



***UNSC***

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# 1. LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to each delegate that has taken a piece of their time apart to participate in AKA Model United Nations 2024. As the Secretary General of this conference I am utmost excited to witness your debates concerning global issues that plague the foundation of our world.

As you gather to begin your journey, I advise you approach this agenda with great interest and an open mind to allow for ease of communication. Over many years of evolution humanity has improved their methods of communication in many ways. As a result of that organizations such as the United Nations were able to be created. Here we gather to represent and celebrate these things by trying to help with such problems.

Aka Model United Nations is a place where you will be able to enhance your communication and critical thinking skills so never shy away from taking a place upfront. Voice your ideas, discuss with others and help the only world we have be greater.

I wish you a rewarding and prosperous Model United Nations Experience.

Best Regards

HÜSEYİN CAN ÇETİNTAŞ

Secretary General

## 2. LETTER FROM THE USG OF UNSC

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we welcome you to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) committee, one of the most important and dynamic committees in the Model United Nations. The topic at hand, the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia, is not only a matter of regional instability but also a crisis with profound global implications for peace, security, and human rights. As we gather to simulate the UNSC, you, the delegates, will have the opportunity to step into the roles of diplomats, negotiators, and global leaders. Your task will be to address one of the most critical issues of our time, striving to uphold the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and international law while navigating the complexities of geopolitics. This study guide has been carefully crafted to provide a foundational understanding of the conflict, including its historical background, current developments, and the positions of key stakeholders. However, your success in this committee will depend on your commitment to independent research, your ability to think critically, and your capacity to represent your assigned country's stance with precision and diplomacy.

Fundamentally, Model United Nations is a celebration of diplomacy, collaboration, and problem-solving. It is also an opportunity to form meaningful connections with fellow delegates, learn from diverse perspectives, and engage in debates that challenge you to think beyond boundaries. This simulation serves as a platform to cultivate essential skills in diplomacy, critical thinking, and collaborative problem-solving. By engaging in these discussions, you will develop a deeper understanding of complex global issues and the nuanced approaches required to address them. Your unique perspectives and ideas will play a crucial role in shaping the outcomes of this event, fostering a collective effort to visualize a more sustainable and equitable future for all. We encourage you to approach this issue with creativity, critical thinking, and a deep commitment to diplomacy. As future global leaders, the responsibility of finding sustainable and impactful solutions rests in your hands. We look forward to witnessing the debates and resolutions you will put forth to address this pressing issue.

Welcome to UNSC. All the best and good luck,

Kerem Duvan, Under-Secretary-General

AKAMUN'24

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### 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The United Nations Security Council was founded following the Second World War on October 24, 1945. The Security Council is the highest decision-making body of the United Nations, with the unique capacity to impose binding agreements on member states and use force to restore peace when peaceful means of resolution fail. Under Article 23, Chapter 5 of the UN Charter, the Security Council holds the responsibility to maintain international peace and security. Given the sole power to use force in response to attacks of force, the Security Council serves as the last resort answer to violence within the international community. As arbitrated in the UN Charter, before resorting to intervention the Security Council works to resolve international conflicts through diplomacy. Chapter VII of the Charter gives the Council the power to decide how to resolve conflicts that result in “threats to peace, breaches of the peace, or acts of aggression”

Totalling fifteen members, the Security Council consists of 5 permanent member states and 10 non-permanent member states. Known as the P5, the permanent Security Council members are: the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China. These countries were selected from the Allied forces after the end of World War II and stand as the only nations permitted as nuclear-weapon states (NWS) under the terms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The non-permanent members are elected for two year terms by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  approval from the General Assembly. GA Resolution 1991 (1963) requires that the members elected or broken down as: African Group, three seats; the Asia-Pacific Group, two; the Eastern European Group, one; the Latin American and Caribbean Group, two; and the Western European and Others Groups, two. As of 2024 and for the purposes of AKAMUN'24 the currently elected members of the security council are: Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland.

The UN Security Council requires 9 votes in favor and no against votes from P5 members in order to pass resolutions. The inability of a resolution to pass with any against votes Chapter VII: Action to Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression. UNSC Current Members from the P5 member states are referred to as the veto power of the P5. This structure serves as an attempt to balance power in the Security Council by allowing any P5 member to prevent the adoption of any draft resolution. A P5 member abstention or absence on a substantive vote does not veto it.

The majority of Security Council resolutions pass, but at times this has prevented 3 executive actions of the UN that even have major international support. Despite possible claims of undemocratic processes, however, any procedural reform would require the support of the Security Council; it has been consistent since the formation of the United Nations in 1945. In committee any resolution that receives an against vote from a P5 delegate will fail to pass. Because of this procedure delegates will need to formulate resolutions with the intention of working with P5 members. That said, P5 members will not receive any preferential treatment from the Dias. If the UN bodies were compared to that of a national government, the Security Council would serve as an executive branch. Where the General Assembly would closely resemble the legislative branch. The chartered authority of the Security Council is unique in its ability to go beyond diplomacy, when it has failed, to stabilize a crisis. However, the Security Council must begin by seeking a resolution to a crisis through an arsenal of diplomatic approaches first. If adopted in resolution format this committee has the capacity to mobilize peacekeeping forces, impose economic embargoes, impose mandatory sanctions, and make press statements. We encourage delegates to use multiple of these approaches in addressing the topic.

Committee Directives require nine yes votes and no P5 no votes. The faster that the committee moves along by passing resolutions the more interesting and ad-hoc the situation of the committee becomes. The duration of committee time is limited so, we expect multiple directives to be passed in each session and to follow each directive up with a crisis update. If the council is unable to pass directives, the crisis will respond by intensifying the necessity for action. To be successful in this committee delegates need to work towards gaining the support of eight other delegates and avoid being vetoed by a P5 Power.

## 4. DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

**UN Charter:** Signed on June 26, 1945, the Charter of the United Nations is the foundational treaty of the United Nations intergovernmental organization.

**Veto Power:** Is the defined authority of the P-5 to eliminate any draft resolution on the floor of the UNSC with one vote against.

**Permanent Member:** The five member states who have been given status of consistent membership within the UNSC.

**Non-Permanent Member:** Pursuant to Article 23 of the UN Charter, ten of the 15 Council members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms on the Security Council.

**Sanctions:** Sanctions are enforcement mechanisms utilized by the security council in order to further their goals. They can take the form of economic sanctions, arms embargoes, travel bans, etc.

**Security Council:** One of the principal organs of the UN, the Security Council has primary responsibility under the UN Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

**Peacekeeping Missions:** UN peacekeeping missions are mandated by the Security Council to provide security and political and peacebuilding support to countries in conflict or post-conflict situations. They are guided by the principles of consent of the host country, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defense, defense of the mandate or protection of civilians if so authorized by the Council.

**Minsk Accords:** A series of agreements aimed at ending the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. The accords outlined ceasefire measures, withdrawal of heavy weapons, and constitutional reforms, but implementation has been limited.

## 5. COMPREHENSIVE BACKGROUND OF THE CRISIS

### Geopolitical position of Ukraine:



Examining the current geopolitical positioning of Ukraine, there is a big divide between east and west. The western part of the country, which is primarily Ukrainian speaking and historically was a part of the Hapsburg empire, is much more pro-NATO, pro-EU. The eastern part of the country and the Crimea are mostly Russian speaking, which historically is more connected with Russia and is more inclined to see a close partnership with Russia as being in the country's interest.

### History of Ukraine:

The word Ukraine itself means borderland. Ukraine officially declared itself an independent state on August 24, 1991, when the communist Supreme Soviet (parliament) of Ukraine proclaimed that Ukraine would no longer follow the laws of the USSR and only the laws of the Ukrainian SSR, de facto declaring Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union.



### **Research points in modern history for better understanding of the Ukrainian History and its consequences:**

- Ukraine in World War I.
- Ukraine in World War II and 5 millions deaths because of starvation.
- Consequences of WWI and WWII on the economic growth of Ukraine.
- Independence
- Ukraine officially declared itself an independent state on August 24, 1991
- Consequences of the independence on the economic growth of Ukraine.
- Corruption and the Orange Revolution



## Ukraines Independence from the Russian Federation

In the young nation's history Ukraine has risen from the ashes of the Soviet Union. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 Ukraine has celebrated 30 years of independence from the control of the Soviet puppet government that was established throughout the duration of the Soviet Union. Ukraine celebrates its independence day August 24th to celebrate the overwhelming decision by the Ukrainian Parliament in which there was a vote to exit the Soviet Union with 92% of the vote going to leaving the Soviet Union.

Although Ukraine has maintained relatively neutrality as far as their involvement in the European political scape, recent advances from the Russian Federation have pushed the neutral country to request the ability to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). By joining NATO western powers such as the United States, The United Kingdom, and France would be bound by treaty to militarily support the former Soviet country in the event that a war or armed conflict were to break out. Due to the shared border between Russia and Ukraine this has led to tensions rising between the two nations, particularly since the first attempt by Ukraine to join NATO in 1992, due to Ukrainian leadership making the push to join NATO. In 2008 Ukraine requested to be granted a membership action plan after President George W. Bush voiced support for Ukraine to be granted access and entry to NATO. However, Ukraine was ultimately denied entry after France and Germany eventually chose not to support the membership of Ukraine in NATO after Russia voiced disdain for the invitation to NATO in 2008. Ultimately, the primary reason that Russia has shown such severe opposition to Ukraine being granted membership into NATO stems primarily from the fear of western global competitors being allowed to “set up shop” in a country that shares a border with their own. This has led to a response from western powers in recent time to station NATO troops along the border of Poland in order to protect the border of the closest neighboring NATO member state.

## The Rise of Vladimir Putin

President Vladimir Putin has not had the typical entrance into the global political sphere, in fact, it was not until 2000 that President Vladimir Putin had been a political figure. Vladimir Putin initially got his start working as a KGB agent for the Soviet Union. After the fall of the Soviet Union Putin gained prominent positions within the Kremlin such as becoming the head of the Federal Security Service under President Boris Yeltsin. After the first president of the Russian Federation suddenly resigned from office at the end of 1999, Vladimir Putin ran for political office securing 53% of the Russian vote granting him the presidency of Russia. Vladimir Putin ran a campaign that was focused on weeding out corruption within the Russian government as well as pushing to create a strong market economy. In order to weed out the corruption that plagued the Russian government, Putin went as far as jailing the oligarchs that were the financiers of many of the projects proposed by the government. Putin went as far as shuttering several news sources that were controlled by different oligarchs that utilized their news outlets to sway the public opinion of the Russian citizens.

Since Putin took charge of the Russian Federation in 2000 he has since won 3 more terms with a lot of media attention falling on his third and fourth terms due to his “Frenemy” relationship that he has fostered with former United States President Donald Trump alongside his involvement in the war in Crimea. In March of 2014, President Vladimir Putin declared that Crimea had always been a part of Russia and has even gone as far as supporting the Russian-backed Ukrainian Separatist movement of those wishing to be Russian citizens rather than Ukrainian citizens. On March 18th Vladimir Putin signed a treaty that annexed Crimea to be a part of the Russian Federation and just three days later on March 21st both houses of the Russian Parliament ratified the treaty officially annexing Crimea to become a Russian Territory. Since the annexation of Crimea President Vladimir Putin has since set his sights on neighboring Ukraine.

### Rising Tensions

In December of 2021 United States intelligence began picking up on traces of Russia building up troops along the Ukrainian border in preparation of an invasion of the former Soviet country. The Russian military offensive that United States intelligence has warned of could contain more than 175,000 Russian soldiers. After military exercises took place near the border of Ukraine in spring of 2021 the United States is warning of a military offensive containing twice as many soldiers as were transported to the border in early 2021. As of late 2021 and early 2022 it is expected that there are more than 100 Russian military battalions waiting for orders from the Kremlin in order to invade Ukraine. As tensions continue to rise and the threat of combat looms over the two nations in 2021 it would mark the first armed conflict to occur within Europe since the ending of World War 2 in 1945.

As troops continue to build up along the Ukrainian border Russia has begun conducting military drills and exercises in partnership with their close ally Belarus throughout February of 2022. On the global political stage these military drills are widely perceived to be an act of aggression and intimidation. The military exercises taking place in Belarus contain and utilize machines of war such as tanks, war planes, missile launchers, and will even include live fire defensive military exercises. As military exercises took place in February of 2022 the general consensus of world leaders globally is that Russia would conduct a hybrid war with Ukraine being that Russia would utilize an air and ground assault of major cities in Ukraine as well as an online hacking bombardment of critical Ukrainian online programs and assets. Throughout the buildup of troops and the duration of military exercises and operations, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine has become a steadfast symbol of Ukrainian solidarity.

## 6. CURRENT SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Ukraine remains tense and complex as the conflict with Russia continues into its fourth year. Currently, there is heavy fighting along the frontline, particularly in the Pokrovsk and Kurakhove areas. Russian forces have increased attacks, launching over 200 strikes in some regions in recent days. Meanwhile, Ukraine has responded with drone strikes targeting Russian oil refineries, though their strategic impact is debated. On the humanitarian side, millions remain displaced, with an estimated 3.7 million people internally displaced within Ukraine. Civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, has suffered significant damage, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. The UN and international organizations are actively providing aid, but funding remains insufficient for the scale of need. Politically, discussions about peace initiatives are emerging, partly driven by changing international dynamics, such as the U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's potential role in brokering a deal. However, both sides continue to push for strategic advantages on the battlefield as they prepare for potential negotiations.

As Ukraine continues its courageous and fully justified defense against Russia's war of aggression, Ukrainian policymakers have, understandably, prioritized Ukraine's security in an immediate response to the 2022 full-scale invasion. Like all nations facing an existential threat, Ukraine has adapted and restricted portions of its democratic governance architecture to ensure robust and effective self-defense for the time being but will soon be faced with the challenge of ensuring an effective defense while also mitigating the long-term risks that highly securitized state structures could pose to the country's hard fought democracy and strong civil liberties. The existential threat posed by Russia is unfortunately not unique to Ukraine, with the Nordic and Baltic states frequently facing harassment or threats of aggression. Over a period of several decades, those countries — including their governments and civil societies — have worked tirelessly to seek out a conventional democratic life by holding elections and easing media restrictions, among other measures, while also presenting an effective deterrence through total defense/comprehensive security measures to encode security throughout all major aspects of life while ensuring democracy and normalcy reign free. How can strong investments in future security sector governance models like total defense/comprehensive security help Ukraine continue to successfully navigate the tension between security and democracy?

On March 27, USIP hosted a discussion on the tensions between security, democracy and civil liberties, the costs and benefits of total defense/comprehensive security models, and the regulation and oversight of strong security sectors. The conversation examined lessons learned from Nordic and Baltic states, which could represent a thoughtful roadmap for ensuring Ukraine's democracy continues to stand strong while maintaining effective and transparent security institutions that credibly deter interstate aggression.

Economic situation: Ukraine's economy remains under significant strain from the ongoing war, but there are signs of resilience and recovery. GDP is expected to grow by 3-4% in 2024, driven by resumed Black Sea trade, increased domestic business activity, and international financial aid, though it remains 22% below pre-war levels. Reconstruction needs are massive, with \$486 billion required over the next decade for housing, transport, and energy infrastructure. International aid, covering nearly half of Ukraine's budget, is critical but faces delays that could lead to economic adjustments like higher taxes or currency devaluation. Despite rising poverty levels affecting 9 million people, domestic sectors like retail and construction have shown recovery, though labor shortages and inflation remain challenges. Ukraine's long-term recovery hinges on stable financial support, effective reconstruction, and deeper integration with the global economy.

Humanitarian crisis: The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine remains dire as the ongoing war continues to impact millions of lives. Over 14.6 million people, or 40% of the population, are in need of humanitarian aid, with acute challenges in frontline regions like Donetsk and Kharkiv. Displaced populations, both internally (nearly 4 million) and abroad (over 6 million refugees), face critical shortages of food, water, healthcare, and heating amid harsh winter conditions. In areas heavily bombarded, civilians endure life in damaged homes without electricity or running water, relying entirely on aid to survive. Vulnerable groups, including women and children, are at heightened risk of exploitation and violence. Efforts by humanitarian organizations aim to address these challenges, but funding gaps persist. For 2024, the United Nations has requested \$4.2 billion to support both in-country and refugee needs, highlighting the urgent requirement for sustained international aid to alleviate the growing crisis.

Military stalemate: The Ukraine crisis has reached a military stalemate characterized by limited territorial changes and high attrition on both sides. Neither Ukraine nor Russia has achieved decisive breakthroughs, with Ukraine struggling to penetrate heavily fortified Russian defenses and Russia unable to launch successful large-scale offensives. Ukrainian forces have made incremental gains around areas like Bakhmut, but winter conditions, logistical challenges, and the lack of air superiority have slowed progress. Meanwhile, Russia continues to target Ukrainian infrastructure with missile and drone strikes, maintaining a war of attrition. Both sides rely heavily on evolving technologies such as drones and precision weapons, but the conflict has devolved into a positional, trench-like war reminiscent of World War I. The lack of significant advances has increased calls for a negotiated settlement, though deep divisions persist over territorial concessions and political solutions.

## **7. ACTIONS TAKEN BY UNITED NATIONS**

The United Nations has been actively involved in addressing the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, particularly through its General Assembly and Security Council. In December 2024, the UN called for Russia's immediate withdrawal from Ukrainian territory, stressing the violation of international law and the devastating human cost of the war. The UN has also emphasized the need for humanitarian access, underscoring that civilians must be protected under international law, and that all parties should respect international humanitarian standards. One of the major actions taken has been the UN's response to the humanitarian crisis, which includes supporting millions of displaced Ukrainians. In 2023, over 11 million people were assisted, with the focus on delivering essential aid like food, water, and medical supplies. Despite the challenges of working in contested areas, the UN continues to press for the protection of humanitarian workers and the safe delivery of aid. Additionally, UN officials have repeatedly called for a diplomatic solution to the conflict, encouraging dialogue despite the growing violence. They also emphasize accountability for violations of international law, advocating for war crimes investigations. The ongoing commitment to addressing the human toll of the war remains a priority, alongside international efforts to push for an end to the hostilities.

The security situation in Ukraine deteriorated rapidly following the launch of a Russian Federation military offensive on 24 February 2022. The armed violence escalated in at least eight regions, including Kyivska region and the capital city of Kyiv, as well as in the eastern region Donetsk and Luhansk which were already affected by conflict. The escalation of conflict has triggered an immediate and steep rise in humanitarian needs as essential supplies and services are disrupted and civilians flee the fighting. The UN estimates that 12 million people inside Ukraine will need relief and protection, while more than 4 million Ukrainian refugees may need protection and assistance in neighbouring countries in the coming months. On 1 March 2022, the UN and humanitarian partners launched coordinated Flash Appeals for a combined \$1.7 billion to urgently deliver humanitarian support to people in Ukraine and refugees in neighbouring countries. Within Ukraine, the plan requires \$1.1 billion to meet the escalating humanitarian needs of more than six million people affected and displaced by military operations over the next three months. Outside the country, the UN requested \$551 million to help Ukrainians who have fled across borders, principally to Poland, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

## **8. POSITION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

### **a. Block Position**

#### **Western Bloc (United States, United Kingdom, France)**

The Western Bloc, primarily being made up of NATO members, is against the ongoing conflict within Ukraine. Due to the nature of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the necessity for those that are members to fight a war against any one country that may launch an attack on a member state, the Western Bloc is concerned with Russia pushing further past Ukraine into the NATO member state of Poland. On the global stage Western Countries namely those that are members of the P5 have taken a staunch adversarial stance to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.

#### **Eastern Bloc**

With the Eastern Bloc consisting of both India and China the overall stance on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is one of neutrality. With both countries being involved in diplomatic talks with members of the Kremlin, both countries have maintained a neutral disposition on the conflict and have utilized the right of abstention when it comes to voting on resolutions within Security Council meetings.

#### **African Bloc**

While some African nations, such as Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya, have expressed their condemnation of Russia's actions in Ukraine, most African countries have largely remained silent and neutral. In fact, over 23 African nations abstained on the vote to remove Russia from the UN Human Rights Council, with other nine nations outright voting against it. This can be traced to African countries' strong relationship with Moscow, as the former USSR came to the aid of many African nations during the Cold War. Countries in this bloc have to consider their history with Russia, but also their relation to Western nations before taking a stance on the conflict.

#### **Arab League**

Arab regions' stance on the conflict has been inconsistent: Starting by failing to condemn Russia's actions and even signaling a pro-Russia stance in the early days of the invasion, there was a shift from certain Arab nations - Namely, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt - by taking part in the General Assembly's condemnation of Russia. Countries in the Arab League have strong ties to Western countries but heavily rely on food supplies from Russia. As of April 12th, 2022, the Arab League has offered to mediate a resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with food shortages in the Middle Eastern region

being a driving concern. Though nations in the Arab League have mostly remained neutral in hopes of reaching a swift conclusion, countries in this bloc need to be wary of Arab nations' strong ties and partnerships with Western countries.

## **United States**

The United States views the conflict in Ukraine as a key battleground in the broader ideological struggle between democratic and autocratic systems of governance. Supporting Ukraine helps uphold the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and self-determination. Furthermore, countering Russian aggression is essential to maintaining the post-World War II international order. Economically, weakening Russia's geopolitical influence also protects U.S. allies in Europe, secures energy markets, and prevents the erosion of NATO's collective security framework.

1. Military Aid: Since 2014, the United States has provided over \$50 billion in military assistance to Ukraine to bolster its defense capabilities, especially following Russia's annexation of Crimea. In 2022 alone, the U.S. committed over \$40 billion in aid to Ukraine, with approximately \$18 billion directed specifically towards military support. This includes the provision of advanced weaponry such as HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems), Patriot missile defense systems, 155mm artillery shells, and anti-tank missiles like Javelins and NLAWs (Next-Generation Light Anti-Tank Weapons). The U.S. has also facilitated intelligence sharing and training programs for Ukrainian forces, training thousands of Ukrainian soldiers on NATO-standard tactics and equipment to enhance their combat readiness.

2. Economic Sanctions: The U.S. has implemented some of the most comprehensive sanctions in its history against Russia, targeting key sectors of the Russian economy. As of 2023, over 1,200 Russian individuals and entities have been sanctioned, including President Vladimir Putin, senior government officials, and oligarchs. Sanctions on Russian banks, such as Sberbank and VTB Bank, have effectively cut off these institutions from the global financial system, restricting Russia's ability to transact in U.S. dollars or access international credit markets. Energy sanctions include a ban on imports of Russian oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and coal into the U.S., which accounted for 8% of U.S. oil imports before the ban. These measures aim to diminish Russia's revenue streams, which heavily rely on energy exports.

3. Diplomatic Leadership: The United States has played a pivotal role in unifying NATO and the European Union to present a cohesive response to Russia's aggression. Washington spearheaded NATO's decision to bolster its eastern flank by deploying tens of thousands of troops and significant military hardware to member states like Poland, Romania, and the Baltic countries. At the United Nations, the U.S. has co-sponsored resolutions condemning Russia's invasion, including the March 2022 resolution that garnered 141 votes in favor in the General Assembly. Additionally, it has worked to block Russia's veto power in the UN

Security Council from shielding itself from accountability. The U.S. has also hosted multiple international donor conferences, raising billions in additional aid and rallying support from non-NATO allies like Japan, South Korea, and Australia.

## **Russian Federation**

Russia's actions in Ukraine are driven by its desire to block Ukraine's integration with NATO and the EU, which it views as threats to its security and regional influence. The Kremlin argues that NATO's eastward expansion violates post-Cold War agreements and undermines Russia's borders. Ukraine is also central to Russia's strategy of maintaining control over its "near abroad," using the conflict to reassert dominance over former Soviet states.

Domestically, President Putin uses the war to promote nationalist sensibilities and distract from economic challenges, including a 2.5% GDP contraction in 2022. Globally, Russia aims to weaken European unity, disrupt NATO relations, and challenge the U.S.-led international order, reinforcing its image as a revisionist power determined to reshape post-Cold War boundaries.

1. Annexation of Crimea (2014): Russia annexed Crimea in March 2014 following the Euromaidan protests and the ousting of Ukraine's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich. The Kremlin justified the move by citing historical claims—highlighting Crimea's transfer to Ukraine by Nikita Khrushchev in 1954—and alleged threats to ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking populations. A disputed referendum, held under Russian military presence, claimed 96.77% support for joining Russia, though the vote was widely condemned as illegitimate by the international community. This action marked the first forcible change of European borders since World War II, leading to international sanctions and Russia's suspension from the G8 (now G7).

2. Support for Separatists: Since 2014, Russia has provided extensive support to separatist groups in Eastern Ukraine, particularly in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, collectively known as the Donbas. Moscow has supplied separatists with weapons, training, and intelligence, including advanced systems like the Buk missile system, implicated in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in 2014. Financially, Russia has funneled billions of dollars into sustaining separatist-controlled territories, covering pensions, infrastructure, and governance costs. By 2021, Russia had issued over 720,000 Russian passports to residents of the Donbas, solidifying its claim over the region and integrating it more closely with Russia.

3. Military Invasion (2022): On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which it termed a "special military operation." The stated objectives included "denazification," "demilitarization," and preventing NATO's expansion into Ukraine. The invasion involved over 190,000 Russian troops deployed across multiple fronts, targeting Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mariupol, and other key cities. Despite initial gains, Russian forces faced



fierce resistance and significant logistical challenges. As of late 2023, the war has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties on both sides, with Russia losing an estimated 250,000 troops (killed, wounded, or missing). Russia's actions have led to widespread international condemnation, making it the target of unprecedented sanctions and global isolation.

4. Energy Leverage: Russia, the world's largest exporter of natural gas, has used its energy dominance as a geopolitical weapon to pressure Europe. In 2022, Russia cut off gas supplies to nations like Poland, Bulgaria, and Finland, reducing overall exports to the EU by 55% compared to 2021. Gas exports through major pipelines like Nord Stream 1 were halted entirely, causing an energy crisis in Europe and skyrocketing natural gas prices by over 400% in some markets. Despite this, Russia has continued to generate significant revenue from energy sales, particularly to China and India, which increased their imports of Russian oil and gas following Western sanctions.

## **China**

1. Neutral Stance at the UN: China has consistently abstained from voting on key UN resolutions condemning Russia's actions in Ukraine, including the March 2022 UN General Assembly resolution, where 141 nations voted to condemn the invasion. By abstaining, Beijing avoids alienating its strategic partner, Russia, while signaling to the West that it remains open to dialogue. In the UN Security Council, where China is a permanent member, it has not used its veto power to block resolutions against Russia but has often echoed Russian narratives about NATO expansion and Western interference.

2. Economic Relations with Russia: Trade between China and Russia reached a record \$190 billion in 2022, a 30% increase compared to the previous year, as Beijing ramped up imports of discounted Russian oil, gas, and coal. China is now Russia's largest trading partner, accounting for over 20% of Russia's total trade volume, with energy exports forming the backbone of this relationship. In 2022, China imported over 80 million tons of Russian crude oil, making Russia its top oil supplier. Beyond energy, China has expanded agricultural imports from Russia, including wheat and soybeans, and increased exports of machinery, electronics, and consumer goods to fill gaps left by Western companies withdrawing from the Russian market.

3. Opposition to Sanctions: China has consistently opposed Western-led unilateral sanctions, arguing that such measures exacerbate economic hardship, violate principles of sovereignty, and disrupt global supply chains. Beijing has refused to participate in Western sanctions against Russia, instead maintaining financial ties by using alternative payment systems like the yuan and Russia's Mir payment system to facilitate transactions. By 2023, the yuan accounted for over 40% of Russia's import payments, up from 19% in 2021.

## b. Regional Alliances and Organizations

### I. **European Union**

The European Union has been a strong supporter of Ukraine, focusing on upholding international law and countering Russian aggression to prevent further destabilization of the region. In response to Russia's invasion, the EU has implemented an unprecedented series of sanctions aimed at weakening the Russian economy and its ability to fund the war. These measures include banning 90% of Russian oil imports by the end of 2022, cutting Russia's crude oil exports to the bloc by more than two-thirds. Additionally, the EU excluded seven major Russian banks, including Sberbank, from the SWIFT financial system, severely restricting Russia's access to international financial markets. The sanctions also target Russian elites, freezing the assets of 1,386 individuals and 171 entities, and imposing export controls on critical technologies, such as semiconductors, to hinder Russia's military-industrial capabilities.

The EU has also played a critical role in addressing the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict. By early 2024, EU member states had provided shelter to over 4 million Ukrainian refugees, with Poland alone hosting more than 1.5 million displaced persons, followed by Germany with over 1 million. The European Union has allocated over €10 billion in humanitarian aid, including food, medical supplies, and temporary housing for refugees, while also funding Ukraine's infrastructure repairs to address the consequences of the war.

In a show of political solidarity, the EU has moved to deepen Ukraine's integration into the bloc. In 2022, Ukraine was granted EU candidate status, marking a historic milestone in its relationship with the Union. The EU has accelerated talks on membership, emphasizing reforms in governance, the judiciary, and anti-corruption measures as prerequisites for full accession. These actions underscore the EU's commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and long-term stability, reinforcing its position as a key partner in Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression.

### II. **NATO**

NATO, while not directly engaged in the Ukraine conflict, plays a crucial role in bolstering security in Eastern Europe and supporting Ukraine against Russian aggression. NATO member states have collectively provided Ukraine with advanced military aid, including artillery, air defense systems, and intelligence-sharing capabilities. As of 2023, NATO allies delivered over \$100 billion in military assistance, with contributions including Leopard 2 tanks from Germany, Patriot missile systems from the United States, and HIMARS rocket systems from various allies. Intelligence-sharing, particularly from the United States and the United Kingdom, has significantly enhanced Ukraine's battlefield awareness and strategic planning.

In response to heightened threats, NATO has reinforced its eastern flank by increasing troop deployments and military assets in member states bordering Russia. By 2024, NATO had stationed over 40,000 troops in Poland, the Baltic states, and Romania as part of its Enhanced Forward Presence initiative, supported by advanced air and missile defense systems. This buildup aims to deter any potential Russian incursions and reassure member states of the alliance's commitment to their security. NATO maintains its actions are defensive, emphasizing its dedication to Article 5, which guarantees collective defense.

NATO has also taken a firm stance against Russian demands to exclude Ukraine from future membership. The alliance has refused to provide guarantees that Ukraine will never join, citing the principle that sovereign nations have the right to determine their own foreign and security policies. This refusal has reinforced NATO's commitment to its open-door policy, despite Russian objections, and highlights its broader mission of defending the sovereignty and independence of nations in the face of external aggression. These actions underline NATO's role as a stabilizing force in the region while signaling unwavering support for Ukraine and its right to self-determination.

## **9. CONSEQUENCES OF THE CRISIS**

### **a. Humanitarian Impact**

Tens of thousands of people have been killed or injured on all sides of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, which has had a catastrophic human cost. Among these, civilians caught in the crossfire of unrelenting violence account for a sizable portion of the casualties. Nearly 13 million people have been forced to evacuate their homes in pursuit of safety as a result of the war, which has also sparked one of the worst refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. Whole towns have been uprooted, and families and people have suffered greatly as a result. Many have been left to reconstruct their lives in extremely challenging situations.

The humanitarian tragedy has been made worse by reports of human rights abuses. Calls for accountability have increased as a result of accusations of war crimes and atrocities against both sides. It has been alleged that Russian forces have bombed residential neighborhoods, targeted civilian infrastructure, and forced entire communities to relocate. Furthermore, allegations of summary killings and other violent crimes have highlighted how serious and indiscriminate the conflict is.

## b. Economic Repercussions

The Ukraine conflict has had far-reaching economic repercussions, deeply impacting global energy markets, food security, and international trade. Europe has faced severe energy shortages and soaring costs due to Russia's decision to curtail its gas and oil supplies. As one of the world's largest energy producers, Russia's actions disrupted European energy security, forcing the European Union to expedite its transition to renewable energy sources and seek alternative suppliers. This shift, while critical for long-term energy independence, has come with significant short-term economic and logistical challenges.

The war has also disrupted global food supply chains, with Ukraine—a major exporter of grains—unable to maintain its usual production and distribution. The resulting shortages have particularly affected underdeveloped countries in the Middle East and Africa, where dependence on Ukrainian grain is high. Rising food prices have exacerbated hunger and food insecurity in regions already struggling with economic and climatic hardships, deepening the humanitarian crisis.

Western nations have imposed sweeping sanctions on Russia, targeting key industries such as banking, energy, and defense, to weaken its ability to sustain the conflict. These sanctions have dealt a significant blow to Russia's economy, despite its efforts to pivot toward China and other allies for economic support. However, the impact of these measures has not been confined to Russia alone; international markets and trade networks have also been strained, contributing to global economic instability. The economic fallout of the war continues to ripple across the world, highlighting the interconnectedness of modern economies and the far-reaching consequences of geopolitical conflicts.

## c. Global Security Threats

The process of the crisis has intensified a number of challenges to international security, with implications in a variety of fields. The increasing threat of using nuclear weapons is among the most concerning issues. World is now more anxious about nuclear proliferation as a result of Russia's nuclear posturing, which has increased escalation fears and damaged the legitimacy of current arms control accords.

Additionally, as countries struggle for scarce resources, the war has shattered energy supply lines, especially in Europe, upsetting global energy markets and fostering vulnerabilities. The vulnerability of energy security in a globalized world has been highlighted by these disruptions.

Cyberattacks have increased, and state-sponsored operations are now attacking vital infrastructure all around the world. The increasing significance of cybersecurity in contemporary wars has been brought to light by the rise in hybrid warfare. With alliances like China and Russia on one side and an expanding NATO on the other, the crisis has exacerbated geopolitical differences among world powers, bringing back memories of bloc politics during the Cold War.

## **10. CONCLUSION: MOVING TOWARDS PEACE**

The United Nations Security Council is a powerful body with the potential to address a wide range of global issues, including the ongoing crisis between Ukraine and Russia. However, its ability to act decisively is often hindered by the complex interplay of political interests, the veto power of the permanent members, and the challenges inherent in securing consensus among its diverse membership. The Ukraine-Russia crisis serves as a clear example of these dynamics, as the UNSC struggles to balance the need for swift action with the reality of competing geopolitical interests. Understanding the UNSC's structure, mandate, and decision-making process is essential for anyone involved in shaping the future of global diplomacy and peacekeeping.

## **11. Questions To Consider:**

- I. What are effective ways that the UN Security Council can utilize funds and resources to provide aid to those whose basic human rights are being violated?
- II. How can the UN Security Council work with pre-existing international bodies, such as NATO, to take a holistic approach to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine?
- III. How does your country perceive the conflict?
- IV. What role should NATO play in this crisis?
- V. What mechanisms can the UNSC employ to achieve peace?
- VI. What measures can address the humanitarian crisis?
- VII. How can the international community ensure the safe evacuation of civilians and access to humanitarian aid?
- VIII. What steps can be taken to protect refugees and internally displaced persons?
- IX. How does the conflict affect global energy and food security?
- X. What sanctions or incentives can be introduced to de-escalate the conflict?

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