

**Committee Overview***Purpose:*

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance of 28 countries from Europe and North America based on the North Atlantic Treaty signed on April 4, 1949. The main tenet of the treaty stems from Article V which stipulates “that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all,” and as such they have the responsibility to respond individual or collectively in self-defense. NATO promotes the peaceful resolution of disputes to protect the principles of freedom and security in the Euro-Atlantic region, and provided a forum where the member countries “can consult together on security issues of common concern and take joint action in addressing them.”<sup>1</sup>

*Members and Voting:*

The following 28 countries are members of NATA: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. NATO has a civil and a military structure. The North Atlantic Council (NAC) is the supreme political decision-making body and the Military Council (MC) makes all key military decisions. There is no formal vote in the NAC, and a principle of consensus where it assumed that all members agree unless explicitly expressing opposition is often used.

*Power:*

NATO has armed forces which it can use to enact policy decisions.

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1 [www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)