



# NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

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## *KLE MUN 5.0: CONCORDIA*

### *NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION (NATO)*

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## **Background Guide**

**This Background Guide serves as a comprehensive guide for the Committee on North Atlantic Treaty Organization within the fifth edition of the KLEMUN (hereinafter referred to as the KLE MUN 5.0). This document has been structured to provide clarity to member states into the operational framework of the organization, historic significance, strategic importance, and provide further insights into the agenda. This document is to be considered as a guiding tool that supports constructive discussions and decision-making processes within the committee during the entirety of KLE MUN 5.0.**

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## **LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB)**

Dear Delegates,

It's a pleasure to welcome you all to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) committee being organized by KLEMUN 5.0. As your Executive Board, I am delighted and honored to guide you all through a promising and intellectually rigorous simulation of international diplomacy at KLE Society's School, Nagarbhavi. As delegates of this committee, you will be provided front row seats to not only view but also involve yourselves in the decision making process that will determine the future course of action in the realm of global affairs and international security.

NATO is the face of transatlantic security and collective defense. It lies in the intersection of strategic cooperation, defense, international law and deterrence. This committee will enable you to think in a progressive manner particularly about hybrid warfare, and global security; and thus, help you devise a plan to combat threats from state and non-state actors without compromising on foreign policies and NATO's principles.

As your Executive Board, I recognize the need and importance of constructive debates. I am hence committed to fostering an environment which recognizes the importance of diplomacy, negotiation, thought and policy-oriented resolutions. I urge all delegates to engage in every discussion respectfully with the ultimate goal being resolution focused, and aligning with the core principles, values and purpose of NATO.

Throughout the duration of KLE MUN 5.0, you will all be expected to demonstrate decorum, diplomacy and a strong commitment to consensus building. I urge you to deeply engage with the background guide and consider the references and readings provided below as a headstart for your research. I am looking forward to fruitful debates fueled by thought provoking dialogue.

Feel free to reach out to me with any queries or if you require assistance in your preparation and research.

*Sincerely*

*Vibha Hareesh*

*Chairperson*

## Strategic Importance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded by 12 Transatlantic countries during the Cold War, when there was a growing influence of the Soviet Union in the world, particularly in the European region. The 12 countries signed a treaty committing to the principle of “Collective Defense”. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formally established on April 4<sup>th</sup> 1949, with the signing of the ‘*North Atlantic Treaty*’, also commonly known as the ‘*Washington Treaty*’. The organization was created to preserve peace and act as a unique forum for dialogue between member states.

NATO is a political and military alliance wherein member states share core values of individual liberty, human rights, democracy and rule of law. It assures security in the Euro-Atlantic region and is committed to preventing conflicts. NATO works with non-member countries called ‘NATO Partners’ and also works closely with international organizations like the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU). NATO is a military alliance between 32 member states and is upheld primarily by its defense clause, which is *Article 5* in the Treaty. *Article 5* partly states that-

*“The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all”*

All NATO decisions are made by consensus, after discussion and consultation among member countries. Consensus is thus of primary importance and a fundamental principle in NATO. Every NATO decision is an expression of “Collective Will” of all 32 member countries of the organization. It is a forum wherein countries come together to discuss traditional and non-traditional security issues and agree on common responses. The principle political decision-making body within NATO is called as the North Atlantic Council (NAC). It is responsible for the political and military process with respect to security issues affecting the Allies of the organization. Decisions are made based on unanimity and common accord. The NAC has effective political authority and powers of decision. It is the only body that was established by the North Atlantic Treaty, under *Article 9*-

*“The Parties hereby establish a council, on which each of them shall be represented, to consider matters concerning the implementation of this Treaty. The council shall be so organized as to be able to meet promptly at any time. The council shall set up such subsidiary bodies as may be necessary; in particular it shall establish immediately a defense committee which shall recommend measures for the implementation of Articles 3 and 5.”*

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a non-member, in early 2022 shook Europe's security architecture and prompted a major re-evaluation of NATO members' foreign policies and defence commitments. NATO has thus focused on deterring Russian aggression in recent years, increasing military and economic support for Ukraine even as some Eastern European members have begun challenging the bloc's position.

Since Trump's return to office in January 2025, the United States has softened its support for Ukraine, temporarily pausing some military aid to the country and often exerting more pressure on Kyiv than Moscow to make concessions to secure a ceasefire. The fracturing of U.S. support for Ukraine also coincides with some divides within NATO about the alliance's own support for the country. Despite NATO leaders' pledges to support a pathway for Ukraine's entrance into the alliance, members like Hungary and Slovakia have both expressed opposition to the idea. These developments also coincide with Trump's mutable support for the tenants of NATO's collective defence.

During the Cold War, NATO focused on collective defence and the protection of its members from potential threats emanating from the Soviet Union. Today, NATO also faces security challenges from the development of new technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cyber Operations, Disinformation Campaigns, migration, threats to energy supplies, erosion of arms control agreements and other non-traditional security challenges along with traditional security threats. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of non-state actors affecting international security, many new security threats have emerged today, such as terrorism and hybrid warfare.

## NATO's Strategic defense coordination in response to Hybrid Warfare threats from Hostile States & Non-State actors

NATO Allies face threats and challenges from both state and non-state actors who use hybrid activities to target political institutions, influence public opinion and undermine the security of NATO citizens. Hybrid methods of warfare – such as propaganda, deception, sabotage and other non-military tactics – have long been used to destabilise adversaries. NATO has a strategy for its role in countering hybrid warfare and stands ready to defend the Alliance and all Allies against any threat, whether conventional or hybrid.

NATO Allies have strengthened their national resilience, including against hybrid threats, and have improved their ability to understand the hybrid threat picture across the Alliance, particularly the sophisticated hybrid strategies used by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China. Since 2016, the Alliance has publicly stated that hybrid actions against one or more Allies could lead to a decision to invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. In July 2018, NATO Leaders agreed to set up counter-hybrid support teams, which provide tailored targeted assistance to Allies upon their request, in preparing against and responding to hybrid activities. In July 2022, NATO Leaders endorsed comprehensive preventive and response options to counter hybrid threats. These can be tailored to address specific situations. NATO's Joint Intelligence and Security Division also has a hybrid analysis branch that helps improve situational awareness.

Hybrid threats combine military and non-military as well as covert and overt means, including disinformation/ information control, cyber attacks, economic pressure, deployment of irregular armed groups and use of regular forces. Hybrid methods are used to blur the lines between war and peace and attempt to sow doubt in the minds of target populations. They aim to destabilise and undermine societies. The speed, scale and intensity of hybrid threats have increased in recent years. Being prepared to prevent, counter and respond to hybrid attacks, whether by state or non-state actors, is a top priority for NATO.

For example, the Russian Federation uses sophisticated hybrid strategies, including political interference, malicious cyber activities, economic pressure and coercion, subversion,

aggression and annexation. Coercive military posture and rhetoric are also used as part of the Russian Federation's hybrid strategies to pursue its political goals and undermine the rules-based international order.

The People's Republic of China's (PRC) malicious hybrid and cyber operations and its confrontational rhetoric and disinformation target Allies and harm Alliance security. For example, the PRC seeks to control key technological and industrial sectors, critical infrastructure, and strategic materials and supply chains. It uses its economic leverage to create strategic dependencies and enhance its influence.

To deter hybrid threats, NATO is resolved to act promptly, whenever and wherever necessary. It continues to increase the readiness and preparedness of its forces and has strengthened its decision-making process and its command structure as part of its deterrence and defence posture. This sends a strong signal that the Alliance is improving both its political and military responsiveness and its ability to deploy appropriate forces to the right place at the right time. If deterrence should fail, NATO stands ready to defend any ally against any threat.

## QARMAs (Questions a Resolution Must answer)

1. What constitutes as hybrid warfare threats in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Landscape?
2. Who are the primary state and non-state actors threatening the security and integrity of NATO with Hybrid warfare techniques?
3. What forms of non-traditional/ hybrid warfare threats are more prevalent?
4. What mechanisms and inter-member coordination currently exists within NATO to combat hybrid warfare threats?
5. How can the NAC improve real time response to hybrid attacks?
6. How can NATO members streamline intelligence sharing to grapple with hybrid warfare threats from state and non-state actors?
7. How can NATO collaborate with NATO partners and International Organisations to effectively address Hybrid Warfare threats from state and non-state actors?
8. How can NATO strengthen its infrastructure to make it resilient from Hybrid attacks?
9. What role can emerging technologies or EDTS (Emerging Disruptive Technology) play in NATO's defence strategy?
10. How should NATO allocate its budget towards countering Hybrid Warfare in particular?
11. What long-term reforms can NATO bring about to stay ahead of evolving security dynamics?

## Conclusion

Dear Delegates,

As I conclude this background guide, I wish you the very best in your preparations and research for KLEMUN 5.0!

This background guide offers very brief insight into the organization's framework and the agenda, but I also encourage all of you to go through the references and further readings provided below to gain a deeper understanding. I also urge all of you to not limit yourselves and explore beyond the material provided within this background guide.

Whilst the Executive Board values true academic integrity, I do not appreciate the usage of AI or any other unethical means in gathering your research material prior or during the conference. Please conduct your research only through authentic sources, the Executive Board at any point can and will request the source of the information being presented within the committee.

The Executive Board also highly values decorum within the committee at all times and observes a zero tolerance towards any form of disrespect towards any individual within the committee.

I look forward to insightful debates and discussions within the committee. Your commitment and preparedness is vital towards making this committee a success, and I look forward to embarking on this diplomatic journey with you all.

Research is of paramount importance for any Model UN, thus a pro tip I would offer would be to never stop reading! Feel free to reach out to me incase you need any help or guidance with respect to your research.

*Warm regards,*

*Vibha Hareesh*

*Chairperson*

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NATO Executive Board

KLE MUN 5.0: CONCORDIA



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