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## U.S. and NATO Develop Funding System for Ukraine Weapons Transfers

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The United States and NATO are finalizing a new funding mechanism to facilitate the transfer of U.S.-made weapons to Ukraine, streamlining the process through allied financial commitments and prioritized military support. The move comes as Washington and its European partners seek to accelerate the delivery of critical defense systems amid the ongoing conflict with Russia.

Under the proposed arrangement, NATO member states will make upfront financial contributions through either the U.S. Treasury or an escrow structure. This funding will be used to purchase or transfer American weapons, allowing countries to bypass the typically slow Foreign Military Sales process. The framework also enables nations to support Kyiv without directly depleting their arsenals.

European allies reportedly aim to contribute up to \$10 billion in total, broken down into multiple tranches based on Ukraine's battlefield needs. Kyiv will supply a formal list, known as the Priority Ukraine Requirements List, identifying high-demand systems such as air defenses, artillery, interceptors, and ammunition. NATO's newly appointed Secretary General Mark Rutte is leading the coordination of the donor coalition.

This mechanism complements existing U.S. support tools, including the Presidential Drawdown Authority, which allows direct transfers from U.S. military stocks. Allies may also opt to fund new contracts with American defense companies through U.S. and NATO channels, further expanding Ukraine's access to advanced weaponry.

The initiative reflects broader strategic efforts to shift from donations to a more sustainable, purchase-based model. While the financial burden is expected to fall primarily on European states, the United States will maintain a central role in logistics and oversight. Senior NATO officials, including U.S. military leaders, are expected to manage the allocation of resources according to Ukraine's frontline requirements.

While the plan offers a more efficient route to deliver arms, some experts caution that challenges remain. These include ensuring rapid delivery, avoiding duplication, and maintaining unity across NATO governments.

The framework marks a significant evolution in how Western nations are funding and delivering military aid to Ukraine during a critical phase of the conflict.