

JAYSHREE PERIWAL GLOBAL SCHOOL MUN 1.0

Per Angusta Ad Augusta



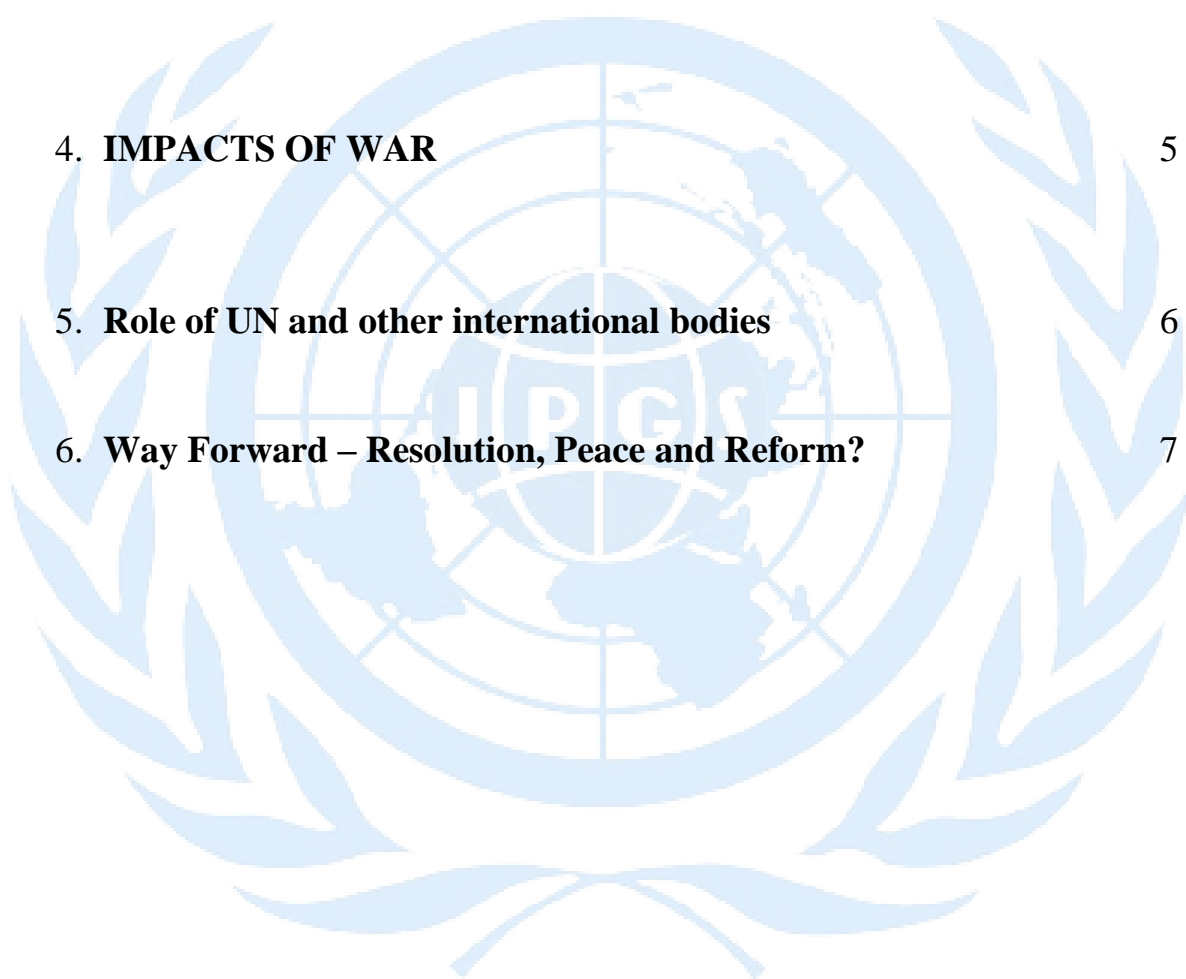
United Nations General Assembly - Disarmament and International Security Committee

**Deliberation on Russian
Ukrainian crisis**

14 | 15 JULY

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings!!

We take pleasure in welcoming all of you to the UN General Assembly being simulated at the JPGS MUN 2022. This letter from the Executive Board will help you get a clear direction about the committee, the agenda that is supposed to be discussed and the method of researching that has to be followed. It is, however, important that you read the entire background guide very carefully and after reading it, focus on the topics that have been suggested for research and the links to the articles that have been attached herewith.

The way of approaching things and concepts in this background guide will be slightly different and it is preferred that you respect the way that has been suggested and then research in the manner so told in order to gain the maximum knowledge and also to get a clear direction of how UN General Assembly at the JPGSMUN will function this year. This background guide like other background guides in MUNs and other conferences will not run into a number of pages but will be brief document consisting less of matter to learn about things but research links, sorted topic wise for you, which you are supposed to read, which most people generally do not do in MUN Conferences and/or simulations of the same sort.

By reading these articles/news reports/documents attached with the research links you will be able to gain around 80% of the knowledge about the committee and the agenda and the only thing you would be required to do after reading the matter provided in this background guide is to work on the remaining 20% matter for your research from as many sources as you can find on the internet.

Here are certain Rules for Researching that you must follow:

Rule Number 1:

Read from as many sources as possible so as to get a wider angle of researching over things. Read a topic from at least 2-3 articles or sources and then prepare points on the same and not speeches.

Rule Number 2:

Read from more and more authentic documents of sources for getting genuine perspective about things. For example: Since this committee is the UN General Assembly, sources like the official website of the United Nations and that of its agencies, or articles published on the official sources like new agencies including Reuters and the like shall be preferred over sources like Wikipedia and Quora. However, these sources like Wikipedia can be used to read about things but cannot be relied upon as definitive proof or source for your research. Expand the horizons of your research by reading from at least 2-3 sources about a particular topic and then make notes.

Kindly feel free to write to me or contact me for queries or clarifications, if any at the contact details provided below.

Best of luck and happy researching!

Warm Regards,

- **Mr. Priyanshu Grover** (Chairperson, UN General Assembly)

(Email: priyanshugrover8@gmail.com)

- **Mr. Lakhan Saddi** (Vice Chairperson, UN General Assembly)

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- **Ms. Zainah** (Rapporteur, UN General Assembly)

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA:

THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

About the Moscow-Kyiv Crisis

On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War that began in 2014. The invasion caused Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II, with more than 8 million Ukrainians fleeing the country and a third of the population displaced.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered seismic repercussions: a fast-moving refugee crisis, unprecedented sanctions against a major economy and a shakeup of global relationships, including a reinvigorated NATO. However, the security situation in Europe does not return to the prewar status quo. The short war has claimed thousands of lives on both sides, leaving widespread bitterness in its wake. And although a democratic Ukraine emerges intact if not unscathed, its still-dangerous neighbor faces an uncertain future with the Russian political landscape at a tipping point. Whether the country leans toward greater authoritarianism under Putin, or away from him altogether, will largely determine how Russia behaves with the rest of the world.

To Read more about it, refer to the following links:

1. **United Nations, “The war in Ukraine”:**
<https://unric.org/en/the-un-and-the-war-in-ukraine-key-information/>
2. **United Nations, “The war in Ukraine is Senseless in Its Scope, Ruthless in Its Dimensions, Limitless in Potential for Global Harm”:**
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sgsm21259.doc.htm>

Russia Ukraine Crisis: Identity, History and Conflict

Russia and Ukraine have had a turbulent history, to say the least, one that reaches back to the 10th century. Despite having common cultural roots, both countries have evolved unique

cultural and political personalities over the years. Ukraine has always resisted Moscow's attempts at authority while Russia insists that Ukraine has always been part of its territory.

In the beginning of the 1990s, there was massive support in Ukraine to defect from the Soviet Union. Massive demonstrations took place, with the most prominent one being the 300,000-people strong human chain. Subsequently, the Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine was adopted by the Ukrainian SSR on 24 August 1991. The Act re-established the sovereignty of the Ukrainian state. However much of the Russian political and intellectual elite nevertheless continued to doubt the legitimacy or viability of the Ukrainian state.

Russian efforts to slow Ukraine's Westward drift date to the first years after the Soviet collapse. Though Yeltsin accepted Ukraine's post-Soviet borders, this dynamic has been far more pronounced under Putin. In 2004, Putin's Kremlin inserted itself into Ukraine's electoral politics by openly supporting Yanukovich, outgoing president Kuchma's handpicked successor. Putin traveled to Ukraine ahead of the vote and campaigned on Yanukovich's behalf. Under the Budapest Memorandum, Ukraine gives up its nuclear arsenal in exchange for a commitment from Moscow "to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine."

To Read more about it, refer to the following links:

1. **CSIS, "Russia's War in Ukraine: Identity, History, and Conflict":**
<https://www.csis.org/analysis/russias-war-ukraine-identity-history-and-conflict>
2. **The New York Times, "A history of the tensions between Ukraine and Russia" :**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/26/world/europe/ukraine-russia-tensions-timeline.html>
3. **The Guardian, "Was it inevitable? A short history of Russia's war on Ukraine":**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/11/was-it-inevitable-a-short-history-of-russias-war-on-ukraine>

IMPACTS OF WAR

Ukraine - From Breadbasket To Basket Case

Far from Russia's war in Ukraine, stores are running out of cooking oil, people are paying more at the gas pump, farmers are scrambling to buy fertilizer and nations are rethinking alliances. The war has taken a heavy toll on the whole world as a whole.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 1,119 people have died — including 99 children — though the numbers are likely far greater. Civilians are trapped, desperate and afraid in besieged Ukrainian cities, lacking access to food, water and essential services. “In some neighborhoods”, she pointed out, “it’s not even safe to bury the dead.” And more than 10 million people — including more than half of Ukraine’s children — have fled their homes. Ukraine economy to contract by 45% in 2022 due to Russian invasion.

To Read more about it, refer to the following links:

1. **NPR, “The ripple effects of Russia's war in Ukraine are changing the world” :**
<https://www.npr.org/2022/05/10/1093066817/ukraine-war-gas-prices-refugees>
2. **Mckinsey, “War in Ukraine: Lives and livelihoods, lost and disrupted”:**
<https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/strategy-and-corporate-finance/our-insights/war-in-ukraine-lives-and-livelihoods-lost-and-disrupted>
3. **Aljazeera,”Russia-Ukraine war threatens prolonged effect on global economy”:**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/6/8/russia-ukraine-war-threatens-long-lasting-impact-on-global-eco>
4. **European Parliament, “Russia’s war on Ukraine in international law and human rights bodies: Bringing institutions back in”:**

Role of UN and other international bodies

The war in Ukraine has led diplomats, UN officials and pundits to ask if we are approaching a "new San Francisco moment": an historical juncture like 1945, when it is possible for states to rewrite the rules of global governance from scratch. There is little doubt that we will hear a great deal about the need to reform -- or replace -- the UN in the coming months and years, with an emphasis on making changes to the Security Council to avoid the sort of deadlock we have seen over Ukraine. But there are reasons to be sceptical about what this talk will achieve.

Instead, I will suggest that today's major power tensions (not only between the West and Russia, but also with China) mean that only limited reforms to global governance are possible at the present time. Nonetheless, COVID-19 and the Ukraine war have highlighted some significant gaps in the international system that need urgent attention, including:

- Mechanisms for managing the global effects of unexpected shocks -- whether pandemics, classical wars or natural disasters -- on the international economy;
- Mechanisms for countering misinformation and disinformation (especially in cyberspace) that exacerbate crises of all types and may drive new conflicts;
- Mechanisms for arms control and confidence building in an increasingly confrontational international environment.

If deep UN reform remains improbable, what sort of improvements to the international system are conceivable at present? To answer this question, it is useful to step back from the immediate problem of the war in Ukraine and take some other recent shocks into account.

The most obvious of these shocks is COVID-19. It is, after all, only two years since the pandemic wreaked havoc on the international economy. COVID-19 highlighted many of the vulnerabilities of the interconnected global economy. The disease had major knock-on effects on economic growth, supply chains and food security worldwide. This experience shaped the thinking of the UN team that in 2021 drafted the "Our Common Agenda" report, arguing that:

“The COVID-19 pandemic reminded us that we are more interconnected and interdependent than ever before in human history. International cooperation

mitigated some of the harms caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the response to the pandemic also exposed serious gaps in the effectiveness of multilateral action when it is needed most. We cannot afford to ignore the gaps if we are to be ready for the potentially more extreme, or even existential, threats that may lie ahead of us.”

To Read more about it, refer to the following links:

1. **United Nations, “Can the Security Council stop a war?”:**
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115592>
2. **Relief Web – New Source, “The Ukraine War and UN Reform”:**
<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/ukraine-war-and-un-reform>
3. **Aljazeera, “The Russia-Ukraine war provides an opportunity to reform the UN”:**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/4/14/the-russia-ukraine-war-provides-an-opportunity-to-reform-the-un>
4. **CNN, “Why isn't the UN doing more to stop what's happening in Ukraine?”:**
<https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/15/politics/united-nations-ukraine-russia/index.html>
5. **RFERL, “Where Are The Blue Helmets? Why The UN Can't Keep The Peace In Ukraine”:**
<https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-invades-ukraine-un-peacekeeping/31758188.html>

Way Forward – Resolution, Peace and Reform?

Furthermore, other issues, such as the question of social and economic issues, human rights violations as well as arms and military considerations must be carefully weighed through thorough research and understanding of the agenda to enable the committee to reach practical and comprehensive solutions both short and long termed- to regain stability and prosperity in a war-torn Ukraine. Nevertheless the question still remains “Might there, despite everything, still be a possible diplomatic solution?”

To Read more about it, refer to the following links:

1. GIS REPORTS “Russia-Ukraine war: Scenarios”:

<https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/ukraine-war-escalation/>

2. EEAS EUROPA “Russia’s war against Ukraine: where do we stand and what can the future bring?”:

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/russia%E2%80%99s-war-against-ukraine-where-do-we-stand-and-what-can-future-bring_en

3. BBC “How might the war end?”:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60602936>

4. Al Jazeera “what would victory look like now to Putin”:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2022/5/6/russia-ukraine-war-what-would-a-victory-look-like-now-to-putin>

NOTE*- Position papers to be Submitted on

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemyFfJwphgV4PQBdvBxc5Y8ZF_mjSO_UluLH66bnq-SN1eQ/viewform By 10 July