



# PacificMUN 2017

## North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

### Backgrounder Guide

Topic A: Defense Against Russian Aggression



# PacificMUN 2017

Dare to Speak | February 24–26 2017

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Under Secretary-General of  
Design and Media

Dear Delegates,

My name is Woojin Lim and I am very delighted to serve as the director for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at Pacific Model United Nations 2017.

First and foremost, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates who have chosen to serve as one of 28 member nations in NATO. I can assure you that it will be a memorable experience exploring the geopolitical and military standpoints of allied nations, debating topics regarding the future of the alliance's strategic Eastern front and the progression of collective cyber defence, and working with each other to bridge consensus over the given resolutions.

Experienced in university-level Model NATO, I will try my best to make an authentic atmosphere most representative to the actual NATO.

A little bit about myself: currently, I am a junior student attending Fraser Heights Secondary. I am an avid public speaker and debater who is passionate about international relations, social justice, and criminal law. Since last year, I have rekindled my interest in Model United Nations and have reappeared in the MUN community as a delegate, and now a staff member.

On behalf of my chair Nathan, I once again extend a warm welcome to all NATO delegates at PacificMUN 2017.

Sincerely,  
Woojin Lim  
NATO Director  
PacificMUN 2017



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## Committee Overview

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was originally established on April 4th, 1949 as an intergovernmental military alliance between 12 founding member states to prevent the proliferation of communist ideologies of the former Soviet Union (USSR).<sup>1</sup>

Since the collapse of the USSR in 1991 at the end of the Cold War, although NATO lost its historical purpose for having existed, NATO has transitioned its goal to safeguarding the freedom and security of its current 28 member states in Europe and North America. Outlined by NATO's 2010 Strategic Concept, the three fundamental objectives of the North Atlantic Alliance, created for the purposes of safeguarding Alliance members in the interests of international law, include, but are not limited to: (1) the guarantee of collective defence as a primary mechanism of defence amongst member nations, (2) the continuation of overseas crisis management of issues that potentially undermine the interests of the alliance, and (3) the provision of cooperative security amongst neighbours and international partners on grounds of common concern.<sup>2</sup> As enshrined in Article 4 of the Washington Treaty, NATO uniquely remains as the sole organization in which parties collectively come together to discuss all issues of contention that impact the territorial integrity, political, independence and/or security of its members.<sup>3</sup>

Aside from its primary goal to protect the members of the organization through means of diplomacy, and if necessary military force, NATO also strives to achieve global peace. Without the looming threat of the USSR after the Cold War, NATO began to conduct peacekeeping operations in the formerly communist territories, namely during the Bosnian War in 1992, then the Kosovo Conflict in 1999. Operating under the principle of collective defence, as reinforced by single most important Article 5 of the Washington Treaty (which was invoked for time by the United States following the 9/11 terrorist attacks). NATO undertook measures to mitigate the threats posed by terrorism in enhancing intelligence-sharing and cooperation. Similarly, although not an Article 5 action, many members of NATO are currently involved in the coalition against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and the continuous fight against terrorism.

Recently, the six-decade old military alliance was once again called to take action following the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula by the Russian Federation on March 18, 2014.<sup>4</sup> For the first time since the cold war, conventional warfare was once again a topic of discussion. Russian-NATO tensions rose, as Russia began to conduct massive military exercises within its

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_52044.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_52044.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official\\_texts\\_17120.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_50090.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50090.htm)



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borders.<sup>5</sup> Yet in the 21st century, aside from the usage of guns and tanks, expert hackers hired by intelligence agencies of a plethora of countries, as well as independent groups, threaten to infiltrate the privacy of NATO's databases. While espionage and counterespionage no longer occurs physically; they both have become cyber concepts. Faced with two imposing threats, NATO held the Warsaw Summit from July 8th to July 9th, 2016, in order to strengthen its defence both militarily and digitally.

NATO has always been regarded as the champion of the Western World, bringing stability and security to all of its member states and beyond; at PacificMUN 2017, that responsibility lies in the hands of the delegates. As a concerted body, you will hold the lifeline of not only the 28 members of this organization, but also the entire democratic world that depends on the protection of the West. Succeed, and the ideals and stability that NATO stands for shall survive and thrive; fail, and the world will face an impending shift of power, and out of the ashes may rise a totalitarian order. Act wisely, and the future shall be bright.

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.thenation.com/article/the-united-states-and-nato-are-preparing-for-a-major-war-with-russia/>



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## Topic Introduction

NATO's fundamental purpose for its original establishment was to act as a collective defence alliance to protect member nations against the looming threat of the Soviet Union. Although NATO seemed to have lost its traditional role at the end of the Cold War, history is currently repeating itself as the Russian Federation (formerly the figurehead of the Soviet Union) continues to flash its claws close to the heartland of neighbouring nations, increasing its political and military activity in Eastern Europe. Despite being significantly weakened by the collapse of the USSR, Russia still boasts itself as the one of the world's most powerful military and the world's largest arsenal, seated in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as one of the Permanent Five members that possesses the ability to veto the adoption of a draft UNSC resolution. This global powerhouse, having been dormant within the first decade of the 2000's, once again came onto NATO's radar in 2014 when it annexed the Crimean Peninsula during the Ukrainian Revolution, and further proceeded to mobilize its military forces, with its recent deployment of the advanced S-400 Triumph air defence systems in Crimea.<sup>6</sup> Russia's hostile stance of aggression has met international outrage. In April 2014, NATO's foreign ministers issued a statement that NATO has ""decided to suspend all practical civilian and military cooperation between NATO and Russia, [although the] political dialogue in the NATO-Russia Council can continue [...] to allow [them] to exchange views,"<sup>7</sup> while also taking a firm stance to condemn Russia's "illegal military intervention in Ukraine and Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."<sup>8</sup> Throughout the conference, all nations within the committee will be encouraged to brainstorm a necessary response to the immediate situation at hand regarding Russia's political and military actions and to devise the next step in improving NATO's defence mechanisms and its further involvement in Eastern Europe in achieving stability and peace.

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<sup>6</sup><http://news.nationalpost.com/news/world/putin-deploys-russias-most-advanced-air-defence-missiles-in-crimea-as-alarm-grows-war-is-imminent>

<sup>7</sup>[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news\\_108501.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_108501.htm)

<sup>8</sup>Ibid



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## Timeline

1947 – 1991	The occurrence of the Cold War, a period after World War II that comprised of political and military tension between the ideals of Western democracy and Eastern communism, primarily between the USA and the USSR, and by extension NATO and the Warsaw Pact
April 4, 1949	Formation of NATO
December 20, 1991	Russia joins the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (currently known as the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council), a post-Cold War multilateral forum established to improve relations between non-NATO countries and NATO
June 22, 1994	Russia joins the Partnership for Peace programme created to enhance cooperation between Euro-Atlantic partner countries and NATO in increasing stability and decreasing threats to global peace <sup>9</sup>
May 27, 1997	NATO and Russia sign the NATO-Russia founding Act, reaffirming their shared commitments to a “stable, peaceful, undivided Europe” that would benefit all its peoples <sup>10</sup>
May 28, 2002	Creation of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) for both parties to discuss further security issues and cooperate practically on various aspects <sup>11</sup>
August 12, 2008	Temporary suspension of meetings of the NRC until spring 2009 due to Russia’s military acting with disproportionate force within Georgia
March 16, 2014	Referendum held in Crimea, which shows overwhelming support for joining the Russian Federation. Russia proceeds to annex the Crimean Peninsula through a military intervention after the Ukrainian Revolution on 18 March 2014
April 1, 2014	NATO suspends “all practical civilian cooperation” under the NRC with Russia, as a consequence of Russia’s “violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity” in the “illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.” <sup>12</sup>
September 4, 2014	The Wales Summit is held: NATO representatives condemn Russia’s “illegal and illegitimate occupation of Crimea,” demanding that Russia comply with international law and assuage the tension built across the Ukrainian border.
April 20, 2016	NRC meeting to discuss the issues in Ukraine regarding concerns such as military activities, transparency and risk reduction

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_50349.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50349.htm)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\_texts\\_25468.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_25468.htm)

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_50090.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50090.htm)

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news\\_108501.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_108501.htm)



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## Historical Analysis

The Cold War is the starting point when regarding the clash of ideologies between Russia and Western nations. Although the United States was allies with the Soviet Union during World War II, political and military tensions started to build up between the two nations immediately following the end of WWII. The Cold War lasted from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990s in the fall of the Soviet Union. It marked of a period of the rise of proxy wars around the world, with examples including the Korean War, Vietnam War, and the conflict in Afghanistan. Many Eastern European countries had their territories dominated by the Soviet Union, and were under its political sphere of influence. NATO's origins reside in the attempt to counterbalance the Soviet threat as a military union of powers.

The original purpose of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed on April 4, 1949 was to serve as a deterrent to the aggression of the Soviet Union. As time progressed, the alliance began to redefine its overall strategic plan of action in combating the Soviet Union by declaring the need for "positive political changes"<sup>13</sup> in Europe while avoiding war to "seek solutions by peaceful means." The Harmel Report of 1967 further established the need to "assure the balance of forces, thereby creating a climate of stability, security, and confidence," whilst "[pursuing] the search for progress towards a more stable relationship [with the Soviet Union] in which the underlying political issues can be solved."<sup>14</sup>

After the Cold War, NATO took numerous initiatives to diminish Russia's continuous distrust of the organization. Some of these initiatives include: the inclusion of Russia in the Partnership for Peace Programme in 1994, the signing of the NATO-Russia Founding Act in 1997, and the participation of Russian forces in the peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. However, despite the initiatives to improve NATO-Russian relations, tensions continued to exist. In the Kosovo mission, Russia condemned the alliance's use of force as being "lawless and unjustified." After the Operation Allied Force, Russian personnel were withdrawn from positions at NATO headquarters, and cooperation at the Partnership for Peace Programme was temporarily halted until after the former NATO Secretary General, George Robertson, made a visit to Moscow in February 2000 and October 2003 to restart a new quality of relations.<sup>15</sup>

Although relations improved from before, the Russia-Georgia conflict in August 2008 further deteriorated NATO-Russia relations. In this situation, NATO criticized Russia's use of force in Georgia, explaining that "Russian military action [had been] disproportionate and inconsistent with its peacekeeping role, as well as incompatible with the principles of peaceful conflict resolution set out in the Helsinki Final Act, the NATO-Russia Founding Act and the Rome Declaration,"<sup>16</sup> whereas Russia justified its actions by protecting the interests of the pro-Russian Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Northern Georgia.<sup>17</sup> The Lisbon Summit Declaration in November 2010 was where NATO reiterated their "call on Russia to reverse its recognition of the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of Georgia as independent states" and "to meet its commitments with respect to Georgia, as mediated by the European Union on 12 August and 8 September 2008."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> NATO: From Regional to Global Security Provider, edited by Yonah Alexander, Richard Prosen

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\_texts\\_26700.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_26700.htm)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13523270500183488>

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf\\_2015\\_12/1512-background\\_nato-russia\\_en.pdf](http://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2015_12/1512-background_nato-russia_en.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.militairespectator.nl/thema/strategie-operaties/artikel/russias-perception-warfare>

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official\\_texts\\_68828.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_68828.htm)





### Russia in Ukraine

The Russia-Ukraine crisis embodies one of the most controversial European events in the 21st century. The crisis started in 2013 when Viktor Yanukovych, the pro-Russian Ukrainian president abandoned EU talks for an Association Agreement to build tight-knit relations with Moscow. Up to January 2014, wide scale protests occurred across Ukraine, with protesters in opposition to Ukraine's decision.

On February 20th, after the passing of strict anti-protest laws, violence erupted in Kiev, where 88 protesters were killed. As a result of this chain of events, which was known as the Ukrainian Revolution 2014, the parliament voted out President Yanukovych, formed a new provisional government, called to hold impromptu presidential elections, and considered the abolishment of the Russian language as Ukraine's second official language. These actions instigated backlash especially from pro-Russian supporters in the Eastern regions of Ukraine. By late February, pro-Russian extremists, supported by forces from Russia, were able to seize buildings of importance within Crimea, a place where roughly 58.3% of the general population identify themselves as ethnic Russians.<sup>19</sup> On March 16 2014, the Crimean government held a referendum on whether it should join as a part of the Russian Federation, resulting in an overwhelming majority (95,7%) of votes in favor of joining Russia,<sup>20</sup> although NATO and the international community condemned this referendum as a farce and do not recognize it as legitimate.



*Map of the region showing the geographical positions of Ukraine, Crimea, Russia, and other nearby countries*

<sup>19</sup> <https://eurasiangeopolitics.com/2014/03/14/ukraine-divided-nation-divided-state/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.rt.com/news/crimea-vote-join-russia-210/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.darkgovernment.com/news/u-s-general-russian-drones-responsible-for-heavy-casualties-in-ukraine/>





The Russian government then proceeded to mobilize military troops in unilaterally annexing the Crimean Peninsula on 18 March 2014. As a result of this sudden intervention, the international community reacted with the implementation of economic sanctions, pointing out violations in the national sovereignty of the Ukrainian government, the UN Charter, and the Budapest Memorandum, a political agreement which guaranteed security against “threats or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.”<sup>22</sup> While alliance members suggested that the Russian annexation of the Crimean peninsula was perpetrated out of “a longstanding desire to resuscitate the Soviet empire...as well as other countries in Eastern Europe,” Russia has contended that it was protecting its core strategic interests by limiting the alliance from moving into “[its] backyard.”

On July 17th, 2014, the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down by pro-Russian extremist groups, which killed all 298 passengers on board.<sup>23</sup> Although Russia vehemently denies any involvement, Western accusations regarding Russia’s involvement in supplying highly trained forces and heavy weaponry to the rebels continued to grow. The constant fight between the Ukrainian government and pro-Russian rebels is momentarily halted later in 2014 with the Minsk ceasefire, which is later shown to have been largely violated and ignored. The rebels continued to fight back against the government, capturing the Donetsk Airport in early 2015. In February 2015, all parties took diplomatic steps to resolve the conflict; the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France, and Germany met in Belarus for negotiations, which resulted in a final agreement on 12 February 2015, a deal also signed by rebel forces, which included plans for the creation of buffer zones and a weapons withdrawal on both sides.

### **Russia in the Arctic**

Russia is standing strong in the fight over the ownership of the Arctic. The seabed of the Arctic has vital importance to the competing nations, the five Arctic coastal states, which includes Canada, Norway, Russia, Denmark, and the United States. Under international law, currently the North Pole and nearby regions are not owned by any country. Due to an estimated 90 billion undiscovered barrels of oil that lie beneath the seabed, as estimated by a 2008 United States Geological Survey, the ownership of the Arctic is a question of utmost strategic importance. Since the invasion of Crimea, in recent years, Russia has been drastically escalating its military presence in the Arctic, “sending troops and missiles to strengthen its

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<sup>22</sup><http://www.cfr.org/nonproliferation-arms-control-and-disarmament/budapest-memorandums-security-assurances-1994/p32484>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28357880>



position in the competition for the region's extensive oil and gas reserves."<sup>24</sup> President Vladimir Putin is overseeing the deployment of advanced anti-aircraft missiles and the completion of six new military bases.

### **Russia in the Middle East**

As one of the few international backers of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government in the Syrian Civil War, Russia is amidst an escalating proxy war pitting Russia and Iran against countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, and the United States. Russia has vetoed UNSC resolutions and has supplied weapons to the Syrian military, despite Western forces supporting rebel groups. Russia's interests lie in protecting a key air base in Latakia and a naval facility in the Syrian port of Tartous, an important Mediterranean base for Russia's Black Sea Fleet. In September 2015, Russia began to launch airstrikes against Western-backed rebel groups against the Syrian government, claiming that they were targeting the Islamic State and "all terrorists."<sup>25</sup> Recently, on August 19th 2016, Russia has for the first time launched cruise missiles at targets from warships in the Mediterranean Sea. These military demonstrations have proved that Russia has the "ability to strike from virtually all directions in a region where it has been reasserting its power---from Iran, from warships in the Caspian Sea, from its base in the Syrian coastal province of Latakia and now from the Mediterranean."<sup>26</sup> Russian and Syrian government airstrikes have intensified lately, allowing President Bashar al-Assad to firmly maintain power and make advances against rebel groups, "with no progress on the horizon for a practical solution to end the war."<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup><http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3374539/The-new-Cold-War-Russia-sends-troops-missiles-Arctic-Putin-stakes-claim-region-s-oil-gas-reserves.html>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-23849587>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/20/world/middleeast/russia-syria-mediterranean-missiles.html>

<sup>27</sup> Ibid



Regarding the traces of Russian aggression, NATO has primarily taken two main initiatives: the publishing of public reports and resolutions to principally condemn Russia's past actions, and the imposition of various international sanctions to internally pressurize Russia in backing out from conflicts.

### **Public Condemnation of Russian Actions**

NATO's first major response has been the publishing of public statements to deplore Russia's actions. Since Russia's aggressive intervention in Crimea, leaders of outraged Western nations spoke out, with U.S. President Barack Obama referring to Russia as a "bigger nation bullying smaller ones," and how "Russia in Europe recalls the days when large nations trampled small ones in pursuit of territorial ambition."<sup>28</sup> To date, both NATO and EU nations have issued several public statements.

*The NATO Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 411 dealing with Ukraine* was passed on the 24th of November 2014. The resolution readdressed NATO's sturdy position in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, bringing a firm emphasis on NATO's "obligation to support Ukraine's struggle for its territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as its chosen pathway towards greater Euro-Atlantic integration."<sup>29</sup> Furthermore, it unambiguously reaffirmed NATO's commitment in clearly condemning Russia's "illegal occupation" of Crimea and the invasion of Ukrainian territory---actions that have violated international law including the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Helsinki Final Accord, the UN Charter, and the NATO-Russia Founding Act. The resolution continued to affirm support for the Ukrainian government in pursuing democratic reforms; called upon member nations to support diplomatic solutions to the crisis while continuing targeted sanctions and combating the Russian Federation's intentional campaign of misinformation; and finally urged the Russian government to encourage extreme pro-Russian separatist groups to disarm, publicly contribute to the implementation of ceasefire agreements, such as the Minsk Agreements, and engage in peace talks with the Ukrainian government in an attempt to reach a peaceful political solution to stabilize the Ukrainian region.<sup>30</sup>

### **Implementation of Economic Sanctions**

As defined by the Council of Foreign Relations, economic sanctions are "the withdrawal of customary trade and financial relations for foreign and security policy purposes," imposed by

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<sup>28</sup><http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/barackobama/11119347/Key-quotes-from-Barack-Obamas-UN-speech.html>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.voltairenet.org/article186140.html>

<sup>30</sup> Ibid



nations to “coerce, deter, punish, or shame entities that endanger their interests or violate international norms of behavior.”<sup>31</sup>

Along with the European Union, NATO has enforced a non-flexible policy of heavy economic sanctions to deteriorate Russia’s economy. Conjointly with the instantaneous fall of oil prices in 2014, the major economic trade cut-off with EU and NATO nations has left a massive mark on Russia’s essential industries, such as energy, resulting in its current financial crisis in which the value of the Russian Ruble has depreciated by nearly 50% when compared to the American dollar.<sup>32</sup> Aside of limiting the export of widespread oil industry technology, the EU has denied Russian banks in their attempts to raise long-term loans and has banned exports of dual-use military equipment and future arms deals in Russia. Moreover, economic sanctions have since targeted many of the individuals within Putin’s inner circle in order to reduce support and popularity of his regime. Several senior Russian officials, separatist leaders, and others who are considered of having “materially or financially [supported] actions undermining or threatening Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence,” have faced Western travel bans and asset freezes.<sup>33</sup>

### **NATO’s Next Steps**

In NATO’s prospective steps looking forward, as reinitiated by the open-door policy, NATO has an obligation to be open to future enlargements of the alliance, and talks of currently non-NATO states, such as Georgia and Ukraine, joining NATO as a member are in progress. Although full-scale military intervention in the eastern flank has not been officially considered by any of the NATO member states, with the EU issuing statements on military issues for the first time in its history, military involvement could potentially be a point of discussion for delegates in the conference.

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.cfr.org/sanctions/economic-sanctions/p36259>

<sup>32</sup> [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/indepth/2014-12/19/c\\_133865924.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/indepth/2014-12/19/c_133865924.htm)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28400218>



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## Possible Solutions

Based from the clash of ideologies for decades, the ongoing Russian aggression (predominantly seen in the current situation in Ukraine) is yet to be mitigated through effective NATO defence measures and policies. Many NATO nations support the continuous usage of diplomatic steps, including negotiations, ceasefire agreements, and peace talks. However, delegates must keep in mind that with many failed attempts, the effectiveness of non-aggressive solutions are indeed limited, and nations will be urged to consider other options to limit Russian aggression.

Furthermore, the question on whether economic sanctions should be continued remains on the table. Although deemed as an effective tool to instigate internal pressure upon Russia, due to the interconnectedness of the global economy, EU and NATO nations are noticing the effects of limited trade on their own economies. NATO does not have a direct influence over economic sanctions; however, it may influence the political decisions of its members in the extent and on where they should be aimed towards.

Another important solution has been regarding the necessity of NATO's military presence surrounding Europe. Currently, NATO's predominant military force consisting of air, maritime and Special Operation Forces (SOF) components that can be deployed quickly whenever needed is the NATO Response Force (NRF). On 24 June 2015, NATO decided to expand the components of NRF, which now include over 40,000 personnel.<sup>34</sup> The necessity and further involvement of this military force in the given situation is open for delegates' consideration. Additionally, the provision of military assistance to Ukraine in delivering arms and supplies has also been a topic of discussion. Keeping in mind that NATO as a collective body cannot directly provide arms to Ukraine, nations continue to consider the option of providing military help to Ukraine, and so the decision rests on member nations.

Finally, in regards to NATO's open door policy based on Article 10 of its founding treaty, NATO remains open to new European memberships of those wanting to undertake the obligations of membership and agree to contribute to collective security in the Euro-Atlantic.<sup>35</sup> There has been widespread debate on whether nations affected by Russian aggression, such as Ukraine and Georgia, should join NATO and the implications this would have on Russia. The act of Ukraine already joining the NATO Partnership for Peace has instigated negative feedback from Moscow.



*A map showing the positions of NATO member nations in the Euro-Atlantic region and NATO's expansion in the East*

<sup>34</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_49755.htm#](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49755.htm#)

<sup>35</sup> [http://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf\\_2016\\_07/20160627\\_1607-factsheet-enlargement-eng.pdf](http://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2016_07/20160627_1607-factsheet-enlargement-eng.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.cfr.org/nato/north-atlantic-treaty-organization-nato/p28287>



### **Germany**

Compared to other nations in the alliance, Germany maintains strong historic, economic, and cultural ties with Russia; since the War in Georgia, Germany has been cautious about issues concerning NATO enlargement into Eastern Europe. Although Chancellor Angela Merkel has strongly condemned Russian actions since the Ukraine crisis, she has stopped the support of “lethal aid” to Ukraine. Germany sees the importance of a diplomatic and peaceful solution through ongoing negotiations within Ukraine.

### **France**

In contrast to other nations of the alliance, France “doesn’t want to strangle Russia and die for NATO.”<sup>37</sup> France strongly disagrees with the usage of anti-Russian sanctions, discourages the escalation of NATO armament, and has rejected the deployment of troops.<sup>38</sup> While supporting the dissolution of economic sanctions, France believes that further negotiations and ceasefire agreements, such as the MINSK ceasefire, are viable solutions to appease the situation in the East.

### **The Baltic States, Poland**

The Baltic States are currently feeling highly threatened by Russia’s aggressive policies and are ready to embrace a firmer stance towards Russia. Deeply concerned about the possibility of Russian invasion, Lithuania's Defence Minister Juozas Olekas stated, “We cannot exclude [Russian aggression]... [Russia] might exercise on the borders and then switch to invasion in hours.” The Baltic States currently demand a greater NATO military involvement in protecting and defending member nations in the Euro-Atlantic to curb traces of Russian aggression, and are open to take pre-emptive actions to deter further Russian aggression.

### **Turkey**

In comparison to other nations, Turkey is currently in the process of building healthy relationships with Russia. Although relations have soured in December 2015, when Russia accused Turkey’s Erdogan of smuggling ISIS oil across the border from Syria,<sup>39</sup> and when Turkey shot down a Russian warplane on its border of Syria,<sup>40</sup> recently, relations are slowly mending. In August 2016, Turkey and Russia have created a “strategic partnership,” which

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<sup>37</sup> <http://www.pravdareport.com/news/world/europe/28-06-2016/134852-france-0/>

<sup>38</sup> <http://dailycaller.com/2016/06/01/italy-france-still-no-shows-as-nato-hits-major-roadblock-in-plan-to-deter-russian-aggression/>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-releases-proof-turkey-is-smuggling-isis-oil-over-its-border-a6757651.html>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34912581>





would include high-profile energy projects.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, the implementation of economic sanctions have caused a backfire effect on Turkey's economy, affecting Turkish tourism, food exports, and construction sectors,<sup>42</sup> which is constantly encouraging Turkey to lift sanctions from Russia at the moment.

### **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom took a strong stance in imposing punitive economic sanctions and suspending military cooperation with Russia for "Russia's seizure of Crimea and support for separatists in Ukraine."<sup>43</sup> The United Kingdom is highly in support of creating a new NATO force on Russia's border to act in emergency situations. British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon stated that "London will send up to 700 troops to the Baltics and Poland," for the purpose of sending a "strong signal to [Britain's] determination to defend the Baltic states and Poland in the face of continued Russian aggression."<sup>44</sup>

### **United States of America**

Since the Cold War, the United States of America has maintained a strong stance in opposition to Russia and its actions, and is taking practical actions in showing the condemnation of Russia's actions; the US has been a part of implementing severe economic sanctions to crumble the Russian economy in 2014. In the situation in the Middle East, although Russia and the US shared a mutual goal in combating the Islamic State, both sides are supporting actors in polar opposite circumstances---Russia backing President Bashar al-Assad and the US backing rebel groups, such as the Free Syrian Army. When regarding the current situation in Ukraine, as one of the NATO's main military providers, the United States has admitted that it is "evaluating other options (besides diplomatic means) that will help create space for a negotiated solution to the crisis."<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>41</sup><http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/08/10/nato-plays-it-cool-as-russia-and-turkey-grow-closer-putin-erdogan-coup/>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35209987>

<sup>43</sup><http://www.wsj.com/articles/uks-america-to-make-statement-on-downed-malaysia-airlines-flight-1405938897>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nato-russia-idUSKCN0Z01BC>

<sup>45</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/02/ukraine-us-considers-military-help-kyiv-separatists-plan-mobilise-army>



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## Discussion Questions

1. Should NATO attempt to maintain neutral relations with Russia or should the status quo be adjusted?
2. What balance of military and/or diplomatic actions should be taken to counteract Russian aggression and in seeking resolution?
3. Is it within NATO's jurisdictions to intervene in the affairs of non-NATO countries such as Ukraine or Syria?
4. Should NATO provide military support to Ukraine, a non-member state?
5. What can be done to prevent the Russian advancement in the Arctic?
6. Should nations directly affected by Russian aggression, such as Ukraine or Georgia, be open to consideration in being included as a member of NATO to deter Russian aggression?
7. What stance should NATO adopt in appeasing the Ukrainian-Russian conflict?
8. What should NATO's role be regarding the situation in Syria?



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## Further Reading

NATO - NATO and Russia: Balancing defence with dialogue

<[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions\\_134210.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_134210.htm)>

NATO - NATO-Russia Relations: The Background

<[http://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf\\_2016\\_05/20160518\\_1605-backgrounder\\_nato-russia\\_en.pdf](http://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2016_05/20160518_1605-backgrounder_nato-russia_en.pdf)>

NATO - Relations with Russia

<[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_50090.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50090.htm)>

NATO - Warsaw Summit Communiqué

<[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\_texts\\_133169.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_133169.htm)>

NATO-Russia Council - Statement by NATO Foreign Ministers

<<http://nato.int/nrc-website/en/news/index.html>>

Atlantic Community - Memo 6: NATO and Russia

<<http://www.atlantic-community.org/app/webroot/files/articlepdf/Memo%206%20NATO%20and%20Russia.pdf>>

Atlantic Council - NATO Response Force

<<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/nato/nato-response-force>>

Atlantic Council - Countering Russian Aggression in Eastern Europe

<<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/publications/issue-briefs/countering-russian-aggression-in-eastern-europe>>

Stratfor - Perspectives for NATO-Russia Relations

<<https://www.stratfor.com/the-hub/perspectives-nato-russia-relations>>



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