

**INSPIRIA
MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

AGENDA: Maintenance of International Peace and Security in Ukraine

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings,

Representatives of various nations, I welcome you all to the United Nations Security Council for Inspiria Model United Nations, 2022. For many of you, it may be your first ever MUN conference in your educational experience, and I strongly encourage you to go through the entire study guide first, that has been prepared for you as a part of the conference in order to get an in depth understanding of the issue that will be discussed in the committee. However, there is a lot of content available beyond the study guide too. You are expected to research, collate, list down possible points for discussions, questions and plausible responses and be prepared to enjoy the intellectual energy in the Council. At the same time it is not only about speaking and presenting, but very importantly it is also about the ability to listen, understand view points and learn from each others perspectives. Wishing all of you a great learning experience. Looking forward to having all of you with us at the conference.

Best wishes,

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ABOUT UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL:

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Security Council working methods is a complex and constantly evolving area of the Council's practice. This section provides narrative descriptions of specific working methods, along with their history and modifications over the years and will serve as a resource to keep users up-to-date on topics such as the Council's use of the veto, procedural votes, Arria-formula meetings or its visiting missions.

COUNCIL'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR SEPTEMBER:

Each month the UN Secretariat prepares a 'provisional' programme of work for the Security Council. This document is discussed by the members informally, initially in bilateral discussions between each of the members and the new president for the month. The presidency then, after making any adjustments, puts the document before the members in informal consultations. Once agreed, the document is posted on the UN website and it will also be available here. However, this is not a Council agenda in the formal sense. It remains provisional and is simply a framework for scheduling both formal and informal discussion of various issues expected to arise.

In September, France is president of the Security Council.

France plans to organise a ministerial-level briefing on Ukraine during the General Assembly high-level week. Secretary-General António Guterres is expected to brief.

In September, the Security Council will also hold a briefing on peacekeeping reform pursuant to resolution 2378 of 20 September 2017. Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix is the anticipated briefer.

African issues on the programme of work in September include briefing and consultations on the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), consultations and the renewal of resolution 2240 to inspect and seize vessels smuggling migrants, briefing and consultations on the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) to name a few.

Middle Eastern issues on the programme are renewal of the mandate of the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD); monthly

meetings on the political, humanitarian and chemical weapons tracks as well as an informal interactive dialogue (IID) in accordance with resolution 2642 of 12 July for Syria and the monthly meeting on the Palestinian issue.

There will also be the quarterly briefing and consultations on the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Other issues could also be raised in September depending on developments.

For this academic simulation, we will be strictly focusing of the first work at hand, that is briefing on the Ukraine issue.

WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE?

The Russian Federation's military offensive against Ukraine launched on 24 February 2022 has triggered one of the fastest-growing refugee emergencies in history, and the largest since World War II. Millions of people have been displaced internally or forced to seek refuge abroad. Across Ukraine, critical infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed. This has caused total outages of electricity, heating and water in some areas, while other services such as internet connectivity, medical care and public transport have been disrupted. As a result, many people find themselves with no resources or information on where to find safety and accommodation and are unable to meet their basic needs including food, water and medicines. Given the lack of safe humanitarian access, the delivery of life-saving aid is difficult in many areas.

The armed violence escalated in at least eight oblasts (regions), including Kyivska oblast and the capital city of Kyiv, as well as in the eastern oblasts 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.

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.

Amin Awad, the UN Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine called for an "immediate humanitarian pause" , on 5 March, in the fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces, as UN aid supplies continue to arrive in the country.

History:

Armed conflict in eastern Ukraine erupted in early 2014 following Russia's annexation of Crimea. The previous year, protests in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, against Ukrainian President

Viktor Yanukovich's decision to reject a deal for greater economic integration with the European Union (EU) were met with a violent crackdown by state security forces. The protests widened, escalating the conflict, and President Yanukovich fled the country in February 2014.

One month later, in March 2014, Russian troops took control of the Ukrainian region of Crimea. 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. The crisis heightened ethnic divisions, and two months later, pro-Russian separatists in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk held their own independence referendums. Russia denied military involvement, but both Ukraine and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) reported the buildup of Russian troops and military equipment near Donetsk and Russian cross-border shelling immediately following Crimea's annexation.

Beginning in February 2015, France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine attempted to kickstart negotiations to bring an end to the violence through the Minsk Accords. The agreement framework included provisions for a ceasefire, withdrawal of heavy weaponry, and full Ukrainian government control throughout the conflict zone. Efforts to reach a diplomatic settlement and satisfactory resolution, however, were largely unsuccessful.

In April 2016, NATO announced the deployment of four battalions to Eastern Europe, rotating troops through Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland to deter possible future Russian aggression elsewhere on the continent, 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 January 2018, the United States imposed new sanctions on twenty-one individuals—including a number of Russian officials—and nine companies linked to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. In March 2018, the U.S. Department of State approved the sale of anti-tank weapons to Ukraine, the first sale of lethal weaponry since the conflict began. In October 2018, Ukraine joined the United States and seven other NATO countries in a series of large-scale air exercises in western Ukraine. The exercises came after Russia held its own annual military exercises in September 2018, the largest since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Current situation:

In October 2021, months of intelligence gathering and observations of Russian troop movements, force build-up, and military contingency financing culminated in a White House briefing with U.S. intelligence, military, and diplomatic leaders on a near-certain mass-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. The only remaining questions were when the attack would take place and whether the United States would be able to convince allies to act preemptively. Both were answered on February 24, 2022, when Russian forces invaded a largely unprepared Ukraine after Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized a "special military operation" against the country. In his statement, Putin claimed that the goal of the operation

was to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine and end the alleged genocide of Russians in Ukrainian territory.

In the days and weeks leading up to the invasion, the Joe Biden administration made the unconventional decision to reduce information-sharing constraints and allow for the broader dissemination of intelligence and findings, both with allies—including Ukraine—and publicly. The goal of this strategy was to bolster allied defenses and dissuade Russia from taking aggressive action. Commercial satellite imagery, social media posts, and published intelligence from November and December 2021 showed armor, missiles, and other heavy weaponry moving toward Ukraine with no official explanation from the Kremlin. By the end of 2021, more than one hundred thousand Russian troops were in place near the Russia-Ukraine border, with U.S. intelligence officials warning of a Russian invasion in early 2022. In mid-December 2021, Russia's foreign ministry called on the United States and NATO to cease military activity in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, commit to no further NATO expansion toward Russia, and prevent Ukraine from joining NATO in the future. The United States and other NATO allies rejected these demands and threatened to impose severe economic sanctions if Russia took aggressive action against Ukraine.

In early February 2022, satellite imagery showed the largest deployment of Russian troops to its border with Belarus since the end of the Cold War. Negotiations between the United States, Russia, and European powers—including France and Germany—failed to bring about a resolution. In late February 2022, the United States warned that Russia intended to invade Ukraine, citing Russia's growing military presence at the Russia-Ukraine border. President Putin then ordered troops to Luhansk and Donetsk, claiming the troops served a "peacekeeping" function. The United States responded by imposing sanctions on the regions and the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline a few days later. Nevertheless, just prior to the invasion, U.S. and Ukrainian leaders remained at odds regarding the nature and likelihood of an armed Russian threat, with Ukrainian officials playing down the possibility of an incursion and delaying the mobilization of their troops and reserve forces.

On February 24, 2022, during a last-ditch UN Security Council effort 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. U.S. President Joe Biden declared the attack "unprovoked and unjustified" and issued severe sanctions against top Kremlin officials, including Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov; four of Russia's largest banks; and the Russian oil and gas industry in coordination with European allies. On March 2, 141 of 193 UN member states voted to condemn Russia's invasion in an emergency UN General Assembly session, demanding that Russia immediately withdraw from Ukraine.

IMPACT OF THE CRISIS:

The consequences of this senseless war are being felt far beyond Ukraine.

We are seeing new vulnerabilities emerge in a global environment already worn out by conflicts, inequality, pandemic-induced economic and health crises, and climate change – with a disproportionate impact on developing countries.

The acceleration of already high food, fertilizer and fuel prices has triggered a global crisis that could drive millions more into extreme poverty, magnifying hunger and malnutrition, while threatening to raise the global humanitarian caseload to new highs and erase hard-won development gains.

Vulnerable communities are grappling with the largest cost-of-living crisis in a generation and high commodity and transportation costs are having major repercussions for existing humanitarian operations.

Three major aspects that took a hit due to the crisis:

1. **Humanitarian aspect:** As the humanitarian situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate — at an alarming scale and speed of displacement not seen since the Second World War — briefers and delegates in the Security Council today called for the Russian Federation to uphold their international-law obligations, cease attacks on civilians and end the war.

Kelly T. Clements, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, briefed the Security Council on 19 April, 2022, via video-teleconference from Hungary, where almost a half million Ukrainians have fled — a fraction of the almost 5 million who have been forced to leave their country and the 7 million people displaced within Ukraine. The United Nations also estimates that 13 million more Ukrainians are in the hardest hit areas, many unable to move and difficult to safely reach with aid. The sheer scale and speed of displacement are immense, with women, children, and the aged having left behind their homes, lives, sons, fathers and husbands, forced to make impossible, heart-breaking decisions.

2. **Military aspect:** The Ukraine conflict is already providing a wide range of lessons about the role of modern military forces in modern war, but it is also providing equally important lessons about the future of the civil side of war. Barring some massive political changes in Russia, the conflict is a warning that the civil side of war is becoming far more dangerous. Furthermore, it is yet another example that the kind of civil conflicts and crises that have emerged from the Iran-Iraq War, the Syrian and Yemeni civil wars, and the wars the U.S. and its allies have fought against extremists in Iraq and Afghanistan are now the rule and not the exception.

The Ukraine crisis is, indeed, a watershed of many sorts, with seismic consequences for the international order and systemic implications for national security, offering many military lessons for the future.

The conflict has underlined several realities in the hardball of international politics. First, the possession of nuclear weapons matters—Putin's nuclear signalling has been a major factor in preventing the West from intervening militarily, as also in retaining the levers of escalation dominance. Second, the threat of economic sanctions (even when so severe in effect, to be equated with weapons of mass destruction), does not deter physical aggression.

The debate about the art of war and the utility of force in modern times has also been brought to a conclusive end. From assertions that the days of full-fledged conflict are over to a pronounced accent on grey zone manoeuvres, we have now seen the return of all-out force.

- 3. Political and economic aspect:** The ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine have impacted the global diplomacy, markets, politics and every other sphere of life across the globe. The war has also evolved into a major political and economic conflict between the West and Russia which may ultimately have far more impact on global stability and on U.S. and European strategy than the actual fighting. While the situation remains highly fluid and the outlook is subject to extraordinary uncertainty, the economic consequences are already very serious. Energy and commodity prices—including wheat and other grains—have surged, adding to inflationary pressures from supply chain disruptions and the rebound from the Covid-19 pandemic. Price shocks will have an impact worldwide, especially on poor households for whom food and fuel are a higher proportion of expenses. Should the conflict escalate, the economic damage would be all the more devastating. The sanctions on Russia will also have a substantial impact on the global economy and financial markets, with significant spillovers to other countries.

In many countries, the crisis is creating an adverse shock to both inflation and activity, amid already elevated price pressures. Monetary authorities will need to carefully monitor the pass-through of rising international prices to domestic inflation, to calibrate appropriate responses. Fiscal policy will need to support the most vulnerable households, to help offset rising living costs. This crisis will create complex policy tradeoffs, further complicating the policy landscape as the world economy recovers from the pandemic crisis.

In Ukraine, in addition to the human toll, the economic damage is already substantial. Sea ports and airports are closed and have been damaged, and many roads and bridges have been damaged or destroyed. While it is very difficult to assess financing needs precisely at this stage, it is already clear that Ukraine will face significant recovery and reconstruction costs.

How has the West responded to it?

The west has severed trading relationships with Vladimir Putin's Russia on a scale thought unimaginable. As tanks edge towards Ukraine's capital Kyiv, governments around the world have taken coordinated action, using sanctions to target Russia's banking system, state-controlled companies and powerful oligarchs. Under self-imposed restrictions, companies in Europe and the US have followed suit, with energy firms severing corporate ties and brands refusing to export their consumer goods. The day after Russia invaded Ukraine, excluding Russian banks from Swift was described by one EU minister as a "very last resort". Now it is happening: under EU sanctions, seven Russian banks, including VTB, the second-largest, will be excluded from Belgian-based Swift, the bank messaging system that underpins global trade.

Being locked out of the world's dominant bank messaging system means Russia will have to resort to more cumbersome alternatives, possibly fax machines, although Russia's central bank says it has a domestic equivalent.

The UK government has blacklisted a handful of business people already subject to US sanctions and claims to be preparing a "hitlist" of oligarchs with links to Putin, but has taken no action so far. At least 30 countries have banned Russian planes from their airspace, deepening Russia's isolation from the world.

The US became the latest to announce a prohibition of all Russian passenger, cargo and charter flights, joining Canada, the EU and the UK. Biden emphasized that he "will not pressure Ukraine—in private or in public—to make any territorial concessions" as part of any eventual peace process with Russia. Rather, he said, U.S. military aid is meant to help Ukrainians defend themselves well enough to "be in the strongest possible position at the negotiating table." As Biden expressed the U.S. goal of a "Ukraine with the means to deter and defend itself against further aggression," he also signaled a method for achieving it: supplying Ukraine with highly capable defensive weapons. His article announced that the United States will send Ukraine advanced, long-range rocket systems that have recently become more vital as the war has shifted to the wide, open steppe of southeastern Ukraine. The United States and its allies already have delivered 108 howitzers with a potential range up to 25 miles, and Ukraine so far has deployed 85 of them to front lines, a U.S. defense official said last week. The rocket system that Biden mentioned in his article will carry ammunition capable of a 50-mile range.

How has Russia responded?

On March 31, President Vladimir Putin required companies based in "unfriendly countries" - those that had imposed sanctions on Russia - to pay for their energy in roubles rather than the dollars or euros stipulated in their contracts. Energy exports are Putin's most powerful lever as he tries to hit back against sweeping Western sanctions imposed on Russian banks, companies, businessmen and associates of the Kremlin in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Moscow calls its Ukraine action a "special military operation". Amid resistance from European clients and lack of clarity over how to make payments, Russia cut off Poland and Bulgaria for refusing to pay in roubles.

On May 3, Putin outlined new measures against a list of individuals and companies from "unfriendly countries".

What is China's stance on this?

Like many non-Western countries, China has formulated its stance on the Russia-Ukraine war in keeping with its general foreign policy approach and its perception of the value and purpose of international alliances.

China feels that Not only Russia but also the West, in particular the United States, are to blame for what has happened in Ukraine because the West has constantly ignored Russia's security concerns. China, like Europe, wants the war in Ukraine to end as soon as possible, but the conflict drags on because of U.S. involvement.

According to statements made by China on the global podium, The situations in Ukraine and in Taiwan are not comparable because Ukraine is a sovereign country that was attacked by another country, while Taiwan is part of China and is recognized as such by the world. China also does not support unilateral Western sanctions against Russia because the United States uses these sanctions as a way to expand its influence and geoeconomic reach.

Why have countries like India remained neutral in their approach?

India's neutral position has been most visible at the UN general assembly, where it abstained on resolutions condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This stance can be termed as proactive neutrality which means India would not be comfortable taking any one of the sides in the conflict either to stand completely with Russia or the US. India's proactive neutrality can be traced back to the cold war era of non-alignment. After its independence from the British empire in 1947, non-alignment became the pivot of India's foreign policy.

India has also been constantly involved in humanitarian assistance in affected areas. It has also been in conversation with all parties to the conflict to ensure it can contribute to the early cessation of violence.

NATO and EU's word on it:

In response to Russian aggression, NATO, the EU, and the U.S. have gone far beyond providing military aid to the Ukraine. They are waging a steadily escalating "war of sanctions" against Russia, while Russia has responded by trying to find its own ways to put political and economic pressure on Europe and use a combination of force and political pressure to wage an economic war against Ukrainian grain exports and maritime trade.

Finland and Sweden have applied to join NATO, and NATO has collectively reacted by planning major increases in its military capabilities, but there are no clear plans as of yet that has shown what NATO's 30 – and possibly 32 in the near future – nations will actually do over time, how they will reshape and modernize their warfighting capabilities, how well they will improve their readiness and interoperability, and how they will redefine their capability to strike Russia and provide extended deterrence.

In contrast, the EU has already shown that it may not be the ideal forum for collective military action – particularly compared to NATO – but it can be an effective forum for conducting economic and political warfare, can cooperate closely with the U.S., and one that can escalate at a political and economic level with far less risk than using military force directly against Russia.

— There is no way as yet to determine how many of these patterns will emerge and in what form. The Ukraine War is not the primary cause of these trends, but it is very likely to be a major catalyst in making them worse. It also seems all too likely that the optimism that shaped the approach to globalism was based more on comforting illustrations than reality.

It is also clear that even if the war can end in some kind of compromise, settlement, or ceasefire – but any decisive end to the fighting now seems uncertain – it is likely to be an important catalyst in shaping a lasting civil confrontation between Russia and NATO, the EU, and the United States.

The war will almost certainly ensure that Russia is as much of a strategic focus for the U.S. as China, and U.S. and European competition with Russia will remain far closer to confrontation than was likely to occur before the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. The war is also likely to push Russia to align itself more closely and visibly to China, and it may encourage Russia to find political and economic ways to exploit every tension and opportunity in Asia, Africa, and Latin America – as well as seek new bases and opportunities to win military influence.

The questions that currently need to be answered are:

" How can we explain the current behavior exhibited by Russia?"

" What does Russia want to achieve through this conflict?"

" Is the West interested in solving the crisis or adding fuel to fire?"

" How do we address all the aspects of the Crisis as soon as possible to ensure the relative safety of the people in this conflict zone?"

" How do we begin negotiations to establish and maintain peace and security in the region?"

THE WORLD CAN WAIT, UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL CANNOT!