

# STUDY GUIDE

## North Atlantic Organization



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Welcome to the NATO Council! The North Atlantic Organisation (NATO) is a political and military Alliance of 30 member countries from Europe and North America. This committee is for advanced delegates and has some alterations that this guide will help you understand. Delegates should do further research for the Council, their country's policies and any problems they may have. It is also important to study the background papers for a better understanding of the topics.

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## **What is NATO?**

The North Atlantic Organisation (NATO) is a political and military Alliance of 30 member countries from Europe and North America. It provides a unique link between these two continents, enabling them to consult and cooperate in the field of defense and security, and conduct multinational crisis-management operations together. The Alliance takes all its decisions by consensus. Every member country, no matter how large or small, has an equal say in discussions and decisions. Member states are committed to individual liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. These values are at the heart of NATO's transatlantic bond.



## **Members of the NATO**

Currently, the alliance has 30 member states. In alphabetical order, these can be listed as Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Republic of North Macedonia became the latest country to join the Alliance in March 2020.

## **Procedure**

NATO is a non-GA committee and the delegates are highly advised to write a resolution for all the topics so that they are sufficiently informed and can participate in the procedure. During the conference, the resolutions should be printed (1-2 copies) and delegates should also have them on a USB stick. In general, the council reaches decisions by allowing discussions to continue until a consensus is reached.

Consensus is needed in order to reach a decision and adopt a Draft Communiqué. **Consensus shall not be verified by a voting procedure but shall be reached through debate.** All NATO decisions are made by consensus, after discussion and consultation among member countries, due to the nature of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as an Alliance. This means that when a NATO communiqué is announced, it is the expression of the collective will of all the sovereign states that are members of the Alliance.

### **Key Terms**

- **Communiqué**

Communiqué refers to the final resolution to be debated after the right format has been implemented and the right number of signatories has been filled.

- **Working Paper**

A Working Paper is similar to the individual resolution submitted by each delegate of the Council. Working papers shall be submitted via email to the Chairs by the Delegates before the conference.

- **Draft Communiqué**

Draft Communiqué is referred to as a Working Paper submitted to the Chair under proper Communiqué format, i.e., phrasing, sponsorship, and the required number of signatories. In order to be debated in the Council, it must be supported (signed) by at least 1/3 of the total number of Members of the Council. The Draft Communiqués are the resolutions proposed and

written after the lobbying and merging. If the Draft Communiqué is complementary or moderately identical, the Board may recommend that the Sponsors of the Draft Communiqué combine the documents before the end of the debate. **Only a Draft Communiqué that has been approved by the chairs for debating may be referred to as “Communiqué.”** Draft Communiqué is also known as Draft Recommendation.

- **Sponsor**

The Sponsor is recognized as the main contributor to the Draft Communiqué. There is only one Sponsor for each Draft Communiqué.

- **Tour de table**

A Tour de Table shall be conducted at the discretion of the chair. The chair requests each delegate to give a short summary of his/her position on the matter under discussion and express any disagreement, in order to determine whether a compromise is possible.

- **Simple Majority**

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a simple majority to pass implies that more than half of the committee must vote in favor of said matter to pass. If the vote is a tie, the vote will have failed.

- **Supermajority (Two-thirds Majority)**

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass implies that two-thirds (2/3) of the Council must vote in favor for it to pass. If there is at least one vote in favor or against, and the remaining votes are abstentions, the subject is considered to have passed or failed respectively.

### **Debate**

Considering the fact that NATO is already an Alliance, the delegates will have the opportunity to have an unmoderated caucus in order to discuss their positions on the debated topic and form a Draft Communiqué which they will submit to the Chairs and will then be debated in the Council, if approved.

- Formal Debate

Unless the chairs decides otherwise, **moderated caucus** (also known as close debate) will be the form of debate during all sessions of the Council. Any delegate wishing to speak, should raise his/her placard and be recognized by the President.

- Informal Debate

During the debate a delegate can propose a Motion for an **Unmoderated Caucus** (a procedure similar to lobbying), which constitutes informal debate. Unmoderated caucus may be introduced at any given time during the committee session.

- Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

A delegate proposing a Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus must indicate a total duration and purpose for the Caucus. The chairs may suggest a more appropriate caucus length or topic and put it to vote or may overrule the Unmoderated Caucus.

- Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus

A delegate may move to extend the Unmoderated Caucus if he/she feels that additional time would benefit the work of the Council. The delegate who proposes a Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus must suggest duration for the extension, not exceeding the initial Unmoderated Caucus. The chairs may suggest more appropriate caucus duration and put it to vote or may overrule the Extension of the Unmoderated. Only one extension of the Unmoderated Caucus is allowed.

- Voting

Each delegate of the Council has one vote and must demonstrate his/her voting intentions by raising his/her placard at the President's request unless there is a Roll Call Vote. Delegates must vote in favor or against. **There are no abstentions** and no delegate shall vote on behalf of another delegate.

## Amendments

An Amendment may add, strike out, or revise a part of the Draft Communique. The Amendment has to be first approved by the chairs. It is in the discretion of the chairs to define the allotted time during which the floor will be open for Amendments. After receiving the Amendments, the chairs shall review them, designating whether they have been accepted and subsequently assigning them a number.

#### 1. Motion to Introduce Amendments

A Delegate may propose a Motion "to Introduce Amendments" after the time for submission of Amendments has elapsed. If the Motion passes, the chairs will introduce all Amendments approved to the Council.

#### 2. Non-Substantive Amendments

Amendments correcting grammatical, spelling, or formatting mistakes will be automatically adopted without a vote from the Council, at the discretion of the chair. Following the initial reading of the draft Communique by its Sponsor, delegates are permitted to point out any such problems to the chair via note.

#### 3. Substantive Amendments

Substantive Amendments to a Draft Communique require approval from the chair to be introduced. Amendments to Amendments are out of order. Due to the nature of the decision process, all Amendments to a Draft Communique must be approved with the procedure of consensus.

#### 4. Voting on Amendments

After the chair has concluded the Introduction of Amendments, they will read one by one all Amendments, asking for Objections. Should there be any Objections, the Council shall enter a short period of debate defined by the chair, in order to reach a consensus. In case no consensus can be reached, the Council will disregard the Amendment at hand. All subsequent Amendments shall be discussed in accordance with the aforementioned procedure, and the order defined by their assigned number. If one Amendment implies the rejection of a second Amendment, the second Amendment will not be discussed. An Amendment that has been approved

by the Council shall be automatically integrated into the Draft Communiqué. Once all Amendments relating to a Draft Communiqué have been discussed and approved by the Council, the chairs shall read the operative clauses as they have been modified.

### **Approval of Communiqués**

Once debating time has elapsed, the Draft Communiqué on the table shall be considered as the final Communiqué of the Council upon which consensus has been reached.

#### **- Motion to Approve the Draft Communiqué**

A delegate may propose a Motion to Approve the Draft Communiqué in order to verify whether a consensus has been achieved. The chair may rule the Motion out of order without the possibility of appeal or put it to vote. The motion requires a 2/3 majority in order to pass. Once the motion has passed, the chair shall ask for any objections on the Draft Communiqué, if there are no objections, the draft Communiqué is considered to be adopted. If there are objections, the Council shall enter a Tour de table with an individual speaker's time defined by the Board. Delegates objecting should refer to the specific articles causing their disagreement. Should the chairs observe disagreements among the member states, the Main Chair will entertain and facilitate a short period of debate, only on the articles causing disagreement as stated by the objecting delegates, in order to identify possible grounds of compromise. They shall play a reconciliatory role in order for the Council to reach a consensus. The Main Chair maintains the right to make any necessary adjustments to the content of the Draft Communiqué guided by the outcome of the debate and based on the consent of the member states. After the conclusion of the debate, the chair shall once more verify the consensus on the Draft Communiqué, asking for objections, considering this result to be final.