International Disaster Relief

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1 PREFACE

This background report is supposed to introduce you, the reader to the topic of International Disaster Relief. It is not to be considered an exhaustive or comprehensive work on this topic but rather a summary of the most essential information. You are highly recommended not to stop your research by reading this document (more on that in the last chapter of this background), especially for the purposes of writing a high-quality position paper. Seeing that this might seem like an overwhelming task at first, the questions included in the penultimate chapter of this background are designed to help the reader to get a better grasp on the fundamentals and also to show what to concentrate on. In case of any questions or remarks concerning this document, please contact the author at katerina.novakova@amo.cz

2 INTRODUCTION

The key purpose of NATO is to provide security of all kinds in many different ways. Due to climate change, states are aware that there is an increased risk of natural disasters and it is with utmost importance to prepare for any and all large scale disasters which may require them to request international assistance.1 The use of NATO in disaster and emergency situations may seem less important than in military situations; however, this kind of help is essential. The reason why these disasters are such a threat to our society is rather simple, as they grow significantly more dangerous and most importantly, unpredictable. Although during the last decade, the number of floods and major forest fires has decreased slightly with improvements in flood control and forestry management, other natural disasters, such as earthquakes, flash floods, major storms, etc. show no sign of declining.2 Further, the crisis related to the spread of diseases is still relevant as we can currently see. The demand for medical aid is growing rapidly. Resilience demands better cooperation and civil preparedness. We must be ready to resist and recover from these shocks.

This report will distinguish different types of disasters, further, it will outline the NATO framework of disaster response and explain the system of providing assistance. It will also summarize the cooperation of NATO with other organizations regarding this topic and draw attention to future steps of development.

2.1 Types of disaster

First of all, we have to define what a disaster is and what types we recognize.

"A disaster is a calamitous event occurring over a short or long period of time that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community or society and causes human, material, and economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's or society's ability to cope using its own resources."56

Natural phenomenon enters the International Disaster Database (EM-DAT) as a disaster when at least 10 people were reported killed or 100 people were affected. The event

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has to be named in order to be identifiable. Moreover each of them gets its unique code - The GLobal IDEntifier number (GLIDE). The GLIDE number links and connects records in diverse disaster databa-

ses and disaster exchange information websites ³ In addition to the loss of lives and injuries, each accident has an economic impact, such as infrastructural damage, crops, housing, unemployment loss of revenues, or market destabilization.

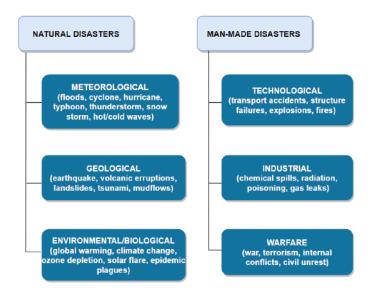


Figure 1: Types of disasters⁵⁵

2. 1. 1 Natural disasters

Natural disasters occur slightly more often than man-made disasters. The ratio ranges from 58 to 60 percent of natural to 40 to 42 percent of man-made disasters. Furthermore, the loss of life during natural disasters is significantly higher. Globally, natural catastrophes resulted in a loss of more than 8000 lifes in 2017 alone, while man-made disasters brought roughly 3000 deaths over the same time period.⁴

We can divide natural disasters into 3 main groups – meteorological, geological and environmental. The most frequent type of natural calamities are floods whereas earthquakes tend to be the most lethal During the past 10 years, 80-90% of all documented natural hazard disasters have resulted from floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, heatwaves and severe storms.⁵ Earthquakes caused more than half of all deaths connected to natural disasters.⁶

2. 1. 2 Man-made disasters

Man-made disasters have an element of human intent, negligence or error involving a failure of a man-made system, as opposed to natural disasters resulting from natural hazards? Man made disasters can be divided into 3 main categories - technological, industrial and warfare.⁸

A special type of a man-made disaster is CBRN e.g. disasters caused by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials that could harm the society through an accidental or deliberate release, dissemination or impact. Their effects are not limited only to the duration of the incident, but a large part of the effects follow the incident itself-contamination of air, people, surfaces, objects and buildings. These effects can prolong the danger of an attack from hours to days or even years. The possible impact is expected to be considerably larger than that of a conventional weapons attack, and the size of the crisis itself has a potential to put a number of most basic societal functions to a test.

2.2 NATO disaster relief framework

One of NATO's vital objectives is to do as much as it is possible in order to prepare for when disasters happen so they can act quickly and efficiently to save lives.¹¹ The NATO Civil Emergency Planning has its origins in the 1950's when newly founded NATO started to transform from a mere defence treaty to a more structured defence organization with elaborated systems and procedures enabling it to conduct concerted defence planning among NATO members in order to deter the Soviet threat. During the Cold War part of the NATO capabilities were used for civil defence and also included civil assets (railways, ports, etc.) ¹²

Roots of an establishment of a special brand dates back to 1953 when the North floods caused great damage and loss of lives in the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom. For NATO, this catastrophe was an eye-opener: it helped them realise that what was used for protecting citizens from the effects of war could be also used to fight the effects of disasters.¹³ From that time onwards, NATO developed various programmes and centres that operate in this sphere. Read the following ones that are most important for your research.

Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EA-DRCC) is the most important branch in NATO when it comes to disaster relief. t is the principal civil emergency response mechanism in the Euro-Atlantic area. EADRCC was

established in 1998 and is located in the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. It keeps track of the assistance offered (including assistance from other international organisations and actors), assistance accepted by the stricken country, delivery dates and assistance still required (or updates to the assistance requested), as well as of the situation on the ground. Currently, the Centre's mandate covers the geographical area of 70 countries and over the last 20 years, it has been responding to more than 70 requests for assistance from nations affected by natural and man-made disasters. During the span of the past two decades, 48 nations participated in seventeen EADRCC exercises.

The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) promotes dialogue and practical cooperation between NATO member states and partner nations based on scientific research, technological innovation and knowledge exchange. ¹⁶The Programme provides funding as well as scientific and technical expert advice. ¹⁷The SPS grants are mainly for multi-year projects, advanced workshops and courses. The aim is to finance groups of scientists that are capable of making great changes but are unable to obtain financial resources from other resources. The average budget varies between EUR 30 000 to 60 000 and covers direct organizational costs, travel and living expenses of specialists, key speakers or attendants. ¹⁸

Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence (CMDR COE) - Centres of Excellence (COEs) are international military organisations that train and educate leaders and specialists from NATO member and partner countries. ¹⁹ Each centre is located and administered by a different nation. COEs ensure access to multinational expertise, education and training and they also serve as potential protection. Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence is located in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Centre holds seminars, working meetings, workshops and training almost every month. ²⁰ Other Centres with similar competencies are COE for Cold Weather Operations (CWO COE) and COE for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters (COE CSW). Both Centres contribute to improving the functioning of work teams in difficult weather conditions. ²¹

3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE MECHANISM

In case of a crisis, NATO has 4 key management committees.

Operation Policy Committee (OPC) which acts as a main advisor to the North Atlantic Council in political and military measures.

The Military Committee (MC) is the main creator of strategic policy and concepts within NATO. The Committee advises the North Atlantic Council and the Nuclear Plan-

ning Group on military policy and strategy, and provides guidance to the two Strategic Commanders – Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.²²

The Partnerships and Cooperative Security Committee (PCSC) is responsible for all of NATO's programmes with non-member states.²³ The main tool of PCSC is the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme. This docu-

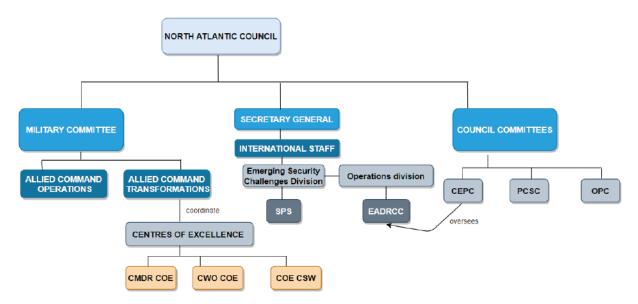


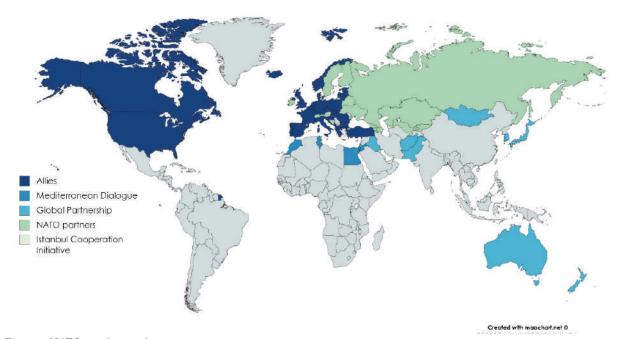
Figure 2: NATO structure⁵⁷

ment determines the principles of cooperation with external nations such as Japan or New Zealand.²⁴

The Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC) handles civil preparedness, provides civil support to NATO operations and oversees the activities of the EADRCC. Furthermore, CEPC gives civil advice and guidance to crisis management operations and enhances the cooperation between civil and military planning bodies. National administrations, represented at the Planning Groups, nominate their candidates from various industries, business, academia and administration for vacant expert positions.²⁵

3.1 Requests and offers

The EADRCC functions as a clearing-house that coordinates both. Whenever any country requests assistance, the centre passes an official report forward to the competent authorities. Each request must be approved either by the North Atlantic Council or by the Civil Emergency Planning Committee. The requesting nation must fulfil the necessary conditions such as secured access to telecommunication, access to frequencies and satellite use, provision of escort, clearing the roads, no language barriers, visa and work permission, accommodation etc. The original purpose of this



Figure~3: NATO~members~and~partners



Figure 4: NATO EADRCC steps of requesting international assistance⁵⁸

assistance was to provide aid that is financed by the countries that request it, but in reality, the majority of assistance is provided in the form of a donation. In case of an emergency, NATO provides any kind of assistance as command and control, communication, logistics, medical support, sanitation, search and rescue, water supply or technical equipment. 26 The prognosis for the arrival of assistance units is within 24 / 48 / 72 hours. This usually depends on the urgency of the aid and the group to which the country belongs. 27

3.2 Cooperation with other organizations

Although the main purposes of the United Nations and NATO are slightly different, they are permanent partners for coordination in the field of international disaster relief operations. The shared values have led to reinforced cooperation and liaison arrangements between the staff of the two orga-

UN OCHA coordinates humanitarian action, global humanitarian funding appeals and manages global and country-specific humanitarian response funds with national and international actors.

nisations, as well as UN specialised agencies. NATO coordinates consequence-management efforts with the UN and other bodies and shares information on disaster assistance. All the EA-DRCC's tasks are performed in close cooperation with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), but the

partnership began earlier with the predecessor of today's institution - Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA).²⁸ These two agencies exchange information on disaster situations within the geographical area on a daily basis. UN OCHA coordinates humanitarian action, global humanitarian funding

appeals and manages global and country-specific humanitarian response funds with national and international actors.²⁹

Furthermore, NATO works closely with the United Nations Military and Civil Defence Unit (MCDU) to harmonise their military actions. NATO contributes with over 5000 military personnel to the UN and serves more like a subcontracting organ than as an equal partner. Being two of the world's most important security providers, NATO and the UN would benefit from a more structured relationship.³⁰ Nevertheless, analysts argue that the UN is the "weak reed" which is unable to provide the needed security when compared to the more capable NATO. Besides that, NATO could have acted more efficiently in past missions on its own.³¹

Within Europe, NATO developed a relationship with the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC). ERCC is the main civil protection mechanism of the EU that ensures assistance and support to the affected country. Both organizations offered bilateral support during Albanian earthquake in 2019 ³² and forest fires in the north of Europe in 2018.³³

Another organization that sends its members to NATO training and missions is the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Within the partnership, NATO prevents violence against health-care workers in armed conflicts and other emergencies. ³⁴

ABBREVIATIONS TO REMEMBER		
EADRCC	Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre	the principal civil emergency response mechanism supervised by the CEPC
SPS	The Science for Peace and Security	programme that promotes innovation
CEPC	The Civil Emergency Planning Committee	advisory body for the protection of civilian populations and the use of civil resources
UN OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UN response to emergencies and natural disasters
ERCC	European Commission's Emergen- cy Response Coordination Centre	

Figure 5: Abbreviations to remember

4 RECENT OPERATIONS

Over the last 20 years, the help of EADRCC has been requested more than 60 times including assistance during earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, heavy snowfalls, forest fires, ammunition explosions or hurricanes.

High Commissioner for Refugees that provided thousands of tents, stoves and blankets necessary to protect the survivors from the cold.³⁶

2002	Aircraft Crash in Ukraine, Floods in the Czech Republic and Albania
2003	The situation in the Persian Gulf
2004	Forest fires in Portugal, Assistance during Summer Olympic Games
2005	Tsunami Relief to Indonesia, Floods in South-East Europe, Hurricane Katrina, Pakistan Earthquake
2006	Floods in Algeria, Heavy Snowfall in Kyrgyzstan, Floods in the Slovak Republic and Bulgaria, Forest Fires in Georgia
2007	Forest Fires in South-East Europe
2008	Ammunition Explosion in Albania, Floods in Moldova and Ukraine, Forest Fires in Bulgaria, Earthquake in the Kyrgyz Republic
2009	Floods in Tajikistan, Earthquake in Georgia, Pandemic Influenza in Ukraine and Bulgaria
2010	Floods in Albania, Disasters in Tajikistan, Floods in Eastern Europe, Floods in Pakistan, Forest Fires in Israel, Floods in Montenegro
2011	Monsoon Floods in Pakistan, Technical Disaster in Ukraine, Earthquake in Turkey
2012	Snowfall in Montenegro and Albania, Syrian Refugees
2013	Forest Fires in Bosnia and Herzegovina
2014	Floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IDP Crisis in Iraq
2015	Floods in Albania, Refugees in Serbia
2016	Wildfires in Israel
2017	The explosion of Ammunition in Ukraine, Forest Fires in Montenegro and Georgia
2018	Forest Fires in Latvia and Sweden
2020	COVID-19

Figure 6: EADRCC operations 59

4.1 Earthquakes

The biggest NATO logistical operation after the Cold War was the Pakistan earthquake relief operation in 2005. The earthquake occurred in the Kashmir region, more than 80,000 people perished as a result of the quake, while an estimated 4 million others were left homeless.³⁵ NATO airlifted close to 3,500 tons of urgently-needed supplies to Pakistan and deployed engineers, medical units and specialist equipment in order to assist in relief operations via two air bridges, from Germany and Turkey. In this operation, NATO cooperated with the UN, especially with the United Nations

4.2 Floods

Of all the natural disasters, NATO helps the most during floods. Floods are the most frequent natural disaster in Europe, four times more frequent than wildfires.³⁷ The Czech Republic was one of the countries that requested assistance during floods in 2002 as its government had to deal with consequences of the worst floods affecting the country in over a century.³⁸ The last flood crisis caused significant damage to critical infrastructure in Ukraine in July 2020. Through EADRCC NATO members supplied rescue items as pumping and personal safety equipment,

chainsaws, portable power stations, tents and inflatable motor boats.³⁹

4.3 Pandemic

A number of requests for medical assistance have been insignificant so far when compared to requests of other kinds. Nevertheless, there have been signs of a pandemic in the past. In october 2009, Ukraine experienced a sudden and unexpected massive outbreak of respiratory diseases in the western regions of the country. The diseases were diagnosed as a mixture of seasonal and A/

H₁N₁ influenza and ultimately affected well over 1 million people.⁴⁰

During the COVID-19 world pandemic, EADRCC plays a significant role in communication as a platform for bilateral offers of humanitarian assistance. More than seven allied and nine partner nations have requested international assistance through the EADRCC. ⁴¹ The Centre monitors and reports on the delivery of all supplies (protective masks, gloves, visors, sanitizing liquid, disposable gowns, body bags). Allied troops transport patients, build field hospitals, provide medical supply, assist border crossing and support logistics.

5 DISASTER RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

5.1 Training and Exercises

Through various programmes, NATO organizes exercises to train rescuers from different nations in different types of scenarios to enhance their ability to work together and promote the use of new technologies. The following list includes the most important ones.

Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EA-DRCC) annual exercise is a large-scale field exercise with realistic scenarios to improve the interaction between NATO and partner countries.⁴² Compared to CMX, these exercises are more focussed on building resilience through improved disaster preparedness, planning, prevention and response, and strengthening their capacity to manage potential civil emergencies as chemical, biological or radiological incidents.⁴³

Advanced training course is organized by The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme (SPS) in Brussels as a platform which enables Specialists in NATO countries to share their expertise in following fields: counter-terrorism, energy security, cyber defence, environmental security. On average, they are held over six days once a year.⁴⁴

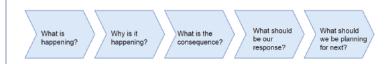
Civil-Military Planning and Support Course is one of the courses organized by NATO School Oberammergau. Each course lasts a week. To participate in this school, each military officer/civilian equivalent must fulfil criteria of rank and working experience. The concept of the course comprises interactive lectures, Q and A sessions and plenary discussions with coaches. ⁴⁵

NATO's 'International CBRN Training is organized by Civil Emergency Planning (CEPC) to comprehend the context of CBRN response in relation to current national and international security concerns.⁴⁶ Due to the low frequency of CBRN incidents and competition for scarce resources, time and funding for training and exercising of CBRN response is often limited. ⁴⁷ However this does not mean that they are not important. The CBRN threat is

evolving rapidly and in order to ensure sufficient preparedness it is crucial to have a spectrum of expertise and resources.

5.2 Training programme (EADRCC)

Each exercise takes at least 3 years to prepare. The scenario is detailed and teams work on it over the course of 4 days through field exercises as well as virtual reality exercises. Teams consist of rescuers of the same category such as Chemical reconnaissance unit, Urban search and rescue task force (USAR), Chemical + biological + radiological + nuclear defence (CBRN), Water rescue teams or Medical teams. The basic idea of the exercise is to answer the following questions and then act.



The last exercises were held by Serbia (2018), Bosna I Hercegovina (2017), Bulgaria (2016) and Ukraine (2015).

5.3 Equipment

NATO uses special systems of navigating, controlling and gathering data for rescue interventions.

SIARS (Smart Advisory Rescue System) is a Telemedical Information Smart System. By using biosensors it implements an automatic triage for the injured soldiers and transfers their vital parameters to the hospital. The initial medical treatment is given by the First Aid Responder who also prepares the heavily injured soldier for transportation in accordance with the readings from the soldier's biosensor. Biosensors can determine heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure or blood oxygen. Data transfer is performed via Bluetooth.⁴⁸

NICS (Next-Generation Incident Command System) provides situational awareness to first responders. It is a web-based command and control software that facilitates collaboration across all levels of preparedness, planning, response, and recovery during natural disasters or other incidents.49The NICS system is part of the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) project "Advanced Regional Civil Emergency Coordination Pilot" (ARCECP), a collaboration between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory (MIT LL), the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S & T) and the nations of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

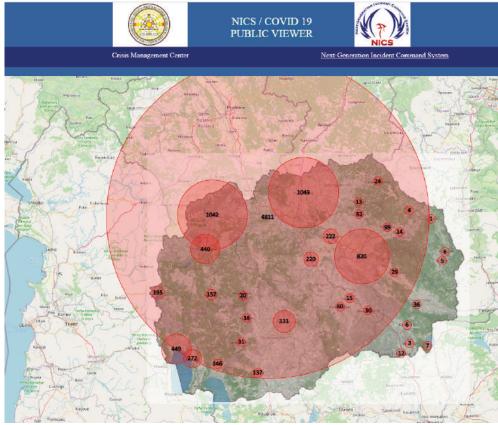


Figure 7: NICS public viewer60

Croatia, North Macedonia and Montenegro. Itt is currently being used in North Macedonia as a response to the CO-

VID-19 crisis as it provides the public with real-time information and advice.⁵⁰

6 FUTURE STEPS IN NATO DISASTER RELIEF

It is hard to predict what kind of disasters we will have to face in the future or to guess the extent of damage caused by them. The non-military threats can affect us universally without any sign beforehand. However, climate change is expected to increase sharply in frequency and intensity. Weather-related disasters could affect around two-thirds of the European population annually by the end of this century. Warmer temperatures increase the risk of desertification in southern parts of Europe, and they also cause a greater risk of droughts. Temperature extremes will therefore affect sectors such as agriculture, tourism and energy production. Cities can face new challenges related to the supply of water and other basic resources. Climate change is expected to affect water availability and increase water scarcity

throughout Europe. Changes have been observed in river flows, with reductions in southern and eastern Europe, and increases or seasonal changes in other regions.⁵²Creating a methodological plan for coping with change remains the primary task of exercise planning courses and conferences of the Centres of Excellence. ⁵³

The outbreak of COVID-19 draws our attention to the vulnerability of people to diseases. Looking to the future, NATO needs to rethink the concept of force protection, because not only civilians are at risk from coronavirus. NATO has highly professional military forces to buttress national resilience but they are useless if they cannot be used. Consequently, there has to be a change in operational planning to be much more responsive to sudden crises.⁵⁴

7 CONCLUSION

As already mentioned, disasters are an impending and significant threat to our society. They are unpredictable and can occur when we are least prepared. Emergencies during disasters have been increasing all over the world. Effects of such events are incalculable and no nation is immune from them. They lead to negative socio-economic, political and cultural changes and threaten development.

In order for NATO to intervene effectively, it is crucial to have a sophisticated system of cooperation. NATO has

multiple centres, agencies and projects providing assistance during such events.

Even though NATO seems to be on its way to achieve preparedness, just an effort to achieve a functioning framework is not enough.

We strongly recommend the reader to not stop his or her research with this piece of work, but to further study this very broad and interdisciplinary topic. The first steps for writing a position paper are the questions and sources below.

8 FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

- 1. What are your country's weak points in protection against disasters? In which case would you appreciate external assistance the most?
- 2. What efforts did your country make to prevent itself from these critical situations?
- 3. What are the main protective measures that NATO should work on?
- 4. Should NATO strengthen its capabilities? How eventually?
- 5. How should NATO prevent its members from an eventual CBRN attack?
- 6. How should NATO proceed in case of a disaster that affects the majority of the NATO members?
- 7. And how should it proceed when the disaster affects the whole world?
- 8. Is it better for NATO to isolate itself or to help worldwide?
- 9. How should NATO react in case of a crisis that was caused by the irresponsibility of one member countries?

9 RECOMMENDED SOURCES

General Classification of Disasters

https://www.emdat.be/classification

EADRCC International Assistance Mechanism

https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2020/4/pdf/200401-EADRCC-Requesting-assistance-in_3.pdf

Basic factsheet of cooperation with national governments

NATO civil preparedness

 $\underline{http://yadda.icm.edu.pl/yadda/element/bwmeta1.element.baztech-e46e4co6-c3oe-4cec-882a-edo6o3cec924/c/8_Jacuch_Civil_preparedness.pdf$

Timeline of EADRCC missions

https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=f5c32302653b47578ed389561a1ae993

Operation procedure of EADRCC

https://www.nato.int/eadrcc/sop/sop_eadrcc/sop_eadrcc.htm#Disaster%2oAssessment

Example of the urgent request of disaster assistance

https://www.nato.int/eadrcc/2010/01-floods-albania/request.pdf

Detailed information about the course of training

 $\frac{https://www.nato.int/science/information \ for \ grantees/rtf/ATCGuidelines.pdf}{http://www.msb.gov.ba/PDF/o31220181.pdf}$

Future NATO steps according to climate change

https://www.eastwest.ngo/idea/nato-and-climate-change-need-more-coherent-approach

10 USED SOURCES

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- Pražský studentský summit

Pražský studentský summit je unikátní vzdělávací projekt existující od roku 1995. Každoročně vzdělává přes 300 studentů středních i vysokých škol o současných globálních tématech, a to především prostřednictvím simulace jednání tří klíčových mezinárodních organizací – OSN, NATO a EU.

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AMO je nevládní nezisková organizace založená v roce 1997 za účelem výzkumu avzdělávání v oblasti mezinárodních vztahů. Tento přední český zahraničně politický think-tank není spjat s žádnou politickou stranou ani ideologií. Svou činností podporuje aktivní přístup k zahraniční politice, poskytuje nestrannou analýzu mezinárodního dění a otevírá prostor k fundované diskusi.

Kateřina Nováková

Autorka je spolupracovnicí Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky a členkou přípravného týmu Pražského studentského summitu.





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