



ArcMUN

Aristotelio College Model United Nations

[SECURITY COUNCIL]

The situation in Ukraine

Study Guide

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1. Welcoming letter

Distinguished delegates,

We are more than honored and overjoyed to welcome you all to this year's annual ARCMUN, and more specifically to the Security Council, one of the most interesting committees. As members of the Board, we are really excited to work with you and have some fruitful debates during the conference.

First of all, we want to applaud you for participating in this conference, as MUNS are a great opportunity to be informed about intergovernmental issues, provide solutions, practice your public-speaking skills and make new friends!

The topic for this year's Council is the Situation in Ukraine. As the topic is currently at the forefront of the world timeline, it requires a careful and detailed approach in order to provide adequate and satisfying solutions to this problem, which is disrupting peace and is threatening not only Ukraine and Russia, but also every country around the globe. This study guide acts as a starting point for your research, however you also need to conduct your own thorough inquiry too, to find out more about your delegation's views on the matter.

Please be reminded that this topic is one of the most crucial around the world right now, and every day something new might happen! This means that you have to be aware of possible updates. Do not forget to take a look at the Security Council Rules of Procedure, which can be found on the official site of the conference. Should you have any questions concerning the topic, the rules of procedure or the Security Council as a Committee, do not hesitate to contact us.

Looking forward to a great conference!

The security council board,
Theodore Mantsis
Theodora Partsou

2. Introduction to the committee

The Security Council (SC), is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, and it acts as the primary authority to address threats to international peace and security. It held its first session on the 17th of January 1947. It is also responsible to determine when and where a UN peace operation should be deployed. It responds to crises around the world and it has a range of options at its disposal.

The Security Council consists of 15 members, with ten of them being non-permanent members with a two-year term starting on 1 January, with five replaced each year. The remaining five countries of the council, namely China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States of America, are its permanent members, also known as P5. Under Article 27 of the UN Charter, all the permanent members of the council have the well-known “veto power”. This means that the 5 permanent members have the right to cancel the decisions being made, when they decide to use this privilege. The current non-permanent members are: Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and the United Arab Emirates.

Concerning the Security Council:

- The presidency of the council is held by each and every member in turn for one month, in a rotating way which follows the English alphabetical order of the Member States' names.
- According to Articles 31 and 32 of Chapter V of the UN Charter, additional States whose interests are directly affected by a dispute under consideration by the Security Council can participate in the discussion relating to the dispute. These Observer States are not entitled to a vote.
- Under Article 25 of the UN Charter, the decisions of the Security Council are legally binding for all UN Member States. Chapter V of the UN Charter presents in detail the basic structure of the council, the rules of it and the rights that Member States have.
- Pursuant to Chapter VI of the Charter, the Security Council can call upon parties to settle any dispute by peaceful means, and can recommend actions to achieve settlement. Chapter VII empowers

the Council to determine breaches of the peace and acts of aggression and direct all U.N. Member States to taking necessary action, including the use of military force, to restore international peace and security.

It, therefore, becomes evident that the Security Council plays a crucial role in preserving international peace and actively promoting it, not only through intervening in instances of high international friction, but also by establishing a lasting rapport between various nations of the world.

3. Definition of key terms

NATO: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also known as the North Atlantic Alliance , is a military defense alliance of Western countries , which aims the development of cooperation between member countries in various fields (military , political , economic , social , educational), the promotion of geopolitical interests and the prevention of an armed attack against a member country by others.

SWIFT: The global bank messaging system operated by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications is a crucial part of the harsh sanctions on Russia.

G7: The Group of Seven is an intergovernmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

MINSK ACCORDS: The so-called Minsk accords of 2014 and 2015 attempted to end the war in the Donbass region of eastern Ukraine between Ukraine and Russian-speaking separatists in the disputed areas of Donetsk and Luhansk.

START I: START I (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) was a bilateral treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union on the reduction and the limitation of strategic offensive arms. The treaty was signed on 31 July 1991 and entered into force on 5 December 1994.

REFERENDUM: a vote in which all the people in a country or an area are asked to give their opinion about or decide an important political or social question.

ANNEX: to take possession of an area of land or a country, usually by force or without permission.

4. Introduction to the topic

Armed conflict in eastern Ukraine erupted in early 2014 following Russia's annexation of Crimea. Specifically in March, Russian troops took control of Ukraine's Crimea region. Russian President Vladimir Putin cited the need to protect the rights of Russian citizens and Russian speakers in Crimea and southeast Ukraine. Russia then formally annexed the peninsula after Crimeans voted to join the Russian Federation in a disputed local referendum. Two months later pro-Russian separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine held a referendum to declare independence from Ukraine.

Armed conflict in the region quickly broke out between Russian-backed forces and the Ukrainian military. Moscow denied military involvement, though both Ukraine and NATO reported the buildup of Russian troops and military equipment near Donetsk and Russian cross-border shelling immediately after Russia annexed Crimea. The conflict transitioned to an active stalemate, with regular shelling and skirmishes occurring along the front line that separated Russian- and Ukrainian-controlled border regions in the east.

Beginning in February 2015, France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine attempted to kickstart negotiations and broker a cessation in violence through the Minsk Accords. The agreement framework included provisions for a cease-fire, withdrawal of heavy weaponry, and full Ukrainian government control throughout the conflict zone. However, efforts to reach a diplomatic settlement and satisfactory resolution were largely unsuccessful.

In April 2016, NATO announced that the alliance would deploy four battalions to Eastern Europe, rotating troops through Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland to deter possible future Russian aggression elsewhere in Europe, particularly in the Baltics. In September 2017, the United States also deployed two U.S. Army tank brigades to Poland to further bolster NATO's presence in the region.

In October 2021, Russia began moving troops and military equipment near its border with Ukraine, reigniting concerns over a potential invasion. Commercial satellite imagery showed armor, missiles, and other heavy weaponry moving toward Ukraine with no official explanation.

By December, more than one hundred thousand Russian troops were in place near the Russia-Ukraine border. In mid-December, Russia's foreign ministry issued a set of demands calling for the United States and the NATO to:

- cease any military activity in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- commit against further NATO expansion toward Russia
- prevent Ukraine from joining NATO in the future.

The United States and other NATO allies rejected these demands and warned Russia they would impose severe economic sanctions if Russia invaded Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin then ordered troops to Luhansk and Donetsk, separatist regions in Eastern Ukraine partly controlled by Russian-backed separatists, claiming the troops served a "peacekeeping" function.

On February 24, during a United Nations Security Council meeting to dissuade Russia from attacking Ukraine, Putin announced the beginning of a full-scale land, sea, and air invasion of Ukraine targeting Ukrainian military assets and cities across the country. Severe sanctions have since been imposed by European allies and the USA, including

sanctions that target four of Russia’s largest banks, its oil and gas industry , and the financial assets of Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The U.S. continues to commit military assistance to Ukraine. The United Nations, G7, EU, and other countries continue to condemn Russian actions and support Ukrainian forces. In an emergency United Nations session on March 2, 141 of 193 member states voted to condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and demanded that Russia immediately cease its use of force in Ukraine.

The situation in Ukraine has, furthermore caused many crises that should be addressed, such as the humanitarian, economic, food and energy crises. It is only natural for war to create new waves of refugees and to interrupt trade relations especially with neighboring countries. In addition the two countries involved are some of the biggest exporters of agri-commodities (Ukraine) and oil, gas and coal (Russia), resulting in food and energy shortages worldwide and therefore in a surge in the prices in the corresponding markets.



Data as of Aug. 8, 2022 at 3 p.m. ET

Notes: "Assessed" means the Institute for the Study of War has received reliable and independently verifiable information to demonstrate Russian control or advances in those areas. Russian advances are areas where Russian forces have operated in or launched attacks, but they do not control them. "Claimed" areas are where sources have said control or counteroffensives are occurring, but ISW cannot corroborate nor demonstrate them to be false.

Sources: The Institute for the Study of War with AEI's Critical Threats Project; LandScan HD for Ukraine, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Graphic: Renée Rigdon and Natalie Croker, CNN

5. Points to be addressed

- What is your nation's position in the war?
- What is your country's relationship with Ukraine and Russia?
- How has the war affected global relations?
- How has your country been affected by the war?
- What is your country's proposed resolution to the war and its results?
- What actions can the Security Council take to ensure peace and security in the area?
- Should the UN intensify attempts to resolve the issue through diplomacy and dialogue or should it change route to action?

6. Actions already taken

As of today(27/09/2022):

- I. The Security Council has held numeral meetings since 2014 to discuss the situation between Russia and Ukraine, while following the recent invasion said meetings have increased intensifying the Council's consideration of the situation.
- II. The Council met on February 25 to consider a resolution proposed by the USA and Albania condemning Russia's invasion as an illegal act of aggression and calling Russia to immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and withdraw all troops.
After discussion in the Council on February 25, the Council voted on the resolution. Although 11 members voted in favor, Russia voted no, vetoing the resolution.
- III. On February 27, the Council considered a resolution to call an emergency special session of the U.N. General Assembly, stating that the Security Council was prevented from "exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security." The Council adopted the resolution with 11 members voting yes, three abstaining, and Russia casting the lone vote against.

Here are the latest developments (as of 27/09/2022):

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a partial mobilization of about 300,000 reservists to reinforce his troops in Ukraine.
- Ukrainian forces have held ground taken from Russia earlier this month in Kharkiv.
- Ukrainian troops are trying to push forward around Lyman.
- Fighting continues in the south, around Kherson.
- Self-styled referendums on joining Russia were held in Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk between 23 and 27 September.
- Russia to formally annex the above-mentioned territories after the results of the unrecognized referendums.

So-called referendums in four regions

Four regions of Ukraine that are partially or almost completely occupied by Russia held self-styled referendums from 23 to 27 September.

- Voting in Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk will be conducted either in person or remotely.
- The Russian-installed head of Kherson region in the south, Vladimir Saldo said incorporating it into Russia would "secure our territory and restore historical justice".
- Large parts of Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk are not under Russian control and all four regions have seen fighting in recent days, so conducting a secure vote will not be possible.

Some analysts have suggested that the change will allow Russia to claim that continued Ukrainian counter-attacks on the four regions will be an attack on sovereign Russian territory.

These referendums have not been recognised by the UN, as the procedure's integrity is questioned, after reports of use of scare tactics so that voters are forced to vote in favor of annexation, as well as the inclusion of planted voters that do not reside in those areas.



7. Conclusion

To sum up, it has already been established that it is critical we find a solution to this problem casting a threatening shadow over world peace and prosperity. We should take advantage of this Council's tools in order to avoid further escalation of the conflict. This session will decide the course of history, so we urge all governments' delegates to have in consideration the importance of their roles in this crossroads of war and peace, of humanity and cruelty, of prosperity and destruction.

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