



NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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Issue: Preparing NATO's Multinational Defense and Industrial Base Against Evolving Security Challenges from the Russian Federation by 2030

TIMUN '25 

Turkish International Model United Nations



THIMUN Affiliated
Conference



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I. Introduction

NATO, abbreviated as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is an intergovernmental military alliance that was established on 4 April 1949 in the USA. It was initially an agreement called “North Atlantic Treaty” (also known as the Washington Treaty) which was signed between the twelve founding countries of the alliance: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. NATO was established in a status quo when the US and USSR



Image 1: North Atlantic Treaty, 4 April 1949, Washington D.C., USA

(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) had been going through extensive disputes after the end of World War II, leading to the beginning of the Cold War. After experiencing the destruction of World War II, European countries struggled to reconstruct stable economies while having security concerns.

According to the US, an economically strong and integrated Europe was significant for the hindrance of the rise of communist regimes on the continent.

Thus, the US contrived a European Recovery Plan,

the Marshall Plan. This plan not only fostered an integrated and economically more stable Europe but also emphasized the need for cooperation in order to accomplish shared interests between the United States and the European countries. In mid-1948, the Berlin Crisis brought the Soviet Union and the United States to the verge of conflict. These events concerned the US about the possibility of security negotiations between the European countries and the Soviet Union. With the purpose of countering this turn of events, the US took



measures to foster a European-American alliance, which committed the US to amplifying the security in Europe. Subsequently, as a result of the leading initiatives of the US, NATO was formed between 12 founding members who sought to create a equipoise to Soviet armies, appointed in central and Eastern Europe after World War II.

After decades of conflict, NATO and Russia ultimately established relations on 29 May 1991 via the framework “Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council”, which was founded as a suborganization of NATO, to enhance its relations with non-ally countries, especially in Europe and Central Asia. Subsequently, in 1994, Russia participated in the Partnership for Peace program, prior to the signing of the NATO-Russia Founding Act (NRFA) in 1997, at the NATO Summit in France. The NRFA pioneered the creation of the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council (NRPJC), which aimed for the further melioration and development of the relations. During the early 2000s and 2010s, Russia signed multiple additional agreements, further elevating the relations. Despite the efforts for the betterment of cooperation, relations have been damaged as post-Soviet conflicts and territorial disputes arose over time between Russia and other countries worldwide.

Today, NATO maintains its objectives of safeguarding the freedom and security of all of its allies, eventually preserving peace and stability in North America and Europe. Currently, NATO has 32 member countries, which constantly come together to design new strategies to the evolving security threats in the status quo. The conflict between NATO and Russia has been noticeable since the founding of the alliance, and is still an issue discussed in NATO summits as Russia poses a jeopardizing threat to the security of NATO member states. NATO intends to take the necessary steps to allay the security concerns of allied countries by advancing a multinational defense and industrial base by 2030.

II. Key Vocabulary

Collective Defense: a core principle of NATO, which constitutes the base objectives in the North Atlantic Treaty, Article 5. Collective defense refers to the cooperation between member states in case of any security concerns. To be more precise, an attack against a country is considered an attack on all allied countries. As a result, all the allies are expected to address a country's security issue and are expected to assist in resolving the issue. This cooperation helps member states to achieve positive consequences that wouldn't be reached if the countries were taking action by themselves, instead of cooperating. The alliance has standing forces on active duty that contribute to NATO's collective defense efforts on a permanent basis.



Defense Industrial Base (DIB): refers to the network of organizations, facilities, and resources that supply organizations or the government with the necessary resources, such as products and services. For the context of NATO, the DIBs provide the organization and its allies, particularly with defense equipment like vehicles and new weapon systems.

Interoperability: refers to the ability to work together with other systems or pieces of equipment. In this context, it connotes the obligation of NATO allies to work collaboratively and coherently in order to achieve collective defense and security in the world.

Hybrid Warfare: is a type of warfare where both conventional and unconventional ways of subversion are utilized in order to best harm to the antagonist. These ways can include any type of instruments and weapons. They are mostly used synchronically and simultaneously, aiming at the vulnerabilities of the enemies. An important characteristic of hybrid warfare attacks is the fact that they are ambiguous and contain a lot of vagueness. This obscurity is generated and elevated by hybrid actors, which ends up complicating the attribute as well as the response. As a result, the country that is targeted is either not able to detect a hybrid attack or not able to attribute it to a state that might be perpetrating or sponsoring it. By exploiting the thresholds of detection and attribution, the hybrid actor makes it difficult for the targeted state to develop policy and strategic responses (Arsalan).

Deterrence: refers to the threat of force to discourage an opponent from taking an unwelcome action. This can be done through the threat of retaliation (deterrence by punishment) or by denying the antagonist's war aims and intentions (deterrence by denial) (Rühle).

Strategic Autonomy: refers to the ability of a state to pursue its national interests and adopt its preferred foreign policy without depending heavily on other foreign states. It is an important term for a fully sovereign state as this state will have the opportunity to make decisions by itself, without being in the influence of other nations.



III. Involved Countries and Organizations

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization):

NATO is a military cooperation between countries located in North America and Europe that aims to create and maintain collective defense against countries, organizations, and groups that pose possible threats to one or more of the 32 member states. Russia has been a solid threat to plenty of countries since the founding of NATO up until today. NATO must adapt itself to the new threats that can be encountered by preparing a multinational defense and industrial base. These measures can be taken through the funding of member states, who should spend at least 2% of GDP on defense according to NATO's guidelines. Through these spendings, the member states are able to take the necessary steps collectively and ensure the country's individual security.

Russia:

NATO members have faced many conflicts with the Russian Federation in the past due to political, strategic, economic, cultural and military reasons, with NATO being established to take action against the military bases Russia had in Europe. Example conflicts were faced by countries such as, but not limited to, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Syria, Türkiye, Kazakhstan. Recently, due to the war in Ukraine since 2022, NATO has officially declared Russia's aggression as "the gravest threat to the Euro-Atlantic security for decades". Despite NATO's efforts to forge diplomatic relations with Russia by forming sub-organizations that specifically target negotiations, Russia maintains security concerns. Thus, NATO will be taking the necessary measures by enhancing industrial and defense bases to counter Russia's instability in diplomacy and tendency to declare war.

Ukraine:

Ukraine is one of the independent countries that emerged after the dissolution of the USSR in December 1991. As soon as the independent nation of Ukraine was founded, the government officials sought ways to participate in multinational cooperation organizations, including NATO. Subsequently, Ukraine joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in 1991 and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program in 1994. Relations



were strengthened with the signing of the 1997 Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, and further enhanced in 2009 with the Declaration to Complement the Charter, which reaffirmed the decision by NATO Leaders at the 2008 Bucharest Summit that Ukraine will become a member of NATO (NATO, Relations with Ukraine).

Türkiye:

With the Cold War deepening and the world splitting between the United States and the Soviet Union, Türkiye turned to NATO both for protection and as a way to anchor itself firmly within the Western bloc. Joining NATO was a political choice as well as a military choice for Türkiye. For NATO, Türkiye's value was clear: it had a strong army, access to vital land and sea bases, and sat at a strategically crucial point on the alliance's southeastern flank. Its control of the Straits, regulated since 1936 by the Montreux Convention, which Türkiye applied fairly and transparently, added extensively to its importance. This partnership became official in February 1952. At the Lisbon meeting of the North Atlantic Council, Türkiye was formally welcomed into NATO, just two days after signing the accession documents. Alongside Greece, it became one of the alliance's first new members, solidifying its place in the Western security system. Ever since, Türkiye has been a critical actor in the region in the case of any political disputes, which especially include Russia, due to its geopolitical location.

United States of America (USA):

According to official reports of NATO, the United States makes up two-thirds of NATO's defense spending as a whole, meaning that the US allocates more money to defense than all of the money that the other allied countries allocate, with approximately 67 percent of the defense budget (NATO, Türkiye and NATO). This massive spending is made, as dreaded events that had very detrimental impacts, occurred in the past, such as the 9/11 attack, when 2977 died and buildings collapsed. The US also supplies NATO members with advanced technology and weapons, creating opportunities for the members to take measures to protect their countries. However, most importantly, the United States is the number one country that influences the overall direction and priorities of how NATO prepares its defense industry for wars or crises.



European Union:

The European Union is a supranational economic union with 27 member states primarily located in Europe, as its name suggests. It also governs social and security policies, like NATO. NATO refers to the EU as an essential organization to reach its objectives, as they share member countries, aims and strategic interests. Relations between NATO and the EU were first institutionalized in the early 2000s, with both organizations coherently aiming to reach international peace and security. In the case of Russia, the EU also condemns the aggressive acts of Russia and supports the sovereignty of Ukraine as well as its territorial integrity and ability to defend itself.

IV. Focused Overview of The Issue

The Russian Federation's ongoing military assertiveness has posed significant threats to the allied countries of NATO. This caused member states to come together and take immediate actions that aim to prepare NATO's multinational defense and industrial base against these evolving security challenges from the Russian Federation by 2030. Despite Russia's everlasting conflicts with countries all over the world, Russia has utilized the greatest violence in Ukraine ever since. Initially, in 2014, Russia invaded and annexed Crimea unlawfully. Subsequently, the full-scale invasion of Ukraine started in February 2022, leaving people all over the world flabbergasted as this military act is the greatest war since World War II ended. These incidents, as well as Russia's pattern of hybrid threats, conventional buildups, and airspace violations along NATO's eastern flank, augmented the severity of the threats that have been posed by Russia. After the Cold War, Russia sought to establish cooperative security frameworks with countries around the world, such as but not limited to the 1997 Founding Act, the 2002 NATO-Russia Council and major arms control treaties. While these agreements primarily provided transparency and predictability about Russia's actions, their collapse over the past two decades has eroded trust and created a near-total absence of binding constraints on force posture in Europe.



Image 2: Meeting of NATO-Russia Council

V. Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Events
26 December 1991	After the end of the Cold War, the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) officially dissolved, which led to the generation of various sovereign countries, such as but not limited to Armenia, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Latvia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, and Moldova. From 1991, NATO strived to establish a strategic partnership with the newly born Russian Federation.
June 1994	The Russian Federation became the first nation to participate in the PfP (Partnership for Peace, organized by NATO. This program was established to foster practical bilateral cooperation between NATO and its allied states. In the Brussels Summit Declaration, the



	cooperation defined its military and security goals.
27 May 1997	NATO leaders and the Russian Federation's president officially signed the NATO-Russian Founding Act. This cooperation ensured that NATO and Russia complied to base their diplomatic dialogue means and principles, especially on human rights and civil liberties. This encouraged the prevention of the use of force against each other as well as other states.
28 May 2002	NATO countries' leaders, as well as Vladimir Putin, the current president of the Russian Federation, agreed to sign a proclamation in Rome. It was called "NATO- Russia Relations: A New Quality". This declaration founded the NATO-Russia Council, where the sides practiced consensus-based cooperation. The areas of discussion and cooperation included counterterrorism, crisis management and arms control.
August 2008	Russia's military actions in Georgia in August 2008 led to the suspension of formal NATO-Russia Council meetings and some areas of cooperation. Allies are still telling Russia to take back its recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent countries in Georgia. At the NATO Summit in Strasbourg and Kehl on April 4, 2009, NATO leaders talked about how they disagreed with Russia about Georgia, but they also agreed to work together politically and practically again.
November 2010-2014	The objectives and tenets of the NATO-Russian Founding Act and the NATO-Russia Rome Declaration served as the foundation for the November 2010 Lisbon Summit, where NATO leaders and President Dmitry Medvedev decided to start "a new stage of cooperation towards a true strategic partnership." In addition to agreeing to further reinforce cooperation in the fight against terrorism and counter-piracy initiatives, the Alliance invited



	Russia to discuss the possibility of increased cooperation on missile defense. In the ensuing years, Russia and NATO collaborated to support the Afghan army's fleet of helicopters, carried out joint exercises for submarine rescue and counter-piracy, and talked about a joint mission to assist in the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons.
March, April 2014	At the beginning of March 2014, the Russian Federation unlawfully annexed Crimea, a region that originally belonged to Ukraine's sovereign territories. In order to reciprocate this illegal and illegitimate act, NATO decided to terminate all types of practical cooperation with Russia. NATO strived to deter Russia from carrying out such unlawful acts by taking measures like this. Nevertheless, the Russian Federation didn't give up on its aggressive acts in the region. The violence of Russia triggered NATO and allied countries to further strengthen their security and defense systems in case of any possible threats posed by Russia.
July 2016	During the Warsaw Summit, NATO leaders agreed upon a noticeable and positive shift in Russia's behavior that reflects adherence to international law and Russia's promises will be necessary for the Alliance's relations with Russia to improve. Russia and NATO can not resume "business as usual" till then.
14 March 2018	The United Kingdom gave the Allies a briefing on the application of a nerve toxin in Salisbury. The NATO Allies denounced this violation of international standards and voiced their grave concerns. More than 25 countries expelled more than 150 Russian diplomats following lengthy talks with Allies and partner governments that were held in capitals and at NATO headquarters. The NATO Secretary General declared on March 27, 2018, that the Russian Mission's accreditation for seven of its employees would be revoked, that three pending accreditations would be denied, and that the mission's maximum size would be



	lowered to 20.
December 2019	NATO leaders came together to discuss the threats posed by Russia to the ally countries in December 2019. They came to the conclusion that NATO is and ought to be remaining open to any constructive dialogue with Russia, when Russia's actions render it possible. NATO leaders reiterated the importance of a dual-track approach to Russia's aggression. This means that NATO will be both elevating deterrence and defense, while also being open to diplomatic means.
24 February 2022	In February 2022, the biggest European invasion since World War II began with 200.000 Russian soldiers entering Ukraine and particularly the capital, Kyiv. Vladimir Putin's intention in conducting this full-scale invasion was to overthrow the pro-Western government and transform Ukraine's government to be easily influenced by the Russian Federation. He also mentioned his multiple goals such as demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine, as he also referred to Ukraine also as a Nazi state in his previous speeches. He went on to include maintaining Ukraine's neutrality as an additional goal. He charged that NATO, a Western defensive alliance, was attempting to establish itself in Ukraine to move its forces closer to Russia's frontiers. The war is still ongoing, as it has been almost 4 years. Despite the efforts of mediator actors like Donald Trump, the president of the US, as well as Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the president of Türkiye (Kirby).

VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

[Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security \(1997\)](#)

The Founding Act, signed by both countries, defines the goals and mechanisms of consultation, cooperation, joint decision-making and joint action that will constitute the core of the mutual relations between NATO and Russia. It overtly demonstrates the fact that NATO and Russia do not see each other as



adversaries, which makes them come together to accomplish shared goals. The main goal of this specific Founding Act is indeed the construction of a stable, peaceful and undivided Europe, whole and free, to the benefit of all its peoples. This commitment made in 1997 marks the highest political relationship between Russia and NATO, as they will be in conflict in the following years, mostly due to the aggressive acts of Russia. This act is also the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, where the NATO leaders and Russian government officials come together to further advance their relationships to foster meaningful cooperation between them. This act also ensured that NATO enlargement would not station nuclear weapons or substantial combat forces in new members. This assurance further developed the sense of trust and security for the sides of the Founding Act. This act, organized in Rome, is interpreted as the milestone of NATO and the Russian Federation's partnership over a decade (NATO, "Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation Signed in Paris, France.").

[NATO-Russia Joint Council \(2002\)](#)

The NATO-Russia Council (NRC) was established on 28 May 2002 as a tool for consultation, joint-decision making, cooperation and consensus building, with the declaration on "NATO-Russia Relations: a New Quality". Each representative from the member states as well as Russia's representative, worked as equal members in order to discuss a range of security issues. The 2002 Rome Declaration built on the goals and principles of the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security. The NRC replaced the Permanent Joint Council (PJC), a forum for consultation and cooperation created by the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act. The individual NATO Allies and Russia met as equal partners in the NRC, instead of meeting in the bilateral "NATO+1" format under the PJC (NATO-Russia Council). The NRC aimed to give Russia a voice (though not a veto) in discussions with NATO on counter-terrorism, crisis management, arms control, and missile defense. Nevertheless, the council hasn't been coming together since 2022, due to the full-scale invasion Russian Federation is carrying out on Ukraine in order to condemn Russia for this inhumane and unlawful act. Prior to the full-scale invasion, NATO had once again suspended all cooperation with Russia as in April 2014, Russia illegally annexed Crimea.

However, the Alliance agreed to keep channels of communication open in the NRC and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council at the Ambassadorial level and above, to allow the exchange of views, first and foremost on the war in Ukraine. Since Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea, the NRC has met 11 times, with Ukraine as the first item on the agenda. Three meetings took place in 2016, three in 2017, two in 2018, and two in 2019. The most recent meeting of the NRC took place in January 2022.

[Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe \(CFE, 1990; Adapted CFE, 1999\)](#)

The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) in 1990 was one of the most ambitious post-Cold War treaties on arms control. The CFE attempted to restrict the deployment of conventional military forces, such as tanks, guns, and armored vehicles, throughout Europe, to reduce the possibility of wide-scale military attack. The CFE formed part of European security and facilitated bringing a military equilibrium



between the Warsaw Pact and NATO armies. The “Adapted CFE Treaty” was signed in 1999 to adapt to the end of the Warsaw Pact and an enlargement of NATO, but members of NATO did not ratify it until Russian forces had pulled out from Georgia and Moldova. In 2007, Russia promised to cease being part of it, as it did not conform to its security needs anymore, and in 2015, it officially withdrew from it. The end of the treaty marked an end to cooperative security plans and saw NATO and Russian relations take an abrupt direction to reinvigorated competition.

Although NATO and Russia were able to foster diplomatic dialogue in the past and participate in mutual organizations to mitigate security challenges, newly conducted acts by the Russian Federation against a NATO ally nation, Ukraine, complicate the diplomatic procedure with Russia, as NATO has to take some actions, like suspending the mutual organizations, in order to demonstrate support to Ukraine and condemn Russia.

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

1. CFE (Conventional Armed Forces) Treaty Collapse

The 2007 suspension of Russian participation in the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and the 2015 formal withdrawal dismantled one of Europe’s most important conventional arms control arrangements. The treaty initially limited across-the-continent deployments of tanks, artillery, and other heavy weapons, but in Russian perception, NATO expansion and U.S. deployments of missile defenses built unpredictable security threats that Russian leaders could not tolerate. To NATO Allies, however, Russian intractability in refusing to comply in Georgia and Moldova with withdrawal commitments made an Adapted CFE Treaty unsustainable to support ratification. Accordingly, the CFE’s demise deprived Europe of a tool to verify or contain the accumulation of conventional forces, and it fueled mistrust across NATO and Russia.

2. INF Treaty Breakdown

The 2019 demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty saw one of the Cold War foundations of nuclear stability wiped away. The United States, in alliance with NATO, denounced after asserting that Russia had deployed SSC-8 (9M729) missiles in violation of treaty limitations. Russia categorically dismissed the accusation, but without realistic verification protocols and without clauses to cover new forms of missile technology, the treaty continued to decay. Without new infrastructure to keep these new threats in check, the INF fell apart, leaving Europe vulnerable to new intermediate-range deployments and



fuelling NATO anxiety surrounding Russia's growing arsenal.

3. NATO-Russia Council Paralysis

The 1992 Open Skies Treaty, in which unarmed reconnaissance flights across states parties would boost transparency and promote trust, disintegrated in the early 2020s. The United States in 2020 cited numerous Russian closures of observation flights across sensitive sites, and Russia retaliated in 2021 with withdrawal. Hailed once as an unprecedented new tool of cooperative security, the treaty's legitimacy eroded as it became clouded by allegations of noncompliance and more broadly, as NATO–Russia relations became contentious. Its loss closed another transparency avenue, expanding still further potential for misperception and escalation in Europe.

VIII. Possible Solutions

The future in a sustainable direction to bring back trust and transparency to Europe's security sector would be to conceptualize an updated framework of arms control in sync with today's world. Instead of relying solely on legacy means of unarmed reconnaissance flights, states could bring in new-age weapons in the form



Image 3: Soldiers and equipment from the Southern Skåne Regiment P7 in Sweden arrived by ferry to Riga to become part of NATO's Multinational Brigade Latvia (MNB-LVA) on January 18, 2025.

of satellite imagery, remote sensing systems, and digital information-sharing systems to provide accurate and verifiable tracking. Such technologies would not only reduce controversies over non-compliance but also expand the scope to include new threats in the form of drones and hypersonic systems. Institutionalizing such



a regime in a multilateral structure such as the OSCE would strengthen its legitimacy, enable collective control, and reduce it from being vulnerable to bilateral political setbacks.

At the same time, reconstituting political rhetoric and the crisis-management framework is also necessary. Confidence-building measures such as pre-notification of military exercises, reciprocal facility visits, and hotlines between military leaders could reduce the chance of misperceptions and escalation. Regular communication forums, even during periods of strained relations, would show commitment to respecting transparency and stability. Alongside new verification means and reinvigorated diplomatic dialogue, these could bring to Europe a more stable and forward-looking security regime, reducing strains and reintroducing an element of predictability to relations between NATO and Russia.

IX. Useful Links

- [NATO Website](#)
- [The North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\) - Council on Foreign Relations](#)
- [NL ARMS Netherlands Annual Review of Military Studies 2020-Deterrence in the 21st Century—Insights from Theory and Practice-Chapter 3 Deterrence Rediscovered: NATO and Russia](#)
- [NATO and Russia after the Invasion of Ukraine-JSTOR](#)
- [Formal NATO-Russia Relations](#)
- [NATO Needs a Comprehensive Strategy for Russia](#)

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