

# NAMUN'20

# NATO

## STUDY GUIDE

#JointheWorldsHeartbeat



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### **Welcoming Letters**

#### **Letter from Secretary-General**

Highly esteemed participants of Nesibe Aydın Model United Nations 2020 Online Conference, NAMUN'20,

I am more than honoured to welcome you all to the 9th annual session of NAMUN. This year, unlike past years' conferences, NAMUN'20 will be held online due to the ongoing pandemic. Our conference has been endeavoring to encourage delegates both socially and academically through an inclusive simulation of the United Nations with unprecedented committees and agendas to enhance our delegates' eagerness and enthusiasm to speak up.

Both our academic and organisation team have been working diligently to give you the NAMUN quality and abate the concerns about NAMUN being online. We did our best to make that online conference similar to face-to-face conferences as much as possible. Therefore; we could not discard some characteristics of

MUN such as placards, fun activities in coffee breaks, Q&A sessions with our keynote speakers, et cetera.

This year in NAMUN'20, we have six committees which are UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), IOC (International Olympics Committee), UNCSTD (United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development), NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) and last but not least our historical crisis committee RUSREV 17' (Russian Revolution 1917). All of our committees' agenda items had been decided according to the original organisation committees' policies. Additionally; all of our committees', except RUSREV 17', agenda items are focusing on debating upon Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

NATO's agenda items are;

- The future of NATO forces in Afghanistan
- Is NATO experiencing brain death
- A transatlantic strategy in China

These agenda items are the latest topics that are discussed in NATO. Delegates will be helping NATO among themselves. Delegates have to be careful with these agenda items since they are the latest discussion topics of NATO. I would like to thank our academic assistants, Melisa Ketencioğlu and İdil Yüzbaşıoğlu,

and our Under-Secretary-General, Zeynep Özharat, who worked simultaneously for this committee.

It is my utmost wish to see all those who attend will reach their aims with remarkable knowledge and memories. Additionally, I would like to thank every participant for supporting MUN conferences with their contribution and determination during the pandemic and staying safe.

We as the NAMUN'20 team are looking forward to meeting all of you!

Secretary-General of NAMUN'20

Nil Hamavioğlu

### **Letter from Under-Secretary-General**

Esteemed participants,

I am Zeynep Özharat and I am the Under Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Committee. It's my pleasure to welcome you all to the 9th annual session of NAMUN'20. I'm currently a first year student at Bilkent University in the Department of International Relations and I have been engaged in Model United Nations since I was in middle school. However, in the recent years I have maintained my position as a club president and organization team member in lieu of being a delegate.

This year, since the conference has to be online, we have adopted different strategies to ensure that committee sessions will maximize both sufficiency and joy for you participants and for us, the academic team. Our committee will have two academic assistants: İdil Yüzbaşıoğlu and Melisa Ketencioğlu and they will be helping us during the sessions to make sure that everything runs as smoothly as possible.

We have three agenda items to discuss during the sessions which are:

- Future of NATO Forces in Afghanistan
- Is NATO experiencing brain death?
- A Transatlantic Strategy on China

These agenda items are the latest ones being discussed by NATO and all of them are of great significance. We believe that this will provide you with a more up-to-date experience which will be remarkable hence will result in being more than just a Model UN conference.

It is the greatest will of mine and the whole NAMUN'20 family to make this committee, and this conference, as fruitful as possible and to make it an unforgettable experience for you.

Kind regards,

Zeynep Özharat

Under Secretary-General of NATO

If you need to contact me you can reach me via my LinkedIn or my email address (ozharatzeynep@gmail.com).

## **1.Introduction to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**

### **1.1 What is NATO?**

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation or in other words NATO, is an alliance whose purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all of its members by both political and militaristic means. Striving to secure a lasting peace in Europe and North America, based on shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. By acknowledging the fact that conflicts outside the member countries can damage these values, NATO contributes to peace and stability by crisis management operations and partnerships. In other words, the Alliance NATO not only helps to defend its members' territory but also engages to further project its values, prevent crises, manage crises, stabilize post-conflict situations, and support reconstruction wherever possible and when necessary.

## **1.2 History of NATO**

Created by the United States, Canada, and several other Western Countries, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was established in 1949 after the II. World War. Upon its creation the alliance served for three main purposes: deterring Soviet expansionism, preventing the revival of nationalist militarism in Europe, and encouraging European political integration. The USSR once had tried to become a member of NATO, only to be rejected due to the member states fearing this was an attempt of weakening the Alliance. After the rejection and the threat of West Germany becoming a NATO member, the USSR formed an opposing side to NATO, The Warsaw Pact. Signed among the Soviet satellite states(Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania). Thus creating an opposing side to NATO. In 1991 The Warsaw Pact finally came to an end. It was once discussed whether or not we needed the presence of NATO anymore now that the Soviet Union is gone. However, nowadays the Alliance presents itself as an alliance that unites member countries by military and political means.

## **1.3 Members of NATO**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation now has 30 member states. Majority of Europe, along with the United States and Canada which are from North America. In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance:

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The other member countries are: Greece and Turkey (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017) and the most recent member state to be added is North Macedonia joining on the 27th of March 2020.

#### **1.4 NATO's Aim**

NATO's aim from the beginning was to secure peace in Europe to promote cooperation among its members and to guard their freedom. The targets consist of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and cyber-attacks. NATO is a crisis management organization that has the capacity to undertake a wide range of military operations and missions.

## **2. Future of NATO Forces in Afghanistan**

### **2.1 History of the conflict in Afghanistan**

Since 1978 Afghanistan has been dealing with attacks that have caused serious damage to the whole country and the Afghani people.

Starting with the Saur Revolution military coup, a continuous series of armed conflicts have dominated Afghanistan. The Soviet-Afghan War began in 1979 and continued for 10 years. Soviet-Army has invaded the country to secure the

control of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and this has caused the war between the Afghan Army and Soviet troops until the Soviet Union was forced to withdraw its forces from the country in 1989.

The Afghan Civil War (1989-1992) was the continuing war between the government and rebels but this time Soviet troops were not involved but they continued to financially support the government until the fall of Kabul in 1992.

The Afghan Civil War that has started again between the years 1992-1996 was right after taking Kabul and proving the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Each Civil War was supported by an outside country and that caused so much damage. This conflict ended in 1996 when the Taliban took over Kabul, which was a new militia supported by Pakistan and compelled by al-Qaeda terrorist groups.

The third Civil War (1996-2001) had started after the Taliban took over Kabul, which was a part of the new military-political defiant force called Northern Alliance.

- The Afghan Northern Alliance, known as the United Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan, was a united military group that came after the Taliban's taking.

The United States invasion of Afghanistan started on 7 October 2001. The United States wanted to take down the Taliban mainly because of the 11 September attacks. The al-Qaeda terrorist group had carried out suicide attacks against the targets in the US. The terrorist group had hijacked four planes and two of the

planes had crashed the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York, a third plane hit the Pentagon and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 attack. All told, 125 military personnel and civilians were killed in the Pentagon, along with all 64 people aboard the airliner.

After these attacks, the US decided to fight back and fought the Taliban from the air and provided support to the Northern Alliance. The War in Afghanistan had started in 2001 and is still continuing. The main conflict consists of the Afghan Army troops who have the support of the US, fighting against the Taliban forces. In this war, NATO was also involved.

## **2.2 Why NATO forces are in Afghanistan?**

Since the 9/11 attacks in 2001 in the United States, NATO countries have been providing military support in Afghanistan under the presidency of The United States to prevent the country from ever becoming a safe place for terrorist groups. In August 2003, NATO took command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), mandated by the United Nations (UN). NATO's largest operation up till today was fulfilled in Afghanistan. Afghanistan also remains the priority for all NATO members which promotes troops to the International Security Alliance Force (ISAF).

### **2.3 Resolute Support Mission (RSM)**

On 21 May 2012, the leaders of the NATO-member countries endorsed an exit strategy during the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago. The NATO-led ISAF Forces handed over command of all combat missions to Afghan forces by the middle of 2013, while shifting at the same time from combat to a support role of advising, training, and assisting the Afghan security forces and then withdrawing most of the 130,000 foreign troops by the end of December 2014.

By the time that ISAF had completed the transition of responsibility for security to the Afghan authorities before ending its mission in December 2014, the insurgency was not defeated. The challenges of insecurity and instability facing Afghanistan remained and its national security forces were requiring long-term international support both financially and in terms of capacity building.

The Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan was launched on 1 January 2015. Resolute Support is a NATO-led, non-combat mission. The aim of the mission is to provide training, advice, and assistance for the Afghan Army to be able to reach the power they need to fight against terrorist groups such as the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, and ISIS-K. Wider cooperation with the Alliance is also being taken forward through its Enduring Partnership programme with Afghanistan.

Over 16,000 personnel from 39 NATO members and partner countries are deployed to give their support to the Resolute Support Mission.

RSM focuses primarily on training, advice, and assistance activities at the security-related ministries, in the country's institutions, and among the senior ranks of the army and police. The Resolute Support Mission works closely with different elements of the Afghan army, police, and air force.

### **Key Decisions on RSM**

The decision to start a follow-on operation after ISAF had ended its mission was very important for the Afghan security forces. The idea of NATO supporting the development of the Afghan security forces was commonly agreed upon between allies and partners within the Afghan government.

The agreement between NATO and Afghanistan on the idea of another mission was welcomed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution. This shows the importance of continued international support for Afghanistan's safety.

In addition to training, advice, and assistance missions, Allies and partner countries are agreed to support the long-term financial sustainment of the Afghan security forces until the end of 2020. At the 2018 Brussels Summit, Allies and partners agreed to prolong their commitment to support the financial sustainment of the Afghan security forces until 2024.

### **2.4 NATO and Peace Process**

Following the issuing of a joint declaration between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the signature of an agreement between the

United States and Taliban at the end of February 2020, NATO Allies and partners decided – in support of the peace process – that they would reduce their troop presence in Afghanistan within next months from around 16,000 personnel to roughly 12,000. This will be a step-by-step and conditions-based process, with the aim to ensure that Afghanistan will never again become a platform for international terrorists.

### **3. Is NATO Experiencing Brain Death?**

#### **3.1 What may be the rationale behind Macron's statement?**

##### **i. Who is Emmanuel Macron?**

Emmanuel Macron has been the President of France since 14 May 2017. He is a French politician who was born in 1977. During his career, he has worked in several different positions. By his business-friendly reforms and the awards he got, he started to be known in the public. At the age of 39, Macron has become the President of France at an early age.

French President Macron made an interview with The Economist magazine and the statement he gave has shocked the NATO allies. In his words, he was saying that he was concerned about whether NATO's

commitment to collective defense was still valid and that the alliance was experiencing 'brain death' because of the strategic coordination and leadership problem from the United States. By saying 'a lack of strategic coordination' Macron took particular aim at Donald Trump's unilateralist policy in northern Syria, pulling US troops out, and then took aim at Turkey's policy in northern Syria. The United States withdrew its forces back from Syria without getting other country's opinions. Macron thinks that this decision had to be taken after consulting among other NATO allies and getting each ally's opinion and coming up with a consensus, even though the operation in Syria was a Coalition Operation but not a NATO operation.

Some argue that he made this remark in support of longstanding French policy favoring a more united Europe less dependent for its security on American leadership and protection.

### **3.2 What are the reactions of nations upon this statement?**

After the statement Macron had given the first turn on has come from US President Donald Trump because Macron's words were directed to Trump. Mr. Trump has said that Macron's statement was 'very, very nasty'. And he added "Nobody needs NATO more than France. It's a very dangerous statement for them to make." Donald Trump's purpose of saying this was to warn Macron that

other than undermining NATO he has to pay more attention to the critical internal problems in France like the economy and the anti-government protesters in the country.

Macron's statement caused anger in Turkey -NATO's one of the most reliable members- and which used her rights as a sovereign nation and neighboring country of Syria which had long suffered from terrorist activities in Syria.

Upon Macron's statement, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan responded: "Look Mr. Macron, I am calling to you from Turkey, but I will tell you again at NATO. First, have your own brain death checked," condemning Macron over his remarks that Turkey should not expect NATO support for its anti-terror operation in northern Syria.

"Neither has the [Syrian] regime invited you there," Erdogan said, addressing the French leader.

"Expelling or not expelling Turkey from NATO [...] Do you have the authority to make such a decision?" Erdogan added.

Erdogan went on to say that Turkey "will not hesitate" to carry out Operation Peace Spring, "If the threats to Turkey from the safe zone and beyond cannot be eliminated within a reasonable time."

Turkey on Oct. 9 launched Operation Peace Spring to eliminate YPG/PKK terrorists from Northern Syria east of the Euphrates River in order to secure Turkey's borders, aid in the safe return of Syrian refugees, and ensure Syria's territorial integrity.

As a response Trump has stated that Turkey 'couldn't be nicer, more supportive, very helpful' and he expressed his thoughts that Turkey was right on wanting her borders to be safe and secure.

Another strong response came from Germany. Germany's top diplomat Heiko Mass and Chancellor Angela Merkel has clearly stated that they do not approve of what Macron said because they think NATO is essential for European countries' safety.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Mass said "it would be a mistake to undermine NATO. Without the United States, neither Germany nor Europe will be able to effectively protect themselves." Also, he stated that every EU country must focus on building a strong and sovereign Europe and if Europe is one day capable of ensuring its own security, the EU should still 'want' NATO." Yes, we want a strong and sovereign Europe, but we need it as part of a strong NATO and not as its replacement." the minister wrote.

Also, Angela Merkel commented that Macron used 'drastic words' in his speech while expressing his position on the US-led military alliance. Merkel has said that she sees NATO as "indispensable" and "the central pillar of their defense".

### **3.3 How would Europe's security be without NATO?**

NATO is a security alliance that aims to keep the peace between countries and provide the security that is needed. Most of the NATO members are from European countries so NATO is essential for Europe's security.

The dissolution of the Atlantic Alliance would mean the end of the transatlantic collective defense. Europe would have to provide for its security without the United States. For some Europeans, this is like a dream come true. For those, by contrast, who still view the transatlantic community as an indispensable achievement, it would look like a nightmare.

Building a purely European defense would overwhelm the Europeans politically, financially, and militarily. Even attempting to replace the departure of the United States would mean dramatic increases in defense spending and a radical overhaul of European arms development and procurement procedures.

Even more, it would ultimately require a genuine European security policy which is nowhere in sight.

In other words, without NATO European security concerns would call for a further deepening of European integration in the very field where integration is most difficult.

### **3.4 What will Article 5 mean tomorrow?**

#### **i. Article 5 and its aim**

**Article 5:** The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently, they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in the exercise of the right of individual or collective

self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area. Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall immediately be reported to the Security Council. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

The members of the treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their aim to build a peaceful environment among nations, governments, and all the people. They are determined to safeguard the liberty, common heritage, and civilization of their peoples. Every NATO member is resolved to unite their efforts for collective defense and the protection of peace and security.

The principle of collective defense is important for NATO's founding treaty. It represents the bond between its members, committing them to protect each other against any attack or encountered threat, and setting a spirit of solidarity within all Alliance. This principle is enshrined in Article 5 of the Treaty. NATO invoked Article 5 for the first time after the 9/11 terrorist

attacks against the US committing its members to stay by the United States if an attack happens. The organization explained how they are concerned about the threats to global security and as a member of NATO, every ally has to be aware of the fact that if a threat comes by one of the member countries, it means a threat to one another. So, article 5's aim is to make all countries feel the power of each other and the importance of the collective defense.

#### **4. A Transatlantic Strategy on China**

##### **4.1 What is a Transatlantic Strategy?**

In the year 2011, the European Commission adopted an Atlantic Maritime Strategy responding to repetitive calls from stakeholders in order to have a more ambitious, open, and effective cooperation in the Atlantic Ocean area. Consisting of the 2020 EU Agenda along with the flagship initiatives. The identified challenges and opportunities were grouped under five thematic headings:

- Implementation of the ecosystem approach;
- Reduction of Europe's carbon footprint;
- Sustainable exploration of the natural resources on the seafloor;
- Response to threats and emergencies;
- Promotion of socially inclusive growth.

The management of the Atlantic Maritime Strategy lies with the Atlantic Strategy Group (ASG), which is responsible for strategic planning related to the Atlantic Action Plan review, functional planning, and implementation.

Developed as a result of the bottom-up consultations carried out through the Atlantic Forum, the EU's Atlantic Action Plan 2013-2020 sets out concrete steps to be taken in the four Atlantic maritime Member States (Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain) and their outermost regions with a view to enhance the sustainable blue economy of the Atlantic Ocean Region by 2020.

## **4.2 What is the Role of NATO in a Transatlantic Strategy on China?**

### **i. Rise of China and its impact on the transatlantic alliance**

It can be said without a doubt that the country of China has a massive impact on the world. From the economy to politics, to even the climate and environment. There are three main factors that determine the ties of China to the rest of the globe. First off, the Communist Party shaped foreign policy from a starting point rooted in its national interest. Second, China's rising economic and political resources, increasing the nation's importance on a global scale. Thirdly, China's increasing ties to the rest of the world meaning that it has growing interests in safeguards.

It is argued that the threat China poses is greater by far than has been recognized. The threat poses itself as not only a military and an economic

one; but also as a new market authoritarian model, such as providing rapid growth and stability, thus promising a better quality of life. Western freedoms absent, including the possibility of political plurality or opposition. China's rise is concerning, with adding up the fact that it carried with it the explicit rejection of fundamental western norms within the basic human and civil rights, China lacks a strong culture of antiracism.

While the growth of power will have positive elements for the Chinese citizens and the global economy, it is truly unfortunate for the human rights in international politics that China keeps on being authoritarian, accompanied by discriminatory beliefs that are still accepted in public. The growth of China is linked to an ideology; opposing what NATO supports which is antiracism, individual freedoms, human rights. Thus, China forms a major challenge for the West.

## **ii. NATO's approach to the strategy on China**

With China's growing global assertiveness, how should NATO respond? The Alliance has already proven itself to be capable enough to engage with China operating around the world. So, NATO can contribute to its relations with China under the following fundamentals.

First off, fostering a shared knowledge among NATO allies and partners of the capacities and activities of China which creates risks and opportunities for the North Atlantic community. Second, NATO can assist in the

development and implementation of a transatlantic security strategy and stance on China. The goals of that strategy should include maintaining a cooperative relationship with China, as well as preventing China from undermining the transatlantic community's interests. And third, NATO's civilian and military capacities should be used to promote the defense and security portion of a Western strategy tackling China — including cooperation, deterrence, and defense tasks.

There are 4 things NATO can do:

1. Establishing a NATO-China Council
2. Deepening its relations with their Pacific Partners (Republic of Korea, Japan, Australia, Mongolia, New Zealand)
3. An alliance should establish in the Indo-Pacific, perhaps in one of the region's partner countries, a Center of Excellence (COE), and integrate officers and NCOs from selected partners into the Alliance's Command Structure.
4. Establish small military headquarters within the Indo-pacific region.

## **5. Questions to be Covered**

- Should NATO and contributing Nations continue to stay in Afghanistan?
- Can Afghanistan be stable and secure without international support?
- What are the challenges of the peace process?

- Is NATO experiencing 'Brain Death'?
- Is it realistic to build a new International Security Organisation to replace NATO?
- How can Europe maintain its security without NATO's and USA's umbrella?
- How can the growth of China affect the world/ western ideologies?
- What can NATO do against the rapid rise of China?
- What can be the future relationship between NATO and China?

## 6. Helpful Links and References

- <https://www.nato-pa.int/content/afghanistan>
- <https://www.nato.int/>
- <https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2016/05/04/standing-by-afghanista-n-the-strategic-choice/index.html>
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- <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/-check-your-brain-death-erdogan-on-macr-on-s-nato-remarks/1659261>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/macron-stands-nato-brain-death-c-omment-clash-trump-191203155632800.html>
- <https://www.rand.org/blog/2019/12/is-nato-brain-dead.html>

**Transatlantic Strategy on China(Links):**

- <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1162&context=nwc-review>
- 
- [NATO's role in a transatlantic strategy on China - Atlantic ...](#)
- [www.atlanticcouncil.org › blogs › new-atlanticist › nato...](#)