

Commite name:North Atlantic Treaty

Organization(NATO)

Agenda Item:Enhancing collective defense

COUNTRY: Republic of Finland

Finland’s security environment was fundamentally altered when Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Based on a reassessment of the security policy situation, Finland decided to apply for NATO membership in May 2022, and it became a full member in April 2023.

The Government Report on Finland's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on 15 May 2022 notes:

"Through NATO membership, Finland would be part of NATO’s collective defence and would be covered by the security guarantees enshrined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. The deterrent effect of Finland’s defence would be considerably stronger than it is at present. If Finland, as a NATO member country, became a target of military force, it would defend itself with the support of its allies according to plans prepared and rehearsed in advance. As a member of NATO, Finland would participate in making decisions on security policy issues that are of key importance to Finland. A combination of a strong national defence capability and NATO membership would be a credible security solution. Finland’s defence capability and resilience would strengthen NATO’s collective defence throughout the territory of the Alliance."

Finland has cooperated with NATO since 1994, when Finland joined the Partnership for Peace programme (PfP), and since 2014, Finland has participated in Enhanced Opportunities Partners programme (EOP).

NATO has developed a dual response, namely to strengthen its deterrence and defence posture (essentially by enhancing its responsiveness and the readiness of Allied forces) and to project stability to its neighbourhood by means of assisting partners in their efforts to provide for their own security and defence. The NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP), a new cycle of which has just started, will review the quantity and quality of all Allies’ forces and capabilities needed to implement NATO’s overall posture. In general, NATO needs heavier, more high-end capabilities and more forces and capabilities at higher readiness as well as enhanced cyber defence capabilities.