

NAC

STUDY GUIDE

- AGENDA ITEM: RUSSIAN INVASION ON UKRAINE



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I. LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Participants,

First of all, I'm delighted to point out that it is my utmost pleasure and honor to serve as the Secretary-General of IUMUN'23. Throughout the four days of our precious conference, different matters in different committees shall be discussed and very important decisions shall be taken on various past and present events that has or had a remarkable impact on our lives. From political controversies to social life problems, we will be creating the best environment for our participants to enjoy every moment they will have during the conference and find fruitful solutions by having heated and precise debates.

Heated and precise debates require a well-executed and right-on-the-dot preparation process. Therefore, our talented academic team has prepared study guides for their committees so that our participants will have a proper document to get prepared to our conference and perform accordingly. In addition, with the help of these study guides, the way to success and glory upon our academic careers will be way wide-open.

I sincerely believe that this year's IUMUN will be such a conference that many future diplomats and politicians will glow up like a hidden gem and make both the United Nations and Model United Nations great again. Trust in yourselves, and stand out for a better world for everyone. Referring to our motto, we see and observe from what our ancestors done during their lifetimes and shape our future by learning and innovating from their experiences.

Witness the history, shape the future!

Bora AKAR

Secretary-General of IUMUN'23



LETTER FROM THE USG AND THE ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

Dear precious representatives,

We, as the academic responsible of the NAC would like to remark our extreme pleasure in serving you this delightful council. We wish during the conference we will not have any concerns about your efforts and will create the interactive essence of any kind of work throughout the committee. A prepared study guide offers you the necessary basic info enlightening the committee's framework. In particular, we emphasize the questions part and would like you to read and reply to them. In the following process please do not hesitate to arrive us for any kind of issue via our emails. Now we hope for an efficient conference for all.

Sincerely,

Çağdaş Başar BAHAR & Armanç Kaan BUDAK



III. INTRODUCTION

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has its roots in the dissolution of the Soviet Union. When the USSR dissolved, the newly founded states of the Russian Federation and Ukraine differing pathways to follow. Russian Federation, as a former superpower, wanted to maintain the balance of power, thus, rejecting the Westernization process albeit not fully. Russia maintained to be an autocratic type of state. Ukraine, on the other hand, chooses a pathway for achieving a more democratic society and government. However, before these pathways were even being opted for, there was a critical issue between the Russian Federation and Ukraine: Soviet nuclear missiles located in Ukraine. Naturally, newly formed Russia wanted its missiles back as the predecessor of the USSR where Ukraine, in fear of invasion, showed reluctance to do so. Eventually, on December 5, 1994, an agreement has been made among Ukraine, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States for ensuring the national sovereignty of Ukraine in exchange for delivering nuclear weapons back to Russia. Thus, Ukraine became vulnerable to an attack by Russia for it probably would not obtain conventional deterrence capabilities since it did lack financial resources and necessary manpower to do so.

Furthermore, rapidly modernizing Ukraine built a strong relationship with the West which caused the emergence of a security dilemma in the region. Russia, especially after the enlargement policy of NATO, suspected that the West is still playing the game according to the cold war mechanics. It became clearer for Russia when NATO wanted to include Georgia, a country from the Caucasus, its roster of countries; consequently, invading Georgia in 2008. Essentially, Russia blames NATO for surrounding its territory for its aggressive foreign policy.

It is still an argument among international relations theorists whether Ukraine would be safer should it keep nuclear weapons, however, one thing seems to remain to be true: realpolitik is still a major determinant in relations between countries. Therefore, delegates are kindly requested to follow suit and account for such details in their speeches and when drafting the communique.



A. PRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL: NAC



1. EXPLANATION OF THE COUNCIL

The North Atlantic Council is NATO's primary political decision-making body. It is in charge of the political and military processes about security concerns impacting the whole Alliance. It brings representatives from each member nation together to talk about operational or policy issues that call for decision-making as a group, offering a forum for extensive engagement between members on all matters impacting their peace and security.

The primary political decision-making body within NATO is the North Atlantic Council (Council or NAC), which also serves as the supreme authority over a network of committees. All facets of the Organization's activities are covered by Council deliberations and decisions, which frequently draw from analyses and suggestions made by lower-level committees at the Council's request.

The Nuclear Planning Group has comparable jurisdiction to the NAC, but only concerning the policies, planning, and consultative processes related to nuclear energy. Since the NAC operates on the principles of unanimity and consensus, decisions made there represent the collective will of all Alliance member nations.

The NAC is presided over by the Secretary-General, and no matter where it convenes, its decisions are equally valid and have the same status. It was the sole entity created by the North Atlantic Treaty's Article 9 in 1949, and it was the sole entity with the power to create subsidiary entities.



B. BACKGROUND OF THE COUNCIL

Effective Political Authority and Powers of Decision

The NAC possesses real political sway and decision-making abilities. It is the sole entity created by Article 9 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

The Parties hereby create a council to study issues relating to the execution of this Treaty, on which each of them shall be represented. The council must be set up to convene quickly whenever it is called. The council must create any required auxiliary entities, and it must promptly form a defense committee that will make recommendations for how to implement Articles 3 and 5.

It is not only the only entity with the power to create “such subsidiary bodies as may be necessary,” but it also serves as the supreme authority over a complex web of committees and working groups. “The Council” is a common term used to refer to it. The NAC is the main political decision-making body and is in charge of directing the military and political actions related to security matters that impact the whole Alliance.

All facets of the Organization’s activities are covered in the topics addressed and decisions made during Council meetings, which usually rely on reports and recommendations created by subordinate committees at the Council’s request. Additionally, the Secretary-General or any national representative may bring up the following issues, specifically those covered by Article 4 of the Washington Treaty:

“The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of any of the Parties is threatened.”

Decisions are reached through unanimous consent and general agreement. There is no majority vote or decision-making process. This implies that all the sovereign states that are members of the Alliance endorse and accept the policies decided upon by the NAC as the expression of their collective will. Each member has an equal opportunity to voice their opinions and participate in the general agreement upon which decisions are founded.



Representation at Different Levels

At the NAC, there are seats reserved for representatives from each NATO member nation. It can convene at the levels of “Permanent Representatives” (also known as “Ambassadors”), foreign and defense ministers, and leaders of state and government. Whatever level it meets, its decisions have the same standing and applicability.

The NAC is led by the Secretary-General. The meetings are led by the Deputy Secretary General when he is not present. The Council’s dean is the Ambassador who has served on the body the longest. The dean’s duty is primarily ceremonial, but he or she may be asked to take on a more particular presiding role, such as calling meetings and moderating talks while a new Secretary General is being chosen. The foreign minister of one country serves as the honorary president of meetings of foreign ministers. Each year, members in the order of the English alphabet alternate holding the position.

Following the English alphabet, the ambassadors are seated around the table in order of their respective countries names. The NATO committee organization adheres to the same process.

Working Procedures

The NAC meets at least once per week and frequently more frequently at the level of Permanent Representatives; it typically meets twice per year at the level of foreign affairs ministers, three times per year at the level of defense ministers, and on occasion at the summit level with the participation of heads of state and government. The Organization may need to debate foreign trends and events more frequently than this, though.

According to directives from their national capitals, Permanent Representatives carry out their duties while educating their counterparts at the table about the opinions and political choices of their countries. In contrast, they advise their national authorities of new developments and keep them informed about steps being taken to reach a consensus on significant problems or areas where national stances differ. They also report back to their national authorities on the opinions voiced and positions adopted by other countries.

Each nation represented at the Council’s table or on any of its subsidiary committees retains total autonomy and accountability for its own choices.



Preparing the Council's work

Subordinate committees that are in charge of particular policy areas prepare the Council's work. The Deputies Committee made up of the Deputy Permanent Representatives of each member nation, is heavily involved in this task.

The Council maintains a significant public profile and releases communiqués and pronouncements outlining the policies and actions of the Alliance. Typically, these documents are released following ministerial or summit sessions. The Deputies Committee, which meets in advance of these meetings to create the texts for Council approval, is specifically tasked with creating such documents. On behalf of the Nuclear Planning Group, the Nuclear Planning Group Staff Group performs a similar function.

Other facets of political work may be handled by the Political Committee and the Partnerships and Cooperative Security Committee. Depending on the subject at hand, the relevant senior committee in charge of that area takes the lead in organizing Council sessions and overseeing Council decisions.

Senior committees like the Defence Policy and Planning Committee may be involved as the main advisory bodies when the Council meets at the level of defense ministers or is discussing defense issues and topics connected to the defense strategy. The Resource Policy and Planning Board will be accountable to the Council for preparing pertinent portions of its work if financial matters are on the agenda.

Supporting the Council

The Secretary of the Council provides direct assistance to the Council by making ensuring that directives are carried out and that decisions are documented and distributed. While the relevant divisions of the International Staff support the work of committees reporting to the NAC, a small Council Secretariat manages the organizational and logistical aspects of the NAC's operation.

All of the international staff at NATO Headquarters generally supports the Council's work, either directly or indirectly, and works to ensure that its decisions are carried out.

IV. PRESENTATION THE THE AGENDA: UNPROVOKED WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

A. BACKGROUND AND CLAIMS

The biggest threat to peace and security in Europe since the conclusion of the Cold War is Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, gave a strange and occasionally insane speech on February 21, 2022, outlining a broad number of complaints as the reason for the "special military operation" that was launched the next day. The speech focused on a much more fundamental issue: the legitimacy of Ukrainian identity and statehood itself. These grievances included the long-running disagreement over NATO expansion and the design of the post-Cold War security architecture in Europe.

The emphasis on the enduring unity of Eastern Slavs—Russians, Ukrainians, and Belarusians, who all trace their ancestry to the medieval Kyivan Rus commonwealth—and the suggestion that the modern states of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus should share a political destiny both now and in the future were reflections of a worldview Putin had long expressed. According to the corollary to that point of view, separate Ukrainian and Belarusian identities are the result of foreign manipulation, and the West is currently imitating Russia's imperial enemies by utilizing Ukraine (and Belarus) as a component of an "anti-Russia project."

Moscow has followed a policy toward Ukraine and Belarus throughout Putin's term in office based on the premise that their different national identities are artificial and thus weak. Putin's claims that foreign adversaries are advancing Ukrainian (and, in a more general sense, Belarusian) identity as part of a geopolitical conflict against Russia are reminiscent of how many of his forebears refused to acknowledge the agency of common people seeking independence from tsarist or Soviet rule. Putin, who has an interest in history, frequently references the concepts of philosophers who emphasized the organic unity of the Russian Empire and its people—particularly its Slavic, Orthodox core—in a style of what historian Timothy Snyder refers to as the "politics of eternity," or the conviction that history has an unchanging nature.

The importance that Putin and other Russian elites place on the concept of Russian-Ukrainian-Belarusian unity sheds light on how the current conflict came to be, particularly why Moscow was willing to risk a major confrontation on its borders when neither Ukraine nor NATO posed a military danger. It also implies that Moscow has more ambitious goals for dominating Ukraine than simply preventing it from joining NATO. These goals likely include control over the country's politics, armed forces, and economy.



B. COMMENCING THE WAR

Starting in 2021, Russia increased its military presence along the border with Ukraine, including in Belarus, a neighboring country. Plans to attack Ukraine were frequently denied by Russian officials. Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, opposed NATO's expansion and asked that Ukraine be prevented from ever joining the military alliance. Additionally, he aired irredentist opinions and questioned Ukraine's legitimacy to exist. In February 2022, Russia recognized the DPR and LPR as independent governments. Putin then declared a "special military operation" in Ukraine and invaded the area. The invasion was denounced on a global scale, and numerous nations intensified their already-existing sanctions against Russia. In the face of ferocious resistance, Russia abandoned an attempt to seize Kyiv in early April 2022.

Due to counteroffensives, Ukrainian forces started retaking the northeastern and southern regions in August. Russia annexed four partially occupied districts in southern and eastern Ukraine in late September, a move that went unnoticed by the rest of the world. It spent the winter waging unsuccessful offensive operations in the Donbas and dug in for the anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive in the spring. Tens of thousands of people have died as a result of the war.

The ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has not seen an official declaration of war. Putin avoided making a formal declaration of war when he said that Russia would invade Ukraine in 2022 by starting a "special military operation". However, the Ukrainian government saw the remark as a declaration of war, and many international news outlets also reported this. Despite calling Russia a "terrorist state" for its military interventions in Ukraine, the Ukrainian parliament has not formally declared war on Russia.

GIF of the War: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/72/2022_Russian_Invasion_of_Ukraine_animated.gif

On the morning of February 24, Putin declared a "special military operation" to "demilitarize and denazify" Ukraine, which marked the beginning of Russia's invasion of that country. Soon after, missiles and aircraft struck Kyiv and other cities throughout Ukraine. This was swiftly followed by a sizable ground invasion on numerous fronts. Zelensky issued a declaration of martial law and a nationwide mobilization of all male citizens of Ukraine between the ages of 18 and 60, who were prohibited from leaving the nation.



Initially, Russian attacks were launched on four fronts: a southern front from Crimea; a south-eastern front from Luhansk and Donetsk; a northern front from Belarus towards Kyiv; a north-eastern front towards Kharkiv. Russia's progress on the northern front slowed in March, and by April, its troops had retreated due to significant casualties and fierce Ukrainian opposition around Kyiv. On April 8, General Aleksandr Dvornikov took command of Russia's forces in southern and eastern Ukraine, and some units that had been evacuated from the north were moved to the Donbas.

On April 19, Russia recommenced its offensive along a 500-kilometer (300-mile) front that stretches from Kharkiv to Donetsk and Luhansk. By May 13, a counteroffensive by Ukraine had forced back Russian forces close to Kharkiv. After a protracted siege of the Azovstal steel complex, Russian forces captured Mariupol on May 20. Russian forces continued to bomb both military and civilian targets some distance from the frontlines. Since the Yugoslav Wars in the 1990s, the war has generated the biggest refugee and humanitarian catastrophe in Europe; according to the UN, it is also the one that is escalating the quickest since World War II. The UN claimed that more than one million refugees had fled Ukraine in the first week of the invasion; by 24 September, this number had increased to more than 7,405,590.

In the first week after the invasion, the UN asserted that over a million refugees had fled Ukraine; on September 24, this figure had risen to more than 7,405,590. The number of Russian troops killed and injured in Ukraine as of February 2023 "is approaching 200,000," according to an estimate made by The New York Times.

C. TERRITORIAL FACTORS

Gas disputes

Up until 2014, Ukraine served as the primary transit country for Russian natural gas sold to Europe, making it the nation's most valuable export service and bringing in roughly US\$3 billion annually in transit fees. Gas transit volumes steadily dropped after Russia opened the Nord Stream pipeline, which avoids Ukraine. After the unprovoked Russian war of aggression against Ukraine broke out in February 2014, the gas industry experienced intense stress. A project to develop Ukraine's shale gas deposits at the Yuzivska gas field, which had been intended as a way to lessen Ukraine's dependence on Russian gas imports, had to be put on hold due to the following start of the war in the Donbas region.

Günther Oettinger, the EU's energy commissioner, was eventually enlisted to mediate a deal guaranteeing supply to Ukraine and transit to the EU.



In May 2014, an explosion in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast destroyed a Ukrainian section of the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhhorod pipeline. Russian terrorists were implicated by Ukrainian officials. On June 17, 2014, a pipeline explosion occurred in the Poltava Oblast, one day after Russia restricted gas supplies to Ukrainian clients owing to non-payment. The explosion had been triggered by a bomb, according to Arsen Avakov, minister of interior for Ukraine.

Russian state media announced in 2015 that after 2018, Russia intended to fully stop supplying gas to Europe through Ukraine. Gazprom, the state-owned energy behemoth of Russia, has stated that it intends to further cut the amount of gas transit via Ukraine by using transit-diversification pipelines (such as Turkish Stream and Nord Stream). At the end of 2019, Gazprom and Ukraine reached an agreement for a five-year contract for Russian gas transit to Europe.

2020 will see a change in regional gas flows in South-East Europe due to the TurkStream natural gas pipeline, which runs from Russia to Turkey and diverts transit through Ukraine and the Trans Balkan Pipeline system.

The business behind Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas project to Germany was exempted from Trump's CAATSA sanctions in May 2021 under the Biden administration. Joe Biden's choice, according to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, "surprised" and "disappointed" him. The United States advised Ukraine not to object to an upcoming pipeline agreement with Germany in July 2021.

By agreement reached in July 2021 between Vice President Joe Biden and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the United States might impose penalties if Russia utilized Nord Stream as a "political weapon." The agreement was made to keep Poland and Ukraine's access to Russian gas from being cut off. Germany will establish a \$1 billion fund to support Ukraine's transition to renewable energy to make up for the loss of the gas transit fees, and Ukraine would receive a \$50 million loan for green technology until 2024. If the Russian government approves, the contract for transiting Russian gas through Ukraine will be extended until 2034.

Zelenskyy cautioned that the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline was "a dangerous weapon, not only for Ukraine but for the entire Europe" in August 2021. Yuriy Vitrenko, CEO of Ukraine's Naftogaz, charged Russia with using natural gas as a "geopolitical weapon" in September 2021. According to Vitrenko, "The United States and Germany said in a joint statement that there would be a proper response if the Kremlin utilized gas as a weapon. As the owner of Nord Stream 2, a 100% subsidiary of Gazprom, we are currently awaiting the introduction of penalties.



D. SOCIOPOLITIC FACTORS

Russian Propaganda and disinformation campaigns: Neo-Nazi

During the war, falsehoods have been spread to incite popular outrage. Russian news outlets Russia-1 and NTV featured a man in April 2014 who claimed to have been attacked by a fascist Ukrainian gang on one station and that he was sponsoring the radical right's anti-Russian training on the other. The individual was presented as a neo-Nazi surgeon in a third episode. Russia-1 broadcast a story on crimes committed in Ukraine in May 2014 using footage from a Russian operation in the North Caucasus in 2012. In the same month, Ukrainian troops who had just retaken Donetsk International Airport were depicted in a 2013 image of an injured child in Syria by the Russian news outlet Life.

Using footage from the United States using white phosphorus in Iraq in 2004, numerous Russian official news outlets claimed in June 2014 that Ukraine was employing the substance. An interview with a woman who claimed that a 3-year-old boy who spoke Russian was crucified by Ukrainian nationalists in a made-up square in Sloviansk was aired on Channel One Russia in July 2014; however, it turned out to be untrue.

Russian official media reported mass graves in eastern Ukraine that were filled with ethnic Russians in 2022. When fierce fighting shut out the lights in the nearby morgue in 2014, one set of graves was excavated outside of Luhansk. When Amnesty International looked into Russian accusations of mass graves containing hundreds of victims in 2014, they discovered only a few instances of both sides' arbitrary murders.

The Russian censorship agency Roskomnadzor ordered media outlets to exclusively use information from official Russian government sources or else face penalties and blocks and directed that the conflict be referred to as a "special military operation" in media and schools. A measure proposing prison terms of up to 15 years for individuals who disseminate "fake news" regarding the Russian military and its actions was signed into law by Putin on March 4, 2022, which caused some media outlets to stop covering Ukraine. Alexei Navalny, a politician in Russia's opposition, claimed that the "monstrosity of lies" in the state-run media was "unimaginable." Its persuasiveness for those without access to alternate information is regrettably also true.

He stated on Twitter that "warmongers" in official media in Russia "should be treated as war criminals." The news editors, talk show hosts, and editors-in-chief should all be punished right away and put on trial afterward.

Despite Ukraine's president Zelenskyy being Jewish, Putin and Russian media have portrayed the Ukrainian government as being run by neo-Nazis who are oppressing ethnic Russians and calling for Russia to provide protection. Journalist Natalia Antonova claims that propaganda has transformed Russia's ongoing aggression into a direct continuation of the heritage of the millions of Russian soldiers who lost their lives fighting Nazi Germany during World War II.



Ukraine's rejection of the adoption of General Assembly Resolution A/C.3/76/L.57/Rev.1 on Combating Glorification of Nazism, Neo-Nazism and Other Practices that Contribute to Fueling Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which was proposed by Russia, serves to portray Ukraine as a pro-Nazi state and in fact, probably serves as the foundation for such claims. Such resolutions, according to the deputy US representative for ECOSOC, are "thinly veiled attempts to legitimize Russian disinformation campaigns denigrating neighboring countries and promoting the distorted Soviet narrative of much of contemporary European history under the cynical guise of preventing Nazi glorification."

Following a Twitter argument with Russian diplomat Mikhail Ulyanov in June 2022, NAFO (the "North Atlantic Fellas Organization"), a loose group of online "shitposters" pledging to combat Russian disinformation and typically identifiable by cartoon Shiba Inu dogs in social media, rose to prominence.

E. RESULTS AND SANCTIONS: SITUATION UNTIL TODAY

International law, including the UN Charter, was broken by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Although there are procedural barriers to prosecutions under these laws, the invasion has also been referred to be an act of aggression under international criminal law and the domestic criminal codes of certain nations, particularly those of Russia and Ukraine. The invasion was denounced on a global scale, and numerous nations intensified their already-existing sanctions against Russia. In the face of ferocious resistance, Russia abandoned an attempt to seize Kyiv in early April 2022.

Following the Russian takeover of Crimea, which started in late February 2014, numerous nations, including the United States, Canada, the European Union, and other organizations imposed international sanctions against Russia and Crimea during the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Belarus has also been subject to sanctions because of its support and collaboration with the Russian military. People, organizations, and government representatives from Russia and Ukraine were subject to the sanctions. In response, Russia imposed sanctions on several nations, including a complete ban on food imports from the United States, Australia, Canada, Norway, Japan, and the European Union.

The sanctions exacerbated the economic effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and contributed to the downfall of the Russian ruble. They also negatively impacted the EU's economy economically, with total losses pegged at €100 billion (as of 2015). As of 2014, Russia's finance minister stated that the sanctions had cost the country \$40 billion and that a \$100 billion loss that year was a result of the drop in the price of oil. Following the imposition of sanctions in August 2018, Russia suffered economic losses in the range of 0.5% to 1.5% of lost GDP growth.





United States and European Union sanctions are still in place as of April 2022. The EU announced the most recent extension of the sanctions until July 31, 2022, in January 2022. In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, sanctions on Vladimir Putin and other government leaders were either enacted or significantly increased by the US, the EU, and other nations. They also disconnected a few Russian banks from SWIFT. The 2022 Russian financial crisis was brought on by the boycott of Belarus and Russia.

In addition to tens of thousands of dead, the war has caused a refugee catastrophe. Late February 2022 saw the start of Europe's continuing refugee crisis following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Over 8.2 million refugees from Ukraine have been registered in Europe, and by the end of May 2022, it was anticipated that 8 million more people were internally displaced. By 20 March, about a fifth of the nation's residents had left their homes in Ukraine. Most Ukrainian men between the ages of 18 and 60 are prohibited from leaving the country, while 90% of refugees are women and children. By the 24th of March, a quarter of all Ukrainian children had already left their families, and more than half of all youngsters had done so. The invasion led to the fourth-biggest refugee crisis in history, the largest since World War II and its aftermath, and the first of its type in Europe since the Yugoslav Wars in the 1990s. It is the biggest refugee crisis of the twenty-first century and has the highest rate of global refugee flight.

A. REQUESTS OF THE PARTIES

NATO and Ukraine

NATO and Ukraine have made some demands from Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine. These demands are:

- Immediate and complete withdrawal of all Russian forces from Ukraine.
- Respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- A commitment to resolve disputes peacefully and following international law.

- A commitment to de-escalation and confidence-building measures.
- A commitment to transparency and accountability for human rights violations.

NATO has also called on Russia to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine and to allow safe passage for civilians to leave the country.

Russia has so far rejected NATO's demands. The war in Ukraine continues, and it is unclear when or how it will end.

Russian Federation

Russia has stated that it wants to achieve several goals in Ukraine, including:

- **Neutrality:** Russia wants Ukraine to declare itself a neutral country and renounce its membership in NATO.
- **Demilitarization:** Russia wants Ukraine to demilitarize and give up its heavy weapons.
- **“Denazification”:** Russia claims that Ukraine is controlled by neo-Nazis and that it wants to “de-Nazify” the country. This goal is controversial and has been criticized by many as a pretext for war.
- **Recognition of Crimea:** Russia wants Ukraine to recognize the annexation of Crimea as Russian territory.
- **Recognition of Donbas:** Russia wants Ukraine to recognize the independence of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics in eastern Ukraine.

It is unclear whether Russia will be able to achieve all of its goals in Ukraine. The war is ongoing, and it is possible that the conflict will escalate or that a negotiated settlement will be reached.



V. THE APPROACH OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. NATO'S ATTITUDE

Russian military aircraft frequently fly over the Baltic and Black Seas without indicating their location or contacting air traffic controllers, potentially endangering commercial aircraft. Late in April 2022, NATO planes launched many scrambles to detect and intercept these aircraft as they approached alliance airspace. The interceptions were carried out safely and routinely, and the Russian aircraft never entered NATO airspace. Despite calling the situation a NATO-instigated proxy war, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated: "We don't think we're at war with NATO... Sadly, NATO thinks that it is at war with Russia. Boris Johnson, the prime minister of Great Britain, denied Lavrov's claim that NATO is waging a "proxy war" in Ukraine.

The NATO-Russia Council convened on January 12, 2022, at NATO's headquarters in Brussels to talk about Russia's military build-up near its border with Ukraine and its demands for security guarantees in Europe. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko, and Russian Deputy Minister of Defence Colonel General Alexander Fomin led the respective delegations.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg claimed that it looked like Russia was continuing its military build-up despite Moscow's assertion on 16 February 2022 that military training in the Crimea it had annexed had ended and personnel were returning to their positions. The largest conventional military aggression against a European state since World War II occurred on February 24, 2022, in the middle of a UN Security Council meeting that had been called to address the crisis and was being presided over by Russia at the time. As a result, relations between NATO and Russia further deteriorated. NATO deployed troops in Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary, and Bulgaria as part of the NATO Response Force, which was activated and placed on high alert.

In response to Finland and Sweden's desire to join NATO, Russia threatened them on February 26, 2022. On May 16, 2022, the day after Sweden and Finland submitted membership applications to NATO, Vladimir Putin made the following remarks during a summit of the CSTO, the organization that stands in for NATO:



“Russia has no problems with these states [Sweden and Finland], and therefore in this sense, the expansion [of NATO] at the expense of these countries does not create a direct threat [...] but the expansion of military infrastructure in this region will certainly cause our response.”

— Vladimir Putin

The NATO Madrid summit in 2022 declared Russia “a direct threat” to Euro-Atlantic security and approved a 300,000-troop increase in the NATO Response Force. Since then, NATO member states have viewed Russia as having decisively abrogated the Founding Act in its entirety. Since the start of the conflict, Russian authorities and propagandists have increased their claims that they are “at war” with the entirety of NATO, a claim that the alliance has consistently refuted.

Many academics and media figures conjectured that Russia and NATO’s invasion of Ukraine signaled the start of a Second Cold War.

B. OTHER COUNTRIES

Albania

Albania has been one of the most vocal supporters of Ukraine. It has condemned the Russian invasion, imposed sanctions on Russia, and provided military and financial assistance to Ukraine. Albania has also called for an increase in NATO presence in the region.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina have condemned the Russian invasion and imposed sanctions on Russia. However, the country is divided along ethnic lines, with the Bosnian Serbs being more sympathetic to Russia. As a result, the Bosnian government has been unable to provide military assistance to Ukraine.

Serbia

Serbia has condemned the Russian invasion and expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. However, Serbia has avoided direct criticism of Russia and has not imposed sanctions on Russia. This is due to Serbia’s close economic and political ties with Russia, as well as the fact that the Russian Orthodox Church is the dominant religious institution in Serbia.



France

The Russian cargo ship Baltic Leader was seized by the French Navy on February 26 in the English Channel. The ship was thought to be associated with a business that was subject to penalties. The ship was taken to Boulogne-sur-Mer, where it was under investigation.

The yacht Amore Vero was taken into custody by French customs agents on March 2, 2022, at a shipyard in La Ciotat. The approved oligarch Igor Sechin is thought to be the owner of the Amore Vero. France confiscated two yachts that belonged to Alexei Kuzmichev of Alfa Bank on March 24.

Germany

German authorities immobilized Alisher Usmanov's Dilbar on March 2, 2022. She reportedly cost \$800 million, has 84 full-time crew members working for her, and has the largest indoor swimming pool ever put in on a superyacht, measuring 180 cubic meters.

Italy

The Italian police detained Lady M on March 4. Authorities think Alexei Mordashov is the ship's owner. In the port city of Sanremo, Italian authorities detained Gennady Timchenko's yacht, Lena. Additionally, the vessel was added to a United States sanctions list. The sailing vessel A, which is believed to be Andrey Melnichenko's property, was seized by Italian officials in the port of Trieste on March 12, 2022. A representative for Melnichenko promised to challenge the seizure.

Spain

Three yachts were impounded by the Spanish Ministry of Development (also known as "MITMA") in March 2022 while it looked into whether the real owners of the vessels were people who had been sanctioned by the European Union. Lady Anastasia is imprisoned in Port Adriano in Calvià, Mallorca; Crescent is detained in Port Tarragona; Valerie is detained in Port Barcelona.



Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)

The Baltic states have been strong supporters of Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian invasion. They have provided military, financial, and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, and they have imposed sanctions on Russia.

The Baltic states are also concerned about the security implications of the war in Ukraine. They are worried that Russia could use the war as a pretext to invade their own countries. As a result, the Baltic states have been calling for a stronger NATO presence in the region.

The official policy of the Baltic states on the Ukrainian-Russo war is to support Ukraine and to deter Russia from further aggression. They believe that the best way to do this is to strengthen NATO and provide Ukraine with the military and financial assistance it needs to defend itself.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has utilized a strong response policy to the invasion of Ukraine including:

- **Imposed sanctions on Russia:** The UK has imposed some sanctions on Russia, including sanctions on Russian banks, oligarchs, and government officials. The sanctions are designed to cripple the Russian economy and make it difficult for Russia to finance its war effort.
- **Provided military assistance to Ukraine:** The UK has provided Ukraine with military assistance, including weapons, ammunition, and training. The military assistance is designed to help Ukraine defend itself against the Russian invasion.
- **Provided humanitarian assistance to Ukraine:** The UK has provided humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, including food, water, and medical supplies. The humanitarian assistance is designed to help the people of Ukraine who have been affected by the war.

Grant Shapps, the British secretary of state for transport, confirmed Phi's confiscation by the National Crime Agency on March 29, 2022. The yacht was waiting to depart from its Canary Wharf dock.

Netherlands

Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra wrote a letter to the House of Representatives on the topic of sanctions on April 6, 2022. While there were no Russian superyachts anchored in the Netherlands, he said that twelve yachts that were still being built in five different shipyards had been immobilized to determine ownership, including potential beneficial ownership.

Greece

Greece has condemned the Russian invasion and expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. However, Greece has avoided direct criticism of Russia and has not imposed sanctions on Russia. This is due to Greece's close economic ties with Russia and the large number of Orthodox Christians living in Russia.

United States

The Biden administration has condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has imposed many sanctions on Russia in response. The administration has also provided military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

Furthermore, the Biden administration has stated that its goal is to "deter further Russian aggression," "support the Ukrainian people," and "hold Russia accountable for its actions." The administration has also said that it is committed to finding a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

Because the United States is concerned about the potential for the conflict to escalate into a wider war, and it is therefore trying to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict. However, the United States is also prepared to use military force to defend its interests in Ukraine.

Executive Order 14065 of February 21, 2022, "Blocking Property of Certain Persons and Prohibiting Certain Transactions concerning Continued Russian Efforts To Undermine the Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Ukraine," was signed by President Joe Biden in February 2022.



United States president Joe Biden signing [executive order 14065](#) in February 2022 in response to Russia's imminent invasion

A year after Russia invaded Ukraine, the United States was able to persuade nations like Turkey and the United Arab Emirates to take action against the business activities that had been assisting Russia's military operations in Ukraine. These nations continued to trade with Russia and offered safe havens for wealthy Russians and their funds, refusing to support the Western sanctions imposed on them. On February 24, 2023, the United States imposed further sanctions against Russia to hinder Moscow's capacity to start a conflict. This was done to commemorate the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The US Treasury Department's latest penalties, which are in addition to the more than 2,500 sanctions put in place last year, hit 83 businesses and 22 Russian citizens.

C. RUSSIAN-UKRANIAN PUBLIC OPINION

Russian Public Opinion

Only 13% of Russians surveyed in an August 2014 Levada Centre poll said they would back their government in an open conflict with Ukraine. Russia saw a rise in anti-Ukraine war street protests. The first significant protests took place in March, and significant protests occurred in September when "tens of thousands" denounced the war in Ukraine with a peace march in central Moscow on Sunday, September 21, 2014, "under heavy police supervision".

The Russian President's approval rating increased from 71% before the invasion to 82% in March 2023, according to polls.

Ukrainian Public Opinion

The International Republican Institute surveyed the Ukrainian populace from September 12 to September 25, 2014, excluding Crimea, which Russia has annexed. Of those surveyed, 89% were against Russian military participation in Ukraine in 2014. By region, 89% of those questioned in Southern Ukraine, 93% in Central Ukraine, and 99% in Western Ukraine rejected the intervention, as did 78% of those from Eastern Ukraine (including Dnipropetrovsk Oblast). By native language, 95% of Ukrainian speakers and 79% of Russian speakers, respectively, opposed the intervention. 80% of those surveyed thought the nation should continue to be a unitary state.



VI. QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

- What is the current role of NATO regarding conflict?
- What is the correct approach to deter the Russian Federation from furthering the conflict?
- Should NATO increase its military presence in the region? If so, would that cause Russia to be more aggressive?
- Should NATO be ready to intervene in the conflict if Russia fully invades Ukraine?
- Should NATO change its nuclear policy towards Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine?
- What is the role of NATO in preventing human rights violations in Ukraine?
-

As the Under-Secretary-General and the Academic Assistant of the committee, we strongly recommend all of you the delegates be overworked and endeavored for the agenda particularly being informed of **the questions to be addressed**.

Yours sincerely,

Çağdaş Başar BAHAR & Armanç Kaan BUDAK



VII. REQUIREMENTS FOR IUMUN'23

All committees are required to write a position paper. Your position papers will be sent to the chair board.

- Under-Secretary-General: cbasarbahar@gmail.com
- Academic Assistant: armanckaan@gmail.com

At the very first session of IUMUN'23, all committees shall begin the session with opening speeches last for one minute.

For delegates who are outside of the domain of international relations studies may quickly skim through the following books to understand how international politics works according to different approaches:

- Perception and Misperception in International Relations by Robert Jervis
- Power and Interdependence by Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye
- Theory of International Politics by Kenneth Neal Waltz
- The Anarchical Society by Hedley Bull



VIII. FURTHER READINGS

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Atlantic_Council
- <https://www.csis.org/analysis/russias-war-ukraine-identity-history-and-conflict>
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/2022-Russian-invasion-of-Ukraine>
- <https://www.cfr.org/background/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia>
- <https://www.outlookindia.com/international/roots-of-the-war-a-peek-into-russo-ukraine-conflict-news-245495>

IX. REFERENCES

- https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49763.htm<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/western-boundary-current>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Atlantic_Council
- <https://www.csis.org/analysis/russias-war-ukraine-identity-history-and-conflict>
- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/ukraine-envoy-to-un-says-russia-declared-war/articleshow/89790558.cms>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/24/putins-speech-declaring-war-on-ukraine-translated-excerpts>
- <https://www.politico.eu/article/putin-announces-special-military-operation-in-ukraine/>
- <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/353/11/PDF/N2135311.pdf?OpenElement>
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