolios depending on the agenda. It is sometimes referred to simply as the Council or the Council of Ministers. The rotating presidency of the Council changes every six months.
  - The European Commission is the Executive Branch of the EU and is situated in Brussels. The 25 Commissioners have the right of drafting legislation (a power of initiative). The number of commissioners is to be reduced to maximise efficiency when the EU attains 27 member countries.



- The European Parliament is the Legislative Branch of the EU together with the Council of Ministers. The Parliament has a democratic monitoring function vis-à-vis the Commission and approves or rejects the EU Budget, a new Commission, the admission of new member states and certain international agreements. There are 732 MEPs who are elected by direct universal suffrage in each individual member country. All MEPs, however, are members of non-national, political parliamentary factions.
- The Court of Justice of the European Communities, usually called the European Court of Justice (ECJ), is the Judicial Branch of the EU, and is based in Luxembourg. There are 25 judges; and it is the responsibility of the ECJ to ensure that EU law is observed, interpreted and applied in the same way all over the EU (the supranational co-operation). The rulings of the ECJ may include economic sanctions against EU member countries.
- The European Central Bank (ECB) is the central bank of the Eurozone. It is politically independent. The currency is called the Euro.

LINK:

[www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int)

### **The European Union and the state of international affairs**

EU's heads of state and government were very optimistic when they agreed on the TCE in June 2004. The TCE constituted a political compromise and still the general opinion was that the new treaty could simplify the co-operation in the EU and at the same time make it more efficient and more democratic.

However, there is a substantial difference of opinion within the EU with regard to the tasks and powers of the Union – now and in the future. This disagreement was quite obvious when the TCE was rejected in France and in the Nether-

lands in 2005. For instance the French want the EU to improve the social legislation, whereas the Dutch do not want EU to interfere in that particular field. Domestic political issues also played an important role in both referenda.

The TCE must be ratified in all EU member countries, but after the referenda in France and the Netherlands the European leaders agreed to introduce a period of reflection. Consequently, the Danish referendum has been postponed indefinitely, and instead various initiatives have been taken in Denmark and at EU level to gain popular support and make EU matters the subject of public debate. At EU level they proposed a "Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate", and in Denmark the Citizens' Agenda was initiated by the European Affairs Committee in the Danish Parliament in close co-operation with a number of EU-movements and organisations.

In matters concerning security policy the EU is now playing a more independent role with military forces involved in peace keeping operations and crisis management. In June 2006 the EU embarked 1,500 troops for Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, to support the first democratic election in that country. The EU is cooperating very closely with NATO supplementing each other on security issues in Europe.

However, in spite of these initiatives the EU countries disagree on various aspects of security policy. This was quite obvious in the period before the war in Iraq when Europe was divided in two groups: those countries that supported the USA (e.g. Denmark, Great Britain, Poland and Spain) and those countries that were against the war (e.g. Germany, France, Belgium and Sweden). The EU does not speak with one single voice, and nobody can tell how the European co-operation will develop. In spite of all the differences of opinion the EU is still the most important organisation contributing to peace and prosperity as well as the sense of community in Europe.

# Other international organisations

The previous pages give the readers a general view of three of the most important international organisations, viz. the UN, NATO and the EU. There is, however, a large number of other global and regional organisations which cooperate in many different ways. The nature of this co-operation may be intergovernmental (i.e. taking place between or among the governments of sovereign nations) or supranational (i.e. having power or authority which is greater than that of single countries which have surrendered part of their sovereignty). In addition to these organisations there is a large number of other quite influential non-governmental organizations, e.g. the human rights organisation known as Amnesty International and the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Below you will find an introduction to a number of international, intergovernmental and regional organisations which are very important for the economic development and security in the regions in question.

Last but not least you will find an introduction to another important international organisation working worldwide, viz. the International Red Cross.

## The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



The OSCE is the world's largest regional security organisation whose 56 participating States (including Denmark) span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Consequently, there are members from Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and North America. The Organization deals with the prevention of conflicts and with the construction of civil societies based on a broad understanding of security that also includes the rights of the individual citizen.

The OSCE traces its origins to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which was established in Helsinki in 1975. The

name was changed from the CSCE to the OSCE in 1994. The Charter for European Security adopted in 1999 is now the basis of OSCE activities. The summits of heads of state and government constitute the decision-making body of the Organization. Usually they meet once every two or three years. The OSCE conducts a wide range of activities including anti-trafficking in human beings and arms. Recently the OSCE attracted favourable notice through its election observation teams who report on irregularities in the democratic election procedures. One example of such a report was the recent election in Belarus in the spring of 2006.

LINK:

[www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)

## The Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is an organisation of 46 member states (including Denmark) which represents almost 800 million people. It was founded in 1949 when there were 10 members. 21 of the present members are Central and Eastern European countries that became members when the Cold War ended. It was set up to defend human rights, parliamentary democracy and the rule of law. The Council also promotes awareness of a European identity based on shared values and cutting across different cultures. Since 1989, the Council has focused on acting as a human rights watchdog for Europe's post-communist democracies and assisting the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in carrying out and consolidating political, legal and constitutional reform. It has its headquarters in Strasbourg from where the organisation is engaged in the battle for the protection of children's rights, the combat against drug abuse, racism and intolerance.



The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg is one of the most important institutions

under the Council. The Court applies the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects the rights of the individual, and it delivers binding judgments. Any one citizen can lodge an application with the Court if his/her rights as set out in the Convention have been violated. So the Court hears cases involving ordinary people complaining about violations committed by a state bound by the Convention. For instance in 2005 the Court delivered a judgment that made closed shop agreements illegal. Also the Court has delivered several judgments against Turkey for having broken the Convention and for not having guaranteed a fair trial.

LINK:

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

### The Organization of American States (OAS)

The OAS was founded in 1948 when 21 nations adopted the Charter of the Organization of American States, which affirmed their commitments to common goals and respect for each nation's sovereignty. Today the Organization has 35 member states from North, Central and South America as well as the Caribbean. The government of Cuba, a member state under Fidel Castro, has been suspended from participation since 1962.



The key issues of the OAS are the democratic commitment, good governance, the protection and promotion of human rights, the promotion of peace and security, the promotion of free trade, and combating problems relating to poverty, drugs and corruption. Through joint decisions and programmes to be executed by the General Secretariat the member states want to strengthen the co-operation and mutual understanding in the Americas.

The OAS is involved in many different activities, and security matters are central items on the

agenda (e.g. United against Terrorism and Taking Action against Landmines). One objective is peace that is based on democracy, justice, and respect for human rights, solidarity, individual security and international law. The OAS wants to promote free trade between the member countries, improve the competitive power of these countries and create economic integration which in turn will form the basis of a higher growth rate, more jobs, reduction of poverty and sustainable economic development.

LINK:

[www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

### The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The member states of the ASEAN are Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. These countries represent a total population of about 500 million. The aim of the ASEAN is to accelerate economic growth, social progress, and cultural development and also to promote peaceful coexistence and stability in the region through co-operation and partnership. In 1976 ASEAN member countries adopted the fundamental principles in their relations with one another, as contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). Since then there have been no armed conflicts between them. In 1992 the ASEAN countries declared that they intended to strengthen the political co-operation and work closely together on regional security issues. The first step towards this end would be to promote confidence building and develop diplomatic relations. Therefore they established the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) numbering 23 members from the Asia-Pacific region, including big countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, China, Russia and the USA.



LINK:

[www.aseansec.org](http://www.aseansec.org)

### The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

The GCC, also known as the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, was founded in 1981 to promote peace in the area around the Persian Gulf. The member countries are The State of Bahrain, The State of Kuwait, The Sultanate of Oman, The State of Qatar, The United Arab Emirates and The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



The basic objectives of the Council are to effect coordination, integration and inter-connection between Member States in all fields such as economy, finance and social legislation. The fields of co-operation also include areas such as security and defence matters and involve, among other things, joint procedures for military operations and training. The GCC has established a joint task force known as the "Peninsula Shield Force" and has also adopted a common security strategy. Through its so-called "Istanbul Cooperation Initiative", which is meant to promote co-operation and dialogue with the countries in the Middle East, NATO has invited the GCC countries to co-operate in the fight against terrorism. NATO has also invited the GCC to co-operate on defence reforms and offers guidance on cross-national military co-operation.

LINK:

[www.gcc-sg.org](http://www.gcc-sg.org)

### The African Union (AU)

The AU was founded in 2002 and consists of 53 member states numbering all African nations except Morocco, whose government refuses to recognise Western Sahara. The AU comprises a number of organs and institutions, e.g. a Commission, a Council and a Parliament, and seems to have taken inspiration from the EU. The member states



want to promote peace and prosperity in Africa – much the same role as that of the EU. However, Africa is a much tormented continent, so the prospects are not too bright. States that are not very efficient are having a hard time making an international organisation work properly. And this is very much the case with the African Union. In the long term some countries want a single currency and joint military forces. But that may not happen for a long time either. In 2004 the AU made a Solemn Declaration on the Common African Defence, and later in 2005 the member countries adopted the AU Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact.

The declared aim of the AU is to promote and protect democracy, human rights and sustainable economic development on the African continent. Internal conflicts are to be solved and the AU hopes to establish a sense of community and an efficient common market. All AU efforts in African areas affected by conflicts are based on co-operation between the AU and other regional organisations. The AU is actively involved in the Darfur region in the Sudan, and is also involved in peace negotiations and peace building activities in a number of countries, e.g. Somalia, the Ivory Coast and Liberia.

LINK:

[www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

### The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Red Cross for short, is an international organisation comprising three units, viz. (i) the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), (ii) the National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies and (iii) the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Each unit is independent and meetings are held every second year.



All activities of the Red Cross aim to prevent and reduce human suffering, without discrimination, and to protect and uphold human dignity. They are based on the seven Fundamental Principles, i.e. humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. The Movement is politically unbiased and completely impartial as far as religion is concerned. It never takes sides for or against any of the parties to a dispute or belligerent countries. The Red Cross only looks after those individuals who are affected by the disasters.

The ICRC is the basic unit of the Movement that promotes and protects humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles in addition to its mission of protecting and helping victims of war and internal violence. The headquarters are in Geneva, and functions of the organisation are based on the Geneva Conventions which provide guidelines for the treatment of individuals (soldiers, captured combatants and civilians) who are affected by or involved in acts of war.

**LINKS:**

[www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

# Further Reading

## **Handbooks:**

International Red Cross Committee: "Discover the ICRC", Geneva: ICRC Production Sector, 2005 ([www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org))

NATO: "NATO Handbook", Brussels: NATO Public Diplomacy Division, 2006.

OSCE: "OSCE Handbook", Vienna: OSCE, 2000.

UN: "Basic Facts about the United Nations", New York: United Nations Department of Public Information, 2005.

## **Selected publications and articles:**

Heurlin, Bertel og Rasmussen, Mikkel Vedby (Eds.): "Challenges and Capabilities. NATO in the 21st Century", København: Danish Institute for International Studies, 2003.

Malmvig, Helle: "An unlikely match or a marriage in the making? EU-GCC relations in a changing security environment", DIIS Brief, November 2006. Available online at [www.diis.dk](http://www.diis.dk).

Mouritzen, Hans: "Atlantic Reform: A Euro-Atlantic and a Danish Perspective", DIIS Report 2006:3, April 2006. Available online at [www.diis.dk](http://www.diis.dk).

Møller, Bjørn: "The United Nations as a security political actor – with a special focus on Africa", DIIS Report 2005:11, November 2005. Available online at [www.diis.dk](http://www.diis.dk).

Møller, Bjørn: "The EU as a security actor – "security by being" and "security by doing" ", DIIS Report 2005:12, November 2005. Available online at [www.diis.dk](http://www.diis.dk).



### The Danish Atlantic Treaty Association (DATA)

DATA is non-governmental cross-party association which informs the general public of security policy issues and creates networks between people who are interested in security policy issues.

DATA is developing networks in order to strengthen the civil societies in the Balkans and to boost the co-operation between the region and the other NATO countries. DATA is a member of the international Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) with a total of 40 member countries.

DATA was founded in 1950 for the purpose of informing the Danish people about the advantages and obligations of Danish NATO membership. Today our many different activities are meant to inform the general public about a wider range of security policy issues.



#### LINKS:

[www.ata-sec.org](http://www.ata-sec.org)

[www.atlant.dk](http://www.atlant.dk)

[www.atlantic-youth.org](http://www.atlantic-youth.org)

