

# Likely steps in Swedish, Finnish NATO bids

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has pushed Finland and Sweden to the point of applying for membership of the 30-nation NATO alliance



## 1 MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

Finland and Sweden ask to join NATO, ideally together, by sending letters to alliance headquarters in Brussels

## 2 NATO ALLIES MEET

Request likely accepted by 30 nations – Finland and Sweden seen as successful democracies with militaries that meet NATO standard

## 3 MEMBERSHIP TALKS

Could take as little as one day for each country – both must agree to respect terms of NATO's founding ***Washington Treaty*** (below)

■ “Contribute to security of North Atlantic area” – both countries already considered to meet treaty demand



■ Uphold **Article 5** – NATO's collective defence pledge that says attack on one ally is attack on all

## 4 ALLIES MEET AGAIN

Countries likely granted NATO membership, giving them observer status at allied meetings but not collective defence guarantee

## 5 RATIFICATION

Required by all allied parliaments – can take anywhere between four months to one year

## 6 “INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION”

Must be deposited by both countries at ***U.S. Department of State***, finally making them NATO allies

■ Agree to pay share of NATO budgets, take part in defence planning and respect rules on classified information