



# THESSISMUN

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL STUDENT  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## *Guide for Communiqué Drafting of the North -Atlantic Council(NATO)*



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## *General Research and advisory delegate information*

### ***The North Atlantic Council***

The Principal Policy and Decision Making Institution of the Alliance, is the North Atlantic Council, established under Chapter 9 of the North Atlantic Treaty. The North Atlantic Council (N.A.C.) has valuable political authorities and powers of decision. It consists of **Permanent Representatives** of all member countries that hold meetings on a weekly basis.

The N.A.C. assembles at higher levels as well, at level of **Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense Ministers, Heads of State or Heads of Government**, however the authorities and powers of decision making and the validity and status of its decisions remains the same on all formations of N.A.C.

The NATO Headquarters, situated in Brussels, serve as the political headquarters of the Alliance and the permanent home of the North Atlantic Council. They provide the meeting point and the working environment for Permanent Representatives and national delegations, the Secretary General and the International Staff national Military Representatives, the President of the Military Committee and the International Military Staff, the diplomatic missions of Partner countries, the NATO Headquarters Consultation, the Command and Control (C3) Staff and a number of NATO agencies.

The North Atlantic Council is the final authority of the Alliance and the only with powers deriving directly from the North Atlantic Treaty. It is consisted of 28 representatives. The Secretary General is a senior International statesman that serves as the highest Executive Organ of the Alliance and presides over its Secretariat. There is no formal method of election of the Secretary General, although all member states must agree upon the Secretary's appointment.



Each Member State is represented in the Council by a Permanent Representative with ambassadorial rank. A political and military staff or delegation to NATO, varying in size, supports each Permanent Representative.

The Council meets twice a year (with the possibility of having more frequent meetings) at **Ministerial level**, comprised by each member state's Minister of Foreign Affairs. At Ministerial Meetings of Foreign Ministers, one country's Foreign Minister assumes the role of Honorary President. The position rotates annually among the nations in the order of the English alphabet. The Council also assembles at level of Ministers of Defense.

**Summit Meetings** are summoned whenever issues of vital importance have to be addressed or at decisive moments concerning the advancement of Allied security policy, where Heads of State or Government of each member state are present.

Items discussed and decisions taken at meetings of the Council cover all aspects of the Organization's activities and are frequently based on reports and recommendations prepared by subordinate committees at the Council's request. Equally, subjects may be raised by any one of the national representatives or by the Secretary General. Permanent Representatives act on instructions from their capitals, informing and explaining the views and policy decisions of their governments to their colleagues round the table. Conversely they report back to their national authorities on the views expressed and positions taken by other governments, informing them of new developments and keeping them abreast of movement towards consensus on important issues or areas where national positions diverge. **Decisions are being made Common Accord and through the procedure of Consensus.** The Decision making process in the North Atlantic Council is sui generis when compared to other organizations. Deliberations take place until a commonly accepted decision is reached. There is no official voting procedure in the Council and the Communique is announced within the N.A.C. chambers is



considered a product of collective work and agreement among member states. There are cases where states agree to disagree on a matter.

### ***The NAC simulation in ThessISMUN:***

After the country assignment, research is obligatory. Research must be divided in four main pillars:

- 1. Research on the History of the NATO, on the structure and functioning of its Committees and Councils, on the role the NATO plays in International Politics**
- 2. Research on the history and functional purpose of the NAC**
- 3. Research on your assigned country's background, its political and economic system, political structure and current political affairs, its culture and values**
- 4. Research on your assigned country's policies with regard to the certain topic, on country's viewpoints in all relevant issues**

Bear in mind that many of your sources may be biased. If possible, try to find independent confirmation of the information you have obtained, from more than one source. Moreover, when gathering information it is important to distinguish between opinions and facts. When gathering information try to locate reliable sources either from NATO publications or think tanks related with security issues. Facts are used to support opinions. Whenever possible use facts to support your arguments. Eventually, you will be presenting an opinion and must defend it against other opinions, thus it is crucial for you to be familiar with different viewpoints and opinions on your topic. Become familiar with arguments that are different from the one your country is likely to take on your topic. Remember, it is up to you to decide which particular points you want to focus on in your own arguments and this decision needs to be guided by your country's position. Bear in mind that you should speak in

the name of the country that you are representing. Study already adopted NAC Communiqués on your topic to find out what issues tend to be discussed when your topic is debated. Communiqués adopted by the NAC can be found at the **NATO e- library**.

## *Common Online Resources:*

- NATO Website [www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)  
Precise information on the NATO Member Countries are provided in: [www.nato.int/Organisation/ member countries/ national links](http://www.nato.int/Organisation/member%20countries/national%20links)
- NATO States Embassies and Consulates web site, [usembassy.state.gov](http://usembassy.state.gov)
- The Central Intelligence Agency website, contains reports on economic, political and social conditions of most of the countries in the world, [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)
- The International Crisis Group website [www.icg.org](http://www.icg.org)

For any other information that cannot be found online **ThessISMUN Board** (President and Secretary General of North Atlantic Council) remains at the delegates' disposal for any inquiries.

## *Critical points when participating in NAC:*

- Review the ThessISMUN NAC rules and procedures. These rules are intended to create a level playing field allowing each delegate/country to accomplish their individual goals in speaking about their policies while maximizing opportunities for the group to reach consensus on the issue
- Review the new updated NATO strategic Concept as it was agreed by the member states in 2010 and can be found online under this link : [http://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/pdf/Strat Concept web en.pdf](http://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/pdf/Strat%20Concept%20web%20en.pdf)
- Remember it is not your opinion you are illustrating and defending, but the country's you are representing. The Secretary General of the NAC,



will be responsible under the Deputy Secretary General of ThessISMUN , for the adoption and the implementation of the Official Policy Guidelines, by the Country representatives in the Council. Delegates that diverge from their assigned country's official policy guidelines, will be advised towards the correction of their policy and provided with the appropriate material on this extend by the Deputy Secretary General.

- Be aware of different political perspectives
- Attain a good knowledge of your allies and your opposition. In order to adequately represent your country during the model, you will need to interact with delegates from other countries. Knowing their positions on your topic will help you predict their arguments during debate. This will be very useful in helping you decide in advance where it might be useful to seek cooperation or compromise.

### ***Communiqué Writing and Submission***

Communiqués are official documents; primarily products of the deliberations that take place within the Council's Chambers and adopted by the Council following the procedure of consensus. Communiqués contain actions of the NAC submitted in draft form under the sponsorship of the delegations working in a council. Additionally, communiqués address an opinion to a given situation and recommended action-plans to be enforced by the Alliance. NATO Communiqués have a legally binding character for all member of the Alliance.

Draft communiqués at the moment of their submission are considered to have gathered the concurrent opinion of a large majority of states within the Council but still are to be debated and revised through the amendment procedure. The NAC Draft Communiqués have to be adopted in absolute consensus.

It is important to acknowledge that in drafting a communiqué wording will influence its acceptance among fellow delegates. As consensus is required to



for the Council to adopt a Communiqué, phrasing gains another level of importance when the document enters its crucial stage, the approval. The draft communiqué should be clear and concise. Consequently, the better the substance of a draft communiqué is, the higher the success of achieving consensus the council session. The main aim of communiqué writing is to put down ideas in a clear and concise manner targeting at the topics at hand including all proposals of states under the scope of the Alliance always in accordance with the provided format.





## *PATERN OF THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE:*

### **Draft Communiqué**

1. **The Heading**, identifying the type of the meeting (Ministerial or Summit) in which the communiqué is introduced
2. **Numbering**: the sequel number of each draft communiqué, presented by the President along with the submission of the communiqué by the Sponsor, i.e. NAC Draft Communiqué. NAC/A/ 08-Dec-2013/ 1, which indicates the first Draft Communiqué submitted in NAC, on topic Area A, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2013.

### **Sample of a Draft Communiqué**

#### Draft Communiqué

Ministerial of the North Atlantic Council

held at NATO Headquarters,

Thessaloniki, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2013

1. *Today the North Atlantic Council met in Defense Ministers Session, in Thessaloniki, to advance the ...*
2. *At our meeting today...*
3. *We are committed to the continuing success of the NATO-led International Security Assistance force...*
4. *We welcome the adoption...*
5. *We fully support the negotiations...*
6. *We strongly condemn terrorism...*
7. *In response to the call by the government of Pakistan...*

8. *NATO will continue to play an essential role in regional security and stability...*
9. *We express our concerns about ...*
10. *We express / our deep appreciation...*
11. *We fully agree with the statements...*
12. *We recognize the need/ the importance...*
13. *We reaffirm our determination...*
14. *We reiterate our commitment to the...*
15. *We remain committed to our transatlantic link...*
16. *The members of NATO, recognize that the Alliance faces a wide range of threats...*

*Each clause is numbered (1-...). All the clauses end with dot. Each clause may contain more than one sentence.*

## **Amendments**

After draft communiqués have been submitted to the board and approved by the Secretariat, draft communiqués is presented to the delegates. At this point the state representatives have the right to modify through known as *amendments*, representing adjusted perspectives or proposals on the topic under discussion. Phrasing and purpose of the amendment should complement the draft communiqué.

There are two types of amendments as outlined in the **Rules of Procedure** as well:

1. **Non Substantive Amendments**, correcting grammatical, spelling or formatting mistakes will be automatically adopted without approval from the Council, at the discretion of the President.



2. **Substantive Amendments**, which are due to change the substantial meaning of the communiqué, shall be unanimously adopted by the NAC.

**All amendments are subject to the Board's and Secretariat's approval, who may disapprove an amendment, on grounds of consistency and content.**

