

I. Introduction to the North Atlantic Council

The North Atlantic Council, often referred to as the Council or the NAC, is the principal political decision-making body within NATO. It brings together high-level representatives of each member country to discuss policy or operational questions requiring collective decisions.

In sum, it provides a forum for wide-ranging consultation between members on all issues affecting their peace and security. It oversees the political and military process relating to security issues affecting the whole Alliance.

NAC can meet at the level of permanent representatives (or ambassadors), foreign and defense ministers, and heads of state and government. Its decisions have the same status and validity at regardless of their level.

A. Key Points

- Policies decided in the NAC are the expression of the collective will of all member countries of the Alliance since decisions are made on the basis of consensus and common accord;

- The NAC is chaired by the Secretary General;

- It is the only body that was established by the North Atlantic Treaty (Article 9) in 1949 that has the authority to set up subsidiary bodies, as deemed necessary;

B. Simulation Procedure

The main source of the procedure of NATO is the ANMUN 2019 Rules of Procedure.

NATO has an open agenda; which means that the Member States can discuss and set any agenda they see as the most disruptive to peace and security.

NAC shall only be informed about the situation of the world via the information presented by the Secretariat. Information from any other source will be considered false and cannot be presented to the Council at any time.

If a crisis that differs from the set agenda occurs, Ministers of Foreign Affairs are expected to table the debate on the agenda and produce a document on the acute crisis; then return to the initial topic.

Since the North Atlantic Council is the highest-ranking body in the Alliance, it is the ultimate decision-making body. NATO committee will submit final documents such as draft communiqués and collective decisions. These draft communiqués will represent summations of the work done by the committee on various topic areas.

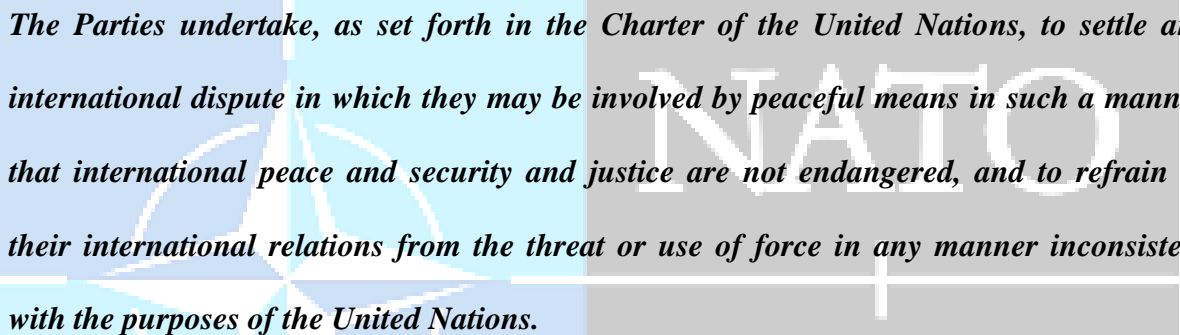
In addition to finalizing the decisions of the Council on agenda items explained on the study guide, the Council is also tasked to handle several crisis simulations of various kinds. A significant knowledge of security, political, and economic issues in or near the NATO area

will be required to effectively manage and or resolve the crises. The delegates will be expected to formulate a timely and effective response. The NAC retains overall responsibility for the management of the crises but it may also work in close cooperation with other NATO committees, allied military commands, and partner nations as it deems fit.

It is important state that the North Atlantic Council simulation will cover the meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter to be referred as MFA. This means that as MFAs, delegates are given some level of authority over state's actions. However, from time to time they will need to consult with or act upon the instructions from their government.

C. First Six Articles of the North Atlantic Treaty

“Article 1



The Parties undertake, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, to settle any international dispute in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

Article 2

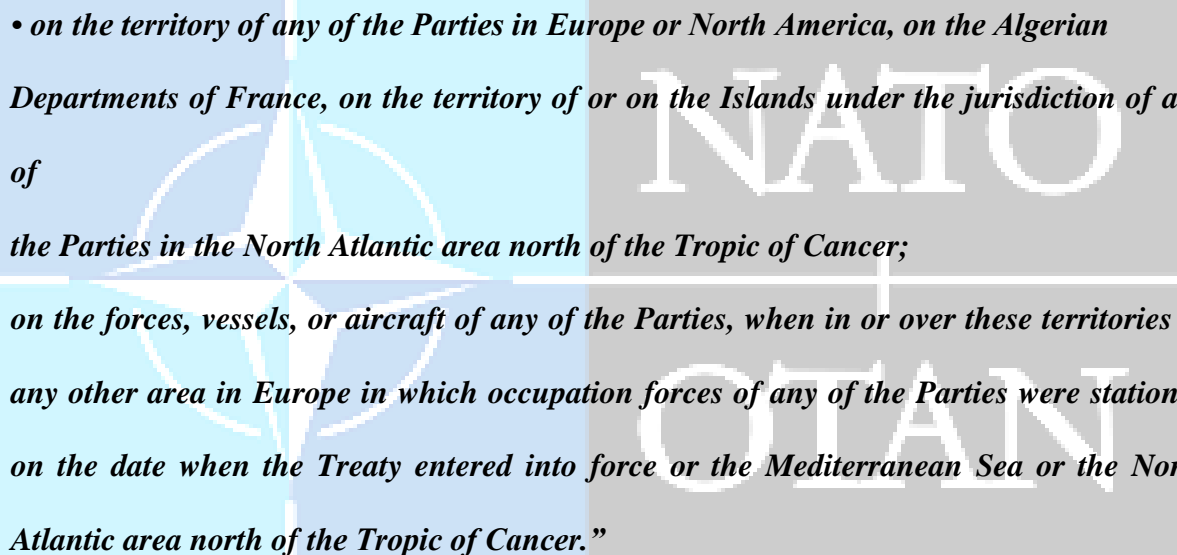
The Parties will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them.

Article 3

In order more effectively to achieve the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties, separately and jointly, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutua

Article 6

For the purpose of Article 5, an armed attack on one or more of the Parties is deemed to include an armed attack:

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• on the territory of any of the Parties in Europe or North America, on the Algerian Departments of France, on the territory of or on the Islands under the jurisdiction of any of the Parties in the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer;

on the forces, vessels, or aircraft of any of the Parties, when in or over these territories or any other area in Europe in which occupation forces of any of the Parties were stationed on the date when the Treaty entered into force or the Mediterranean Sea or the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer.”

II. Working Mechanisms and Decision Making

A. Crisis Management

NATO is a political-military alliance that adapts itself to the challenges of the 21st century.

Unfortunately, the 21st century is an unfolded box where national and international crises occur

Unpredictably, and crisis management remains as an essential corner stone for any state willing to successfully survive this century. Therefore, the Alliance is organized to be able to take decisions in times of crisis under intense pressure of time and significance of the threat. These decisions are taken through a process in which political control of the military is the key and the final decision is the authorization given by the North Atlantic Council. It is well known that the Alliance possesses the capability to conduct real time assessment of actual or potential crisis situations in order to keep the Council with up to date information on a constant basis. When a crisis occurs, NATO follows a six-step crisis management process which is illustrated below:



“Initial Guide: NAC guidance to conduct a political and military estimation process

NID: NAC Initiating Directive to start formal operations planning

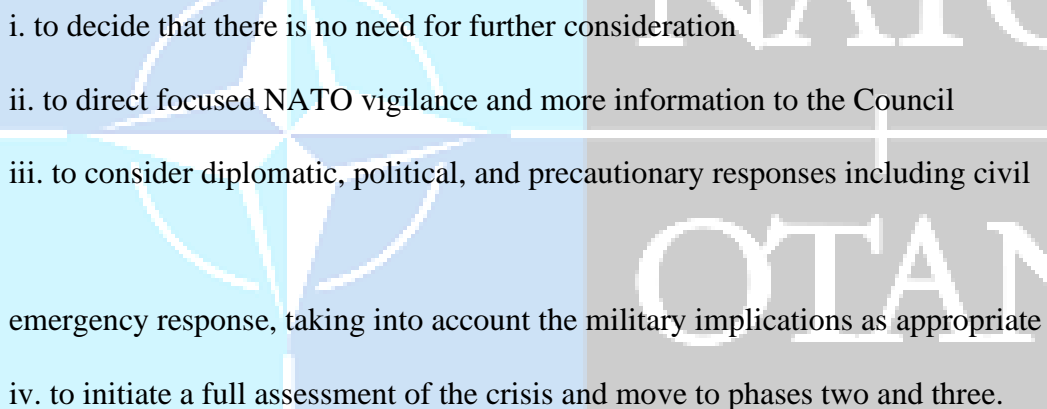
NED: NAC Execution Directive to start the approved operation

PMR: Periodic Mission Review of an ongoing operation”

1. Phase 1

“Indications and warnings are given either by the intelligence and warning system of NATO or by an Ally or a partner. With these, there are, in principal, four choices available for the

Council that it could choose from:

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- i. to decide that there is no need for further consideration
 - ii. to direct focused NATO vigilance and more information to the Council
 - iii. to consider diplomatic, political, and precautionary responses including civil emergency response, taking into account the military implications as appropriate
 - iv. to initiate a full assessment of the crisis and move to phases two and three.

2. Phase 2 and 3

Relevant political and military bodies of the Alliance are tasked to provide an assessment of the crisis and propose advices on the given crisis issue and its consequences for the transatlantic security. This process is called as PME which stands for Political-Military Estimate. On this process, the North Atlantic Council also tasks the Supreme Allied Commander Europe to develop a strategy to respond.

Bearing in mind the Political Military Estimate process, the NAC reserves the right to choose one of the response options by forwarding a formal political guidance to allied military authorities (NMA) in order to start operational planning for the chosen response type. But it is important to mention that at this phase, the process does not imply a decision for NATO to execute a military action.

3. Phase 4 – Planning

At this phase, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, head of ACO and US EUCOM, is tasked to develop a Concept of Operations and an Operations Plan, to be submitted to the NATO Military Committee in order to be tabled to the North Atlantic Council so that the proposals could be considered and approved. Once the green light is given, then the Council is required to give formal authorization to execute the Operations Plan which basically moves to the next step of this very lengthy but clear process.

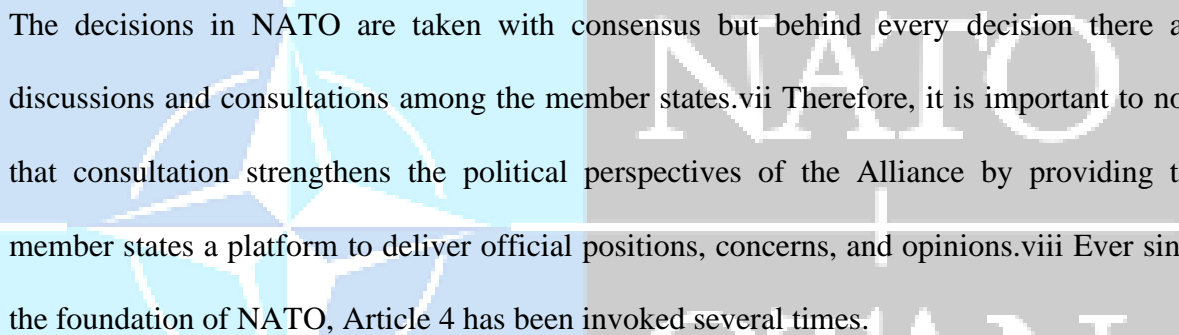
4. Phase 5 – Execution

At this part, NATO executes the mission with given mandate and conducts regular real-time evaluations and assessments of the ongoing mission under the banner of Periodic Mission Reviews, militarily known as PMR, in order to measure progress to reach the planned end-state objectives and assess military picture and force readiness on a structural basis.

5. Phase 6 – Transition

Once the mission objectives are met, the Alliance processes the situation to transition phase where it plans and implements a transfer of mandate and command to appropriate authorities which is followed by the successful completion of the mission and withdrawal of NATO forces in the area of operations.”

B. Article IV and Consultation Process

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The consultation comes with many different forms in which the most basic level of consultation is the exchange of information and notifying allies on a given issue, however it may go to as far as reaching a consensus on future operations or policies.

The primary platform for political consultation of the Alliance is NAC which is the highest political authority of NATO but it is also worth mentioning that consultation on different technical aspects and levels occur in other NATO committees as well.

III. General Provisions on North Atlantic Council

A. Final Documents of the Council

There are 4 general types of final documents eligible for drafting concerning the council agenda.

A Communiqué is a press release, a Directive is a document that is drafted on matters that concern the Council, an Order is a document that concerns the entire North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and a Decision is a document that is drafted on the matters that do not move the Council to take an action.

Committee Directives of the Council is divided into two.

First one being the NAC Initiating Directive which is given to start formal operations planning. And the second one being the NAC Execution Directive to start the approved operation.

B. Adoption of a Document

As a principal rule, documents require consensus of the council to be adopted. The North Atlantic Council uses silent consensus to adopt a document. A Member should explicitly state its opinion against the document during the discussions to have a right to object to the adoption of the document. The Council will not look favorably on the motion for the closure of the debate until dissenting Members have been convinced. When the debate is closed on a substantive document, the Council Directors will ask if there are any objections to the draft document three times.

If there are no objections, the document is adopted. If an objection is raised, the document fails. If a Member objects without explicitly stating their concerns during Council proceedings, the Committee Staff shall disregard such objection.

IV. Security Based Committee

A security-based committee refers a committee that deals with issues of top urgency and requires The attention of the top authorized organs of the international community. Agenda items of the security-based committees are various however they are more likely to be focusing on territorial disputes and conflicts that requires international attention and aid. Furthermore, in security based committees, there are intelligences that are given by the respective states governments, crisis situations that are needed to be dealt with urgently, and updates regarding the agenda item.

A. Intelligence

Through the committee sessions, participants of the security-based committees may receive intelligence regarding discussions, agenda item at the hand, and crisis situation that is currently happening. Intelligences that are delivered to a delegate during the conference are given by their respective government and/or intelligence agency of the government to the representative of the government in the committee. Intelligences that are distributed by the secretariat to a delegate is only to be used by that respective delegate. In this regard, a representative who received intelligence should not publicly share the received information but to use it for themselves through the committee sessions.

B. Updates Regarding a Situation

Updates are official documents that are distributed to all participants of a committee. Updates are not specifically given for a representative of a county but to the whole committee. Content of the updates are diverse; they can be related to the agenda item, crisis situation, recent activities about the agenda item, or an event that needs the attention of the committee.

C. Crisis Document

Throughout the conference, when an urgent situation needs the attention of the committee, members of the Secretariat give the situation as a crisis situation to the committee. When a crisis situation arises, members of the committee are required to focus and solve the crisis situation immediately rather than trying to conclude the adopted agenda item. When the committee successfully produces a resolution regarding the crisis situation, then the committee may return to its original agenda item that was under discussion. There are differences and similarities

between crisis situations and updates. Both are distributed by the secretariat and both are needed to be taken into consideration, but the main difference is that crisis situations need to be dealt with immediately thus requiring a voting on a final document. On the other hand, an update does not require to be dealt with urgently and thus does not require a voting of a final document of the committee.

D. Press Release

Press releases are statements that are given to press members of the Conference by the representatives of the committee. Press releases are neither binding nor refer to conclusion of the committee. They only represent ideas, perspectives, and policies of member states. Press releases are related to agenda items, crisis situations, events related to the committee, and the committee as a whole.

