

# RENMUN VI

*Finding Solace in Solidarity*



March 6 – 7, 2021

**CHAIR REPORT**

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

## Chair Introduction

Greetings delegates,

It's truly a pleasure to welcome you all to NATO at RENMUN VI! We are Sam Hui, from Island School, and Sakshi Gupta, from Kiangsu Chekiang College International Section, and we are honoured to chair such a unique committee at RENMUN VI this year. We look forward to witnessing an engaging and immersive debate, as well as the shaping of valuable memories and long-term friendships. We aim to foster a dynamic atmosphere for debate, and hope you all gain something meaningful from this conference. We wish you all the best with your preparation and we'll see you soon!

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 European and North American countries. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949. It was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.

Since NATO is an intermediate committee, there is an expectation that delegates would live up to a slightly higher standard and that they will come fully prepared. We also hope that you will actively participate in the immersive environment while supporting each other. We are looking forward to two days of what we are sure will be a controversial and thoughtful debate, with a collaborative open-minded environment where delegates are free to engage in purposeful discussion to reach a consensus, as that is the only way a 'NATO Decision' is made. Please make sure to read the chair reports, but these documents should not be the only sources to consult with; we request each delegate to complete additional research when preparing the materials. That said, the chairs hope that all the delegates thoroughly enjoy themselves during the conference. If you have any enquiries on any of the topics above - please feel free to email us anytime!

Best wishes,

Head Chair Sam Hui ([tszhin.hui@online.island.edu.hk](mailto:tszhin.hui@online.island.edu.hk)) and  
Deputy Chair Sakshi Gupta ([gupta2004sakshi@gmail.com](mailto:gupta2004sakshi@gmail.com))

## **The Issues of Counterterrorism and Cybersecurity in the Modern Era**

NATO, composed of 30 member states, is an international political and military alliance, created to counter the Soviet Union's aggression during the Cold War. The primary purpose of the organization in modern times is to bolster defence and strengthen ties against adversaries, in the spirit of collective defence and international peacekeeping.

NATO has been combatting terrorism threats since its establishment in 1999, when the Alliance's 1999 Strategic Concept identified terrorism as one of the risks affecting NATO's security. After the 9-11 attacks, NATO Allies and partner countries, in a meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, condemned the attacks, offering their support to the United States and pledging to "undertake all efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism". Later that day, the Allies decide to invoke Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, the Alliance's collective defence clause for the first time in NATO's history, if it is determined that the attack had been directed from abroad against the United States. NATO has continued to counter terrorism ever since, with multiple counter-terrorism operation, training and practice to reduce the possibility and threats of terrorism.

Terrorism in all its forms poses a direct threat to the security of the citizens of NATO countries, and to international stability and prosperity. It is a persistent global threat that knows no border, nationality or religion and is a challenge that the international community must tackle together. NATO will continue to fight this threat in all its forms and manifestations with determination and in full solidarity. NATO's work on counter-terrorism focuses on improving awareness of the threat, developing capabilities to prepare and respond, and enhancing engagement with partner countries and other international actors.



**OPPOSITE:** NATO's actions in countering terrorism and threats to security

NATO has closely monitored and evaluated the threat of terrorism, most notably how it's NATO's Counter-Terrorism Policy Guidelines focus Alliance efforts on three main areas: awareness, capabilities and engagement. For this, a comprehensive action plan has been implemented to enhance NATO's role in the international community's fight against terrorism. NATO has a Terrorism Intelligence Cell at NATO Headquarters and a Coordinator in charge of this, as well as a regional hub for the South, based at NATO's Joint Force Command in Naples to help the Alliance anticipate and respond to crises arising in its southern neighbourhood.

In July 2016, Allies reaffirmed NATO's defensive mandate and recognised cyberspace as a domain of operations in which NATO must defend itself as effectively as it does in the air, on land and at sea. NATO's efforts can also be observed in specific case studies, especially how it is a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and supports it through AWACS intelligence flights. NATO also has developed new capabilities and technologies to tackle the terrorist threat and to manage the consequences of a terrorist attack and has cooperated with partners and international organisations to leverage the full potential of each stakeholder engaged in the global counter-terrorism effort. The Allies are committed to enhancing information-sharing and mutual assistance in preventing, mitigating and recovering from cyber attacks.

## Key Terms

Term	Definition
Counter-terrorism	Incorporating the practice, military tactics, techniques, and

	strategy that government, military, law enforcement, business, and intelligence agencies use to combat or prevent terrorism.
Cold War	A period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and the United States and their respective allies, the Eastern Bloc and the Western Bloc, after World War II.
AWACS (Airborne Early Warning and Control System)	An airborne radar picket system designed to detect aircraft, ships and vehicles at long ranges and perform command and control of the battlespace in an air engagement by directing fighter and attack aircraft strikes.

## Background Information

International terrorism has expanded considerably over the past years, remaining a serious threat to global peace and security. Evolving since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, terrorism has often dominated news headlines with their shocking methods of violence and intimidation. With this in mind, many global organisations have been committed to remaining agile in its approach to the threat of terrorism. Both international domestic terrorism remains a persistent threat overall, with actors crossing the line when committing crimes in furtherance of violent agendas.

Lone offenders are a prominent source of terrorists. These are individuals who radicalize online and mobilize to violence quickly. Rather than working with a large group of conspiracies, they work on their own, making them challenging for international organisations to identify, investigate, and disrupt, as they do not have a clear group affiliation or guidance. Another common source of terrorism is

The internet and social media also contribute to the threat of terrorism. International and domestic violent extremists have developed an extensive presence on the Internet through messaging platforms and online images, videos, and publications. These facilitate the groups' ability to radicalize and recruit individuals who are receptive to extremist messaging. Social media has also allowed both international and domestic terrorists to gain unprecedented, virtual access to people in an effort to enable homeland attacks. The Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), in particular, encourages sympathizers to carry out

simple attacks wherever they are located or to travel to ISIS-held territory in Iraq and Syria and join its ranks as foreign fighters. Therefore, ensuring cybersecurity has a direct link with counter terrorism.



**OPPOSITE:** *On 11th September, 2001, two planes crashed into the North and South towers, respectively, of the World Trade Center complex in Lower Manhattan. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center can be seen burning*

## Potential Clashes

### Cybersecurity & Personal Freedom

This conference will focus on the question: Will enforcing cybersecurity restrict personal freedom? Delegates are encouraged to research their country's stance on this and present their arguments during the session. There will be further in-depth analysis and evaluation of key issues and delegates are encouraged to express their country's stances clearly and confidently.

### The Degree of Military Action

Another potential clash would be finding a balance of what military action is required in response to terrorism. Delegates are also encouraged to develop a further understanding of this, presenting their country's stance in the session. There will be further in-depth analysis and evaluation of key issues and delegates are encouraged to express their country's stances clearly and confidently.

## Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Involvement with the Issue
Ukraine	Some believe Ukraine is a key victim of terrorism, threats of terrorism and/or foreign intervention - Russia annexed the Ukrainian territory of Crimea in 2014. Soon after that, the flight MH17

	was shot down above Ukraine.
Russia	On 1 April 2014, Allied foreign ministers condemned Russia's illegal military intervention in Ukraine and Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ministers underlined that NATO does not recognise Russia's illegal and illegitimate attempt to annex Crimea. As a result, ministers decided to suspend all practical civilian and military cooperation between NATO and Russia, including in the area of counter-terrorism, which had been among the main drivers behind the creation of the NATO-Russia Council in May 2002. This decision was reconfirmed by Allied leaders at the Wales Summit in September 2014 and to date, practical cooperation with Russia remains suspended.

## Possible Solutions

### Engaging & Combating the Issue

The Allies have strengthened its outreach and cooperation with partner countries and international actors in their effort to counter terrorism.

Their work can be split into three main sections, as seen below:

1. **Work with Partners** – Partnership mechanisms in NATO enable dialogue and practical cooperation, placing emphasis on shared awareness, capacity building, civil emergency planning and crisis management to enable partners can identify and protect vulnerabilities, preparing to fight terrorism more effectively. As counter-terrorism is one of the five priorities of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, NATO strives to enhance cooperation and dialogue between stakeholders through workshops, training courses and multi-year research and development projects. Throughout the years, a variety of programs have been put in place to fight terrorism, including an integrated system of sensors and data fusion technologies which are capable to detect explosives and concealed weapons in real time to secure mass transport infrastructures. A live demonstration for this is anticipated in 2021.

2. **Work with International Actors** – Using the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, NATO works with a range of international organisations, such as the UN, the EU, and the OSCE to ensure that views and information are shared and that appropriate action can be taken effectively. NATO works closely with the UN agencies that play a leading role in responding to international disasters and in consequence management, including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the UN 1540 Committee. Also, NATO maintains close relations with the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department's Action against Terrorism Unit, creating secure open borders through specialised training of officers and agencies. To prevent incidents like the 9/11 terrorist attacks from occurring again, NATO contributed to improved civil-military coordination of air traffic control.
3. **Education** – NATO offers a range of training and education opportunities. Drawing on a wide network, they run more than 20 fully accredited COEs, of which several have a link to the fight against terrorism. The Centre of Excellence for Defence Against Terrorism (COE-DAT) in Ankara, Turkey serves both as a location for meetings and as a catalyst for international dialogue and discussion on terrorism and counter-terrorism. The COE-DAT reaches out to over 50 countries and 40 organisations.

## Past Actions

### Intelligence Sharing & Developing Awareness

NATO has supported national authorities in tackling terrorism. This is through its Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP) – a threat-sharing defense initiative functioning under the aegis of NATO and co-financed by the European Union. MISP seeks to enhance cooperation in fighting cyber threats by speeding up the detection of such incidents and devising defense countermeasures.

Through consultations, enhanced intelligence-sharing, and continuous strategic analysis and assessment, NATO ensures that the threat of terrorism is highlighted and shared with relevant government organisations.



NATO is an alliance that relies on intelligence reporting to develop awareness. Sources of their intelligence include the Allies' intelligence services, both internal and external, civilian and military. Through continued reforms of intelligence structure since 2010, the way NATO handles sensitive information has gradually evolved. Since 2017, the Joint Intelligence and Security Division at NATO benefits from increased sharing of intelligence between member services and the Alliance, and produces strategic analytical reports relating to terrorism and its links with other transnational threats.

NATO has been sharing intelligence with partner countries through the Intelligence Liaison Unit at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, and an intelligence liaison cell at Allied Command Operations (ACO) in Mons, Belgium. Through analysing and interpreting foreign threats caused by instability in the region to the south of the Alliance, NATO constantly adapts its plans and evaluates how best to combat them through the 'Hub for the South' based at NATO's Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy, where information on potential threats is collected and assessed. This information is then disseminated among partner nations and organisations.

Other counter-terrorism measures are also implemented, including experts from a range of backgrounds, who brief Allies on their expertise of counter-terrorism, as well as discussions with international organisations, including the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). These measures enhance Allies' knowledge of international counter-terrorism efforts worldwide and help NATO refine the contribution that it makes to the global approach.

### **Preventing, Protecting Against and Responding to Terrorist Threats**

NATO has been gaining increasing capability to counter terrorism. Conducting work with its Defence Against Terrorism Programme of Work (DAT POW), NATO has prioritised developing its capability and innovative technologies to address asymmetric threats including terrorism and the use of non-conventional weapons. These programs have been put into place as part of NATO's counterterrorism and cybersecurity operations to ensure that threats are eliminated as quickly as possible. With this programme, troops, civilians and critical infrastructure are protected against attacks perpetrated by terrorists who

use means such as suicide attacks, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), rocket attacks against aircraft and helicopters and attacks using chemical, biological or radiological material.

NATO has put several programs and plans in place to combat terrorism.

1. **Defence Against Terrorism Programme of Work** - Primarily focusing on mitigating the effects of terrorism through technological solutions, it has since widened its scope to support comprehensive capability development. Projects under the programme focus on finding solutions that respond to the military needs of the Alliance through exercises, trials, and development of prototypes and concepts. Since 2004, it has gradually developed new or adapted strategies to detect, disrupt and defeat asymmetric threats under three capability umbrellas - incident management, force protection/survivability, and network engagement.
2. **Countering Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Threats** - Identifying how terrorists attain weapons for mass destruction are a priority to the Alliance. Therefore, NATO prevents these weapons from proliferation to state and non-state actors who might develop chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats that might threaten the region's security. NATO's Combined Joint CBRN Task Force is designed to respond to and manage the consequences of the use of CBRN agents.
3. **Countering Terrorist Misuse of Technology** - In February 2019, defence ministers agreed to a practical framework to counter unmanned aerial systems, such as drones in particular, which have been identified as a threat and are open to manipulation from terrorists in their operations. A programme of work will be implemented over the next two years, helping to coordinate approaches and identify additional steps to address this threat.
4. **Protection of Civilians and Critical Infrastructure** - NATO has assisted nations by providing non-binding advice and minimum standards and has acted as a forum to exchange best practices and lessons learned to make sure countries are well-prepared and resilient against threats. NATO guidance can also advise national authorities on warning the general

public and alerting emergency responders – this is done from the advice of an extensive network of civil experts, from government and industry, to help respond to requests for assistance.

### **Counter-Terrorism Operations**

Since 2017, NATO has been a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. As a member of the Coalition, NATO has a leading position in the fight against international terrorism. Through undertaking various procedures, such as intelligence-sharing, its work with partners, and long-standing operational engagement in Afghanistan and other regions, NATO has consistently been engaging with stakeholders and actors to ensure that its actions are effective.

In NATO's 2016 Summit in Warsaw, Allied leaders agreed to provide direct support to the Coalition through the provision of new surveillance aircrafts. The first patrols operated from Konya Airfield in Turkey in October 2016.

Since then, NATO has been taking consistent action to tackle terrorism. A training and capacity-building activity was launched to train, advise and assist Iraqi forces both in Iraq and Jordan – this information-sharing activity was a part of the Allies' Action Plan in December 2018. Also, in the summer of 2018, Allies agreed to a new biometric data policy, consistent with applicable national and international law and subject to national requirements and restrictions. This supported NATO operations, and is particularly relevant to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

Following the United Nations Security Council Resolution, which "urges Member States to expeditiously exchange information ... concerning the identity of Foreign Terrorist Fighters", NATO works to maintain its military capacity for crisis management and humanitarian assistance operations. Through action, NATO has derived that the best practices are, therefore, incorporated into education, training and exercises.

From 2003 to 2015, a NATO-led operation in Afghanistan – the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) – has helped the government expand its authority and implement security to prevent the country once again becoming a safe haven for international terrorism. This has yet another example of NATO's

accomplishments in counter-terrorism, and is only one of the many of its successes.

## Guiding Questions

- Is cybersecurity a threat to world peace?
- Acknowledging that enforcing cybersecurity measures might lead to a trade off for personal freedom, how willing are nations to take action?
- What comprehensive solutions are there to the problem?
- How can national and local authorities ensure rule of law at the national and local levels is respected and applied equitably and consistently to all people residing in its territory, in line with national and international legal obligations?

## Bibliography

- [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_77646.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_77646.htm)
- <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>
- <https://civil.ge/archives/341128>

## Further Reading

Delegates are encouraged to read the following articles to enhance their understanding on the topic. Please note that the views and opinions expressed by the articles are those of the authors' and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the chairs or RENMUN VI. Any content provided by the authors are of their opinion and are not intended to malign any individual or group.

- [NATO Counter-terrorism Operations with Partners](#)
- [NATO and the the War on Terrorism: A Changing Alliance](#)
- [NATO: Cyber Defense](#)
- [10 Things You Need to Know about NATO](#)
- [The War on Terrorism would not be possible without NATO – Opinion Article](#)
- [What is NATO?](#)
- [NATO – Purpose, History & Members](#)