

LIMUN

LICEO'S MODEL UNITED NATIONS

NATO



Topic B: "Strategic, security, and economic challenges; corruption enabling it".

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I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

What is NATO?

NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is the alliance of 30 European and North American countries. This alliance was formed in 1949, signed in the Washington Treaty. One of the key articles states that if one of the countries in NATO is attacked, it's considered a direct attack against all members of the organization, thus all members of this organization will respond with armed forces, if it's necessary.

What does being part of NATO imply?

Although these countries are willing to defend themselves as a whole with armed forces, if necessary, one of their main aims is to maintain peace in all countries. Evidently peace comes along with a few requirements, which are the following: each country having their own territorial integrity followed, political independence, and security to all 30 members. For these reasons, the countries that set up NATO are looking forward to having more countries on their side and evicting enemies, having already countries from several parts of the world, such as countries in the Euro-Atlantic area, the Mediterranean, and the Gulf region.

Why was it created?

NATO was created with the purpose of defending Western Europe from a possible Soviet invasion after World War II. On the other hand, there was another alliance formed against NATO, which was the Warsaw Treaty Organization, or the Warsaw Pact. The Warsaw Pact was stronger than NATO, so the allies had to use nuclear weapons to defend themselves, however they pulled back when the Cold War was over.

II. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

Many European countries were economically and militarily unstable, which was one of the greatest consequences left by the Second World War. Reviewing the Soviet's perspective, they emerged rapidly from the war, having a great advantage against most countries forming NATO. Furthermore, NATO was not initially composed of the 30 countries it is composed of nowadays, countries have been, gradually, becoming part of it. Initially, it was composed and founded by its 12 leading members, which are the following: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.

A. Introduction to the Topic

To begin with, taking into consideration the complications that Russia and Ukraine's conflict has had a negative impact on countries forming part of NATO, strategic and economic challenges have been appearing ever since. Not only this has affected the complication, also corruption has affected negatively, contributing in worsening the subject. Corruption doesn't only affect the economic environment, moreover it affects the security council as well. This means that corruption enables criminals and their networks into frail parts of the government, which enfeebles security. It gives them access to crucial and key information, and

the capability to unite the government (including its security), and criminal organizations that may be linked to drugs, arms, human trafficking... Corruption creates fear and mistrust towards the government and the decisions it takes, and takes away the liberty of the citizens, questioning democracy. Mistrust leads to strategic challenges (people don't trust the government's strategies and decisions), especially since strategies are needed to face Ukrain's invasion.

As mentioned in the committee background information, NATO seeks deterrence and defense, which is linked to the security and economic challenges (it needs resources); crisis prevention, mostly linked to the strategic challenges (because of Ukrain's invasion); and cooperative security, also linked to the security challenges. Considering all the aspects NATO has to align currently, which is exorbitant considering that just defense corruption costs around \$20 billion annually, worldwide. Furthermore, the Defense and Security NATO program ranked vulnerability to corruption in these countries, to which the average grade was a D.

B. Evolution of the Topic

Nowadays, corruption has become incredibly expensive for the economy, around 3.6 trillion dollars are spent annually worldwide and 5% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Products). This sum does not reflect some of the corrupt acts made by the government. In some parts of Eastern Europe there has been an allowance of corruption to go unchecked.

Moreover, the Ukraine and Russia conflict is affecting delegations worldwide, specially in Europe, causing not only economic struggles, but also social and security struggles. The European Union and Western Europe fight with accountability and transparency as their response to COVID-19 and menacing their clear image.

There have also been security issues all over Europe that have to be accounted for. The Yalta system of international relations - a system implanted after the Second World War- is no longer useful. Of course, there are risks of suffering an attack from Russia to the countries in the European Union for their connections and support towards Ukraine, Russia can see them as a threat. A good strategy to avoid a possible attack, and improve security and economy is needed as soon as possible, on the contrary, consequences may be rigorous.

C. Relevant Events

- There have been severe issues with Europe and Russia due to their energy connection and their points of view on various topics, such as Ukraine's invasion.
- During the last decades, there have been several frameworks in the European Union (EU).
- Croatia, a member of NATO, has recently been ranked as the most corrupt delegation of Eastern Europe, beating Russia.
- Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022.
- NATO defends Ukraine from Russia and gives it full support, which can cause a possible Russian attack to European countries.
- European delegations have gas issues due to connection and dependence with Russia, such as Germany and Italy (which make part of NATO)
- Over the past years the Defence and Security program at Transparency International ranked countries forming part of NATO in vulnerability to corruption, in which the average score was a grade of D.
- NATO approves a new Strategic Concept for the Alliance in Madrid on June 29, 2022. This Strategic Concept is meant to approach the next decade.

III. CURRENT ISSUES

A. Panorama

Given the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's conflict with Ukraine, the situation regarding security, strategies, and economy was weakened and worsened over time (more specifically since 2020), evidently corruption does not help this situation at all. Russia's conflict has had secondary effects on countries near Ukraine, also to the ones aiding this country. Apart from security being an issue because of corruption, it has to be implemented to avoid a possible attack from Russia given NATO's relation with the country, which has been deteriorating since 2004. The pandemic was detrimental economically, mostly because it caused a lack of employment among citizens, evidently regarding health matters too.

A. Points of View

Croatia:

It is well known as one of the most corrupt (or even the most corrupt) delegations of Europe, beating Russia, and has 56.8 billion GDP (Gross Domestic Products). Croatia is known as "vulnerable" due to its high dependency on tourism. This delegation is having trouble recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the lack of velocity in the process. And the GDP (Gross Domestic Products) of Croatia is known to have lowered significantly, around 8.4 percent in 2020, due to pandemic and corruption. There was also a lack of export on services. It is estimated that the account balance fell to around -1.3 percent. Moreover, there was a growth in unemployment, due to 1.3 more people being considered unemployed, leading to public debt, estimated at 87.2% of GDP (Gross Domestic Products) in 2020. Fortunately the NPL (Non Profitable Loan) ratio remained stable. It is quite known that people with low wages have been abominable, being in the top income cases. Also, more than 30% of households had lowered their income. Now, Croatia has an objective to get back up and stabilize itself.

United States:

The United States is known for their freedom and Capitalist government, it is also known for their economy and trade with the world. The economy of this country was considered to be lethargic compared to their economy in 2021, and on tighter financial conditions. It was predicted that their GDP (Gross Domestic Products) would grow 2.8% in 2022, 0.4% less than 2021. The predictions for 2023 are that the GDP will grow 2.0%, being less than 2022. The economy of this delegation is based on the high-developed and technologically-advanced sector with the services sector. The US (United States) has an important manufacturing base, representing 15% of output. Even with the struggles, the United States is still one of the largest and most important in the world, so it is respected by most delegations. For this specific last reason, the United States was the country that aided Ukraine the most militarily after the Russian invasion, which also benefited NATO.

Latvia:

Latvia is a country that had a “growth spurt” in 2022, however it is set to be cut short due to an inflation surge and a slowing global economy. The expensive energy prices are a reason why households will “cut back” on consumption leading to lowering the GDP of this delegation. It is expected to recover once the heating season is over in 2023, however this can make the 2023-2024 winter complicated in Latvia; it is expected that they receive EU funded investments to boost public investment. The GDP of this delegation is expected to lower 3.4% in 2023 and grow 1.4% in 2024. In 2023, inflation is expected to grow 8,3% and unemployment 8,1%. GDP debt is expected to grow 44,0% in 2023 and current account balance -6,8%. The growth of GDP was calculated to be 1.4% in 2022. Meaning that the conflict and pandemic affected negatively, and inflation is making its way towards a greater challenge.

UN & EXTERNAL ACTIONS

A. UN actions

Taking into account that NATO and the United Nations are separate organizations, and although they might have very similar objectives they are independent from each other. Regarding the strategic, security, and economic challenges that NATO is currently facing, the United Nations considers them internal challenges that are meant to be solved by NATO countries, especially those affected, by the pandemic and Russia's invasion, the most. However, the United Nations has taken action towards Russia's invasion, and has established a commission to investigate violations committed during the attack. In addition, the General Assembly voted to condemn Russia's attempts to annex four regions of Ukraine. Regarding Ukraine, the UN is currently aiding this country with assistance to people affected, mostly with women, children, elderly people, and disabled people.

B. External actions

- The United States is one of the countries that has helped Ukraine the most, and has provided the most military aid. This comes to benefit countries in fear of a possible attack, given that it strengthens Ukraine for defense.
- European countries located close to Ukraine, such as Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, and Hungary, have also aided Ukraine; instead with accepting and helping misplaced ukrainians.
- The United Kingdom has also aided this country militarily. Prime Minister Boris Johnson expressed: "This will include lethal aid in the form of defensive weapons and non-lethal aid."
- Germany has also decided to support Ukraine with resources. This country provided 1,000 anti-tank weapons and 500 Stinger surface-to-air missiles from Bundeswehr stocks. "The Russian invasion of Ukraine marks a turning point. It is our duty to do our best to support Ukraine in defending itself against Putin's invading army," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz expressing Germany's concerns and support towards Ukraine.

II. CONCLUSION

Coming to an end, NATO is currently facing a series of challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has mostly affected the economy of most (if not all) countries, including NATO. In addition to the crisis, Russia's invasion towards Ukraine has affected many European countries, and has provoked fear in these countries given that there is a probability of these being attacked (considering Russia's relationship with NATO), especially the ones located near Ukraine.

These two recent crises have affected shockingly over the last two years. Challenges are mostly strategic, economic, and security. Apart from the crises being a burden to the government and citizens, corruption was an issue that NATO had to deal with before the crises, but never concluded because of the sudden and unexpected situations that made it harder. However, corruption affects in all aspects of what NATO seeks, which is defense and deterrence, crisis prevention, and cooperative security. Corruption, economic struggles, security issues, and strategic challenges have made this harder for these countries. Possible solutions are needed as soon as possible.

III. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- How is my delegation's economy being affected by corruption and the recent conflicts between Russia and Ukraine?
- How will the GDP of my delegation grow in the next few years?
- What makes my delegation's economy stable?
- Is my delegation safe?
- Does my delegation have strategic issues due to corruption and the lack of trust in the community?
- What has my delegation done to help solve the current issues?

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