

Forum: The Security Council

Topic: Addressing the Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the Threat to International Peace and Security

Chair

Introduction

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is one of the largest threats to global peace and security since the Cold War. The war has already taken hundreds of thousands of soldiers' and civilians' lives, with exact totals being disputed, with a total of 3.7 million internally displaced people and another 5.7 million (UNHCR) being externally displaced, demonstrating the heavy humanitarian toll the conflict is taking on the people of Russia and Ukraine.

The conflict has been going on since 2022; however, the tensions between the two nations had been increasing long before that. After the USSR dissolved in 1991 and Ukraine gained its independence, Russia provided promises of security in exchange for Ukraine giving up its nuclear weapons in 1994. Despite this promise, which Ukraine had fulfilled, two decades later, in 2014, Russia illegally annexed the region of Crimea, taking advantage of proxy statelets and the political turmoil at the time. Since then, Ukraine has made multiple efforts to join NATO, starting in the 2000s, which Russia deemed to be a threat to its national security, fearing that Ukraine would be used as a staging ground for potential military action against Russia (Reuters). After Ukraine's request to join NATO and before the war, Russia submitted an official request to NATO asking for a guarantee that Ukraine would be barred from entering the organisation, which was denied. Russia then launched a military invasion of Ukraine on February 24th, 2022, calling it a "special military operation". Russia had enacted these events for one major reason, which is to eliminate a potential staging ground for future operations against its country (Graham). Due to these operations directly violating UN Charter Article 2 (4), meetings were called, and resolutions were drafted that called for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of troops. The resolution received large support with 11 votes and 3 abstentions. However, Russia used its veto power and removed the resolution from consideration.

Diplomatic efforts have been made in hopes of ending the war and withdrawing troops from Ukrainian soil; however, Russia's use of its veto power has heavily hindered the ability of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to reach a proper conclusion for the situation. The war has not only caused heavy infrastructural and humanitarian damage but has also heavily impacted global trade of grain, energy supplies, and severely escalated nuclear tensions between

the United States and Russia, as a further Russian escalation to other countries could invoke NATO Article 5.

Definition of Key Terms

Illegal Annexation

An illegal annexation is the unilateral, forced acquisition and assertion of legal title over another state's territory.

Proxy Statelets

Proxy statelets are unrecognised or partially recognised quasi-states created, funded, and controlled by a foreign patron power. However, unlike a proxy state, statelets are rarely widely recognised, with only Russia, Syria, and North Korea recognising the proxy statelets

Separatist States

Separatist states (or separatist movements) are regions or groups within a country seeking to secede, break away, or establish their own independent governance.

Coup d’état

A coup d'état is a sudden, often violent overthrow of an existing government or ruling authority.

The Kremlin

A fortified complex in the heart of Moscow, Russia, serves as the official residence of the Russian president and the seat of the national government.

Donbas

An important historic and industrial region in Ukraine, taking up most of the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces.

Article 5 of NATO

The article in the NATO agreement that promises support from the alliance and its members in the case of one of the members being attacked (NATO).

General Overview

Cold-War Era

Ukraine was once a part of the USSR, along with Russia, and was one of its most heavily fortified regions during the Cold War. It served as an important republic that housed important weapons manufacturing stations and contained almost a third of the USSR's nuclear weapons. Its importance stemmed from its power as a factory state, and it was used to create defensive and offensive weaponry for the USSR. Once the USSR dissolved in 1991, splitting up into multiple new states, the new Ukrainian state still held the nuclear weapons and the weapons factories, cementing the country as either a necessary ally or a future target for the new Russian state.

Post Cold-War Era

The USSR officially dissolved in December of 1991, creating 15 new states out of the dissolved states, with one of them being Ukraine. Ukraine was promised security by Russia in exchange for giving up its nuclear weapons in 1994. Despite these promises of security, which Ukraine had kept, almost a decade later, in 2014, Russia illegally annexed the region of Crimea. Between the years of 1994 and 2014, Russia attempted to maintain strong political and economic

ties with Ukraine while Ukraine sought out closer relations with the European Union and eventually, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The different future goals of the foreign policies of both countries contributed to the rising tensions that eventually led to the Donbas war and the annexation of Crimea (Council on Foreign Relations).

2014 Annexation of Crimea

The annexation of Crimea stemmed from the Euromaidan protests, which originally called for changes to policies that supported improving relations with Russia over relations with the EU, and eventually moved to calling for the impeachment of the president at the time, Viktor Yanukovich. After multiple protests, which eventually turned violent, the people of Ukraine stormed the parliament building on February 20th, 2014, and the police fired on the crowd, causing 100 deaths and 700 injuries (E. Poli).

After these devastating events, the President, Viktor Yanukovich, and the opposition parties agreed to limit presidential power and return to the 2004 constitution, which provided more distribution of power instead of centring most of it around the President, severely hindering their political power. Despite all of this, the President was in fear for his life due to still high tensions between him and the citizens, and he eventually fled the capital on February 22nd of that same year. Following his departure from the capital, a parliamentary vote was held to impeach him, which succeeded with a vote of 328 out of 340 supporting the impeachment. The new president, Oleksandr Turchynov, was elected just two days later. The governing body of Crimea was not in support of the new government due to the governing body of Crimea claiming that the new government had taken power via a coup d'état (RK.GOV), where they then expressed their willingness to separate from Ukraine.

Soon after the statement by Crimea, unmarked soldiers with Russian military equipment began appearing around important places in Crimea, such as airports and local offices, on February 27th, 2014. President Putin claimed that these forces were local militia and not official Russian forces (DW). Despite this, Russian forces began demonstrating shows of force through military exercises near the borders and then sank an unarmed Ukrainian submarine (E. Poli).

Foreign governments such as the U.S. and the UK accused Russia of breaching international law due to these actions, which eventually led to them being sanctioned by the U.S and the EU. These sanctions negatively affected the Russian economy at the time and significantly limited its trade capabilities with the West. On March 6th, the governing body of Crimea requested to join Russia. On March 16th, a referendum was conducted, which asked the citizens of Crimea if they supported uniting with Russia, receiving a 97% approval rate. However, it did not contain an option to maintain their current state, and the entire referendum was under the auspices of the Russian military. In the end, on March 16th, Russia annexed Crimea (E. Poli).

Donbas War

The Donbas war was the direct precursor to the wider Russo-Ukrainian war and a key influencer in tactics and the early stages of the war. For eight years, between 2014 and 2022, Ukrainian government forces battled rebel forces, such as the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, backed by Russia, for control of a large portion of the two heavily industrialised areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, with both regions being known together as Donbas. After intense fighting in 2014 and 2015, two Russian proxy statelets, the self-described Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics, took control of one-third of the region's land, which is its most urbanised area. Statelets are small, mostly unrecognised parties that are dependent on their patron state. Between September 2014 and February 2015, Russia, Ukraine, France, and Germany signed many versions of the Minsk agreements, which aimed to halt troop advances and drastically decrease combat. However, the agreements were never put into practice, and the battle turned into a trench war with around 75,000 soldiers (Conflict In Ukraine's…) engaged in combat along a front line that went through heavily inhabited areas for 420 kilometres. The war devastated the Donbas area's economy and heavy industries and turned the conflict zone into one of the world's most landmine-contaminated areas.

Russian and Ukrainian separatists were thrust into the larger-scale conflict at the start of the war in February 2022, where they took part in both the invasion and defence of the Donbas region, providing key military support through their deep understanding of the region.

Ukrainian Requests to Join NATO

The relationship between NATO and Ukraine dates back to 1991, when Ukraine joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in 1991 and the Partnership for Peace Program in 1994, all while still not becoming an official member of NATO. In 2008, during the Bucharest summit, "Allies reaffirm that they will be in a position to extend an invitation to Ukraine to join the Alliance when allies agree and conditions are met." (NATO) Conditions that require Ukraine to go through democratic and security reforms, according to NATO (NATO).

During Ukraine's attempt to join NATO, the escalating Russian tensions in 2014 barred Ukraine from joining for fear of the activation of Article 5. However, according to NATO itself, Ukraine will be allowed to join NATO once conditions are met in accordance with the 2023 Vilnius summit, a NATO meeting in which NATO's future position was reaffirmed, and the war was heavily condemned by NATO.

Beginning of Conflict

The main military conflict between Russia and Ukraine began on February 24th, 2022, when troops entered Ukraine from Belarus, Russia, and Crimea, as announced on Russian TV by Vladimir Putin as a "Special Military Operation". President Zelenskyy then banned all men who are 18-60 years old from leaving the country in an act of full military mobilisation on that same day. Immediately after, a resolution calling for a ceasefire and withdrawal of Russian troops was vetoed by Russia in a UNSC meeting. Subsequently, Russia began launching air and rocket strikes on multiple cities, including Kyiv and Kharkiv.

Heavy and fierce combat continues with Russian and Ukrainian troops, with both sides suffering heavy casualties. In the first 7 months of the conflict, Russia annexed key Ukrainian territories such as Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, all key cities for Ukraine, as they have a high concentration of factories and energy production sites, which were key to fueling the war. During all of these events, Ukraine received constant military aid from foreign

countries such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and most of the EU and NATO, which helped Ukraine better defend its territory.

International Involvement

Nations in NATO are the largest providers of aid to Ukraine, with the United States alone providing just under $200 billion to Ukraine (Ukraine Oversight; Special…); however, not all of it was disbursed to its originally intended locations, with $10 billion of the funds going to humanitarian assistance. European NATO nations and Europe have provided a total of $226 billion, with 65% of it being grants and 35% of it being highly concessional loans (Delegation of the European…), with large amounts of the money being used for military support, and other amounts used to keep the country functioning. Through NATO's Comprehensive Aid Package (CAP), aid such as medical supplies, combat rations, fuel, military education and training equipment, communication systems, and anti-drone systems is being provided. Such aid has helped Ukraine defend its territories and helped the people of the country survive wartime conditions (Delegation of the European…).

Russia has also received support from other countries, mainly from Iran and China. Due to the sanctions placed on Russia by multiple countries, Russia has been in a troubling economic state, with China and Iran aiming to help, with Iran providing direct military support through drones and munitions. In contrast, China provides support indirectly through continuing trade with Russia and ensuring the country's economic stability. Despite the sanctions, the EU still purchases natural resources such as oil and gas from Russia; however, all imports by the EU from Russia are scheduled to completely end by January 1st of, 2028, as a way to break from the EU's long dependence on Russia for energy, as well as a direct consequence of the Russia-Ukraine war (Pacheco).

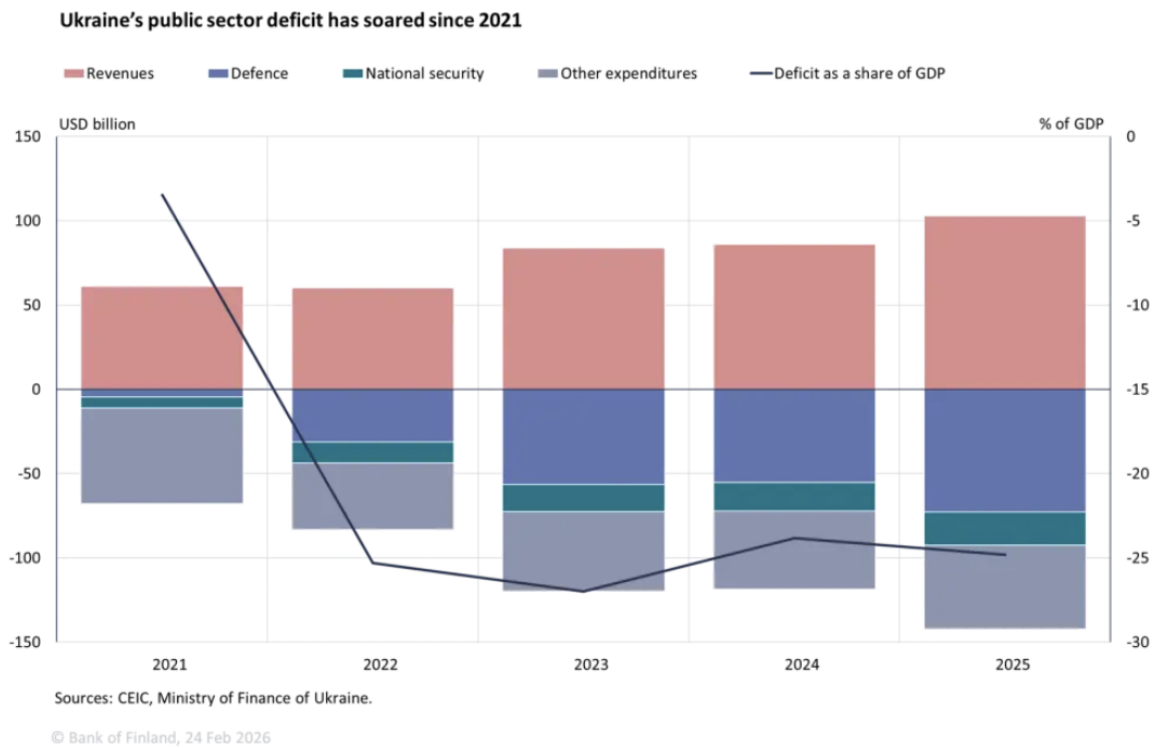
Diplomatically, many countries have made attempts to mediate and create a ceasefire that prevents further damage from ensuing in Ukraine. Countries such as Belarus attempted to

mediate a ceasefire in the first month of the war, and more recently, the United States has been involved in multiple talks in cities such as Geneva and Abu Dhabi. These diplomatic attempts to end the war repeatedly reach a standstill and cease due to disagreements on land, future security, and sovereignty.

Economic and Humanitarian Crisis

The economic crisis caused by the war in Russia and Ukraine has spread much further than Eastern Europe, affecting almost all continents of the world. As the Ukrainian war enters its 5th year, half a million Russian citizens have gone bankrupt (Lawford) as the banking institutions suffer the burning cost of the Ukrainian war, with the Russian Ministry of Economic Development cutting its GDP forecast from 1.3% to 0.4% (Al Jazeera) Showing a decline in growth.

Five years into the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the cost of recovery and reconstruction reaches just over 588 billion dollars, which is around three times the projected GDP for Ukraine in 2025, showing the heavy toll the war has taken on Ukraine's economy. The GDP of Ukraine has shrunk by more than 20% since the beginning of the war, showing a decline in economic strength which can be directly attributed to the repair and military upkeep costs of the war, despite the large amount of aid being received (Bof Bulletin).



(Bof Bulletin)

Globally, the Russo-Ukrainian war has caused heavy damage to food security and increased food prices across the globe. This is due to Russia and Ukraine being large suppliers of food, including wheat, maize, and fertilisers, with the sanctions and damage to facilities limiting their export capabilities. Additionally, the sanctions on Russia have caused an energy crisis in Europe, as the sanctions have limited the amount of oil and natural gas, raising electricity and fuel prices for European countries.

Of the 34.2 million people in Ukraine, 10.8 million people need aid (UNOCHA), and only 4.1 million will be covered by assistance. Currently, there are 3.7 million people who are internally displaced in Ukraine and approximately 6.9 million external refugees. There has been a total of 61.6 billion dollars of damage to housing infrastructure, 40.3 billion to transport, 25 billion to energy infrastructure, and almost 2 billion dollars of damage to health infrastructure (Statista). This has heavily damaged the quality of life in Ukraine and made it much harder to get through daily life. In accordance with the damage to infrastructure, there have also been many

lives lost as well. Until now, there have been 50,000 civilian injuries and 16,000 deaths. As for their soldiers, there have been 55,500 dead soldiers, 380,000 wounded, 81,000 missing, and 7,000 captured. However, other estimates from private organisations estimate that the death toll reaches around 100,000 (McCabe).

Russia has also suffered at the hands of the invasion. Economically, the sanctions have weakened the Russian economy, with growth in the Russian Federation's GDP expected to decrease to an average of 1.3% in 2025 and 2026. The growth rate was 5.9% in 2021. This rate is nearly three times slower than the growth of GDP projected for 2024 and is below the 2% average growth experienced from 2010 to 2019. The decline can be attributed to several factors, including capacity constraints, increasing borrowing costs, stricter sanctions, and lower energy prices (World Bank Group). Furthermore, Russia has suffered heavy humanitarian losses as well. Russia reported just under 1100 civilian deaths, whereas NATO reported 350,000 military losses up until then. Overall, the war has exhausted both countries socially and economically, outlining a clear need for resolution (Duda).

Present Day

As of 2026, the situation has remained mostly unchanged. The economic and social situations are still in dire straits, with the European energy crisis remaining unresolved, heavy damage to Ukrainian infrastructure, and Russia taking severe damage from the sanctions. Hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost, with millions of people displaced. Russia currently holds one-fifth of Ukrainian territory, fighting on a 1000km frontline that constantly shifts. As of now, Russia holds Ukrainian territory in Crimea, large parts of Luhansk, and significant areas of Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson. The war is causing the suffering of thousands and requires immediate and urgent resolution.

Major Parties Involved

The Russian Federation

One of the two major warring parties, and the belligerent of the conflict, Russia plays the largest role in the Russo-Ukrainian War through the annexation of Crimea, which instigated tensions between Russia & Ukraine and the current Russo-Ukrainian war. Economic sanctions on the country affect it very heavily, as well as contributing to a worldwide grain and energy shortage.

Ukraine

The second major warring party. Having received its independence after the dissolution of the USSR in December of 1991, it has played a major cooperative role with NATO. Ukraine underwent severe protests due to the president, Viktor Yanukovich, being poorly viewed in the public's eye (FAYOS). This led to a violent revolt, which instigated the annexation of Crimea. Ukraine's joining NATO was a catalyst for the larger-scale war of today.

The United States of America

The U.S. plays a major role in the Russo-Ukrainian war by being one of the largest providers of aid to Ukraine, providing highly advanced military equipment to Ukraine alongside a large amount of funding. The US is a key player in diplomatic negotiations, assisting in a diplomatically agreed-upon solution between both parties.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO plays a role by providing logistical, financial, and military assistance to Ukraine and assurances that Ukraine will become a member when allies agree and the conditions are met, in accordance with the Bucharest Summit of 2008 and the Vilnius Summit of 2023, once the correct peace-related conditions are met. Allowing Ukraine to join would provide security for

Ukraine but also provide potentially hostile NATO forces a staging area to begin a ground assault.

The People's Republic of China

China provides Russia with a reliable economic partner with which it can trade to limit the extent of damage that the sanctions have on the Russian economy. It has claimed neutrality on the situation; however, it has not condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but has condemned the Western sanctions placed on Russia (The State Council Information), cementing itself as an ally of the Russians.

Islamic Republic of Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a Russian ally that stands with Russia, providing it with munitions and drones to help it in the ongoing events. They have proven themselves as a valuable trade partner to ensure that the damage of the sanctions placed on Russia is severely negated in effectiveness, cementing themselves as an ironclad ally and a key player in helping Russia survive economically.

Timeline of Events

Date	Event
1991/ December	The USSR dissolved, making way for Ukraine to become its own independent state.

1994/ December	Russia and Ukraine agree to a deal that strips Ukraine of its nuclear arsenal (the third largest in the world at the time) in exchange for promises of security by Russia. Ukraine stays faithful to the agreement.
2008/ April	The Bucharest Summit ensues, where NATO promises to one day allow Ukraine into the Alliance following a deep and thorough friendly investigation into the country; however, Ukraine fight to not go through with the investigation.
2013 / November	The Euromaidan protests began in Ukraine to protest pro-Russian policies that contributed to the fall of the Ukrainian president at the time.
2014 / February	Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych is impeached in an alleged coup d'etats causing Crimea to express willingness to detach from Ukraine.
2014/ February/ 27	Unmarked forces with Russian military equipment begin appearing around key infrastructure in Crimea, including local offices and public infrastructure. Russia claims no involvement with these forces at the time.
March / 2014	Crimea detaches from Ukraine to ally with Russia despite heavy claims of illegal annexation and foreign pressure to cease all actions. Russia uses the political turmoil to annex Crimea, leading to further ambitions for Ukrainian territory, specifically Donbas.
April / 2014	Donbas wars begin where Ukrainian forces fight against Russian proxy statelets to prevent them from taking the "Donbas" region of southeastern Ukraine. The Donbas war continues until the larger-scale Russo-Ukrainian war

February/ 21 / 2022	Russian President Vladimir Putin issues a statement on live television saying that the allowance of Ukraine into NATO is a direct act of aggression.
February/ 24 / 2022	Russia declares special military operations will take place in Ukraine; however, it is an invasion that has lasted until today and is in accordance with the forces present in the Donbas war.
2022/ July/ 22	A deal is brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, allowing Ukrainian grain exports to leave the country through the Black Sea, limiting the grain crisis caused by the war and restoring a much-needed export to the world. The solution was limited by the lack of adherence from Russia after 2023
2023/ July	The Vilnius summit ensues where NATO reaffirms their promises to allow Ukraine into the alliance following the conditions that they undergo severe democratic and security reforms. They no longer require the in-depth investigation following their special conditions.

Attempts to Solve the Issue

1. Black Sea Grain Initiative – July 2022

   A deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, allowing Ukrainian grain exports to leave the country through the Black Sea, limiting the grain crisis caused by the war, and restoring a much-needed export to the world. The solution was limited by the lack of adherence from Russia after 2023

2. The 20-Point Draft Peace Proposal - December 2025

The 20-point peace proposal drafted by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and backed by the Trump administration in December 2025 was an agreement attempting to freeze the front lines in Ukraine, as well as secure a mutual defence treaty for Ukraine with the U.S., NATO, and signatory European countries. The proposal collapsed in January 2026 after being rejected by Russia due to its inability to accommodate the demands of both warring parties.

3. United States Facilitated Negotiations 2025-2026

The United States is continuing its diplomacy to support negotiations between Russia and Ukraine. The talks resulted in some prisoner exchanges and humanitarian discussions, but not a comprehensive peace agreement. Significant disagreements remain on occupied territory, security guarantees, and sanctions.

Possible Solutions

1. Comprehensive Ceasefire with Demilitarised Buffer Zones

Calls for a comprehensive, absolute ceasefire that puts a temporary end to the conflict with Demilitarized Zones (DMZ's) in the largest-scale war zones to prevent accidental escalations and ensure that the ceasefire remains in effect. For both sides to agree, certain conditions, such as reimbursements, troop redeployments, and territorial forfeits, would have to be met to ensure agreement from both sides.

2. Renewed Peace Negotiations with Neutral Mediation

Calls for a mediated diplomatic dialogue to be re-established between Russia and Ukraine in tandem with the ceasefire to discuss a peaceful future. Talks should include reimbursement and reparations, land distribution and future

security assurances. Talks would take place in a neutral country such as India or Brazil and be mediated by the neutral hosting country.

3. Establishment of Humanitarian Aid Corridors

Allow the creation of Humanitarian Aid Corridors (HAC's) into both Russia and Ukraine to supply aid such as food and medical supplies, with neutral armed monitoring bodies to prevent abuse of aid for military purposes

Guiding Questions

1. What position has your country taken in accordance with the topic?
2. Has your country provided any aid to any of the warring parties?
3. What Multinational Organizations is your country a part of?
4. How could renewed international dialogue improve the current situation and limit casualties?
5. What are the effects a DMZ could have on the conflict, and what are the problems with establishing a ceasefire?
6. How do the complex historical pasts of the territories associated with it complicate the matter at hand?
7. How can the fears of Nuclear Warfare be properly addressed without instigating them further?
8. Are there methods that can allow the reconstruction of important public services without implementing a ceasefire?
9. What methods could be used to effectively provide humanitarian aid to both Russian and Ukrainian citizens inside an active war zone?
10. What conditions would have to be met to initiate a permanent ceasefire or an eventual truce between the two parties?

Appendix

- https://www.cfr.org/articles/ukraines-struggle-independence-russias-shadow
- https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine
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