

ODM MUN 2019
STUDY GUIDE

North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Agenda : Discussing the proliferation of Hypersonic Missiles

Dear Delegates,

We the Executive Board members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization welcome you to this conference and this committee. We intend to provide you the best experience and encourage you to bring out your best self, as a diplomat and as a competitor. For a better understanding of your agenda, we thereby attach this study guide. Please note that through this study guide, we just intend to give you a better knowledge and understanding of the agenda. The scope of your research should not be limited to this study guide. This guide is just a referral document for your better understanding. During the course of the conference, this document is non-existent. We hope that the contents of this guide will help you to understand the basic concept of the agenda at hand. We would recommend you to read widely and extensively and be aware of your foreign and domestic policies. We wish you all the best and request you not to hesitate to contact us if you have doubts.

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About the Committee:

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. NATO

was the first peacetime military alliance the United States entered into outside of the Western Hemisphere.

In 1947–1948, a series of events caused the nations of Western Europe to become concerned about their physical and political security and the United States to become more closely involved with European affairs. The Western European countries were willing to consider a collective security solution. Hence, representatives of several countries of Western Europe gathered together to create a military alliance. Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg signed the Brussels Treaty in March, 1948. Their treaty provided collective defense; if any one of these nations was attacked, the others were bound to help defend it. At the same time, the Truman Administration, under the U.S. President Harry S. Truman, instituted a peacetime draft, increased military spending, and called upon the historically isolationist Republican Congress to consider a military alliance with Europe. In May of 1948, Republican Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg proposed a resolution suggesting that the President seek a security treaty with Western Europe that would adhere to the United Nations charter but exist outside of the Security Council where the Soviet Union held veto power. The Vandenberg Resolution passed, and negotiations began for the North Atlantic Treaty.

The negotiations about the terms of the treaty started taking, the result of which was the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949. In this agreement, the United States, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom agreed to consider attack against one is an attack against all, along with consultations about threats and defense matters. In 1952, the members agreed to admit Greece and Turkey to NATO and added the Federal Republic of Germany in 1955. West German entry led the Soviet Union to retaliate with its own regional alliance, which took the form of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and included the Soviet satellite states of Eastern Europe as members.

The collective defense arrangements in NATO served to place the whole of Western Europe under the American “nuclear umbrella.”

About the Agenda:

What is a Hypersonic Missile?

A hypersonic missile travels at speeds of Mach 5 and higher - five times faster than the speed of sound (3836 mph), which is around 1 mile per second. They come in two variants :

1. Hypersonic cruise missiles : This type of missile reaches its target with the help of a high-speed jet engine that allows it to travel at extreme speeds, in excess of Mach-5. It is non-ballistic - the opposite of traditional Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) which utilises gravitational forces to reach its target.
2. Hypersonic glide vehicles : This type of hypersonic missile utilises re-entry vehicles. Rather than leaving the payload at the mercy of gravitational forces – as is the case for traditional ICBMs – the warheads are attached to a glide vehicle which re-enters the atmosphere, and through its aerodynamic shape it can ride the shockwaves generated by its own lift as it breaches the speed of sound, giving it enough speed to overcome existing missile defence systems.

Impact of Hypersonic missiles -

Hypersonic missiles offer a number of advantages over subsonic and supersonic weapons, particularly with regard to the prosecution of time-critical targets (for example, mobile ballistic missile launchers), where the additional speed of a hypersonic weapon is valuable.

In addition, it can also overcome the defences of heavily-defended targets (such as an aircraft carrier).

However, the development and deployment of hypersonic weapon systems will provide states with significantly enhanced strike capabilities and potentially, the means to coerce. This will be the case where a major regional power may seek to coerce a neighbour, leveraging the threat of hypersonic strikes against critical targets. As such, the proliferation of hypersonic capabilities to regional states could also be destabilising, upsetting local balances of power. However, it could also strengthen deterrence.

Present Geo-political World Scenario :

Now that you are aware of the basic concepts relative to the said agenda, let's look at what the nations are doing.

The US is developing a range of advanced hypersonic systems and has recently awarded Lockheed Martin contracts for the development of two systems: the Hypersonic Conventional Strike Weapon

and AGM-183A Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon. However, US has not focused to the same extent as Russia and China on the operational deployment of hypersonic capabilities.

Moscow and Beijing both seek to counter US missile defence systems and are developing respective anti-access/area denial capabilities. The US, in contrast, has not prioritised hypersonic systems to the same extent as Russia and China, and is pursuing arguably more advanced systems capable of long-range conventional precision strike, as opposed to nuclear-armed weapons where accuracy is not so important. That said, the US can be accused of relying too heavily on its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier groups to project power. Russia and China will have the capability to hit carrier groups with hypersonic missiles before they can get in operational range to launch airstrikes, as the upcoming F-35 stealth fighter jets have a combat radius of 450-600 miles, meanwhile hypersonic missiles potentially have a range in excess of 1,200 miles.

Since 2011, the Royal Navy and the French Navy have also been co-developing a hypersonic missile designed to replace the ageing Harpoon and Exocet, respectively.

Missile Technology Control Regime :

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) is an informal political understanding among states that seek to limit the proliferation of missiles and missile technology. The regime was formed in 1987 by the G-7 industrialized countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the United States). Currently, there are 35 members.

The MTCR Guidelines are the common export control policy adhered to by the MTCR Partners, and to which all countries are encouraged to adhere unilaterally. The MTCR Annex is the Regime's list of controlled items including virtually all key equipment, materials, software, and technology needed for missile development, production, and operation – that are controlled by MTCR Partners and adherents. Applying the MTCR Guidelines and Annex on a national basis helps countries to meet their export control obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

Further links for references only :

1. <https://missiledefenseadvocacy.org/missile-threat-and-proliferation/missile-basics/hypersonic-missiles/>
2. <http://www.brahmos.com/content.php?id=10&sid=9>

3. <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/pick-your-weapon-new-us-navy-aircraft-carrier-or-2000-hypersonic-missiles-88541>
4. <https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/supersonic-and-hypersonic-weapons-market>
5. <https://science.howstuffworks.com/hypersonic-missiles.htm>

Good luck to all the delegates. Happy researching!