



THESSISMUN 2008

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Guide for Communiqué Writing for the North Atlantic Council of NATO



UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA
THESSALONIKI, GREECE

WWW.UOM.GR/MUN - WWW.THESSISMUN.ORG



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 whatsoever level N.A.C. assembles.

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 26 representatives. The Secretary General is the highest International Political Personnel of the Alliance and presides over the Secretariat of the Alliance. The Governments of the Member States appoint the Secretary General.

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 26 (twenty six) **Permanent Representatives** of the N.A.C. are the following:



Belgium Son Excellence Monsieur Dominique Struye de Swielande, **Bulgaria** His Excellency Mr. Lubomir Ivanov, **Canada** His Excellency Mr. Jean- Pierre Juneau, **Czech Republic** His Excellency Mr. Stefan Fule, **Denmark** His Excellency Mr. Per Poulsen Hansen, **Estonia** His Excellency Mr. Harri Tido, **France** Son Excellence Monsieur Richard Duque, **Germany** His Excellency Dr. Rudiger Reyels, **Greece** His Excellency Mr. Yannis- Alexis Zepos, **Hungary** His Excellency Mr. Zoltan Martinusz, **Iceland** His Excellency Mr Gunnar Gunnarsson, **Italy** His Excellency, **Latvia** His Excellency Mr. Alivis Ronis, **Lithuania** His Excellency Mr. Linas Linkevicius, **Luxemburg** Son Excellence Monsieur Alponse Berns, **Netherlands (the)** His Excellency Mr. Herman Schaper, **Norway** His Excellency Mr. Kai Eide , **Polland** His Excellency Mr. Jerzy M. Noowak, **Portugal** His Excellency Mr. Jose Pacheco Luiz Gomes, **Romania** His Excellency Mr. Bodgan Mazuru, **Slovakia** His Excellency Mr. Igor Slobodnik, **Slovenia** His Excellency Mr. Pablo Benavides Orgaz, **Turkey** His Excellency Mr Umit Pamir, **United Kingdom** His Excellency Sir Peter Ricketts, **United States of America (the)** Her Excellency Ms. Nuland .¹

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 Organisation'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

¹ You can find further information on each member state's representative in the NAC meetings, at www.nato.int/issues/nac/index.html



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 under Unanimity and Common Accord.**

The NAC Simulation in ThessISMUN 2008

As soon as you receive your country assignment, you should begin your research. You may divide your research into four categories:

- 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. 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**.

Here are some common Internet resources to help you get started:

- NATO Website 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
- The Central Intelligence Agency website, contains reports on economic, political and social conditions of most of the countries in the world, www.cia.gov
- The International Crisis Group website www.icg.org

Finally, if you have tried these different resources and still face difficulties finding information, send an email to the **ThessISMUN Board**.

Furthermore it is of critical importance to:

- 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
- 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, 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.
- Congratulate the members of your delegation (and fellow delegates representing different countries and viewpoints) on their contributions to the council sessions.

Communiqué Writing and Submission

Communiqués are official documents that have been passed by the NATO aiming to address a particular problem or issue. Communiqués are actions of the NAC submitted in draft form under the sponsorship of the delegations working in a council. Primarily, communiqués address an opinion to a given situation and recommended action to be taken by the NATO. NATO Communiqués are binding for the NATO member states.

Draft communiqués are communiqués as they are drafted and passed in Council Sessions that are taking place during the ThessIS MUN Conference. 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. The draft communiqué should be clear and concise. Consequently, the better the substance of a draft communiqué 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 in accordance with the provided format.



A regular NATO communiqué has the following pattern:

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-2005/ 1, which indicates the first Draft Communiqué submitted in NAC, on topic Area A, on the 8th of December 2005.

Sample of a Draft Communiqué

Draft Communiqué

Ministerial of the North Atlantic Council

held at NATO Headquarters,

Thessaloniki, April 26th 2006

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 council for discussion, draft communiqués may be modified through changes known as amendments, suggested by the delegates of the council, 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 vote 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.