

North Atlantic Treaty Organization
President's Letter
St. Bonaventure University High School MUN
March...2020

Chairing Style

Hello delegates and welcome to the 2020 St. Bonaventure University High School Model United Nations Conference. My name is Grace and I will be the chair for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization this year. I look forward to a weekend full of respectful, educational, and fun debate on important global issues.

This is the second year I will be the chair of NATO for this conference and I have several years of experience participating in Model UN. As the chair, I will promote a respectful and passionate environment for debate. I expect each of you to be well-versed in the rules of procedure in order to minimize interruptions to debate. I am more than willing to answer any questions you may have. I believe that for the conference to be productive, each delegate should know the policies of the country they represent and voice those policies during debate. NATO is an alliance but not all countries share the same perspective which makes the debates interesting and productive as the allies work to create solutions for the topics and issues at hand by reconciling their difference and making the necessary compromises.

I am very excited for the upcoming lively debates and hope each delegate comes prepared to succeed. Failure to properly represent the country you have been assigned will be detrimental to your own score as well as the overall experience of the conference. Additionally, the best advice I can give you for success is to research your country, the committee, and the issues at hand. This includes research on NATO itself and the functions and components therein. A delegate who knows about the functions of the body and its role, purpose, and capabilities will always stand out.

Finally, I do expect that every delegate will be an active participant in debate throughout the conference. Regardless of whether or not this is your first conference, it is essential that you make significant contributions in committee so that all aspects of the issues can be included. Your country is important regardless of its status or size and your views can improve the quality of the debate for everyone. You and your fellow delegates will run the committee. You have the responsibility of keeping debate moving forward. I am only here to facilitate that debate and maintain decorum, so use creativity, diplomacy, and, of course, your research to find solutions to the issues we discuss in the committee.

The Topics

Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation

Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation are very essential issues for NATO. NATO members are committed to protecting their own security and that of the alliance members. They will remain a nuclear alliance as long as nuclear weapons are around, though they will do so at the lowest level possible. NATO has a long-standing commitment to an active policy of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. The Alliance continues to pursue its security objectives through this policy, while at the same time ensuring that its collective defence obligations are met and the full range of its missions fulfilled.

NATO's policies in these fields cover consultation and practical cooperation in a wide range of areas. These include conventional arms control; nuclear policy issues; combatting the spread of small arms and light weapons; preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and developing and harmonizing capabilities to defend against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats. NATO itself is not a party to any treaties on arms control or nuclear proliferation, however, its various members are committed to respecting the treaties signed by allied states and to promoting a world without these weapons.

NATO has many active policies that have evolved as a way to tackle this issue and contribute to the solution. A number of NATO bodies are also involved in creating various frameworks and policies regarding arms control and disarmament and limiting nuclear proliferation. They also partner with many other organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union on these issues.

Research Questions:

1. What policies can NATO implement to bolster international commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation?
2. How can NATO strive to protect civilians?
3. What gaps exist in the protections laid out by NATO treaties and what can we do to fill them?
4. How might these issues change in the future and what can we do to prepare for this?
5. What are the major issues that NATO is debating nowadays?
6. What are the security threats NATO is facing nowadays?
7. What kind of future security threats NATO needs to look into?

Resources:

Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in NATO. Link:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_48895.htm?

Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Link:

<https://www.osce.org/library/14087>

Russia Suspends Arms Agreement Over U.S. Shield. Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/15/world/europe/15russia.html>

NATO: Studying the crucial transatlantic security relationship and its broader implications. Link:

<https://www.csis.org/regions/europe/nato>

Defense and Deterrence

NATO's major concerns are protecting their citizens and promoting stability in the North Atlantic area. They must be prepared for any challenge or threat that comes from anywhere, which is why one of their biggest goals is to strengthen its defense and deterrence capabilities. Since the end of the Cold War, the security environment has become much more complex which explains why expanded its membership and is still a standing and powerful military alliance.

A majority of the challenges and threats NATO encounters are from the east and from the south, which consist of both state and non-state actors. These actors use military forces and terrorism, as well as cyber and hybrid attacks. NATO has recently been experiencing great tension with Russia as Russia itself has become much more assertive in Ukraine, the Caucasus and the Middle East. This is also a problem for NATO as many European countries depend greatly on Russia for oil and gas. Looking south of Europe into the Middle East and Africa, the situation has deteriorated due to many factors including wars that fueled large-scale migration flows and generated terrorist attacks in Allied countries. NATO has launched plans to help deal with problems like these, such as the Readiness Action Plan (RAP) which became a major force for change in NATO's deterrence and defense posture.

Research Questions:

- 1) How can countries contribute to defense and deterrence?
- 2) What can countries do to lessen threats from outside states and non-state actors
- 3) How can your country contribute to collective defense or what has it contributed in the past?
- 4) What can NATO do to increase its defense capabilities overall?

Resources:

Deterrence and defense. Link:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_133127.htm

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Link:

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>

On Deterrence. Link:

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2016/08/05/on-deterrence/index.html>

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Link:

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/ctbt/>

Energy Security

Energy security is at the forefront of NATO's collective security concerns. National security depends to a large extent on the availability and use of natural resources. Access to energy is essential to defense and stability as disruptions to infrastructure or supply lines could be detrimental to military capabilities and the stability of member states.

NATO's focus on energy security centers on seeking to enhance its strategic awareness of energy developments that have security implications; developing its competence in supporting the protection of critical energy infrastructure; and working towards improving the energy efficiency of the military. The first time NATO defined its role in energy security was at the Bucharest Summit in 2008; since then NATO has worked to define and strengthen its role and capabilities in energy security.

While NATO is not an energy organization, energy security is of the utmost importance to military strength as is well-known. A stable and reliable energy supply, diversification of routes, suppliers and energy resources, and the interconnectivity of energy networks are of critical importance to the security and military capabilities of member states. Infrastructure, efficiency, and sourcing are three of the most important issues of energy security.

Recognizing that the security environment is a constantly evolving landscape is integral to maintaining national security in the modern world. Protecting NATO member states from threats to energy infrastructure must evolve in order to achieve the fastest, most efficient flow of sound political, military, and resource advice to support our mutual decision-making.

Research Questions:

1. How does each country's energy security policy affect the overall security of NATO, and how can we create cohesive policies for the alliance?
2. What are the biggest threats to the energy security of NATO members?
3. What military implications exist as a result of past attacks on energy sources and what would this tell us about the likelihood of future attacks?
4. What policy changes can we make to plan for the future in this rapidly changing security field?

Resources:

NATO Energy Security Agenda. Link:

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2014/05/09/natos-energy-security-agenda/index.html>

Energy security: a critical concern for Allies and partners. Link:

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2018/07/26/energy-security-a-critical-concern-for-allies-and-partners/index.html>

NATO's role in energy security. Link:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49208.htm?selectedLocale=en

Bucharest Summit Declaration. Link:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_8443.htm

NATO and energy security. Link:

<https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2011/02/08/nato-and-energy-security/index.html>

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.