

NMMUN 2022

UNSC- BACKGROUND GUIDE



UN Security Council

Introduction

Hello there!

Greetings, Delegates! I'm Nathan Crasta, and I'm elated to serve as Chair of the UN Security Council for NMMUN 2022.

The role of delegate in an MUN can often seem arduous to handle, especially with the amount of research that often goes into drafting position papers, preparing opening speeches and more. This background guide is an introduction to the two issues being presented in this council, but I strongly suggest you begin your research as soon as possible. This background guide shall provide a brief description and links/resources for the issues at hand, but do not limit your research to the info present here! A prepared delegate must consider all aspects of the issue at hand, included (but not limited to) from the perspective of their own delegation, as well as its allies and rivals' views on the matter at hand.

As Members of the United Nations Security Council, the resolutions that delegates will pass and deny have massive impacts on the functioning of the current world order, and each delegate must consider the several factors that propel every decision made in the Security Council. This document is a starting point for all delegates to jump into the workings of one of the most influential bodies on the planet, and additional research on the agendas and member states present is a must for UNSC members, more than any other council.

I look forward to a great conference, and I am excited to see the resolutions, speeches, debates etc. that will occur! As always, feel free to contact me at either my number or the UNSC Gmail account.

Sincere Regards,

Nathan Crasta

Chair - UNSC

Committee Overview

History

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established in 1945 via the establishment of the UN Charter at the end of World War II. As one of the UN's six principal organs, the Security Council is unique among the committees offered at NHSMUN in its membership, scope, and power. The UNSC has a unique, preventive, and reactionary role in the UN—it is meant to respond to international crises and maintain international peace. In response to such crises, the Council can mandate decisive actions such as peace talks, mediations, negotiations, and meetings. Additionally, according to Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Council can approve the use of force if there is no other way to maintain international peace. The Security Council can also deploy UN peacekeeping operations and impose sanctions on states. Only the UNSC has this power.

Mandate

Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to peacekeeping missions, political processes, the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises. However, with the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council began to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability, and peace and security. Some important cross-cutting issues the Council is currently addressing include human rights and the protection of civilians for conflict prevention and sustainable development; women, peace, and security; and the prevention of conflict and sustaining peace. At a meeting on 17 November 2015, members of the Security Council highlighted that the goals outlined in the post-2015 development agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on achieving

peaceful and inclusive societies, cannot be attained without the promotion of peace and security.

Functions and Power

The current United Nations Security Council is composed of 15 member states- 5 permanent members (United States of America, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The French Republic, The People's Republic of China, and the Russian Federation) and the 10 remaining members which are elected by the United Nations General Assembly every 1-2 years. Article 31 of the UN Charter however does state that any party not a member of the UNSC but is involved in the dispute being discussed may be invited (without vote).

Prior to an amendment to Article 23 of the UN Charter which increased the number of members to Fifteen in 1965, the number of members in the Security Council were Eleven. Considering that the first agenda was set in 1962, during which the number of members in the Security Council was still Eleven, four delegates would be "observer delegates" for the first agenda. For this committee observer delegates may not vote on substantial matters (such as voting on resolutions or voting on amendments) however they may still sponsor resolutions/amendments and write resolutions/amendments.

Introduction to Agenda

***Topic 1:** Arms Control and Disarmament of small arms of Permanent members of UNSC*

The proliferation and stockpiling of small arms and their distribution have continued to threaten world peace and security. The circulation of small arms has resulted in forming terrorist groups preventing peace agreements from taking place and the accessibility of small arms in the hands of regular civilians has resulted in mass school shootings and hate crimes against religions. Currently, there are more than 650 million firearms in the hands of civilians which is threatening peace-building measures. More than 1000 companies are producing small arms in over 30 countries and transporting them to houses that are not guarded with enough security and making it easier for non-state actors to divert these arms from private suppliers.

Circulation of small arms has negative impacts on development, they damage fragile economies, deter foreign investments, divert economic resources, inhibit the fulfillment of basic human needs, and facilitate human rights violations such as killing, maiming, sexual violence, torture, and forced recruitment of children by armed and criminal groups. The small arms trade is the least transparent of all weapons trades. Countries must think about whether policies are required for the complete elimination of small arms or whether there are ways of preventing them from getting into the wrong hands.

Key Terms and Concepts

Arms Control

The regulation of the acquisition and development of weapons, often used with respect to nuclear arms. Important treaties regarding Arms Control include the 1972 Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty, The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty II, and the controversial 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Disarmament

Disarmament refers to states giving up access to weapons they are in possession of, in this case nuclear weapons. While the superpowers have refused to give up their nuclear weapons and opted to pursue arms control, many countries that signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, such as South Africa, have gone through disarmament and giving up access to nuclear power as a force of destruction.

Stances of UNSC Members

Nuclear Disarmament

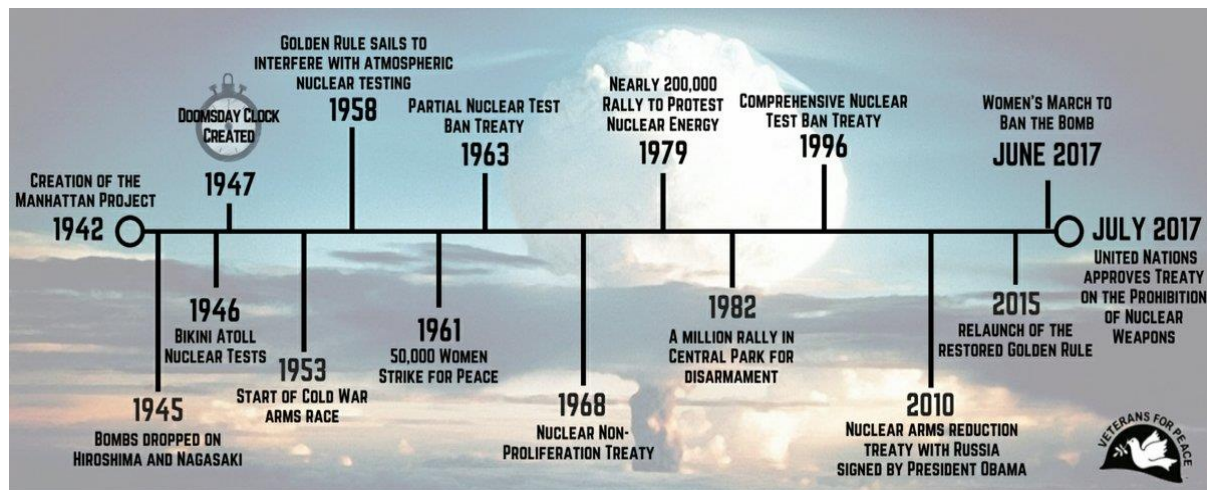
The United States of America, Permanent members of the Security Council

The USA has been a leading advocate of several disarmament treaties such as ABM 1972, SALT II and START, and one of the masterminds behind the NPT of 1986 that limited the manufacturing of nuclear weapons by any states who had not done so before 1967, when China conducted its Sixth nuclear weapons test. Regarding small arms, Special attention is given to the trade in ammunition, problems connected with storage and the importance of tracing ammunition found in conflict settings. Permanent members of the UNSC profess the pursuing of nuclear arms control but considering recent developments with the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the USA's goals of "denuclearization," many political critics and philosophers question the truth behind such claims.

India

India has openly viewed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as unfair and refused to sign it. As of current, India professes a doctrine of "no first use" regarding its nuclear weaponry and seeks to work for a future where all countries participate in nuclear disarmament and arms control under fair conditions. However, the present government has made it clear that the "no first use" policy can be reviewed and changed in consonance with India's national and regional security.

Timelines



Since 2000, the US and Russia have pulled out of several important agreements. Source: EPRS.

Suggested Moderated Caucus Topics

1. Steps on regulating the manufacture of nuclear weaponry.
2. Preventing non-governmental organizations from manufacturing Nuclear Arms
3. Development of further surveillance mechanisms to carry out examinations of countries in ensuring abidance by nuclear arms treaties.

These suggestions are just that. suggestions. Use them as a starting point when Moderated caucuses occur, but feel free to bring your own

unique topics to the table as well! These issues impact the world on both global and personal scales and can be debated from several hundreds of perspectives.

Some Guiding Questions

1. While the Big Five (UNSC Permanent Members) have professed their actions and aims in limiting the number of nuclear weapons available to them, several analysts, critics, and governments find these claims questionable at best. What are steps the Security Council can take to ensure that nuclear-armed states follow the letter of the treaties they sign and the goals they claim to achieve?
2. Are treaties like the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty discriminatory? If so, should they be reversed, and what steps can be taken to ensure fair nuclear arms control?
3. How can countries limit the circulation of small arms within their own borders with the help of the international community as a whole?

Further Research

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=newssearch&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi3kdqB0ez6AhWZxgIHHRwbDSEQxfQBKAB6BAgIEAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Freliefweb.int%2Freport%2Fworld%2Fgeneral-assembly-first-committee-disarmament-and-international-security-18-october-2022&usq=AOvVaw3QMNGzH_p_9pYMr9Fd0xA

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/what-makes-nuclear-weapon-tactical-2022-10-12/>

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=newssearch&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi3l9r-ge36AhWUwAIHHb5EDPUQxfQBKAB6BAgOEAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpress.un.org%2Fen%2F2022%2Fgadis3692.doc.htm&usq=AOvVaw1RtoW0dcST6CWz0HMMtHOj>

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Introduction to Agenda

Topic 2: Resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict

6 months have passed since the invasion of Ukraine, and it has had devastating effects on Ukraine and the rest of the world. War has caused millions of civilians to lose access to food, water, healthcare and even their homes. There have been more than 13,000 casualties since February 24th with catastrophic damage caused to civilian infrastructure (E.g., Hospitals, schools, and libraries). Rampant bombings and fighting on the mainland have internally displaced over 6 million people internally displaced. Women and children have been the most affected, the two groups that are always at risk of exploitation during a crisis and it has further deepened the socioeconomic inequality between men and women due to the loss of livelihood. Ukraine was the main exporter of grains and other national resources to many countries like East Africa. Currently, there has been limited to no dialogue between Russia and Ukraine. Member countries of the security council must decide how to bring stability and peace to the region and how to revive the country's social and economic development.

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

On Feb 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin announced a special military operation for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine. In his address, Putin espoused irredentist views, challenged Ukraine's right to statehood, and falsely claimed Ukraine was governed by neo-Nazis who persecuted the ethnic Russian minority. Minutes later, missiles, rockets and airstrikes hit across Ukraine, including the capital Kyiv, followed by a large ground invasion from multiple directions. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy enacted martial law and a general mobilization.

Reaction to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

The invasion has received widespread international condemnation. The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution condemning the invasion and demanding a full withdrawal of Russian forces. The International Court of Justice ordered Russia to suspend military operations and the Council of Europe expelled Russia. Many countries imposed sanctions on Russia, as well as on its ally Belarus, which have affected the economies of Russia and the world and provided humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine. Protests occurred around the world; those in Russia were met with mass arrests and increased media censorship, including a ban on the word's "war" and "invasion". Over 1,000 companies have pulled out of Russia and Belarus in response to the invasion. The International Criminal Court has opened an investigation into crimes against humanity in Ukraine since 2013, including war crimes in the 2022 invasion.

Stances of UNSC Members

The Russian Invasion of Ukraine

The Security Council

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2623 called for the eleventh emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the subject of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. Albania and the United States introduced the resolution before the United Nations Security Council, which adopted it on 27 February 2022. Russia voted against while China, India and the United Arab Emirates abstained. As this was a procedural resolution, no permanent member could exercise their veto power.

The United States of America

President Joe Biden released a statement condemning the Russian invasion as "unprovoked and unjustified" and accused Putin of starting a "premeditated war that will bring a catastrophic loss of life and human suffering".^[357] Biden stated the US would not dispatch its own forces to protect Ukraine, however, Biden did authorize sanctions directly targeting Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. In the 2022 State of the Union Address, Biden announced that all US airspace would be closed to all Russian aircraft. Biden additionally condemned Russian oligarchs who supported Putin, stating that "We are joining with our European allies to find and seize your yachts, your luxury apartments, your private jets. We are coming for your ill-begotten gains."

The Republic of India

India has had a close relationship with The Russian Federation and its predecessor, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The Indian government refrained from taking a stand on the issue or criticizing Russia. India was also working on setting up a mechanism to trade with Russia using rupees to avoid sanctions on trade between the two countries. India is the only member of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (consisting of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States) not to ban Russian exports. The Ukrainian ambassador to India, Igor Polikha, told reporters in India that he is "deeply dissatisfied" with India's position.^[96] India also abstained from the United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the Russian invasion.^[97] Many Western capitals criticized India for its refusal to condemn the invasion.

Ukraine

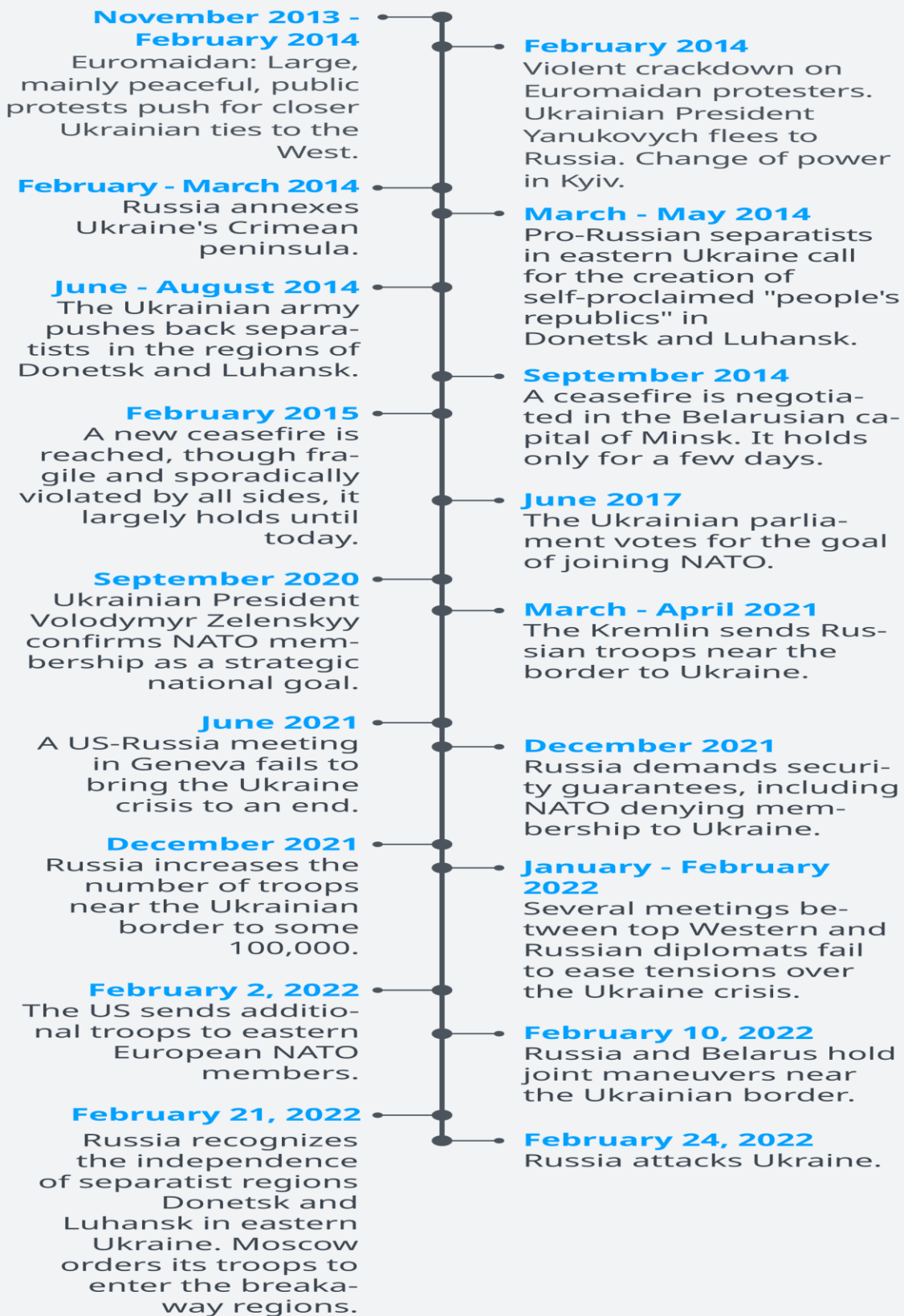
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for nations to either establish a no-fly zone over Ukraine or provide Ukraine with air support.^[2] Zelenskyy also called for "peace", stating that he does not "want Ukraine's history to be a legend about 300

Spartans."^[2] Zelenskyy, in an address to the British House of Commons, also invoked the words of Winston Churchill by saying "We will fight at sea; we will fight in the air; we will protect our land. We will fight everywhere ... and we will not surrender."

Timeline



Timeline of the Ukraine crisis



Suggested Moderated Caucus Topics

1. International Response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
2. The effect of Sanctions imposed on Russia on The Global South
3. Responding to threats of nuclear reprisal by the Russian Federation to increased Ukrainian resistance and sanctions imposed on the country.

Some Guiding Questions

1. Worldwide sanctions have been placed to dissuade the Russian invasion of Ukraine. What further measures can be taken to bring this conflict to a **peaceful** end?
2. How can the international community aid not only Ukrainian victims, but also countries in regions like East Africa, who have long been reliant on Ukraine for imported products such as grain?
3. Should countries like India, which have long relied on Russia as strategic partners in the global arena and as resistance against "US hegemony" be criticized for refusing to formally condemn the Russian Invasion? Are countries forced to support a position out of deference to their global allies?

Further Research

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-60664169>

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=newssearch&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwithNOr1Oz6AhXbIMUKHSNEAAIQxfQBKAB6BAgOEAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fworld%2F2022%2Foct%2F15%2Fwhat-happened-in-the-russia-ukraine-war-this-week-catch-up-with-the-must-read-news-and-analysis&usg=AOvVaw24WHAAGsjwoZaO9sfZpTu>

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