

# Envision | Issue Statement Paper

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## Group Name

Saving NATO

## Authors

1. Morrison Bisbee
2. Parker Johnson
3. Pierre-Richard Baddoo
4. Savannah Davis
5. Salvatore Cesario
6. Joseph Yourkoski
7. Justin Hamilton

## Issue and Topic

Our topic concerns the survival of NATO: a pressing issue of the United States (U.S.), Canada, and many European countries. Besides the U.S. and a small pick of mostly Eastern European nations, the overwhelming majority of member states in NATO are not paying their fair share, specifically of the 2% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In fact, only five countries including the United States, Estonia, Greece, Poland, and the United Kingdom are paying unlike the other 23 other countries which are not paying the full amount as agreed. These nations are: France, Turkey, Norway, Croatia, Portugal, Romania, Albania, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Italy, Latvia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Canada, Belgium, Hungary, Spain, and Luxemburg. We cannot continue to allow any country to join the organization with these results. NATO needs to be a more equitable alliance that will pay their contribution and will not make other countries take on a greater burden.

## Background on the Issue

NATO stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations. NATO was the first U.S. peace treaty outside the Western Hemisphere and was founded in 1949 during the Cold War. It was originally created to defend Western Europe and the rest of the free world from the spread of communism from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). However, as years go on, the U.S. continues to pay the largest portion of its GDP towards NATO while other countries, usually with much smaller economies, don't contribute nearly enough and instead appropriate their fair share of defense spending towards domestic programs and investments at the expense of the alliance.

## **Problem Statement**

### **Description of the Problem**

Countries that are part of the NATO alliance are not paying their fair share which consists of 2% of each countries' GDP. The U.S. pays around 646.2 billion a year for NATO unlike other countries that neglect their commitments for domestic investments. We need NATO to become a more selective group of which requires strict qualifications for countries that consistently fail to meet their membership requirements.

### **Major Area(s) and Population(s) Affected**

One major aspect of affected areas are countries that pay the minimum or above the GDP for NATO membership. Including the following countries: United States, Greece, Poland, United Kingdom, and Estonia. However, not only does the United States suffer from the incompetent countries, but also the people's taxes and our country's debt. Lastly, the organization as a whole is affected due to the fact that it suffers from a large majority of unbefitting countries.

### **Description of Needs to Fulfill**

What must change in NATO is the act of tighter restrictions on countries that are in NATO. We need to form a more selective organization in which we allow countries that will pay, remain reliable, and have its allies' best interests in mind. By making this happen, we need to observe and analyze the countries that wish to join by making a longer waiting time of three years and a down-payment.

### **Sustainable Solution**

A sustainable solution is to make NATO more selective and disciplined. We need it to be a strong alliance between numerous countries in which each contribute. If we recruit more reliable and participating countries, our expenses will average out making NATO a stronger organization.

### **Description of Solution**

First, to make a stronger NATO, we must make a down payment and longer waiting period. Once the counties have proven they are responsible and reliable, they are welcome to participate in NATO.

### **Key Partners and Resources Needed**

NATO's key partners would be the countries currently participating and reaching their GDP goal. Together, we can agree what is going to be done with joining countries and the act of assessing them. However, the resources needed would be minimal aside from the new restrictions put into place.

### **Potential Challenges and Workaround**

Some potential challenges and barriers could include the issue of making the rules for the selection of the countries. However, with great leaders from each country put into place we believe an agreement or compromise could be achieved. Nonetheless, if the issue precedes, then a standard document for the down payment and time period can be written expressing the rules and requirements.

## Timeline

Although the results for this solution may not make a quick impact, eventually, it would strengthen NATO and its future empowered.

## Expected Impact

We expect this to make a big impact. Once more valuable and reliable countries join, we can continue to strengthen NATO and have every participating country solve world-wide problems. This will create peace in NATO with no hovering struggle of debt.

## Action Requested

We request that NATO make itself more selective, create a down payment, and observation period in which NATO can conclude if a country is a reliable and trustworthy ally through observation and analysis.

## Research Sources

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