

Letter from the executive board

Greetings delegates!

I welcome all of you to the United Nations Security Council, to be simulated at IIT Indore Model United Nations 2018. As the President, I would like to ensure that this committee offers you all, a value addition and great learning experience during the two days of the conference. I believe that as the Executive Board, it is our primary responsibility to ensure that the proceedings are as flexible and productive as possible. Delegates are encouraged to research on all aspects of the negotiations and deliberations that leads us towards and up for the discussion related to the agenda.

However, please take note, we strongly urge you not to solely rely on the information that you have gathered. According to the ideal method of research in an MUN, it is advisable to analyse the information and present this analysis as statements in the Committee in a rational and structured manner. We expect delegates to think critically (clearly listing pros and cons, by testing and retesting your assumptions, observations and conclusions through research and questioning) and come up with their own arguments and structure, which will lead to more productive deliberations.

We realize that Security Council is often viewed as a starting point for many participants in Model UN Conferences. Often, we find many delegates looking for guidance regarding how to go about research or even what or what not to speak. As an Executive Board, we will be understanding of shortcomings in this aspect and will restrict ourselves to moderation of debate and maintenance of rules of procedure. However, we will not turn away delegates seeking help in their performance, and guide them to the best of our capability without being biased in our judgment. We also attach, with this Guide, the Best Practises to Research before an MUN, in our opinion.

Any queries regarding the procedure, nature of committee etc can be addressed to any of the Executive Board members via the Secretariat on Email or on Facebook.

Regards

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NATURE OF PROOF AND EVIDENCE

Documents from the following sources will be considered as credible proof for any allegations made in committee or statements that require verification:

1. Reuters: Appropriate Documents and articles from the Reuters News agency will be used to corroborate or refute controversial statements made in committee.
2. UN Document: Documents by all UN agencies will be considered as sufficient proof. Reports from all UN bodies including treaty-based bodies will also be accepted.
3. Government Reports: Government Reports of a given country used to corroborate an allegation on the same aforementioned country will be accepted as proof. Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India, etc. be accepted as credible proof; but may be used for better understanding of any issue and even be brought up in debate, if the information given in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a government or a delegate (who is a representative of a government, usually).

BEST PRACTICES FOR RESEARCH BEFORE AN MUN

(You can take these best practices into account, not only for this MUN but for other MUNs as well.)

1. Read the Agenda Guide, and make a note of everything that needs to be understood. Do read the Background guide.
2. In case of a crisis situation always read and look for the analysis and plausible rationale on the updates that may be issued before the MUN.
3. Google/Search everything and find relating documents (UN, News articles, Scholarly articles) for whatever was not really understood.
4. After wholly understanding (subject to how in depth you wish to go for the research), try understanding your allotted country's perspective on the agenda.
5. Make the stance in accordance with the country's perspective on the agenda which shall also define your foreign policy (history, past actions etc.)
6. Understand the cues and hints that are given minutely in the Background Guide that may come handy while presentation of contentions in committee.
7. Take a good look at the mandate of council as to what you can discuss and what you can do in this council. This point is placed here, just because your knowledge base shouldn't be limited to the mandate of the council. Know everything, speak whatever the mandate allows.
8. Follow the links given alongside and understand why they were given. Read the footnotes and the links and hyperlinked text.
 - Predict the kind of discussions and on what subtopics can they take place, thereby analysing the subtopic research you have done and prepare yourself accordingly.
 - Make a word/pages document and put your arguments there for better presentation in

council.

- Ask the Executive Board your doubts, if you have any, before the conference by means of the given email ID and make sure to not disclose your allotted country, until you want to understand the policy of your country.
- Download the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and additional protocols , 1951 , 63 Refugee Conventions there to and other relative treaties and documents given.
- Ask questions regarding procedure to speak something etc., if you have any, ON the day of the conference.

For further reference of Delegates:

<http://www.sbmun.org/uploads/3/1/5/5/31555577/unsc.pdf>



The Security Council

Under the Charter, 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, 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.

The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

Topic Background

The situation in Ukraine is of grave concern. Events that have been stirring for several years now but have only just come to a glaring fore over the past 6 months have formed the basis for the most violent aftershock of the Cold War. Specifically, the area known as Crimea has become the epicenter of the political and military turmoil that is plaguing Ukraine.

Crimea has been an autonomous part of Ukraine since the split of the Soviet Union in 1991. Several referenda have been held to determine the status of the region as a sovereign territory. Its sovereignty was strategically challenged by the ratification of the Russian-Ukrainian Partition Treaty signed in 1997, which allows the Russian Black Sea fleet to stay in Crimea until 2042.

Russians make up almost 58% of the total population of Crimea, Ukrainians about 24% and the original inhabitants of the region, the Crimean Tatars make about 12%, after their mass influx in the early parts of the 21st century. Even the second and third most ethnically populous group put together barely make more than half the number of Russians in this region, which encourages Russia to make Crimea part of its sovereign territory.

Pressure from Russia has been immense on Ukraine for aligning its preferences to those of the West. This has further intensified due to the demographic of Crimea, which has been predominantly Russian since the turn of the 20th century. The situation was aggravated from 2005-2010 during the Victor Yushchenko presidency. The Russo-Georgian War posed a situation where people began believing that an attack on Ukraine in the near future could not completely be written off.

Tensions worsened in November 2013ⁱ, when Ukraine's now ousted President Viktor Yanukovich, abruptly announced the abandonment of a trade agreement with the European Union in order to be closer to Moscow. This was received by widespread protest within the nation. These were met by stringent anti-protest laws which became more draconian with the increase in the number of protests and protestors.

Following the referendum made to annex Crimea and make it a part of the Russian Federation, the world's top leaders, notably the government heads of France, Germany, United Kingdom and United States have been vocal about their disdain about how they feel Ukraine's constitution and sovereignty is being violated by Russia's actions.ⁱⁱ While Russian President Vladimir Putin holds the stance that he will do whatever he can to keep Russians in Ukraine's sovereign territory safe, USA feel that Russia's 'incursion' into Crimea will cost them and lead to their isolation from the world community if they don't stop soon.

As things have developed since February 2014, it doesn't seem like an impasse will be reached any time soon, and this is at the cost of the civilians. At an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on March 1, 2014, the UN envoy from Russia addressed the committee in defense of his nation's actions, claiming it was done "to

protect their facilities and prevent extremist actions.” According to the interim Ukrainian government, the country of Ukraine is “on the brink of disaster.”

Past International Action

As of March 1, 2014, the UN Security Council has not passed any resolutions to enforce peace in the area. In order to accommodate the present conditions that prevail in the region, the UN Security Council is in talks of a possible resolution that will reaffirm Ukraine’s sovereignty. However, Russia is expected to veto this resolution. What will be more important will be the stance taken by the other nations, particularly China in the longevity of the tenets of this imminent resolution.

The UN Security Council has already convened for an emergency meeting with the agenda being specific to the Crimean region in order to clarify the stances that different governments have had. The UN Charter gives the Security Council the power to take suitable action in an event that peace of an area is threatened and subsequent meetings and resolutions will need to take into account all that is happening in the area, with the aim of some positive and decisive action being taken to avoid any further military or civilian casualties.

The humanitarian issue in this crisis is also a problem for the Security Council to consider. While the Russian government justifies its actions as an act to protect its people in Crimea, in doing so, it is directly threatening the existence of the minorities, particularly when armed forces from their country lay siege to the region. This is further fueled by a similar situation dating back to earlier in the 20th century when the original inhabitants of the region were forced to leave. This is the most sensitive issue that is at hand because both governments will want to protect their citizens and the introduction of military in a region on the basis of a Treaty could be seen as a threat to peace.

Possible Solutions

While many countries have denounced the occupation of Crimea by Russia, the European Union and USA. Countries in the European Union have decided to place sanctions against Russia, clearly showing that they are opposed to what is happening in Crimea.

USA has been in strong opposition to Russia’s actions. As it stands, this is the first major event that has happened since the breakup of the Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War that has alerted countries worldwide of a possible war. USA has urged Russia to not carry on with their belligerent activities and urged Ukraine to go about the process constitutionally.

Germany has been very vocal about its opposition to Russia and has bluntly asked Russia to carry out peace talks with Ukraine or be ready to face sanctions from the European Union.

Russia, on the other hand, don’t seem to be bothered by what they are doing and claim innocence under legally binding treaties they have signed with Ukraine. Putin also believes what is happening in Ukraine is unconstitutional except while referring to the protests that led to the President’s ouster and what he believes is the West trying to align their agendas with Ukraine to get an upper hand on Russia.

Finally, Ukraine seems to be caught up in all political pressure from both sides and has conceded to make a referendum to decide Crimea's status. However, while both Russia and the international community have passed their views on the legitimacy of the referendum, the interim Ukrainian government still needs to make a statement on the same. A decisive stance on the issue based on this referendum will pave the way for how this crisis moves ahead.

The United Nations Charter gives the United Nations Security Council the ability to act to protect international peace and security. It is also given the power to force countries to follow its resolutions, both in general under international law, and by using economic sanctions or military action. Further, the UN charter gives discretionary powers to the Security Council to make recommendations or take measures if there is a threat to peace in a certain area. This can be done by temporarily severing socio-economic ties between the two regionsⁱⁱⁱ, and if it gets out of hands, providing armed blockades so that there is no kind of physical contact between the parties involved.

USA, UK, and several countries in the NATO alliance and the European Union have come out publicly denouncing Russia's actions. While several prominent leaders have met with officials from the interim Ukrainian government offering their support, followed by an emergency Security Council meeting on March 1st, not much has been reached in terms of a resolution or a common ground from where to move forward peacefully. The referendum posed to be moved in the very near future seems to be the only legal or non-legal basis on which Ukraine and Russia can make any bilateral talks on the matter.

Russia feels that the West is trying to align its agenda with the ongoing crisis in Crimea and is overreacting to Russia trying to protect its interests in its Black Sea base.

The Security Council needs to do three things to help solve the crisis:

- Come to an agreement on what should be the status of Crimea;
- Find a solution that both the Ukrainian and Russian governments agree to;
- Find a process by which civilians of neither nationality are threatened;
- Form a more binding Treaty that clearly defines the regions of this area and that shall hold in the future.

Things got out of hand when the people took matter into their own hands. However, the fact that the people felt the need to take things in their own hands reflects the gravity of how bad the situation is. Civilian lives have already been lost in the hundreds and the movement of Russian troops in Crimea can only bring panic to the minorities. Ukraine need to take a decisive stand in spite of growing pressures from Russia and the international community and either let go off Crimea or find a way to let it be a part of its territory. Either way, talks need to be expedited in order to avoid any more casualties to civilians and potentially, even a war.

Further Research

Guiding Questions

- Should Crimea be allowed to join Russia?
- Will it be right to deploy UN forces to intervene what could potentially be a war-like situation

developing in Ukraine?

- Should an international referendum be moved on the status of Crimea? Or should the decision lie with the sovereign territory of Ukraine?
- Should the movement of Russian troops into Crimea be considered as an act of aggression?

Research Sources

- [Reuters](#): This article along with others will give you regular updates on the events unfolding in Crimea
- [BBC: Crimea](#): A valuable resource for up to date news on events in Crimea.
- [Security Council Report: Ukraine](#): Updated information on meetings and actions that the Security Council is considering on Ukraine.

ⁱ Timeline: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/03/timeline-ukraine-political-crisis-201431143722854652.html>

ⁱⁱ Denouncement of Actions: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/07/world/europe/ukraine.html?_r=1

THE RUSSIAN ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

OVERVIEW

Following the Ukrainian revolution of February 2014, in which a series of violent protests led to the ousting of then President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, the political climate of Ukraine has never returned to a state of stability. The Russian government never recognized the interim government of Ukraine and, after a series of unrest in Crimea and other southeastern regions, it formally annexed Crimea into the Russian Federation.

On March 1, 2014, Russia formally took military actions to intercede on what they claimed to be the behalf of the Crimean people, mobilizing troops throughout Crimea and the southeast of Ukraine. All of these incursions have been seen as illegal and in violation of their national sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Ukrainian government.

In the time since, it has been stated by NATO forces that they believe Russia has deployed nuclear-capable weaponry into the Crimea. As well, it has been reported that the current government's policies have significantly curtailed freedoms within the region, specifically those of political dissidents in opposition to many of the new laws going into effect there.

A referendum on the future of Crimea was held on May 17, of which Ukraine declared the election to illegal. Official results of the election claim that 95% of the Crimean population voted in favor of Russian annexation, a number that many claim to be exaggerated. With these results, the Supreme Council of Crimea declared the creation of the Republic of Crimea, making a formal request to the Russian government to admit the breakaway republic into Russia. The Treaty on Accession of the Republic of Crimea to Russia was signed between representatives of the two nations on March 18.

Ukraine has been staunch on its insistence that the actions taken by Russia in annexing Crimea are in violation of international law that Crimea is fundamentally still a part of Ukraine. There have been a range of international responses, with a non-binding UNGA resolution passes condemning the referendum as being illegal. In March of 2014, a US-sponsored resolution was put forward to a vote in the Security Council that would have reaffirmed Ukraine's territorial

integrity, with all China and Russia voting in favor of the resolution. Although globally the overall response has been mixed, with many nations calling for more diplomatic talks to take place to attempt to resolve the issue in a more amicable fashion, the United States, Canada and the European Union have placed the most wide-ranging sanctions against Russia since the end of the Cold War in 1991.

These renewed hostilities between traditionally defined Eastern and Western blocs, spearheaded by continued unrest in Ukraine and military intervention in that nation by Russia, has caused one of the most complex and fragile political situations in recent historical memory. The aggressive actions taken by Russia in this situation have led many to speculate on its changing position in global affairs and its role in international dialogue going forward.

PRIOR UN ACTION TIMELINE

1. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262 adopted to affirm the territorial integrity of Ukraine and invalidated the 2014 Crimean referendum

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Is the Russian annexation of Crimea legal according to the political stance of the nation that you represent?
2. How should the international community deal with the tension created between the Eastern and Western blocs following the annexation of Crimea?
3. Should the annexation be legitimized by the international community or should steps be taken for the region to be returned to Ukraine?
4. What can be done to ensure that the rights of the Crimean people are not being infringed upon?

FURTHER INFORMATION AND WORKS CITED

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/19/world/europe/crimea-points-and-counterpoints/index.html> <http://news.yahoo.com/russia-completes-crimea-annexation-122546931.html>
<http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/17/world/europe/ukraine-crisis/index.html>
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/crimea-annexation/>

[http://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-annexes-crimea-away-from-ukraine-with-signature- from-vladimir-putin/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-annexes-crimea-away-from-ukraine-with-signature-from-vladimir-putin/)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/03/19/globalpost-russia-crimea/25009393/>