



GECMUN IX

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Security Council

Resolving conflict and bringing peace to Ukraine and Eastern Europe

SDG: 17. Partnerships to achieve the Goal, 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

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Committee Introduction

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the leading force for resolving any existing acts of aggression in the world. UNSC holds the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, as well as developing friendly relationships among nations, cooperating in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights, and being a centre for harmonising the actions of nations.

The Security Council makes actions to the states and cooperates with various states and departments with the goal of maintaining peace and security of the world. In some cases, the Security Council can impose sanctions or even authorise the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. Based on these missions to ensure peace and stability among all countries, the Security Council is responsible for protecting every other member's rights. It has 15 Members: including the P5 nations – China, France, Russia, United States and the United Kingdom – and other 10 non-permanent delegations such as Afghanistan, Belarus, Democratic People of Republic of Korea, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine. Each member state has one vote and P5 nations are allowed to exercise their veto power.

Afghanistan

Belarus

China

Democratic People of Republic of Korea

France

Germany

Latvia

Poland

Republic of Korea

Russia

Switzerland

Turkey

UK

Ukraine

US

Agenda Introduction

The UNSC is severely concerned about prolongation and expansion of the war between Russia and Ukraine. The conflict is not only impacting the European region. It is making a world wide influence and it is very concerned with the impact that prolongation of the crisis is bringing. This agenda aligns with the sixteenth Sustainable Development Goal, which is 'Peace and Justice Strong Institutions'.

Letter from the Chairs

Greetings Delegates,

We are Jeslyn Park, Lahee Hong, and Wendy Lee from North London Collegiate School Jeju. It is our honour to welcome you all to the United Nations Security Council at Jeju MUN IX. We are very excited to have a face-to-face conference after all the online conferences due to unfortunate situations. We are sure that all of you will have a precious experience at this conference by meeting new people and producing a great resolution.

In this Committee, you will be discussing the agenda 'Resolving conflict and bringing peace to Ukraine and Eastern Europe' which is a topic that is relevant in present as well. We are expecting all delegates to have wide perspectives and delicate considerations of all factors and cases that can happen in the war including but not limited to economic, social, well-being and health issues. The chairs will do their best to support and help you from the beginning to the end. We will also help you proceed with fruitful discussions at the conference.

Your MUN experience might be varied but please do not worry even if you are less experienced. We are very aware of this difference and all three chairs have experience as delegates. We will put our best effort to help you to have the best experience.

We are looking very forward to the enthusiasm and energy that can only be shown in offline conferences, so we highly encourage you to prepare yourself well. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. We wish you the best, and see you soon!

Sincerely,

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Key Terms

NATO

NATO stands for 'North Atlantic Treaty Organisation', it is an alliance of countries from Europe and North America. There are 30 member states in NATO including Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States. Finland and Sweden joining NATO

EU

The EU is an IGO and it stands for 'European Union'. The EU is an economic and political union of 27 countries in Europe. It operates an internal market such as free movement of goods, capital, services and people between member states. This makes EU member states have a very strong bond.

Kyiv

Kyiv (Kiev, Kyyiv, or Russian Kiyev) is the capital city of Ukraine. Kyiv, as the capital city of Ukraine, has major administrative functions with crucial employment in the offices of ministries responsible for the economy. It also possesses a wide range of manufacturers including factories.

Kremlin

The Kremlin is a citadel in Moscow. It has a long history and in the 13th century it was the official residence of supreme power and the centre of temporal and spiritual life of the state. It is a symbol of Russian power and authority and it has served as the official residence of the president of Russia since 1991.

Historical Background

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| Early 1990s | Ukraine had the third-largest atomic arsenal in the world |
| 1994 | Ukraine gave up all of its nuclear weapons to Russia following negotiations between the two countries: the United States and Germany. |
| 2009 | The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty expired. The United States and Russia resigned those assurances so they would remain in peace. |
| 2013 | Russia increased political and economic pressure on Ukraine. On November 29th 2013, President Yanukovich refused to sign the Association Agreement with the EU – instead opting for closer ties with Russia. |
| February-March 2014 | Ukrainian pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted in the 2014 Ukrainian revolution–Maidan revolution–after he rejected a deal with the European Union. President Yanukovich flees the country to Russia after parliamentary impeachment. There’s broad Ukrainian support for joining western international entities like the EU and NATO. Russian troops entered Crimea and the Russian parliament approved the use of military force in the peninsula. This led to the temporary occupation of Crimea and Sevastopol. |
| April 2014 | On April 1st, NATO suspended cooperation with Russia after Russia was suspended from G8 on the 24th of March, 2013. Russia invades Ukraine and annexes Crimea after a conflict that ended with 13,000 to 14,000 Ukrainian soldiers’ and civilians’ lives lost. The pro-Russian separatist groups of Donetsk and Luhansk cities in the eastern Donbas region of Ukraine claim to break from the country and join Russia, establishing self-proclamation of the ‘People’s Republics’. |
| June 2014-2015 | The G7 meets without Russia and on the 27th of June 2014, the EU and Ukraine sign the Association Agreement. In July 2014, protests amongst separatist groups in Eastern Ukraine escalated into violence. Territories in Donbas are seized by pro-Russian separatists Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) is launched in Donetsk and Luhansk under the direction of the Security Service of Ukraine. In September 2014, the Minsk Protocol was agreed upon and signed by the Trilateral Contact Group in Ukraine, consisting of Ukraine, Russia, and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. However, this fails in its attempt to end the violence in Donbas. On the 26th of October 2014, Ukraine elected a pro-European parliament. On February 15th 2015, the Minsk II agreement entered into force. |
| 2016-2017 | Due to the increased and extended sanctions on Russia from the EU, on January 1st 2016, Russia cancelled free trade privileges for Ukraine. Violence in Donbas continues, which led to a significant destruction of property and infrastructure, mass outward migration and many |

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| | casualties. In June 2017, The Ukrainian parliament voted on the goal of joining NATO. |
| 2019-2021 | Former comedian Volodymyr Zelensky is elected as the Ukrainian president. Zelensky promised to resolve the issues with the Donbas region and work with Putin directly. He also talked openly of joining NATO, something Russia has voiced strong opposition to. In September 2020, Zelensky confirmed NATO membership as a strategic national goal – which was strongly opposed by Russia and Putin. From late 2021 to 2022, hostilities have escalated as a result of the Russian build-up of military personnel and equipment on Ukraine’s borders. |

Current State of Affairs

As of 2022, Russia has launched an unprovoked, indiscriminate invasion on Ukraine in February from intensified hostilities. Ukraine responded to the military strikes with a new martial law across the state. The war has gained much spotlight at a global scale with the United States upfront in providing military aid and hashtags such as “#prayforukraine” trending on social media.

The attack not only has killed thousands and laid detrimental social impacts on Ukraine, but also has shifted the global economy through acute escalations in inflation and aggravating food shortages. Along with Russia being a key producer in oil, natural gas, steel, nickel and aluminium and the world’s largest wheat exporter, Ukraine also plays a major role in the agricultural sector with important products such as corn, wheat, and sunflowers. The two countries being cut off - whether inevitably or due to economic sanctions - from the global trade market puts it undoubtedly at risk.

The most effective sanction put to action would be the packages of restrictions by 27 EU member states including France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Canada, the United States, and Japan. This excludes Russian banks from the SWIFT messaging system, imposes international restrictions on the Russian Central Bank, activates “golden passports” which allow wealthy Russians to become citizens of other nations and thus have access to new financial systems, and freezes assets Russian officials and “elites close to the Russian government” hold in their territories.

Four months into the war, leaders of France, Italy, and Germany travelled to Kyiv, showing their support for Ukraine’s pursuit for regaining sovereignty and total independence. However, it also was impossible to ignore the underlying pressure for Ukraine to attempt in negotiations with Moscow. This, critics say, shows both the short term goals of European leaders to prevent further economic decline and their longer term values for freedom, secured rights, and peace.

It has also recently arisen to question whether international aid provided to Ukraine has been sufficient. Those except Britain, Poland, and the United States have been accused of being slow to provide, and that the West is providing aid strategically to an amount where Ukrainians can “survive, but not regain territory.” Furthermore, despite it being a central cause behind the Russian invasion, many European countries refuse to answer whether they want Ukraine in the European Union, and seen from recent cases of Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia, it would likely take Ukraine decades to settle on the issue.

Stances of Parties

Afghanistan

Afghanistan currently has a major humanitarian crisis going on in the nation, with the US and NATO members supporting its citizens against the Taliban government. The new Russia-Ukraine war means a dispersion in resources and attention from their internal conflicts and a decline in US/NATO leverage. This would work in the Taliban government's favour, which has regained control of the country in 2021.

China

China economically benefits from the war not only by having become the largest purchaser of Russian oil but also by doubling up in exports of electronic components such as microchips and raw materials. Chinese government spokespeople openly criticise the United State's response to the war; its Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijan comments at the US as being "the one who started the Ukraine crisis and the biggest factor fueling it."

July 25 Zhao Lijian from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs showed China's support for the UN brokered agreement, and the day after, China's People's Liberation Army sent military tanks and a delegation to Russia, according to South China Morning Post. The troops are expected to take part in Russia's International Army Games, of which China has set foot in each iteration since 2015. CIA director William Burns warns that China might apply the lessons from the Ukraine invasion to that of Taiwan.

Democratic People of Republic of Korea

In August, North Korea offered 100 000 troops to help Russia against Ukraine, according to the Russian state media. It has also provided assistance in rebuilding post-war Ukraine for Russia, with approximately 1000 workers in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. A North Korean source in a South Korean newspaper shares that "Considering that the war isn't over yet, the government is planning to send workers at an appropriate time while monitoring the situation on the ground."

Latvia

As a nation that borders Russia, the Latvian parliament declared Russia to be a "state sponsor of terrorism" over the war in Ukraine. Moreover, concerned by their actions, she called upon Western Allies for a unified response to the increasing gravity of the situation. In a resolution by the parliament, the nation alluded to Russia's actions as "genocide against the Ukrainian people", evoking a powerful firm stance against Russia. The nation donated 0.9% of its GDP to aid Ukraine.

France

The Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs works to support victims and refugees resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war, to which France has made a contribution of 100 million euros for humanitarian aid. France has also been a key member in the agreement of EU member states on sanctions against Russia that aims to put pressure on its government by isolating it from the international financial system. The French Ministry of Interior has sent a technical team to Ukraine for the International Criminal Court's investigation and 500 000 euros, 2 judges, and 10 investigators directly to the ICC. The French government has actively taken more actions such as the implementation of the international Food and Agricultural Resilience Mission (FARM) and the creation of "Source Diplomatiques" podcasts to support Ukraine from the Russian invasion.

Germany

In response to Russia's invasion, Germany decided to boost defence spending by 100 billion euros, suspend the gas pipeline from Russia, and transfer arms into Ukraine for help in defence. However, having been the biggest oil and gas receiver from Russia, Germany has refused to sanction Russian oil and gas exports. Bundesbank warned an embargo could shrink Germany's economy by 2% and a 5% in output.

Poland

Poland received 3.5 million Ukrainian refugees since the Russian invasion and has been acting as a hub for humanitarian aid. Poland further demands the United States its support and works as a strong advocate for Ukraine within NATO and the European Union for mobilisation in support of Ukraine, in order to bring Russia down in a strategic defeat. Poland being in the frontline given the geographical proximity, they are threatened and feel a need to appeal for sympathy, as its Armed Forces General Rajmund Anderzejczak states "the house of my neighbours is on fire." Some argue that, perhaps, after the United States, it may be the most important country for the conflict to settle.

Republic of Korea

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Republic of Korea stands hand in hand with the United States regarding economic actions and commitment to release additional petroleum from its strategic reserves in response to the dearth the global energy market faces without or severely decreased imports from Russia. The ROK sends support for efforts to isolate Russia from the international financial system and trade market, with restrictions put on the global SWIFT financial messaging system and other major sanctions put on major Russian banks and trade controls.

Russia

Putin's original goal of the Ukrainian invasion was to overrun the country's desire to join NATO, concerning Ukraine's placement on the map - it borders Russia to its east - and the threat Russia feels from such a move. Putin on the day of the invasion has announced to his citizens that his aim was to "demilitarise and de-Nazify Ukraine", to protect them

from what he called “eight years of bullying and genocide by Ukraine’s government.” While the Russian government refuses to call the crisis an invasion or a war, the eastern territories of Ukraine such as Luhansk, Kherson, and Crimea are now under Russian control. It remains an issue of global concern how much more the war will prolong and to what extent the Russian leader is willing to go for the victory over Ukraine.

Spain

The Spanish prime minister states "Supporting Ukraine with determination is the only way to ensure that Europe and the world we have built has a certain future," and that NATO's support for Ukraine is unbreakable. Spain will deliver offensive military aid in support of Ukraine and adapt EU's united and coordinated measures against Russia. However, the president also expresses his solidarity with the Russian people, blaming the war on the “imperialism of their president” - Vladimir Putin.

Switzerland

Switzerland is a well known country that maintains neutrality among European states. They are supporting Ukraine's peace and development. The President of Switzerland, Ignazio Cassis, made a speech during the World Economic Forum and stated “no participation in wars; international cooperation but no membership in any military alliance; no provision of troops or weapons to warring parties and no granting of transition rights”. This clarifies that Switzerland is a neutral country and they are not part of NATO. Switzerland handed out minimum 1500 work permits to the 57,000 refugees from Ukraine.

Turkey

Turkey shares a border with Ukraine and Russia which makes her into a significant state. Turkey has also been a part of NATO since 1952 and this can be acted as a threat to Russia. Turkey is actively trading with the US which means the relationship with Russia is getting further. The dynamic with the European countries and Russia is constantly changing so it is a key point to catch up with the most recent news and track their policies.

UK

The UK allies with Ukraine as it has a lot of partners in politics, military and economics. They share similar theoretical values such as freedom of expression, democracy and human rights. Britain has a very close relationship with Ukraine and there are various policies and corporations that two countries have.

Ukraine

Ukraine is a country in Europe that is a member state of the European Union and not a part of NATO. The 2022 Russo Ukraine War began on 24th of February but the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been continuously ongoing since 2014. More than 28,521 people were killed during the war and more than 14 people's settlements were destroyed. There are at least 12 million refugees who fled from their homes due to the Russian invasion which requires multiple international cooperations.

US

The United States is “united with Ukraine” as the state government calls it. The government works by supporting Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, celebrating Ukraine’s unique identity and culture, reaffirming the value of democratic principles and institutions, providing humanitarian assistance, working for vulnerable populations and human rights, protecting cyber/energy security, imposing sanctions, and exposing Russia of its destabilising actions.

Possible Solutions

The ongoing conflict is primarily a proxy war between USA and Russia, which has also now become a civil war within Ukraine: between the pro-Russian separatists and anti-Russian supporters wishing to join the EU or the NATO . Prolonging this armed conflict is likely to have devastating consequences for the people of Ukraine. Besides, extending the economic war on Russia will aggravate the travails of the world economy, which is already severely damaged by the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the world food crisis could intensify, creating the threat of famine and malnutrition that could affect millions, especially in developing countries. For these reasons too, a political-diplomatic solution is required to resolve the varied dimensions of the Ukraine conflict as well as the direct economic and humanitarian support for Ukraine populations as well.

To begin with, it is important to acknowledge the importance of humanitarian and economical aid that should be provided for the citizens of Ukraine who immensely suffered throughout the ongoing conflict especially with the Covid-19 pandemic. Ideally, it is best to reduce reliance on foreign leadership and build resilience to abrupt changes in its internal affairs. However, the initial implementation of peacebuilding programs and humanitarian aids are necessary. This may be approached by the Ukrainian government cooperating with different Non-Governmental Organisations and UN committees in order to receive sufficient support and humanitarian aid such as but not limited to shelters, houses, access to clean water, first-aid treatments and food. However, the international community will need to find an adequate balance between overseeing the Ukrainian government's reconciliation efforts and paving the way for their political autonomy. Diplomats and NGOs will be allowed to continue their operations within the Ukrainian territory; therefore, member states should be reminded that multilateral assistance is still a viable and preferable solution over unproductive unilateral efforts.

Moreover, it can easily be anticipated how the Russian Federation government is unwilling to accept merely written assurances about Ukraine's neutral status. In fact, the Russian Federation government has moved one step further and said it would not accept Ukraine's accession to the European Union. Despite these circumstances, Ukraine may choose to become a neutral country with no membership of any military organisation and disavow membership of the EU. However, this should be initially followed up with the establishment of a joint military garrisons of the Russian Federation armed forces and the armed forces of a country who acts independently of a command of the United States through NATO - such as but not limited to France - being stationed in Ukraine at mutually-agreed locations in order to guarantee the neutrality of Ukraine.

Furthermore, once the armed conflict ends, nations may advocate for using peacekeepers from the Collective Security Treaty Organisation in Ukraine. However,

this is only possible once an agreement has been reached along with the negotiations are carried out with the intent to achieve sustainable peace.

Moreover, since Russia had annexed Crimea and Donbas decided to become independent from Ukraine, both Crimea and Donbas must be made available for the citizens of Ukraine to travel visa-free. The economic activities should be available for the Ukrainian citizens on a national basis as well.

Finally, the rebuilding and reconstruction of Ukraine should be fully financed and supported, in mutually-agreed proportions, by all foreign countries willing to participate in the reconstruction process. Also, Ukrainian refugees willing to return must be facilitated with the aid of United Nations organisations that have such responsibilities. Among all, the nations should keep in mind how Ukraine should still have the option to avail full autonomy even though it is reconstituted as a confederation of oblasts due to the current instability of the nation.

Questions to Consider

- What is the threshold of this war?
 - Economy - Inflation, World Wide Economy
 - Politics - EU and NATO's status
 - Law - Binding effect of international law/resolutions
- What can the Security Council do to prevent war in the future?
 - Consider and evaluate the response of the Security Council about the Ukraine War in 2022.
 - Research about any other resolutions that the Security Council released related to the war.
- What do we have to learn from the war?
- Is eternal international peace achievable?
- Think about the essence and directionals of the IGOs in the future as well.
 - Is the Security Council efficient?
 - Do the EU and NATO do its role?
- What are achievable goals that can be a standard for the nations?
 - Long term Goals - Consider current economic situation of global economy and trading crisis
 - Short term Goals - Consider humanitarian aids for the victims of the war and war refugees
- What kind of actions should be made to protect human rights?
 - Contemplate about general human rights, UDHR
 - Consider as much as people you can including - war refugees, children, women, family who lost their loved ones

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