

Committee: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Country: Canada

Agenda: Syrian Civil War

Delegate: Zeliha Belinay Mutlusoy



The North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington on April 4, 1949, establishing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Canada was a founding member of the Alliance and has remained as a member since its inception. NATO is a major contributor to international peace and security and a cornerstone of Canadian security and defence policy. Canada's priority for NATO is to ensure the Alliance remains modern, flexible, agile and able to face current and future threats. This goal drives all of Canada's efforts on NATO transformation, reform and partnerships with non-NATO countries. The Canadian Armed Forces are among the most engaged, agile, deployable and responsive armed forces within NATO, and Canada is proud to have contributed to nearly every NATO operation since the founding of the Alliance more than seven decades ago.

The Syrian Civil War, which began in 2011, is a complex and multi-faceted conflict with devastating consequences for both the Syrian population and the neighbouring countries and profound implications for regional and global politics. The war emerged from various interconnected political, social, and economic grievances and quickly escalated into a violent and long-lasting struggle involving numerous international actors. Since 2016, Canada has committed more than \$4.7 billion in funding for Syria and the region, including significant humanitarian, development and stabilization assistance. Canada is providing stabilization and security-related assistance to address the impact of the Syrian crisis, both in Syria and in the region. These funds promote peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives that support the reintegration of displaced Syrians, contribute to mine action efforts, help mitigate the threat of chemical weapons and other weapons and materials of mass destruction

Over 50 years, Syria was ruled by Assad, where people suffered from the regime. In late 2024, the opposition group has taken control of the government, making Assad leave the country. Canada welcomes the end of Syria's Assad regime, which has inflicted decades of suffering on its own people. This event marks a significant turning point for the Syrian people, who have endured unimaginable hardship under the rule of Bashar al-Assad and his father, Hafez al-Assad. For over 50 years, the Assad family's brutal grip on power was marked by oppression, massacres and widespread violations of human rights. Hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed and millions displaced, both internally and abroad, as they fled relentless violence, including Bashar al-Assad's horrific use of chemical weapons against civilians.

Canada proposes NATO collaborate with local forces to prevent the re-emergence of groups such as ISIS and al-Qaeda affiliates in Syria. Securing the interests of NATO and the safety of its regional partners requires decisive collective action. As Russia seeks to cement its influence in Syria as a part of its aggressive expansionism across the Middle East, NATO allies must cohere in response. They must act as a collective of like-minded allies, greater than the sum of its parts, in order to address the complexities of the Syrian crisis together. Canada supports international efforts to establish a cease fire, and achieve a non-military solution to the crisis. Because Canada believes that continuous peace in Syria can only be achieved through a diplomatic solution that addresses the root causes of the conflict. With over 500,000 lives lost and millions displaced, the toll has been devastating. . NATO must act united to prevent further destabilization and protect the interests of its allies.

Additionally, as a strong NATO member Canada believes that the Syrian people should be empowered to determine their own future, free from violence and foreign interference.

Canada remains dedicated to providing humanitarian aid and support for Syria's long dated recovery. By helping with peacebuilding, reintegrating displaced Syrians, and addressing weapons of mass destruction, Canada continues to support regional stability. The goal is a peaceful, stable Syria that can rebuild and offer hope to future generations.

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