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## EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL FOR UKRAINE'S MOST EFFECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

The priorities of any state's modern self-improvement largely depend on the foreign policy course it has chosen, as well as how clearly and unambiguously its national interests are formulated. Additionally, a clear understanding of the ways to implement security mechanisms is crucial. Among the priority objectives of sustainable development, national security in all its forms and manifestations is at the top of the priority list. The doctrine of national security is derived from the doctrine of national interests and, in a broader sense, from the universal vision of the citizens of a particular state.

The National Security and Defense Council approved Ukraine's foreign policy tactics, and on August 26, this document was enacted by a presidential order. In the context of the Crimean Platform summit and the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ukraine's independence, this document received limited attention and did not gain wide publicity. However, it is evident that the publication of the state's foreign policy strategy marks a significant milestone. It can be argued that, for the first time, Ukraine has a comprehensive and complete plan of action on the world stage. However, it is apparent that these tactics did not emerge out of thin air. Notably, the Verkhovna Rada Resolution 'On the Main Directions of Ukraine's Foreign Policy' of July 2, 1993, alongside various other conceptual documents of national and foreign policy (2010), and amendments to the Constitution (2019) that cemented Ukraine's trajectory towards the EU and NATO. While some of these

documents belong to history, the aforementioned law is in effect but unfortunately, is hopelessly outdated.

This document provides a comprehensive regulatory framework for the principles of foreign policy, systematizes Ukraine's national interests and priorities in the global arena, identifies challenges and threats, and outlines the objectives and priorities of Ukraine's foreign activities. In its most simplified form, the main thesis of the strategy is as follows: to achieve the primary goal of ensuring the security and prosperity of Ukraine, it is necessary to re-establish peace and regional stability, effectively resist aggressor countries, achieve full membership in the EU and NATO, and promote social and economic improvement.

The strategy highlights five countries with prioritized tactical relations: the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, and France. As the document explains, relations with these states are established based on foreign policy priorities that reflect the special nature and scale of cooperation, particularly in countering Russian aggression. This list of countries and the content of partnership with them carry geopolitical significance and utilitarian sense for a country enduring long-lasting hybrid aggression. However, the range of tactical partners extends beyond these five. According to the document, Ukraine's tactical partners include Poland, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lithuania, Romania, China, and Brazil. Additionally, it emphasizes a global partnership with Japan and underscores the importance of cooperation with India. Furthermore, the document stresses the priority of improving relations with neighboring states, notably emphasizing the elevation of contacts with Moldova to the tactical level. This choice is justified and pragmatic considering national interests, global realities, and the state of bilateral cooperation [1].

While there may be arguments to expand this list, it's crucial to acknowledge that there cannot be an excessive number of tactical partners, as it would dilute the significance of tactical partnership. Additionally, Ukraine faces limitations on the world stage, including diplomatic resources. This context prompts reflection on the recent period of 'multi-vectorism' in the early 2000s, during which Ukraine engaged with over two dozen countries, sometimes without clear justification as 'tactical partners'.

Secondly, the primary theme of the Strategy revolves around Russian aggression, with resistance to the aggressor state and the restoration of Ukraine's territorial unity recognized as the highest value. The document outlines a series of actions aimed at countering Russian expansion, including expanding the pool of

countries supporting Ukraine, keeping the issue of Kremlin's armed violence on the international agenda, informing society about Russia's crimes, employing various international mechanisms to counter the aggressor, and maintaining and strengthening the sanctions regime of the corporate West's responsibilities. However, it may be deemed quite risky that the section on international cooperation includes the statement that 'Ukraine's appeal to the United Nations to deploy an international peacekeeping and security operation on the still occupied territories remains on the agenda'.

An essential precondition for effectively implementing the Strategy is the concentration of political and diplomatic resources on prioritized foreign policy areas, which, figuratively speaking, would serve as the external 'engines' of the country's development. This doesn't imply that other areas or regions, such as Africa or Latin America, will be neglected. Nevertheless, it's evident that developing partnerships and cooperation, providing solidarity and support to other countries, necessitates not only general declarations and high-level visits but also significant financial and economic investments. In the modern world, pragmatism is key. Therefore, Ukraine should act pragmatically on the world stage, leveraging its own resources and capabilities. It's apparent that Kyiv operates in a different weight category in terms of political and diplomatic presence and influence on the world stage compared to capitals like Washington or Beijing.

According to the definition in the Ukrainian Diplomatic Encyclopedia, the foreign policy strategy is a "system of actual measures taken by the state to achieve the objectives of foreign policy, as well as a system of theoretical positions that regulate them" [2]. It is formed within the framework of state documents that include the doctrine of foreign policy of Ukraine or the concept of foreign policy of Ukraine. It determines the hierarchy of the state's foreign policy goals across all agencies of Ukraine's foreign policy, be it diplomatic, military, etc., and serves as the basis for the development of comprehensive programs of state processes of agencies involved in achieving certain goals.

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