

LIMUN

LICEO'S MODEL UNITED NATIONS

NATO



*Topic A: "Deterrence and Defense for NATO
given Russia and Ukraine's conflict"*

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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, and was 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 its 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 to evict 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 recovered 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, nowadays, composed of countries that have been, progressively, becoming part of it. Initially, it was composed and founded by its 12 leading members, which are Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

A. Introduction to the Topic

Russia and Ukraine's conflict has affected many countries either directly or indirectly. Although none of these countries are part of NATO for now, it still has had a great impact on most countries contributing NATO. In spite of the fact that it has made a negative impact in numerous ways, the principal ones that have been affecting are the following: security in the environment, safeguarding, freedom, and deterrence.

B. Evolution of the Topic

Security in the environment:

All countries have to be aware, careful, and conscious of Russia and Ukraine's dispute, especially those surrounding these countries. Many of these are part of NATO, for example, Latvia and Estonia have to be extremely aware of security for citizens in their territories. Although countries in this association possess very complex security measurements, since the end of the Cold War in 1991, Russia and Ukraine's conflict has escalated very rapidly since this February this year, and security has been becoming a great issue for many countries in NATO, even for many countries that aren't part of this alliance. Terrorism has been a considerable issue since this global affair began, which is also considered the greatest threat NATO is currently facing. Russia's military force has been a great threat to the allies, since it is one of the countries with the best military nowadays, along with China's, one of Russia's greatest allies.

This issue, besides its magnitude, has been having more impact in these countries, given the current economic situation, the Covid-19 pandemic, and all of its side effects; health emergencies, which have increased since the pandemic as well; climate change, that has been an issue affecting society and presenting consequences for the past 800,000 years. However the problem has been increasing gradually over the years; food insecurity, which is linked to the poor economic situation; and fragile institutions, that affect education, which is also linked to the economic situation.

Defense and deterrence

As previously mentioned, one of NATO's biggest concerns and purposes is to keep every country, in the alliance, politically and militarily secure and strong. Part of its concern is to maintain basic human rights for everyone, individual liberty, democracy, and the rule of law. Delegates have to consider the gravity of this issue considering that these countries

have many nuclear weapons, missile defense capabilities, space capabilities, cyber capabilities, along with many more. Given these factors, they are still at risk and in danger of great chaos that can be provoked by Russia's military at any moment.

Given these great issues, countries ought to maintain resilience at all costs, which they have achieved so far. Part of this resilience is to maintain freedom of action and to respond if Russia starts attacking even more countries in the alliance. To maintain resilience, civil-military cooperation is essential, since NATO has to keep its ability to maintain troops quickly and stable, besides moving equipment easily.

C. Relevant Events

- In March of the present year, NATO leaders agreed and prepared more battalions in the following countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. However, they already had some battalions in these other countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. These are some of the countries nearest to Russia and Ukraine, thus they are in more danger and have to have more precautions.
- In June of the present year, NATO leaders confirmed a new strategic concept, which mainly recognizes NATO's main duties.
- NATO has continued to receive different threats and challenges, involving cyber and hybrid attacks. What has challenged the allies are mainly the following points: strategic competition, advancing authoritarianism, pervasive instability...
- The two military strategies from NATO are well-thought, one being focused on the short-term, while the other is focused on the long-term. The short-term focuses on force employment to deter and defend these countries today, considering there could be an attack at any time, and countries have to be well

prepared. However, NATO does have a long-term solution, which is a vision to guide the Alliance's long-term warfare development to remain militarily strong as soon as possible, but mainly in the near future.

- Considering that the economy of almost any country is not at its best right now given the Covid-19 pandemic, and NATO has spent a lot of money on defense, consider 350 billion dollars spent on the issue from NATO countries. Furthermore, the majority of countries in the alliance are not doing great economically.

III. CURRENT ISSUES

A. Panorama

Almost every country faces the risk of being attacked by Russia or by having secondary effects due to the attacks against Ukraine. Although points of view might be similar, given that every single country wants peace, there are countries that are at a higher risk because of their proximity to Russia and Ukraine, such as Latvia or Estonia; there are other countries that are at risk because of their relationship with Russia, such as the United States; and others just because they are part of NATO and are part of a group that is willing to fight to defend their allies. Many countries are not very conscient of the seriousness of the situation and how it can affect in many ways, especially in a long-term panorama.

The earnestness comes mainly from the following facts: countries in their economic situation, regarding the Covid-19 pandemic; how Russia's invasion can affect NATO countries, it can be secondary effects in the attacks, or different ways; tension between countries, we can see as an example the United States with Russia, and it surely can affect other countries too; finding ways to strengthen security and defense in these countries, specially the ones near the conflict; many countries helping

affected ones, such as Ukraine, and how they need resources to continue doing this.

A. Points of View

United States:

The United States knows that, if there is an attack from Russia, this country is willing and prepared militarily to fight back and protect its people. Most countries (61%) believe that the United States is a favorable and stable country to be allied with in case something happens. When Russia first attacked Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the United States immediately classified the attack from Russia as “unprecedented military aggression” and “unprovoked and unjustified”. For these reasons, the United States has imposed several sanctions against Russia to prove the point. These sanctions include restrictions on transactions with the bank, which limit their dollar-denominated foreign reserves; export controls, more specifically, in energy productions and a wide range of commercial and industrial operations; Biden’s prohibition to invest in products, including tradings as well; between many other restrictions against Russia, not trusting the country for uncountable things.

Estonia:

Estonia, as well as the United States, knows that if there is an attack from Russia towards any country being part of NATO, as being part of this alliance requires, it will defend the member of the alliance. On October 18, 2022, the Estonian parliament declared Russia a terrorist regime (with 88 votes). The parliament discussed the security of the country as well, mentioning that Estonia’s defense expenditures will be 2.85% of the gross domestic product in 2023, and will increase up to 3% in 2024. Apart from its defense, Estonia has aided Ukraine in its attack, given its distance from this country. Estonia donated 10 million euros to a cybersecurity project being held in Ukraine. Also, the Estonian foreign ministry assigned 300,000 euros for explosive ordnance disposal equipment to Ukraine.

Latvia

As well as both previous countries mentioned above, Latvia also considered Russia's actions as a "state sponsor of terrorism", and their actions as a "targeted genocide against the Ukrainian people". Apart from this, Latvia also believes that applying sanctions to Russia is a great idea, and can lead to the end of the issue. As well as Estonia, Latvia's geographic position might lead to receiving secondary effects from Ukraine's attacks, or even possible attacks from Russia. Latvia has almost 1 percent of its gross domestic products invested in Ukraine and has been one of its staunchest supporters.

I. UN & EXTERNAL ACTIONS

A. UN actions

The United Nations is well aware that Ukraine is suffering for economic purposes; people are being killed and injured, among many other issues being faced because of the war against Russia. For these reasons, it has taken several measures to aid countries being affected directly, such as: delivering humanitarian aid to approximately 13 million people; brokering a landmark deal in July, to resume food and fertilizer exports from three Ukrainian ports to the Black Sea.

B. External actions

As noted in previously mentioned countries, many are helping Ukraine and are doing action to improve security in their countries. These are some of the actions that many countries have done to help Ukraine: the United States has provided \$16.8 since February, which was when the first attack was; Germany and Sweden have reversed past policies against Russia and helping Ukraine, providing offensive military help to Ukraine; France has also joined the aid, giving room in their country to assist and accommodate around 7,500 refugees, and expressed that this country can

accommodate 100,000 refugees; like France, Italy has also accommodated refugees, over 23,000 currently; between many other countries that have accepted more refugees and done several other actions to aid Ukraine with this issue, and finally improved security in their own countries and countries closer to the conflict that are at risk of suffering secondary effects over the war or have more possibilities of suffering an attack from Russia.

II. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Russia and Ukraine's conflict has affected, not just them, but also many countries all around the world. It has generated fear, and for this reason, many countries (especially the ones near the conflict) have thought of actions to defend themselves specially for precaution from a possible attack or suffering the secondary effects these attacks can provoke.

NATO states that if one country (evidently part of the alliance) is attacked, it is considered a direct attack on all countries forming the alliance. For this reason, countries have to think of possible solutions to the issue regarding security, avoiding fear in citizens, and considering Ukraine's situation and how many countries have done many actions to help Ukraine, and to punish Russia for the attacks.

III. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- Does your country own a strong military force?
- How likely is it for your country to be attacked or suffer secondary effects from Russia and Ukraine's conflict?
- Has your country done something (regarding defense) in case there is a possible attack? If so, then what has your country done to prevent or protect itself from a possible attack?
- What is your country's position towards Russia's invasion? Why?

- Has your country done anything to aid Ukraine's situation? If so, what?
- How is your country doing economically due to the Covid-19 pandemic? Consider this for the resources that may be needed throughout the debate.

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