Country: Republic of North Macedonia

Committee: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Agenda Item: Potential NATO Measures To Counter The Growing Danger Posed By The Eastern Bloc

The Republic of North Macedonia shortly known as North Macedonia is a landlocked country of the south-central Balkan Peninsula. It shares its borders with Kosovo and Serbia to the north, Greece to the south, Albania to the west, and Bulgaria to the east. Populated by a majority of ethnic Macedons and a large minority of Albanians. The city of Skopje, standing on the banks of the Vardar River, is the principal and capital city of North Macedonia. After the industrialization in the second half of the 20th century, Skopje's population grew to one-fourth of the country, making it the most populous city. North Macedonia occupies one part called Vardar Macedonia of the historical and geographical region Macedonia which splits among Bulgaria and Greece. Macedonian is the official language with Albanian being the co-official language.

Before becoming an independent country, North Macedonia was one of the six constituent republics of Yugoslavia. Due to containing eight autonomous provinces and the fall of communism led to the collapse of the federation. Slovenia and Croatia declared their secession from the Yugoslav federation and Macedonia followed suit on December 19. Macedonia (now North Macedonia) remained at peace during the catastrophic Yugoslav Wars. Later on, the Republic of North Macedonia was admitted to the United Nations under the provisional name "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". The name "Macedonia" created a political dispute between Macedonia and Greece over which country had the right to lay claim to the territory of Macedonia. Greece also prevented Macedonia from joining the EU and NATO as part of its attempts to monopolize the name. In 2018, countries signed the Prespa Agreement nominately putting an end to the name dispute, North Macedonia was accepted to NATO 2020.

Agenda Item: Potential NATO Measures To Counter The Growing Danger Posed By The Eastern Bloc

After World War II, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) introduced a series of measures in order the prevent the spread of American influence. Such as the Warsaw Pact in response to the establishment of NATO. Thus, a multipolar world order was formed. Now with the establishment of BRICS which, an informal grouping of countries that has developed into an intergovermental organization wanting to form new institutions or developing an another currency opposed to today's Western-dominated world, making them a contemporary Eastern Bloc which has Russia in the middle.

Russia has made several attacks targeting Ukraine that goes beyond traditional strategic issues, such as cyber and hybrid, space, the resilience of critical infrastructure and economic security. This demonstrates how the contemporary Eastern Bloc can act in case of discord. We, as the North Macedonia have always displayed our endorsement to Ukraine. With Russia's ongoing hybrid threats, including malicious cyber activities, disinformation campaigns, malign foreign influence, and economic pressure indicates that they will not stop their aggression towards sovereign countries. We will do everything in our power to defeat Russia.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's aggression and

¹ https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/north-macedonia/

² https://www.britannica.com/place/North-Macedonia

³ https://www.bhfieldschool.org/countries/macedonia#:~:text=Location%3A%20North%20Macedonia%20is %20situated,Area

violation of Ukraine's sovereign borders. The actions of the Russian Federation have undermined security and stability in Europe and are a rejection of the rules-based international order.

To ensure our safety from the growing danger posed by the Eastern Bloc NATO, could take the following potential actions:

- Expanding NATO memberships to Eastern Europe countries such as Bosnia Herzegovina. We pledge to use the A5 as a means to further enhance the resilience of our democratic institutions and in doing so, underpin regional stability and our collective security.
- Raising awareness on cyber defense through education and training. And spreading the true intentions of NATO through mass media and social media advertisement campaigns.
- Russia and its allies could and can use their natural resources as a political lever as previously it did to its neighbor Ukraine. Especially countries like China and Russia have a wide impact on the World Global Markets. Those countries can use their geopolitical weapon in cases of conflicts. In conclusion, NATO should develop its sources and should not be dependent on Eastern Bloc countries.
- Being more open to conflict resolutions. By expanding our territories further with former Eastern Bloc countries, and solving years-long conflicts, we will create a larger and more varied security network. In this case, North Macedonia serves as a model for conflict resolution and democratic progress, showcasing the benefits of dialogue among diverse communities.
- Development of military assistance of cybersecurity to counter espionage and cyber warfare.

2 Joint declaration of Ukraine and the Republic of North Macedonia on the Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine — Official website of the President of Ukraine

4 <u>The Declaration of the Chiefs of Defense of the U.S.-Adriatic Charter Initiative: The</u> primary goal is the integration of all aspiring Southeast European countries into NATO 5 Joint declaration of Ukraine and the Republic of North Macedonia on the Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine — Official website of the President of Ukraine

¹ BRICS | Members, History, Name Origin, Proposed Currency, & Facts | Britannica

³ Ambassador Aggeler Interview with Kanal 5 TV - U.S. Embassy in North Macedonia

^{6 &}lt;u>https://dia.dp.gov.ua/en/the-republic-of-north-macedonia-is-among-the-top-four-nato-</u> countries-in-terms-of-military-assistance-to-ukraine/