

MADMUN XVI

NATO BACKGROUND GUIDE



Chairs: Preston Doll and Claire Rattmann

Letter From The Chairs

Hello delegates, we are so excited to chair NATO at MADMUN XVI this year. With both of us being second-year MUN members, we are so appreciative of the opportunity to chair this year. We look forward to meeting all of you and seeing the connections you make with fellow delegates during the conference. When we found out we were chairing NATO, we were (and still are) super excited. NATO has been in existence for a long time and has a unique history due to its significant association with the Cold War. In today's world, NATO is one of the world's top organizations, and it deals with many different issues. With NATO being a beginner committee, we are looking forward to seeing all of the newcomers to MUN grow and learn over the course of our conference. We know that your first conference will always be memorable, and we hope to make it a good memory. For those of you who may not be new to the MUN experience, we are looking forward to seeing you help your newer peers grow, as well as seeing the growth you make. We want this conference to be a fun and memorable experience for everyone. As first-year chairs, we are also looking forward to the growth in us as leaders, speakers, and people. We want to see all of you use your best and most creative ideas as you problem solve and create new solutions. We also hope that you have fun with your speeches. Seeing as we are both actors, we are not strangers to public speaking, which for some of you may be the most difficult part of this conference. However, we know that all of you will be putting 100 percent into this committee, and we look forward to that. We are so excited to meet all of you and are looking forward to this amazing committee, and hope you all walk away from it feeling accomplished and like you have grown your MUN skills.

~ your chairs, Preston Doll and Claire Rattmann .

Topic A: Militarization of The Arctic

The Arctic, which is thought to be a frozen desert tundra, is soon to become a pawn for political use and a point of contention between Russia and NATO. It's no secret that Russia and NATO are often at each other's throats. This is since the Cold War, when the two fought over control of economic ideology, specifically capitalism and communism. So what makes the Arctic the next possible war zone? As Arctic ice melts, new water pathways begin to open up, which can mean quicker access to trade and also smoother military operations for Countries.

Russia currently controls over half of the Arctic, and they have begun to colonize the Arctic, with control over the Arctic being one of its top priorities. Almost one-half of Russia's population lives in the Arctic territory, which means that Russia already has strong control over the region.

Then there is Russia's military, which contains the world's largest icebreaker fleet. Icebreakers are large ships used to break through ice with their specially designed bows. This allows Russia to break through the ice and not only transport any goods they want, but also allows them to create newer routes in the ice at will. Russia is also known for its nuclear weapon prowess, and they are also using the ice to hide strategically placed nuclear submarines. This strategic positioning can be used to target NATO bases and possibly take them out.

The trade routes and strategic positioning of the Arctic have led to tension between many of the world's powers. With tensions rising because of the Ukraine war, it may be only a matter of time before Russia tries to strike. So what does this mean for NATO? Well, to put it simply, NATO needs to act fast before it's too late. NATO's chair of the military committee has gone on record claiming that NATO plans to defend its interests in the Arctic at the 11th edition of the Arctic Circle Assembly.

NATO has strengthened its presence in the region in recent years, but has not undertaken any large-scale efforts to slow the military expansion. With tensions escalating, NATO must devise a strategy to slow the spread without escalating the conflict. This also means deciding who should be in charge of trade routes and how to treat the Arctic. Should it be considered a territory controlled by NATO or an independent international waterway? Currently, NATO is determined to keep the Russian control of the region to a minimum. They want to preserve the current regulations of the area. While also adapting to any future changes due to things like climate change. This means countering any possible threats to these plans, like Russia.

Questions to consider:

- What is my country's relationship with Russia?
- How does control of the Arctic affect my country?
- What are the ways we can prevent further spread of the militarization?
- Would my country like to help prevent climate change? If so, how do you fit that into the plan of stopping militarization?
- How do we prevent war from breaking out between Russia and NATO?

Topic B: Managing Resource Conflicts with Climate Change

NATO needs many crucial resources to function as well as it does. However, Climate change has made infrastructure, supply chains, and key military resources much harder to come by. While it doesn't make them absolutely unavailable, it makes them a lot more unstable and increases the competition in getting these prized resources. Not just military resources either, climate change can deplete food supplies and homes, making many humanitarian issues in more than just third-world countries.

NATO has taken some approaches to help alleviate this issue in the past and to help stop conflicts from arising between countries over these resources. For example, NATO conducts annual checks to see how climate change will and is impacting their active and future missions. They monitor their domains- land, sea, air, space, and cyber to see these impacts. NATO has also developed multiple programs to attempt to monitor these changes. Including The Science for Peace and Security (SPS), and the Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence (CCASCOE).

However, as we know, climate change is a growing risk, and as the world evolves, the militairiy also has to grow more efficient, with extreme conditions popping up everywhere. NATO needs to effectively work around these conditions. While trying to go greener at the same time. As NATO would like to be more eco friendly, and actively is working towards reducing

their carbon footprint. This means holding dialogues with other countries, and making the countries in NATO have more climate effective military.

Currently NATO holds itself to four standards which are awareness, adaptation, mitigation, and outreach. This is all apart of the Climate Change and Security Action Plan (CCSAP). Which currently aims to spread awareness for climate change, and help to slow climate change and make militaries go more green.

There is also the problem of climate change's effect on resources. As less resources appear it will be harder to allocate them to a specific country. And sharing resources will be necessary but if there isn't enough to go around how will NATO be able to distribute them? Especially if two countries need the same resources and in a urgent matter.

Climate change can up root food supplies and clean water access which would make it difficult for the militaries of NATO to function. Also climate change effects ecosystems which means that harsh environments will impede current or future missions.

Questions to consider:

- How does your country feel about climate change?
- What resources will your country want/need?
- How can military operations protect themselves against climate change?
- How can militaries operate amidst extreme conditions?
- How can militaries effectively switch to green energy?