

## NATO International School of Azerbaijan

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NISA Summer Session:

### Looking to the Warsaw Summit: NATO's role in coping with regional challenges

27 June-1 July 2016 | Baku, Azerbaijan

#### CONCEPT NOTE

For decades our continent has been notorious for the most deadly and intractable inter- and intra-state conflicts that continuously keep challenging pan-European security, thereby undermining its integrity and cohesion. It will not therefore be an overstatement to argue that in the most war-prone areas of Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Middle East regions - the “Achilles Hill” of Eurasia – there is a constant proclivity to exponential worsening of tenuous security conditions with far-flung ramifications that could disrupt peace and security in the greater geographical space. Conflict spots in Moldova and Georgia, Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, situation in Ukraine and Syria nowadays remain as the most daunting current challenges to the ability of international and regional security institutions to effectively deal with them towards finding lasting and workable solutions, and coping with their inevitable consequences.

Against this geopolitical picture, NATO as the leading Euro-Atlantic security actor that encapsulates *collective defence*, *crisis management* and *cooperative security* among its core tasks, cannot disregard wider security environment and exist in vacuum. Equipped with spate of unique crisis management mechanisms and having reiterated its *raison d'être* as “the globe’s most successful political-military Alliance” in 2010 Strategic Concept, NATO is now hoped to live up to the expectations set out by the most ambitious goals that the Alliance has self-created. NATO’s drive to preserve its centrality to peace and security in its immediate playground and well beyond its confines behoves the Alliance to contemplate its role across diverse dimensions, including first and foremost, on political, military, strategic and tactical levels.

While it is apparent that there are no easy fixes and silver bullets, and NATO alone is not a panacea to existing security ailments, it is the commitment to the very values of the Alliance

and the ability to collaborate with other international partners that might reinforce its adaptability to changing security environment and provide dexterity in tackling the most complex issues.

As the entire Euro-Atlantic community is in anticipation of the next biennial Summit of the NATO Heads of States and Governments to be held on 8-9 July in Warsaw, the attention of policymakers, scholars and pundits around the world is riveted on the strategic posture of NATO vis-à-vis augmenting insecurity in the wider Euro-Atlantic region brought by the deteriorating situation around unresolved conflicts and active civil wars. These issues have in many ways topped the agenda of the existing security arrangements in Europe and beyond, and NATO's 2016 Warsaw Summit is not to be an exception from this tendency.

In an attempt to contribute to the 2016 Warsaw Summit discussions, NISA Summer Session aims at bringing together young professionals and scholars from around the world to conduct a pre-Summit brainstorming session where the participants will focus on the issues relevant to NATO's Warsaw Summit agenda, including NATO's ability and readiness to respond to the crisis situations in its closest proximity, among others. How prepared is NATO to cope with regional security challenges? What are the existing toolkits and policy directions? What should be the most tangible policy prescriptions in regard to each conflict situation? These and many other similar questions will guide the discussions, at the end of which the participants will come forth with set of policy recommendations for the 2016 Warsaw Summit.

This event will involve notable academics and practitioners from governments, international institutions and think tanks as well as graduate students, researchers, early to mid-career academics, experts and practitioners, interested in international relations, international law, politics and economics, including in issues related to Euro-Atlantic area.

Successful applicants will thus have a sound command of English and show academic credentials necessary to benefit from the course that will help them actively contribute to discussions. Participants should be highly motivated and demonstrate critical achievements and activities in related fields.

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NATO's role in coping with regional challenges**  
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**PROGRAM**

**Day: 0 - Sunday, 26 June 2016**

All day Arrival of local and international participants

18.30 Admin Brief and Course Intro

19:30 Dinner

**Day: 1 - Monday, 27 June 2016**

09.00-09.30 Registration (participants, external guests and media representatives)

09.30-10.00 Opening Ceremony of NISA Summer Session

**10:00-11:00 Keynote speech by H.E. Mr. Araz AZIMOV, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (TBC)**

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.45 Q&A session and Discussions

12.45-13.00 Family photo

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

**14.00-15.30 Panel I –Evolving security environment in NATO's neighborhoods**

Key Points:

- What has changed since the Wales summit?
- Overview of major regional security challenges

**Speaker:** TBD

15.30-15.45 Coffee break

15.45-16.30 Q/A

16:30- 17:30 Introduction to Working Groups and follow-up discussions

## **Day: 2 - Tuesday, 28 June 2016**

09.00-11.00 **Panel II** -Dealing with consequences of unresolved territorial conflicts: conflict spots in Moldova and Georgia, Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

Key points:

- General account of the territorial conflicts: commonalities and differences
- Conflict resolution and international law
- “Frozen” or “Unraveling”?

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-13.00 Q&A

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.30 **Panel III** – Situation in Syria and Ukraine: Implications for Euro-Atlantic security

Key points:

- Current situation in Syria and Ukraine
- Actors, issues and possible solutions
- Any potential role for NATO?

**Speakers:** TBD

15.30-15.45 Coffee break

15.45-16.30 Q/A

16:30 – 17:30 Working Groups discussions: recommendations for 2016 Warsaw Summit

**Speakers:** TBD

20.00 Social activity TBD

### **Day: 3 - Wednesday, 29 June 2016**

**09:00-11:00 Panel IV-** NATO's strategic posture vis-à-vis the existing regional threats: conceptual, legal and institutional frameworks

**Key points:**

- Conceptual and legal framework
- NATO's role in conflict resolution: limitations and opportunities
- NATO's crisis management mechanisms
- Lessons learned from previous engagements

**Speakers:** TBD

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-13.00 Q&A session and Discussions

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

**14:00-15:30 Panel V –** NATO partnerships and indivisibility of security in the Euro-Atlantic area as a “common response” to regional security challenges

**Key points:**

- Overview of NATO's current Partnership mechanisms
- How can NATO Partnerships bolster the indivisibility of security in the Euro-Atlantic area?
- NATO Partners' contribution to the Euro-Atlantic security: the case of Azerbaijan

**Speakers:** TBD

15.30-15.45 Coffee break

15.45-16.30 Q/A

16:30 – 17:30 Working Groups discussions

**Speakers:** TBD

## **Day: 4 - Thursday, 30 June 2016**

09.00-11.00 **Panel VI** – Anxiety in the Eastern frontiers of the Alliance and its fall-outs for Euro-Atlantic Security

Key points:

- NATO-Russia tension
- European Reassurance Initiative: Re-engagement of the US

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-13.00 Q&A session and Discussions

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-16.00 **Wrapping up daily working group discussions and preparing final conclusions**

16.00-16.15 Coffee break

16.15-18.00 Consolidating working groups conclusions into a single policy recommendations paper

**20.00-22.00 Intercultural night: “Global Village” (Dan Ulduzu Conference Room)**

## **Day: 5 - Friday, 1 June 2016**

**09:00-10:00**

**10.00-11.30 Closing remarks (speaker TBC)**

11.30-11.45 Coffee break

**11: 50-13:30 Panel** - Presentation of NATO Summer Session-2016 policy recommendation paper for Warsaw Summit

**13.30-14.00 Graduation and Course Closure**

14.00-15.00 Lunch break

**15.00-18.00 City tour: “Walking through the history of the City of Winds - Baku”**

## **Day: 6 - Saturday, 2 June 2016**

All day Departure of international participants