

What is the Washington Treaty?

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About Washington Treaty:

- The Washington Treaty, or **North Atlantic Treaty**, forms the basis of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.
- The Treaty was signed in Washington D.C. on 4 April, **1949**, by 12 founding members.
- The Treaty **derives its authority from Article 51** of the **United Nations Charter**, which reaffirms the inherent **right of independent states to individual or collective defence**.
- **Collective defence** is at the **heart of the treaty** and is enshrined in **Article 5**. It commits members to protect each other and sets a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance.
- The treaty is short, containing only 14 articles, and provides for in-built flexibility on all fronts.
- Despite the changing security environment, the **original treaty has never had to be modified**, and each ally has the possibility to implement the text in accordance with its capabilities and circumstances.

Key Facts about NATO:

- NATO is a **military alliance** established by the **North Atlantic Treaty**.
 - It currently has **32 alliance members** from **North America and Europe**.
 - NATO's fundamental goal is to **safeguard the Allies' freedom and security** through **political and military means**.
 - It is a **system of collective defence** where independent **member states agree for mutual defence** in case of any attack by an external party.
 - **Article 5** of the Washington Treaty states that an **attack against one** ally is an **attack against all**.
 - This article forms the core of the Alliance, a promise of collective defense.
 - **Functions:**
 - **Political:** NATO **promotes democratic values** and enables members to consult and **cooperate on defence and security-related issues** to solve problems, build trust, and, in the long run, prevent conflict.
 - **Military:** NATO is committed to the **peaceful resolution of disputes**. If **diplomatic efforts** fail, it has the **military power** to undertake crisis-management operations.
 - In addition to collective defence and key values, the **principle of consensus decision-making** and the importance of consultation define the spirit of the Organization, together with its defensive nature and flexibility.
 - **Headquarter: Brussels**, Belgium.
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Q1: What is the United Nations Charter?

The Charter of the United Nations is the founding document of the United Nations. It was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization, and came into force on 24 October 1945. The United Nations can take action on a wide variety of issues due to its unique international character and the powers vested in its Charter, which is considered an international treaty. As such, the UN Charter is an instrument of international law, and UN Member States are bound by it. The UN Charter codifies the major principles of international relations, from sovereign equality of States to the prohibition of the use of force in international relations.

Source: [NATO marks 75th anniversary as foreign ministers meet in Brussels](#)

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