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Preparation Paper

External Discussion Forum 1

**“NATO'S New Strategic Concept: NATO as a Forum
for Consultation on Worldwide Security Issues”**

Welcome to the EDF1,

Honorable Delegates, our team of the 16th Vienna International Model United Nations (VIMUN) 2010 welcomes you to the External Discussion Forum 1 (EDF1) on the topic of "NATO's New Strategic Concept: NATO as a Forum for Consultation on Worldwide Security Issues." In order to face the new challenges of the 21st century such as Terrorism, Proliferation, Cyber Security or even Climate Change NATO has to reform the three fundamental elements of its modus operandi:

"NATO has to reform [...] the way we do our traditional business, the way we address new threats and last but definitely not least, our structure and organization." (Rasmussen)

Therefore NATO is working on a new Strategic Concept, to be drafted for submission to the NATO heads of government at the November 2010 summit in Lisbon.

Before continuing with the topic the Board would like to address some words to all Delegates:

Chairperson - Anja Schirmer

Dear Delegates, dear Observers, I would like to briefly introduce myself and my intention to chair this special committee: I am from Heidelberg, Germany currently studying political science at the University of Vienna. Because of my father, who was working for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation I have been growing up in constant touch with politics and international security and therefore I am highly interested in everything concerning NATO or Security issues. Next to studies I am also dedicated to one of Austria's student parliamentary parties. In my spare time I like to draw, sing and to travel the world.

I wish you all a good time while preparing for and attending the VIMUN 2010.

What is The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an alliance of 28 countries from North America and Europe committed to fulfilling the goals of the North Atlantic Treaty signed on 4 April 1949. In accordance with the Treaty, the fundamental role of NATO is to safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by political and military means. NATO safeguards the Allies' common values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and the peaceful resolution of disputes and promotes these values throughout the Euro-Atlantic area.

The Alliance has worked since its inception for the establishment of a lasting peaceful order in Europe based on common values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. This central Alliance objective has taken on renewed significance since the end of the Cold War because, for the first time in the Post-war history of Europe, the prospect of its achievement has become a reality.

NATO provides a forum in which the United States, Canada and European countries can consult together in security issues of common concerns and take joint action in addressing them.

The Organisation is committed to defending its member states against aggression or the threat of aggression or to the principle that an attack against one is an attack against all.

Also dialogue and partnership with non-NATO countries are helping to overcome the division of the Cold-War era and to extend security and stability well beyond NATO borders.

Why does NATO need a new Strategic Concept?

In their final report <http://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/expertsreport.pdf> 17 May 2010, the Group of experts stated:

NATO needs a new Strategic Concept, because the world has changed significantly since 1999, when the current concept was adopted. Most dramatically, the 9/11 and subsequent attacks demonstrated the deadly connection between technology and terror, triggering a response that has drawn NATO troops far from home, illuminated the need for timely intelligence-sharing, and complicated planning for defence.

Further the global nuclear non-proliferation regime is under increasing stress;

Incidents of instability along Europe's periphery have received historic tensions;

Innovative modes of gathering, sending and storing information have brought with them new vulnerabilities; the security implications of piracy, energy supply risks and environmental neglect have become more evident; and a worldwide economic crisis has spawned widespread budgetary concerns. Meanwhile, the Alliance has grown to twenty-eight, enlarging both NATO's capabilities and its commitments. Clearly, the time is right to take a fresh look at the Alliance's missions, procedures and planes.

The process leading to the new Strategic Concept will be an inclusive one. All Allies, from the largest to the smallest, will be actively consulted and involved. Moreover, the process should engage partners in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, as well as partners cross the globe. The process should also be transparent and engage other key international actors such as the EU and the UN as well as NGOs and all those in the strategic community who believe they have something useful to contribute and expertise to offer. Finally, an interactive dialogue with the broader public is encouraged via a special web module run by NATO's Public Diplomacy Division.

Source: <http://www.nato.int>

What to expect

Since the Group of Experts, chaired by Madeleine K. Albright submitted their final report on 17 May 2010, the groundwork for a New Strategic Concept for NATO is done.

We, the Board of the External Discussion Forum One, now would like to see how these recommendations and analysis will be transformed into a Strategic Concept by our delegates and observers. Which points would your country like to further elaborate or to focus on? Or do you have new ideas to bring to the discussion?

The Committee will focus on following topics:

Core Tasks:

What are NATO's core tasks and how do you fulfill them?

Partnerships:

Partnership for Peace (PfP) and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)

Partnership with the EU

Partnership with the UN

Partnership with Russia, ...

Political and Organisational Issues:

Guidelines for missions outside Alliance Borders

Decision-making procedures, ...

Alliance Forces and Capabilities:

Reforms and efficiencies

Strengthening NATO's role in fighting terrorism, ...

It is highly recommended to read the Group of Experts final report!!!!

<http://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/expertsreport.pdf>

Sources and Links for further Research:

1. Obligatory reading for all participants of the EDF

General Information:

The Strategic Concept

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_56626.htm

NATO- UN Relations (1990s)

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50321.htm

EAPC (Euro- Atlantic Partnership Council) (1997)

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49276.htm

Strasbourg/ Kehl Declaration (2009)

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_52837.htm?mode=pressrelease

Official NATO Documents:

The North Atlantic Treaty, April 4, 1949:

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm

The Harmel Report (1967):

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_26700.htm

NATO's post cold war strategic concept (1991), available at:

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-D1BBF4B6-E3310EB3/natolive/official_texts_23847.htm

NATO's current strategic concept (1999), available at:

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-D1BBF4B6-E3310EB3/natolive/official_texts_27433.htm

NATO- Russia Relations:

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_25468.htm

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_19572.htm

PFP- Framework Document (1994):

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_24469.htm

2. Further Information

NATO's strategic documents from 1949 to 1969, available at:
<http://www.nato.int/archives/strategy.htm>

Chart of the evolution of NATO strategy from 1949- 1999, available at:
http://www.nato.int/nato_static/assets/pdf/pdf_2009_07/20090728_strategic_concept.pdf

further Information to The Harmel Report:
<http://www.nato.int/archives/harmel/harmel.htm>

NATO Partnerships:
<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/51288.htm>

NRC- NATO- Russia Council:
<http://www.nato-russia-council.info/htm/EN/Chronology.shtml>

OSCE- Istanbul Summit (1999):
http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/1999/11/4050_en.pdf

Video Material on NATO:
<http://www.natochannel.tv/default.aspx?aid=3985>

2010 Munich Security Conference (in German and English):
<http://www.securityconference.de>

The Guardian (UK) on the topic NATO:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/nato>

The New York Times (US):
http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/organizations/n/north_atlantic_treaty_organization/index.html

Kaplan, Lawrence S.: NATO Divided, NATO United: The Evolution of an Alliance. Westport, Conn.: Praeger Paperback, 2004