

Actions to restrain the Russian Federation military actions on Ukraine territory since 2014 as a result of Crimea's Annexation

Topic B

Security Council



Introduction to the committee

According to the San Francisco Charter of 1945 (also known as the Charter of the United Nations), the Security Council (SC) has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. This Main Body of the United Nations (UN) is made up of 15 full voting members, 5 of them permanent members (China, United States, the Russian Federation, France and United Kingdom), and 10 non-permanent members, elected by proportional geographical representation, in the plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for a period of two years.

In conformity with the UN Charter, all member states agree to accept and comply with the decisions of the Security Council, which makes this UN body the only one whose decisions are obliged to comply with. Situation that makes it the request of collective security, and scenario of international politics on a global scale (art. 25, UN, 1945).

Based on this logic, it is up to the SC to ensure the most important of the principles of this organization, contained in the first article of its charter: Maintain international peace and security and with it: "take effective collective measures to prevent and eliminate threats to peace, to suppress acts of aggression or other breaches of peace; and achieve by peaceful means. In accordance with the principles of justice and international law, the adjustment or settlement of disputes or international situations is likely to lead to breaches of peace" (UN, 1945).

Brief description of the political conjuncture of Ukraine in the 21st century.

Ukraine is a country located in eastern Europe, which gained its independence in the late 20th Century. This country suffered from long periods of domination by Poland-Lithuania, Russia and lastly, the Soviet Union (USSR), becoming its official name Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Ukraine declared sovereignty (July 16, 1990), and afterwards gained its independence (August 24, 1991). Changing its official name to Ukraine and founding with other ex-soviet republic countries the association Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Since the early 1990s, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Ukraine have developed a great partnership, becoming one of the most significant. In 2005, Víktor Yúshchenko, now ex-president of Ukraine, prompted the idea of leaving the "Kremlin's orbit" and instead going towards

NATO and the European Union (EU). Therefore, in 2008, NATO promised this country that one day they will be part of the alliance.

Crimeas Annexation

Afterwards, Viktor Yanukovich became president and in 2013, he rejected closer ties with the EU since he was pro-Russian. This action made citizens angry and protests turned violent, causing the president Viktor Yanukovich to flee, leaving pro-European parties in the capital, while Russia's president dispatched his army to Crimea, a region where there was a Russian Majority.

After 23 years of Ukraine being in a period of relative peace, Russian soldiers took possession of the Parliament of Crimea and raised the Russian flag with the excuse they needed to protect Crimeans from "extremists" who had seized power in Kyiv and threatened the right to speak Russian in the region. The action was strongly criticized because it was a clear violation of the sovereignty of Ukraine, even though Vladimir Putin insisted it was just an effort to protect Russian citizens. Therefore, in March 2014, the Crimea parliament and 95.5% of voters agreed to the referendum of Russia to join the Russian Federation. 10 days later, Moscow officially annexed the territory after a referendum which showed support for the seizure.

The Minsk agreements are two pacts signed in 2014 and 2015 by representatives of Ukraine, Russia, the Popular Republic of Donetsk and the Popular Republic of Lugansk to end the Donbás War, in East Ukraine . In addition, the agreement promulgated the withdrawal of the troops and the Russian weapons in the regions of Donetsk and Lugansk. However, discrepancies in the interpretations of the agreement have made its compliance difficult.

In response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, NATO has given support for capability development, capacity building, training and the delivery of equipment and defensive weapons. NATO does not recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea and condemn Russia for it, suspending all practical civilian and military cooperation with this nation. On March 27, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 68/262 "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine". Simultaneously, the European Union responded with "Non-recognition policy and sanction", which included the ban of:

- Imports to the EU from Crimea (except it has a Ukrainian origin certificate).
- Investments from the EU in Crimea.
- Exports to Crimea for products or technology related to transport, telecoms, energy sector or the exploitation of oil, gas and mineral resources.
- Tourism services from the EU to Crimea.

These restrictive measures were initially established for a certain period of time, but as there was no positive response for Ukraine, the sanctions have been extended until now.

Russian invasion of Ukraine

Since the beginning of 2021, now president of Ukraine Volodimir Zelenski expressed to the president of the United States of América, Joe Biden, its interest in becoming part of NATO. Later that year, Russia masses troops near Ukraines Border, and Biden warns Russia on imposing wide economic sanctions if it invades Ukraine. Russia responded with a series of demands to NATO that guaranteed the security of Russia by giving up military actions in eastern Europe and Ukraine; also meaning that there would be no more countries joining this Alliance.

As Russia was still waiting for a response from the United States, the tension between Russia and NATO's interests kept growing, which was clearly affecting the security of Ukraine. On January 17, 2022, this nation sent forces to Belarus, causing NATO to deploy extra troops in eastern Europe to shield the member countries of this alliance. The 21st of February, Putin responded by recognizing the independence of 2 regions in Ukraine: Donetsk and Luhansk, to then display military forces as "peacekeepers", as well as in Crimea.

On February 24th, 2022, Russia's president Vladimir Putin did it again. At about 6:00 am Moscow time, Putin announced a "Special Military Operation", and within minutes explosions were heard in Ukraine, provoking the sirens to resonate in the capital of this country, Kyiv.

Ramifications for Russia

Concerning the invasion of Ukraine, diverse countries have coordinated to impose sanctions against Russia. First of all, by recognizing the invasion as illegal and illegitimate, condemning the Russian Federation. Fully supporting Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity along with its internationally recognized borders.

As already mentioned, NATO is the principal international actor that confronts Putin's country in this situation. Mainly by imposing costs and economic sanctions on Russia to increase the pressure on Moscow and starve Putin's resources for the Kremlin. Increasing security assistance in Ukraine, Central and Eastern Europe. Additionally, the alliance is helping Ukraine to coordinate its request for assistance. For instance, NATO is in charge of giving the allies the confidence to send weapons such as light and heavy military equipment, drones and air defense systems without risking their national security. Supporting Ukraine to defend its right to self-defense (established in the United Nations Charter). Another way to assist the country in crisis is by providing humanitarian aid to civilians and hosting Ukrainian refugees. Lastly, NATO is committed in the long term to maintain the support for Ukraine's reconstruction afterwards.

The European Union and the United States of America also play a relevant role in the sanctions imposed on Russia, in order to stop the war in Ukraine. Both stakeholders implemented individual and economic sanctions on President Vladimir Putin's country, especially designed to weaken Russia's economic base.

The European Union has been banning diverse activities related to Russia and Belarus, such as: restrictions on economic relations with the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk, restrictions on the access to the EU's capital and financial markets and services (visa facilitation, transactions, energy, transport and technology sectors), prohibiting imports from Russia and exports of goods to Russia. Including closure of EU airspace to all Russian aircrafts and sanctions against Vladimir Putin, Sergey Lavrov and members of the Russian State Duma and National Security Council, among others.

On December 16, 2022, the EU released the last package of sanctions in order to intensify the consequences for the Russian Federation.

- Prohibition on exports of drone engines
- Restrictions on exports of dual-use goods and technology
- Prohibition on investments in the mining sector
- Prohibition on transactions with the Russian Regional Development Bank
- Prohibition on the provision of advertising, market research and public opinion polling services
- Suspension of the broadcasting licenses of four additional Russian outlets

Sanctioning 141 individuals and 49 entities until now.

The restrictions imposed on Russia from the United States target the Russian government capitals, international trade, economic sector and specific individuals and entities, suspending normal trade with Russia and Belarus. Including the following: Restrictions on transactions with Russia's central bank, Ministry of Finance and National Wealth Fund, export controls to limit Russia's defense (commercial and industrial), banning exports of Russian oil and energy products, prohibition on US investment, and prohibiting export and imports of goods, and closing the US airspace to Russian aircrafts.

After almost a year of war, the outcome remains unclear. Nevertheless, the sanctions enforced have proven a disaster for Russia in political, economic and military terms; pushing the Russian economy into a long term economic impact. Therefore supporting and gaining opportunities for Ukraine to self-defense.

The Charter of the United Nations describes the war as a mechanism for the solution of dispute, in that sense, calling the conflict in question as an “invasion or war” partializes the conflict, and generates an atmosphere of subjectivity for the Development of debate, negotiations, and possible solution.

From the above it is still a Special Military Operation, as declared, from the aggressor state of Russia. Reaffirming that, what it is not to be awarded the reason to any of the parties, but to find a solution that benefits the maintenance of international peace and security.

Guiding questions

- Which are the main components that affect the development of this conflict?
- What are the consequences for the development of countries worldwide?
- What circumstances would improve the situation in Ukraine?
- Does your country have strong economic relations with Russia?
- Is your country capable of contributing to the sanctions on Russia?
- Does your nation have a limit on the sanctions imposed on Russia?
- What can be done regarding the weapons involved?
- What would happen if the impasse persists, and the conflict continues indefinitely?

References

Cabrerizo Calatrava, A. (2002). El Conflicto Asimétrico. Granada, España. Retrieved from [http://www.ugr.es/~ceas/Sociedad y seguridad/CABRERIZO.pdf](http://www.ugr.es/~ceas/Sociedad_y_seguridad/CABRERIZO.pdf)

Clinch, M. (2022, January 27). *How Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014. And how the markets*

tanked. CNBC. Retrieved December 15, 2022, from

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/27/how-russia-invaded-ukraine-in-2014-and-how-the-markets-tanked.html>

EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. (2022, December 21). European Council.

Retrieved January 6, 2023, from

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-response-ukraine-invasion/>

Gómez, D. (2022, 22 diciembre). *¿Qué son los acuerdos de Minsk? El Orden Mundial - EOM*. Recuperado 26 de febrero de 2023, de <https://elordenmundial.com/que-son-acuerdos-minsk-paz-ucraniana/?nab=1>

NATO. (2022, December 9). *NATO's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine*. Retrieved January 6, 2023, from https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_192648.htm

NATO. (2022, February). *NATO-Ukraine relations*. Retrieved December 15, 2022, from https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/2/pdf/220214-factsheet_NATO-Ukraine_Relations_.pdf

ONU, O. de las N. U. (2020). *Operaciones de Mantenimiento de la Paz*. Retrieved April 23, 2021, from <https://peacekeeping.un.org/es>

ONU, O. de las N. U. (1945). *Carta de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas*. San Francisco, Estados Unidos de América: (ONU), Organización de las Naciones Unidas. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-xix/index.html>

Oropeza Fabián, F. (2022). *Panorama de la guerra entre Rusia y Ucrania (Documentos de Trabajo No. DT-01/2022)*. Navarra, España. Retrieved from <https://www.unav.edu/documents/16800098/17755721/conflicto-rusia-ucrania.pdf>

Pifer, S. (2022, December 8). *The Russia-Ukraine war and its ramifications for Russia*. Brookings. Retrieved January 6, 2023, from <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-russia-ukraine-war-and-its-ramifications-for-russia/>

Reuters. (2022, February 21). *Ukraine's turbulent history since independence in 1991*. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraines-turbulent-history-since-independence-1991-2022-01-31/>

Russia's War Against Ukraine: Overview of U.S. Sanctions and Other Responses. (2022, December 20). Congressional Research Service. Retrieved January 6, 2023, from <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11869>

Sánchez García, F. (2012, July). El Enfoque Multidisciplinar en los Conflictos Híbridos. EL CONFLICTO HÍBRIDO ¿UNA NUEVA FORMA DE GUERRA? Documentos de Seguridad y Defensa, 51(Centro Superior de Estudios de la Defensa Nacional, Ministerio de Defensa de España), 11–24. Retrieved from http://www.defensa.gob.es/ceseden/Galerias/destacados/publicaciones/docSegyDef/ficheros/051_EL_ENFOQUE_MULTIDISCIPLINAR_EN_LOS_CONFLICTOS_HIBRIDOS.pdf

Seven years since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. (2021, February 25). European Union External Action. Retrieved December 20, 2022, from https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/seven-years-russia%E2%80%99s-illegal-annexation-crimea_en

The Russian invasion of Ukraine. (2022). Britannica. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine/The-Russian-invasion-of-Ukraine>

Timeline - EU restrictive measures against Russia over Ukraine. (2022, December 16). European Council. Retrieved December 20, 2022, from <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions/restrictive-measures-against-russia-over-ukraine/history-restrictive-measures-against-russia-over-ukraine/>

Ukraine | History, Flag, Population, President, Map, Language, & Facts. (n.d.). Britannica.

Retrieved December 15, 2022, from

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine/The-crisis-in-Crimea-and-eastern-Ukraine>

United Nations. (n.d.-b). *United Nations Security Council* /. Retrieved February 1, 2023, from

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

Why is Russia invading Ukraine? (2022). War.Ukraine. Retrieved December 20, 2022, from

<https://war.ukraine.ua/why-is-russia-invading-ukraine/>

Zasenko, O. E. Z. (2022, October 18). *Ukraine*. Britannica. Retrieved December 15, 2022, from

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine>