

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 557

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the strategic importance of NATO to the collective security of the transatlantic region and urging its member states to work together at the upcoming summit to strengthen the alliance.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2018

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the strategic importance of NATO to the collective security of the transatlantic region and urging its member states to work together at the upcoming summit to strengthen the alliance.

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this Resolution as “NATO”) will hold its next Summit meeting July 11–12, 2018, in Brussels, Belgium;

Whereas the security of the United States remains inextricably linked to the security of Europe and NATO’s founding purpose remains as valid today as it has been since NATO was created;

Whereas our NATO allies have contributed significantly to military operations led by the United States around the world, and actively contribute to current Alliance missions, including the reinforcement of NATO's eastern flank by leading 3 of the 4 battlegroups of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence;

Whereas while an increasing number of NATO member states are fulfilling their pledges at the 2014 NATO summit in Wales to allocate 2 percent of their gross domestic product towards defense spending, all NATO member states should be urged to meet the 2 percent target and to allocate 20 percent of their annual defense spending on major new equipment, including related research and development, in order to more fairly share the burden of transatlantic defense;

Whereas United States force deployments to Europe as part of the European Deterrence Initiative, and the corresponding measures by NATO member states in the Enhanced Forward Presence, are contributing to enhanced security on NATO's eastern flank;

Whereas the Russian Federation's aggression towards its neighbors, its breach of international norms, and its non-compliance with its arms control commitments have severely impacted European security and will continue to pose a security threat for the foreseeable future;

Whereas administrative and logistical obstacles to the mobility of military assets across Europe, and the potential mismatch between the speed of NATO-level decision making and the speed of a crisis, have been shown to constitute potential challenges to the successful defense of NATO's territorial integrity;

Whereas the cyber domain is a crucial aspect of NATO operations and a key tool at potential adversaries' disposal;

Whereas NATO member states collectively face a continued and persistent threat from terrorism and our NATO allies are making significant commitments in keeping terrorist networks from interfering in any NATO territory;

Whereas NATO member states—

(1) have collectively identified corruption and poor governance, including within member states, as “security challenges which undermine democracy, the rule of law, and economic development”; and

(2) in recognition of this challenge, adopted a Building Integrity Policy, which is intended to support transparent and accountable defense institutions under democratic control;

Whereas NATO's enlargement has delivered enhanced security and stability to all NATO member states, including Montenegro (the newest NATO member), while remaining incomplete and underlining the need for NATO's Open Door Policy to remain in effect for all aspiring countries and for invitations to join NATO to be issued as soon as an aspirant country has met the conditions for membership;

Whereas the first of 10 Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States contained in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, done at Helsinki August 1, 1975 (commonly known as the “Helsinki Final Act”), recognizes the right to be or not to be a party to treaties of alliance as a right inherent in sovereignty to be respected on an equal basis among the signatory states; and

Whereas the commitment made by NATO in the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security Between NATO and the Russian Federation, done at Paris May 27, 1997 (commonly known as the “NATO-Russia Founding Act”), to “carry out its collective defence and other missions by ensuring the necessary interoperability, integration, and capability for reinforcement rather than by additional permanent stationing of substantial combat forces” was predicated on “the current and foreseeable security environment” that existed in 1997, which has been fundamentally altered by the aggression directed by the leaders of the Russian Federation:

Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2            (1) reaffirms the enduring commitment of the  
3        United States to NATO’s collective defense, en-  
4        shrined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty,  
5        done at Washington April 4, 1949 (commonly known  
6        as the “Washington Treaty”);

7            (2) emphasizes the need for all NATO member  
8        states to be prepared to meet their respective obliga-  
9        tions under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty;

10          (3) pledges its support for all appropriate meas-  
11        ures collectively taken to deter and defend against,  
12        if necessary, Russian aggression against the terri-  
13        tory of any NATO member state, including the ex-  
14        plicit aim of the leaders of the Russian Federation  
15        to fracture the unity between NATO member states;

1           (4) emphasizes its commitment to a North At-  
2           lantic alliance based on shared values, including the  
3           rule of law, to prevent internal forces from eroding  
4           NATO's foundation;

5           (5) encourages all NATO member states to  
6           clearly commit to further enlargement of the alli-  
7           ance, including extending invitations to any aspirant  
8           country which has met the conditions required to  
9           join NATO; and

10          (6) urges leaders who will be meeting at the  
11          2018 NATO summit in Brussels, Belgium to ensure  
12          that NATO—

13                 (A) meets urgent security threats;

14                 (B) continues to transform to counter  
15                 emerging and evolving challenges, including hy-  
16                 brid warfare, terrorism, cyberattacks, and re-  
17                 newed challenges to sea lines of communication  
18                 between North America and Europe; and

19                 (C) adopts a rapid reinforcement plan  
20                 that—

21                         (i) expedites political decision making;

22                         (ii) reinvigorates the NATO command  
23                         structure;

24                         (iii) streamlines the capacity to mobi-  
25                         lize forces across national borders; and

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(iv) improves joint readiness goals.

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