

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization
President's Letter
St. Bonaventure University High School MUN
March 2019**

Introduction

Hello delegates and welcome to the 2019 St. Bonaventure University High School Conference! My name is Grace Ferris and I will be your chair for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) this year. I am a Political Science and International Studies double major here at St. Bonaventure University as well as a minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies. I expect each of you to have a well-rounded understanding of your country's policies and stances concerning the topics listed, as well as any additional information that would help you be successful. My chairing style is fairly lenient, however, each of you should have a solid understanding of the rules of procedure. Most importantly, you should come well prepared on the topics. Having participated in NATO before, I also highly recommend that you learn the basic function of the organization, its history and its current status. This session will be what you make of it, so as long as you do your research and come prepared, you will do great!

Most importantly, in order to have the best experience possible for every participant I insist that each delegate act with the utmost respect for fellow delegates. I understand that many of you are passionate and that debate can get a bit heated and while this is the fun of Model UN, it is important that we treat one another with respect throughout the conference. Good luck with your preparation and I can't wait to have a great conference in March!

The Topics

Counterterrorism

The global war on terror launched in 2001 signified a change in American and global priorities that forced counterterrorism to the forefront of NATO's agenda. In fact, post 9/11 was the only time NATO has invoked the collective defense clause in the organization's history, by calling all member states to aid the United States. Today's fight against terrorism take many different shapes all over the world. NATO employs a three-pronged approach to tackling this difficult issue: awareness, capabilities, and engagement. As a military alliance, NATO has had difficulty tackling an enemy that has no central authority. As such they had to employ alternative methods in their fight

against terrorism. The Alliance depends on partner states and organizations for information sharing and solution creating. The Alliance also has established a number of departments, committees, and task forces to deal with the question of terrorism. This includes the Terrorism Intelligence Cell and the Defense Against Terrorism Programme of Work. NATO's fight against terrorism benefits all member states.

Research Questions:

Which borders of the NATO alliance are most at risk to infiltration by terrorists?

How can NATO employ partner states and organizations to fight this particular foe?

What improvements could be made to improve the efficiency of current NATO counterterrorism structures?

What resources does your state offer NATO in this situation?

To what extent terrorism remains a priority for NATO nowadays?

What are the other priorities that NATO is dealing with now or should be dealing with?

In which areas is NATO militarily engaged in the present?

Research Resources:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_77646.htm

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_110496.htm

[NATO and the War on Terrorism: A Changing Alliance](#)

<https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/us-airstrike-kills-islamic-state-figure-in-syria-american-military-says-1.558981>

https://www.nato.int/summit2009/topics_en/20-nato-un_relations.html

[Intelligence/Information Sharing in Combating Terrorism](#)

<https://www.stanleyfoundation.org/articles.cfm?id=441&title=Making%20Counterterrorism%20a%20Global%20Effort>

Cyber Defense

With the birth of the information age, a new form of war has emerged in cyberspace. In the last few years, cyber-attacks have become more common, complex, and damaging. NATO has affirmed that international law applies to cyberspace and has made cyber defense part of its task of collective defense. The top priority is the protection of the communications systems owned and operated by the Alliance. As the world continues to transition into the future, NATO must remain vigilant against the growing number of cyber-attacks that threaten the stability of the world.

Stronger cyber defense is critical to many other issues facing NATO such as energy security, terrorist attacks on infrastructure, and responding to the increase in the use of cyber warfare by non-member states and outside threats. Cyber science is one of the fastest growing disciplines in the world and it is difficult to keep up with the fast pace change. As such, it is one of the hardest tasks to tackle for NATO.

Research Questions:

Has your state been targeted by cyber-attacks to make cyber defense a priority?

Does your state have a system in place to target and/or respond to cyber-attacks?

How can NATO defend itself better against the growing number of cyber-attacks that it faces?

What resources does NATO currently employ to bolster cyber defense and how can they be improved?

Research Resources:

[NATO: changing gear on cyber defence](#)

[NATO's Most Urgent Pledge Isn't 2%-of-GDP. It's Better Cyber Defense](#)

[Cyber Defence](#)

Protection of Children in Armed Conflict

Armed conflict has a disproportionate effect on children living in conflict zones. Children suffering in war-torn areas has happened throughout history from the evacuation of children from London during World War II to the current crises facing the children of Yemen during the brutal Saudi war on Yemen. As hospitals, schools, and homes are destroyed, children become displaced; some children lose their parents in the war and become orphans. Children are also killed or severely injured in ways that cripple them for life. Often there is a lack of access to healthcare and disease spreads. In Yemen, children are facing famine and dehydration as there is a severe lack of food and clean water. Children are also kidnapped and enslaved in sex trafficking rings or for

labor. This allows groups to profit off the conflict and use children that have lost their homes and parents.

The conflict in Yemen is the direst situation in the world at the moment, with the greatest impact on children. While neither Yemen nor Saudi Arabia is a member state, the Alliance is still committed to protecting children. NATO has before answered calls from other international organizations such as the UN to intervene in non-member state conflicts such as issues in Bosnia and Libya. NATO sees this as an issue of morality and supports the stance that protecting children from violence prevents future violence by breaking the cycle of abuse and helps to stabilize the region. The issue of protecting children ties deeply with NATO's fight against human trafficking and by protecting children the number of them enslaved would decrease. The conflict in Yemen is fueled by the actions of some member states and this makes NATO's response difficult to coordinate.

Research Questions:

1. How can NATO personnel be better prepared to respond to situations where children are in danger?
2. What steps can be taken to integrate NATO policy with that of the UN and other international organizations?
3. How does this topic tie into the fight against human trafficking?
4. What is your state's position on the conflict in Yemen and how does that affect the way they wish to proceed in protecting the children there?
5. How could this conflict affect the security of member states if children are not protected?

Research Resources:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_156399.htm

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/09/yemen-the-forgotten-war/>

<https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-conflict-tracker#!/conflict/war-in-yemen>

[https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-](https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/countries/yemen?source=ADD180U0U00&utm_source=AdWords&utm_medium=ppc)

[do/countries/yemen?source=ADD180U0U00&utm_source=AdWords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=GooglePaid&utm_content=nonbrand&qclid=Cj0KCQiAxZPqBRCmARIsAOrTHSZKgydUSzYoWgM_G9mQUDCvBquGuKwTx8fCi2DyKtcv-3HWZECN4ScaAgmQEALw_wcB](https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/countries/yemen?source=ADD180U0U00&utm_source=AdWords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=GooglePaid&utm_content=nonbrand&qclid=Cj0KCQiAxZPqBRCmARIsAOrTHSZKgydUSzYoWgM_G9mQUDCvBquGuKwTx8fCi2DyKtcv-3HWZECN4ScaAgmQEALw_wcB)

<https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/emergencies/child-refugees/crisis-in-yemen>

https://www.nato.int/docu/review/2010/yemen/yemen_region_problems/en/index.htm

NATO Rules:

1. The primary decision-making body of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is the North Atlantic Council (NAC) which is responsible for passing any and all communiques.
2. Voting on communiques will take place by consensus, thus each communique must be agreed upon by all delegates in order to pass.
3. During roll call, members may be Present or Present and Voting. Only Members Present and Voting may vote on substantive issues. Members Present and Voting may choose to abstain, wherein their votes will not affect the consensus but will also not be counted in the final total.

4. A nation may record a Formal Reservation if a particular part of a proposal is partially unacceptable to that nation. This reservation is raised at the time of voting and will be formally recorded on the proposal in question.