

Committee: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Delegation: Federal Republic of Germany

Agenda: Addressing the Strategic Implications of China's Expanding Global Influence



Background of the Issue:

China's growing global presence has become impossible to ignore. Its fast military expansion, wider diplomatic reach, and large-scale economic projects like the Belt and Road Initiative have created vulnerabilities that NATO members need to look at closely. On top of that, China's role in critical tech, cyber operations, infrastructure, and information systems has long-term security effects that the Alliance can't afford to brush aside.

At the same time, NATO is trying to handle China's rise while still dealing with Russia's ongoing aggression. These two challenges at once have led to different views among member states about what NATO's priorities should actually be. Because of this, forming a shared and consistent approach is becoming more urgent.

Germany's Position:

Germany supports a steady, balanced NATO approach toward China. China can be a partner in some areas, but it also presents real economic and technological challenges. And since Europe's economies are tied to China in ways that can't be undone overnight, Germany argues that NATO shouldn't turn every economic issue into a security crisis or escalate tensions without good reason.

Germany's view rests on three points:

1. **Preserving Alliance Unity:** NATO works best when decisions come from a collective agreement. Different realities and priorities across the alliance should fit the approach taken against China.

2. **Maintaining the Euro-Atlantic Focus:** NATO shouldn't go into a military role in the Indo-Pacific. China's actions have global effects; either way, NATO's core mission and purpose is still the defense of the Euro-Atlantic region.
3. **Building Strategic Resilience:** Germany calls for better cybersecurity, stronger protection of key technologies, and greater readiness for hybrid threats so that the Alliance can handle challenges without spreading itself thin.

Germany also supports closer cooperation with Indo-Pacific partners through information-sharing, research, and non-military coordination, taking all of these to careful consideration.

Proposed Actions:

To help shape a realistic NATO strategy, Germany suggests the following:

A. Reinforcing NATO's Strategic Resilience

- Create a coordinated NATO plan to protect critical infrastructure, new technologies, and essential supply chains.
- Improve interoperability and information-sharing for cyber defense and counter-espionage.
- Strengthen NATO's ability to detect and respond to hybrid threats.

B. Establishing a Unified Policy Approach to China

- Build a NATO-wide process to review the security risks of foreign investment, technology transfers, and strategic dependencies.
- Standardize intelligence exchanges and assessments on China's capabilities and global activity.

C. Strengthening Cooperation with Indo-Pacific Partners (IP4)

- Hold regular NATO-IP4 discussions on maritime awareness, cybersecurity, disinformation, and emerging technologies.
- Expand joint training and research efforts, keeping them non-military and inside NATO's established geographic limits.

D. Ensuring NATO's Military Readiness in the Euro-Atlantic Area

- Continue strengthening deterrence and defense on NATO's eastern flank in response to Russia's immediate actions.
- Maintain readiness without shifting core military resources away from the Alliance's main region of responsibility.

Conclusion:

Germany believes NATO needs a practical and steady strategy toward China that avoids overreach, strengthens resilience, and keeps the Alliance united. With balanced engagement and a clear focus on the Euro-Atlantic region, NATO can deal with today's pressures while preparing for the long-term shifts already underway.