

Ryan International School, India

INDIAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2019



Background Guide – North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Respected delegates of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization,

It is a privilege to welcome you to another edition of the Indian Model United Nations. Coming to the point directly, this council shall be a continuous crisis committee and the way things will go in this council will be different from a normal NATO committee simulated at conferences. Continuous updates will be presented in the three days of the conference. This committee will work as a time capsule committee in which we'll be shifting days ahead with updates if felt required seeing the level of debate and the needs. As far as formal rules of procedure go, the committee will be following the UNA-USA Rules of procedure since that is a standardized set of protocols followed by most MUN conferences that you might be attending in the future.

The purpose of this background guide is to equip you with required knowledge about the committee as well as the agenda. It will, however, only act as a base for you to start your research. This guide in no way can be considered to be adequate to equip you completely for the MUN and you will most definitely need to think critically and come up with your own arguments in the context of the crises provided to you gathering factual, statistical or legal evidence. The content of this background guide should not be quoted or used as proof for any claims/allegations in the committee.

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This is just an introductory guide, briefing you about the committee and the objectives etc. You'll be receiving more of such documents and as the conference near.

We expect the three days to be an immense learning experience for all of you.

PROOF / EVIDENCE IN COUNCIL

Evidence or proof is acceptable from sources:

1. News Sources:

a. REUTERS - Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council.

b. State operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council.

Some examples are

- i) RIA Novosti (Russia)
- ii) IRNA (Iran)
- iii) BBC (United Kingdom)
- iv) Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China)

2. Government Reports:

These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information.

Examples are:

a. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation

b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India, People's Republic of China, France, Russian Federation etc

c. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations

d. Multilateral Organizations like the NATO, ASEAN, OPEC, etc.

3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the Security Council.

- a. UN Bodies: Like the UNSC, GA, HRC etc.
- b. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Committee of the Red Cross etc.
- c. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System, the International Criminal Court

Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India etc. be accepted as PROOF; but may be used for better understanding of any issue and even be brought up in debate, if the information given in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a Government.

CREDIBILITY OF SOURCES IN THE COUNCIL

We all understand that the internet today is flooded with information. We often encounter pieces of information or facts which are inaccurate or even fabricated. Many times we read news articles which are biased. This challenge, of determining which fact is true or not, sometimes becomes a bone of contention between different governments as well. Even at the international arena, veracity and acceptance of a fact by one or more government plays a major role in how an agenda is understood, deliberated or resolved.

However, it is advised that you cross-check facts from at least one of the sources mentioned above.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949. NATO constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party. NATO's Headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons, Belgium.

Since its founding, the admission of new member states has increased the alliance from the original 12 countries to 29. The most recent member state to be added to NATO is Montenegro on 5 June 2017. NATO currently recognizes Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia and Ukraine as aspiring members. An additional 21 countries participate in NATO's Partnership for Peace program, with 15 other countries involved in institutionalized dialogue programs. The combined military spending of all NATO members constitutes over 70% of the global total. Members have committed to reach or maintain defense spending of at least 2% of GDP by 2024.

On 4 March 1947 the Treaty of Dunkirk was signed by France and the United Kingdom as a Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance in the event of a possible attack by Germany or the Soviet Union in the aftermath of World War II. In 1948, this alliance was expanded to include the Benelux countries, in the form of the Western Union, also referred to as the Brussels Treaty Organization (BTO), established by the Treaty of Brussels. Talks for a new military alliance which could also include North America resulted in the signature of the North Atlantic Treaty on 4 April 1949 by the member states of the Western Union plus the United States, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Denmark and Iceland.

PURPOSE

NATO's mission is to protect the freedom of its members. Its targets include weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and cyber attacks.

At its July 11, 2018, meeting, NATO approved new steps to contain Russia. These include two new military commands and expanded efforts against cyberwarfare and counterterrorism. It also contains a new plan to deter Russian aggression against Poland and the Baltic States. Trump agreed to these measures.

On July 8, 2016, NATO announced it would send up to 4,000 troops to the Baltic states and eastern Poland. It increased air and sea patrols to shore up its eastern front after Russia's attack on Ukraine.

MEMBER NATIONS OF NATO

NATO's 28 members are: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland,

Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Each member designates an ambassador to NATO. They supply officials to serve on NATO committees. They send the appropriate official to discuss NATO business. That includes a country's president, prime minister, foreign affairs minister or head of the department of defense.

On December 1, 2015, NATO announced its first expansion since 2009. It offered membership to Montenegro. Russia responded by calling the move a strategic threat to its national security. It's worried by the number of Balkan countries along its border that have joined NATO.

IDEA OF NATO

NATO's primary purpose was to defend member nations from threats by communist countries. The United States also wanted to maintain a presence in Europe. It sought to prevent a resurgence of aggressive nationalism and foster political union. In this way, NATO made the formation of the European Union possible. U.S. military protection gave European nations the safety needed to rebuild after World War II's devastation.

After West Germany joined NATO, the communist countries formed the Warsaw Pact alliance. That included the USSR, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany. In response, NATO adopted the "Massive Retaliation" policy. It promised to use nuclear weapons if the Pact attacked. NATO's deterrence policy allowed Europe to focus on economic development. It didn't have to build large conventional armies.

The Soviet Union continued to build its military presence. By the end of the Cold War, it was spending three times what the United States was with only one-third the economic power. When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, it was due to economic as well as ideological reasons.

After the USSR dissolved in the late 1980s, NATO's relationship with Russia thawed. In 1997, they signed the NATO-Russia Founding Act to build bilateral cooperation. In 2002, they formed the NATO-Russia Council to partner on shared security issues.

The collapse of the USSR led to unrest in its former satellite states. NATO got involved when Yugoslavia's civil war became genocide. NATO's initial support of a United Nations naval embargo led to the enforcement of a no-fly

zone. Violations then led to a few airstrikes until September 1999. That's when NATO conducted a nine-day air campaign that ended the war. By December of that year, NATO deployed a peace-keeping force of 60,000 soldiers. That ended in 2004 when NATO transferred this function to the European Union.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

THE WAR IN DONBASS

The War in the Donbass has been going on for more than four years, and the conflict is still being fought to this very day. Thousands of people have died in this awful conflict. In this story map we will try to show you, the viewer, how the conflict has evolved over the years. From the beginning of March 2014, protests by pro-Russian and anti-government groups took place in the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts of Ukraine, commonly collectively called the "Donbass", in the aftermath of the 2014 Ukrainian revolution and the Euromaidan movement. These demonstrations, which followed the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation (February to March 2014), and which were part of a wider group of concurrent pro-Russian protests across southern and eastern Ukraine, escalated into an armed conflict between the separatist forces of the self-declared Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR respectively), and the Ukrainian government.

TIMELINE OF THE CRISIS

Before we start it is important to understand the context that is related to the civil war that is happening in the Donbass region. And although both sides of the conflict have a very different view on the subject the beginnings of this conflict could be told in the following fashion.

November 2013

Protests emerge in Kiev after Yanukovich rejected a far reaching accord with the European Union. Instead he chose to be in favor for stronger ties with the Russian Federation. Thousands of protesters came to Kiev for peaceful demonstrations urging the government to reconsider as they have aspirations for integration with Europe. These protesters occupied the Independence Square, known as Maidan, spread through the city. Many of these protesters argued that the president was not serving the country by rejecting the European Union.

January 2014

The Ukrainian government passes an anti-demonstration law. The news concerning these laws was not well received by the protesters in Kiev and they are determined to keep protesting despite the new law. Police forces act upon the new law and try to disperse the protesters in Kiev which resulted in violent clashes between protesters and police.

February 2014

Parliament demands snap elections while Yanukovich has fled Kiev, due to concerns about his safety regarding the large masses of protesters near the parliament building. Yanukovich deems the snap election illegal as his party does not accept the proposition and he is not available in parliament to debate the notion.

March 2014

By now (allegedly) Russian forces occupy the Crimean peninsula claiming to be there to maintain peace and order (Reuters, 2014). Within a short period these troops are acknowledged by the Russian Federation (Reuters, 2014). Many news outlets and world leaders suspect the Russians are there only to protect their naval bases in Sevastopol, the only military naval base which is not frozen and therefore accessible throughout the entire year. A referendum is held in Crimea by the Russian Federation where 97% of the Crimean population voted for Crimea to join the Russian Federation (Reuters, 2014). Many international agencies were denied the access to observe and monitor the referendum for its legitimacy. Because the invasion happened unsolicited and the referendum could not be observed by the UN or an NGO supported by the UN this referendum was deemed illegitimate by the UN (Reuters, 2014).

April 2014

As anti-Maidan protesters in the Donbass region become militias they take over public buildings and declare independence in for the Luhansk People's Republic and the Donetsk People's Republic (Reuters, 2014). Claiming that the government without Yanukovich is illegitimate and that they would rather become independent and ally with the Russian Federation instead of the European Union. An interesting side note being that in this region the majority of people voted for Yanukovich's party in the prior elections. The Ukrainian army responds quickly to this insurgency and within the same month they manage to retake some land including the airfield in Kramatorsk (Reuters, 2014). The fighting would continue from this point on until this very day.

RELEVANCY

Now that we've laid out a foundation for understanding the early conflict we shall explain why this area is relevant. And then we will mention our research questions.

Ukraine has been in the news a lot, and especially in the Netherlands. Who doesn't remember when flight MH17 was shot down on July 17th in 2014? When 196 Dutch citizens were killed when they were flying over the warzone in the Donbass (NOS, 2017). And of course the referendum regarding the association with the Ukraine, where the Netherlands was one of the few who voted against this. All in all the Ukraine is a country which has been and continues to be very relevant in international affairs. That's why we decided it was necessary to get a better understanding of the internal dynamics of this special European country.

CURRENT SITUATION IN DONBASS

On 18 January 2018 the Ukrainian parliament passed a bill to regain control over separatist-held areas. The bill was adopted with support from 280 lawmakers in the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada (due to the War in Donbass and the 2014 Russian annexation of Crimea, only 423 of the parliament's 450 seats were elected in the previous election). The Russian government denounced the bill, calling it "preparations for a new war", and accused the Ukrainian government of violating the Minsk agreement. The law on the reintegration of Donbass labeled the republics of Donetsk and Luhansk as "temporarily occupied territories", while Russia was labeled as an "aggressor". The legislation granted President Poroshenko "the right to use military force inside the country, without consent from the Ukrainian parliament", which would include the reclaiming of Donbass. The bill supports a ban on trade and a transport blockade of the east that has been in place since 2017. Under the legislation, the only separatist-issued documents that Ukraine would recognize are birth and death certificates.

A new, agreed by all fighting parties, ceasefire went into force on 5 March 2018. By 9 March the Ukrainian military claimed it was not being observed by the DNR and LNR forces who in turn claimed the same of the Ukrainian military.

On 26 March 2018 the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine agreed on a "comprehensive, sustainable and unlimited ceasefire" that was to start on 30 March 2018. It collapsed on its first day.

On 30 April 2018 Ukraine replaced its “Anti-Terrorist Operation” (ATO) by the Joint Forces Operation (JFO). On 30 April 2018 the United States confirmed that it had delivered Javelin anti-tank missiles to Ukraine. Reportedly they will be used only in case of an all-out separatist assault.

On 28 June 2018 a new “harvest” “comprehensive and indefinite ceasefire regime” was agreed set to start on 1 July 2018. Within hours after its start both the rebels and the Ukrainian army accused each other of violating this truce.

The 29 August 2018 ceasefire also failed.

On 31 August 2018 DPR leader Alexander Zakharchenko was killed as a result of an explosion in a restaurant.

As reported on 27 December, Yuriy Biriukov, an adviser to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, claimed that almost the entire “gray zone” between the warring sides, had been liberated from Russian-led forces without breaching the Minsk peace agreements and is under the control of the Ukrainian army. This was confirmed the following day by Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Viktor Muzhenko.

On 27 December 2018 a new (and the 22nd attempt at an) indefinite truce starting midnight December 29 was agreed. On 29 December the Ukrainian military reported that the separatists had violated the ceasefire. The same day the separatists accused the Ukrainian military of violating the ceasefire.

On 7 March 2019 the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine agreed on a new truce that was to start on 8 March 2019. Although Ukraine claimed that “Russian proxies” (the separatists) had violated it on the same day; fighting did subside with Ukraine claiming there was a full ceasefire on 10 March. According to the separatists the Ukrainian army did not fully observe the ceasefire but did state the Ukrainian army had attacked significantly less since.

NATO’S RELATIONS WITH UKRAINE

When NATO leaders in July 1997 invited Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary to join the alliance, they also stated the “open door” policy. That reaffirmed Article 10 of the Washington Treaty that established NATO, which reads in part: “The Parties may, by unanimous agreement, invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to this Treaty.”

President Leonid Kuchma publicly declared Ukraine’s interest in NATO membership in May 2002. Washington expressed support while noting that Kyiv had to do its homework, that is, it had to adopt the kinds of democratic, economic, and military reforms that the alliance asked of other aspirants. During the remainder of Kuchma’s time in office, however, Ukraine made little tangible progress in those areas.

In 2006, President Victor Yushchenko attached high priority to securing a NATO membership action plan (MAP). By summer, Kyiv looked on course to attain a MAP when alliance foreign ministers met that December. Curiously, Moscow did not come out hard against the idea. The prospective MAP derailed, however, after Yushchenko appointed Victor Yanukovich as prime minister. During a September visit to Brussels, Yanukovich said he did not want a MAP. The proposal died given the divided position of Ukraine’s executive branch.

Yushchenko called for a MAP again in January 2008, this time with the support of Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko and Rada (parliament) Speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk. Moscow came out in full opposition. When Yushchenko visited the Russian capital that February, he had to stand alongside and listen to President Vladimir Putin threaten to target nuclear missiles on Ukraine. Instead of lobbying allies to support a MAP for Kyiv, Washington waited until the April Bucharest summit, where President George W. Bush attempted to persuade his counterparts to grant Ukraine (and Georgia) a MAP. However, a number of allied leaders by then had made up their minds and opposed the idea. Concern about Russian opposition undoubtedly played a role. When NATO leaders in July 1997 invited Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary to join the alliance, they also stated the “open door” policy. That reaffirmed Article 10 of the Washington Treaty that established NATO, which reads in part: “The Parties may, by unanimous agreement, invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to this Treaty.”

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Q1) What steps should be taken so that Ukraine can be the Member of the NATO?

Q2) What is Membership Action Plan how will it play a key role in the war in donbass?

Q3) Membership Action Plan needs to be modified so that Ukraine can be a member with no problem. How?

Q4) Russia being a Huge Wall between NATO and Ukraines's relationship so what steps should be taken so that Ukraine becomes a member of NATO without Russia creating any problem?