



XXXVI
LATIN AMERICAN MODEL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**LATIN AMERICAN MODEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
LAMUN XXXVI**

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Topic A Handbook

**“Implementing new diplomatic strategies for the relationship between Serbia
and Kosovo”**

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Dear members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization,

Allow me to give you a warm welcome to the thirty-sixth edition of the Latin American Model of the United Nations at Universidad de las Américas Puebla.

First and foremost, I appreciate your willingness to represent a nation in this committee, as defence, security, and crisis-management, through political and military cooperation isn't always an easy task. Be aware that NATO is summoning all members with the purpose of dealing with either of the important situations concerning the North Atlantic Area, in hopes of contributing to its security: the relationship between Serbia and Kosovo, and cyber and technological threats to this alliance.

Hoping that this experience will serve you as a means of reflection and awareness about the problems faced worldwide, we seek to make changes in the world by amending what is needed and looking for ways in which to solve the issues around us. Remember to give your best, as this is an opportunity for you to represent your delegations with honour, to contribute, and replicate a legitimate debate, though most importantly, to grow, make new friends, and acquire new skills; your actions, however big or small they may be, can and will portray change.

I exhort you to test your abilities, attempt what others may find impossible. It is up to you to demonstrate that change is possible, and that it can be achieved with the help of every single one of you; I undoubtedly know that you will be part of the change that LAMUN XXXVI will make. Moreover, remember to respect each other, be tolerant, and embrace your uniqueness; recall that all of you play a key role, your ideas and contributions are and will be valuable before, during, and after this event. On behalf of the NATO Chair, we are really looking forward to seeing you.

Kind regards,
Sarah Fernández de Lara, Chairwoman



The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is an intergovernmental political and military alliance between European and North American nations, serving as a transatlantic link between both continents, whose purpose is to guarantee freedom, security, and collective defence amongst its members. It gathers daily to consult and cooperate on defence and security issues to achieve peaceful resolutions and prevent further conflicts; given that it has military power, it is able to undertake crisis-management operations, to maintain national, regional, and international integrity (NATO, 2023).

NATO was formed on 4 April 1949 as a response to World War II's events and the ongoing disputes that were developing during the Cold War. Signing members gathered in Washington, D.C., United States to establish their position and create an alliance which would unite them against military aggression and promote political and economic stability in the North Atlantic area; this became the Washington Treaty (NATO, 2023).

It is important to emphasise that NATO works under a principle of collective defence, which is stipulated in Article 5 of the Treaty, where member nations consider that an attack on any of them is considered an attack against all - and must therefore act collectively to safeguard the integrity of the nation and the alliance. The only time in which this article has been invoked was after the 9/11 attacks in the United States in 2001. In 2022, the Organization established a Strategic Concept, which reaffirms NATO's key tasks as crisis prevention and management, deterrence and defence, and cooperative security (NATO, 2023).

Currently, NATO has the following members: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and United States (NATO, 2023).



TOPIC A

"Implementing new diplomatic strategies for the relationship between Serbia and Kosovo"

The conflict between Serbia and Kosovo dates back to the time of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, when Serbia, along with five other republics, and Kosovo and Vojvodina as autonomous provinces, were part of it (Dayán, 2011). Initially, Kosovo was considered the cradle of the Serbian nation due to its nationalism. However, over time, the majority of Kosovo's population became Albanian, and Serbs became a minority (Cordero, 2023).

In 1980, after the death of the Yugoslav dictator Josip Broz Tito, Albanian Kosovars began to demand that Kosovo be a republic rather than an autonomous province (Cordero, 2023). However, these aspirations were suppressed through the ultra-nationalist movement led by the Serb, Slobodan Milošević, who later, in 1989, assumed the presidency in Serbia until 1997, and in Yugoslavia from 1997 to 2000. This political figure was responsible for a significant crackdown on the restriction of Kosovo's autonomy. In 1989, he revoked its autonomy, leading to the removal of Albanian Kosovar political leaders and the deployment of Serbian army and police in the region (Ortiz, n.d.).

Furthermore, during the 1990s, Milošević's leadership led to an escalation of violence in Kosovo, as Serbian security forces engaged in brutal repression against the Albanian population. Military and police operations, detentions, torture, and mass killings resulted in a high number of casualties and a growing humanitarian crisis (Ortiz, n.d.). Additionally, his leadership was one of the primary causes of the independence of Croatia, Bosnia, Macedonia, and Slovenia in the early 1990s, which later evolved into the Yugoslav Wars (Cordero, 2023).

In 1998, tensions between Serbia and Kosovo erupted due to the escalating violence and repression in the latter, accompanied by ethnic cleansing, which led to a full-scale war (Cordero, 2023). The Serbian government militarily occupied



Kosovo to suppress the Albanian Kosovar population's demand for self-determination. Following discussions, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) decided to intervene in 1999 to halt the violence and compel Serbian forces to withdraw from Kosovo. NATO's decision included bombing Belgrade, Serbian capital, to force an end to the conflict. This also led to the establishment of the United Nations' (UN) administration on 10 June 1999, to promote security, stability, and respect for human rights in Kosovo (UNMIK, n.d.)

The bombing of Belgrade resulted in the downfall of Milošević's government; he was subsequently tried and detained for war crimes and genocide. On the other hand, with the assistance of the UN administration and peacekeepers, Kosovo achieved self-governance, and on 17 February 2008, it declared its independence (Cordero, 2023).

Having stipulated the aforementioned historical background of the conflict, it is important to emphasise that even though Kosovo declared its independence in 2008, receiving recognition from European Union members and the United States (influential members of NATO), Serbia has yet to take that step (Britannica, 2023). Evidently, tensions between Serbia and Kosovo have yet to dissipate, even with new negotiations in the European Union (EU) - promoted by Germany and France (the Franco-German proposal) - earlier in the year having reached a proposal agreement on the normalisation between both nations, which is yet to be signed (European Union, 2023).

The problem currently lies within Serbia's non-recognition of Kosovo as an independent State, which results in complications for both nations to make progress in their EU accession processes, as well as to NATO. The Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, named after the countries' capitals, has made promises of stabilisation and normalisation of their diplomatic relations, though neither have actually moved forward. The agreement, however, doesn't require Serbia to recognise Kosovo de jure (under international law), but rather de facto (generally accepted), and still, Kosovo's statehood remains at stake under Serbian light; at the same time, it requires Kosovo to establish an Association/Community of Serb-majority Municipalities (A/CSM), which refuses to do (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, 2023).



Given the tensions, regional economic cooperation and destabilisation in the Balkans has been affected. On the other hand, foreign policy, democracy, and the rule of law have taken a drastic turn, leaving the EU to devise new ways in which to persuade Belgrade and Pristina to agree to ratify the agreement, and develop new diplomatic strategies, as the consequences, although not seemingly so, affect the whole Union. Aleksandar Vučić, President of Serbia, and Albin Kurti, Kosovo's Prime Minister, therefore, must reach a solution in the ratification of the agreement for the sake of not only their nation's progress in the EU and related organisations, but for the economic and diplomatic cooperation in the Balkans (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, 2023).

Guiding Questions

1. Which are the positions and current demands of Serbia and Kosovo in order for them to ratify the Belgrade–Pristina agreement?
2. What are the political, cultural, and economic advantages that the Serbia-Kosovo conflict resolution could bring in your nation?
3. How could your nation develop a strategy to reach an agreement with either of the countries involved in the conflict?
4. Which could be new diplomatic strategies proposed to normalise the relationship between Serbia and Kosovo?
5. What is your delegation's position on the topic, and has it done something to intervene in it?
6. What could NATO do to prevent a new conflict between Serbia and Kosovo?
7. What impact could a successful resolution bring for the countries involved?
8. How could a conflict similar to this one be prevented in the future?
9. Why is it important for NATO to intervene in this conflict?
10. Is EU and NATO membership possible for both nations?

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