

North Atlantic Treaty Organization



NATO

President: Regina Núñez Sesma

Moderator: Amaia Regina Mondragón Plata

Conference Officer: Monserrat Rincón Gutiérrez

Dear Delegates,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Committee at MUNMX 2026.

Participating in a Model United Nations conference is an opportunity to develop your diplomatic, leadership, negotiation, and public-speaking skills. Throughout this experience, you will be encouraged to defend your country's interests while listening to different perspectives and working toward collective solutions.

NATO is a committee where cooperation and dialogue are essential. We invite you to participate actively, prepare thoroughly, and approach every debate with respect, confidence, and an open mind. Remember that diplomacy is not only about defending a position, but also about finding common ground and creating agreements that benefit the entire international community.

As your Chair, we are committed to creating a respectful, dynamic, and enriching environment in which every delegate feels comfortable contributing to the discussion. Do not be afraid to speak, ask questions, negotiate, or challenge yourself. Every intervention is an opportunity to learn and grow.

We sincerely hope that this committee becomes a memorable experience for all of you. We look forward to meeting you and witnessing the creativity, dedication, and leadership that you will bring to MUNMX 2026.

Sincerely,

President: Regina Núñez Sesma

Moderator: Amaia Regina Mondragón Plata

Conference Officer: Monserrat Rincón Gutierrez

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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental political and military alliance created on April 4, 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, also known as the Washington Treaty. Its headquarters are located in Brussels, Belgium, and it currently consists of 32 member countries from Europe and North America.

NATO's main purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military cooperation. Politically, the organisation provides a forum where Allies can consult one another, discuss security concerns, and coordinate their national positions. Militarily, NATO develops shared defence plans, organises exercises, promotes cooperation among armed forces, and helps members ensure that their equipment and forces can operate together effectively.

The principle of collective defence is established in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. It states that an armed attack against one member is considered an attack against all. However, each Ally determines the actions it considers necessary in response. Article 4 also allows any member to request consultations when it believes that its territorial integrity, political independence, or security is threatened.

According to NATO's 2022 Strategic Concept, the Alliance has three principal tasks: deterrence and defence, crisis prevention and management, and cooperative security. NATO also addresses emerging challenges such as cyberattacks, terrorism, climate change, threats to critical infrastructure, technological competition, and instability in strategically important regions.

The North Atlantic Council is NATO's principal political decision-making body. Every member country is represented, regardless of its population, military power, or economic size. NATO does not make decisions through majority voting; official decisions are reached by consensus after consultation and negotiation. Therefore, every agreement represents the collective will of all member countries.

During this simulation, delegates must accurately represent the interests, policies, capabilities, and limitations of their assigned countries. They must also recognise that NATO depends on cooperation and unity among its members. Successful delegates will need to negotiate, form agreements, and develop realistic proposals that protect both national interests and the collective security of the Alliance.

Topic A: Reduction of the environmental impact caused by armed forces, which generate a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions due to military infrastructure and vehicles.

Armed forces are essential for protecting national territory, maintaining international security, and responding to crises. However, military readiness requires extensive infrastructure, transportation, equipment, and energy consumption. Military bases, aircraft, ships, armoured

vehicles, and logistical fleets depend heavily on fossil fuels, generating significant greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to climate change.

Military infrastructure is one of the principal sources of this environmental impact. Bases require electricity for communication systems, heating, cooling, lighting, surveillance, maintenance, and the operation of specialised equipment. Construction projects, military exercises, transportation networks, and supply chains also consume energy and produce waste. Military vehicles create additional emissions because they must operate under demanding conditions and often require fuels with a high energy density.

The environmental consequences of armed forces are not limited to emissions. Military activities may also produce air, soil, and water pollution, damage ecosystems, generate hazardous waste, and increase noise pollution. Nevertheless, estimating the complete environmental footprint of the military remains difficult. NATO members use different methods to calculate emissions, and governments may restrict access to information concerning fuel consumption and military operations for national-security reasons.

Climate change also creates direct risks for NATO. Extreme heat can affect military personnel, reduce aircraft performance, and damage sensitive equipment. Floods, storms, wildfires, rising sea levels, and thawing permafrost can threaten military installations and transportation routes. Climate change can also increase resource scarcity, displacement, political instability, and competition between countries. Therefore, reducing military emissions is not only an environmental objective but also part of preparing NATO for future security challenges.

In 2021, NATO adopted its Climate Change and Security Action Plan. The plan focuses on increasing awareness, adapting military capabilities, contributing to climate-change mitigation, and strengthening cooperation. In 2022, NATO agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by the organisation itself by at least 45% by 2030 and to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. NATO has also developed a methodology to help measure emissions from military activities and installations.

However, these commitments do not automatically establish identical obligations for the national armed forces of every NATO member. Defence and energy policies remain largely under national authority, and Allies possess different economic resources, technologies, military responsibilities, and defence industries. Some members may be able to modernise their infrastructure rapidly, while others may require additional time, financing, or technological support.

Another challenge is ensuring that environmental measures do not weaken operational readiness, deterrence, or interoperability. Sustainable technologies must remain reliable in combat conditions and cannot create new vulnerabilities. For example, electric vehicles may be useful for administrative activities, but their current range and charging requirements may limit their use in certain military operations. Similarly, alternative aviation and maritime fuels must be available in sufficient quantities and meet strict safety standards.

Possible solutions include installing renewable-energy systems and microgrids at military bases, improving the efficiency of buildings, developing sustainable fuels, modernising vehicle fleets, reducing waste during exercises, and incorporating environmental requirements into military procurement. Joint research programmes and cooperation with universities and private industry could also accelerate the development of secure low-carbon technologies.

Delegates must create a realistic strategy that reduces the environmental impact of military infrastructure and vehicles while protecting NATO's fundamental security responsibilities. Their proposals should include measurable objectives, methods for monitoring progress, and assistance for members with fewer financial or technological resources.

Key Questions

1. How can NATO reduce military emissions without compromising operational readiness and collective defence?
2. Which forms of military infrastructure and transportation should be prioritised?
3. Should NATO establish common emission-measurement and reduction standards for all members?
4. How can NATO assist countries that lack the necessary financial resources or technology?
5. What mechanisms should be created to monitor progress while protecting classified military information?

Topic B: Solution to the inability of some member countries to contribute the agreed percentage of their GDP to military armament for the organization.

NATO's collective-defence system depends on every member contributing sufficient financial and military resources. Each Ally is responsible for developing the forces and capabilities required to defend its own territory and support the Alliance. However, NATO members have different economic conditions, populations, defence industries, geographic positions, and national priorities. These differences have created a continuing debate about how responsibilities should be distributed fairly.

It is important to distinguish national defence expenditure from direct funding of NATO. The agreed percentage of GDP mainly refers to the resources that each government invests in its own armed forces, personnel, equipment, operations, infrastructure, and defence capabilities. It is not simply a payment transferred to NATO. Direct funding of NATO's common budgets, command structures, and shared programmes is calculated separately through an agreed cost-sharing formula.

At the 2014 Wales Summit, NATO members agreed to move toward spending at least 2% of their GDP on defence. The objective was to reverse reductions in military budgets and ensure that the Alliance possessed sufficient forces and equipment. NATO also encouraged members to dedicate at least 20% of their defence expenditure to major equipment, including research and development. Although all Allies reported meeting or exceeding the previous 2% target in 2025, the changing international security environment led NATO to adopt a more ambitious commitment.

At the 2025 Hague Summit, NATO members committed to investing 5% of their GDP annually in defence and security-related areas by 2035. At least 3.5% must be allocated to core defence requirements and NATO Capability Targets. Up to an additional 1.5% may be directed toward critical infrastructure, cybersecurity, civil preparedness, resilience, innovation, and the defence industrial base. Members must present annual plans demonstrating a credible and gradual path toward the objective, and NATO will review the plan in 2029.

Meeting this commitment may be considerably more difficult for certain members. Countries experiencing high public debt, limited economic growth, political instability, or competing social priorities may struggle to increase their military budgets. Smaller countries may also have restricted defence industries and limited capacity to transform additional funds into useful equipment. Rapid spending increases can become inefficient if governments purchase unnecessary systems or pay higher prices because production cannot respond quickly enough.

The percentage of GDP does not always reflect every form of contribution. Some members host strategic military bases, provide troops for NATO missions, protect important borders, or contribute specialised capabilities. Nevertheless, allowing too many exceptions could weaken the credibility of the commitment and create tensions with members that dedicate a larger proportion of their resources to collective defence.

Possible solutions include gradual national investment plans, joint military purchases, shared infrastructure, regional specialisation, multinational defence projects, and technological cooperation. Joint procurement could reduce costs, prevent duplication, and improve interoperability. NATO could also create advisory or assistance mechanisms for countries facing genuine economic and industrial limitations.

Delegates must determine how NATO can support members that cannot immediately meet the agreed percentage without creating permanent exemptions or weakening collective security. The final proposal should balance economic sustainability, national sovereignty,

accountability, and fairness. Since NATO decisions are reached through consensus, the solution must be acceptable to all members and demonstrate that every Ally is making a credible contribution.

Key Questions

1. Why are some NATO members unable to meet the agreed percentage of GDP?
2. Should economic capacity and national circumstances influence each member's obligations?
3. What assistance should NATO provide to members facing genuine financial or industrial limitations?
4. Could joint procurement, shared infrastructure, and multinational projects reduce costs?
5. How can NATO maintain accountability and fair burden-sharing while respecting national sovereignty?

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Chair contact: a01773127@tec.mx / 722 790 4952

Regina Núñez Sesma