

AMITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GURGAON
MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2023



**United Nations
General Assembly**

AGENDA - Discussing the situation in Ukraine in the light of Russian aggression

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

I welcome you to AMIGMUN 2023, and to this simulation of the Disarmament and Security Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. We will be discussing the situation in Ukraine in light of the Russian aggression, an issue that has been of immense geopolitical importance since at least February 2022. Presumably most of you are beginners, which is why this agenda suits the committee very well: it is, hopefully, an agenda that most of you will have come across.

In the training sessions the Executive Board will go over the rules of procedure, as well as the substance of the agenda. That means that before the actual conference you all should have a fairly decent idea of what to do and what to expect, even if at this stage you have no idea what an MUN is. Once we introduce the agenda to you in the training sessions, we expect all delegates to research the agenda thoroughly and come up with innovative solutions and ideas about the Ukraine crisis. At the same time, we encourage delegates to be able to think on their feet, and not be *entirely* dependent on what they have prepared from home (although it is still very important to do so).

The only other thing we should mention is that this is a double delegate committee, which means that two students will together represent the same delegation as a team. It is important that you work collaboratively with your co-delegate and divide the research and other preparatory work between yourselves. We also expect *both* members of a delegation to be equally active, and to see efficient teamwork. We realise that many of you will have co-delegates whom you don't know, but that increases the fun of it: you get to meet and work with someone you might otherwise never have come across. Finally, feel free to ask us any questions whatsoever during the training sessions or by email.

All best,

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Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) stands as the quintessential platform for international diplomacy, representing the collective voice of the world's nations. With its roots traced back to the establishment of the United Nations (UN) in 1945, UNGA remains the principal deliberative and policy-making body of the UN. Comprising all 193 member states, it serves as a vital forum for addressing pressing global challenges, discussing international affairs, and shaping global governance.

UNGA's primary mandate is to facilitate dialogue, cooperation, and consensus-building among member states on a wide range of issues, including peace and security, development, human rights, and international law. As an inclusive body, UNGA offers each member state an equal platform to express its views, concerns, and policy positions. The annual General Assembly session, held in New York, allows world leaders to engage in multilateral diplomacy, exchange ideas, and forge partnerships to tackle shared global problems.

Under the UN Charter, the functions and powers of the General Assembly (GA) include:

- To discuss any question relating to international peace and security (except when a dispute or situation is being discussed by the Security Council);
- To make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation which might harm the friendly relations among nations;
- To discuss and make recommendations on the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- To request studies and make recommendations to promote international cooperation, the development of international law, the protection of human rights, and international collaboration on economic, social, cultural, educational and health issues;
- To receive and discuss reports from the Security Council and other UN organs;
- To discuss and approve the UN budget;

- To elect non-permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and additional members of the Trusteeship Council (when necessary); to elect the judges of the International Court of Justice (jointly with the Security Council); and on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General.
- Although the General Assembly's recommendations on global issues are an important expression of world opinion, the Assembly cannot force a Member State to follow its recommendations on a particular issue.

In addition to its deliberative functions, UNGA plays a crucial role in setting the UN's agenda and adopting resolutions that guide international action. Although UNGA resolutions are non-binding, they hold significant moral and political weight, exerting influence on member states and shaping global norms and policies.

The UNGA operates through a diverse array of committees, specialised agencies, and subsidiary bodies, each dedicated to addressing specific areas of concern. These bodies cover a wide range of topics, including disarmament, economic and social development, humanitarian issues, human rights, and environmental sustainability. Through its committees, UNGA fosters in-depth discussions, negotiation, and the formulation of recommendations for member states.

Ultimately, the United Nations General Assembly serves as a critical platform for fostering multilateralism, cooperation, and dialogue among nations. It embodies the principles of equality, inclusivity, and international collaboration, seeking to create a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world for all. As delegates in the Model United Nations (MUN), your role in simulating UNGA sessions is pivotal in understanding and addressing complex global challenges, offering innovative solutions, and representing the diverse perspectives and interests of member states.

Summary of the situation in Ukraine

Crux of the Conflict

The situation in Ukraine has been marked by ongoing tensions and conflicts stemming from Russian aggression. In 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, a region previously under Ukrainian control, which sparked a severe deterioration in bilateral relations. This move was driven by Russia's desire to secure its naval presence in the Black Sea and protect the rights of ethnic Russians in Crimea.

The emergence of pro-Russian separatist movements in Eastern Ukraine, particularly in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, intensified the conflict resulting in a significant loss of life, displacement of civilians, and extensive damage to infrastructure. The Ukrainian government, with the support of the international community, has been engaged in efforts to regain control over the affected regions while seeking a diplomatic resolution to the crisis.

Efforts to resolve the conflict have taken place through various means, including negotiations, ceasefire agreements, and diplomatic initiatives. The Minsk agreements, signed in 2014 and 2015, aimed to establish a ceasefire and a political process for resolving the conflict. However, violations of the ceasefire persist, hindering progress towards a lasting solution.

The conflict has also had far-reaching implications for regional and international security. It has strained relations between Russia and Western countries, leading to economic sanctions and diplomatic tensions. Additionally, the situation has raised concerns about the violation of territorial integrity, sovereignty, and the principles of international law.

International actors, including the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have been actively

involved in facilitating negotiations and providing humanitarian aid. Efforts to de-escalate the conflict and find a peaceful resolution continue to be a priority on the international agenda.

In simulating the United Nations General Assembly, it is crucial for delegates to consider the multifaceted nature of the conflict in Ukraine, the geopolitical implications, and the need for a comprehensive and sustainable resolution. Addressing the humanitarian situation, promoting dialogue, and upholding the principles of international law are key components in seeking a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Ukraine.

History

The Ukraine-Russia conflict has deep historical roots that have contributed to the current tensions and hostilities between the two nations. Ukraine's historical ties to both the Russian and Western spheres of influence have played a significant role in shaping its identity and aspirations for independence.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked a turning point, as Ukraine declared its independence, leading to a reevaluation of its relationship with Russia. Russia initially recognized Ukraine's sovereignty but sought to maintain influence over its neighbour due to strategic, economic, and historical reasons. Disputes arose over the status of Crimea, which had a significant ethnic Russian population and held strategic importance for Russia.

These historical factors, along with ethnic and cultural divisions within Ukraine, have created a complex web of political, territorial, and identity disputes that continue to shape the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Recognizing and addressing these historical grievances is crucial for finding a sustainable and peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict.

Detailed Overview of the Current Conflict since February 2022

Introduction

Since February 2022, the conflict between Ukraine and Russia has reached a critical juncture, with a significant escalation in hostilities and a worsening humanitarian situation. The situation in Ukraine continues to be of grave concern, as Russian aggression persists, impacting regional stability and posing a threat to international peace and security.

Escalation of Hostilities

The escalation of hostilities in the Russia-Ukraine conflict has had severe ramifications, resulting in widespread destruction, loss of life, and heightened tensions. Since the conflict's escalation, Russia has deployed a significant military offensive, involving the deployment of troops, heavy weaponry, and mercenaries into Ukrainian territory. The offensive has targeted various fronts, including eastern Ukraine and the Donbass region, with the objective of gaining control over strategic areas and asserting dominance. This aggressive military action has caused significant damage to infrastructure, public buildings, and residential areas, leading to civilian casualties and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. The escalation of hostilities has further deepened the divide between the conflicting parties, making a peaceful resolution more challenging to achieve.

Humanitarian Crisis

The humanitarian crisis resulting from the Russia-Ukraine conflict has caused significant harm to civilians, including widespread displacement, loss of life, and challenges in accessing essential services. Displaced individuals face the loss of homes, livelihoods, and community support, leading to immense hardship. Inadequate and overcrowded living conditions with limited amenities further exacerbate their plight.

Access to critical services such as healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and education is severely compromised due to damaged infrastructure and resource limitations. Food scarcity and malnutrition prevail as agricultural disruptions deepen. The strained healthcare system compounds health risks due to limited medical care and essential supplies. Protection concerns heighten, especially for vulnerable groups, with increased risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse. Addressing the crisis necessitates emergency aid delivery, protection of civilians, infrastructure rehabilitation, psychosocial support, advocacy for increased funding, and pursuing negotiations and ceasefires to alleviate suffering and foster long-term recovery and stability.

International Response

In response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, President Joe Biden ordered the deployment of 3,000 US troops to Poland and Romania to counter Russian troops and reassure NATO allies. NATO has also increased its presence in Eastern Europe through military exercises and multinational battle groups in the Baltic states and Poland to strengthen deterrence.

Diplomatic efforts involve the United States, Russia, and European countries, primarily through the Normandy Format. However, achieving consensus and a peaceful resolution is challenging due to differing positions and interests.

Russia's troop deployment along its border with Belarus has raised international concerns about its intentions and escalated tensions in the region.

The United Nations Security Council has extensively discussed the conflict, emphasising the need for peace, de-escalation, and respect for Ukraine's sovereignty. The OSCE monitors the situation and facilitates diplomatic negotiations as international mediators and observers.

Ceasefire Efforts:

Achieving a durable ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine conflict has been complex and challenging. Ceasefire agreements like the Minsk Protocol and Minsk II have been repeatedly violated, impeding progress towards lasting peace. Negotiations between Ukraine, Russia, and the OSCE focus on establishing a comprehensive ceasefire, withdrawing Russian forces, and restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Ongoing violations undermine trust, and disagreements persist on force withdrawal, border control, and the status of separatist territories. The lack of a durable ceasefire perpetuates hostilities, hampers humanitarian efforts, and obstructs political dialogue.

The international community, including the UN and OSCE, supports diplomatic efforts, but challenges remain. Sustained commitment, trust-building measures, and compromises are essential for achieving lasting peace, resolving the humanitarian crisis, facilitating safe returns, and addressing underlying issues.

Humanitarian Assistance and Reconstruction

The humanitarian crisis resulting from the Russia-Ukraine conflict remains a pressing concern. Humanitarian organisations, including UN agencies, provide aid and assistance, but face challenges due to the scale of the crisis, ongoing hostilities, and limited access to certain areas.

Efforts are underway to ensure aid reaches those in need, coordinating among actors, local authorities, and civil society. Long-term planning and reconstruction are recognized as important, requiring investment in infrastructure, healthcare, education, water, sanitation, and housing. Inclusivity, sustainability, and community engagement are prioritized for resilient and prosperous recovery.

Creating conditions for safe and voluntary return of displaced persons involves establishing security, restoring services, and addressing causes of displacement. Protecting human rights, particularly for vulnerable groups, is crucial throughout the response.

International cooperation and financial support are vital. Donor countries, organisations, and regional actors should provide assistance to meet urgent needs and support sustainable development.

Addressing the crisis requires immediate relief, long-term reconstruction, and sustained commitment to alleviate suffering and rebuild affected regions of Ukraine.

Geopolitical Implications:

The conflict in Ukraine carries geopolitical implications, straining relations between Russia and Western countries. Russia's actions, including military intervention and Crimea's annexation, led to economic sanctions imposed by the West to pressure Russia. Diplomatic tensions escalated, resulting in condemnations, expulsions, and suspensions of cooperation. Western countries expressed solidarity with Ukraine, providing military assistance to deter Russian aggression and uphold international norms.

Meanwhile, Russia aims to consolidate influence in the region, considering Ukraine within its historical sphere. This conflict is seen as an attempt to assert its global power and challenge the international order.

The conflict deepens divisions and security concerns globally, sparking debates on power balance, territorial integrity, and state behaviour norms. Resolving the conflict and addressing geopolitical implications require diplomatic engagement, multilateral cooperation, and upholding international law.

Regional Stability and Security

The Russia-Ukraine conflict challenges regional stability, raising concerns among neighbouring countries about spillover effects and further aggression. Eastern European nations, like the Baltic states and Poland, bolster defences to deter potential threats, seeking reassurances from NATO and the international community.

The conflict affects arms control agreements, notably the INF Treaty's dissolution, heightening fears of a new arms race. Military build-up and escalating tensions in Ukraine impact regional and global arms control efforts.

The international community, including NATO, plays a crucial role in maintaining stability and addressing neighbouring countries' concerns. Dialogue, transparency, and confidence-building measures mitigate aggression risks, prevent destabilisation, and uphold arms control agreements.

Strengthening diplomatic channels, engaging in dialogue, and providing reassurances are necessary for neighbouring countries. Commitments to collective defence, military exercises, and clear communication on defensive measures are vital. International cooperation is essential to prevent further escalation and maintain regional stability.

Negotiation and Diplomatic Efforts

Efforts to resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict persist through diplomatic channels and negotiations. The Normandy Format and Trilateral Contact Group play crucial roles in facilitating discussions and addressing key issues. Mediators and international observers, notably the OSCE, build trust, monitor ceasefires, and ensure implementation of agreed measures.

However, progress towards a lasting solution has been slow due to fundamental differences and diverging interests. Resolving issues such as the status of separatist territories, foreign troop withdrawal, and Ukraine's territorial integrity remains challenging.

Sustained diplomatic engagement, political will, and genuine commitment are essential to bridge differences and achieve lasting peace. International support is vital in encouraging dialogue, mediation, and negotiations. The international community, including regional and global actors, should work together to address the conflict's root causes and seek mutually acceptable solutions.

Role of the United Nations

The United Nations has been actively engaged in addressing the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The Security Council, as the primary organ responsible for maintaining international peace and security, plays a critical role in deliberating on the situation and exploring avenues for peaceful resolution. The UN has also mobilised humanitarian assistance, supported diplomatic initiatives, and called for respect for international law and human rights.

Conclusion

The current conflict in Ukraine since February 2022 has witnessed a significant escalation in hostilities, resulting in widespread destruction, loss of life, and a humanitarian crisis. Diplomatic efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire and resolve the conflict have faced numerous challenges. The situation has broader geopolitical implications, impacting regional stability and posing security concerns. Addressing the conflict requires continued diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance, and a commitment to upholding international law. As delegates in the Model United Nations (MUN), it is crucial to analyse the complexities of the current conflict, propose solutions, and work towards a peaceful resolution that ensures the rights and well-being of all those affected by the crisis in Ukraine.

Timeline

February 2022: Fierce fighting erupts in northern Ukraine as tens of thousands of Russian troops try to take the Ukrainian capital and decapitate the country. Wagner mercenaries are reportedly redeployed from Africa to assassinate the Ukrainian president.

March 2022: Food and energy prices climb as attention turns to the wider impact of the war. There are pointed concerns about the cost of living in the west, while food security becomes a worry across huge swathes of the developing world.

May 2022: Sweden and Finland [unveil their bids to join NATO](#), although there is political opposition from Turkey and Hungary which will continue all year.

July 2022: Ukraine and Russia agree to a landmark deal allowing Ukrainian grain to be exported across the Black Sea. It is a major breakthrough aimed at easing the global food crisis -- one that brings a moment of reprieve to millions.

September 2022: Putin announces a “partial mobilisation” of [300,000 troops to fight in Ukraine](#), triggering a mass flight of Russians escaping conscription into neighbouring Georgia and Kazakhstan.

December 2022: On Christmas Day, Putin claims Russia is “ready to negotiate” with Ukraine - a demand ruled out by leaders in Ukraine. The Russian president publicly uses the word “war” to refer to his country's invasion for the first time.

February 2023: A [historic summit](#) with Kyiv and EU leaders happens a few days later, with a relatively undeterred Brussels pledging more support for Ukraine and a tenth round of Russia sanctions.

June 2023: The incident kills 50 people, floods a vast stretch of land - reportedly changing Ukraine's counteroffensive plans - and costs around €1.2 billion in damage, according to Ukrainian Environment Minister Ruslan Strilets.

Questions to consider

1. What are some of the key causes of the current conflict in Ukraine and how might we address them?
2. What international instruments are relevant to the situation in Ukraine?
3. What has the international community and the United Nations done, and should do in the future, to resolve the conflict?
4. How can the international community address the humanitarian aspects of the Ukrainian conflict?
5. What measures can be taken against Russia, legally, politically and militarily, to dissuade it from protracting the conflict for longer?