

# **IZMIR PRIVATE TURK COLLEGE MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE**

**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**



## **I. Letter From The Secretary-General**

Volkan Altındağ

Distinguished delegates,

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to ITKMUN'25 as your secretary general. On behalf of the executive team, this conference took lots of time and hard work; and it is finally the time.

I am Volkan Altındağ, a senior student from Izmir Private Turkish College Anatolian High School. I have spent a significant amount of time while studying for and attending MUNs during high school, and it's now my turn to be one of the hosts of my school's MUN. I've been dreaming of this since middle school and I feel immense pride in myself and my team to be conducting this conference.

During this conference you will be participating in debates and working together with our hand picked and highly esteemed academy team and delegates. We have decided not to go for a theme for our conference as we didn't want to limit our agenda items and topics to a certain issue, since we truly believe that there are too many problems that shouldn't be ignored because we were only using agenda items to suit our topic. Please rest assured that you will have a great time during this year's ITKMUN, and make use of this opportunity to create lasting memories. We will be waiting for you.

Sincerely

## **II. Introduction to NATO**

Formed on the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty which had been signed on the 4th of April 1949, NATO is an active and leading contributor to peace and security on a global scale. The Organization was formed to promote democratic values and is committed to the passive resolution of disputes. However, being an intergovernmental military alliance, if diplomatic efforts go in vain, it has the military capability needed to undertake crisis-management operations alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organizations. Through such operations, the Alliance demonstrates both its willingness to prove itself as a positive force for change and its ability to meet the security challenges of the 21st century.

The committee hosts 32 countries across North America and Europe. An additional 22 countries participate in NATO's Peace programs. Delegates from this committee will have to treat country crises on a case-by-case basis and to present diplomatic solutions to ongoing situations while keeping in mind previous attempts and efforts made by the committee. The use of past references, statistics, and inculcation of peace plans is recommended so delegates can proceed in the committee and pave their decisions accordingly in regard to the topic and finally come up with a unanimous resolution according to the topic.

## **III. Current Struggles of NATO**

The current three most important struggles are NATO's relations with Russia, relations with China and cybersecurity threats. In this committee, we will address each of the issues mentioned. Each one has its own needs. And you need to keep that in mind as you work in this committee to solve them

### **A. Relations with China**

#### **1. China's military build-up in the Asia-Pacific region**

##### **Taiwan Issue**

Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China (ROC), became a separate entity from mainland China after the Chinese Civil War (1945–1949). When the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) won the war and established the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, the defeated ROC government retreated to Taiwan. Since then, Taiwan has functioned as a self-governing

state, but Beijing insists that it remains a breakaway province that must eventually be reunified with the mainland, by force if necessary. While the PRC claims sovereignty over all of "China" and claims that Taiwan is part of China, it does not exercise actual authority over Taiwan, though it continues to claim that it holds such sovereignty. It's no doubt that the United States and hence NATO won't remain unresponsive to any military operation against Taiwan by the PRC to ensure total control over the island.

### **Chinese militarization of the South China Sea**

Over the past two years, China has intensified its military presence in the South China Sea by constructing military bases on small coral reefs and atolls within the Spratly Island chain. These territories are also claimed by the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Brunei. As Chinese construction expands these atolls, turning them into "artificial islands," the United States has declared that it will not recognize any territorial claims made over these man-made structures.

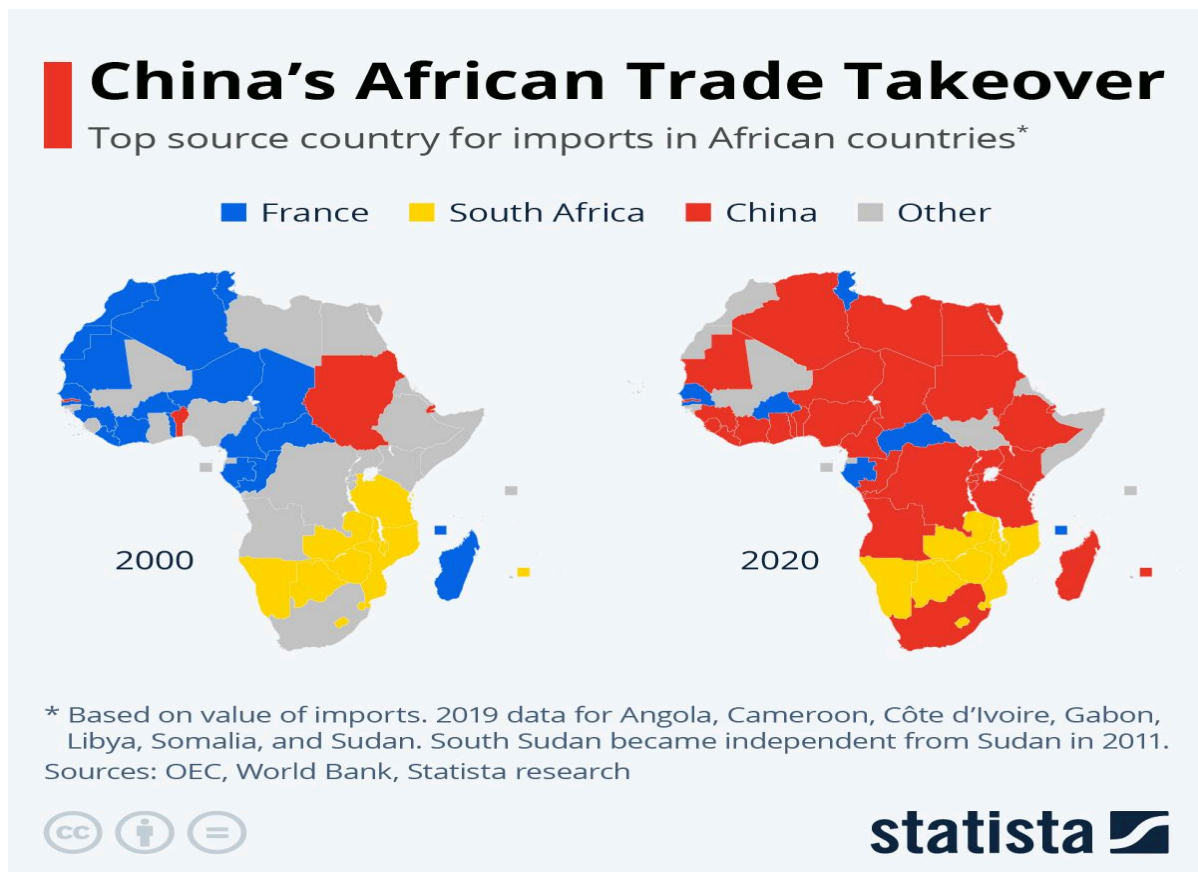
## **2. Chinese Influence in Africa**

### **NATO-African Relations**

NATO has been assisting the African Union (AU) in addressing security challenges across the continent. Over the years, the alliance has collaborated with the AU to enhance peacekeeping capabilities, support conflict resolution efforts, and strengthen regional security. NATO's involvement includes providing training, logistics, and technical assistance to African peacekeeping forces, particularly in operations such as the African Standby Force (ASF), a mechanism for rapid response to crises. Additionally, NATO has worked closely with the AU in counterterrorism efforts, particularly in regions affected by extremist groups like Boko Haram and al-Shabaab. This cooperation highlights NATO's growing commitment to supporting African security and stability, recognizing that the security of the continent has direct implications for global peace.

## China's impact on African trade

In 2000, China's trade with African nations was minimal. However, in the past twenty years, China's trade revenue from Africa has surged dramatically. Today, China is the largest trading partner for almost the entire continent. This economic influence has sparked concerns across the Western world.



## Chinese Military in Djibouti

First and only Chinese military base in the African continent was built in 2016 in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa and in use since 2017. Western world was anxious due to global Chinese military expansion. The PRC officials claimed that the sole purpose of the Djibouti base was to assist antipiracy activities and secure Chinese citizens in the region.

## **B. Relations With Russia**

The relationship between NATO and Russia has always been tense and uncertain, dating back to the Cold War. During that period, NATO concentrated on protecting its members from the perceived threat posed by the Soviet Union to the security and stability of NATO and its allied nations.

The current two most important developments that NATO is currently addressing are the Russo-Ukrainian War and new members of NATO in close borders of the Russian Federation as Russian Federation sees the rapid defensive expansion of NATO in Eastern Europe as a threat to their well being along with the border fortifications against Russia that usually take place after being a member of NATO which often include military bases and ballistic missile silos.

### **1. Ukrainian War**

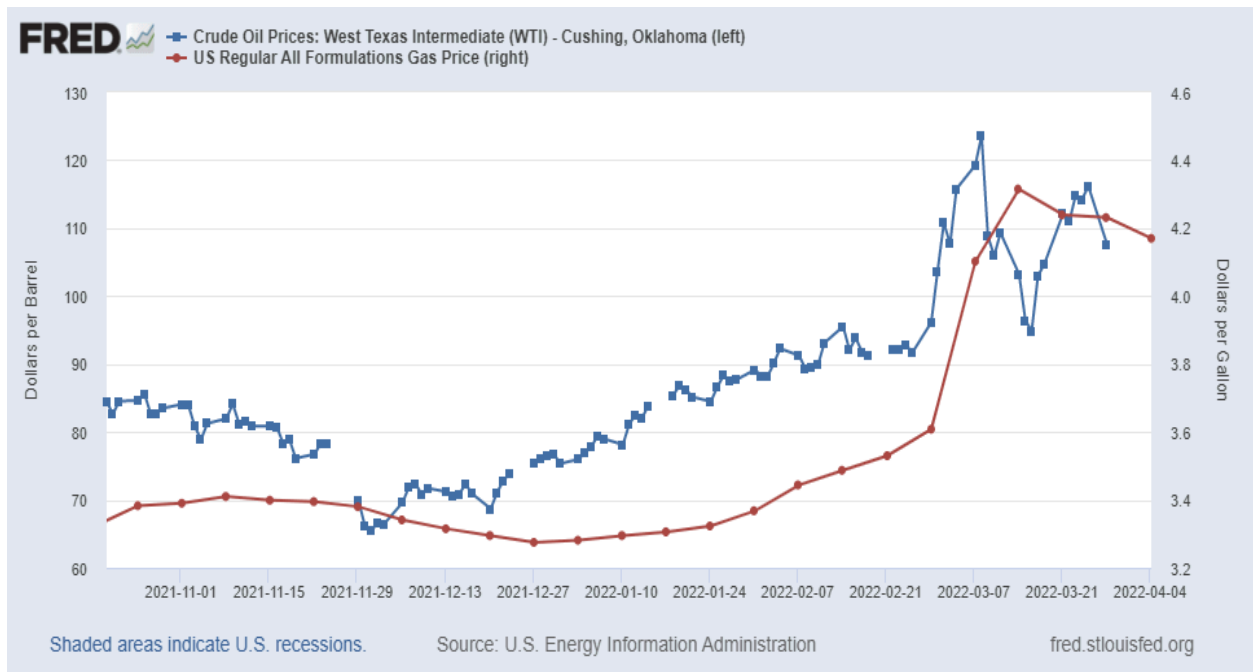
The Russo-Ukrainian war, considered one of the most significant crises of the 21st century, holds immense importance for NATO. The crisis began with Ukraine's aspiration to join NATO, driven by the threat perceived by the Ukrainian government from the Russian Federation, followed by the full-scale invasion launched by Russia. Highly controversial Russo-Ukrainian war has engraved its roots in early 2014 following the erupting pro-Russian movements in southeastern Ukraine and Russian troops occupying the important region of Crimea which began in February 2014. Afterwards, referendum on the status of Crimea and the troops entering and creating pro-Russian government buildings in the region led to worrisome discourse within the world due to the outcome of a 97 percent siding with Crimea's integration to the Russian Federation on the referendum. Crimea's integration into the Russian Federation was not and still isn't recognized by most countries and the referendum is illegal under the Constitution of Ukraine.

The events of 2021 were some of the most crucial factors leading to the outbreak of the war. First, Russia amassed a significant military presence along its border with Ukraine, and President Vladimir Putin voiced the Federation's stance on Ukraine, which included denying Ukraine's right to exist, advocating for Russian Irredentism, and criticizing NATO's enlargement policies, which involved Ukraine.

On 24th of February 2022, a military operation into Ukraine was launched by the Russian Federation in order to "demilitarize and denazify". The Russo-Ukrainian War officially started on that date and later led to many energy and food related crises in Europe and, in a much less scaled way, the whole world with the effects of war and Russia's counter-embargoes. After the

counter-embargoes by Russia, the prices of oil, coal and gas went up by 40%, 130%, and 180% respectively. Just these on average makes the prices go up by 116% for energy resources. These crises show that the Russo-Ukrainian War is more than just a war between two countries and how it can affect the whole world with every step taken throughout and after its conclusion.

With each day after the 2024 Russian Presidential Elections, Russia has started to advance into Ukraine like never seen before, piercing Ukraine's defence line and occupying major landmarks. Due to these advancements done by Russia, NATO is uneasy than ever before during this crisis and is predicted to raise its interruption. Each day the fall of Ukraine breaks further and further and to NATO it is of utmost importance to evade such outcome without drifting away from their ideologies, public opinion and the well-being of each one of its allies.



Gas prices in the USA after the Russo-Ukrainian war began.

As mentioned, Russia often deems new members of NATO as a threat to themselves. This view from the Russian Federation led to many controversies that include the Russo-Ukrainian War with Ukraine's desire to join NATO putting a final nail to the coffin. Finland was another major Eastern European country who has become a member of NATO. With a great border between Russia and previous conflicts between them, it was foreseeable that it would lead to new conflicts deriving from Russia. With the addition of Finland in 2023, NATO's border to Russia was more than doubled in length.

Another internal issue NATO addressed was the inclusion of Sweden and Finland in the alliance. While Finland's case was less contentious, Turkey vetoed the memberships of both countries due to its anti-terrorism stance. Turkey accused Sweden of supporting terrorist groups, a claim many

NATO members considered unsubstantiated, though they acknowledged the groups as terrorists. While both nations denied these allegations, it sparked public debate about Turkey's role within NATO. Despite Turkey being one of NATO's strongest members in military, there were still concerns about whether its ideologies aligned with those of the alliance. Ultimately, both Sweden and Finland were admitted to NATO through a majority vote, and as of today, they are members alongside Turkey.

With each member seemingly creating new crises, it is of careful consideration to add new members while blocking the appearance of such controversies and keep the public opinion at the top.

## **2. Nuclear Threats**

Since the beginning of the Russo-Ukrainian War, Russia has repeatedly hinted at the possible use of tactical nuclear weapons. Russian officials, including President Vladimir Putin, have warned that if NATO escalates its involvement or if Ukraine threatens Russian territorial integrity, nuclear retaliation could be considered. This rhetoric has raised concerns about the potential for limited nuclear warfare in Europe, which would mark the first use of nuclear weapons in combat since World War II.

In 2023, Russia announced the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, a move seen as an escalation in nuclear posturing. This decision increases tensions in Eastern Europe, as it places nuclear warheads closer to NATO borders, particularly Poland and the Baltic states. By stationing nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russia strengthens its strategic positioning and signals its readiness to use them if necessary.

Beyond direct military concerns, Russia frequently uses nuclear threats as a political tool to deter NATO from taking stronger action against its geopolitical moves. By maintaining ambiguity about when and how it might use nuclear weapons, Russia creates fear and uncertainty, discouraging direct Western intervention in conflicts like Ukraine. This strategy is part of Russia's broader hybrid warfare tactics, combining military threats with political and economic pressure.

## **C. Cybersecurity**

Cybersecurity was one of the most important matters to NATO especially in the 21st century. Everyday, NATO's cybersecurity forces along with their systems hold operations in order to protect its allies networks and information as well as hold operations to face the growing cyber threats. These operations' core focus is to defend, aligning with their ideology. NATO follows the



international law of the United Nations throughout their cybersecurity operations which include the international humanitarian law and international human rights law as long as it is applicable.

In July 2016, NATO and its allies reaffirmed that cyberspace is a domain of operations with the agreement of Cyber Defence Pledge on 8th of July 2016. "...a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace..." is promoted and worked towards by NATO. With a NATO Summit in Brussels in June 2021, NATO saw the endorsement of a new Comprehensive Cyber Defence Policy that promoted the support of NATO's cyberspace resilience. Now, NATO monitors and counters cyber attacks actively at all times.

## **IV. Documentation**

### **A. Communiqué**

In our committee, for documentation, you are going to be writing Communiqué. Communiqués are official documents; primarily products of the deliberations that take place within the Council's Chambers and adopted by the Council following the procedure of consensus. Communiqués contain actions of the NAC submitted in draft form under the sponsorship of the delegations working in a council. Additionally, communiqués address an opinion to a given situation and recommend action-plans to be enforced by the Alliance. NATO Communiqués have a legally binding character for all members of the Alliance. Draft communiqués at the moment of their submission are considered to have gathered the concurrent opinion of a large majority of states within the Council but still are to be debated and revised through the amendment procedure. The NAC Draft Communiqués must be adopted in absolute consensus. It is important to acknowledge that in drafting a communiqué wording will influence its acceptance among fellow delegates. As consensus is required for the Council to adopt a Communiqué, phrasing gains another level of importance when the document enters its crucial stage, the approval. The draft communiqué should be clear and concise. Consequently, the better the substance of a draft communiqué is, the higher the success of achieving consensus in the council session. The main aim of communiqué writing is to put down ideas in a clear and concise manner targeting the topics at hand including all proposals of states under the scope of the Alliance always in accordance with the provided format.

### **Draft Communiqué**

1. The Heading, identifying the type of the meeting (Ministerial or Summit) in which the communiqué is introduced
2. Numbering: the sequel number of each draft communiqué, presented by the President along with the submission of the communiqué by the Sponsor, i.e. NAC Draft Communiqué. NAC/A/

08- Dec-2013/ 1, which indicates the first Draft Communiqué submitted in NAC, on topic Area A, on the 8th of December 2013.

Sample of a Draft Communiqué

Draft Communiqué

Ministerial of The North Atlantic Council  
Held at NATO Headquarters  
Brussels, August 18th 2009

1. Today the North Atlantic Council met in the Defense Ministers Session, in Thessaloniki, to advance the ...
2. At our meeting today...
3. We fully support the negotiations...
4. We reaffirm our determination...
5. We express our concerns about ...
6. As NATO we affirm...
7. We call upon the negotiations...
8. We emphasize the children...
9. ...
10. ...
11. ...
12. ...

## **V. Questions to Ponder**

What challenges does NATO face in adapting to emerging security threats in the 21st century?

How can NATO effectively respond to the resurgence of great power competition, especially regarding Russia and China?

What role should NATO play in countering China's growing global influence and military presence, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region?

In what ways can NATO reinforce its collaborations with non-member countries and international organizations to improve global security cooperation?

How should NATO balance its expansion, especially with countries like Finland and Sweden joining, while avoiding further provocation of Russia?

How can NATO navigate geopolitical tensions and maintain unity and cohesion within the alliance amidst differing member interests and priorities?

What measures should NATO take to address cyber threats and hybrid warfare in an increasingly digitized world?