



## NATO ENLARGEMENT: THE PATH TO GLOBAL SECURITY

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*Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras (right) meets with UN Special Mediator Matthew Nimetz to discuss the Macedonian name dispute in January 2013.*

“NATO should expand to increase its collective security and enhance its ability to conduct international crisis management missions.”

In a post-9/11 world, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has looked to enlargement as a mechanism to increase its security umbrella. Ivo Daalder and James Goldgeier have argued that “NATO’s next move must be to open its membership to any democratic state... that is willing and able to contribute to the fulfillment of NATO’s new responsibilities.” With unprecedented “out of area” operations, NATO ought to enlarge to support its global presence. NATO should expand to increase its collective security and enhance its ability to conduct international crisis management missions. Once NATO accepts pending membership applications, it can direct its attention to non-traditional, yet promising, new member states.

Membership offers should be extended to states that actively support NATO missions and are poised to contribute

to NATO’s collective security. For example, Macedonia currently has 160 troops involved in peacekeeping in Afghanistan. NATO stands to gain from Macedonia’s accession because Macedonian membership would allow NATO to enhance international stability and security. Not only could NATO provide additional security in the Balkans, but it could also work with Macedonia in a common security framework to coordinate international missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

Macedonia’s stalled bid for membership should move forward with NATO continuing to pressure Greece to resolve the name dispute with Macedonia. In 2011, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Greece could not block Macedonia’s membership bid because it objected to the country’s name. The ICJ ruling stopped short of requiring that Greece accept Macedonian membership. In order to convince

Greece to accept Macedonian membership, NATO should set a timetable for resolving the name dispute and offer to serve in an advisory role during Macedonia's accession negotiations. If Greece does not meet the timetable and fails to support Macedonia's accession, NATO should require Greece to contribute to the Afghan National Army (ANA) Trust Fund; currently, Greece does not pay into the Fund. Once Macedonia and Greece resolve the name dispute, Macedonia should accede to NATO.

Unlike many current NATO member states that have not met defense-spending expectations, Macedonia exceeds NATO's defense spending target by 4%. Therefore, enlargement presents a way to re-energize NATO's military and defense operations with new members' contributions. NATO members are expected to meet the defense-spending target of 2% of the member state's GDP each year, but many NATO states have failed to reach the target. Germany's defense expenditures as a percent of GDP only totaled 1.4% in 2010, falling short of the necessary 2%. Failure to meet the 2% target prevents NATO from effectively carrying out its mandate to provide for members' security or address threats to international security such as unstable regions, terrorism, and the production of weapons of mass destruction. As a result, NATO should enlarge to include states that increase its security capabilities and defense

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*Europe and NATO Enlargement*

resources. After NATO admits states such as Macedonia, it can look to non-traditional, potential member states such as Australia and South Korea. Australia currently spends 3% of GDP on defense while South Korea spends 2.7%. Although Australia and South Korea fall outside of the traditional trans-Atlantic borders, if NATO is committed to expanding global security, it should grant membership to both states.

Both South Korea and Australia have robust economies and an interest in working with NATO, as demonstrated by their involvement with NATO forces in Afghanistan. Currently, over 1,500 Australian Defense Force personnel have participated in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan. Since some of NATO's current member states are "unwilling or unable to contribute sufficient resources to the ISAF," NATO should encourage Australian membership because Australia has played a role in NATO's missions in the past. Much like Australia, South Korea is a critical player in Afghanistan and NATO membership would



*Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard meets with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen.*

allow it to operate within NATO's defense structure to provide stabilization in the region. Adding Australia and South Korea to NATO's ranks would increase NATO's military capabilities and give the organization more flexibility to operate globally. Expanding the alliance to include non-traditional members will aid NATO's capacity to react swiftly and efficiently to threats to international security. Opponents of Australian and South Korean NATO accession argue that both states have more pressing security interests in the Asia Pacific region and would not be willing to work with NATO on global security. South Korea's and Australia's interest and involvement in Afghanistan and NATO security partnerships, however, convey their interest in cooperating with NATO as aspiring potential members.

Although NATO feels a historic link to North Atlantic states, in that it was formed as a trans-Atlantic alliance, it should look to other states that could possibly contribute militarily to the alliance. Developing partnerships with states like Australia and South Korea is a first step, but NATO must now go further and invite states with similar defense priorities to become official members. As NATO's focus moves towards international stability, offering membership to states that have a vested interest in NATO security endeavors would strengthen NATO's joint military operations so that members "interact smoothly and efficiently when a crisis erupts."

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