NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 8-9, 2025
Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 1: Support for NATO Expansion
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long recognized that European security and preservation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is critical to America's vital national security interests; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the essential role of NATO to maintain international order and the protection of nations' sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes expanding NATO will: 1) strengthen collective defense; 2) stabilize and promote democratic values; and 3) support diverse, multi-ethnic communities and stand against ethnic conflicts; and

WHEREAS, NATO's Article 5 is a vital part of the alliance and should remain in effect, but the mutual defense clause does not apply to partner countries, many of which are potential candidates for NATO membership; and

WHEREAS, The accession of new members adds military capabilities but also political and economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, Future enlargement depends on geopolitical factors, including relations with Russia and the stability of potential candidate countries; and

WHEREAS, NATO enlargement is key to international security, but requires careful planning to maximize its advantages and minimize its negatives; and

WHEREAS, The initial wave of NATO expansion included the strategic inclusion of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in 1999, which demonstrated Western countries' support for the democratic transition in Central Europe; and

WHEREAS, The most recent expansion of NATO membership to Finland and Sweden in 2023 and 2024, respectively, demonstrates NATO's commitment to protecting its members and responding to new security threats, like increasing Russian aggression; and

WHEREAS, The membership also significantly increased NATO's ability to monitor and respond to activities in the Baltic Sea and the Arctic region; and

WHEREAS, Several NATO intelligence services note Russia is stockpiling weapons, expanding its overall force and upgrading and building military infrastructure near NATO's eastern frontier, while NATO's military capabilities, especially those of the European allies, do not match the growing threat the alliance faces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8–9, 2025, That The American Legion urges the president and Congress to conduct a thorough analysis to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in a prompt and timely manner, while ensuring NATO maintains engagement in candidate countries; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion reaffirms its unwavering support for NATO and its efforts to keep the alliance strong by expanding to other countries that will help maintain security, increase NATO resources and boost its capabilities.