

NATO Enlargement

- Enlarging membership is one of NATO's most important adaptations to the post-Cold War security environment.
- In 1999, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland became the newest NATO members. NATO expects to extend further invitations to nations willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership and whose membership will contribute to European security and stability.
- At their next summit, to be held in Prague in November 2002, NATO leaders will review the process of increasing membership.
- Canada continues to support further enlargement. Although adding members is ultimately a political decision requiring consensus among all 19 members, the readiness of candidates to contribute to NATO missions, and to European security and stability in general, will be a significant consideration.
- In 1999, NATO established the Membership Action Plan, which provides the nine membership aspirants (Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) with a framework for assessing their preparations for possible membership, including the progress of their political, economic and military reforms. The membership plan allows NATO members to provide advice to aspirants on their preparations.
- Before 2002, Canada will assess the candidacies of the aspirants in order to determine which to support.