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## **1. Letter from the Secretary General**

**Dear Delegates,**

**It's an indescribable honour to welcome you to the AKA Model United Nations 2025. As the Secretary General of this conference, I am truly excited to witness your debates as you work to find meaningful solutions to global issues.**

**As you attend this conference, I strongly encourage you to open your mind to new ideas. This year, our academic team has worked diligently to provide you with guidelines that will support your MUN journey. We advise you to approach the agenda earnestly. Over many years, the world has changed in both bitter and hopeful ways, and through this conference, we aim to emphasize the importance of world peace more than ever.**

**AKA Model United Nations is a place where your voice can be heard. We believe that this conference is a great opportunity for you to express yourselves and discuss current topics. Our hope is that AKA Model United Nations will open new doors for you.**

**I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the remarkable debates ahead.**

**Warm regards,**

**Oğuz TEKİNSOY  
Secretary-General  
tekoguz40@gmail.com**

## **2. Letter from the Under Secretary General of NATO**

**Dear Esteemed Delegates,**

**Welcome to the NATO Committee of AKA Model United Nations. I am excited to guide you through discussions on the Kosovo Issue and key factors of this situation.**

**NATO plays a major role in global stability, and in this committee, you will discuss the Kosovo Issue, a major conflict in the Balkans after the Cold War. As NATO you will have to develop strategies and find common ground through diplomacy. Strong research, critical thinking, and teamwork will help you succeed. I urge you to read our guide carefully to understand the issue about Kosovo. It is a complicated issue who needs exceptional knowledge about the issue.**

**I look forward to seeing your ideas,solutions and debates about our committee. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. Let's make this a great conference together!**

**Best regards,  
Noyan Meriç Gören  
Under Secretary General of NATO  
noyanmericgoren@gmail.com**

## **3. Introduction to the Committee**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance between 16 member states (compared to 1998). Founded in the aftermath of World War II. NATO was established with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949. The organization serves as a system of collective security, whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external force. This is enshrined in Article 5 of the treaty, which states that an armed attack against one member shall be considered an attack against them all.

### 3.1) What is NATO?

NATO was established with the North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington on April 4, 1949. At the beginning of the Cold War, it was a coalition of Western European countries and the USA against the expansionist policies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Since its founding, the alliance has expanded and increased its membership at various times. Republic of Türkiye was one of the first countries to join NATO, along with Greece, in 1952 during the Korean War. And today, NATO continues to contribute to global security through crisis management and international cooperation, as well as strengthening its defence and deterrence posture in Europe.

### 3.2) Committee Procedures

This committee will operate in a semi-crisis format and will provide delegates with a realistic experience by conducting discussions in accordance with NATO's official procedures. The meetings will include the following key concepts:

***Semi Moderated Caucus:*** A semi-moderated format will be used to integrate the incoming crisis directives into the discussions in a manner consistent with NATO's collective structure. This format will allow delegates on the committee to both defend their national interests and develop solutions that are in line with the common goals of the alliance.

***Adherence to NATO Ideals:*** All discussions will be consistent with NATO's core principles of collective assistance, defense, and collective security. Delegates must balance their interests with the alliance's main collective goals. Proposals or statements contrary to NATO's mission and vision will not be accepted.

***Directives:*** Directives written by delegates to the committee, either individually or collectively, will influence the committee's progress. However, these

directives must meet the necessary conditions and not conflict with NATO's collective structure and ideology. (Note: More detailed information about the directives will be given at the conference.)

***Outcome Document:*** Unlike a traditional Model United Nations format, this committee will produce a communiqué at the end of the session. This document will reflect NATO's official resolution and serve as a collective statement of decision and commitment. Delegates should adhere to NATO's mission and official language in preparing this document (communiqué), which will highlight both concrete decisions and NATO's strategic vision on regional security issues.

### **3.3) NATO's Decision and Making Structure**

NATO decisions are taken on the basis of consensus, after discussion and consultation among member countries. A decision reached by consensus is an agreement reached by common consent and supported by each member country. This implies that when a NATO decision is taken, it is the expression of the collective will of the sovereign states that are members of the Alliance. It is this decision-making process that gives NATO both its strength and its credibility. In general, however, mutually acceptable solutions are normally found.

## **4. Introduction to the Topic**

The Kosovo Issue was an armed conflict in Kosovo that lasted from 28 February 1998 until 11 June 1999. It was fought between the forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) which controlled Kosovo before the war and the Kosovo Albanian separatist militants known as the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The conflict ended when the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) intervened by beginning air strikes in March 1999 which resulted in FRY forces withdrawing from Kosovo.

### **4.1) Key Terms in the Kosovo Issue**

→ **1974 Yugoslav Constitution:** The 1974 Yugoslav Constitution was the fourth and final constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It came into effect on 21 February 1974. In terms of governmental structure, the provinces within Yugoslavia (Vojvodina and Kosovo) have received even greater rights for this constitution than they had before. Provinces had their state and party Presidencies. Their territory could not be altered without the decision of the Provincial Assembly, provincial governments even got the right to veto decisions of the authorities in Serbia.

→ **Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK):** The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was an ethnic Albanian separatist militia that sought the separation of Kosovo, the last majority of which is inhabited by Albanians, from the Republic of Serbia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia during the 1990s. Albanian nationalism was a central tenet of the KLA and many in its ranks supported the creation of a Greater Albania, which would encompass all Albanians in the Balkan territories, stressing Albanian culture, ethnicity and nation.

→ **Adem Jashari:** Adem Shaban Jashari was one of the founders of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), a Kosovo Albanian separatist militants which fought for the secession of Kosovo from Yugoslavia during the 1990s. After several unsuccessful attempts to capture or kill him, Serbian police launched an attack against Jashari's home in the city of Prekaz in March 1998. The battle that followed resulted in the deaths of 57 members of Jashari's family, including that of Jashari, his wife, brother and son.

→ **Ibrahim Rugova:** Ibrahim Rugova was a Kosovar Albanian politician and writer, who served as the President of the partially recognised Republic of Kosovo, serving from 1992 to 2000 and as President of Kosovo from 2002 until his death in 2006. He oversaw a popular struggle for independence, advocating a peaceful resistance to Yugoslav rule, especially during the Kosovo War. He is also referred to as the "Gandhi of the Balkans" due to his strategy of non-violent resistance.

→ **Slobodan Milošević:** Slobodan Milošević was a Yugoslav and Serbian politician who was the President of Serbia between 1989 and 1997 and President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) from 1997 until his overthrow in 2000. Milošević played a major role in the Yugoslav Wars and became the first sitting head of state charged with war crimes.

→ **Dayton Agreement (1995):** The Dayton Agreement was the agreement that ended the 1992/1995 Bosnian War between Bosnians, Croats, and Serbs. This agreement initially sought to resolve the situation in Kosovo, but the issue was not included in the agreement. Consequently, Kosovar Albanian militants launched an armed resistance.

→ **Insurgency in Kosovo:** The Insurgency in Kosovo began in 1995, following the Dayton Agreement that ended the Bosnian War. In 1996, the Kosovo Liberation (KLA) began attacking Serbian Governmental buildings and police stations. This insurgency would lead to the more intense Kosovo War in February 1998.

#### 4.2) The Importance of Kosovo for the Balkan Region

Let's start this unit by looking at where the name Kosovo comes from. Kosovo is actually the name of a geographical region. It is famous for its underground richness. Its agricultural productivity has made it a battleground throughout history. It held a strategic position for many empires seeking to dominate the Balkans because it was located at the heart of the Balkans region. It has always been a battleground for great civilizations.

Throughout history, Kosovo, which has been under the rule of many civilizations from the Ottoman Empire to the Yugoslav era, has played a decisive role in shaping the political, ethnic, and religious balances in the Balkans. Geographically surrounded by countries such as Serbia, Albania, North Macedonia, and Montenegro, Kosovo has become a crossroads for regional transportation routes, providing a strategic advantage both economically and militarily.

Furthermore, Kosovo's young and dynamic population constitutes an important part of the economic potential in the Balkans. Energy resources, mining potential, and agricultural areas contribute to the country's development while creating important opportunities for regional cooperation and trade. However, the non-recognition of Kosovo's independence by some countries continues to be a factor that directly affects the political balance in the Balkans. Its close relations with the European Union and NATO place Kosovo at the center of the Western world's stability and security policies in the Balkans; its ethnic diversity and the need to maintain a delicate balance between the Albanian and Serbian communities are of great importance for the region's peace process.

In short, Kosovo is a key region shaping the future of the Balkans, both geographically and politically.

#### 5. Historical Background

*In prehistory*, the succeeding Starčevo culture, Vinča culture, Bubanj-Hum culture, Baden culture were active in the region. The area in and around Kosovo has been inhabited for nearly 10,000 years. During the Neolithic age, Kosovo lay within the area of the Vinča-Turdaș culture

which is characterised by West Balkan black and grey pottery. Bronze and Iron Age tombs have been found in the Rrafshi Dukagjinit region.

*The favourable geo-strategic position*, as well as abundant natural resources, were ideal for the development of life since the prehistoric periods, proven by hundreds of archaeological sites discovered and identified throughout Kosovo, which proudly present its rich archaeological heritage. The number of sites with archaeological potential is increasing, this as a result of findings and investigations that are carried out throughout Kosovo but also from many superficial traces which offer a new overview of antiquity of Kosovo.

From this period until today Kosovo has been inhabited, and traces of activities of societies from prehistoric, ancient and up to mediaeval time are visible throughout its territory, whereas, in some archaeological sites, multilayer settlements clearly reflect the continuity of life through centuries.

Vlashnje and Runik are two of the most significant Neolithic sites which have been found and excavated in a series of expeditions. Vlashnjë is a multi-layered settlement and site area. Archaeological excavations have identified habitation and use of the area since the Neolithic era. The rock art paintings at Mrrizi i Kobajës (late Neolithic-early Bronze Age) are the first finds of prehistoric rock art in Kosovo. In late antiquity, Vlashnja was a fortified settlement part of the fortification network which Justinian I rebuilt along the White Drin in Dardania. Crkvina near Miokovci, Serbia and Runik have been identified as the two oldest settlements of the Starčevo culture. They are statistically indistinguishable to each other and have been dated to ca. 6238 BC (6362–6098 BC at 95% CI) and ca. 6185 BC (6325–6088 BC at 90% CI).

*After 284 Diocletian* further divided Upper Moesia into the smaller provinces of Dardania, Moesia Prima, Dacia Ripensis, and Dacia Mediterranea. Dardania's capital was Naissus, previously a Celts settlement. The Roman province of Dardania included eastern parts of modern Kosovo, while its western part belonged to the newly formed Roman province of Prevalitana with its capital Doclea. The Romans colonised the region and founded several cities. The Hunnic invasions of 441 and 447–49 were the first barbarian invasions that were able to take Eastern Roman fortified centres and cities. Most Balkan cities were sacked by Attila, and recovered only partially if at all. While there is no direct written evidence of Hunnic invasion of Kosovo, its economic hinterland will anyway have been affected for centuries. Justinian I, who assumed the throne of the Byzantine Empire in 527, oversaw a period of



Byzantine expansion into former Roman territories, and reabsorbed the area of Kosovo into the empire.

*In the 6th and 7th centuries*, with the Slavs beginning to migrate to the Balkans, Slavic culture began to impose itself on the region. The region was part of the Roman and Byzantine empires until the first major Slavic invasions occurred in the middle of Justinian's reign. In 547 and 548, the Slavs invaded what is now Kosovo and then advanced as far as the city of Durrës on the northern Albanian coast, reaching Greece. The fact that the overwhelming majority of place names in today's Kosovo municipalities are Slavic indicates that these Slavic invaders either assimilated or expelled the non-Slavic local population that had lived in the Kosovo region before them. The Justinian Plague killed millions of Balkan natives, resulting in many regions losing their populations and being neglected by the government.

*According to some historians*, although some Slavs did spread out through these areas, there is one intriguing argument that suggests Slavic settlement in Kosovo and the Southern Morava Valley was weak in the first one or two centuries of Slavic settlement. According to some historians and linguists, if Slavs had spread evenly in this part of the Balkans it would be hard to explain the clear linguistic division that occurred between the Bulgarian-Macedonian and Serbo-Croat language. The scholar who first proposed this theory also noticed in the area that divided the early Serbs and the Bulgarians many Latin place-names in these areas survived long enough to be eventually adapted into Slavic ones, such as Nis, Lipljan, Skopje etc.

*The region of Kosovo* was incorporated into the Bulgarian Empire during the reign of Khan Presian (836–852). It remained within the borders of Bulgaria for 150 years until 1018, when it was retaken by the Byzantine Empire under Basil II (976–1025) after half a century of campaigning. According to *De Administrando Imperio* of the 10th century Byzantine Emperor Constantine VII, the Serbian-populated lands lay to the north-west of Kosovo and the region was Bulgarians. One of the historical cities of Kosovo, Prizren is mentioned for the first time in 1019 in the form of "Prisdriana". In 1072, the leaders of the Bulgarian Rebellion of Georgi Voiteh traveled from their center in Skopje in the area of Prizren and held a meeting in which they invited Mihailo Vojislavljević of Duklja to send them assistance. Mihailo sent his son, Constantine Bodin with 300 of his soldiers. Dalassenos Doukas, Tsar of Bulgaria was sent against the combined forces but was defeated near Prizren, which was extensively plundered by the Serbian army after the battle. The Bulgarian magnates proclaimed Bodin "Khan of the

Bulgarians" after this initial victory. They were defeated by Nikephoros Bryennios in the area of northern Macedonia by the end of 1072. After the Byzantine Empire fully re-established itself, the region became part of the Byzantine Empire again and stayed under Byzantine rule until the 12th century.

Stefan Nemanja had seized the surrounding area along the White Drin in 1185–95 and the ecclesiastical split from the Patriarchate in 1219 was the final act of establishing Nemanjić rule in Prizren and Kosovo. Prizren and its fort were the administrative and economic center of the župa of Podrimlje. Demetrios Chomatenos was the last Byzantine archbishop of Ohrid to include Prizren in his jurisdiction until 1219. Kosovo was fully annexed by Serbia during this period and was part of the Serbian Empire (1346-1371). From the mid-13th century to the end of the century, the Nemanjić rulers had their main residences in Kosovo.[32] Large estates were given to the monasteries in Western Kosovo (region of Metohija). The most prominent churches in Kosovo ( the Patriarchate of Peć at Peja, the church at Gračanica and the monastery at Visoki Dečani near Dečan ) were all founded during this period. Kosovo was economically important and mining was an important industry in Novo Brdo and Janjevo which had its communities of émigré Saxon miners and Ragusan merchants. In 1450 the mines of Novo Brdo were producing about 6,000 kg of silver per year. The ethnic composition of Kosovo's population during this period included Serbs, Albanians, and Vlachs along with a token number of Greeks, Croats, Armenians, Saxons, and Bulgarians, according to Serbian monastic charters.

Dušan's empire was multinational, with the three most important groups being Serbians, Albanians and Greeks. Different laws applied in the Serbian and Greek territories under Dušan's control, but the Albanians were largely left to manage their lands according to their traditional customs under the leadership of their chiefs. However his policies soon changed, and the laws against the Albanians became much harsher with Albanian Catholics being forcibly converted into Orthodoxy. A large number of Albanians were forced to migrate towards Greece during this period leaving empty villages behind, which were then taken by Slavic settlers. Many Albanian Catholic churches were converted into Orthodox ones. In 1355, the Serbian state fell apart on the death of Tsar Stefan Dušan and dissolved into squabbling fiefdoms. The timing fell perfectly within the Ottoman Expansion. This enabled Albanian chieftains to create small principalities who had revolted several times with the aid of the Catholic Western powers.

The First Battle of Kosovo took place on June 28, 1389, in the Kosovo Plain. At that time, Prince Lazar Hrebelyanović had formed a coalition of Christian soldiers. In addition, Bosnian, Serbian, Hungarian, and a number of Saxon mercenaries also took part in the battle. Sultan Murad I had also strengthened his forces with volunteer troops gathered from the Balkans and Anatolia. Although it has not been possible to determine the exact number of soldiers on each side of the battle to this day, the prevailing view is that the Christian soldiers outnumbered the Ottoman soldiers.

As a result of the battle, the Serbian army was defeated and Lazar was killed. The Turkish ruler Murad I also died on the battlefield. It is said that he was wounded by a Serbian named Miloš Obilić (Kobilović) and died as a result of his injuries. This battle had an unbelievable impact on Serbian history. Its impact continues to this day. In the period following the war, all of Serbia came under Ottoman-Turkish rule.

The Second Battle of Kosovo took place in October 1448 and lasted for two days. The leader of the first side was the Hungarian leader János Hunyadi; the leader of the other side was the Turkish Sultan Murad II. The outcome was the same: the Hungarians lost and were driven from the battlefield. As a result of this war, the Ottoman conquests found an opportunity to advance into the heart of Europe.

With Ottoman state administration in the Kosovo region, a stability that had been elusive since Roman times was finally achieved. The region, which had been inhabited by non-Muslim Turks prior to the Ottomans, became densely populated with Turks from a Turkish perspective with the increase in Muslim Oghuz Turks alongside the Ottoman Empire. Until the end of Ottoman rule around 1912, Turkish was the general cultural language in Kosovo. The Turkish population in the region was one of the main reasons for this. The non-Turkish peoples of the region developed significantly in both religious and cultural terms through Turkish. They did not shy away from using Turkish alongside their own languages. As a result, Kosovo and its surroundings were important regions of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman administration did not impose any coercion on the Albanians and Serbs living in the region. The Albanians, in particular, did not experience any cultural difficulties and have come to where they are today. Until the Balkan Wars, the Albanians were a people loyal to the Ottoman Empire, not distinguishing themselves much from the Turks. However, especially in the second half of the 1800s, they began to develop a tendency to partially break away from the Ottoman identity. The separatist provocations of the Christian

**Western world played a major role in this. This tendency toward separation culminated in the establishment of the Albanian state in 1912.**

**In the early 20th century, the Albanian National Movement received support from the Young Turks with the aim of enabling Albanians to develop their national identity, secure recognition of their language, and obtain the right to education. To prevent any outside intervention, in 1908, 20,000 Albanian farmers in Ferizovik rose up, demanding the proclamation of a constitution and the opening of parliament, as stated in a telegram sent to the Sultan by their leaders Bayram Curri and Isa Boletin.**

**Unable to get a response to their demands, which were also supported by the Young Turks, the Albanians launched an unsuccessful uprising in the Albanian parts of Kosovo in February 1909. In April 1910, an armed rebellion group led by Idris Seferi and Isa Boletin was neutralized by the Ottoman army.**

**During the Balkan Wars, most of the territory of Kosovo came under the rule of the Kingdom of Serbia. The southern parts of Kosovo, however, were occupied by the Kingdom of Montenegro.**

**In the London Agreement of May 1913, following the First Balkan War of 1912, Northern Kosovo was recognized by the international community as part of Serbia, while Southern Kosovo was recognized as part of Montenegro. In 1918, Serbia became part of the newly formed Kingdom of Serbs - Croats and Slovenes.**

**The Balkan Wars caused the migration of Turks and the Muslim population from Kosovo. The largest wave of this migration was towards Turkish territories, where Ottoman rule had withdrawn. As in the rest of the Balkans, hundreds of thousands of people from the Kosovo region were forced to leave their homeland and take to the roads. The Turkish population constituted the largest population group in these waves of migration. The indigenous Turkish population living within the borders of the Kosovo Vilayet has been forced to leave the region due to various waves of mass or individual migration of varying intensity from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day. These painful migration movements led to a rapid decline in the Turkish population in Kosovo, resulting in the current population ratios.**

**The 1918–1929 period of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians witnessed a rise of the Serbian population in the region and a decline in the non-Serbian population. In 1929, Kosovo was split between the Zeta**

**Banovina in the west with the capital in Cetinje, Vardar Banovina in the southeast with the capital in Skopje and the Morava Banovina in the northeast with the capital in Niš.**

**Serbian troops attempted to alter the region's demographic structure through murders and mass expulsions. Between 1918 and 1945, over 100,000 Kosovar Albanians left Kosovo. Albanian schools and language were prohibited. Tens of thousands of Serbs were settled in the region and land was confiscated from Albanian villagers.**

**In 1938, more than 6000 people, in 23 villages, in the Drenica region of Kosovo were deprived of their land. The colonisation had put the Serb population at less than 24% in the start to 38%. It was proposed to bring another 470,000 Serbs and expel 300,000 Albanians but the outbreak of World War II prevented it from being put into effect.**

**After the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in 1941, most of Kosovo was assigned to Italian-controlled Albania, with the rest being controlled by Germany and Bulgaria. A three-dimensional conflict ensued, involving inter-ethnic, ideological, and international affiliations, with the first being most important. Nonetheless, these conflicts were relatively low level compared with other areas of Yugoslavia during the war years, with one Serb historian estimating that 3,000 Albanians and 4,000 Serbs and Montenegrins were killed, and two others estimating war dead at 12,000 Albanians and 10,000 Serbs and Montenegrins.**

**Some Albanians, especially in the region in and around Drenica in central Kosovo revolted against the Yugoslav communists for not respecting the agreement. In response, the Yugoslavs called the rebels Nazi and Fascist collaborators and responded with violence. The Albanian Kosovar military leader Shaban Polluzha, who first fought with Yugoslav partisans but then refused to collaborate further, was attacked and killed. Between 400 and 2,000 Kosovar Albanian recruits of the Yugoslav Army were involved in the Bar Massacre.**

**In March 1945, the Yugoslav Ministry of Internal Affairs temporarily prohibited the return of approximately 50,000–60,000 Serb and Montenegrin settlers to Kosovo, who were seen as supporters of the former royalist regime. This move was part of a broader effort by the communist authorities to win over the Albanian population and to address grievances following mass killings and repression of Albanians during the preceding months. At the same time, until the Tito/Stalin split in 1948, the border remained open to Albanians from Albania, with an estimated 25,000 entering Kosovo to join relatives.**

In August 1945, the Autonomous Region of Kosovo was established as part of the People's Republic of Serbia within the newly formed Yugoslav federation. However, unlike the Province of Vojvodina, Kosovo did not enjoy the same level of autonomy, lacking both an independent legislature and a supreme court. The limited constitutional status of Kosovo was poorly received by the Albanian population. In the postwar period, Albanians were still viewed by the authorities as "the most hostile element", and the new regime often employed extreme measures against them. According to multiple Albanian sources, between 36,000 and 47,000 ethnic Albanians were executed by Yugoslav communist forces in the period from 1944 to 1946.

With the passing of the 1974 Yugoslavia Constitution, Kosovo gained virtual self-government. The province's government has applied the Albanian curriculum to Kosovo's schools; surplus and obsolete textbooks from Enver Hoxhas Albania were obtained and put into use.

Throughout the 1980s tensions between the Albanian and Serbian communities in the province escalated. The Albanian community favoured greater autonomy for Kosovo region, whilst Serbs favoured closer ties with the rest of Serbia. There was a request for unification with Albania itself, which was ruled by a Stalinist government and had considerably worse living standards than Kosovo. Beginning in March 1981, Kosovar Albanian students organised protests seeking that Kosovo become a republic within Yugoslavia. Those protests rapidly escalated into violent riots "involving 25,000 people in six cities" that were harshly contained by the Yugoslav Government. The demonstrations of March and April 1981 were started by the Albanian students in Pristina, protesting against poor living conditions and the lack of prospects (unemployment was rampant in the province and most of the university educated ended up unemployed). In addition, calls for an united Albanian republic within Yugoslavia were voiced.

In August 1987, Slobodan Milošević, then a rising politician, visited Kosovo. He appealed to Serb nationalism to further his career. Having drawn huge crowds to a rally commemorating the Battle of Kosovo, he pledged to Kosovo Serbs that "No one should dare to beat you", and became an instant hero of Kosovar Serbs. By the end of the year, Milošević was in control of the Serbian government.

## **6. The Geopolitical Features of Kosovo's on the Map**



**Kosovo is a landlocked country in Southeastern Europe. The country is strategically positioned in the center of the Balkan Peninsula enclosed by Montenegro to the west, Serbia to the north and east, North Macedonia to the southeast, and Albania to the southwest. It has no direct access to the Mediterranean Sea but its rivers flow into three seas, the Adriatic, Aegean and Black Sea.**

**The country possesses impressive and contrasting landscapes determined by the climate along with the geology and hydrology. Both, the Albanian Alps and Sharr Mountains, are the most defining feature of the country and simultaneously the most biodiverse regions of Kosovo. As far as the central region, the plains of Dukagjin and Kosovo stretch over the west and east, respectively.**

#### **6.1) Important Cities, Motorways, Railways, etc.**

### **CITIES**

→ **Deçan:** De facto , it is located in the Gjakova district of Kosovo ; de jure , it is located in the Pečki district of the Autonomous Oblast of Kosovo and Metohija, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The population was stated as 49,000 in the 1991 Census. According to that result, 97.28% of this population was Albanian, 1.61% Montenegrin, and 1.61% Serbian.

→ **Gjakova:** Gjakova is a town and municipality in western Kosovo. The population of the municipality is estimated at 78,000. It is famous for its traditional Albanian houses. The population was stated as 80,000 in the 1991 Census. According to that result, 96.15% of this population was Albanian, 2.25% Macedonian and 1.60% Serbian.

→ **Peja:** It is located in the Rugova region on the eastern section of the Accursed Mountains along the Peja's Lumbardh in the western part of Kosovo. In medieval times, the city was under Byzantine, Bulgarian and Serbian rule. After its integration into Serbian territory, it became the seat of the Serbian Orthodox Church in 1346. The Patriarchal monastery of Peć (Peja) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo. Relations between Albanians and Serbs were often tense during the 20th century. They came to a head in the Kosovo War, during which the city suffered heavy damage and mass killings. The population was stated as 127,000 in the 1991 Census. According to that result, 80% of this population was Albanian, 7.72% Bosniaks, 5.44% Montenegrin, and 6.11% Serbian.

→**Pristina**: Pristina is the capital and largest city of Kosovo. It is the administrative center of the eponymous municipality and district. In 1948, it was chosen as the capital of the province SAP Kosovo under the statehood of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The population was stated as 155,000 in the 1991 Census. In terms of ethnicity, Albanians comprise 98% of Pristina's residents. The remaining 2% is made up of various minority groups, ranked as follows: 0.94% Turks, 0.90% Serbs, and 0.16% Bosniaks.

→**Prizren**: Prizren is the second most populous city and municipality of Kosovo and seat of the eponymous municipality and district. It is located on the banks of the Prizren River between the foothills of the Sharr Mountains in southern Kosovo. Ottomans captured Prizren from the Serbian Despotate in 1455 and almost immediately served as the capital of Sanjaki Prizren in the Ottoman Empire. While standing as an important administrative city for the Ottomans, Prizren became an important political center of the Albanian Renaissance during the late 19th century. Prizren was the seat of the League of Prizren, serving as the center of Albanian nationalism and resistance. The population was stated as 92,000 in the 1991 Census. In terms of ethnicity, Prizren Municipality was 81.96% Albanian, 9.5% Bosniak, 5.11% Turkish, 1.63% Romani, 0.76% Ashkali, 0.40% Serbian, 0.22% Egyptian and 0.45% of other ethnicities or refugees.

→**Mitrovica**: Mitrovica is a city in northern Kosovo and administrative center of the district of Mitrovica. In the modern era, Mitrovica's history has been marked by various events, including the industrial development of Trepça Mines, a major mining and metallurgy complex, during the Yugoslav period; the Kosovo War and the ethnic divisions that emerged in its aftermath in 1999. Both the town and municipality were badly affected by the 1999 Kosovo War. According to the OSCE, the area had been the scene of guerrilla activity by the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) prior to the war. The population was stated as 104,000 in the 1991 Census. In terms of ethnicity, Mitrovica Municipality was 72.25% Albanian, 11.75% Serbian, 7.11% Ashkali, 3.63% Bosniaks, 0.76% Romani, 0.40% Turks, 4% of other ethnicities or refugees.

## **Motorways and Railways**



In 1998, Kosovo's roads and railways played an important role in the region's transportation infrastructure, but they were quite limited and had a developing infrastructure. Although the road network provided basic connections within the country, most of the roads were narrow, poorly maintained, and below international standards; congestion and road deterioration were particularly common on routes connecting Pristina to centers such as Prizren, Mitrovica, and Ferizaj. At that time, there were virtually no modern highways.

The railways consisted of a network of approximately 330 km, but most of the lines dated back to the former Yugoslav era and suffered from low speeds, inadequate maintenance, and limited service frequency. Although lines such as Pristina–Peja and Prizren–Mitrovica provided basic transportation, the railway system lagged behind roads in both passenger and freight transport. Consequently, in 1998, Kosovo's transportation infrastructure, while important for regional connections, was in dire need of modernization and investment.

#### **7. Questions Need to Be Answered (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)**

- 1. How can NATO members ensure security in the Balkans, particularly in Kosovo?**
- 2. If a big war breaks out, how can NATO take collective action?**
- 3. How can NATO play a decisive role in the region?**
- 4. How can NATO take steps to resolve the problems?**
- 5. How can NATO aid humanitarian relief and confidence-building measures?**

#### **8. Draft Communiqué**

- 1. The Heading, identifying the type of the meeting (Ministerial or Summit) in which the communiqué is introduced**

2. Numbering: the sequel number of each draft communiqué, presented by the President along with the submission of the communiqué by the Sponsor, i.e. NAC Draft Communiqué. NAC/A/ 08- Dec-2013/ 1, which indicates the first Draft Communiqué submitted in NAC, on topic Area A, on the 8th of December 2013.

### **Sample of a Draft Communiqué**

**Ministerial of The North Atlantic Council  
Held at NATO Headquarters  
Brussels, August 18th 1999**

1. Today the North Atlantic Council met in the Defense Ministers Session, in Kumanovo, to advance the ...
2. At our meeting today...
3. We fully support the negotiations...
4. We reaffirm our determination...
5. We express our concerns about ...
6. As NATO we affirm...
7. We call upon the negotiations...
8. We emphasize the refugees...

### **9. Bibliography**

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