

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM :

The NATO 2030 Initiative for Strengthening the
Alliance Among NATO Member States

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

Deniz Nur Berk



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1. Letters from the Secretary-General and Secretariat

Letter from the Secretary-General

Esteemed participants of MUNKFL'25,

As the Secretary General of MUNKFL'25, I warmly welcome you all to the fourth edition of Model United Nations Kayseri Fen Lisesi. First of all, I am pleased to say that we are continuing our work successfully, knowing that we are the pioneers in the MUN culture in Kayseri. We are truly honored to be able to present this precious conference that we have worked on for months. My organizing team has worked tirelessly for this conference, and of course, they did well. Also, special thanks go to my academic team, who also worked tirelessly to make your committees exceptional and engaging. It is with this spirit of dedication and pioneering achievement that we turn our focus to the crucial global challenges facing us today.

The 21st Century has brought about tensions between nations, unprecedented dangers, changes, and challenges that continue to plague the world. However, the United Nations offers a promising path forward. As members of the Model United Nations community, we recognize the imperative of active global engagement and the pivotal role we play in shaping a better future. Therefore, MUNKFL will simulate United Nations committees, providing a platform for delegates to engage in collaborative, competitive, conciliatory, and compromising decision-making processes. Through these simulations, we aim to foster dialogue, diplomacy, and a prioritization of societal needs in addressing pressing global issues.

May this experience leave you more prepared to lead, more committed to dialogue, and more confident in the role you can play in shaping the world around you.

**Sincerely,
Taylan Emir Tav**



Letter from Under Secretary General

Dear Delegates, My name is Deniz Nur Berk, and we will be serving you as your Under Secretary-General.

In this Model UN conference, some may be asking why NATO is present as a committee since it is not a part of the UN. The reason why international organs and organizations are set as committees in Model UN conferences is that the conference actually, carries an aim towards establishing a higher and more unique level of debating and diplomatic experience rather than being fully committed to the UN and its organs and limiting the extends of the conference. The NATO committee is a chance for all delegates to see the world and conference experience a bit different from the UN meanwhile not getting too far to lose focus from the main aim of such conferences, seeing a glimpse of the modern world and steps of politics and diplomacy. Hopefully raising enough awareness to be able to understand, cope with and even solve such international problems in the future as aimed by such organizations. As your Under Secretary-General I would be expecting you to take up the challenge and become a part of the debates and politics that you will be participating in with your utmost efforts so that you may both improve yourself in the disciplines of MUN conferences and the world and meanwhile enjoy what you are doing to the fullest. If you have any question do not hesitate to contact me.

Deniz Nur Berk

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Introduction of The Committee

Formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty, NATO is a security alliance of 30 countries from North America and Europe. NATO's fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security by political and military means. NATO remains the principal security instrument of the transatlantic community and expression of its common democratic values. It is the practical means through which the security of North America and Europe are permanently tied together. NATO enlargement has furthered the U.S. goal of a Europe whole, free, and at peace. NATO is a collective security arrangement in which NATO's independent member states commit to defend each other in the event of an external attack. Tensions have arisen as a result of enlargement with non-member Russia, which has demanded that NATO offer legal assurances that it will not expand east (to countries such as Moldova, Georgia, or Ukraine). A total of 20 countries are involved in NATO's Partnership for Peace initiative, with 15 more participating in institutionalized conversation programs. In 2020, the overall military budget of all NATO members was more than 57 percent of the worldwide nominal total. Members decided that by 2024, they want to reach or sustain a defense spending objective of at least 2% of GDP.

Article 5 of the Washington Treaty — that an attack against one Ally is an attack against all — is at the core of the Alliance, a promise of collective defense. Article 4 of the treaty ensures consultations among Allies on security matters of common interest, which have expanded from a narrowly defined Soviet threat to the critical mission in Afghanistan, as well as peacekeeping in Kosovo and new threats to security such as cyber attacks, and global threats such as terrorism and piracy that affect the Alliance and its global network of partners. In addition to its traditional role in the territorial defense of Allied nations, NATO leads the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and has ongoing



missions in the Balkans and the Mediterranean; it also conducts extensive training exercises and offers security support to partners around the globe, including the European Union in particular but also the United Nations and the African Union.

The NATO Alliance consists of 30 member states from North America and Europe. Article Five of the treaty states that if an armed attack occurs against one of the member states, it should be considered an attack against all members, and other members shall assist the attacked member, with armed forces if necessary. Over the past two decades, the Alliance has developed a network of structured partnerships with countries from the Euro-Atlantic area, the Mediterranean and the Gulf region, as well as individual relationships with other partners across the globe. NATO pursues dialogue and practical cooperation with many partner countries and engages actively with other international actors and organisations on a wide range of political and security-related issues. Foreign Ministers Meetings and Defense Ministers Meetings provide an opportunity for NATO Allies to address many of NATO's most pressing security challenges at the some of the highest levels of government. Key strategic issues discussed at these meetings have included Afghanistan, Capabilities, Kosovo, and Missile Defense. Generally attended also by many of NATO's partners, these meetings are a chance for NATO to strengthen its relationships around the world. NATO is comprised of two main parts, the political and military components. NATO Headquarters is where representatives from all the member states come together to make decisions on a consensus basis. It also offers a venue for dialogue and cooperation between partner countries and NATO member countries, enabling them to work together in their efforts to bring about peace and stability. The key elements of NATO's military organisation are the Military Committee, composed of the Chiefs of Defence of NATO member countries, its executive body, the International Military Staff, and the military Command Structure (distinct from the Force Structure), which is composed of Allied Command Operations and Allied Command



Transformation, headed respectively by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and the Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation (SACT).

History of NATO

NATO's origins may be traced back to the immediate aftermath of World War II, when British diplomacy established the foundation for containing the Soviet Union and halting communism's spread across Europe. The Treaty of Dunkirk, a defensive pact signed by the United Kingdom and France in 1947, was expanded in 1948 with the Treaty of Brussels, which added the three Benelux states (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg) and decided to commit them to collective defense against an armed attack for fifty years. The Treaty of Brussels was a mutual defense treaty against the Soviet threat at the start of the Cold War. It was signed on 17 March 1948 by Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, and the United Kingdom and was the precursor to NATO. The Soviet threat became immediate with the Berlin Blockade in 1948, leading to the creation of a multinational defense organization, the Western Union Defence Organisation, in September 1948. In 1948, European leaders met with US defense, military, and diplomatic officials at the Pentagon, exploring a framework for a new and unprecedented association. The talks resulted in the North Atlantic Treaty, and the United States signed on 4 April 1949. It included the five Treaty of Brussels states, as well as the United States, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland.

Evolution of NATO's Structure

The structure of NATO evolved throughout the Cold War and its aftermath. An integrated military structure for NATO was first established in 1950 as it became clear that NATO would need to enhance its defenses for the longer term against a potential Soviet attack. In



April 1951, Allied Command Europe and its headquarters (SHAPE) were established; later, four subordinate headquarters were added in Northern and Central Europe, the Southern Region, and the Mediterranean. The creation of NATO brought about some standardization of allied military terminology, procedures, and technology, which, in many cases, meant European countries adopting US practices. Roughly 1300 Standardization Agreements (STANAG) codified many of the common practices that NATO has achieved. Also, aircraft marshaling signals were standardized so that any NATO aircraft could land at any NATO base. Other standards such as the NATO phonetic alphabet have made their way beyond NATO into civilian use.

The Creation of NATO and Its Goals

The first NATO Secretary General, Lord Ismay, stated in 1949 that the organization's goal was "to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down". Popular support for the Treaty was not unanimous, and some Icelanders participated in a pro-neutrality, anti-membership riot in March 1949. The creation of NATO can be seen as the primary institutional consequence of a school of thought called Atlanticism, which stressed the importance of trans-Atlantic cooperation.

NATO's Response to the Korean War

The outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950 was crucial for NATO, as it raised the apparent threat of all Communist countries working together and forced the alliance to develop



concrete military plans. Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) was formed to direct forces in Europe and began work under Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower in January 1951. In September 1950, the NATO Military Committee called for an ambitious buildup of conventional forces to meet the Soviets and reaffirmed that position at the February 1952 meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Lisbon. The conference, seeking to provide the forces necessary for NATO's Long-Term Defense Plan, called for an expansion to 96 divisions. However, that requirement was dropped the following year to roughly 35 divisions, with heavier use to be made of nuclear weapons.

Expansion of NATO Membership and Maritime Exercises

At this time, NATO could call on about 15 ready divisions in Central Europe and another 10 in Italy and Scandinavia. Also at Lisbon, the post of Secretary General of NATO as the organization's chief civilian was created, and Lord Ismay was eventually appointed to the post. In September 1952, the first major NATO maritime exercises began. Exercise Mainbrace brought together 200 ships and over 50,000 personnel to practice the defense of Denmark and Norway. Greece and Turkey also joined the alliance in 1952, which forced a series of controversial negotiations, mainly between United States and Britain, over how to bring both countries into the military command structure.

Covert Arrangements and Unofficial Bonds within NATO

While that overt military preparation was going on, covert stay-behind arrangements initially made by the Western European Union to continue resistance after a successful Soviet invasion, including Operation Gladio, were transferred to NATO control. Ultimately, unofficial bonds began to grow between NATO's armed forces, such as the NATO Tiger



Association and competitions such as the Canadian Army Trophy for tank gunnery.

The Soviet Union's Failed Attempt to Join NATO

In 1954, the Soviet Union proposed that it join NATO in order to maintain European peace. Fearing that the Soviet Union's goal was to weaken NATO, NATO countries finally rejected the plan. The North Atlantic Council endorsed MC 48, a crucial document in the formation of NATO nuclear thinking, on December 17, 1954. MC 48 highlighted that NATO had to use nuclear weapons from the start of a war with the Soviet Union, regardless of whether the Soviets chose to do so first. This provided SACEUR the same automatic use-of-nuclear-weapons powers as the US Strategic Air Command commander-in-chief.

NATO's Nuclear Policy and West Germany's Membership

The admission of West Germany to the organization on May 9, 1955, was regarded by Halvard Lange, the Norwegian Foreign Minister at the time, as "a critical turning moment in the history of our continent. One of the main reasons was that German manpower was required to maintain sufficient conventional forces to repel a Soviet invasion. The Warsaw Pact, which was agreed on 14 May 1955 by the Soviet Union, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, and East Germany, was one of the direct consequences of West Germany's membership. It defined the two opposed sides of the Cold War.



Cold War Dynamics and Non-Proliferation Treaty

During most of the Cold War, NATO's watch against the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact did not actually lead to direct military action. On 1 July 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons opened for signature. NATO argued that its nuclear sharing arrangements did not breach the treaty since US forces controlled the weapons until a decision was made to go to war when the treaty would no longer be controlling. Few states then knew of the NATO nuclear sharing arrangements, which were not challenged.

NATO's Aims and Deployment of Nuclear Weapons

In May 1978, NATO countries officially defined two complementary aims of the Alliance: to maintain security and pursue détente. That was supposed to mean matching defenses at the level rendered necessary by the Warsaw Pact's offensive capabilities without spurring a further arms race. On 12 December 1979, in light of a build-up of Warsaw Pact nuclear capabilities in Europe, ministers approved the deployment of US GLCM cruise missiles and Pershing II theatre nuclear weapons in Europe. The new warheads were also intended to bolster the West's negotiating stance in nuclear disarmament talks. The Dual Track policy was the name of that policy. In response to the deployment of Warsaw Pact SS-20 medium-range missiles in Europe in 1983 and 1984, NATO deployed modern Pershing II missiles tasked to hit military targets such as tank formations in the event of war. This action led to peace movement protests throughout Western Europe.

End of the Cold War and NATO's Adaptation



The Revolutions of 1989 and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact in 1991 removed the de facto main adversary of NATO and caused a strategic re-evaluation of NATO's purpose, nature, tasks, and their focus on the continent of Europe. In practice, the organization sought better relations with former Warsaw Pact countries, most of which joined the alliance in 1999 and 2004. Several of these countries actively participated in the Iraq War.

NATO's Role in the War on Terrorism

Following the September 11 attacks and the invocation of Article 5 of the NATO Charter, NATO took on a major role in the War on Terrorism. On October 16, 2003, NATO's Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU) was deployed to Afghanistan, marking the first time that NATO troops were sent outside of Europe in response to the threat of terrorism. NATO's involvement in Afghanistan continued, expanding its mission to include stabilization and reconstruction efforts, training of Afghan security forces, and counterinsurgency operations.

Modern Challenges and NATO's Adaptation

In recent years, NATO has faced new challenges and has adapted its focus accordingly. The annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 and the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine have led to increased tensions between NATO and Russia. NATO has responded by enhancing its military presence in Eastern Europe and implementing a series of reassurance measures to deter any potential aggression. Additionally, NATO has recognized the need to address emerging security threats such as cyber warfare, terrorism, and hybrid warfare. The alliance continues to evolve and adapt to ensure the collective defense and security of its member states.



Founding Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Belgium

After World War II, Belgium swiftly restored its economy, presenting an opportunity to reevaluate its defense and foreign policies with neighboring countries. The establishment of the Benelux Customs Union, which eliminated tariffs between Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg, further strengthened regional relationships. In line with this, on March 17, 1948, Belgium adopted the Brussels Treaty, solidifying its ties with Western European countries. As a culmination of these efforts, Belgium signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. on April 4, 1949, becoming a founding member of NATO.

Canada

Canada emerged from World War II with an undamaged economy and a robust army. Recognizing the rising influence of the Soviet Union, Canada actively engaged in negotiations for a transatlantic collective security alliance. Canada envisioned NATO as more than just a military pact, aiming to foster economic and cultural ties among member nations. Canadian negotiators played a significant role in shaping the 14 articles of the NATO treaty, ultimately signing the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. on April 4, 1949, solidifying its position as a founding member of NATO.

Denmark

During World War II, Denmark maintained neutrality. However, in 1949, the Danish Parliament overwhelmingly voted in favor of NATO membership, driven by the country's strategic significance in the geopolitical landscape. Denmark, being a key ally for the Western



Allies, played a crucial role in the defense strategy. As a result of the parliamentary decision, Denmark formally signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. on April 4, 1949, solidifying its membership as a founding member of NATO.

France

In the aftermath of World War II, France firmly believed in the need for a Western defense structure and played an instrumental role as a founding member of NATO. The adoption of the Brussels Treaty in 1948 marked a significant step for France in strengthening its relationships with neighboring countries and Western allies. In line with its commitment, France signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. on April 4, 1949, cementing its position as a founding member of NATO.

Iceland

Iceland remained neutral and uninvolved in World War II until it was occupied by the United States. Following the war, the United States offered to lease three bases in Iceland, which were declined. Iceland, proud of its pacifist and neutral traditions, faced a challenging process to join NATO. The parliamentary vote on NATO membership led to protests in Reykjavík, the capital city of Iceland. However, after navigating through these complexities, Iceland formally joined NATO by signing the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949, in Washington, D.C., becoming a founding member.

Italy

Italy underwent extensive domestic debates and divisions regarding its NATO membership. Its strategic position in the Mediterranean Sea played a crucial role in NATO's defense of the Southern Flank. Furthermore, Italy saw NATO membership as an opportunity to demonstrate



the importance of democracy, freedom, and individual rights, especially given the influence of the Communist Party in the government. Though Italy initially provided conflicting responses influenced by the Communist Party, the victory of the Christian Democrats in the 1948 election solidified Italy's determination to join NATO. Thus, on April 4, 1949, Italy signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C., becoming a founding member of NATO.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg, a country historically associated with neutrality and isolationism, faced the invasion and occupation by Nazi Germany during World War II. During this time, Luxembourg signed the Benelux Agreement with Belgium and the Netherlands to bolster its economy. After the liberation by the US Army in 1944, Luxembourg intensified its relationships with European and Western countries by joining the Western Union in 1948. Consequently, on April 4, 1949, Luxembourg became a member of NATO by signing the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C., as a founding member.

Netherlands

Unlike its neighboring countries Belgium and Luxembourg, the Netherlands suffered significant devastation during the war and faced extensive reconstruction efforts. In 1940, Nazi Germany invaded the Netherlands, leading the Dutch Cabinet to relocate to England for safety. This displacement fostered closer relations among the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Belgium, with a shared vision of Western European unity. The Netherlands signed the Benelux Agreement with its neighboring countries and actively contributed to the creation of the Western Union, signing the Brussels Pact in 1948. In 1949, the Dutch East Indies declared independence and became Indonesia. On April 4, 1949, Foreign Minister Dirk Stikker signed



the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C., officially making the Netherlands a founding member of NATO.

Norway

Norwegian politician Trygve Lie advocated for a new transatlantic security organization that would include the United States, the United Kingdom, and Norway. The end of World War II presented an opportunity for Norway to pursue this vision, known as "the Nordic Option." In 1948, Norway, together with Sweden and Denmark, explored the idea but concluded that a potential Nordic bloc would require support from the US and Western Europe to effectively counter Soviet aggression. Considering these factors, Norway decided to join the North Atlantic Alliance and, on April 4, 1949, signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C., becoming a member of NATO.

Portugal

Portugal had longstanding relations with the United Kingdom, aiding each other during challenging times and maintaining privileged trade agreements. When invited to join the North Atlantic Alliance, Portugal had concerns about potential exploitation of its naval and air bases. However, NATO assured the Portuguese government that the use of these resources would require full consent. On April 4, 1949, Portugal signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C., becoming a member of NATO.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

As an island empire with numerous colonies worldwide, the United Kingdom relied heavily on a maritime strategy for defense. However, World War II necessitated a significant focus on land forces to counter Nazi Germany. The war also severely impacted the UK's economy. In



light of these challenges, the UK recognized the need for a united Europe prepared to defend itself against future conflicts, emphasizing the reduction of risks. To this end, the UK signed the Brussels Pact in 1948, taking significant steps to strengthen relationships with neighboring countries and Western allies. On April 4, 1949, the UK solidified its commitment by signing the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C., and became a founding member of NATO.

The United States of America

Following World War II, the United States emerged as a superpower with a robust economy and military strength. Despite its policy of isolationism, the US demonstrated its commitment to aiding "free people" by providing financial assistance to Turkey and Greece as protection against potential communist threats. The US further launched the Marshall Plan, officially known as the European Recovery Program, to rebuild war-torn European economies. Engaging in secret talks with Canada and Britain, the US played a pivotal role in the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty. Influenced by events such as the Berlin Blockade and the communist coup in Czechoslovakia, the US signed the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949, in Washington, D.C., establishing itself as a founding member of NATO.

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Greece

Given the concerns regarding the expansion of communism throughout Europe and other regions, securing the southeastern part of Europe became crucial to prevent its potential spread. Greece's membership was of paramount importance for NATO, as it would strengthen



the alliance's southern flank. Recognizing this strategic significance, Greece joined NATO on February 18, 1952.

Turkey

Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Turkey plays a vital role in connecting the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Therefore, Turkey's membership in NATO is highly beneficial for the Alliance. As the Cold War divided Europe into the Western Bloc and the Eastern Bloc, Turkey aligned itself with Western powers. This decision ultimately led to Turkey's membership in NATO on February 18, 1952.

Germany

After World War II, integrating the Federal Republic of Germany into Western European defense structures became a priority for NATO. While Western leaders and their populations initially opposed any form of rearmament, it became evident that a credible deterrent force was necessary to protect West Germany from the influence of communism. France initially proposed the creation of a European Defense Community, but when this plan was rejected by the French Senate, Germany's NATO membership emerged as the optimal solution. To facilitate this membership, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Soviet Union had to end their invasion and occupation of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Italy and West Germany needed to be admitted to the Western Union Defense Organization. Through these diplomatic efforts, Germany joined the Western Union, and the occupied status of the Federal Republic of Germany was terminated, bringing Germany closer to NATO membership. On May 6, 1955, Germany officially became the 15th member country of NATO.



Spain

By 1982, Spain had already established its presence in the international community through its membership in organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Since 1975, Spain had increasingly engaged in Euro-Atlantic affairs. In 1981, a military coup occurred, leading to the rise of the Socialist Party in Spain. Initially, the Socialist government opposed NATO membership, creating a challenging social and political context both domestically and internationally. However, despite significant public opposition, Spain joined the Alliance on May 30, 1982.

These countries, with their unique histories, geopolitical positions, and contributions, have played crucial roles in the establishment and development of NATO. Their membership has fostered a spirit of collective defense, cooperation, and shared values among the member nations, ensuring the security and stability of the North Atlantic region for over seven decades.

The second wave of post-Cold War enlargement

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia had entered the “Partnership for Peace Programme” and had participated in the “Membership Action Plan” before 2002, the year of the start of their accession talks for the Alliance. All of these countries wanted to improve their economies, develop their bonds with Euro-Atlantic countries and ensure their countries’ safeties.

In 2002; Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were invited to begin accession talks at the Alliance's Prague Summit. Two years later, on 29 March 2004,

they became members of the Alliance officially and made this the largest wave of enlargement in NATO history.

Albania

Albania's relations with NATO began in 1992 when it joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and in 1994 Albania entered the "Partnership for Peace Programme" as the first Eastern European country to join this programme. In 1999, the country received a Membership Action Plan (MAP). Afterwards, Albania received an invitation to join at the 2008 Bucharest Summit and became a full member on April 1, 2009.

Croatia

Croatia's relations with NATO were established in 1953. In 1953, Yugoslavia entered into the Balkan Pact, a loose military alliance with Greece and Turkey, then both recent NATO members. In 2000, Croatia entered the "Partnership for Peace Programme" which is the first step to accession to the alliance. Then, Croatia received an invitation to join at the 2008 Bucharest Summit and became a full member on April 1, 2009.

Montenegro

In June 2006, Montenegro regained its independence and shortly after, in December 2006, Montenegro joined the "Partnership for Peace Programme". 3 years later, Montenegro joined the "Membership Action Plan (MAP)". By this, Montenegro supported NATO leading operations in Afghanistan. This support and cooperations were an important part of reinforcing the relations and strengthening the alliance with NATO before becoming a member country. After all that's happened, in May 2016, The Accession Protocol was signed and Montenegro became a member of the Alliance on 5 June 2017.

North Macedonia

In 1991, North Macedonia became independent and 4 years later, in 1995, joined the “Partnership for Peace Programme”. Afterwards, in 1999, North Macedonia joined the “Membership Action Plan”. Between 2001 and 2003, NATO conducted three operations to help quell tensions in the country on the request of Skopje. North Macedonia had cooperated with NATO in a lot of areas such as institutional, democratic, security sector and defense reforms before becoming a member of the Alliance. The major problem for North Macedonia’s membership was the issue of the country’s name. In 2008, The Prespa Agreement was struck between Athens and Skopje which resolved the issue. On 15 February 2019, the country which was previously known as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was officially recognised as the Republic of North Macedonia and on 27 March 2020, Republic of North Macedonia became NATO's 30th member officially.

Strengthening the Alliance

In order to strengthen NATO, Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg was asked by NATO leaders to supervise a time of contemplation and planning in December 2019. In June 2020, the NATO Secretary General presented his vision for NATO 2030. These included making sure NATO keeps its military strength, develops politically, and has a more global outlook. Allied legislators, representatives of civil society, experts from the public and private sectors, and young people were brought together for NATO 2030 in order to support the Secretary General's work by providing fresh insights on how to build NATO an even stronger Alliance. At the 2021 NATO Summit in Brussels, the NATO Leaders endorsed the NATO 2030 agenda, which intends to strengthen the Alliance over the following ten years and beyond.



What is NATO 2030

NATO 2030, an ambitious strategy, aspires to guarantee that the alliance is cohesive, robust, and ready for a new era of increased global competition.

NATO leaders recommended that Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg conduct a forward-looking reflection to strengthen and prepare NATO for the future at their December 2019 summit in London.

Over the recent year, the Secretary General spoke extensively with allies and received informed advice from a varied team of specialists. He also interacted with civil society, young people, parliamentarians, and the commercial sector to help shape the NATO 2030 agenda.

Based on this, the Secretary General issued concrete suggestions to strengthen and prepare NATO for the future. Allies have been considering these ideas for some months, and NATO Leaders endorsed the NATO 2030 agenda on June 14, 2021.

The Summit occurs at a pivotal point in NATO's development as a reaction to rising global competition and more unforeseen dangers, including as terrorism, cyberattacks, disruptive technologies, climate change, and Russia and China's challenges to the rules-based international order. In the face of a world that is become more unpredictable and competitive, the NATO 2030 agenda is about standing strong as a group.

1. A deeper level of political coordination and consultation

The decision to expand and deepen political discussion was made by NATO leaders. In order to discuss every issue impacting the security of the Allies, they decided to meet more frequently. They also agreed to start working to reopen discussions on issues of economic security like export restrictions and technology transfers. They also agreed to continue



consulting on issues like arms control, climate change and security, emerging and disruptive technologies, and security issues related to the use of nuclear weapons.

Additionally, allies agreed to hold an additional meeting of their foreign ministers per year and to have more meetings with their capitals in a variety of forms, including with their national security advisors, political directors, and other senior officials. In order to address shared security problems more effectively through non-military means and to seek consensus on positions before gatherings in other international fora like the UN General Assembly and the G-20, allies will also participate in extra discussions.

Why is this so crucial?

NATO is the sole platform that connects Europe and North America on a daily basis.

By expanding the scope of consultations, upping the frequency of high-level meetings, and interacting more with allied capitals, NATO will be better able to serve as the one and only forum for transatlantic consultations on security and defense, ensuring that Europe and North America can continue to successfully address a variety of security challenges.

2. Greater Deterrence and Defense

At the summit, the leaders of the allies resolved to increase their collective defense and deterrence. They reiterated their dedication to keeping a well-balanced stockpile of conventional, nuclear, and missile defense weapons. They stressed the significance of the NATO-agreed objective of investing 2% of GDP in defense and 20% of annual defense spending on substantial new equipment by 2024, as well as the relevance of the 2014 Defense Investment Pledge. They also decided to continue to raise force readiness to meet present and



future security demands. They also committed to fully and swiftly implement military projects to strengthen the Alliance's deterrence and defense posture.

Why is this so crucial?

The most major Allied collective defense reinforcement in a generation has been carried out by NATO since 2014. Along with expenditures in enhancing the Alliance's preparation, responsiveness, and capacity to reinforce, allies have committed more forces and made new deployments on allied soil. At the Brussels Summit in 2021, allies took more steps to strengthen the Alliance's military posture, increase the defense budget, and upgrade capabilities to defend and protect all Allies from any threat at any time.

3. Higher Resilience

Allies will approach resilience in a more comprehensive and well-coordinated way. They made the decision to develop resilience objectives to guide nationally specific resilience goals and implementation methods based on more precise and quantified Alliance-wide resilience targets. As a result, NATO will be able to examine national resilience programs and better direct them in support of the Alliance's collective defense. It will also be possible to better connect resilience to the Alliance's overall posture and strategy. The decision was made by the allies to select a senior commander to oversee national initiatives and enhance and streamline NATO deliberations.

Why is this so crucial?

Our first line of defense is resilience, and it is essential for NATO to carry out its three core responsibilities of cooperative security, crisis management, and collective defense. Our military need reliable civilian infrastructure and services to operate effectively in times of



peace, crisis, or conflict. Dealing with potential adversaries that use a variety of military, political, and economic weapons to harm our communities and jeopardize Allied security requires resilience as well.

NATO already plays a significant responsibility in fostering resilience, especially by defining baseline resilience standards for partners. The seven fundamental standards that allies have agreed upon can be used to measure their readiness. The condition of vital infrastructure, such as ports and airports, fuel supplies, food and medical supplies, and telecommunication networks like 5G, was thoroughly assessed by NATO Defense Ministers last year. The NATO 2030 decisions build on earlier initiatives by tangibly increasing the Alliance's mandates and tools to reach a minimum level of shared resilience across Allies.

4. Maintain The Leading Edge of Technology

Allies decided to create a new civil-military defense innovation accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA). This Accelerator will promote transatlantic cooperation on critical technologies, improve interoperability, and harness civilian innovation by working with academia and the business sector, including start-ups. Along with offices and testing facilities spread out around the Alliance, DIANA will also have a directory of reputable funding sources. Allies also resolved to create a NATO Innovation Fund with international funding, which they can choose to participate in. This fund will be used to invest in start-ups developing disruptive innovations and dual-use technologies in fields crucial to Allied security.

Why is this so crucial?

As a result of new technologies, peace, crisis, and war are all changing. NATO partners cannot afford to take for granted their technological edge. For instance, China intends to surpass the United States as the leader in artificial intelligence during the following ten years.



As the key forum for transatlantic cooperation on the security implications of novel and disruptive technologies, NATO is resolute to stay ahead of the curve.

In recent years, NATO has intensified its attention on disruptive and emerging technologies, adopting a plan to secure NATO's competitive edge in seven important disruptive technologies (artificial intelligence, data and computing, autonomy, quantum-enabled technologies, biotechnology, hypersonic technology, and space). The Alliance will be able to more quickly embrace new technologies, expand our industrial base, and close innovation gaps thanks to DIANA, ensuring that Allies can work successfully together going forward.

5. Maintain the International Order Based on Rules

In addition to establishing new alliances in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, members resolved to strengthen NATO's ties with other like-minded friends and international organizations. The Open Door policy was reiterated by Leaders since NATO continues to be committed to its close neighbors and those who wish to join the alliance. Allies also took action to strengthen and deepen their relationship with the EU.

Why is this so crucial?

NATO has to confront global challenges to Allied security more broadly if it is to be effective and safe in the Euro-Atlantic zone. In sectors crucial to the security of the Allies, the Alliance must likewise strengthen its ability to contribute to the maintenance and development of the rules-based international order.

The authoritarian nations that do not uphold our ideals, including as Russia and China, are waging a war against the rules-based international system that promotes the security, freedom, and prosperity of Allies. Our security, beliefs, and democratic way of life are all impacted by this. Through the NATO 2030 choices, NATO will invest in strengthening and expanding our



relationships in accordance with our values and interests to defend the rules-based international order.

6. Strengthen capacity building and training

Allies made the decision to step up NATO efforts to improve our allies' capacity in a number of areas, including defense reform, stability, hybrid assault defense, crisis management, and counterterrorism.

Why is this so crucial?

We feel safer when NATO's neighbors are more secure. Experience has shown that when it comes to guaranteeing stability, prevention is preferable to intervention. While NATO must always be prepared to send soldiers into a crisis when necessary, such missions are expensive, challenging to sustain, and do not often address the underlying causes of instability and insecurity.

A better long-term and cost-effective strategy for boosting security and stability and countering terrorism is to strengthen allies and educate local police. As a result of their extensive expertise in this field, NATO and its partners may be able to better achieve its core goals of crisis management and cooperative security.

7. Combat and Adapt to Climate Change

A bold new NATO Action Plan on Climate Change and Security was agreed by NATO leaders with the intention of making NATO the foremost international organization in identifying and responding to the impacts of climate change on security. Leaders vowed to significantly reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released by military operations and facilities. They asked that the Secretary General look into the potential of attaining net zero



emissions by the year 2050 and set a clear, challenging goal for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions by NATO political and military institutions and facilities.

Why is this so crucial?

The dilemma that defines our generation is climate change. Climate change has an impact on security both inside NATO Allied territory and in NATO's surroundings, including the Sahel, the Middle East, North Africa, and the Arctic. If NATO comprehends the problem, adapts, and mitigates where practical, it will be better equipped to carry out its three primary responsibilities.

NATO will increase awareness by keeping a close eye on climate change and spending more in research, data exchange, and analysis. Under order to function in all conditions—including extreme heat and cold, rising sea levels, and natural disasters—it will hasten its adaption.

NATO will help to cut back on military emissions. By lowering dependency on fossil fuel supplies while enhancing operational effectiveness, going green for the military offers several potential for success. In 2022, NATO will start an international dialogue on climate change and security after realizing the importance of working with other international partners to address the security implications of climate change.

8. The Next Strategic Approach

The Secretary General was tasked by the NATO Leaders to oversee the process of creating the new NATO Strategic Concept in time for the subsequent NATO Summit.

Why is this so crucial?



The Strategic Concept of NATO outlines the overall security environment in which the Alliance functions, identifies the long-term goals and primary responsibilities of the Alliance, and establishes the strategic course for political and military adaptation.

The organization has benefited by adopting the current NATO Strategic Concept, which was done in 2010. But during the past ten years, the globe has undergone significant change. Our security environment is more complex and unpredictable than ever before due to a far more assertive Russia, a more brutal form of terrorism, ongoing instability in our region, growing cyber and hybrid threats, new technologies, pandemics, and climate change. Importantly, China's rise significantly changes the balance of power.

The new NATO Strategic Concept will help the Alliance get ready for future threats to security and rising levels of global competition. It will also reaffirm the Alliance's fundamental principles and long-term objective of using political and military measures to guarantee the independence and security of all Allies.

9. Investing in NATO

Allies pledged to ensuring that the Alliance has the necessary resources, both in terms of national defense spending and NATO common financing, to carry out the NATO 2030 commitments.

The NATO 2030 agenda increases the Alliance's level of ambition and provides a clear path for future adaptation. To achieve these goals in a more complicated security environment, additional funding will be needed across all three NATO budgets: the infrastructure, civil, and military. To ensure that the Alliance continues to deliver our shared defense and security beyond 2030, NATO leaders resolved to find these additional resources, including through NATO common expenditure.

Why is this so crucial?



In response to a more complex and unpredictable security environment, NATO Allies have dramatically increased their total defense budget. Approximately USD 260 billion has been added to defense budget since 2014, making 2021 the seventh year in a row that European Allies and Canada have boosted defense spending. It will be crucial to maintain this momentum.

At the same time, partners are thinking about ways to increase collective investments in NATO. More joint training and exercises, better cyber defenses, cutting-edge capabilities, and capacity-building for our allies will be possible with a modest increase in the shared budget as a fraction of total defense spending. NATO investment increases force multiplicity, boosts effectiveness, and sends a strong message of commitment and unity.

About deterrence and defence

NATO is a defensive alliance, and its members are dedicated to protecting one another's freedom and security against threats coming from all sides. Deterrence and defense are two of NATO's main objectives. Allies are significantly enhancing the Alliance's deterrence and defense as the foundation of their Article 5 vow to help one another.

A. A Dynamic Security Environment

The security environment in which NATO is working is the most challenging since the end of the Cold War. Security in Europe is put at risk by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, while terrorism continues to be a global security problem and a threat to stability. China's rise is also changing the balance of power in the world, which has an impact on the security, principles, and way of life of the Alliance. Rapid technical advancement increased and disruptive cyber and hybrid threats, and rising global instability all have a big impact on the Alliance.



Russian military intervention in Ukraine has shattered the peace in Europe and is wreaking havoc on countless people. The biggest and most immediate threat to the security of the Allies as well as to the peace and stability of the Euro-Atlantic area comes from Russia. The international system built on rules is at danger as a result of its aggressive military posture, rhetoric, and shown willingness to use force to further its political objectives. The biggest immediate asymmetric threat to the security of NATO citizens as well as to the stability and prosperity of the global economy is terrorism, in all of its manifestations. Security of the Alliance and its partners is directly impacted by conflict, fragility, and instability in Africa and the Middle East. The Middle East, North Africa, and the Sahel region, which are NATO's southern neighbors, are dealing with related security, demographic, economic, and political problems. These problems are made worse by factors such as climate change, shaky institutions, medical emergency, and food shortages.

B. Guaranteeing Its Members' Freedom and Security

The primary and ongoing objective of NATO is to use political and military measures to safeguard the freedom and security of each and every one of its members. Collective defense is the foundation of the Alliance, as stated in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. NATO's top duty is to protect and defend Allied territory and populations against attack in a world where peace and security cannot be taken for granted.

Deterrence plays a significant role in NATO's overall strategy, which also entails preventing conflict and war, defending Allies, upholding individuals' right to free choice and action, and upholding the ideals and principles that NATO upholds, including individual liberty, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Strong transatlantic defense is necessary for free societies and the legal order of the international community.



A new baseline for NATO's deterrence and defense posture was established at the 2022 Madrid Summit in accordance with its 360-degree strategy, across the land, air, sea, cyber, and space domains, and against all threats and challenges.

A suitable combination of nuclear, conventional, and missile defense capabilities, together with space and cyber capabilities, forms the foundation of NATO's deterrence and defense posture. NATO continues to have the independence and flexibility to respond to a wide range of issues in a suitable and specialized manner.

C. The first line of defense and deterrence is resilience.

An essential part of NATO's deterrence and defensive posture is increasing resilience by improving societies' capacity to anticipate, respond to, recover from, and adapt to a wide range of threats and hazards. Today's security worries for the Alliance, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing geopolitical rivalry, and other security issues, emphasize the necessity of NATO's "all hazards" and "whole of society" approach to resilience. By preparing, empowering, and investing in societies' capacity to defend themselves against a wide range of threats, from cyberattacks to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents, terrorism, pandemics, and natural disasters, allies address vulnerabilities that could otherwise be used as leverage or targeted by adversaries. Therefore, resilience is a crucial component of deterrence through denial, which involves convincing an enemy not to strike by showing it that an assault won't accomplish its stated goals.

Since resilience impacts NATO's capacity to carry out duties and maintain personnel and equipment mobility, resilience needs close civil-military interaction. Making sure that the civilian infrastructure and resources supporting the military and national forces under NATO command are adequate is a crucial part of NATO's measures to promote resilience. Since 2014, NATO has provided guidance to national authorities in order to help them improve their



resilience across seven fundamental criteria by reducing potential vulnerabilities. These requirements are updated often to reflect how the Alliance's problems are evolving.

The 2022 Strategic Concept emphasizes the significance of adopting a more integrated and better coordinated approach to resilience within the Alliance, including against Russian coercion and in supporting NATO partners to counter malicious interference and aggression.

This is in line with the NATO 2030 agenda and the 2021 Strengthened Resilience Commitment. The Allies' national and collective resilience must be strengthened through partnerships with non-NATO countries and other organizations. These partnerships are also essential for advancing the Alliance's planning and preparation through the sharing of best practices and information.

D. NATO's preparedness, responsiveness, and reinforcement will be strengthened.

The Readiness Action Plan (RAP), unveiled at the 2014 Wales Summit, was a significant driver of reform in the Alliance's deterrent and defense posture. The RAP comprised assurance measures to reassure NATO Allies in Central and Eastern Europe, prevent potential attack, and strengthen defenses.

NATO Heads of State and Government approved a strengthened deterrence and defensive posture based on the RAP at the Warsaw Summit in July 2016. It provided the Alliance with a wide range of options for defending Alliance land, populace, airspace, and marine lines of communication in the event of an invasion from anyplace. Four NATO multinational battlegroups have been stationed in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland since 2017. Allies chose to boost their forward posture. Security was boosted in the Alliance's southeast by implementing additional measures, such as tailored Forward Presence. In addition, a number of initiatives have been put in place to help the Alliance meet the challenges posed by the South, such as building capacity, conducting specific training, planning ahead, and creating



the Regional Hub for the South in Naples, Italy, which helps NATO stay aware of the situation.

Since military training is a crucial component of maintaining the Alliance's readiness levels and enhancing interoperability, exercises continue to be a vital component of NATO's deterrence and defense posture.

NATO's adaptation efforts continue in all domains and areas such as civic preparation and hybrid threat countering, including collaboration with the European Union (EU). Relations with the EU involve greater collaboration as well as the development of complementary and interoperable capabilities to minimize duplication and contribute to transatlantic burden-sharing.

At the 2018 Brussels Summit, NATO Leaders reiterated their commitment to enhancing the Alliance's readiness, responsiveness, and reinforcement to respond to challenges from all directions in a 360-degree strategy. A NATO Readiness Initiative was launched to improve the Alliance's capacity for quick action, either for supporting Allies in support of deterrence or collective defense, including high-intensity warfighting, or for swift military crisis response, if necessary. It called for the readiness in 30 days or less of 30 heavy or medium maneuver battalions, 30 kinetic air squadrons, and 30 significant navy vessels. Larger war units are being formed out of these forces through organization and training.

As an operational area, NATO has determined that cyberspace requires the same level of self-defense as it does in the air, on land, and at sea. The Alliance's deterrence measures include the development of a Cyberspace Operations Centre in Belgium in 2018 and the creation of counter-hybrid support teams to assist Allies in need. At the NATO Summit in 2021, allies adopted a new Comprehensive Cyber Defence Policy, which supports NATO's fundamental



responsibilities as well as the Alliance's overall deterrence and defensive posture to increase the Alliance's resilience in cyberspace.

The security ramifications of Russia's growing arsenal of nuclear-capable missiles, which pose a serious danger to Alliance security and are in violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, are currently being debated by NATO. As a response, the Alliance is increasing its advanced conventional capabilities, investing in new platforms, particularly fifth-generation fighter aircraft, and adjusting its training, intelligence, and air and missile defense posture. While doing so, it keeps its nuclear deterrence safe, secure, and effective. At the same time, NATO continues to encourage all countries, including Russia and China, to engage in constructive dialogue and has a strong commitment to effective arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

A fifth operating region was declared by NATO during its Leaders' Meeting in London in December 2019. For NATO activities, operations, and missions including collective defense, crisis response, and counterterrorism, satellite data gathering, and distribution are essential. A focal point for information exchange, activity coordination among Allies, and support for NATO operations and missions is the NATO Space Centre, which debuted in Germany in 2020. At the Brussels Summit in 2021, NATO agreed that attacks from, into, or within space represent a clear danger to the security of the Alliance and might trigger the North Atlantic Treaty's Article 5 clause.

On March 24, 2022, NATO leaders gathered in Brussels to review the impact of Russia's brutal and unjustifiable attack and to decide how to strengthen NATO's deterrence and defense. They decided to increase the number of multinational battlegroups on its eastern flank from four to eight by stationing four additional battlegroups beside those that were already in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. They also made the decision to boost collective defense and interoperability drills as well as cyber defenses.



At the Madrid Summit in June 2022, NATO leaders determined to significantly strengthen the Alliance's defensive and deterrence stance. In order to achieve this, allies decided to rebalance the proportion of existing forces and reinforcement, and they committed to deploying more substantial, combat-ready in-place forces on NATO's eastern flank, scaled up from battalion-sized battlegroups to brigades as necessary, supported by credible, readily available reinforcements, prepositioned equipment, and improved command and control. This will boost future defense capabilities and improve deterrence. The alliance's next generation of military plans will be resourced by this new force model, which the allies also agreed upon. It will improve and modernize the NATO Force Structure. The allies committed to maintaining a significant and constant presence on land, at sea, and in the air, notably by bolstering their integrated air and missile defense.

E. Maintaining The Military and Technical Superiority of The Alliance

The Alliance must be ready to uphold peace now, but it must also be ready for the future's more unstable security environment. To that end, the Allied Leaders decided to fully embrace the NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept, which calls for a more proactive and anticipatory approach to military adaptation, during the NATO Summit in Brussels in June 2021. The ability of NATO to dissuade and defend against potential adversaries has always depended on maintaining its technological edge. Combat is changing as a result of artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons systems, big data, and biotech.

To assist it preserve its technical edge, NATO has chosen an implementation plan for novel and disruptive technologies. At the Madrid Summit in June 2022, it also created a Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) and launched a worldwide Innovation Fund, bringing together governments, industry, and academia to bolster NATO's technological edge. The Alliance will be crucial as a forum for collaboration on many security-related components of these emerging technologies.



F. Investing in Defence

The 2014 NATO Leaders' Defence Investment Pledge urged all Allies to stop decreasing defense spending and work toward the NATO-set goal of allocating at least 2% of GDP to defense within ten years. In the same time frame, allies also committed to investing at least 20% of annual defense budgets on essential new equipment, including related research and development. The Pledge also obligated Allies to ensure that their armed forces can work together effectively, particularly by applying NATO standards and doctrines, and that their land, air, and marine forces comply with NATO-established norms for deployability, sustainability, and other agreed metrics.

Since 2014, the Allies have significantly improved their defense spending and made investments in vital machinery, opening the door for a more equal burden-sharing arrangement. With a cumulative expenditure of over USD 350 billion since 2014, 2022 would be the ninth year in a row that European Allies and Canada have increased defense expenditures. NATO needs additional heavy, high-end equipment, but allies are also improving the readiness, deployability, sustainability, and interoperability of their own forces. In response to rising security concerns and challenges, allies have intensified their efforts to achieve the goals of the 2014 Defense Investment Pledge. For the Alliance to have the forces and capabilities it needs both now and in the future, military spending is essential.

Strengthened Resilience Commitment

The Heads of State and Government of the North Atlantic Alliance reaffirm that national and collective resilience are vital for successful fulfillment of the main duties of the Alliance, credible deterrence and defense, and our efforts to defend our communities, people, and shared values.



NATO is renewing and strengthening its commitment made in Warsaw in 2016 by building our national and collective resilience, as well as civil preparation, in an increasingly complex security environment.

The Washington Treaty, in particular Article 3, which specifies that Allies, individually and together, will preserve and expand their individual and collective capacity to resist military assault, is a strong foundation for NATO's commitment to bolstering our country and collective resilience. The commitment of NATO is built on the interdependence of our security and supports our unity and will to protect one another.

National commitment and societal accountability are required for resilience. A comprehensive framework is provided by NATO's baseline criteria for national resilience, which are updated to reflect new priorities and challenges. These standards serve as a foundation for NATO's three fundamental missions of collective defense, crisis management, and cooperative security. NATO commits to further up efforts to meet these standards, noting that they have made significant progress in doing so.

NATO has decided to strengthen NATO's resilience under NATO 2030. Noting that maintaining resilience remains a national responsibility, NATO will take a more integrated and well-coordinated approach to reducing vulnerabilities and ensuring our militaries can function well in times of peace, crisis, and conflict, in keeping with NATO's collective commitment under Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty. Allies will create a proposal to set resilience objectives and evaluate, analyze, and track them in order to inform national resilience goals and implementation strategies. Each Ally will be responsible for deciding how to establish and carry out their own national resilience goals and implementation plans, allowing them to do so in a way that is compatible with their respective national competences, structures, processes, and obligations, as well as, where applicable, those of the EU.



The COVID-19 epidemic has put NATO countries and our resiliency to the test. The reaction from NATO has highlighted the significance of civil-military interaction and collaboration and highlighted the crucial functions that NATO's armed forces provide for NATO countries.

By using a range of strategies and capabilities, NATO addresses risks and challenges to our resilience that come from both state and non-state actors. These threats and challenges can take many different forms. These include traditional, non-traditional, and hybrid threats and activities, terrorist attacks, increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber activities, pervasive hostile information activities, including disinformation aimed at undermining our shared values, and attempts to obstruct NATO's democratic procedures and good governance. We are more able to withstand these dangers and difficulties thanks to NATO's commitment in Warsaw.

In accordance with their respective powers, NATO and the Allies now commit to bolstering their strategy. They will intensify efforts to safeguard and diversify NATO's supply chains, as well as to guarantee the resilience of NATO's crucial industries and infrastructure (on land, at sea, in space, and online), particularly by shielding them from damaging business practices. In order to address the effects of developing technologies, secure next-generation communications networks, and safeguard technology and intellectual property, NATO member states will expand on our work. NATO will step up its efforts to address issues with energy security and the effects of natural disasters that are being made worse by climate change. NATO will increase its own resilience, ensure its capacity to communicate, make decisions, and work as a team.



All North Atlantic Treaty Articles

The Parties to this Treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments.

They are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. They seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area.

They are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security. They therefore agree to this North Atlantic Treaty :

Article 1

Article 1 of the treaty states that members are required to "resolve any international disputes in which they may be involved peacefully so as not to jeopardize international peace, security and justice, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations."

Members strive to uphold peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter in order to foster stability and prosperity in the North Atlantic area.

Article 2

Article 2 of the treaty states that "By bolstering their free institutions, advancing stability and well-being, and advancing a greater understanding of the guiding principles of these institutions, the Parties will support the continued growth of peaceful and cordial international relations. They will work to resolve differences in their international economic strategies and encourage economic cooperation between any or all of them." The "Canadian Clause" was proposed by Pearson, who pushed for its inclusion in the treaty. A trade council, a cultural



initiative, a technological alliance, and an information campaign were among the proposals.

Only the final two received approval. However, it has come up during member trade disputes.

Article 3

In accordance with Article 3 of the treaty, "the Parties, separately and jointly, will preserve and improve their individual and collective capacity to resist armed assault by continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid" in order to "more effectively accomplish the aims of this Treaty."

Since then, this has been seen as the foundation for the 2% GDP expenditure ceiling, which was developed in 2006 as a general guideline. On the occasion of the Wales summit in 2014, this fact was confirmed once more.

The capacity to withstand and recover from significant disasters, infrastructure breakdowns, or conventional military attack has also been utilized as a key notion for a mandate to increase member resilience. This pledge was initially made during the Warsaw summit in 2016, and it was later reaffirmed and made more explicit in light of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

This has been thought to include seven crucial sectors, as per NATO documents:

- Continuity of government during a crisis
- Energy and power grid infrastructure resilience
- Immigration control
- Food and water security
- Medical emergencies
- Resilient civil communications
- Effective transportation networks

Article 4

Article 4 is intended for emergencies or urgent situations since it is frequently seen as the starting point for large NATO operations. When "the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of any of the parties is jeopardized," it formally demands military consultation. Once the NAC is called upon, the subject is discussed, and it may formally result in an Alliance decision or action (logistical, military, or otherwise). Since the alliance's beginning, it has been formally used seven times.

Article 4 has also occasionally been threatened rather than officially invoked. In fact, it was thought that one of the initial purposes of Article 4 was to raise problems and give member countries a tool for deterrent. For instance, the Belorussian migration issue momentarily prompted the Polish foreign ministry to contemplate invoking Article 4 in November 2021, together with Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, but no formal request was made.

Article 5

The treaty's most significant section is Article 5. The commitment clause of the *casus foederis* (case for alliance) establishes it. Each member state is obligated to regard an armed attack on one of its fellow members in Europe or North America as an attack on them all. Each member state is obligated to take "such measures as it thinks appropriate, including the use of armed action, to restore and protect the security of the North Atlantic area" in the case of such an invasion.

In the history of NATO, it has only ever been used once, in 2001, by the United States following the 9/11 attacks. On October 4, 2001, NATO found that the assaults did, in fact, qualify under the rules of the North Atlantic Treaty, and this affirmed the invocation.

Operation Eagle Assist and Operation Active Endeavour, a naval operation in the Mediterranean that was intended to stop the transportation of terrorists or weapons of mass



destruction as well as improve shipping security generally, were two of the eight formal responses by NATO to the 9/11 attacks. Starting on October 4th, 2001, Active Endeavour

In the midst of a disagreement over the Syrian Civil War, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan considered utilizing Article 5 of the NATO Treaty to protect Turkish national security in April 2012. The alliance responded quickly, and a spokesperson said the organization was "monitoring the matter very closely and will continue to do so," adding that the alliance "takes it very seriously to safeguard its members." On April 17, Turkey declared that it will bring up the issue subtly at the following NATO ministerial meeting. On April 29, the Syrian foreign ministry declared that it had received Erdoğan's message, which he had forcefully restated a few days before. In reaction to the downing of an "unarmed" Turkish military jet "13 sea miles" from Syria over "international waters" while on a "solo mission to test domestic radar systems," the Turkish Deputy Prime Minister said on June 25 that he intended to invoke Article 5 at a special NATO meeting. A spokesman for the Syrian Foreign Ministry claimed that the aircraft was "flying at an altitude of 100 meters inside Syrian airspace in a clear breach of Syrian sovereignty" and that it was "shot down by anti-aircraft fire," rather than by radar-guided missile, because its bullets "only have a range of 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles)".

On August 5th, Erdoğan said: *"Our domain includes the area around the Suleyman Shah mausoleum in Syria. Any adverse action against that monument must be ignored since it would constitute both an attack on NATO territory and our country. Everyone is aware of their responsibilities and will keep performing the essential tasks."* Prior to the October 2012 ministerial conference, NATO Secretary-General Rasmussen subsequently stated that the alliance was ready to protect Turkey and that it was worried about the border conflict, but he also emphasized the alliance's reluctance to intervene: *"A military intervention can have*

unpredicted repercussions. Let me be very clear. We have no intention to interfere militarily [at present with Syria]."

On March 27, 2014, recordings of a conversation allegedly involving then Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioğlu, then National Intelligence Organization (MIT) head Hakan Fidan, and Deputy Chief of General Staff General Yaşar Güler were released on YouTube. According to reports, the tape was made on March 13 in Davutoğlu's office at the Foreign Ministry. Transcripts of the session show that, in addition to discussing the alternatives for Turkish military engaging in false flag operations within Syria, the group also discussed exploiting the threat to the tomb as a justification to act militarily inside Syria. Erdoğan, according to Davutoğlu, regarded the threat to the tomb as an "opportunity."

An official source was spoken to off-the-record by a journalist prior to the meeting of defence ministers and the newly appointed Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in late June 2015 in Brussels "Legal actions, like running a pro-Moscow TV station, could turn into a more serious attack on a nation, necessitating a NATO response in accordance with Article Five of the Treaty. In October 2015, the final plan is expected." Another report states that as part of the "toughened approach," "the UK has given £750,000 of its money to support a counter-propaganda unit at NATO's headquarters in Brussels."

On August 19, 2022, Tobias Ellwood, the head of the UK Defense Select Committee, declared that any intentional attack on the Ukrainian nuclear power plant Zaporizhzhia that would cause radioactive leakage would be a breach of Article 5. Concerns that a nuclear catastrophe would occur in the facility that is under Russian control during the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 prompted the release of this statement. The next day, American congressman Adam Kinzinger claimed that any radioactive leak into NATO nations would result in fatalities, triggering Article 5.



Article 6











Article 6 of the treaty states that it only covers the territory of the signatory states in Europe and North America, Turkey, the islands in the North Atlantic north of the Tropic of Cancer, and French Algeria. In August 1965, the US State Department, US Defense Department, and NATO's legal branch all concurred that an attack on Hawaii would not violate the treaty, but an attack on the other 49 states would. The Spanish coastal cities of Ceuta and Melilla are not protected by NATO, despite claims from Morocco to the contrary. Although this interpretation has not been put to the test in the actual world, other clauses, according to legal experts, may include the Spanish cities in North Africa. This is also why incidents like the Balyun bombings did not trigger Article 5, because the Turkish forces attacked were in Syria, not Turkey.

NATO decided to assume leadership of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, which consists of personnel from 42 nations, on April 16, 2003. The Netherlands and Germany, who were commanding ISAF at the time of the accord, requested the decision, and all nineteen NATO ambassadors unanimously agreed. It was the first time in NATO's history that it assumed command of a mission beyond the North Atlantic region when leadership was transferred to NATO on August 11.

Article 7 and 8

In the event of a conflict with other international duties (with the exception of the United Nations, which is superseded by Article 7), or a military conflict between two NATO members, Article 8 takes effect. This is especially essential if one member engages in military action against another, in which case the offending members would be held in violation of the treaty and therefore lose NATO protection as a whole. This has not yet occurred, although various militarized disagreements between NATO partners have threatened it:

NATO Militarised Interstate Conflicts

| Date | Belligerents | Conflict |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1958–1961, 1972–73 and 1975–76 |     | Cod Wars |
| 1974 |   | Turkish Invasion of Cyprus |
| 1994-1996 |   | Turbot War |
| 1992-Present |   | The Aegean Dispute |

Article 9

The North Atlantic Council is established, and it is the only NATO organization whose power is derived directly from the treaty. According to the treaty, its principal goals are to enforce Articles 3 and 5.

Article 10

The North Atlantic Treaty is the basis of the organization, and any changes, including new membership, require the approval of all current treaty signatories. In accordance with Article 10 of the Treaty, non-member countries may join NATO:

The Parties may, by unanimous agreement, invite any other European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to this Treaty. Any State so invited may become a Party to the Treaty by depositing its instrument of accession with the Government of the United States of America. The Government of the United States of America will inform each of the Parties of the deposit of each such instrument of accession.

Article 10 imposes two broad limitations on non-member nations. First of all, only countries in Europe are eligible for new membership, and secondly, these states need not only the consent of all current members but also allow each member to suggest particular requirements that must be satisfied. Although Greece, for example, has long held up the Republic of Macedonia's admission to NATO due to a dispute over the use of the name Macedonia,

NATO creates a shared set of standards. The Republic of Cyprus' participation in NATO institutions is also opposed by Turkey as long as the Cyprus issue is not resolved.

NATO has addressed and further defined the requirements and process for admitting new members since the 1991 Rome summit, when the representatives of its member states formally proposed collaboration with Europe's newly democratic governments. The concepts in Article 10 were reiterated in the 1994 Brussels Declaration, which also sparked the "Study on NATO Enlargement." The research, which was released in September 1995, explained the "how and why" of potential European enlargement, emphasizing three ideals from the 1949 treaty for members to possess: "democracy, individual liberty, and rule of law."

The 1995 study, according to NATO Secretary General Willy Claes, did not specify "who or when," but it did discuss how the Partnership for Peace and North Atlantic Cooperation Council, which were just being formed at the time, could aid in the enlargement process[84] and noted that persistent territorial disputes could be a factor in deciding whether a country was invited. In 1997, the NATO chiefs of state issued the "Madrid Declaration on Euro-Atlantic Security and Cooperation," inviting three of the twelve Central European countries that had previously expressed interest in joining the alliance and opening the door for additional to do so. NATO's April 1999 statement of a "NATO open door policy" was built on the language of Article 10.

Article 11

The procedure for the treaty's initial ratification was described in Article 11. The treaty had to be ratified by each signing country in accordance with its own constitutional procedures before it could take effect, and the following countries had to do so:

- Belgium



- Canada
- France
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- The United Kingdom
- The United States

Had to ratify it.

Article 12

The mechanism for amending the treaty is outlined in Article 12 as long as the changes don't go against the UN Charter and still impact the North Atlantic region. In actuality, terminology has only been employed to specify precisely which areas are within NATO's control.

Article 13

The process for quitting NATO is outlined in Article 13, which calls for a one-year notification to the US government, which then sends the notification to the other member nations. Although many member nations have thought about doing this, it has not yet happened, with the exception of withdrawals brought on by the independence of former dependents or territories (namely, Algeria, Malta, and Cyprus).

The next best option, but not an outright withdrawal from NATO, is for a member country to leave the military command structure of the alliance. Both France, who returned in 2009, and Greece, who is still gone, experienced this in 1966 and 1974, respectively.

Article 14



Article 14 states that the official languages of NATO are English and French, and that the US government will distribute copies of the treaty to the other member countries.

Enlargement of NATO

NATO is a military alliance made up of 28 European and 2 North American countries that acts as a vehicle for collective defense. The process of joining the alliance is governed by Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which permits invitations from "other European States" alone, and later agreements. Countries that wish to join must meet specific requirements and through a multi-step process that involves political consultation and military fusion. The admissions procedure is governed by the North Atlantic Council, which is NATO's governing body. Twelve countries initially made up NATO when it was established in 1949; since then, eight additional countries have joined, with Greece and Turkey being the first in 1952. As a condition of the conclusion of the country's occupation by France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, West Germany joined NATO in May 1955. Later that month, the Soviet Union established the Warsaw Pact, an informal collective security organization. In 1982, the newly democratic Spain decided to join NATO after the Franco regime fell.

With restrictions on NATO force deployment in former East German territory, the Soviet Union and NATO agreed in 1990 that a reunified Germany would join NATO on the terms of West Germany's pre-existing membership. Numerous former Warsaw Pact and post-Soviet states started discussing joining NATO after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Despite heated debate within NATO and opposition from Russia, Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999. "Membership Action Plans," which eased the accession of seven Central and Eastern European countries immediately before the 2004 Istanbul summit, helped NATO further codify the membership process: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Two countries on the Adriatic Sea—



Albania and Croatia—joined on 1 April 2009 before the 2009 Strasbourg–Kehl summit. The most recent member states to join NATO were Montenegro on 5 June 2017 and North Macedonia on 27 March 2020.

Finland and Sweden were asked to join NATO in July 2022, and the ratification procedure for both nations is now underway. Ukraine has sought to join NATO as of September 2022, while Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have also publicly informed NATO of their desire to join. Kosovo hopes to join NATO as well. Several additional European nations who are not members of the alliance, such as Austria, Ireland, Malta, Moldova, and Serbia, are debating joining the alliance.

Past Enlargements

1. Cold War

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States were the first 12 members of NATO. Between 1947 and 1953, the Cold War saw an ideological and economic rift between communist Eastern European nations sponsored by the Soviet Union and capitalist Western European states supported by the United States thanks to the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine. As a result, the alliance's opposition to Soviet-style communism became one of its defining characteristics. As a result, internal and external pressure to join the alliance was applied to the anti-communist governments of Greece, which had just finished a civil war against a pro-communist army, and Turkey, whose newly elected Democrat Party were vehemently pro-American. Both governments joined the alliance in February 1952.

The United States, France, and the United Kingdom initially consented to end their occupation of Germany in May 1952 under the Bonn-Paris conventions on the condition that the new Federal Republic of Germany, commonly known as West Germany, would join



NATO due to worries about a non-aligned West Germany being permitted to rearmament. In addition, the allies believed that Soviet proposals for a unified, neutral Germany were dishonest. On the other hand, France postponed the process, partially in exchange for a vote on Saar's future status, and on October 23, 1954, a new treaty was adopted, enabling the North Atlantic Council to formally invite West Germany. In May 1955, membership ratification was completed. In part as a reaction to West Germany joining NATO, the Soviet Union founded its own collective defense pact that was known as the Warsaw Pact that month. Due to the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, Greece suspended its membership in NATO in 1974. It resumed membership with Turkey's help in 1980.



(West Germany's allied occupation came to an end in 1954 thanks to negotiations held in London and Paris, which also enabled for its rearmament as a NATO member.)

Due in large part to Franco's support of Axis forces during World War II, ties between NATO members and dictator Francisco Franco's Spain remained difficult for a long time. Franco reportedly fretted in 1955 that a Spanish application for NATO membership would be rejected by the organization's members despite his anti-communist attitude. Contrarily, Franco frequently made defense agreements with specific parties, like as the 1953 Madrid Pact with the United States, which gave them access to Spanish air and naval facilities. Spain had a



democratic transition when Franco passed away in 1975, and it was under pressure from abroad to mend fences with other Western democracies. Due to coalition differences about the use of US bases, Prime Minister Adolfo Suárez, who was first elected in 1976, handled relations with NATO with care. Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo took office as prime minister after a failed coup attempt in February 1981. He actively pursued Spain's NATO membership, in part to strengthen civilian authority over the armed forces. Spain's NATO membership was finally approved in June 1982. The continuation of Spain's participation in NATO was approved by the Spanish people in a referendum that took place in 1986.

The Warsaw Pact, which had posed a significant threat to NATO, started to lose strength and cohesion in the middle of the 1980s. By 1989, the democratic and nationalist movements had grown too strong for the Soviet Union to control. Polish multiparty elections in June 1989 resulted in the dissolution of the Soviet-aligned Polish Workers' Party, and the quiet opening of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 marked the end of the Warsaw Pact as a mechanism for sustaining Soviet power. A new era for Europe and NATO expansion began with the fall of the Berlin Wall, which is largely seen as the end of the Cold War.

2. German Reunification

East and West Germany's reunification was the subject of discussions throughout 1990, which culminated in the Two Plus Four Treaty's signature in September of that year. It was decided that no foreign troops or nuclear weapons would be stationed in the former East Germany, which legally merged with the Federal Republic of Germany on October 3, 1990, in order to secure the Soviet Union's support for a unification of Germany's ongoing participation in NATO. Historians and experts in international affairs have long argued over whether or not NATO leaders made an informal commitment to refrain from enlarging NATO into other parts of Eastern Europe during these and later meetings with their Soviet counterparts.



Cold War historian Mark Kramer concentrates on one of James Baker's 1990 discussions with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in which Baker suggested that the reunification talks could have produced an agreement where "no extension of NATO's jurisdiction for forces of NATO one inch to the east" applied to all of Eastern Europe. There is no mention of NATO expansion into any other country in the September-October 1990 agreements on the reunification of Germany. Gorbachev's chief negotiator, Eduard Shevardnadze, insisted that NATO never made a similar commitment regarding other Eastern European countries and that "the question never came up" during discussions on German reunification. This was presumably due to the fact that the Warsaw Pact was still in force at the time.

According to Gorbachev, the resulting agreement only extended to East Germany and was upheld by NATO; expanding NATO past East Germany would be "definitely a breach of the spirit of the words and assurances offered to us in 1990," he said. Through diplomatic channels, informal guarantees were given to the Soviet Union in 1990, and later agreements to include the Soviet Union in the post-Cold War Europe's security frameworks were "epitomized and encapsulated." The declarations of the Russian leadership regarding the presence of such assurances are "by no means unwarranted," according to political scientist Marc Trachtenberg, even if they were made without the intent to mislead and were not legally binding.

The Soviet Union made it through the Warsaw Pact's collapse in February 1991, albeit much diminished. A stagnant economy and nationalist tensions, like as the Baltic republics' demands of independence, severely damaged the Union. The leadership of the remaining Soviet Union component countries declared their independence after the New Union Treaty fell through in August 1991, starting with Ukraine. This was the beginning of the Soviet Union's dissolution, which was finished in December of that same year. President Boris Yeltsin led Russia to prominence as the world's most potent sovereign state. Under Yeltsin,

Russia moved to privatize its economy and formalize alliances with NATO states, including by negotiating bilateral trade accords, most notably with the United States. This was in line with the Westernization movement of many former Soviet allies.



(Russian President Boris Yeltsin described NATO expansion as a threat to Russia in December 1997.)

Yeltsin allegedly told Polish President Lech Wasa that Russia does not oppose Poland's NATO membership and does not view it as a threat to Russia during a visit to Poland in August 1993. Under internal pressure, Yeltsin withdrew the informal statement the following month. In a letter dated September 15th, Yeltsin denied making the statement. In an October letter, Yeltsin claimed that the expansion violated the spirit of the 1990 agreement, which sparked a grudge among Russian elites. Given the lack of a compelling strategic reason for NATO to do so and their preference for improved relations with NATO members generally, Russian officials believed that NATO would not expand into the former Soviet countries.

The Russian leadership expressed its opposition as the discussion over potential NATO enlargement took shape. Yeltsin signed a contract with NATO in May 1997 that had language



referring to possible participation; but, in his "National Security Blueprint" in December of the same year, he viewed NATO expansion as a danger. When Yeltsin was succeeded by Vladimir Putin in 2000, whose opinions on NATO have shifted since assuming office, Yeltsin's conversations with NATO would come to an end. In a 2007 address, Russian President Vladimir Putin quoted a quotation from Manfred Wörner from the 1990s to further indicate that expansion promises had been given. He later utilized this notion as a potential excuse for Russia's activities in Ukraine in 2014 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

3. Visegrád Group

The Visegrád Group was established in February 1991 by Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia to promote NATO-compliant military reforms as well as European Union and European Union-sponsored integration. Although there was initially a negative internal NATO attitude toward these former Warsaw Pact countries, by the November 1991 Rome summit, members had agreed on a set of objectives that could result in admission, such as market and democratic reform, and that NATO should be a partner in these efforts. The American government disputed whether NATO enlargement was desired or practical under the George H.W. Bush presidency. By the middle of 1992, the administration as a whole had come to the conclusion that NATO enlargement was a wise realpolitik step to protect Euro-American hegemony.

Bush administration officials were worried that the European Union would fill the security gap in Central Europe caused by the absence of NATO enlargement, eroding American post-Cold War influence. The decision of whether to offer full membership to a small number of countries swiftly or to grant slower, more limited membership to a greater number of states over a longer period of time generated significant debate throughout Bill Clinton's



administration. The success of the Republican Party in the 1994 US congressional election, which ran on a platform of aggressive expansion, influenced US policy in favor of broader full-membership enlargement, which the US subsequently adopted in the years that followed. Clinton made NATO enlargement a top goal during his administration and urged for the accession of former Warsaw Pact and post-Soviet republics in 1996.

One factor driving Central and Eastern European nations to support NATO membership and long-term security was Russian military activity, notably the First Chechen War, especially in those with memories of earlier Soviet offensives. Election results showed that political parties hostile to NATO membership were defeated, including the Slovak HZDS in 1998 and the Bulgarian Socialist Party in 1997. A vote in November 1997 confirmed Hungary's interest in joining, with 85.3% voting in favor of accession. Larger regional cooperation forums were formed at this time by NATO and its eastern neighbors, including the Partnership for Peace and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (later the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council).

At the 1997 NATO summit in Madrid, Slovakia was not invited to join, despite the other Visegrád countries being so. This was because of nationalist Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar's actions, which many members viewed as being anti-democracy. In 1997, both Romania and Slovenia were considered for invites, and both enjoyed the backing of a significant NATO member, namely France and Italy, respectively. However, neither among national governments, including the US Congress, nor among members, support for this enlargement was universal. In an open letter to US President Bill Clinton, more than forty foreign policy experts—among them Bill Bradley, Sam Nunn, Gary Hart, Paul Nitze, and Robert McNamara—expressed their reservations about NATO expansion as both expensive and unnecessary given the absence of an external Russian threat at the time. Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic officially joined NATO in March 1999.

3. Vilnius Group



In order to streamline the process for potential members, NATO announced updated membership criteria and customised "Membership Action Plans" for Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia during the 1999 Washington summit. These countries established the Vilnius Group in May 2000 with Croatia in order to cooperate and advocate for shared NATO membership. By the 2002 Prague summit, seven countries had been invited to join, and this happened in the 2004 Istanbul summit. Slovenia held a NATO referendum the year before, with 66% of voters choosing to join.

The inclusion of the three Baltic states, the first former Soviet Union members to join NATO, greatly infuriated Russia. Despite the Baltic nations' strong appeal to NATO and European integration, Russian military were nevertheless stationed in those countries as late as 1995. Rapid investments in their own armed forces demonstrated how serious they were about joining NATO, and the three nations received important support from individuals like US Senator John McCain, French President Jacques Chirac, and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder for their participation in NATO-led post-9/11 operations, particularly Estonia's in Afghanistan. A 2006 study that appeared in the journal *Security Studies* claims that the 1999 and 2004 NATO expansions helped to strengthen democracy in Central and Eastern Europe.

4. Adriatic Charter

Croatia also unveiled a Membership Action Plan at the summit in 2002, but it was left out of the 2004 enlargement. In May 2003, it joined forces with Albania and Macedonia to create the Adriatic Charter. A national debate over whether a referendum on NATO membership was necessary before joining the organization was sparked by the possibility of Croatian involvement. Ivo Sanader, the prime minister of Croatia, ultimately consented to withdraw one as part of a coalition agreement with the HSS and HSLs parties in January 2008. Albania and Croatia were requested to join NATO during the April 2008 summit in Bucharest, but



Slovenia promised to obstruct Croatian membership because of a territorial dispute in the Bay of Piran. Before Croatia and Albania both formally joined NATO soon before the 2009 Strasbourg-Kehl summit, Slovenia did accept Croatia's accession agreement in February 2009, with little objection from Russia.

Following its declaration of independence on June 3, 2006, Montenegro joined the Partnership for Peace program right away at the summit in Riga that year. On November 5, 2008, the country sought a Membership Action Plan, which was approved in December 2009. In May 2009, Montenegro reinstituted full membership in the Adriatic Charter of NATO aspirants. On December 2, 2015, Montenegro received a formal invitation to join NATO; talks ended in May 2016. NATO accepted Montenegro as a member on June 5, 2017.

North Macedonia joined the Partnership for Peace in 1995, and in 1999, the same year as Albania did, it started its Membership Action Plan. In 2008, Greece denied a possible invitation to the Bucharest summit on the grounds that its neighbor's constitutional name suggested territorial aspirations toward Greek Macedonia, its own territory. NATO members decided that if the Macedonia name problem was settled, the nation would be admitted. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) received a complaint from Macedonia about Greece's denial of Macedonia's application to join NATO. In order to better coordinate its NATO membership, Macedonia, Croatia, and Albania formed the Adriatic Charter in 2003 when both countries were members of the Vilnius Group.

In order to strike a deal with Greece, solve the nomenclature issue, and allay Greek concerns about Macedonia joining the alliance, Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev suggested in June 2017 that he would look into other names for the country. The Prespa Agreement, which was signed in June 2018 and confirmed by a vote in September 2018, ended the naming dispute and saw the nation adopt the name North Macedonia. NATO sent an invitation to North Macedonia to start membership negotiations on July 11; the formal accession

negotiations began on October 18. NATO nations signed the protocol for North Macedonia's membership on February 6, 2019. The majority of countries gave their consent to the Treaty of Admission in 2019, and Spain ratified the protocol for its accession in March 2020. Following the Sobranie's resounding approval of the agreement on March 27, 2020, North Macedonia joined NATO.



Membership Action Plan

At the 1999 Washington summit, which was the most important step in formalizing the process for inviting new members, the Membership Action Plan (MAP) mechanism was approved as a platform for current members to regularly evaluate the official applications of prospective members. A country must submit yearly reports detailing its progress on five key metrics in order to participate in MAP:

- Willingness to settle international, ethnic, or external territorial disputes by peaceful means, commitment to the rule of law and human rights, and democratic control of armed forces
- Ability to contribute to the organization's defense and missions

- The devotion of sufficient resources to armed forces to be able to meet the commitments of membership
- Security of sensitive information, and safeguards ensuring it
- Compatibility of domestic legislation with NATO cooperation

NATO assesses each country's development individually and provides them with technical advice as well as remarks. Once allies concur that a country satisfies the requirements, NATO may issue an invitation to that nation to start accession negotiations. Once accepted, the formal accession process entails five stages that must all be completed before the accession protocols may be signed, adopted, and ratified by the governments of the current NATO members.

In November 2002, NATO formally requested membership from Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia through the MAP. A flag-raising ceremony on April 2, 2004, demonstrated that all seven invited parties arrived in March 2004. After that day, NATO had 26 partners. Between May 2002 and April 2009, Albania and Croatia, Montenegro between December 2009 and June 2017, and North Macedonia between April 1999 and March 2020, when they joined NATO, were all former MAP participants. As of 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina was the only nation taking part in a MAP.

Intensified Dialogue

In response to Ukrainian aspirations for NATO membership and related reforms under President Viktor Yushchenko, and following the signing of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan in 2002 by his predecessor, Leonid Kuchma, Intensified Dialogue was first introduced in April 2005 at an informal meeting of foreign ministers in Vilnius, Lithuania. The 1997 summit in Madrid, where participants decided "to continue the Alliance's intensified dialogs with those



nations that aspire to NATO membership or otherwise wish to pursue a dialog with NATO on membership questions," is where this formula, which covers a "full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to potential NATO membership...", originated.

Georgia became the second nation to be given Intensified Dialogue status in September 2006 as a result of a swift shift in foreign policy under President Mikhail Saakashvili and what they perceived as a demonstration of military readiness during the 2006 Kodori incident.

Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Serbia all received equivalent proposals during the Bucharest summit in April 2008. Serbia's offer was made to secure future ties with the alliance while its neighbors sought and welcomed the discussion program.

Membership of Finland

Since its founding, Finland has maintained a neutral stance, especially during the Cold War. Finland and Russia share a lengthy border. To protect its independence and stay out of military alliances, the Finnish government adopted a non-alignment policy. Finland's security situation underwent significant changes following the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. In the post-Cold War era, as new security threats emerged, Finland sought to strengthen its security cooperation with NATO while preserving its non-alignment policy. Finland became a member of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program in 1994. NATO had established this program to encourage communication, collaboration, and interoperability between NATO and non-NATO nations. Finland takes part in PfP events like joint military drills, training sessions, and policy discussions very seriously. In addition to PfP, Finland has participated in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), a forum for NATO and partner nations to exchange ideas and work together on security-related matters. Finland has improved its communication and hands-on cooperation with NATO through EAPC, enhancing the stability and security of the region. By taking part in numerous missions and operations under NATO command, Finland's involvement with NATO is deepened. In



NATO-led peacekeeping and crisis management operations like the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Kosovo and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, Finnish troops have participated. Finland continues to be non-aligned, but there have been discussions and debates about whether or not it might eventually become a full member of NATO. The Finnish government has periodically examined the potential advantages and implications of joining NATO, but it has not made a final choice. Finland's relationship with NATO is characterized by a practical approach that aims to improve its security and defense capabilities while maintaining its independent foreign policy. Through this partnership, Finland is able to collaborate with NATO on issues relating to international security while still having the freedom to act in accordance with its own national interests. It is significant to note that the data provided represents the situation in Finland's relations with NATO as of the September 2021 knowledge cutoff date. For the most recent information on Finland's involvement with NATO, it is advised to consult the most recent sources as recent developments may have happened since then. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Finland's security environment underwent a significant change. After the invasion, Finland reviewed its security situation and submitted an application to join NATO. On April 4, 2023, Finland was admitted to NATO as a full member. Finland's stability and security will improve as a result of joining NATO, as well as throughout the entire Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe. Additionally bolstering NATO and the Alliance's collective defense are Finland's robust defense capabilities and crisis resilience. Finland is a part of the Alliance and is protected by the security guarantees outlined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty as a result of NATO's collective defense. Due to Finland's membership in NATO, important security-related decisions are made that affect Finland. It is Finland's intention that Sweden join NATO as soon as possible. When Finland and Sweden join NATO, the bar for using military force in the Baltic Sea region will rise, improving the region's long-term stability. All of the Nordic



nations will be NATO members once Sweden and Finland accede. As a result, the Nordic nations can work together to advocate within the Alliance for causes that are significant to them.

Relations between NATO and Sweden

Despite not being a member of NATO, Sweden and NATO have kept a close and cooperative relationship. Sweden has actively pursued a policy of partnership and collaboration with NATO on a number of fronts, despite not joining the alliance. The following is a thorough summary of Sweden's relations with NATO. Partnership for Peace (PfP): Sweden joined NATO's PfP program in 1994. PfP is a framework that enables non-NATO nations to interact politically and militarily with NATO and its member states while also cooperating practically. Increased communication, information sharing, and joint training exercises between Sweden and NATO have been made possible by Sweden's participation in PfP.

Crisis Management and Peacekeeping

Sweden has actively participated in operations for crisis management and peacekeeping led by NATO. Sweden has sent troops to NATO-led operations, including the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, where Sweden helped with reconstruction and stabilization. Along with other nations, Sweden has taken part in missions run by NATO in Libya and Kosovo.

Partner with Enhanced Opportunities

In 2014, Sweden joined NATO's EOP program. Sweden now enjoys a higher standard of political communication, practical cooperation, and access to NATO exercises, training, and information exchange. Sweden has increased its engagement with NATO and taken part in



numerous joint projects and activities as an EOP. Sweden has agreed to give NATO forces host nation support (HNS) in the event of a crisis or while participating in military drills on its soil. HNS provides logistical support, access to infrastructure, and other services that help NATO forces function efficiently during joint exercises or in emergency situations.

Security of the Baltic Sea

Greater cooperation has been achieved in the area as a result of Sweden's proximity to the Baltic Sea and its shared security concerns with NATO members in the area. When it comes to maritime security, situational awareness, and joint exercises, Sweden works closely with NATO allies to address common security challenges in the Baltic Sea region.

Sweden and NATO have collaborated on defense projects to improve capabilities and interoperability. Along with information sharing and defense planning, this also includes joint training exercises. The NATO Smart Defense initiative, which seeks to encourage cooperation among NATO members in the development and acquisition of defense capabilities, has included Sweden as a participant.

Sweden and NATO regularly engage in political conversation at a number of levels. This includes taking part in NATO ministerial conferences, consultations, and discussions on local and international security issues. Despite not being an official member of NATO, Sweden is able to influence its policies and strategies due to its participation in political dialogue.

Though Sweden has increased its cooperation with NATO, any decision to join the organization would need to be supported by a large number of political figures and possibly put to a vote. The country continues to evaluate its security requirements and strategic options in the shifting European security environment. Sweden's public opinion on NATO membership is divided.

Questions to consider

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