

'Historical' summit in Madrid: NATO will be formatted

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The two-day summit of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) in Madrid, Spain, begins today. The Ukrainian war, cyber attacks and global security issues will be discussed at the summit, which will be held on 28-30 June and described as 'historic'. However, the most important agenda item of the summit will be the "Strategic Concept", where the new ten-year roadmap of the alliance will be determined. With the "Strategic Concept", which will determine the strategy NATO will follow until 2030, the organization's gendarmerie duty will be expanded from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

A new format will be adopted for NATO at the summit, which will be attended by the leaders and heads of state of member countries, including US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and AKP President Erdogan. At the meeting in Brussels in June 2021, NATO leaders agreed to work on the Strategic Concept to be approved in Madrid. Adopted in Lisbon in 2010, the Concept aimed to strike a balance between the three core tasks of the Alliance, namely defence, crisis management and security cooperation.

THE FACADE IS EXPANDED

NATO, which wants to reach from the Atlantic basin to the Indo-Pacific, is strengthening its front line with new members and alliances. In addition to Sweden, Finland, and Georgia, which have applied for candidacy to the alliance despite the reaction of Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, also called the Asia-Pacific 4, will attend the NATO meeting for the first time. It will be decided to develop NATO's partnership relations with these countries. The EU Commission and the European Council will also be represented at the meeting by their presidents.

CHINA IS ON THE TABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME

The phrase "making NATO stronger and ready for the future" in the content of the 2030 Report signals that the organization will step out of its mold and take on a new format. The biggest target in the new period is China. The document includes "systematic threats posed by China's

strategic rise". In the face of China's increasing presence in the world and trying to replace the USA economically, Washington also activated NATO. Therefore, for the first time at the summit in Madrid, China will be on the table as the enemy.

RUSSIA WILL BE BEGINNED

Sanctions against Russia will also be discussed at the critical summit. Member states advocate strengthening NATO's eastern flank to encircle Russia. At the G7 Summit in Bavaria, the leaders of Germany, the USA, England, Italy, France, Japan and Canada took new sanctions against Russia.

THE EXISTENCE OF THE WAR ORGANIZATION IS LEFT ENEMY

NATO, which is the gendarme of the US/Western imperialism, was established on April 4, 1949 by the USA, England, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway and Portugal. The organization, whose condition of existence is leftist enmity and struggle against socialism, acted as the gendarme of the capitalist world led by the USA. After the Second World War, he carried out active activities to prevent the rise of socialist movements and the spread of anti-US sentiment. NATO, a product of the cold war, has doubled the number of its members since its establishment. While the participation of 7 countries was confirmed in 2004, Albania and Croatia in 2009, Montenegro in 2017 and finally North Macedonia in 2020 became the countries that joined NATO. NATO, which had 19 members before 2000, thus increased the number of its members to 30. NATO has waged many wars since its inception. He first appeared in the Korean War in 1950. He then intervened militarily in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992, Kosovo in 1998, Afghanistan in 2001, Iraq in 2004 and Libya in 2011.

ROAD MAP FOR FINLAND AND SWEDEN

Another important agenda item of the NATO summit to be held in Madrid will be the membership applications of the Scandinavian countries Finland and Sweden. Turkey has long opposed the membership of the two countries. Intensive negotiations have been going on for a while between Turkey, Finland and Sweden to overcome the problem. There is a great initiative, especially by the US and NATO officials, to change Ankara's obstacle. Negotiations between the three countries are being closely followed, while the White House announced that American officials are continuing to do everything they can to address Turkey's concerns, working with

all parties. At the summit, the position of Turkey, the alliance's outpost in the south, will also be shaped according to NATO's new roadmap and strategy. Stuck between Russia and the USA, which NATO has declared a covert war on, Ankara faces difficult assignments in the new conjuncture.

NEW CONCEPT IN 9 ITEMS

Topics included in the NATO 2030 “Strategic Concept” are as follows:

- 1 Increasing inter-alliance political consultations.
- 2 To maintain and increase the importance of nuclear, missile and conventional defenses.
- 3 To increase cooperation between alliances and strengthen collective defence.
- Implement the DIANA project, which will include accelerator networks and test centers in 4 NATO countries.
- 5 To expand NATO's activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- 6 Increasing military training capacity.
- 7 Developing operations against Climate Change.
- 8 Identifying NATO's next strategic concept.
- 9 Establishing co-financing to improve national defense spending.

A MESSAGE WILL BE SENT FROM MADRID TO BEIJING

Assoc. Dr. Aylin ÜNVER NOI, NATO Expert

Reminding that China was discussed for the first time at the 2019 London Leaders' Summit, Assoc. Dr. Aylin Unver Noi said, "China was positioned as a country that could both work together on certain threats and threaten the security decisions of the alliance, considering its technological developments." Pointing out that the participation of Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand at the level of NATO leaders after the AUKUS was formed at the summit was an important message for China, Noi said, "We see that this is the process of controlling the free movement of the South China Sea." Underlining that the "Strategic Concept" to be determined at the Summit includes very different items compared to the previous concept prepared in 2010, Noi said, "There are many different agenda items and new threat elements. In addition, we see that issues such as climate change and epidemics are included in this concept. NATO's emphasis on space in the concept actually shows us that space is now considered as a battlefield," she said.

Saying that China will be at the forefront of the meeting compared to Russia, Noi continued his words as follows: "Not only the threat elements, but also strengthening the harmony and unity within the alliance will be an important issue. It will be tried to strengthen the issue of making decisions together by ensuring the political harmony between the alliances. I can say that alliance cohesion is also underlined, especially since NATO's brain-dead speeches have been frequently mentioned lately."

Stating that the issue that will challenge Turkey is NATO's enlargement policy, Noi said, "Turkey expects steps to be taken to resolve Finland and Sweden concerns. There were similar concerns in Turkey's Baltic Plan," he said.

OPENING REDUCES TURKEY'S IMPORTANCE

Soli ÖZEL, Political Scientist

Stating that the issues of NATO's going out of the field have been discussed a lot before, Political Scientist Soli Özel said, "These were tried to be tried in Afghanistan and the Middle East. However, this did not happen. NATO cannot enter the Pacific Ocean for now. Here is the USA. An informal area of interest is emerging, which may include France, which I might call the systematic West. But I think NATO will basically be the organization responsible for European security," he said. Stating that the obstacle for NATO to leave Europe for now is the problems with Russia, Özel said, "While it is obvious that the Europeans lack the power to provide security despite the money they spend while the Atlantic Alliance is being redefined, I do not think that there will be a situation like going out of Europe until relations with Russia return to normal levels." he said.

Noting that Turkey will maintain its importance in NATO if NATO does not go beyond the borders of Europe, Özel said: "On the other hand, if Sweden and Finland join NATO, NATO's borders will expand, increasing the threats that may come from Northeast Europe. Therefore, we can assume that Turkey will somewhat reduce the importance of NATO in opening up to the Middle East. However, there are also those who want to exclude Turkey from NATO. I don't think it will reach that point yet, but if Turkey follows a strategy that adopts a politically, if not militarily, confrontational stance with everyone in the alliance, closer relations can be entered into with Greece and the riparian countries in the Black Sea. However, possible developments may reveal that Turkey may not be as indispensable as it thinks, so it may shape its attitude towards Finland and Sweden differently.

