

**Written Statement**  
**Doug Jones, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs**  
**House Foreign Affairs Committee**  
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Chairman Kean, Ranking Member Keating – thank you for the invitation to testify and for the Committee’s support for NATO. Your bipartisan leadership and engagement – including in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly – remind our Allies that the United States commitment to the NATO Alliance remains robust, durable, and unwavering.

I would like to speak to the challenges NATO faces today. Russia’s brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine – following its previous nine-year campaign of aggression and illegal occupation of Crimea – has galvanized Allies to take new action to strengthen the Alliance, defend Allied territory, and uphold the democratic values on which the Alliance is built. At the NATO Summit in Vilnius in July, we will extend this action across three broad areas, while we continue to address rising challenges from the People’s Republic of China and elsewhere. I will speak to each briefly.

First – we will see in Vilnius a strong, united Alliance. Allies will reinforce our unity, strength, and resolve to support Ukraine in its fight to defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity, democracy, and the right to choose its own path.

At Vilnius, NATO will commit to a package of political and practical support for Ukraine that will build on our bilateral support over the past 16 months. Since February 2022, the U.S. has provided more than \$40 billion in bilateral security assistance to Ukraine as it defends its territory. More than 50 other nations – including our NATO Allies, acting bilaterally through the Ukraine Defense Contact Group – have provided Ukraine with more than \$28 billion in lethal aid.

NATO itself has complemented this bilateral lethal assistance to Ukraine’s military with non-lethal support like winter equipment, drone jammers, medical supplies, fuel, and satellite connectivity totaling \$82 million – with another \$110 million in the pipeline – to the Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP) for Ukraine.

Second – NATO will strengthen its deterrence and defense in support of fulfilling our ironclad Article 5 obligations. Allies are completing the full implementation of NATO’s new fit-for-purpose force model that will fortify the Alliance’s readiness; working to deepen defense production; and updating defense plans for all Allied territory that will address heightened threats and new land, sea, air, cyber, and space security challenges.

To meet the needs of a stronger deterrence and defense, the Alliance is working to strengthen the Wales Defense Investment Pledge, which states that Allies aim to spend 2 percent of GDP on defense by 2024. As of today, eight U.S. Allies are meeting or exceeding the 2 percent target. Another nine are on track to do so by next year. And an additional seven Allies have plans to

reach 2 percent between 2025 and 2030. 2023 will be the ninth consecutive year of defense spending growth in real-terms for non-U.S. Allies – with more than \$350 billion spent by non-U.S. Allies since Russia’s illegal purported “annexation” of Crimea in 2014. But this is not enough, and Allies need to do more. Allies intend to commit to a new, enhanced Defense Investment Pledge in Vilnius.

Finally, even as NATO confronts Russia as its most significant and direct threat to security, peace, and stability in the Euro-Atlantic, we recognize NATO faces other challenges– including from the PRC. This brings me to my third point. At Vilnius, we intend to strengthen our global partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and the Global South. For the second time, heads of state from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea have been invited to the NATO Summit to coordinate on an agenda of shared security challenges.

Beyond these three major Vilnius priorities, NATO continues to adapt to meet new and emerging security threats and challenges. Since the 2022 NATO Summit in Madrid, we have increased our common civil, military, and security investment funding; decided to tailor support for partners on Europe’s frontline like Moldova, Georgia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina; established new structures to increase resilience within and across the Alliance; revitalized the cyber defense pledge and developed a virtual capability to ensure a rapid response to cyber incidents; stood up the Defense Innovation Accelerator of the North Atlantic (DIANA) to build Allied capabilities in emerging and disruptive technologies; launched a high-level dialogue on the nexus between climate and security; and underscored the key role that women play in peace and security as a core element of Allied security.

Russia’s war of aggression has not only unified the Alliance like never before, but also convinced non-NATO states to seek Alliance membership. Russia’s actions resulted in Finnish membership in NATO, adding 800 miles to Russia’s border with NATO. In the Arctic, Baltic and throughout NATO-space, having Finland – and soon Sweden – in the Alliance makes it stronger, more capable, and more secure.

At NATO’s 1949 inception here in Washington, President Truman called the Alliance “a shield against aggression.” For 74 years, it has proven to be the world’s most successful defensive Alliance – extending that shield of collective security from 12 to now 31 Allies (and soon 32) and defending Alliance values of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. In fact, NATO’s stabilizing effect in the Euro-Atlantic space cannot be stressed enough. During its entire existence, the Alliance has acted under Article 5 only once – on the United States’ behalf after the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

As we look to Vilnius – and beyond to the 2024 NATO Summit here in Washington – the power of that shield – providing security to the 955 million citizens of the combined Allied NATO countries – remains as strong as ever.

Thank you for inviting me today. I look forward to your questions.