

Washington D.C. Model North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The Process

Model North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) consists of several committees, each of whom draft policy relevant to their respective topics of discussion. The Committees debate for the course of the conference, drafting NATO policy to solve a multitude of issues. During this time, a simulated crisis also occurs, and each committee must respond to the updates from the crisis as well as focus on their original goals. After the final committee sessions of the conference, the final resolutions passed by each committee are sent to the North Atlantic Council (NAC), who works to approve all of them unanimously. The end result is a final communique, consisting of the unanimously approved policy from the body of the entire conference. This final communique is sent to NATO Headquarters, where it is used by actual NATO officials to guide potential policy directives in the future. Delegates within the committees, as well as their committee chairs, are also judged on their performance. Research, public speaking, policy drafting, and consensus-building are all factors that contribute to the decision of which delegates will receive awards for their performances.

Turkey in NATO

Three years after the initial creation (1949) of NATO, Turkey was able to join the organization in 1952 alongside Greece. This came as a strategic play for the alliance during the time of the Cold War against the Soviet Union, as Turkey held a government of firm anti-communist sentiment, even while being so geographically close to the Soviet Union. At the time, the Korean War was also a matter of concern coming on the horizon, and fears grew that Russia and China were expanding their communistic views into other parts of the world.

Since joining the alliance, Turkey has always given NATO reassured security regarding NATO's southern flank, and today plays an increasingly important position of helping the organization in addressing violent extremism, member-state defense policies regarding the Middle East, and stabilizing Afghanistan.

Outreach

For outreach, the Washington DC Model NATO team will work to teach high school students about how the North Atlantic Treaty Organization works, as well as the process of model diplomacy. This will be done through the organization of a Model NATO simulation, hosted by our team, where high school model United Nations teams from around the country will have a Skype call with our team. We did this last year and it proved to be very effective. Background guides will be written by members of the team a month prior to the conference, and committees will also be chaired by members of the team. The students will be mentored on the process of consensus building, in order to create policy specific to their individual committees. We will also be participating in the school's Discovery Day to educate others more on NATO.

Norway in NATO

After the Allied victory in World War 2, Norway continued to support its partners the United States and the United Kingdom in world politics by becoming a founding member of NATO in 1949. Since its creation Norway has played a crucial role in the alliance as its eyes and ears in the northern seas and the Arctic. As one of the few NATO states to share a border with the Russian Federation it remains important for Norway to share a cooperative, working relationship with the former USSR while continuing to check its expansion in the region.

In recent years Norway has hosted and contributed in multiple NATO joint military exercises such as Trident Juncture in 2018. The country has also continued to grow its naval capabilities in the northern seas and seeks to share its thriving defense industry with European allies. Norway's primary interests lay in supporting its allies and building consensus and cooperation between world powers.

Diplomacy

Diplomacy as practice in the collegiate and high school sector has far reaching benefits after school. The use of negotiation and consensus-making with real world issues allows students to not only be educated on current events but problem solve with their own opinions as well. Within the consensus-building and negotiation of diplomacy, students develop public speaking, writing, and negotiation skills that will help in not only in the government sector but the private sector as well. STEM and non-STEM students alike benefit from these exercises, as the soft skills developed are relevant to many different careers.

