North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Directed By: Vaughn Hennessey

TSMUN XXIV BACKGROUND GUIDE 2020

**Topic I: Combatting Conflict Related Violence**

**Topic II: Increasing NATO’s Ability to Respond to Cyber Security Concerns**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Tallahassee Southern Regional Model United Nations. My name is Steven Vaughn Hennessey and I will be directing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) committee. I currently take courses at Tallahassee Community College, studying Political Science and I plan to pursue opportunities in the military once my time at Tallahassee Community College is done. I have been part of Model United Nations since my sophomore year of high school and received the Tallahassee Community College Model United Nations Scholarship my senior year of high school. During high school I was the president of the Model United Nations team at Florida State University Schools and now have the privilege of holding the seat as Tallahassee Community College’s Model United Nations team’s Vice-president.

The topics under review for this year’s NATO committee:

1. Combating Conflict-Related Violence
2. Increasing NATO’s Ability to Respond to Cyber Security Concerns.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a military organization separate from the United Nations. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s main goal is protecting its Allies through the use of political and military factors. As it is composed of Member States from the continents of North America and Europe, NATO allows for increased communication between those countries which in turn creates the ability to manifest large scale operations and crisis containment operations.

I hope you find this background guide helpful while preparing for the conference. This background guide is meant to introduce delegates to topics under review for this committee and help delegates as they begin researching their positions. Delegates should research their countries views, opinions, and position on the presiding topics. Delegates are also encouraged to look at international framework, passed resolutions along with collaborating organizations and initiatives.

Each delegate is expected to submit a research paper on their countries stance for the topics. Delegates are required to submit their position paper prior to the beginning of the first session. Papers may be emailed positionpaper@tsmun.org or submitted by USB or hard copy. For a guide and an example to writing your position paper, please look to<http://www.tsmun.org/position-papers.html>. Any position papers out of format will not be considered for awards. For additional information on scholarships, research resources and conference proceedings please visit<http://www.tsmun.org/>. If you have any questions about the upcoming committee feel free to contact me or our Secretary-General, Mónica García Vega, at sg@tsmun.org . I’m very excited to see what this year's delegates will accomplish at this conference.

Sincerely,

Steven Vaughn Hennessey

NATO Director

NATO@tsmun.org

**Committee Overview**

***Introduction***

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established in 1949.[[1]](#footnote-1) NATO is a body of members that are committed to defending the alliance through political and military means.[[2]](#footnote-2) Today it contains 29 members and maintains strong collaboration with non-NATO organizations like the European Union (EU) and African Union (AU).[[3]](#footnote-3) When NATO was first created it was intended to serve three purposes: to encourage European political integration, halt Soviet expansion, and prevent a resurgence of nationalist militarism in Europe through North American presence.[[4]](#footnote-4) In recent years, there has been an increased focus on achieving greater NATO-EU cooperation in order to disrupt transnational weapons smuggling and terrorist operations.[[5]](#footnote-5) Since the fall of the Soviet Union, NATO has increased its views to a more offensive posture. NATO has moved from a defensive organization built on the purpose of unified protection to an organization that focuses on the stabilization of current and recovering conflict zones.[[6]](#footnote-6)

***Committee Mandate***

As stated in the first two Articles of the North Atlantic Treaty, NATO’s main goal is to solve international turmoil through the most peaceful means possible to promote stability and ensure the safety of the world community.[[7]](#footnote-7) According to Article 3, NATO has military capabilities without need for a UN mandate since NATO is an independent group. In Article 5 of the treaty, NATO decreed that an attack against one Member State would be considered an attack against all Member States. The only time Article 5 was invoked was after the terrorist attacks in the United States of America on September 11th, 2001.[[8]](#footnote-8) Controlled by the North Atlantic Council (NAC), NATO relies on consensus to vote. The council makes collective decisions regarding both political and military issues affecting peace and security.[[9]](#footnote-9)

***Governance, Structure, Membership***

NATO is comprised of two major committees: the project-steering committee and the military committee.[[10]](#footnote-10) The project-steering committee focuses on gathering information to allow NATO to make the most comprehensive plan possible.[[11]](#footnote-11) The military committee focuses on logistics, training, and maintaining of all military aspects of NATO.[[12]](#footnote-12) The overall ruling body of NATO is

called the North Atlantic Council (NAC). NATO has seen a consistent rise in membership since its creation in 1949. [[13]](#footnote-13) NATO currently houses 29 Member States and each alliance member is entitled to equal representation and say in NATO proceedings. [[14]](#footnote-14)[[15]](#footnote-15)

**I. Combating Conflict-Related Violence**

***Introduction***

As defined by the United Nations Security Council report, conflict related violence is an outcome of war and extreme conflict related violence crimes committed relating to surrounding conflicts.[[16]](#footnote-16) There are roughly nineteen countries spanning across Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America where conflict related violence has been officially documented.[[17]](#footnote-17)

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 was officially accepted.[[18]](#footnote-18) UNSCR 1325 was the first resolution to recognize the threat that conflict related violence plays in global prosperity.[[19]](#footnote-19) UNSCR 1325 has paved the way for the Women's Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and other crucial UNSCRs that have helped NATO classify, target, and combat conflict related violence around the world. NATO has gone as far as ensuring the use of deadly force for civilian protection in NATO’s Policy for the Protection of Civilians.[[20]](#footnote-20)

Conflict related violence has been cited to destroy communities and the social fabric binding many societies.[[21]](#footnote-21) In 2014, violence in Iraq caused the loss of 15,000 civilian and UN personnel.[[22]](#footnote-22) This was caused by armed conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and went on record as being the deadliest year since 2003.[[23]](#footnote-23) With non-state actors increasingly affecting the stability of civilian safety, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has called for zero tolerance of use of children in conflict and restraint on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. They require that states structure their conflicts to be accommodating to humanitarian aid for their citizens.[[24]](#footnote-24) In 2018 explosive casualties came to a ratio of three out of four people being killed were civilians.[[25]](#footnote-25) The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) identified civilian areas as one of the goals of occupation in armed conflict that cause increased civilian exposure.[[26]](#footnote-26)

***International Framework***

With NATO’s main goal being to protect Member States, very little is being done for people suffering from conflict related violence within those member states. The issue has been targeted though NATO member states by creating policies in the underlying fields of WPS, Conflict

Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), and children in armed conflict.[[27]](#footnote-27) While these issues have been heavily debated and discussed, comprehensive action has developed at a minimalistic pace in prior years. This has led to a slowed pace of the main focus of NATOs attention on protection and development with in alliance members, conflict related violence is being sidelined by the international community for more manageable topics.

Many have suffered as a result of this inaction; for example, the Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar have been persecuted by government security forces throughout 2017 and 2018.[[28]](#footnote-28) This has caused 730,000 citizens to flee to the neighboring states to escape armed conflict within the region.[[29]](#footnote-29) The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has asked the international community to contribute $84 million USD to support the people targeted within the armed conflict.[[30]](#footnote-30) In Yemen, over 3 million people have fled the country, along with 15 million people still in Yemen starving due to armed conflict within the country.[[31]](#footnote-31)

Without better policies to help protect civilians in armed conflict, crises like these will continue to produce atrocious civilian casualty levels. NATO has taken steps to combat this through policies like “Protection of Children in Armed Conflict – the Way Forward” to help defend children from exploitation in areas of conflict as well as help integrate the UN Security Council Resolution 1612 that also targets child exploitation into NATOs military framework.[[32]](#footnote-32) Since the initial passing of the WPS agenda in 2000, the challenge before NATO has evolved, and expanded, causing more civilian exposure to conflict related violence on an unprecedented scale.[[33]](#footnote-33)

***Actions Taken By UN***

NATO has partnered with organizations around the world, such as the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU). [[34]](#footnote-34) With air and sea support from NATO the AU was able to form a successful AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).[[35]](#footnote-35) With the backing of NATO the AMISOM was able to stabilize Somalia and curve the ongoing trend of conflict related violence.[[36]](#footnote-36) NATO accomplished this by aiding the AU in combating radical groups as well as aiding in the strengthening of Somalia's own local security force.[[37]](#footnote-37) In support of the NATO- and AU-backed operations, the UN Security Council signed resolution 2372 outlining the AU’s capacity for interference in Somalia.[[38]](#footnote-38)

NATO has taken steps to combat conflict related violence by collaborating with many countries governmental institutions to spread knowledge about tactics to contain, combat, and amend atrocities caused by conflict related violence.[[39]](#footnote-39) NATO has provided support to countries like Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Iraq.[[40]](#footnote-40) Within Afghanistan, NATO has collaborated with the Ministries of the Interior and Defense to improve their capabilities and capacity of the government's ability to combat and amend conflict related violence related actions.[[41]](#footnote-41) Kosovo initiatives have helped NATO to spread knowledge to the public about conflict related violence and the need to provide outlets for victims of conflict related violence.[[42]](#footnote-42) NATO’s influence on Iraq has led to an increased focus on conflict related violence medical education within the country.[[43]](#footnote-43) This has allowed Iraq to create better procedures for preventing and aiding victims of conflict related violence within the country’s borders.[[44]](#footnote-44) The UN has established four major peacekeeping efforts in attempts to maintain stability and prevent conflict related violence. United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and African Union - United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) are the ongoing peacekeeping operations opposing conflict related violence within the continent of Africa.[[45]](#footnote-45) All these ongoing operations have helped the stabilizing countries through the sharing of programs that give refuge, medical aid, legal aid, security forces for protection, early warning systems, and early response programs to the citizens suffering in the country.[[46]](#footnote-46)

NATO has also established a policy for the Protection of Civilians (PoC). The PoC has been established to minimize negative effects on civilians in NATO led missions and when possible defend civilians from conflict related violence through the creation of secure and safe areas.[[47]](#footnote-47) The implementation of these programs has started the road to more comprehensive protocols to ensure public safety and minimization of conflict related violence.[[48]](#footnote-48)

***Conclusion***

As NATO takes on the ever growing threat of conflict related violence, multiple complex challenges emerge that NATO will eventually have to face.[[49]](#footnote-49) NATO will have to overcome logistic issues, report verification issues, and overall lack of resources to prosecute perpetrators of conflict related violence.[[50]](#footnote-50) NATO will also finally have to create its own way of dealing with an issue that is growing in destabilized countries around the world. With the lack of overall

categorization and comprehensive plans of action NATO will face an uncertain future in the face of conflict related violence. The paramount question NATO faces what logistics must be necessitated for a comprehensive plan to combat this transnational issue of conflict related violence.

**II. Increasing NATO’s Capability to Respond to Cyber Security Concerns**

***Introduction***

In 2007, Estonia suffered from a cyber-attack NATO had never seen the likes of before.[[51]](#footnote-51) In 2016, at the Warsaw Summit, NATO declared cyberspace its fourth military operating platform.[[52]](#footnote-52) Cyberspace has affected the world with its capacity to give member states and non-governmental beings the ability to monitor and communicate in real time.

At the NATO summit in Wales during 2014, members of the alliance concurred that NATO should prioritize the protection of online networks used by NATO members.[[53]](#footnote-53) However, this comes with obstacles; the overall vastness of NATO’s digital footprint can come at a disadvantage when trying to maintain consistent network reliability.[[54]](#footnote-54) NATO also focuses on building up Alliance members own cyber defense capabilities through the use of organizations like Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) and Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence (StratCom).[[55]](#footnote-55) These NATO sponsored programs enable alliance members to build up defensive capabilities while learning and sharing additional cyberspace knowledge with other members.[[56]](#footnote-56)

With cyber threats evolving daily, NATO has made cyber defense a cornerstone in NATO security.[[57]](#footnote-57) The implementation of international law to the cyber verse and the creation of the Cyber Rapid Reaction team has allowed for NATO to begin its military proceedings in cyberspace.[[58]](#footnote-58) This team of cyber security experts meets immediately in the event of an attack against a NATO information system in order to restore systems as quickly as possible.[[59]](#footnote-59) NATO’s current policy on cyber engagement is vague and leaves multiple back doors for adversaries to take advantage of.[[60]](#footnote-60)

In response to NATO’s need to clearly define guidelines, the CCDCOE created a “Cyber Awareness Course Tallinn Manual”, outlining the rules of cyber engagement allowed under international law.[[61]](#footnote-61) Even with CCDCOE guidelines, cyberspace is an ever evolving platform and universal guidelines fall secondary to Alliance members strengthening personal cyber security at a state level. [[62]](#footnote-62)

***International Framework***

StratCom and CCDCOE have provided outlets for alliance members to gather knowledge, engage in training, and test standing programs currently being used by members.[[63]](#footnote-63) NATO members such as Estonia and Norway have suffered both direct coordinated cyberattacks and indirect misinformation campaigns.[[64]](#footnote-64) Other programs used by NATO includes the NATO Communications and Information Systems School (NCISS).[[65]](#footnote-65) This organization is known for helping member and non-member states learn how to run NATO’s information and communication systems.[[66]](#footnote-66)

NATO has also committed to cooperation with the European Union (EU).[[67]](#footnote-67) Signed in 2016, the Technical Arrangement on Cyber Defense between the EU and NATO has improved the fields of knowledge transferring, cyber defense, and research between the organizations.[[68]](#footnote-68) NATO is also taking the initiative in combating cyber-attacks by running CCDCOE hosted event that allows for participants to engage in real time cyber-attack simulations.[[69]](#footnote-69) These simulations help participants gain understanding and practice by taking part in defense of information systems and networks.

With the inclusion of cyber-attacks into Article 5, member states could not agree on what cyberwarfare action would launch a collective defense throughout the member states.[[70]](#footnote-70) While most can agree that something must be done, executing a clear course of action has proved increasingly more difficult. In 2011, the US Deputy Secretary of Defense revealed that the hacking of a defense contractor led to the theft of 24,000 files from the Department of Defense.[[71]](#footnote-71) A worldwide cyberattack, which had been in operation for 5 years, was discovered by a Russian firm in 2012. This virus, called “Red October,” gathered information from vulnerabilities in Microsoft Word and Excel. Hackers collected information from government embassies, research firms, military installations, energy providers, nuclear and other critical infrastructures all over the world.[[72]](#footnote-72) Issues such as these have caused members states to use their own standard for defining cyber incidents. With this recourse due to vague NATO standards many times a collective defensive reaction from alliance members result in an uneven output of contribution to these issues.[[73]](#footnote-73)

***Actions Taken By UN***

In 2011, members of the UN body met to discuss the issue of cyber security.[[74]](#footnote-74) Through these discussions the UN decided to approach cybersecurity with less interference and more observance. This has channeled the UN into finding solutions for identifying threats, raising awareness, and how to overall deal with cyber security concerns. Completed in 2013, this $64 million project marks an important step forward for NATO to protect its networks from an increasing number of cyberattacks.[[75]](#footnote-75)

With cyberspace being an ever-changing platform, it can prove difficult to lock down many threats posed to NATO and its alliance members.[[76]](#footnote-76) A large issue when making a comprehensive policy for cyber security is not infringing upon another nation's sovereignty. With information communication technologies (ICT) always progressing and becoming more updated it is becoming increasingly difficult to track down cyber criminals.[[77]](#footnote-77) It has been challenging to incentivize the local governments to spend their own resources on catching these criminals as well. [[78]](#footnote-78)

***Conclusion***

With NATO having no definite alliance-guided rules of engagement for cyberspace, they will have to define it however they see fit as more advanced technology continues to spread throughout the world.[[79]](#footnote-79) As technology rapidly changes and new threats develop, combatants exploit grey zones, alliance members will have to rise to each other’s defense by sharing knowledge of more efficient software to help combat the rise in cyber warfare.[[80]](#footnote-80)

Currently, NATO’s focus is on deterring future attacks, such that the risk of carrying out an attack would outweigh any benefits. However, NATO lacks the offensive power necessary to swiftly retaliate against enemy cyberattacks.[[81]](#footnote-81) The need for stronger firewalls and secure networks plays a big factor when analyzing the possible growth for NATO’s cyber security branch in the future. NATO’s creation of its cyber policies and initiatives with cooperative partnerships gives NATO the capacity to react efficiently to large scale acts of violence in cyberspace; although problems with finding a consensus on important decisions, managing crisis, along with defense spending and policies can leave NATO at a vulnerability to effectively react to a cyber-attack equivocal of armed aggression. [[82]](#footnote-82)

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