



KFLMUN'26

*Organised by Kocaeli Science High
School*

NATO

Study Guide

Chair: Toprak Umut Usanmaz

Co-Chair: Nil Deniz Hazar

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I.Introduction

Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Participants, welcome to KFLMUN'26!

It is our pleasure to welcome you all to our conference. No matter your role in this conference, as the executive team, we wish you an amazing experience in our conference. As much as we hope to have a great time socializing, we also look forward to finding great solutions regarding the news that we all see everyday.

As we all know, the future does not look pleasant for our world. Even though we say the world wars are behind us, we still are struggling to find peace in the globe that we live in and it is sad to say that we are on the luckier side at the moment. That is why we want to raise awareness about these ongoing wars. We also hope to protect the people and also us, because who knows what's next?

In this conference, our goal is to turn our words and thoughts to actions for those who are less fortunate and for those that sacrifice their lives to help others. We will work as a team to support our friends, brothers and sisters who are in need of hope and help.

The international security environment is evolving rapidly. Regions such as the Middle East and Africa continue to face instability, conflict, and emerging security threats that extend far beyond regional borders. These challenges demand coordinated responses, strategic partnerships, and adaptive security frameworks.

Equally important is the issue of securing global supply chains and strategic resources. In an increasingly interconnected world, disruptions in energy routes, critical minerals, technological substructures, and maritime supply lines can have consequences for both economic stability and international security. It is our goal to determine the fate of borders, to solve global issues about border problems that affect most countries worldwide and much more, which will be available further into the study guide.

We expect productive ideas from you, our fellow delegates, on both issues.

While we prepare for KFLMUN'26 as the executive team, your chairboard will give the information as the time ticks. And if you have any further questions, feel free to check our contact page or e-mail me through ecrenakbas@gmail.com. Feel free to ask anything that is on your mind, we are here for you!

Letter from the Chairboard

Dear Participants, welcome to KFLMUN'26!

As the chairboard, it is our pleasure to welcome you to our conference. Whether you are joining us as a delegate, an admin, or part of the executive team, we are excited to have you here and look forward to a fun, educational, and memorable experience together.

Today's world is facing many challenges. Conflicts in regions like the Middle East and Africa continue to affect global peace and security. At the same time, issues like supply chains and access to important resources are becoming more significant for all countries.

During this conference, we expect you to share your ideas, listen to others, and work together to find solutions. Remember to stay respectful, think critically, participate actively in debates, and don't forget that every opinion is valuable so it is important for you to express them even if you think it's not. We are here to help you, so don't be shy if you have any questions, feel free to contact us anytime.

We look forward to seeing your contributions at KFLMUN'26.

Best regards,
Chairboard of KFLMUN'26

Contact for our Chair: tuusanmaz@gmail.com

Contact for our Co-Chair: mildenzhazar@gmail.com

II. COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance established in 1949 with the primary objective of creating a collective defense organization and maintaining international security. Founded after World War II, NATO operates on the principle of collective defense, as outlined in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which states that an attack against one member would be considered an attack against all.

Over time, NATO's mandate has slowly evolved beyond traditional territorial defense to include crisis management, cooperative security, counterterrorism, and the protection of critical infrastructure. In the contemporary geopolitical landscape, NATO plays a significant role in addressing emerging security challenges that extend beyond its immediate geographic boundaries, particularly in regions such as the Middle East and Africa.

III. KEYWORDS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Collective Defense: Collective defense is a security arrangement where multiple states or entities agree to work together, pledging that an armed attack against one member is considered an attack against all.

Escalation: An increase in the intensity, seriousness, or scale of a conflict or crisis. An expansion.

Interstate Conflict: A war or confrontation between two or more sovereign states characterized by sustained combat, diplomatic tensions, or economic warfare.

Multi-front Warfare: A military strategy where conflicts take place simultaneously in multiple separated geographic areas or battle zones.

Retaliation: The act of harming or taking revenge against someone in response to a harmful action, injury, or offense. Often described as "paying back in kind".

Critical Infrastructure: Essential systems and facilities such as energy, transportation, and communication networks that are vital for a country's functioning.

Maritime Routes: The pathways over water that facilitate trade and transportation between different regions and cultures for transporting goods and people, forming the backbone of global trade

Chokepoint: A narrow, strategic passage (such as the Strait of Hormuz) that is critical for the flow of resources and trade. A choke point acts as a defensive force to block a much larger opposing force by restricting their ability to advance or maneuver.

Supply Chain: The entire network of organizations, people, activities, information, and resources involved in moving goods from raw materials to final products.

Energy Security: The reliable availability of energy resources at stable and affordable prices. It ensures a consistent, reliable supply of electricity, fuels, and raw materials needed for economic stability, social development, and national defense.

Sovereignty: The absolute, and independent authority of a state to govern itself, make laws, and control its territory without external interference.

Multilateral Cooperation: The collaboration between three or more nations or organizations to address shared challenges, create global standards, and achieve common goals.

Counterterrorism: Counterterrorism (CT) refers to the strategies, techniques, and actions taken by governments, militaries, and law enforcement to prevent, detect, and respond to terrorist acts.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental political and military alliance of countries from Europe and North America, committed to collective defense and the protection of its member states against external threats.

ISIS : The ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) is a transnational extremist group originating in Iraq and Syria, known for using terrorism, insurgency, and territorial expansion to establish an Islamic caliphate.

United States (U.S.): A global superpower and NATO member state.

United Arab Emirates (UAE): A Gulf country involved in regional security and economic networks.

IV. AGENDA ITEM I: RESPONDING TO SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

A. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The Middle East and Africa remain some of the most important yet unstable regions in the world. Ongoing conflicts, weak governments, and the presence of terrorist and extremist groups continue to create insecurity. These regional challenges also affect NATO members directly, including through terrorism, irregular migration, disruption of global trade, and higher energy and food prices.

In recent months, tensions in the Middle East have escalated into a broader conflict involving **Israel and Iran**. This has led to increased military activity in the region, including strikes, missile and drone exchanges, and disruptions to key shipping routes such as the **Strait of Hormuz** which is a very critical passage for global oil and gas supplies. Interruptions in this route have caused spikes in energy prices and wider economic impacts, including in parts of Africa that depend on imports for fuel and fertilizers.

The effects of these conflicts go beyond the immediate battlefields. They strain global supply chains, complicate humanitarian aid delivery, and can increase instability in countries already facing internal challenges. As a result, NATO has expanded its cooperative security efforts in these regions, not by intervening unilaterally, but by working with partner countries to promote stability, support resilient institutions, and address shared threats, while always respecting state sovereignty and international law.

B. Historical Background

Since the early 21st century, NATO has expanded its operational scope to address security concerns originating outside its traditional area of responsibility. Following the events of September 11, 2001, NATO intensified its focus on counterterrorism and crisis management.

1. The Arab Spring and NATO Intervention in Libya (2011)

The Arab Spring marked a major turning point in regional stability, leading to widespread protests, regime changes, and internal conflicts across the Middle East and North Africa.

In 2011, NATO conducted a military intervention in Libya under United Nations Security Council mandates. The operation aimed to protect civilians during the Libyan civil war. While initially successful in achieving its immediate objectives, the intervention contributed to long-term instability, state fragmentation, and the proliferation of armed groups.

Libya remains a key example of the challenges associated with external military intervention and post-conflict stabilization.

2. Rise and Decline of ISIS (2014–2019)

The emergence of ISIS in Iraq and Syria represented one of the most significant security threats of the modern era. The group established territorial control, conducted international terrorist attacks, and destabilized the region. In response, NATO member states supported the Global Coalition against ISIS through air operations, intelligence sharing, and training missions.

Although ISIS lost its territorial “caliphate” by 2019, it continues to operate as an insurgent and terrorist network, demonstrating the persistent nature of extremist threats.

3. Migration Crisis and European Security (2015–Present)

Conflicts in Syria, Libya, and other regions contributed to a large-scale migration crisis, with millions of refugees attempting to reach Europe. This created political, economic, and security challenges for NATO member states.

[NATO increased its presence in the Mediterranean Sea, conducting surveillance and supporting efforts to manage migration flows and combat human trafficking networks.](#)

5. NATO Strategic Concept and Emerging Threats (2022–Present)

The adoption of NATO’s 2022 Strategic Concept marked a significant shift in the alliance’s priorities. It identified terrorism, instability in neighboring regions, and strategic competition as key threats.

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine War has further emphasized the importance of security interdependence. While geographically centered in Eastern Europe, the conflict has had global consequences, including disruptions to energy supplies, food security, and trade routes affecting the Middle East and Africa.

C. RECENT CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST (2026)

1. Overview

The Middle East entered a period of unprecedented escalation in early 2026, characterized by direct interstate conflict, multi-front warfare, and the involvement of both regional and global powers. The most significant development is the ongoing war between Israel and Iran, which has rapidly expanded beyond bilateral confrontation into a broader regional conflict affecting multiple states across the Middle East.

This escalation has redefined the regional security landscape, transforming long-standing proxy conflicts into direct military engagements with global implications.

- Outbreak of War

On 28 February 2026, Israel (reportedly in coordination with the United States, a NATO state) launched large-scale strikes on Iranian military, nuclear, and political targets under a coordinated operation. This marked the beginning of a full-scale war between the two states, representing one of the most significant interstate conflicts in the region in decades.

The strikes targeted multiple cities, including Tehran, and aimed to degrade Iran's military infrastructure and leadership capabilities.

-Iranian Retaliation and Regional Expansion

In response, Iran launched widespread missile and drone attacks targeting Israeli territory, U.S. military bases, and allied states across the Gulf region. These retaliatory strikes marked a shift toward large-scale, coordinated regional warfare.

Iran's strategy has included:

- Direct missile strikes on Israeli cities
- Attacks on U.S. and allied military installations
- Targeting critical infrastructure and maritime routes

This escalation has significantly increased the risk of a prolonged regional conflict.

Iranian Response and Multi-Front Escalation

In response to Israeli strikes, Iran launched large scale missile and drone attacks targeting Israel, U.S. military bases, and allied states across the Gulf. These actions caused a shift toward coordinated regional warfare and increased the risk of bigger conflict.

The situation has evolved into a multi-front war, involving both state and non-state actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon. Fighting has intensified in Lebanon, where Israeli military operations have caused significant casualties, displacement, and infrastructure damage.

The conflict has also spread to Gulf countries like United Arab Emirates, with attacks on infrastructure and rising regional instability. Additional impacts include evacuations of U.S. diplomatic missions and strikes on military bases.

Furthermore, the conflict has expanded beyond primary battle zones to countries such as Jordan and Azerbaijan, demonstrating its growing geographic scope and complexity.

Relevance to NATO (Analytical Perspective)

These recent conflicts are highly relevant to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for several reasons:

1. Expansion of Security Threats

The conflict demonstrates the shift from localized instability to large-scale regional warfare with global consequences.

2. Energy and Supply Chain Security

Disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz directly affect NATO member states by threatening energy supplies and global trade routes.

3. Risk of Wider International Involvement

The involvement of multiple actors increases the risk of escalation into a broader international conflict.

4. Need for Coordinated Response

The situation highlights the importance of:

- Collective security mechanisms
- Crisis management strategies
- Multilateral diplomatic engagement

D. Challenges and Limitations

Despite its efforts, NATO faces several constraints:

- The need to respect the sovereignty of non-member states
- Diverse political priorities among member states
- The risk of long term military engagement
- Limited jurisdiction and dependence on international cooperation

E. Possible Solutions

Potential approaches to addressing these challenges include:

- Expanding training and advisory missions
- Enhancing intelligence-sharing mechanisms
- Strengthening partnerships with regional organizations
- Supporting political stabilization and governance reforms
- Promoting long-term counterterrorism strategies

V. AGENDA ITEM II: SECURING SUPPLY CHAINS AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

A. Introduction to the Agenda Item

Global supply chains and strategic resources are essential for both the economy and the security of NATO countries. The Alliance depends on steady access to important goods, energy, technology, and military equipment to stay ready for crises.

Recent events, like the COVID-19 pandemic, regional conflicts, and global tensions, have shown that supply chains are fragile. Disruptions in energy, rare materials, semiconductors, or military equipment can slow NATO operations, delay defense programs, and weaken the Alliance's ability to respond quickly to threats.

For NATO, securing these supply chains is about collective defense. If one country faces shortages, it can affect the whole Alliance's readiness. Reliable supply lines are needed for joint missions, military exercises, and rapid response forces.

To improve resilience, NATO is working on diversifying sources, building stockpiles of critical materials, strengthening local production, and improving cooperation between member countries. By protecting supply chains and resources, NATO ensures it can stay strong, ready, and able to face current and future threats.

B. Key Challenges and Threats

NATO faces several challenges when it comes to securing supply chains and strategic resources:

1. **Dependence on Single Sources:** Many NATO member states rely heavily on external actors, including China and Russia, for critical resources.
2. **Global Crises and Conflicts:** Events like pandemics, regional wars, or rising tensions between major powers can interrupt supply chains, delaying the delivery of equipment, technology, and energy.
3. **Energy Security:** Interruptions in oil, gas, or electricity supply can affect both civilian infrastructure and military readiness. Energy shortages can also increase economic pressure on NATO countries, limiting defense budgets and operational capabilities.
4. **Strategic Competition:** Rival states may compete for control of critical resources or technology, creating global bottlenecks that affect NATO's ability to maintain technological and military superiority therefore leaving strategic chokepoints, including major maritime routes, susceptible to blockage or conflict.

To address these challenges, NATO focuses on strengthening resilience, diversifying supply sources, improving stockpiles of critical materials, and enhancing coordination among member states. This ensures the Alliance can continue to operate effectively, even during crises.

C. NATO's Role and Strategic Importance

NATO contributes to securing supply chains through:

- Protection of maritime routes
- Cyber defense cooperation
- Intelligence sharing
- Safeguarding critical infrastructure

D. Challenges and Limitations

- High financial costs associated with diversification
- Political disagreements among member states
- Dependence on non-NATO partners
- Balancing economic efficiency with security concerns

VI. Questions to be Addressed

1. To what extent should NATO increase its direct involvement in Middle Eastern and African conflicts, considering the risks of escalation and the principle of state sovereignty?
2. How can NATO balance counterterrorism efforts with the need to avoid long-term military entanglement and unintended regional instability?
3. In light of the recent escalation between Israel and Iran, should NATO prioritize military deterrence or diplomatic engagement as its primary strategy?
4. How can NATO effectively support stability and governance in fragile states without repeating past challenges seen in interventions such as Libya?
5. How can NATO reduce its dependence on external actors like China and Russia for critical resources without causing major economic disruptions?
6. To what extent should NATO prioritize domestic production over global trade efficiency to ensure supply chain security?
7. How can NATO better protect critical maritime chokepoints, such as the Strait of Hormuz, from disruption during conflicts?
8. Should NATO establish a unified alliance-wide system for stockpiling and distributing strategic resources, and what challenges might this create among member states?

VII. Sources and Further Reading

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