



NHSMUN

CRISIS - NATO

UPDATE PAPER

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Dear Delegates,

I am so excited to welcome you to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Crisis Committee! My name is Jessica Gu, and I am your Session I Assistant Director (AD). This NATO crisis topic is one for the textbooks! Throughout seven matcha lattes (from Stagger Coffee), and numerous time zone conversions, my co-AD and I have worked tirelessly to compile this Update Paper to address the most current updates surrounding the Russo-Ukrainian war. I hope this paper is as enjoyable for you to read as it was for me to write.

This is my fifth year participating in Model UN. I have competed since my freshman year of high school and have attended numerous crisis and GA committees. I have also done some lighter chairing work during in-house conferences during my time in high school. This is my first year on staff at NHSMUN, though I attended as a delegate in 2024, representing Chen Boda in the Historical Crisis CCP Committee. Side note: my character defected to Myanmar at the end of the committee.

Currently, I attend Riverside City College, and I am also actively involved with the collegiate MUN team there. I am a political science major; however, this is subject to change as I gear up to transfer in 2026. Outside of MUN, you can find me involved in intern work, or at a dance studio. I also have two chubby cats who I love dearly, and I love to nap with them.

I hope delegates can carefully balance their role in NATO as the war rages on. The Russo-Ukrainian war is a delicate situation, and delegates must recognize that their path within the committee will influence the outcomes of the war. Rising geopolitical tensions internationally, dwindling resources, and new land incursions have all twisted the plot in unimaginable ways. I am excited to see how delegates will advance the story during the committee in March.

MUN has been such an integral part of my life, I hope I can guide you through this committee with all the knowledge I have accumulated throughout my years. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

I am so excited to meet you all in March!

Best,

Jessica Gu

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North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Session I



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Renata Venzor

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Committee! My name is Ashley Block, and I will be your Assistant Director for Session II of NHSMUN 2024! I attended NHSMUN twice during high school, specifically in the Security Council (2023) and South Korean National Security Council (2024). As a delegate, I was able to learn and grow so much from this conference, and love that I can now be a part of that experience for others as a staff member.

I am currently a freshman at the University of California, Davis hoping to double major in Political Science and Psychology, both majors heavily influenced by my Model UN experiences. I envision passing the bar one day and perhaps pursuing a career in diplomacy-dare I say in the United Nations? In my free time, I enjoy cooking and baking, rock climbing, and playing guitar. You will frequently find me trying new recipes or canvassing the rock-climbing wall at the university gym!

My experience in Model UN has not only influenced my potential career path but also many skills outside of the committee room. I hope delegates will find that diplomacy is not a distant concept only meant to be practiced between countries, but a fundamental principle that should follow us into our own lives. Whether it is the overarching issue of achieving peace between two countries at war, or two parties in an argument at the dinner table, diplomacy will serve you well in all your endeavors. Moreover, I challenge you all to listen to diverse perspectives, challenge your ideals, and develop solutions reflecting empathy and mutual respect.

The topic to be discussed during committee this year will be the Russo-Ukrainian War. I urge delegates to treat this topic with the care and sensitivity that it requires and consider the many perspectives and dynamics involved. I am looking forward to the rigorous debate and unique solutions that delegates will bring to the table, and of course, meeting all of you!

Kind regards,

Ashley Block

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North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Session II





CRISIS - NATO
NHSMUN 2025



TOPIC A: THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR

Photo Credit: Rhododendrites

Introduction

As the Russo-Ukrainian war rages on, many factors, domestic and international, have helped advance this war. Today, the conflict is much larger and more destructive than it was just two years ago. With many countries undergoing elections in 2024 and 2025, results will define the outcomes of the Russo-Ukrainian war, and the control Russia has in the future. More specifically, many countries that have supported Ukraine with funding are undergoing important elections that will determine the future of their support for the state. For example, in November, the United States saw Donald Trump being elected as the incoming 47th President of the United States.¹ Moreover, in recent months, Russian allies like North Korea and China have taken a more active approach to their involvement in the conflict.

Internally, aid sent by foreign countries to both Russia and Ukraine has created some turning points for Ukraine in the ongoing war. Though military aid is starting to stagger in amount, Ukrainian forces have creatively used drones and cyberattacks to counterstrike against Russian forces. With a majority of the Ukrainian power grid cut off, the humanitarian strain on Ukraine is becoming an increasingly large issue. Constant missile attacks on the state's major nuclear power plants and power lines could also risk the occurrence of a major nuclear incident. As political tensions continue to rise between the two countries, the international sphere cannot seem to agree on how conflict resolution is implemented. With the situation becoming more dire each day, the international community must assess how best to tackle the conflict going forward.

Current State of the Conflict

Before the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Ukraine produced over 44.1 gigawatts (GW) of available electricity. 26 GW were used in-state, while the rest was exported. Ukraine's energy grid has been under continuous barrage since March 22, 2024.² Since

then, the country's six towers lost connection multiple times and stopped producing energy for Ukraine. By November 2024, all units had entered shutdown due to the attacks.³ During the barrage on the state's energy grid, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) entered a cold shutdown. The ZNPP is the largest nuclear power plant in Ukraine. Along with ZNPP's failure, Ukraine's Khmelnytsky, Rivne, and South Ukraine nuclear power plants (NPPs) have greatly decreased their power production as well because of the missile attacks in the area.⁴ As of mid-December, the Khmelnytsky, Rivne, and South Ukraine NPPs have all reported air raid alarms, with the team at the Khmelnytsky site being required to seek shelter due to the presence of Russian drones and cruise missiles 3.7 kilometers away from the site.⁵ With Ukraine already having a predicted electricity shortfall of 6 gigawatts in the winter, Russia's campaign to black out Ukraine to gain an advantage in war is running successfully thus far.⁶

Between August and December 2024, there were thousands of missiles fired to cut Ukraine's power. The first of these attacks happened on November 17 in the city of Sumy in North Ukraine. Eight civilians were killed in the crossfire, with dozens more wounded.⁷ Two weeks later, nearly 200 missiles

1 Antonio Voce, Niels de Hoog, Seán Clarke, Rich Cousins, Harry Fischer, Ashley Kirk, "House, Senate and governor elections map 2024: Republicans secure House majority - results from all 50 US states," *The Guardian*, November 14, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2024/nov/14/us-house-senate-and-governor-elections-2024-results-from-all-50-states>.

2 "Attacks on Ukraine's Energy Infrastructure: Harm to the Civilian Population," Ukraine: United Nations, September 2024, Pages 1-5, <https://ukraine.un.org/en/278992-attacks-ukraine%E2%80%99s-energy-infrastructure-harm-civilian-population>

3 "Zaporizhzhia NPP safe amid power line shut down," *Nuclear Engineering International*, November 19, 2024, <https://www.neimagazine.com/news/zaporizhzhia-npp-safe-amid-power-line-shut-down/>.

4 "Update 267 – IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine," *International Atomic Energy Agency*, December 18, 2024, <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-267-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine#>

5 "Update 267 – IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine."

6 Nina Chestney, "Ukraine faces a winter power shortfall of one-third of peak demand, IEA says," *Reuters*, September 19, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-faces-6-gw-power-supply-shortfall-this-winter-iaea-says-2024-09-19/#>

7 Samya Kullab, Joanna Kozłowska, "Russia launches one of its fiercest missile and drone attacks at Ukraine's infrastructure," *AP News*, November 17, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/zelenskyy-russia-missiles-drones-ukraine-infrastructure-6af214839d9436731e9b960f0d3a>

and exploding drones cut off power to approximately one million homes.⁸ The regions of northwestern Rivne and Volyn were impacted the most. Approximately 495,000 households from both regions completely lost power.⁹ The most recent winter attack occurred on December 13. 92 Russian missiles, one North Korean missile, and 200 drones targeted power lines and nuclear reactors.¹⁰ All of these attacks on Ukraine's power system only hint towards the possibility of a nuclear disaster. Although there has been no reported direct damage to the nuclear power plants themselves, power lines connecting NPPs to their safety systems have continuously been cut. Additionally, electrical substations, used for transmitting and receiving power, have been damaged heavily by Russian missile attacks.¹¹ The ZNPP, in particular, is most vulnerable to a nuclear disaster and has installed new mobile diesel generators in the event the station has a complete blackout and cannot maintain nuclear safety.¹²

Without question, Ukraine's energy infrastructure has become extremely fragile since the conflict began. With winter setting in, blackouts have affected over one million people. Moreover, essential services like transportation and water are being disrupted.¹³ This directly affects displaced people, low-income families, and disabled Ukrainians. The UN Human Rights Office has formally communicated with Russia about ceasing these attacks. Additionally, arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court (ICC) have been issued for Russian government officials responsible for the attacks on

Ukraine's power infrastructure.¹⁴

Another major development that has taken place in the last few months has been the Kursk offensive. In August 2024, Ukraine's armed forces invaded the Russian region of Kursk. Russian forces noted that at least 1000 Ukrainian troops crossed the border, and they were supported by tanks and armored vehicles.¹⁵ Immediately, a state of emergency was declared in Kursk, and Russian troops were rushed to the area. By the end of the first week, Ukraine's military said it had captured almost 400 square miles of Russian territory.¹⁶ Russian authorities also acknowledged that Ukraine had captured almost 30 settlements. The Kursk offensive was surprising, both to Russia and to Ukraine's allies. It is undoubtedly the most notable attack across the border since the initial invasion in 2022. Moreover, it is the first attack carried out primarily by Ukrainian forces.¹⁷ By early October, Ukraine's advance into Kursk slowed down, and in early November, Russian forces retook around half of the territory occupied by Ukraine.¹⁸ Officials in Ukraine have stated that the goals of the operation include damaging Russia's military, and capturing Russian troops.¹⁹ It also aims to put pressure on the Russian government and force it into peace negotiations. Today, Ukraine has established a military administration for the territory under its control, all while Russia strives to push them out of the Kursk.²⁰

In light of Ukraine's incursion into Russia and continued fighting on the frontlines, both Russia and Ukraine have

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8 Hannah Arhirova, Barry Halton, "Latest 'massive' Russian aerial attack cuts power to 1 million homes in Ukraine," *AP News*, November 28, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-war-energy-infrastructure-4fd663599d47898be34aa858dcc48fdb#>

9 Arhirova, Halton, "Latest 'massive' Russian aerial attack."

10 Marie Varenikova, "Russia Hits Ukraine's Energy Infrastructure in a Renewed Assault," *New York Times*, Dec 13, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/13/world/europe/russia-ukraine-attack-energy.html>.

11 UN News, "Russian strikes on Ukraine's energy system risks nuclear disaster: Rights experts," November 25th, 2024, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/11/1157441>.

12 "Update 267 – IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine."

13 "Attacks on Ukraine's Energy Infrastructure: Harm to the Civilian Population."

14 UN News, "UN rights office urges Russia to cease attacks."

15 Lauren Kent, Kosta Gak, and Svitlana Vlasova, "'The Kursk Operation Has Become Normalized:' as Ukraine's Russia Incursion Enters Third Month, Putin Is Trying to Downplay It," *CNN*, October 12, 2024, <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/12/europe/ukraine-kursk-russia-incursion-putin-intl/index.html>.

16 Kent, Gak, and Vlasova, "'The Kursk Operation Has Become Normalized:' as Ukraine's Russia Incursion Enters Third Month, Putin Is Trying to Downplay It."

17 Kent, Gak, and Vlasova, "'The Kursk Operation Has Become Normalized:' as Ukraine's Russia Incursion Enters Third Month, Putin Is Trying to Downplay It."

18 Kent, Gak, and Vlasova, "'The Kursk Operation Has Become Normalized:' as Ukraine's Russia Incursion Enters Third Month, Putin Is Trying to Downplay It."

19 Matt Murphy, Paul Brown, "Ukraine Front Could 'collapse' as Russia Gains Accelerate, Experts Warn," *BBC News*, November 20, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn0dpx420lo>.

20 "Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, January 9, 2025," Institute for the Study of War, Accessed January 10, 2025, <https://www.understandingwar.org/background/russian-offensive-campaign-assessment-january-9-2025>.



Kyiv after Russian drone attack
Credit: Kyiv City State Administration

experienced high casualties and depletion of resources. Russia, in particular, has reportedly lost “at least five divisions” worth of armored vehicles and tanks in the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk since beginning its offensive operation to seize the city of Avdiivka in October 2023.²¹ According to a UK representative in May 2024, more than 465,000 Russian personnel had been killed or wounded since February 2024. Additionally, the daily casualty rate rose to 1,000 per day.²² As a result of the Kursk incursion, the casualty rates predictably increased significantly, approximately by more than a couple hundred per day, or almost 650,000 total casualties.²³

The Ukrainian military has achieved success in recent months. They have used cyberattacks and advanced technology to weaken Russian forces. On October 7, for example, Ukrainian hacker groups were allegedly responsible for taking down broadcasts from four Russian state television channels, and approximately 80 regional television and radio companies.²⁴ However, of the 30 recorded cyber incidents between Ukraine

and Russia that took place in the last 25 years, 28 were Russia’s.²⁵ As such, most of the cyber warfare in the war was done by Russia. For example, as of December 20, Russia has reportedly carried out a mass cyber-attack on Ukraine’s state registries. This resulted in the Ministry of Justice’s operations temporarily stopping.²⁶

Additionally, there has been an increase in the use of drones. This is especially widespread on the Ukrainian side. These drones have been used to gather intelligence, promote propaganda, and coordinate attacks.²⁷ In the conflict that took place in the city of Bakhmut, for example, Ukrainian forces used drones to track Russian movements. This technology has also been used to conduct strikes. For example, armed military drones were used by Ukrainian forces to target a tank convoy on its way to Kyiv.²⁸ They have also been used as “spotters” to find targets for Ukraine’s Neptune anti-ship missile to attack. In these ways, drones have been used in Ukraine’s defense against Russian forces. While Russia has also used drones in

21 James Tobin, “War in Ukraine: Update October 2024 - House of Lords Library,” UK Parliament, October 16, 2024, <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/war-in-ukraine-update-october-2024/>.

22 Tobin, “War in Ukraine.”

23 Tobin, “War in Ukraine.”

24 Ravie Lakshmanan, “Pro-Ukrainian Hackers Strike Russian State TV on Putin’s Birthday,” The Hacker News, October 8, 2024, <https://thehackernews.com/2024/10/pro-ukrainian-hackers-strike-russian.html>.

25 Lakshmanan, “Pro-Ukrainian Hackers Strike Russian State TV on Putin’s Birthday.”

26 “Russia Accused of Large-Scale Cyber-Attack on Ukrainian Authorities,” *The Guardian*, December 20, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/dec/20/ukraine-war-briefing-russia-accused-of-large-scale-cyber-attack-on-ukrainian-authorities>.

27 Ulrike Franke and Jenny Soderstrom, “Star Tech Enterprises: Emerging Technologies in Russia’s War on Ukraine,” *European Council on Foreign Relations*, September 5, 2023, <https://ecfr.eu/publication/star-tech-enterprise-emerging-technologies-in-russias-war-on-ukraine/>.

28 Franke, Soderstrom, “Star Tech Enterprises: Emerging Technologies in Russia’s War on Ukraine,”

its fight with Ukraine, albeit less extensively, they have not seen the same success.

Despite Ukraine's move for a potential ceasefire, exemplified by the Kursk offensive, the conflict between the latter and Russia has maintained a steady pace. The current situation brings significant risks for the future, including the ongoing usage of cyber warfare and the threat of nuclear disaster. The situation is more dire than ever, and direct action is needed to work towards a ceasefire.

International Impacts on the Russo-Ukrainian War

Just as Ukraine has many Western allies, Russia has been supported by China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), and Iran. During the start of the Russo-Ukrainian war, North Korea gave Russia artillery and missiles.²⁹ In exchange, North Korea received updated missile technology, food, oil, and large amounts of funding. For context, North Korea's economy has been devastated by UN sanctions, export bans, and the pandemic. In an attempt to rebuild, Kim Jong-Un signed a treaty of mutual defense with Vladimir Putin.³⁰ This treaty was signed in June and ratified in December 2024. It is considered both country's largest defense deals since the end of the Cold War.³¹ To assist Russia, North Korean troops have been placed around the Kursk district of Russia ever since Ukraine invaded the region.³² North Korean troops have so far suffered several hundred casualties after Ukrainian artillery fire rained down upon them.³³

The former United States Deputy Secretary of State Kurt

Campbell has reported that China has been providing weapons for Russia, despite China denying those claims.³⁴ In the face of international sanctions, Russia has had to rely on its allies for assistance. This includes China providing them with military technology. Campbell argues that the recent materials China is giving to Russia are "basically being applied directly to the Russian war machine." In exchange, Russia has allegedly given China military technology like submarines and missiles. This exchange may pose a threat to countries like the United States, India, and South Korea due to China's expanded military capabilities. In addition to gaining additional military technology information, China is also significantly benefiting economically from the war.³⁵ With Russia's economy focusing on the war effort, China has become the leading economy in the region. It can provide critical resources to Russia and a vast array of imports to other countries that may have previously relied on Russia for those same goods. Essentially, China can support Russia while officially claiming neutrality and gaining profit. In 2023, China accounted for 38 percent of Russian imports. Russia only accounted for 5.1 percent of Chinese imports. This shows the growing inequality in the partnership.³⁶

Iran has been similarly providing aid to Russia, although on a smaller scale. Nonetheless, this aid has already led to devastating effects on the war. In particular, Iran is providing Russia with ballistic missiles that can be used in short-range frontline attacks. This has allowed Russia to save their missiles for long-range attacks against Ukraine.³⁷ Moreover, Iran has been providing Russian forces with a type of kamikaze drone, called the "Shahed 136".³⁸ These drones are responsible for terrorizing Ukrainian citizens and destroying critical civilian

29 Edward Howell, "North Korea and Russia's dangerous partnership: The threat to global security from the Kim-Putin axis and how to respond," *Chatham House*, (December 2024): 5-10, 12-18, <https://doi.org/10.5531/79781784136321>.

30 Choe Sang-Hun, "What North Korea Gains from Its Alliance with Russia — and What It Risks," *New York Times*, December 17, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/17/world/asia/north-korea-russia-military-deal.html>.

31 Hyung-jin Kim, "North Korea ratifies major defense treaty with Russia," *AP News*, November 11th, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/north-korea-russia-ukraine-059d73e4c3492c19b555476b2fb45ca9>

32 Mathieu Pollet, "'Significant number' of North Korean troops in Kursk, Zelenskyy says," *Politico*, December 15, 2024, <https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-putin-significant-number-north-korean-troops-attack-soldiers-zelenskyy-ukraine-war/>.

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34 Stuart Lau, "US Accuses China of Giving 'Very Substantial' Help to Russia's War Machine," *Politico*, September 10, 2024, <https://www.politico.eu/article/united-states-accuse-china-help-russia-war-kurt-campbell/>.

35 James Tobin, "War in Ukraine."

36 "China and Russia: A New Cold War?" *Harvard International Review*, October 31, 2024, <https://hir.harvard.edu/chinas-aid-in-the-ukraine-war/>.

37 James Tobin, "War in Ukraine."

38 "Russia Accused of Large-Scale Cyber-Attack."

infrastructure. These collaborations with China, Iran, and North Korea, not only threaten Ukraine’s success in the war but may even have implications for global security.

Many Eastern European countries are facing difficulties supporting Ukraine. With elections in bordering countries like Moldova, and Romania, the instability of eastern Europe will affect the Russo-Ukrainian war. On October 20 in Moldova, elections to join the EU were disrupted by alleged Russian interference. Moldovan presidential elections also elected a pro-EU candidate. This made Moldova likely to become the next official EU member. This would allow for Moldova to potentially support Ukraine in the coming years of war.³⁹ On the flip side, in Romania, first-round presidential elections were revoked on December 6 after taking place on November 24, 2024.⁴⁰ Right-wing candidate Călin Georgescu initially won against left-wing candidate Elena-Valerica Lasconi. However, evidence of irregularities in voting, the usage of AI systems, and

alleged Russian interference led the Romanian court to annul the results.⁴¹ Georgescu had previously condemned Ukraine and NATO’s actions, campaigning to end aid for Ukraine and restore ties with Russia. This goes against current Romanian policy towards Ukraine and may conflict with NATO’s values. Lasconi would most likely extend Romania’s current stance towards NATO and Ukraine. Currently, Romania is extending the term of their current president.⁴²

Across the Atlantic, US elections finished on November 5. Donald Trump was elected to the presidency, along with the Republican Party winning a majority in both the House of Representatives and Senate.⁴³ US President Donald Trump has promised to end the Russo-Ukrainian war and cut off funding for Ukraine.⁴⁴ Trump has also suggested withdrawing from NATO if his demands are not met. This would devastate the organization, due to the heavy contributions from the United States. Since 2022, the US has spent over USD 108 billion on

39 Charles Maynes, “Moldova barely approves its EU referendum amid allegations of Russian interference,” *NPR*, October 21, 2024, <https://www.npr.org/2024/10/21/nx-s1-5159997/moldova-eu-referendum-presidential-election-russia-interference>.

40 Luiza Ilie, “Romanian top court annuls presidential election result,” *Reuters*, December 6, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/thousands-attend-pro-european-rally-romania-ahead-presidential-run-off-vote-2024-12-06/>.

41 Richard Nash, *The Romanian 2024 Election Annulment: Addressing Emerging Threats to Electoral Integrity*, (International Foundation for Electoral Systems, December 2024), <https://www.ifes.org/publications/romanian-2024-election-annulment-addressing-emerging-threats-electoral-integrity>.

42 Laura Kayali, Giovanna Coi, “Why Romania’s presidential vote could shake NATO,” *Politico*, December 4, 2024, <https://www.politico.eu/article/romania-presidential-election-calin-georgescu-military-nato-russia/>.

43 Antonio Voce, “House, Senate and governor elections map 2024: Republicans secure House majority - results from all 50 US states.”

44 Joannam Kakissis, “What will Trump’s presidency mean for Russia’s war on Ukraine?” *NPR*, November 7th, 2024, <https://www.npr.org/2024/11/07/nx-s1-5181985/2024-election-trump-russia-ukraine-war>.

Shahed-136 loitering munition on launcher in a pickup truck

Credit: Meghdad Madadi



supportive measures towards Ukraine. Trump expects Europe to bear most of the financial and military costs post-2024.⁴⁵ With Ukraine being so dependent on US aid, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy does not believe that European guarantees will be enough to push back against Russia. Trump's incoming cabinet also has suggested other measures to end the Russo-Ukrainian war. Trump believes that Ukraine should not be given NATO membership, a component integral to Zelenskyy's victory plan.⁴⁶ Trump and Vice President-elect James David (JD) Vance both support Ukrainian territory concessions of Crimea, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, and Lugansk to Russia. In exchange, Russia will end hostilities.⁴⁷ This ceasefire proposal has led to push back from both countries and could lead to increased political tensions between all three countries. Overall, critical elections are occurring in notable NATO countries. This includes Romania and the US. These election results have major implications for the conflict going into the future. With the increased involvement of countries like China, Iran, and North Korea in support of Russia, a swift end to the war is becoming less likely.

As the Russo-Ukrainian war continues, Zelenskyy has offered a solution, which he believes will finally put an end to the conflict. In October, he published his victory plan, focusing on 10 points, including reparations from Russia, the evacuation of Russia's nuclear power plants, and the release of all Ukrainian prisoners and deportees.⁴⁸ Additionally, the components of his plan rely on increasing Western aid and support, and gaining membership into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).⁴⁹ The latter will prove to be a challenge, as Ukraine's allies already struggle to maintain the current level of aid it provides to the country. Moreover, membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) would mean that Ukraine's involvement in the war would mean all NATO countries' involvement in the war against Russia, essentially

implying a potential world war.⁵⁰ Many countries in Eastern Europe are strong supporters of Ukraine gaining formal membership in the organization. However, the United States and Germany, two significant members of the alliance, remain opposed, viewing the decision as too provocative.

As of November, former President Joe Biden has authorized Ukraine's use of United States' long-range missiles against Russia, spurred by the arrival of North Korean forces in the Kursk region.⁵¹ This proves to be a less controversial aspect of the plan, as Western allies support providing Ukraine with weapons, though not at the rate that Zelenskyy wants.⁵² While the feasibility of this plan remains in question, Zelenskyy argues that this is the only way to force Russia to lose and thus, make peace.

Conclusion

Since its beginning and especially in recent months, the Russo-Ukrainian war has undergone numerous turning points. Victory is indecisive on the battlefield, with neither country being crowned champion. However current political and military maneuverings have made it difficult for citizens on both sides to carry out their lives. Despite the proposal of Zelenskyy's "Victory Plan," warfare between Russia and Ukraine only seems to be growing more violent, especially with the potential involvement of Russia's allies such as China, Iran, and North Korea. Moreover, given Ukraine's offensive in Kursk in November, it is evident that both sides are mobilizing at the same rate.

While Ukraine's allies still maintain their steadfast commitment to the state, aid is dwindling and taking longer to receive, impeding Ukraine's efforts in the war. Moreover, given the recent election of Donald Trump in the United

45 Giselle Ewing, "Scholz calls Trump during EU leaders' summit to talk Ukraine," *Politico*, December 19, 2024, <https://www.politico.eu/article/olaf-scholz-donald-trump-phone-call-war-in-ukraine-european-council-summit>.

46 Foy Fisher, Schwartz, "Trump wants 5% Nato defence spending target,"

47 Dick Zandee, Roman De Baedts, "The US elections and the future of NATO: A scenario analysis," *Clingendael Report*, (October 2024): 17-22, <https://www.clingendael.org/publication/us-elections-and-future-nato-scenario-analysis>.

48 "What is Zelenskyy's 10-Point Peace Plan?" *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine*, September 17, 2024, <https://war.ukraine.ua/faq/zelenskyy-10-point-peace-plan/>.

49 Max Boot, "Zelenskyy's Victory Plan for Ukraine Makes Sense. It Has Little Chance of Being Implemented," Council on Foreign Relations, October 21, 2024, <https://www.cfr.org/expert-brief/zelenskyy-victory-plan-ukraine-makes-sense-it-has-little-chance-being-implemented>.

50 Boot, "Zelenskyy's Victory Plan for Ukraine Makes Sense. It Has Little Chance of Being Implemented."

51 "Ukraine in Maps: Tracking the War with Russia."

52 Boot, "Zelenskyy's Victory Plan for Ukraine Makes Sense. It Has Little Chance of Being Implemented."

States, Ukraine's biggest funder, there is a chance that the future of Ukraine's relationship with NATO itself is malleable to change. Ukraine's wartime arsenal has also been depleted, now solely relying on major Western powers for support. With unstable elections in neighboring countries, massive power losses across Ukraine, and international pressure for the war to end, the Russo-Ukrainian war continues to evolve unpredictably. Delegates must ensure that any action taken lessens humanitarian strain and ensures peaceful success.

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