

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization
President's Letter
St. Bonaventure University High School MUN
March 2019**

Introduction

Hello delegates and welcome to the 2019 St. Bonaventure University High School Conference! My name is Grace Ferris and I will be your chair for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) this year. I am a Political Science and International Studies double major here at St. Bonaventure University as well as a minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies. I expect each of you to have a well-rounded understanding of your country's policies and stances concerning the topics listed, as well as any additional information that would help you be successful. My chairing style is fairly lenient, however, each of you should have a solid understanding of the rules of procedure. Most importantly, you should come well prepared on the topics. Having participated in NATO before, I also highly recommend that you learn the basic function of the organization, its history and its current status. This session will be what you make of it, so as long as you do your research and come prepared, you will do great!

Most importantly, in order to have the best experience possible for every participant I insist that each delegate act with the utmost respect for fellow delegates. I understand that many of you are passionate and that debate can get a bit heated and while this is the fun of Model UN, it is important that we treat one another with respect throughout the conference. Good luck with your preparation and I can't wait to have a great conference in March!

The Topics

Counterterrorism

The global war on terror launched in 2001 signified a change in American and global priorities that forced counterterrorism to the forefront of NATO's agenda. In fact, post 9/11 was the only time NATO has invoked the collective defense clause in the organization's history, by calling all member states to aid the United States. Today's fight against terrorism take many different shapes all over the world. NATO employs a three-pronged approach to tackling this difficult issue: awareness, capabilities, and engagement. As a military alliance, NATO has had difficulty tackling an enemy that has no central authority. As such they had to employ alternative methods in their fight

against terrorism. The Alliance depends on partner states and organizations for information sharing and solution creating. The Alliance also has established a number of departments, committees, and task forces to deal with the question of terrorism. This

With the birth of the information age, a new form of war has emerged in cyberspace. In the last few years, cyber-attacks have become more common, complex, and damaging. NATO has affirmed that international law applies to cyberspace and has made cyber defense part of its task of collective defense. The top priority is the protection of the communications systems owned and operated by the Alliance. As the world continues to transition into the future, NATO must remain vigilant against the growing number of cyber-attacks that threaten the stability of the world.

Stronger cyber defense is critical to many other issues facing NATO such as energy security, terrorist attacks on infrastructure, and responding to the increase in the use of cyber warfare by non-member states and outside threats. Cyber science is one of the fastest growing disciplines in the world and it is difficult to keep up with the fast pace change. As such, it is one of the hardest tasks to tackle for NATO.

Research Questions:

Has your state been targeted by cyber-attacks to make cyber defense a priority?

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4. A nation may record a Formal Reservation if a particular part of a proposal is partially unacceptable to that nation. This reservation is raised at the time of voting and will be formally recorded on the proposal in question.