

**Resolution of Advice and Consent to Ratification
of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty
of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of
North Macedonia, which was opened for sig-
nature at Brussels on February 6, 2019, and
signed that day on behalf of the United
States of America**

1 *Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concur-*
2 *ring therein),*

3 **SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO**
4 **DECLARATIONS, AN UNDERSTANDING, AND**
5 **CONDITIONS.**

6 The Senate advises and consents to the ratification
7 of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on
8 the Accession of the Republic of North Macedonia, which
9 was opened for signature at Brussels on February 6,
10 2019, and signed that day on behalf of the United States
11 of America (the “Protocol”) (Treaty Doc. 116–1), subject
12 to the declarations of section 2 and the conditions of sec-
13 tion 3.

14 **SEC. 2. DECLARATIONS.**

15 The advice and consent of the Senate under section
16 1 is subject to the following declarations:

17 (1) REAFFIRMATION THAT UNITED STATES
18 MEMBERSHIP IN NATO REMAINS A VITAL NATIONAL

1 SECURITY INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES.—The
2 Senate declares that—

3 (A) for 70 years the North Atlantic Treaty
4 Organization (NATO) has served as the pre-
5 eminent organization to defend the countries in
6 the North Atlantic area against all external
7 threats;

8 (B) through common action, the estab-
9 lished democracies of North America and Eu-
10 rope that were joined in NATO persevered and
11 prevailed in the task of ensuring the survival of
12 democratic government in Europe and North
13 America throughout the Cold War;

14 (C) NATO enhances the security of the
15 United States by embedding European states in
16 a process of cooperative security planning and
17 by ensuring an ongoing and direct leadership
18 role for the United States in European security
19 affairs;

20 (D) the responsibility and financial burden
21 of defending the democracies of Europe and
22 North America can be more equitably shared
23 through an alliance in which specific obligations
24 and force goals are met by its members;

1 (E) the security and prosperity of the
2 United States is enhanced by NATO's collective
3 defense against aggression that may threaten
4 the security of NATO members; and

5 (F) United States membership in NATO
6 remains a vital national security interest of the
7 United States.

8 (2) STRATEGIC RATIONALE FOR NATO EN-
9 LARGEMENT.—The Senate declares that—

10 (A) the United States and its NATO allies
11 face continued threats to their stability and ter-
12 ritorial integrity;

13 (B) an attack against North Macedonia, or
14 its destabilization arising from external subver-
15 sion, would threaten the stability of Europe and
16 jeopardize United States national security inter-
17 ests;

18 (C) North Macedonia, having established a
19 democratic government and having dem-
20 onstrated a willingness to meet the require-
21 ments of membership, including those necessary
22 to contribute to the defense of all NATO mem-
23 bers, is in a position to further the principles of
24 the North Atlantic Treaty and to contribute to
25 the security of the North Atlantic area; and

1 (D) extending NATO membership to
2 North Macedonia will strengthen NATO, en-
3 hance stability in Southeast Europe, and ad-
4 vance the interests of the United States and its
5 NATO allies.

6 (3) SUPPORT FOR NATO'S OPEN DOOR POL-
7 ICY.—The policy of the United States is to support
8 NATO's Open Door Policy that allows any Euro-
9 pean country to express its desire to join NATO and
10 demonstrate its ability to meet the obligations of
11 NATO membership.

12 (4) FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES
13 FOR MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.—

14 (A) SENATE FINDING.—The Senate finds
15 that the United States will not support the ac-
16 cession to the North Atlantic Treaty of, or the
17 invitation to begin accession talks with, any Eu-
18 ropean state (other than North Macedonia), un-
19 less—

20 (i) the President consults with the
21 Senate consistent with Article II, section 2,
22 clause 2 of the Constitution of the United
23 States (relating to the advice and consent
24 of the Senate to the making of treaties);
25 and

1 (ii) the prospective NATO member
2 can fulfill all of the obligations and respon-
3 sibilities of membership, and the inclusion
4 of such state in NATO would serve the
5 overall political and strategic interests of
6 NATO and the United States.

7 (B) REQUIREMENT FOR CONSENSUS AND
8 RATIFICATION.—The Senate declares that no
9 action or agreement other than a consensus de-
10 cision by the full membership of NATO, ap-
11 proved by the national procedures of each
12 NATO member, including, in the case of the
13 United States, the requirements of Article II,
14 section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the
15 United States (relating to the advice and con-
16 sent of the Senate to the making of treaties),
17 will constitute a commitment to collective de-
18 fense and consultations pursuant to Articles 4
19 and 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

20 (5) INFLUENCE OF NON-NATO MEMBERS ON
21 NATO DECISIONS.—The Senate declares that any
22 country that is not a member of NATO shall have
23 no impact on decisions related to NATO enlarge-
24 ment.

1 (6) SUPPORT FOR 2014 WALES SUMMIT DE-
2 FENSE SPENDING BENCHMARK.—The Senate de-
3 clares that all NATO members should continue to
4 move towards the guideline outlined in the 2014
5 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a minimum of
6 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
7 on defense and 20 percent of their defense budgets
8 on major equipment, including research and develop-
9 ment, by 2024.

10 (7) SUPPORT FOR NORTH MACEDONIA’S RE-
11 FORM PROCESS.—The Senate declares that—

12 (A) North Macedonia has made difficult
13 reforms and taken steps to address corruption,
14 but the United States and other NATO member
15 states should not consider this important proc-
16 ess complete and should continue to urge addi-
17 tional reforms; and

18 (B) North Macedonia and Greece’s conclu-
19 sion of the Prespa Agreement, which resolved a
20 long-standing bilateral dispute, has made pos-
21 sible the former’s invitation to NATO, and the
22 United States and other NATO members
23 should continue to press both nations to per-
24 severe in their continued implementation of the

1 Agreement and encourage a strategic partner-
2 ship between the two nations.

3 **SEC. 3. CONDITIONS.**

4 The advice and consent of the Senate under section
5 1 is subject to the following condition: Prior to the deposit
6 of the instrument of ratification, the President shall cer-
7 tify to the Senate as follows:

8 (1) The inclusion of North Macedonia in NATO
9 will not have the effect of increasing the overall per-
10 centage share of the United States in the common
11 budgets of NATO.

12 (2) The inclusion of North Macedonia in NATO
13 does not detract from the ability of the United
14 States to meet or to fund its military requirements
15 outside the North Atlantic area.

16 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this resolution:

18 (1) NATO MEMBERS.—The term “NATO mem-
19 bers” means all countries that are parties to the
20 North Atlantic Treaty.

21 (2) NON-NATO MEMBERS.—The term “non-
22 NATO members” means all countries that are not
23 parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

24 (3) NORTH ATLANTIC AREA.—The term “North
25 Atlantic area” means the area covered by Article 6

1 of the North Atlantic Treaty, as applied by the
2 North Atlantic Council.

3 (4) NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY.—The term
4 “North Atlantic Treaty” means the North Atlantic
5 Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949 (63
6 Stat. 2241; TIAS 1964), as amended.

7 (5) UNITED STATES INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICA-
8 TION.—The term “United States instrument of rati-
9 fication” means the instrument of ratification of the
10 United States of the Protocol to the North Atlantic
11 Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of North Mac-
12 edonia.