

The issue of security stands as a pressing challenge before the international community. Therefore, Turkey calls for transparent dialogue and consensus-building within NATO on expansion plans while respecting the sovereignty of neighboring states. NATO expansion has multifaceted impacts on Turkey, offering security benefits, increased influence, and improved defense capabilities but also posing challenges related to regional tensions, sovereignty concerns, and alignment with NATO policies. It has benefited from NATO's collective defense framework, especially during the Cold War period and in addressing common security threats. Turkey's geopolitical location in a volatile region, including proximity to conflict zones such as Syria and Iraq, shapes its security perspectives. An example that illustrates Turkey's beliefs regarding NATO expansion and its impact on regional security can be seen in its approach towards the Black Sea region. Turkey views the Black Sea as a critical geopolitical area with strategic importance due to its energy resources, maritime trade routes, and proximity to NATO's eastern borders. Managing these impacts requires careful diplomacy, strategic engagement within NATO, and proactive efforts to address regional security challenges. In Turkey, we have felt the impact of [NATO expansion] acutely.