

The North Atlantic Council

Study Guide



Bucharest Model NATO 2024

April 04th - 07th

1. Foreword Letter from the Chairpersons
2. Overview of the committee
3. Breakdown of the topic
4. Timeline
5. Glossary
6. More information about the topic
7. Close NATO partners
8. Questions to be addressed

Chapter 1

Distinguished Representatives of the North Atlantic Council,

We are beyond honored to have the opportunity to guide you through the following days of debate and through the intriguing topics that we are going to discuss, but moreover we are so glad to get to be a part of your journey and help you grow and learn more about yourselves. We will try to make this conference as memorable as possible for all of you. From an academic perspective, we hope you will develop an interest for the topics, the committees and the format of a conference and maybe discover a new passion for debating or grow your already existing skills regarding diplomacy, research and use of english. From a personal standpoint, you will get to know a lot of people with the same passions, form friendships and make new memories. This will hopefully be a unique experience for you, as the Organizing Team has worked so hard to make it so.

Should you need any help during the days of the conference or have any inquiries regarding the debates in the days before, we will be available to help you anytime. We are trying to create a comfortable space for everyone and we are very enthusiastic to see you debate at the conference!

Best regards,

Your Esteemed Chairpersons of the North Atlantic Council

Chapter 2

The North Atlantic Council (Council or NAC) is the principal political decision-making body within NATO, being the only committee that was established by the Alliance's founding treaty and is also invested with the power to create subsidiary bodies, with the ultimate goal of implementing the treaty. The NAC consists of member states' permanent representatives or representatives at higher level.

Chapter 3

Topic 1 - Discussing NATO's ongoing enlargement process aimed at promoting stability.

Enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is the process of including new member states in NATO. While discussing the idea of new countries adhering to NATO, there are a few steps through which a country must go through, as well as some factors and legislation to keep in mind.

First of all, is important to bear in mind Article 10 of NATO, stating 2 important aspects

regarding adhesion towards NATO: first, only European states are eligible for new membership, and second, these states not only need the approval of all the existing member states, but every member state can put some criteria forward that have to be attained.

Second of all, the most important step an aspiring country can take in order to come closer to the adhesion to NATO is the Membership Action Plan (MAP). When a country is accepted by NATO in a MAP, NATO and the respective country work together in order to get said country up to standard in order to fulfill its membership in the organization. For that, the country must present annual reports on 5 different metrics: willingness to settle international, ethnic or external territorial disputes by peaceful means; commitment to the rule of law and human rights, and democratic control of armed forces; ability to contribute to the organization's defense and missions; devotion of sufficient resources to armed forces to be able to meet the commitments of membership; security of sensitive information, and safeguards ensuring it; compatibility of domestic legislation with NATO cooperation.

Currently, there are 3 countries that are in talks with NATO in order to obtain a membership: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Ukraine. These are the only aspiring countries, as Sweden recently officially joined the Alliance, on March 7th 2024.

Topic 2 - Strengthening relationships with member and partner countries

Partnerships outside NATO's border are a fundamental value the Alliance promotes in order to maintain stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic region. NATO has created a solid framework in many regions around Europe, such as the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Through the multitude of existent partnerships, NATO ensures many of their goals:

- ❖ building defense capacities
- ❖ developing interoperability and managing possible future crises
- ❖ fully supporting the development of partner nations' own defense and security means
- ❖ intelligence-sharing
- ❖ pursuing education, training, consultation
- ❖ furthering exercises, trainings
- ❖ involving non-Allies in current NATO missions
- ❖ taking gender perspectives into account in security and defense matters
- ❖ fighting against corruption on an international scale
- ❖ controlling and having the ability to destroy military means
- ❖ leading joint scientific projects

Outside of the multi-party partnership programs that the Alliance provides, each of the close allies of NATO, be it the Mediterranean Dialogue or Partners Across the Globe, has a personalized program, in which both sides benefit from direct cooperation.

Chapter 4

Topic 1

April 2008 - Ukraine applied to begin a NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP), during the Bucharest Summit;

April 2010 - Bosnia and Herzegovina was invited to join the Membership Action Plan;

February 2010 - Ukraine elects President Viktor Yanukovich, who stated that relationships with NATO are currently "well defined" and that there was, at that time, "no question of Ukraine joining NATO" ;

7 December 2011 - Georgia was designated as an "aspirant country" by the NAC;

March 2014 - Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine;

September 2014 - the creation of the The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP);

June 2017 - According to a poll by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation, some 69% of Ukrainians want to join NATO, staggeringly different from the initial 44% in 2014.

December 2019 - Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted their first Reform Programme for the year ahead, outlining the reforms the government intends to undertake and facilitates the provision of support by NATO toward these efforts.

24 February 2022 - Russia invades Ukraine through the Eastern side and through Belarus, launching the biggest invasion in Europe since the end of World War 2.

16-17 May 2022 - Both Finland and Sweden apply for membership in NATO, following the Russian invasion in Ukraine.

4 April 2023 - Finland joins NATO a year after their application, marking it the fastest admission process in this century.

7 March 2024 - Sweden is granted NATO membership after all of the Allies agree upon their adherence.

Topic 2

1994: establishment of PFP (Partnership for Peace)

1994: The Mediterranean Dialogue with six non-member Mediterranean countries: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, with Algeria also joining in 2000

1997: establishment of EAPC (Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council) -> renamed the NACC

1999: Washington Summit when three former Partners – Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary – took their seats as full Alliance members

2002: The NATO-Russia Council was established in 2002 so that individual NATO member states and Russia could work as equal partners on security issues of common interest

2004: Allies launched the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative for Gulf countries

2010: Strategic Concept, partnerships policy was launched at the Lisbon Summit to make dialogue and cooperation more inclusive, flexible, meaningful and strategically oriented

2014: NATO launched the Partnership Interoperability Initiative, which inter alia launched mechanisms for enhanced cooperation with nations that wished to maintain deeper interoperability with NATO.

2014: at the Wales Summit, NATO adopted the defense and Related Security Capacity Building Initiative.

2016: at the Warsaw summit, Allies underlined that they seek to contribute more to the efforts of the international community in projecting stability and strengthening security outside NATO territory.

2017: Most recent partner, Colombia.

2018: at the Brussels summit, Allies committed to further strengthening NATO's role in this regard, helping partners, upon request, to build stronger defense institutions, improve good governance, enhance resilience, provide for their own security, and more effectively contribute to the fight against terrorism.

June 2022: at the Madrid summit, NATO adopted its new Strategic Concept, which continues to identify “cooperative security” as one of NATO's three pillars. This pillar recognises that Euro-Atlantic security is best achieved through a wide network of partner relationships with countries and organizations around the world.

Chapter 5

Individual Partnership Action Plans (IPAP) = plans developed between NATO and different countries which outline the objectives and the communication framework for dialogue and cooperation between both parties.

Euromaidan = movement in Ukraine that saw the removal of president Viktor Fedorovych Yanukovych, as a result of his pro Russian attitude and lack of support for Ukraine to join NATO.

Membership Action Plan (MAP) = mechanism approved as a stage for the current members to regularly review the formal applications of aspiring members to NATO.

Partnership for Peace (PfP) = a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) program aimed at creating trust between NATO and other states in Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) is a partnership forum that aims to contribute to security and stability in the wider Mediterranean region, and promote good relations and understanding among participating countries and NATO Allies

Partnership Interoperability Initiative (PII) was launched at the Wales Summit in 2014 to ensure that the deep connections built up between NATO and partner forces over years of operations will be maintained and deepened. In this way, partners can contribute to future crisis management, including NATO-led operations and, where applicable, to the NATO Response Force.

Chapter 6

Topic 1 - Discussing NATO's ongoing enlargement process aimed at promoting stability.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Bosnia and Herzegovina present a big interest in joining NATO and have a number of projects in collaboration with the Alliance that are meant to build the foundation on which one day they will be able to become an official member.
- The collaborations started in the early 1990s', when NATO decided it's time to support the international efforts to end the conflicts that were devastating Bosnia and Herzegovina. Between December 1995 and December 2004, The Alliance conducted a number of peace mission that ended in the creation of The Dayton Peace Agreement.

- After the year 2004, the number of collaborations grew and NATO and Bosnia and Herzegovina ended up with multiple mutual project such as, but not limited to:
 - a) since May 2007, the country has been participating in the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP), in order to develop fully professional armed forces that are interoperable with NATO forces and are manned by volunteers who meet high professional standards;
 - b) Since 2009, Bosnia and Herzegovina contributed officers to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan as part of the Danish and German contingents, and also contributed to its follow-on Resolute Support Mission (RSM);
 - c) In 2017, the country hosted the annual EADRCC disaster preparedness and response exercise that brought together Allies, partners, and international organizations;
 - d) In December 2019, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted their first Reform Programme for the year ahead, and at the beginning of 2021 they submitted their self-assessment on the progress that has been made;
- The mutual purpose of these collaborations is to build a strong democratic base in the country, focusing on the sector of security.

Ukraine

- Relationships between NATO and Ukraine knew their ups and downs since the inception of the organization, with Ukraine always seeking partnership with NATO, but having at times certain restrain from fully committing to the alliance;
- Russia has always been very vocal against the idea of Ukraine joining NATO, repeatedly stating this event would represent a “red line” and asking the allies

for political guarantees in said regards. The current leaders of the alliance deny such request from Russia;

- Dialogue between the alliance and Ukraine started in 1991, when the newly formed Ukraine joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, following the joining of the Partnership for Peace programme 1994;
- Cooperation has deepened over time and is mutually beneficial, with Ukraine actively contributing to NATO-led operations and missions;
- At the NATO summit in Bucharest in April 2008, NATO decided it would not yet offer membership to Ukraine, because of reportedly resistance from France and Germany. However, NATO was still positive at said time that Ukraine will eventually join the alliance, the sentiment being backed by certain US senators. Vladimir Putin spoke against Ukraine joining NATO.
- Following the election of President Viktor Yanukovych relations with Ukraine decayed, with him stating that there was currently "no question of Ukraine joining NATO". He later reiterated during a trip to Moscow that Ukraine would remain a "European, non-aligned state." At that time, popular opinion was supporting him.
- In 2013, after the Ukrainian government decided to suspend the signing of the European Union–Ukraine Association Agreement, instead choosing closer ties to Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union, protests started to form in Ukraine, and the entire movement escalated quickly, with the police forces fighting the protesters who eventually manage to occupy many government buildings. The whole protest was called the Euromaidan, and it was brought to an end through the “Agreement on settlement of the political crisis in Ukraine”. After it was signed, Yanukovych and other high governmental figures fled the country.
- In February and March 2014, Russia invaded and subsequently annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. In 2016, the UN General Assembly reaffirmed non-recognition of the annexation and condemned “the temporary occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine—the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol”. The Russian government opposes the "annexation" label, with Putin defending the referendum as complying with the principle of self-determination of peoples.
- In June 2017, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted legislation reinstating membership in NATO as a strategic foreign and security policy objective. In September 2020, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy approved Ukraine’s new

National Security Strategy, which provides for the development of the distinctive partnership with NATO with the aim of membership in NATO.

- Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, NATO's support in Ukraine has dramatically increased due to the Russian aggression, with the Alliance sending aid packages worth over 35 billion USD through the end of 2023. Ukraine has been using NATO weaponry for the last two years and the member countries continue their support in order to maintain security in the Eastern Europe flank.

Georgia

- Following its independence, Georgia sought a NATO partnership, being currently an aspiring member to the organization. However, like Ukraine, Georgia is a country whose capacity to join NATO is slowed down both by its newly acquired position of independent country (gained in 1991), as well as Russia's very disapproving attitude for its joining.
- During the 2008 Bucharest Summit, allies agreed that Georgia will become a NATO member, provided it meets all necessary requirements – this decision has since been reconfirmed at successive NATO Summits. Georgia is now considered an “aspiring member”.
- Following the Russia-Georgia crisis in August 2008, the Allies continue to support Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty within its internationally recognised borders, and call on Russia to reverse its recognition of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states.
- The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) is the main vehicle for practical cooperation between Georgia and NATO. First launched in 2014, the package aims to strengthen Georgia's defense capabilities in line with NATO standards and help Georgia advance in its preparations for eventual NATO membership. A refreshed Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) with new timelines and updated ambitions was adopted in December 2020.

Cyprus

- Currently the only EU member who is neither a member state of NATO or a member of the PfP programme.

- Because of its lack of military, Cyprus is a zone of concern for non state criminal activities, such as but not limited to proliferation, organized crime, terrorism, human trafficking, and refugee flows
- The government of Cyprus is not open to membership in NATO's programmes, until the Cyprus Dispute, which has as active actors full NATO members, has been solved.

Topic 2 - Strengthening relationships with member and partner countries

On 9 November 2022, representatives from over 30 Partner Nations attended informal workshops at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, to discuss areas of common interest, including crisis prevention and management, cooperative security, counter-terrorism and human security. The Bi-annual Meeting with Partners was hosted by the Cooperative Security Division of the NATO International Military Staff (IMS). In his Opening Remarks, Major General Francesco Diella, Director of the IMS Cooperative Security Division praised the event for its value and its development into a unique platform for discussion and exchanges between NATO and its Partners. He stressed that the Alliance will continue to strive to enhance its existing partnerships as well as seek out new ones, with nations who share NATO's values and interests. "As we work on interpreting the Strategic Concept with a view to turning words into actions, this event is a great opportunity for you, our Partners, to share what the new Strategic Concept means for our continued military cooperation, and bring in your own ideas to further develop our partnerships," Major General Diella added. Lieutenant General Adamczak reiterated that "in discussing how to better prepare for the future, NATO is strengthening its deterrence and defense posture as well as ensuring it stands ready and able to respond to any threat". The entire event was marked by the explicit intentions of setting out to continue and expand exchanges with Partners. In such a pivotal moment in global security, dominated by increased strategic competition and instability in the Euro-Atlantic area, "partnerships matter more than ever". "In these challenging times", he concluded, "Partners provide much needed support and stability across their respective regions and well beyond".

On 25 January 2023, NATO launched an initiative named "Futures in the Indo-Pacific", which will consist of a series of discussions amongst experts from Belgium, Australia, France and Japan, for the next two years. Their exchanges will examine relevant developments in the Indo-Pacific and their potential implications for security in the Euro-Atlantic area, hence contributing to furthering NATO's cooperation with its partners in the Indo-Pacific. "Our unity is our strength and partnerships play an important role in the new international security landscape," said Mrs. Carmen Romero, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, underscoring the importance of the Indo-Pacific region for NATO, given that developments in that region can directly affect Euro-Atlantic security. Political dialogue and practical cooperation are being developed across priority areas, including non-proliferation,

cyber defense and counter-terrorism, security-related civil science projects, and civil preparedness and disaster relief.

Chapter 7

Topic 2

Republic of Colombia

In 2017, Colombia became one of NATO's global partners, and the Alliance's first Latin American partner. Today, NATO and Colombia continue to strengthen dialogue and cooperation to address a number of global security challenges, including cyber security, terrorism, the fight against corruption and maritime security. Colombia provides demining training to NATO Allies and partner countries, while NATO is also supporting Colombia in its continuing efforts to develop its armed forces.

State of Israel

NATO and Israel tied their first relationships when the Alliance created the Mediterranean Dialogue in 1994, which is a forum designated to enhance relations with 7 countries, including Israel. The partnerships between the Jewish state and the military organization has developed in military programs over the years, prior to the objection of the Turkish delegation. Since then, the cooperation has resumed to conferences held in Israel and the recent visits of NATO officials in the Israeli state.

Israel has received more support from NATO member countries since the October 7 attacks from Hamas. Countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Denmark and many other members have initiated the Operation Guardian Prosperity (OPG) in order to protect the Red Sea and allow cargo ships to pass it in order to aid Israel. The OPG has an on-going resistance against the Houthi troops stationed in Yemen.

Republic of Korea

NATO and the Republic of Korea have been engaged in dialogue and cooperation since 2005. They are currently strengthening relations to address shared security challenges.

Political dialogue and practical cooperation are being developed across priority areas, including non-proliferation, cyber defense and counter-terrorism, security-related civil science projects, and civil preparedness and disaster relief.

Japan

NATO and Japan are currently strengthening relations to address shared security challenges.

Since 2014, work is being taken forward through an Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme. This was renewed in June 2020. Practical cooperation is being developed in a wide range of areas, including cyber defense, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, non-proliferation, defense science and technology, and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Australia

NATO and Australia are currently strengthening relations to address shared security challenges, building on dialogue and cooperation that have been developing since 2005.

Beyond cooperation on global challenges, the aim is to work together more closely on crisis and conflict management, post-conflict situations, reconstruction and facilitating humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

New Zealand

NATO and New Zealand are strengthening relations to address shared security challenges. New Zealand has made valuable contributions to NATO operations and in the fight against piracy.

Since 2012, work has been taken forward through an Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme. NATO and New Zealand are deepening joint work in areas of common interest, including science and technology, maritime security, cyber defense, counter-terrorism, and furthering the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

The People's Republic of China (PRC)

Challenges NATO's strategic interests, security and values. The PRC employs a broad range of political, economic and military tools to increase its global footprint and project power, while remaining opaque about its strategy, intentions and military build-up. The PRC's malicious hybrid and cyber operations and its confrontational rhetoric and disinformation target Allies and harm Alliance security. The PRC seeks to control key technological and industrial sectors, critical infrastructure, and strategic materials and supply chains. It uses its economic leverage to create strategic dependencies and enhance its influence. It strives to subvert the rules-based international order, including in the space, cyber and maritime domains.

Chapter 8

Topic 1 - Discussing NATO's ongoing enlargement process aimed at promoting stability.

1. What are the best ways to deescalate the tensions at the borders of Ukraine?
2. Is it wise to further expand NATO in Eastern Europe?
3. What implications would it bring creating a political environment where Cyprus could join NATO's programmes?
4. What estimates could the Alliance give on the progress of Bosnia towards attending full member status and how could NATO further develop its relations with the country?

Topic 2 - Strengthening relationships with member and partner countries

1. How is the latest strategic concept of NATO inhibited by the People's Republic of China's actions? Could this be considered an obstacle when it comes to investing in further partnerships?
2. How should NATO reinforce its flanks through new partnerships regarding military action? What about cyber security?
3. Should the North Atlantic Treaty Organization establish new programmes considering the ongoing economical and political state of all member and non-member countries?
4. How should the Alliance use their resources in the East Asia-Pacific region to maintain stability?