



## Model United Nations

**Committee: DISEC**

**Topic: Increase of NATO's Budget**

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## **An Introduction to the Committee**

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is one of the United Nations six General Assembly committees. The United Nations defines the role of DISEC as, “The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.” (<https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>)

## **History of NATO**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. Since then, NATO has continued to strive to maintain peace in Europe by assisting in the defence of its members territory and engage where possible and when necessary, prevent and manage major crises, stabilize post-conflict situations and support reconstruction.

## **NATO Funding Protocols**

In order to continue to maintain peace, NATO needs direct and indirect funding from its member countries. Direct contributions are made in order to finance requirements of the Alliance that serve the interests of all members. An example of this is the type of funding of NATO wide air-defence or command and control systems. Direct contributions come in two main forms: common funding and joint funding. When a need for an expenditure is identified, the countries that are a part of the Resource Policy and Planning Board decide if the expenditure benefits the interests of all member countries and should be financed by common-funding. Common funding arrangements are typically made for the NATO civil and military budgets and the NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP). All member countries contribute according to an agreed cost-share formula, based on Gross National Income, which represents a small percentage of each member’s defence budget. The other funding option is joint funding. With this method, participating countries can identify the requirements, the priorities and the funding arrangements, and NATO provides oversight and gives the last word of approval. Joint funding arrangements typically lead to the setting-up of a management organisation within a NATO agency. Jointly funded programmes vary in the number of participating countries, cost-share arrangements and management structures.

Indirect contributions are the largest form of contributions, and occur for individual member country volunteers, for instance, troops and supplies for a military operation bears of the cost doing so. In 2006, NATO Defence Ministers agreed to commit a minimum 2% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to spending on defence. This guideline principally serves as an

indicator of a country's political will to contribute to the Alliance's common defence efforts. Some Allies may need to spend more than this to develop the capabilities that the Alliance asks of them. Additionally, the defence capacity of each member country has an important impact on the overall perception of the Alliance's credibility as a politico-military organisation. While the 2% of GDP guideline alone is no guarantee that money will be spent in the most effective and efficient way to acquire and deploy modern capabilities, it remains, nonetheless, an important indicator of the political resolve of individual Allies to devote to defence a relatively small, but still significant, level of resources at a time of considerable international uncertainty and economic adversity.

### **Current Issues**

At a meeting of the North Atlantic Council on Tuesday (18 December 2018), Allies agreed a civil budget of €250.5 million and a military budget of €1.395 billion for 2019. The 2019 civil budget was 1.9% above the 2018 level. Its main focuses were funding to implement the functional review of NATO Headquarters. "This includes measures to strengthen NATO's intelligence capabilities; anticipate and plan for cyber and hybrid challenges; improve the way the Alliance handles data as a strategic asset; increase defence cooperation with partners; and strengthen focus on the Women, Peace and Security agenda. To implement these measures, NATO will create thirty new posts in 2019."

"In 2019, €273.2 million of the military budget will go toward funding NATO's missions and operations, including the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan; the KFOR peace support operation in Kosovo; and NATO's new training mission in Iraq, launched at the Brussels Summit in July 2018. Separately, NATO's AWACS surveillance aircraft – whose missions include flights over eastern Europe and support for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS – will receive €262 million in operations and support funding."

In July 2018, for example, Trump tweeted, "Presidents have been trying unsuccessfully for years to get Germany and other rich NATO Nations to pay more toward their protection from Russia. They pay only a fraction of their cost. The U.S. pays tens of Billions of Dollars too much to subsidize Europe, and loses Big on Trade!" Trump added that, "All NATO Nations must meet their 2% commitment, and that must ultimately go to 4%!" (Business Insider)

### **Guiding Questions**

- What is your country's stance on NATO's budget?
- Has your country been active in NATO within the past five years?
- How much does your country contribute financially to NATO?
- How important is NATO membership for your country? How has it helped/hurt your country?
- In which situations has NATO intervention been successful/unsuccessful in the past?
- What is the right way to go about increasing NATO's budget?
- Which method of funding is best for your country?

## **Bibliography**

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