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1. Welcoming Letters

1.1. Letter from the Secretaries Generals

The Most Esteemed Participants of YETRAIN'26,

As the Secretary General of YETRAIN'26, I would like to welcome you all to the 1st edition of Ye Model United Nations Train Conference. It is an honor and pleasure to be able to present to you all what we have been preparing for months. Me, our excellent academic team and the wonderful organisation team have worked really hard to give you the best mun experience of your entire life.

We want to foster diplomatic deliberations and foster constructive solutions that will affect the nations for one and all. As a delegate your YETRAIN'26 journey begins here with our study guide that our committee secretariat worked really hard for. Your participation in this conference will improve your diplomatic debating skills and find solutions to global matters. Also apart from all the academic gains you will have a wonderful time with the chance of socializing with other people who share the same passion with you.
I hope that every participant has a exquisite time in YETRAIN'26 I can’t wait to see you all!

Doruk Sapmaz
Secretary General of YETRAIN'26

1.2. Letter from the Co-Under-Secretary General

Dear Participants,

I would like to welcome you all to the YETRAIN NATO Committee.

My name is Mustafa Aslan, I am currently on a gap year and intend to major in political science. It is my honor to serve as the Under-Secretary-General of this committee.
I have been attending Model United Nations conferences in Antalya and many other cities for the past three years.

I would like to thank the entire executive team, especially DOZLOKLOK.

If you have previously participated in one of my committees, you will know that I generally host special committees. If this is your first time participating in one of my committees or in a special committee, there is no need to be nervous; the study guide has been prepared to support you throughout the process.

If you have any questions regarding the committee, please feel free to contact me via the contact information below, even for the smallest concerns. As an academic team, we have included all the necessary information in the study guide.

I wish you all success in advance.

Under Secretary General, Mustafa ASLAN

1.2. Letter from the Co-Under-Secretary General

1.3. Letter from the Academic Assistant

Dear delegates of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) committee,

As the Academic Assistant of our committee, I would like to start my words by stating that it is an honor for me to welcome you all to the NATO Summit committee of the YETRAIN'26 conference.
My name is Zeynep Mina GÜNDÜZ, and I will serve my duty as an academic assistant for these 2 days.
First of all, as the Academic Team, we kindly request that all of you to read the study guide thoroughly. Since you will be representing presidents of countries, we strongly recommend that you thoroughly research your allocated country's policies, past actions, and align your discussions with them.
I wish all of us a great conference ahead.

If you have any questions about the committee, please don't hesitate to contact me via,
+90 552 691 45 36

Academic Assistant, Zeynep Mina GÜNDÜZ

2. Introduction to the Committee

In this committee, delegates act as the heads of their assigned countries and have the same authority as those leaders. Therefore, delegates are required to know the country's policies and to present debates or solutions throughout the committee that uphold those policies.

2.1. The Purpose of NATO

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is an international military alliance established in 1949 to defend Western Europe against a potential Soviet invasion.

NATO's purpose is "to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members. It does this through political and military means." NATO's fundamental principle is set out in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty;

Article 5

"The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all, and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area. Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall immediately be reported to the Security Council. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security."

The Alliance currently has 32 member countries.

2.2. Historical Background

Tensions between the West and the Soviet Union escalated; Western nations feared an imminent Soviet attack on their allies in Eastern Europe. The collective defense alliance formed in 1948 among the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg was deemed insufficient to deter Soviet aggression following World War II; consequently, in 1949, the United States and Canada agreed to join their European allies to form an expanded alliance. In April 1949, the foreign ministers of twelve Western European and North American countries gathered in Washington, D.C., to sign the North Atlantic Treaty. A central administrative structure was established, along with three main command bodies focused on Europe, the Atlantic, and the English Channel. In 1952, Greece and Turkiye signed the North Atlantic Treaty, and West Germany joined the alliance in 1955. When West Germany joined NATO, the Soviets convened their communist Eastern European allies in Warsaw, Poland, in May 1955 and signed the Warsaw Pact (Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance). Since NATO's ground forces were smaller than those of the Warsaw Pact, the balance of power was maintained through superior weaponry, including medium-range nuclear weapons. Following the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the end of the Cold War in 1991, NATO shifted its mission. The organization intervened in the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s. Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty stipulated that an attack on one signatory nation would be considered an attack on the others; this article was invoked for the first time in 2001 in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

2.3. NATO's Contemporary Global Role

Currently, NATO strives to establish lasting peace in Europe based on shared values such as individual liberty, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Since crises and conflicts arising beyond NATO's borders can endanger this goal, the Alliance contributes to peace and stability abroad through crisis management operations and partnerships. In response to the changing security environment, it is increasingly focusing on countering threats, strengthening cybersecurity, and treating cyberspace as a full operational domain. It addresses security factors by integrating elements such as climate change, energy security, and resource scarcity into its long-term strategic defense planning.

3. The Strategic Importance of Turkiye

3.1. Historical Background of Turkiye-NATO Relations

Turkiye maintained its neutrality during and after World War II. As the Cold War unfolded and Europe became divided into Eastern and Western blocs, Turkiye chose to align itself with Western powers. The primary reasons for this were the Soviet Union's demands for bases in the Straits and territory in Eastern Anatolia. Turkiye's first institutional link with Europe following World War II was established through the Council of Europe; Turkiye joined the Council in August 1949 as one of its earliest members. When the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950, the United Nations (UN) called upon member states to assist South Korea. Responding swiftly to the UN's appeal, Turkiye became the second country after the United States to agree to deploy ground troops, sending a brigade of approximately 5,000 soldiers to Korea. The Turkish brigade's success in breaking through Chinese and North Korean encirclement, along with its outstanding combat performance, earned the admiration of Western allies, particularly the United States. This policy culminated in Turkiye becoming a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on February 18, 1952. Since then, NATO has served as the cornerstone of Turkiye's defense and security policy. From NATO's perspective, Turkiye's capacity to provide land and naval bases, its strong military forces, and its strategic importance on the Alliance's southeastern flank signified that the country would be a steadfast ally in the region. During the Cold War, Turkiye helped restrict the access of Soviet naval forces, provided one of Europe's largest armies, and hosted critical NATO facilities. It also participated alongside Allied forces in numerous exercises held throughout the Cold War.

3.2. The Geopolitical Importance of Turkiye

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, a perception emerged that Turkiye would lose its geopolitical significance. However, driven by instability in the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Middle East, Turkiye evolved from being merely a "flank or peripheral country" for NATO into a "central region". Situated at the intersection of the Black Sea,the Caucasus, the Middle East, and the Eastern Mediterranean, Turkiye is an integral part of both European and Asian security complexes. This geographical asset has transformed Turkiye into a critical "regional power hub" on the Alliance's southeastern flank. Its role regarding energy corridors, access to maritime trade routes, and its status as a neighbor to key regions make Turkiye a priority in NATO strategies. Turkiye's strategic position on the Alliance's southeastern flank has expanded NATO's

presence and area of responsibility to encompass the entire Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. In light of this, NATO Allies established a military headquarters in the port city of Izmir. The "Black Sea Harmony" operation, initiated by Turkiye, supported NATO missions against asymmetric threats in the Black Sea and was integrated into the regional security architecture. Consequently, Turkiye's contribution is not limited to military capabilities alone but is also shaped by diplomatic and geopolitical initiatives.

3.3 Importance of Ankara

Turkiye hosted its first NATO summit in Istanbul on June 28-29, 2004. The second NATO summit to be held in Turkiye will take place in the capital, Ankara, on July 7-8 2026. At a time when wars are ongoing in Europe and the Middle East, Ankara's strategic importance to the alliance is once again coming to the fore. As the country with the largest military force in NATO after the United States, Turkiye has assumed significant roles within the alliance's command structure. Turkiye is one of the allies making the most comprehensive contributions to NATO's command and force structures. NATO Allied Land Command (LANDCOM), part of the alliance's Command Structure, is located in Turkiye. Furthermore, the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, Turkiye (NRDC-TUR) headquarters (3rd Corps Command Headquarters, Istanbul) one of the nine high-readiness land force headquarters within the NATO Force Structure is provided by Turkiye. In 2021, Turkiye assumed the role of Framework Nation for the land component of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) within the NATO Response Force. The role of Warfighting Corps (WFC) within NATO is also benign undertaken by NRDC-TUR for 2023. Additionally, the NATO Centre of Excellence for Defence Against Terrorism (COE-DAT) and the Partnership for Peace Training Centre (PfP-TC) both contributed to the alliance through national resources located in Ankara. The Turkish Armed Forces Partnership for Peace Training Centre was established in Ankara in 1998. The objective is to provide training at global standards to military personnel from NATO and partner nations within the framework of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK). Turkiye plays a critical role in the alliance's operational infrastructure through the Incirlik, Konya and Erhach airbases; the Kurecik and Kishecik radar facilities; NATO Allied Land Command in Izmir; Combined Air Operations Centres in various provinces; Aksaz Naval Base; and the ports of Tashucu and Iskenderun, which are utilized for military purposes when required. All these entities are linked to Ankara through the TSK.

4. Recent Global Policies

4.1. Discourses in International Relations

US Statements:

U.S. President Donald Trump made statements shortly before the upcoming NATO summit in Ankara. From the White House's perspective, these remarks were directed at European allies deemed not to be making sufficient budgetary effort.

The U.S. President believes that countries such as Spain, Italy and even the United Kingdom fail to adequately respond to Washington's requests for support following the outbreak of conflict involving Iran on February 28. Trump described the disparity between U.S. military spending and that of other NATO partners as "absurd." According to the figures cited by the leader, while Washington allocates $999 billion to defense, France allocates $66.5 billion, Italy $48.8 billion, and

Poland $44.3 billion. In this context, Trump included Spain among the allies failing to meet the commitments demanded by the international situation. Trump once again raised the possibility of reducing the U.S. military presence on European soil. He also alluded several times to the option of rethinking the U.S. role within NATO; however, a formal withdrawal from the alliance cannot be executed unilaterally without encountering political, legal, and institutional constraints. Meanwhile, for Europe, the debate encompasses issues of security, public spending, military dependence on the U.S., and strategic autonomy. Trump's pressure places these tensions back at the center of the transatlantic agenda.

Separately, in response to rumors that he would return from Ankara on a different plane a a precaution following the summit, he said: "There is a 5.2 percent chance of a U.S. president being killed in office. If they had told me that years ago, perhaps I wouldn't have becoma president. I am at the top of Iran's list for assassination. But I don't care. ı'm doing my job. Air Force One (the return plane) will going to Europe. We're sending it so the troops can see it. It really is a beautiful plane."

Relations with Spain:

The US leader questioned Spain's commitment to the Atlantic Alliance and directly targeted Madrid for refusing to increase military spending on the terms demanded by Washington. In a series of statements criticizing Spain, Trump remarked, "The Spanish are NATO members, but they aren't very good members." He stated that Spain was "not behaving well" and issued a vague warning: "They'll find out soon enough." This accusation places Spain in an uncomfortable position ahead of a meeting that is critical to the alliance's future. The US President also invoked a historical reference to reinforce his warning; Trump recalled the "Disaster of '98" and the loss of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines as examples of the consequences of weak defense and a fragile international standing. Combined with the phrase "they'll find out soon enough," this historical reference has escalated the tone of the debate and points to a complicated summit for the Spanish government, which will have to defend its position under intense US pressure.
This statement by Trump marked a turning point in NATO relations between Spain and the United States. The White House decided to categorize Spain among those nations that, in its view, were not sufficiently aligned. For the Spanish government, the Ankara summit coincides with a period of high diplomatic tension. Madrid will be compelled to defend its role within the alliance, explain its budgetary roadmap, and prevent the conflict with Trump from spiraling into a deeper bilateral crisis.

Relations with Denmark:

Trump is revisiting a familiar demand. He had previously made headlines with his desire to purchase Greenland and make it part of the United States, though his offer was rejected. Trump recently stated: " Greenland is a real issue for us. When we asked, 'Will you join us?' they said 'No.' We have always stood by them. We will resolve this somehow. Greenland isn't important to Denmark, but it is to us. The Nazis took over Denmark in a single day. We liberated and reclaimed it. Then, like fools, we gave it back; we shouldn't have. I wouldn't have given it back. We pay billions of dollars, even though we aren't happy with NATO. It's not fair at all; we are the ones protecting them." Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen reiterated in a statement that Greenland is not for sale, directly opposing U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed view that the autonomous Arctic territory should come under American control. Frederiksen also added that Denmark expects NATO to respect its sovereignty over the region.

As an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark, Greenland has recently become a focal point of geopolitical interest due to the Arctic region's growing strategic importance, driven by its abundant natural resources and critical maritime shipping routes.

Relations with Turkiye:

Recently, the US President made the following remarks concerning Turkiye:

"There are people I like, and people I don't, I like Bibi (Netanyahu) too. Yesterday, he said some bad things about Turkiye, but I spoke with Erdogan. Just think, he could have gone to war. He doesn't like Israel very much. He doesn't like Bibi very much either. But he didn't go to war for my sake. We are talking about a very powerful army with millions of soldiers. They have our weapons. They want to buy F-35s. If it weren't for me, he might have gone to war and ended up on the opposing side. Not because he likes the other side that much… I also spoke with Xi Jinping. China didn't supply equipment to Iran and didn't go to war either. I like Chinese President Xi Jinping, too."

As for the questions regarding the F-35s, his response was: "We have one of our best relationships with Turkiye. It is the best aircraft in the world. Everyone wants it. We will discuss who to give it to. He isn't a fan of Bibi, but he stayed out of the war. It is a very large country. It has a very powerful military. I haven't fully decided yet, but I am leaning in that direction. They helped us in such a way. China helped, too. They didn't get involved in the war. And do you know why? Because they respect our country."

Relations with Italy:

New tensions have arisen between the US and Italy in recent months after US President Donald Trump claimed that Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni had begged to have her photo taken with him at the G7 summit held in France. Giorgia Meloni, leader of the far-right Brothers of Italy party, had previously been dubbed the "leader who whispers to Trump" due to her closeness to the current US administration, with speculation that she could serve as a bridge between the US and the EU. However, the relationship between the two leaders began to fray in recent months, particularly following the conflict with Iran. Last April, Trump criticized Meloni, stating he was "shocked" that she did not offer support regarding the war with Iran. Trump's outbursts against the Pope also sparked a strong backlash in Italy, where the Pope holds significant influence given the Vatican's location there, leaving Meloni to criticize Trump as well. After the Pope opposed the war and criticized the use of Christian rhetoric and God to legitimize conflicts, Trump accused the Pope of being "weak on crime and terrible at foreign policy." In response to these remarks, Meloni stated, "I find Trump's words regarding the Pope unacceptable. The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church; his calls for peace and his condemnation of all forms of war are right and appropriate." At the time, Trump retorted to Meloni, "She is the one who is unacceptable; she wouldn't care if Iran possessed nuclear weapons and blew Italy up in two minutes, given the chance."

Following this exchange, the two leaders met for the first time this week at the G7 summit held in France. Images of the two leaders sitting together in chairs and conversing subsequently appeared in the Italian press. An Italian television channel conducted a phone interview with Donald Trump, during which the US leader spoke about his meeting with Meloni at the G7 summit. When the reporter reminded him of the meeting with Meloni a few days prior and asked for his thoughts on it, Trump replied: "She was probably happy I spoke to her. I didn't have to speak to her! She begged me for a photo. She really wanted to have her picture taken with me. I wouldn't have done it, but I felt sorry for her."

Following these remarks, which caused a major stir in Italy, Meloni responded via a video on social media. Stating that "Some things require an immediate response, Donald Trump's statements are completely fabricated. Frankly, I am baffled. I

do not understand why the US president behaves this way toward allies, and it is not the first time, either. But let him not forget one thing: In Italy we never beg!"

In the wake of this exchange, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani announced the cancellation of his planned trip to the US for the coming week. Trump subsequently shared a photo on his Truth Social account showing Meloni smiling at him, accompanied by the caption: "A restraining order is necessary."

4.2. Internal Fracturing in Relations Between Countries

A series of informal meetings launched in Bergen, Norway, in June 2026 under the leadership of U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Elbridge Colby exposed a serious rift within the alliance. Details revealed that an exclusive circle was formed comprising "exemplary allies." Norway, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Germany, and the Netherlands were invited to the initial meetings. Even key players such as France, the UK, and other Baltic allies (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Denmark) that had more than met their defense spending obligations could not hide their astonishment at this exclusivity and reacted negatively toward Washington. The U.S., having set new targets such as allocating 5% of GDP to defense and security, accuses allies who do not share this burden of "free-riding." Discussions within the Bergen Group also addressed the security vulnerabilities created by allies failing to meet these spending levels, as well as potential new procurements from the U.S. defense industry. These leaks fostered the perception in the media that internal disagreements within the alliance could lead to its disintegration. European diplomats assessing the situation state that the U.S. attempt to categorize allies as "good" or "bad" runs counter to the alliance's spirit of collective defense (Article 5).

Some diplomats hold the view that "dividing NATO in this manner may be dangerous for the U.S., but for Europe, it is a matter of life and death."

4.3. Turkiye's Domestic Politics

The 36th NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government will be held in the capital, Ankara, on July 7-8, 2026. Certain restrictions have been introduced alongside the summit:

- Public sector employees in nine central districts will be granted administrative leave from July 6 to 12, and all public events such as concerts, festivals, graduation ceremonies, and panel discussions will be suspended.
- In the lead-up to the summit, the Presidential Complex will be secured using air defense systems and F-16 fighter jets.
- The areas surrounding the hotels where participants will stay, as well as their transit routes, will be designated as "red zones."
- A total of 40,000 police and gendarmerie personnel will be deployed on the ground for the duration of the summit.
- High-level surveillance cameras will be installed at 100 critical locations. Labor and democracy groups have voiced objections to the measures being implemented for the summit in Ankara. In a statement made to the 'Cumhuriyet' newspaper, the KESK Ankara Branches Platform asserted that the bans were not merely security measures, stating:

"It is once again the people who are paying the price for imperialist war policies. The city is being closed off to the public to ensure the security of NATO leaders; the daily lives of working people, as well as their rights to transportation, employment, and democratic expression, are effectively being suspended. That is precisely why saying 'No to NATO' is not merely about opposing a military alliance; it is about standing against war, imperialism, poverty, oppression, and a

system of dependency. What workers, laborers, and the public need is not preparations for war, but a humane standard of living, full independence, genuine democracy, and peace. We do not recognize these bans imposed in Ankara. As the KESK Ankara Branches Platform, we will participate in anti-NATO protests. Turkiye is not NATO's rose garden!"
(Protests are expected to take place during the summit, and detentions will occur. Those detained include individuals from various professions, such as lawyers, teachers, students, journalists, and doctors. These events are being reported in both domestic and international media, accompanied by commentary from various politicians. Delegates may also discuss these bans and regulations and make statements to the press during the summit.)

4.4. Bilateral Diplomacies at the Summit

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan held bilateral meetings with various leaders on the sidelines of the 36th NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government.
(The following summary is based on reported discussions and media coverage of the meeting held during the summit; however, inferences can also be drawn from the political relations between the countries.)

Turkiye and its bilateral diplomacies:

Bulgaria: It is reported that discussions were held with Bulgarian President Rumen Radev regarding the development of cooperation in various fields, particularly trade, transportation, the defense industry, energy and also the situation of Turks in Bulgaria.

Canada: Upon receiving Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the Presidential Complex, President Erdoğan expressed his support for intensifying efforts to strengthen relations between Turkiye and Canada in various sectors, particularly trade, security, the defense industry, energy, and for exploring opportunities for cooperation.

Finland: During his meeting with Finnish President Stubb, President Erdoğaan expressed satisfaction with the momentum gained in trade relations between Turkiye and Finland and stated that they would continue working to advance cooperation.

U.S.: The two sides discussed the delivery of engines for F-35 and KAAN fighter jets.

France: During his meeting with French President Macron, President Erdoğan stated that the time had come for Turkiye and France to raise their bilateral trade targets and affirmed that they would continue striving to advance cooperation across all sectors.

Italy: Upon receiving Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, President Erdoğan stated that it is important to work towards strengthening cooperation between Turkiye and Italy across various sectors, particularly in the defense industry, investment, energy, and trade.

Germany: Meeting with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, President Erdogan conveyed that advancing cooperation between Turkiye and Germany, particularly in the defense industry and trade, would be mutually beneficial for both nations.

UK: President Erdogan met with UK Prime Minister Starmer. During the meeting, the leaders signed a Security and Defense Partnership Document between Turkiye and the United Kingdom. The document reaffirms the strong commitments of both Turkiye and the United Kingdom to each other's defense and to the North Atlantic Treaty.

Syria: President Erdogan met with Syrian President Ahmed Shara. During the meeting, he stated that efforts to strengthen cooperation between Turkiye and Syria would continue to intensify and reaffirmed Turkiye's commitment to standing by the Syrian people.

Greece: President Erdogan met with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Discussions reportedly focused on maintaining peace and stability, specifically, an environment of tranquility in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean, keeping communication channels open, and addressing the repercussions of regional crises (such as those in the Middle East and Ukraine).

It is reported that President Erdogan, in his meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, emphasized the importance of addressing a wide range of issues at the NATO Ankara Summit spanning from collective defense to the enhancement of defense industry cooperation among allies.

President Erdogan also met at the Presidential Complex with Montenegrin Prime Minister Milojko Spajic, Slovak Preident Peter Pellegrini, and Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, who were in Ankara for the NATO Leaders' Summit.

Diplomatic meetings hosted in Ankara:

US-Ukraine: Discussions covered the latest situation in the Russia-Ukraine war, developments on the front lines, and the future of US military and financial support packages for Ukraine. Trump and Zelensky met one-on-one in Ankara to discuss a diplomatic resolution to the war and the groundwork for a just peace.
US-Syria: Discussions focused on the restructuring of the region following the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, counterterrorism efforts, the return of refugees, and the new geopolitical balances in the Middle East. This diplomatic engagement has established Ankara as the central hub where the future of the Middle East is being shaped.

4.5. Turkiye's F-35 and S-400 Crisis

The most significant crisis in recent times between Turkiye and NATO erupted in 2017. The crisis was triggered by Turkiye's purchase of the S-400 missile defense system from Russia.

As a NATO member, Turkiye had long sought to establish its own air defense system. Pursuing various initiatives to this end, Turkiye first launched a tender in 2013 to acquire a long-range missile defense system. A Chinese firm won the tender with a $3.4 billion bid; however, the deal was subsequently canceled following objections from the US and NATO. Turkiye then began negotiations with other countries regarding the purchase of a missile defense system. In November 2016, it announced the start of talks with Russia concerning the S-400s. In an April 2017 statement, Turkiye's former Minister of National Defense Fikri ISIK noted that Turkiye urgently needed an air defense system. He explained that, as a NATO member, Turkiye would prioritize meeting this need through the alliance but would explore other options if that proved impossible. After failing to reach an agreement on proposals from NATO allies, Turkiye announced that it had finalized a deal with Russia for the S-400s.

NATO allies, led by the United States, reacted strongly to the agreement, citing the system's incompatibility with alliance networks and the risk it posed to the alliance's security. Washington viewed Turkiye's acquisition of the S-400 system from Russia as a threat to the security of the F-35 fighter jets it was set to sell to Turkiye. Furthermore, the US faced the risk of losing Turkiye, one of its defense industry's most important customers, to other manufacturers. Another significant issue concerned relations between NATO and Russia. Once operational, Turkiye would have become the only NATO member possessing a ready-to-use S-400 system. NATO was closely monitoring the bilateral ties Turkiye was developing with Russia at the time, as well as the Astana process aimed at ending the Syrian civil war. This bilateral relationship between Russia and Turkiye, a strategic NATO member, posed a risk to the alliance's deterrence capabilities. Turkiye was subsequently removed from the F-35 fighter jet program, and the US imposed CAATSA sanctions on the country, measures typically reserved for nations deemed threats to US national security. Although CAATSA sanctions remain formally in effect, statements made by Donald Trump suggest that the sale of F-35 aircraft between the US and Turkiye will proceed.

5. Agendas of the NATO Summit

NATO leaders will gather in Ankara on July 7-8, 2026, at a critical moment for European and Euro-Atlantic security. For over 75 years, NATO has played a central role in the defense of Europe and continues to serve as the cornerstone of collective security for its 32 members.

The Ankara Summit Declaration consists of six points in total. The summit is expected to prioritize the following:

- Defense and deterrence planning;
- Defense spending targets and burden-sharing;
- Increased assistance to Ukraine, including equipment provision, financing mechanisms, and long-term resilience;
- The future direction of the Alliance.

The Ankara Summit is viewed not merely as a standard NATO meeting, but as a pivotal moment where the US role in European security is being redefined.

As Russia's illegal, full-scale invasion of Ukraine enters its fifth year, the Alliance is set to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of European security; yet it core mission remains unchanged: safeguarding the freedom and security of all Allies, including by deterring further Russian aggression against sovereign nations in the neighborhood. At the same time, the

Alliance has come under pressure in recent months, including due to shifts in U.S. policy that go beyond mere demands to strengthen NATO's European pillar.

The Defense Industry Forum, held in conjunction with the summit, will address the allies' progress toward the historic 5% defense investment target and how these resources can be translated into increased production, joint procurement, and industrial cooperation. Trump has long accused European nations of being overly dependent on the U.S. security umbrella. The Trump administration wants Europe to assume "primary responsibility" for the continent's defense, rapidly increase defense spending, and alleviate the burden on the United States. Ankara is expected to gain a clearer understanding of what the new era described by the Trump administration as "NATO 3.0" will entail.

One of the most discussed topics at the summit, beyond the official agenda, will be the US military presence in Europe. The US has initiated a six-month review of its military footprint in the region. Furthermore, moves to withdraw troops from Europe and the reduction of certain American assets allocated to NATO defense plans have heightened uncertainty within the alliance. As Washington reviews its military presence in Europe, it is also examining the extent to which allies are shouldering the defense burden and whether the US is being granted access to bases and airspace.

Issues regarding NATO that consistently attract the attention of Members of Congress include allied defense spending, the future of U.S. and NATO force posture in Europe, NATO's relationship with Ukraine, and NATO's policies toward Russia and the People's Republic of China. More broadly, Members of Congress may address a range of questions concerning U.S. leadership within the alliance, including future U.S. commitments to NATO and European security, allied perceptions of U.S. leadership in NATO, and the costs and benefits of U.S. NATO membership.

During and after the first Trump administration, both chambers of Congress enacted legislation expressing support for NATO. For example, Section 1250A of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 states that "the President may not suspend, terminate, denounce, or withdraw the United States from NATO without the advice and consent of the Senate" and prohibits the use of government funds for such purposes. Some Members characterized these measures as a response to President Trump's criticism of the alliance. At the same time, other Members questioned the value of a strong U.S. role in European security matters and noted that President Trump's approach to NATO contributed to increased defense spending by other allies. Various provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 aim to expand congressional oversight of U.S. policy in Europe, including regarding NATO, Ukraine, and Russia. Relevant provisions include:

Section 1249. Oversight of United States Military Posture in Europe. Among other things, this section prohibits the use of funds to reduce the number of U.S. Armed Forces in Europe below 76,000 (for a period exceeding 45 days), to withdraw from any U.S. military facility within the European Command's area of responsibility, to withdraw or dispose of U.S. European Command equipment or property valued at more than $500,000, or to relinquish the dual role held by the Commander of U.S. European Command as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) NATO's top military official without formal congressional approval and reporting.

Section 1250. Report on United States Deterrence and Defense Posture in the European Region. This section requires the Commander of U.S. European Command to submit a report to Congress, concurrent with the President's budget submission, summarizing the "Commander's independent assessment" regarding the activities and resources necessary to maintain the comparative advantage of the United States and NATO vis-à-vis Russia.

Section 1247. Baltic Security Initiative. This section authorizes continued U.S. support for the Baltic Security Initiative program established by Congress in 2020 to provide security assistance funding to NATO members Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Section 1243. Extension and Modification of the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. This section, among other things, extends the availability of U.S. funds provided to Ukraine under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative.

Section 1244. Military Intelligence Support to Ukraine. This section requires notification to Congress within 48 hours should the Administration decide to "suspend, terminate, or otherwise restrict or significantly reduce" intelligence support to the Ukrainian government.

5.1. Collective Defense

Collective defense is NATO's fundamental principle. Since 1949, this unwavering commitment has united like-minded nations from Europe and North America, dedicating them to mutual protection in a spirit of solidarity.
In light of recent tensions, it is necessary to reaffirm the commitment to collective defense and the transatlantic bond under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, NATO's founding document.
Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty stipulates that an armed attack against one NATO member is considered an attack against all members, thereby creating an obligation for each member to assist the one under attack. This assistance may or may not involve the use of armed force and can encompass any action the Allies deem necessary to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area. NATO's Article 5 aligns with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which recognizes the right of a state subject to armed attack to engage in individual or collective self-defense and to seek assistance from others. In the NATO context, Article 5 transforms this right of self-defense into an obligation of mutual assistance.

5.2. Support for Ukraine

NATO and Ukraine have built a close and mutually beneficial partnership spanning over 30 years. Dialogue and cooperation began with the newly independent Ukraine joining the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (1991) and the Partnership for Peace program (1994), and continue today within the NATO-Ukraine Council, a joint body where Allies and Ukraine participate on an equal footing. The summit in Ankara is taking place at a time when the Russia-Ukraine war, which began in February 2022. has intensified once again. The war in Ukraine is expected to be a key item on the summit's agenda. The Alliance must fully support Ukraine's right to self-defense, as enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Russia's war crimes and other atrocities, such as attacks on civilians and the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure, are depriving millions of Ukrainians of essential services. All those responsible must be held accountable for violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law, particularly for crimes committed against Ukraine's civilian population, the forced deportation of children, and conflict-related sexual violence. The war has had a profound impact on energy and food security, affecting the global economy and the well-being of billions of people worldwide. Allies and Ukraine strongly condemn Russia's decision to withdraw from the Black Sea Grain Initiative and its attempts to

deliberately obstruct Ukraine's agricultural exports, upon which hundreds of millions of people around the world depend. Allies should work to support the continued export of Ukrainian grain by land and sea, including through cooperation with the European Union and the United Nations. Allies strongly condemn and do not recognize Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea, and they also condemn this temporary occupation. NATO also condemns Russia's attempt to illegally annex four Ukrainian regions (Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia) in September 2022; this represents the largest attempted land grab in Europe since the Second World War.

There is an expectation that NATO members will reaffirm their support for Ukraine at the summit. Ahead of the event, Zelenskyy stated that he anticipated "strong decisions" from participating nations following Russia's recent attack on Kyiv. Ukraine has requested air defense systems from NATO, citing a particular shortage of Patriot missiles. Concerns regarding ammunition and stockpiles have reportedly intensified due to tensions in the Middle East. According to a draft summit declaration seen by Reuters, allies are set to pledge €70 billion in support for Ukraine in 2026, covering military equipment, aid, and training. The text also outlines a goal to maintain support at an equivalent level in 2027. The US is not expected to contribute to this funding. After taking office, US President Donald Trump pursued a strategy distinct from that of the preceding Biden administration and ended the "blank check" policy toward Ukraine. However, these efforts by the White House did not pave the way for a potential ceasefire between the parties.

(This text contains information regarding behind-the-scenes preparations and details leaked to the press a few days before the summit began; it reflects the pre-summit context.)

5.3. Defense Industry

Defense spending will be one of the key topics on the agenda for Allies at the summit in Ankara.

NATO plays a pivotal role as a platform for consultation and standard-setting among Allies, helping to harmonize defense procurement requirements and enabling the industry to understand Allied needs, thereby ensuring the maintenance of necessary procurement speeds. By leveraging economies of scale, NATO allows the industry to formulate large-scale, long-term plans based on aggregate demand.

As part of NATO's 2014 Defence Investment Pledge, under which Allies committed to spending at least 2% of their GDP on defense, Allies also agreed to allocate at least 20% of defense spending to major equipment, including related research and development. At the 2023 Vilnius Summit, Allied leaders agreed on a Defence Production Action Plan aimed at accelerating multinational procurement, increasing production capacity, engaging more closely with industry, and enhancing Allied interoperability. At the 2024 Washington Summit, Allies adopted the NATO Defence Industrial Capacity Expansion Pledge, designed to strengthen transatlantic defense industrial cooperation and assist Allies in replenishing their stockpiles while continuing to provide military aid to Ukraine. In February 2025, NATO Defence Ministers agreed on an updated Defence Production Action Plan that fulfills the obligations of the NATO Defence Industrial Capacity Expansion Pledge and complements the scope of the original Plan. In June 2025, NATO Defence Ministers agreed on new Capability Targets to strengthen combat readiness for the years ahead.

In June 2025, Allied Leaders signed a new Defence Investment Pledge building on the summit in The Hague the previous year, committing to invest 5% of annual GDP in defence, thereby creating even greater opportunities for defence industrial cooperation, innovation and production.

Since making this pledge in June 2025, European allies and Canada have invested tens of billions of dollars more in defense, increasing their spending by approximately 20% in a single year. However, increasing budgets is not enough; NATO must ensure that the defense industry has the capacity to provide the capabilities required by allied forces. To this end, NATO and its allies are working in close cooperation with industry partners to rapidly ramp up defense industrial production on both sides of the Atlantic. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte recently visited Trump at the Oval Office and gave a presentation regarding European allies' spending. European leaders are expected to make a concerted effort to convince U.S. President Donald Trump that they will meet this target. According to a draft text cited by Reuters, the summit declaration is expected to state that "in 2025, core defense investments by NATO members in Europe and Canada increased by more than $139 billion."Summarizing the administration's message ahead of the Ankara summit, U.S. Ambassador to NATO Matt Whitaker told reporters, "President Trump expects all allies to take immediate action toward the 5% target and to do so with urgency," thereby outlining Washington's primary expectation for the summit.

NATO leaders are preparing to announce arms deals worth tens of billions of dollars ahead of the summit. The aim is to demonstrate that Trump's call for increased defense spending is being met not merely with political pledges, but with concrete procurement and production projects. Dutch Defense Minister Dilan YESİLGOZ stated that her country would announce agreements and plans worth more than 3 billion euros. Key initiatives in this context include collaborations with Belgium on air defense and with the UK on naval vessels. According to Reuters, plans to replace NATO's fleet of American-made AWACS surveillance aircraft with the GlobalEye system from Sweden's Saab are also among the topics to be discussed at the summit.

The US Military Posture in Europe:

Alongside NATO reinforcements, the United States also increased its military deployments in Europe. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Biden administration deployed approximately 20,000 additional U.S. military personnel to Europe, bringing the total U.S. force presence there to around 100,00 by mid 2022. Troop numbers subsequently decreased, and U.S. military commanders reported that, as of March 2026, approximately 86,000 U.S. military personnel were stationed or deployed in NATO countries across Europe. In addition to long-standing permanent bases in Germany, the UK, Italy, Turkiye, and other Western European nations, the U.S. military presence in Europe since 2022 has included the rotational deployment of up to two Brigade Combat Teams each comprising roughly 4,000 troops to Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the deployment of approximately 10,000 military personnel to Poland, 800 of whom serve in a U.S. led NATO battlegroup.

Trump administration officials and policy guidelines, including the 2026 National Defense Strategy, have articulated a goal of reducing the U.S. conventional military presence in Europe. In Jun 2026, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth announced that the Department of Defense would conduct a six-month review of the U.S. force posture in Europe. Secretary Hegseth suggested that changes to U.S. force posture and financial contributions could be "contingent upon other nations meeting their defense spending targets." According to Secretary Hegseth, administration officials informed alliance military commanders that the U.S. would reduce its contributions to the NATO Force Model, a classified system in which alliance members designate specific troops and equipment to respond to a potential attack. Reportedly, the U.S. reductions could entail halving the number of

strategic bombers available in the fighter aircraft by one-third, and eliminating the presence of submarines entirely. Secretary General Rutte acknowledged that the Administration was "adjusting its commitments" to the NATO Force Model but emphasized that "other allies were stepping up to contribute more," noting that NATO defense plans had historically been "overly dependent on the United States." Some analysts worry that the U.S. reductions, including those involving submarines and strategic bombers, will create gaps that European allies would find difficult to fill in the near to medium term. Some observers suggest that certain statements by President Trump regarding the deployment of U.S. troops in Europe may have been influenced by his views on the governments of the host nations. For instance, they point to President Trump's criticism of German Chancellor Merz prior to announcing the decision to withdraw troops from Germany, and his praise for Polish President Karol Nawrocki before announcing the deployment of additional troops to Poland on May 21. Secretary of Defense Hegseth also stated that decisions regarding the U.S. military presence in Europe could hinge on allies' commitments to defense spending.

5.4. The Iran Crisis

The issue of Iran, which has recently caused serious tension between the US and certain European allies, is also among the topics addressed in the declaration.

Article 4 of the Treaty stipulates that NATO members will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of any of the Parties is threatened. Following the September 11 attacks, the US requested consultations under Article 4 and the invocation of the collective defense guarantee covered by Article 5. This process resulted in the authorization of an "out-of-area" operation that included NATO's activities in Afghanistan. A similar authorization for an "out-of-area" operation had also occurred during the war in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. However, this year, the US did not request consultations under Article 4 after initiating hostilities with Iran or following attacks on US forces in the Middle East. It could have done so, but it did not. Therefore, under the Treaty, unless the North Atlantic Council invokes the collective defense guarantee, there is no obligation for NATO members to participate in military operations initiated by a state party to the Treaty and conducted outside the North Atlantic area. Were the situation otherwise, the US would have been obliged to participate in the UK/France operations in Libya in 2011 and the Central African Republic in 2013. The US did not participate then, nor are European NATO members participating today.

At the same time, Iran remains a source of tension in transatlantic relations, and some European NATO members are keen to alleviate this tension. France and the UK deployed forces to the Mediterranean and the Red Sea during the conflict but did not participate in combat operations. Recently, a German newspaper raised the possibility of a NATO mission to ensure security in the Strait of Hormuz (a move that would likely require the Alliance's approval, unless undertaken individually by the member states concerned). Such a mission could commence once the conditions for supporting the arrangement are met, and this is a matter that warrants close monitoring at the summit.

However, unable to secure the support he sought, President Trump intensified his criticism of NATO in March 2026; European allies rejected requests from the US and Israel to protect shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz during military

operations against Iran. Numerous allied governments criticized the administration for launching attacks on Iran without prior consultation, and some allies, including Spain, France, and Italy, reportedly restricted US access to their airspace and/or military bases for offensive operations against Iran. In an interview with UK media in April 2026, President Trump stated, partly in response to these allied reactions, that he was seriously considering withdrawing the US from NATO. Section 1250A of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 stipulates that "the President may not suspend, terminate, denounce, or withdraw the United States from NATO… except with the advice and consent of the Senate." During NATO Secretary General Rutte's visit to the White House in June 2026, he reportedly expressed support for US military operations against Iran and noted that up to 5,000 US military flights had been conducted from bases in Europe during the conflict. It is noted that NATO did not play an active role in the war with Iran and that there was no general agreement within the alliance regarding the use of bases and airspace by the US. However, the economic impacts of the war, energy prices, and tensions in the Strait of Hormuz will be strongly felt in the background of the talks in Ankara.

5.5. NATO 3.0

Under the framework defining "NATO 3.0," Europe will assume primary responsibility for its own conventional defence. Meanwhile, the US will shift its strategic focus toward homeland defense and deterring China in the Indo-Pacific, thereby transforming the US-Europe dynamic from one of dependency into a genuine partnership, an alliance in which Europe provides the bulk of conventional military capabilities, while the United States acts primarily as the nuclear guarantor and provider of strategic support. The fundamental question is whether Europe can generate sufficient military capacity to deter and, if necessary, defeat Russian aggression as the US conventional contribution diminishes.

5.6. The Future Direction of NATO

The official outcome of the summit in Ankara will be announced via a statement to be released following the leaders' working session.

6. Final Document

NATO's final document takes the form of a declaration. (Communique) In this type of document, which follows a simpler procedure compared to other types of documents, the views and opinions adopted by NATO regarding the decisions made and, at times, those not made by this committee must be set forth item by item; the rationale for the decisions made or proposed that is, the cause-and-effect relationship must be clearly stated in each article.