

# CIMUN VI

Chicago International Model United Nations  
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## **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** Background Guide



Dear Delegates,

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the sixth annual Chicago International Model United Nations. If this is your first time as a delegate at CIMUN, you will soon realize that this will be unlike any other conference that you have ever attended. All committees at CIMUN feature a fully-integrated crisis simulation, forcing delegates to think on their feet and work between multiple committees to solve challenging problems in a variety of forums.

From the General Assembly and Security Council to the Cabinets and Regional Bodies, all committees at CIMUN are vital participants in the crisis, and successful delegations will have to work as a team to coordinate their efforts to best promote their national interests, simulating the work of actual diplomats and politicians. As a result, this background guide and the committee topics you have been assigned are intended only as a starting point. It is much more important to be familiar with the “character” and vital interests of your country than to focus on specifics, as you will inevitably be placed in many situations where you will be forced to think outside of the box and make important decisions in real-time. To assist you with this challenge, we encourage you to take full advantage of our extensive Home Government and Simulations staff and the variety of other resources that will be available during the conference.

Additionally, CIMUN employs a much different philosophy than most other high school conferences. Instead of forcing delegates to work towards unrealistic compromises and pass “consensus” resolutions at any cost, we encourage you to faithfully represent your national interests and to always place your country’s strategic motivations, both public and covert, at the forefront, even if it means being confrontational. Our crisis has been specially designed to pit the interests of key players against each other in ways that will involve every country at the conference, and we strongly advise you to always keep your nation’s own interests in mind.

We will continue to post more specifics, updates, and research materials as the date of the conference approaches. Information on Position Papers and other requirements can be found on our website in the “Position Papers” section. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or your committee dais. See you in December!

Sincerely,

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## NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

### **Introduction:**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also known as the North Atlantic Alliance, is a military alliance established by the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949. As an organization with its roots in the Cold War, the primary purpose of NATO is to provide a system of collective defense for its members. Lord Ismay, the alliance's first Secretary-General, famously stated that its goal was "to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down." Since the fall of the Soviet Union, however, the role of NATO has changed dramatically as it has struggled to find relevance in a multipolar world. Over the last decade, the alliance has nearly doubled its membership to include many former Eastern Bloc and Soviet states, encroaching on Moscow's traditional sphere of influence, and has refocused itself on contemporary challenges such as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. NATO has also formed strategic partnerships with many developing nations, especially in Southeast Europe and Central Asia, with the goal of promoting democratic development and cooperation.

With its members accounting for over 70% of the world's total military spending, NATO continues to be the world's preeminent military alliance and has unsurpassed global reach and influence. As a collective defense organization, an attack on one NATO member state is considered by Article 5 of the alliance's founding treaty to be an attack on all 28, and any formal action taken by the alliance must have the unanimous support of all members.

Though the Warsaw Pact, NATO's traditional rival to the East, fell along with the Soviet Union almost two decades ago, the rising influence of Russia, China, and many other growing regional powers threatens the monopoly of power that the alliance once enjoyed during the 1990s. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a strategic political and economic partnership of Asian nations led by China and Russia, is seen by many as "the NATO of the East," and threatens to undermine the alliance's interests and influence in key areas, especially Central Asia. Though still powerful, NATO must take care to enact pragmatic political, economic and diplomatic policies to continue its spread and growth in a changing world.

### **Topic 1: Fostering Democratic Development in Central Asia**

On September 11, 2001 the western world was shaken to its core. Nineteen Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners and intentionally crashed two of them into the twin towers of the World Trade Center and a third airliner into the Pentagon. After the planes crashed and the buildings collapsed, 2,974 victims lost their lives and the 19 hijackers died in the attacks as well. Over the course of several years it has become apparent that 9/11 was just the beginning in a string of terrorist attacks that have devastated various members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and have

contributed to the loss of thousands of innocent lives around the world. A radical Islamic group named Al-Qaeda took responsibility for the attacks, along with many other horrific acts that have taken place over the last eight years. The actions of Al-Qaeda have shown that Central Asia is no longer a place that we can turn a blind eye to.

The apparent lack of democracy in Central Asia allows for certain individuals to hold onto the power and the resources of their respective countries to exploit the majority of their citizens. Citizens in many Central Asian countries live in hostile environments that breed resentment and hatred. Groups such as Al-Qaeda are able to exploit the feelings of the citizens and force-feed them anti-western ideals. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's invasion of Afghanistan and its subsequent ousting of the Al-Qaeda backed feudal lords have shown that Central Asia is becoming a key point for terrorism against the members of this organization. This organization was first created to counter the power of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, but the fall of the Soviet Union has changed the world in which we live. The new threat is people that are bent on the destruction of western ideals. It is crucial that the members of this organization attempt to foster democratic development in Central Asia. Democracy would prove to be an effective counter measure against the spread of malicious ideals and practices in this area of the world. By giving the people of these countries a chance to actively participate in the decisions made by their governments and to settle their differences using the ballot box instead of violence, we can help legitimize these countries and their governments. The members of this organization have proven to the world that democracy can work and we can provide the resources to help democracy flourish in countries spanning from Afghanistan to Uzbekistan. An attack against one NATO member is an attack against our entire organization, and it is in our best interest to stop these threats at their source.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization showed its ability to adapt to new threats by commencing its first mission outside of Europe by taking control over the International Security Force in Afghanistan. After September 11, the United States undertook Operation Enduring Freedom as a means to combat the Taliban in Afghanistan, which had a hand in the terrorist hijackings. The Security Council then created the International Security Force in order to help fight the violence in Kabul, but its geographic range slowly grew. The handover of control of the ISAF to NATO took place on August 11, 2003. The goal of NATO in Afghanistan was to combat the influence of the Taliban who have grown in power and have concrete links to organized terrorism. The Taliban is a Sunni Islamist fundamentalist religious and political movement that controlled Afghanistan from 1996 through 2001. The Taliban did not hold elections, but instead ran the country using fear and violence as a means to procure power. The Taliban was also responsible for the killings of 8000 noncombatants in Mazar-i-sharif over the course of two days in 1998. Through participation in Operation Enduring Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force, NATO was able to remove the Taliban from governance and reduce them to guerrilla fighters.

After the removal of the Taliban this organization was tasked with helping to promote a democracy that had been absent in the society of Afghans for decades. While in Afghanistan, NATO took new types of peacekeeping missions and democratic promotion roles after its military campaign against the Taliban. NATO created "Provisional Reconstruction Teams" (PRTs) across nine Afghan provinces. These teams were created to meet a variety of provincial needs in building support for Afghanistan's fledgling

democracy and its new government. These Provisional Reconstruction Teams, which usually consisted of 40 to 100 troops, helped to expand the political authority of the national government and proved to be effective in providing order. The president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, recognized the limitations of Afghanistan's National Forces after assassination attempt on his life in September of 2002. Throughout the course of this war in Afghanistan, it has been the goal of NATO to remove the Taliban from government and give the country of Afghanistan back to its people, whether that means helping to foster democracy in Afghanistan using Provisional Reconstruction Teams or helping to train the Afghan military to better combat guerilla warfare. The PRT's have proven to be a positive step in the right direction because they have become very successful in fostering reconstruction projects and address the needs of the different provinces. Unfortunately, we have not given the resources necessary to combat the drug trade in Afghanistan, which could prove to be a major hurdle in fostering democracy.

It is evident that NATO is undergoing a profound transformation into an organization whose main missions are collective security and crisis management, and whose main center of activity is located in the Middle East and Central Asia. The South Caucasus and Central Asia form a part of the arc of instability stretching from North Africa to Southeast Asia. Generally, the countries in the South Caucasus and Central Asia are fragile, but have also proven to be important allies in the war in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan provided bases for the overthrow of the Taliban regime. Although there are several countries that are primarily Muslim in Central Asia, anti-western ideals are still kept to a minimum, but that could change. Groups such as Al-Qaeda continue to recruit citizens of these countries that feel that they have no say in their government and are not getting the resources they need for basic standards of living.

As more time elapses the possibilities for democratic change in Central Asia diminish. The International Freedom Network stated that corruption is used to guarantee ongoing political loyalty. Proponents of fair democracies in Central Asia state that their governments are beginning to look more like Soviet style authoritarian governments than democracies. Studies from American based Freedom House have stated that democracy as a whole is on the decline in this region, which is not good for our objectives.

Central Asia has the potential to help this organization. It is important that we still have the option to build bases in this strategic part of the world, and that can be better assured with strong democracies. Also, as an organization concerned with defense, it is important to deal with potential problems now, as opposed to putting them off for the future. As witnessed in Afghanistan, NATO has the resources to help countries establish functional governments, and we must use these resources in Central Asia. We could create teams similar to the PRTs or we could act as unbiased mediators for elections. Central Asia has the potential to produce many problems for members of this organization in the future, but we could partly control the outcome if we emphasize the implantation of real democracy.

## **Topic 2: Coalition Withdrawal and Long Term Stability in Iraq**

In March of 2003, a coalition organized by the United States of America invaded Iraq. The United States claimed that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, but still to this date no such weapons have been found. Although the 2003 invasion of Iraq did not have the full support of all of the NATO members, it received notable backing from the

United Kingdom, Poland, Denmark, and Spain. The battle for Iraqi freedom was won in only twenty one days and the former dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, was captured and tried in December of 2003. Although the United States backed coalition won the battle for Iraqi freedom, they certainly have not won the war for Iraqi stability.

The fight to bring stability to Iraq has lasted over six years and the death tolls for soldiers and non combatants continue to rise. The insurgency in Iraq has proven to be a bigger problem than earlier predicted. Al-Qaeda has taken the opportunity to entrench itself in Iraq and continues to serve as an impediment to peace. Fundamentalist Islamic sects continue to send soldiers to fight the coalition forces and acts of terrorism have become the norm. Although the permanent government of Iraq was elected in October of 2005, there continues to be strife and conflict. There is still enormous tension between the different sects of Islam in Iraq, and sectarian violence has led to claims of ethnic cleansing. Over the course of the war, the United States and other NATO members have taken the opportunity to help train Iraqi soldiers and personnel on ways to properly serve their country. At this point in time, almost all members of the Multi-National Force, a military command led by the United States, have withdrawn from Iraq. The last country to withdraw from this coalition was Australia, leaving the United States as the only foreign military force in Iraq. The questions that this organization needs to answer is whether a complete withdrawal from Iraq actually plausible? Have the Iraqis become too dependent on foreign aid? Will Iraq break into civil strife when the foreign troops leave? The members of NATO have invested time and resources to the dream of Iraqi self sufficiency, but we will see if more actions need to be taken in order to make that dream a reality. If Iraq is left to collapse into further internal strife, something far worse that Saddam may emerge from the vacuum,

Civil conflict between different religious sects in Iraq continues to be an issue. Suicide bombings in mosques and busy streets continue to be daily occurrences. The different ethnic groups are using Iraq as a battle ground, which does not bode well for the future stability of the country. The constitution that was drafted before Iraq was officially handed back to its people in 2005 attempts to acknowledge the different ethnic groups and give them representation in the government, but violence continues to be a large factor in the every day life of an Iraqi citizen. In the past, NATO has tried to provide assistance to Iraq by trying to help it provide for its own security.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization set up the NATO Training Mission-Iraq in 2004 in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1546. The emphasis of this program was on training, mentoring, and equipment coordination. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a whole has not had a direct role in the international stabilization force. It is more concerned with helping to provide the resources that allow the Iraqi people to be able to provide security for their people. NATO provided the Iraqi people with the NATO Training, Education and Doctrine Centre, The National Defense College, The Defense language Institute, and the Iraqi Training and Doctrine Command. Iraqi security personnel also had access to several training schools outside of Iraq as well. By training Iraqi security officials, we believed that we are better helping the people of Iraq because we are providing them with the skills necessary to protect their country after the foreign troops have left. Since 2004, over 10,000 Iraqi security force members have taken courses at the various schools.

It is very important for a country to have the ability to be able to provide security for its citizens, but in order to establish long term stability, the country needs to have positive diplomatic ties with other countries and, it would be in the best interest of Iraq to establish those connections. Using the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, NATO has offered cooperation to Iraq. By establishing strong ties with the Iraq, we provide a support system for it to grow.

Iraq is still plagued with violence. The instability of war has created a niche for fundamentalist groups to fight their proxy wars in the streets of Iraqi cities. Iraq can never have long term stability as long as these groups are allowed to recruit and kill. It would be in Iraq's best interest to tighten its border controls as well, in order to stop the influx of fundamentalist troops into the country.

It is also imperative that Iraq reestablish its economy. After the invasion of Iraq in 2003, the economy was obliterated. The Iraqi economy is mainly based on oil, and it would be very important for Iraq to try to diversify its economy so that it can become a player in the global economy instead of just another rentier state.

Recently, the President of the United States has pledged the removal of all American troops by the end of 2009, which means that it is absolutely imperative that this organization attempt to find a solution to this problem that has plagued Iraq for several years. Iraq has the ability to achieve stability, but it cannot do it alone. The members of this organization must be willingly to provide solutions that will not only address the potential coalition withdrawal, but also long term stability in this highly important strategic country.

### **Topic 3: Piracy in the Indian Ocean**

Piracy is defined as an act of robbery on the high seas. The international trading system is under threat from multiple groups off the coast of Somalia that use anything from grappling hooks to rocket launchers to launch raids on freighters and tankers, usually take the crews hostage and demand millions of dollars in ransom. In the last decade, hundreds of ships have been attacked in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean and hundreds of crew members have been taken hostage. There is a high level of lawlessness off the eastern Somali coastline, which is a direct reflection to the level of chaos in the mainland. The pirates will attack anything from freighters to luxury cruise ships. The pirates made headlines around the world when they hijacked the oil tanker Sirius Star, which was carrying a cargo of two million barrels of oil – worth more than \$100 million dollars. It is evident that these pirates pose a serious threat to the international trading system. Ships that once would have used the Gulf of Aden to transport their goods are now traveling past the Cape of Good Hope. This change in maritime travel is more expensive and the costs of these expenses will undoubtedly be reflected in the costs of the products. Boats from members of NATO have been targeted as well, and the governments of the respective nations have had to pay out millions of dollars in ransoms. It is apparent that these pirates are attacking the members of this organization and it must be dealt with swiftly. It is essential that security be stepped up in the waters of this region so that trade can be restored. Also, legislation must be enacted to address these crimes so that pirates that are caught will suffer the full extent of the law.

Piracy in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden first became a threat to international shipping during Somalia's civil war in the early 1990's. Piracy has led to an increase in the costs of shipping and has affected the delivery of food aid shipments. In

August of 2008, a multinational task force, Combined Task Force 150, attempted to fight the pirates of Somalia. The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on November 20, 2008, which allowed for international land and sea occupations in the pursuit of pirates. As the pirates become more pressed by the added security of international ships, they have started to move farther North.

The average Somali pirate is between twenty and thirty three and come from the region of Puntland, a semi-autonomous region in northeastern Somalia. There are an estimated five pirate gangs with a total of one thousand armed men. The pirates of Somalia are usually ex-fisherman or ex-militia giving them a wealth of knowledge towards maritime operations and weaponry. The pirates mostly get their weapons from Yemen, but a great deal of weapons also comes from the war-torn capital of Mogadishu.

Recently, NATO has tried to help combat piracy by contributing to the international community efforts to counter-piracy off the Horn of Africa. NATO's standing maritime Group 2 is conducting counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. The goal of this group is to help deter and disrupt acts of piracy. NATO has a substantial interest in matters that affect international shipping because a significant amount of its members send and receive shipments via the ocean.

It is extremely important that the issue of Piracy in the Indian Ocean be addressed in depth. A naval presence by international ships may not serve as a deterrent for long. It is crucial that this committee discuss possible solutions to stop piracy at it's root and once again ensure the free movement of goods through this part of the world.

## **Selected Resources:**

Central Asia: What Chance for Democracy? - EurasiaNet

<http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insight/articles/eav121004.shtml>

Central Asia and Caucasus: Dark Days for Democratization - EurasiaNet

<http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insightb/articles/eav070109b.shtml>

Democratic Promotion in Afghanistan: NATO's Role and Record

<http://www.library.eiu.edu/ersvdocs/3876.pdf>

NATO after enlargement: PfP Shifts emphasis to Central Asia and the Caucasus

<http://www.silkroadstudies.org/docs/publications/2004/NIAS2.pdf>

New Trends in Security Cooperation in the Post-Soviet World: A Theoretical Perspective.

[http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p\\_mla\\_apa\\_research\\_citation/1/7/8/5/5/p178553\\_index.html](http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p_mla_apa_research_citation/1/7/8/5/5/p178553_index.html)

NATO Press Release(2008)153

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2008/p08-153e.html>

NATO's Role in Afghanistan

[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_8189.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_8189.htm)

The White House Blog: Afghanistan and NATO  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/09/04/04/Afghanistan-and-NATO/>

NATO's Assistance to Iraq  
<http://www.nato.int/issues/iraq-assistance/index.html>

NATO Press Release(2008)153  
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2008/p08-153e.html>

Speech by NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer in Israel (24 February 2005)  
<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2005/s050224a.htm>

Tackling Iraq: Questions and Implications for the Alliance  
<http://www.nato-pa.int/Default.asp?SHORTCUT=359>

Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation  
<http://www.armscontrolcenter.org>

Piracy in the Indian Ocean  
<http://www.neurope.eu/articles/90627.php>

BBC News: NATO to Target Somalia's Pirates  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7661927.stm>

NATO News: NATO's Standing Maritime Group Takes Over Counter Piracy Mission  
[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news\\_56035.htm?selectedLocale=en](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_56035.htm?selectedLocale=en)