



NATO Summit in Ankara 2026: Investments, Defense Industry, and Cooperation Among Allies at the Center of the Agenda

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On **July 7 and 8, 2026**, the Heads of State and Government of the 32 NATO member countries will meet in **Ankara**, at the **Beştepe Presidential Complex**, for the Atlantic Alliance Summit. The meeting will be chaired by **Secretary General Mark Rutte** and will represent NATO's main political event following the 2025 Hague Summit. Turkey will thus host its second NATO Summit, after the one held in Istanbul in 2004.

According to NATO, the Summit will primarily focus on assessing the implementation status of commitments made by Allied countries regarding defense investments. Particular attention will be given to the **5% GDP Investment Plan**, approved at the Hague Summit, which foresees a gradual increase in resources allocated to both military capabilities and security-related sectors, such as infrastructure, resilience, technological innovation, and protection of strategic networks.

The official program also includes the **NATO Summit Defence Industry Forum (NSDIF26)**, an event that will bring together institutional representatives, military leaders, the defense industry, and international partners. The stated goal is to facilitate discussions on how the planned investments can translate into increased industrial production, cooperation among Allies, and the development of joint acquisition programs. According to NATO, strengthening the industrial base is an essential element to support the Alliance's deterrence capability.

Industrial Production and Operational Capabilities Among the Summit's Priorities

Main topics include strengthening the defense industry, increasing production capacity, and improving cooperation between governments and sector companies. NATO emphasizes that achieving the set objectives does not solely depend on increasing economic resources but also on the ability to transform these investments into equipment, weapon systems, ammunition, and technologies available in timeframes compatible with the Alliance's operational needs.



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte speaks at the NATO Summit Defence Industry Forum, dedicated to strengthening industrial cooperation among Allies. Source: NATO

In the days leading up to the Summit, Secretary General **Mark Rutte** highlighted that during the meeting, **new defense contracts worth tens of billions of dollars** will be announced, aimed at strengthening industrial production and transatlantic cooperation. Rutte also reiterated the need to reduce bureaucratic obstacles, accelerate acquisition processes, and promote technological innovation as a fundamental element of collective security.

Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**, on the eve of the Summit, also emphasized the importance of strengthening the Alliance's unity and resilience. According to his statements, Ankara hopes for greater cooperation in the defense industry sector and a gradual elimination of trade restrictions affecting some military programs. Erdoğan also confirmed that the Summit will address major international security issues, including developments in the war in Ukraine and tensions in the Middle East.

A Strategic Appointment for the Future of Allied Cooperation

The Ankara Summit is part of NATO's regular decision-making process, through which Heads of State and Government define the Alliance's political directions and verify the implementation of decisions already approved in previous summits. Meetings at the highest level are indeed the main tool through which the **North Atlantic Council** guides the Organization's political and military activities.



Meeting of the **North Atlantic Council**, the main political decision-making body of NATO, composed of representatives from all Allied countries. **Source:** NATO

Alongside sessions dedicated to political leaders, the **NATO Summit Defence Industry Forum** will be one of the most significant moments of the entire event. The initiative, an integral part of the Summit, will promote dialogue between institutions, armed forces, and industry to identify shared solutions aimed at increasing production, strengthening supply chains, and promoting industrial cooperation programs among Allied countries.

The Ankara Summit will thus provide an opportunity to assess the progress of commitments made in The Hague in 2025 and the initiatives already underway to enhance the Alliance's operational readiness. The outcomes of the work will be outlined in the final declaration of the Heads of State and Government and in the official documents that will be published by NATO at the end of the Summit.

News link: <https://www.nato.int/en/news-and-events/events/2026/07/overview---2026-nato-summit-in-ankara->