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## BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL  
“Deliberation on the Russia-Ukraine conflict”

# **Letter from the Executive Board**

Greetings Delegates!

We welcome you all to Fairgaze MUN(North India Region), United Nations Security Council(UNSC). At all points in time remember that this document is just a research starting document and the debate is not limited to the topics given in the Background Guide. Understand that we as the makers of the Background Guide follow the same procedure as you do while researching i.e. reading PDFs, web pages, news articles and thus you might feel that it has been copied from somewhere but this is how it is. The only thing the background guide has to do is to give direction to delegates and explain the important points of the agenda.

The delegates are expected to maintain a high level of diplomatic courtesy, accurate awareness about one's foreign policy leading to productive discourse in most solemn demeanour. We aim to put you in a comprehensive environment, allowing you to excel in critical thinking, negotiation skills, lobbying capabilities and tactical vision. During the committee we will be following a strict plagiarism policy. Plagiarism is basically using someone else's work and claiming it as yours or not crediting the original work and keeping it unattributed. Avoiding this is extremely simple. You can either cite the original text in your speeches or you can paraphrase it.

Please note that anything written in the Background Guide cannot be used as a proof in the committee.

All the best!

Regards,

The Executive Board

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## **Researching Tips:**

- Read the Background Guide very carefully. Every word has some importance. This should be done around two weeks before the conference.
- After going through the Background guide, delegates should prepare a research-binder (a file containing relevant facts) on the agenda. Important information should be backed by UN reports, government reports or other proofs mentioned on the next page.
- After thoroughly going through relevant articles on the agenda, try to understand your country's stance on the particular topic. This is known as foreign policy. Any word you speak in the committee should be in accordance with your country's foreign policy.
- Further, the delegate should begin lobbying and try to come up with topics that can be taken up in the committee.
- Your speeches will mainly be evaluated on 3 aspects i.e. Research, Analysis and Impact. Make sure to focus on each of them to deliver a perfect speech.
  - Research: You need to be well-versed with the agenda and your country's policies.
  - Analysis: Your research needs to be backed upon by a unique analysis. This will help you figure out solutions as well.
  - Impact: The effect your statements have on the committee are also an integral part of your marking. This also includes your lobbying and guidance to the committee.
- Do not hesitate to ask any doubts you may have regarding the proceedings of the committee. We would be more than happy to resolve your queries.

## **Proofs accepted in the committee:**

News Sources- Any Reuters' article which clearly makes mention of the fact stated or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by another delegate in council can be used to substantiate arguments in the committee.

State-operated News Agencies - These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are RIA Novosti (Russia), IRNA (Iran), BBC (United Kingdom), Al Jazeera (Qatar), Xinhua News Agency (PR China)

Government Reports - These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Some examples are 1. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America. 2. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports. 3. Multilateral Organisations like NATO, ASEAN and others.

United Nations Report - All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence. 1. UN Bodies like the UNSC 2. UN Affiliated Bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Committee of the Red Cross etc. 3. Treaty-Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System, the International Criminal Court

Sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India etc. will strictly not be accepted as PROOF/EVIDENCE. However, we are by no means stopping any delegate to use these sources for better understanding of any issue.

## **About the UNSC**

The United Nations Security Council exists as one of the six primary organs established by the United Nations with the others being the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat. Under the UN Charter, the Security Council was established “for the maintenance of international peace and security”. The council’s responsibilities are to undertake peacekeeping operations in lands affected by the unrest, authorising military actions and imposing sanctions on states. It holds special powers which allow it to impose binding resolutions on member states. Following the devastating effects of the First World War, in 1920, the League of Nations was formed by victorious Allied Powers with its main objective being to establish a dialogue between nations and member states. It was the first attempt at creating an international forum where each stakeholder could be unequivocally represented and be given a platform on which to express its concerns. President Woodrow Wilson was one of the key proponents of creating the League as part of the Treaty of Versailles, and the organisation was endowed with a mission to maintain world peace through global consensus. However, noble as its intentions were, it was formally disbanded on 19 April 1946. The primary reason for this was the noninclusion of many of the World’s great powers back then, the United States and the USSR. The Second World War strengthened the need to craft a new organisation with similar functions as the League of Nations but with a framework that required all parties to be present during the committee. Thus, the United Nations was established, as a stronger and more permanent solution to international problems. After intense negotiations, with many parties splitting into communist and non-communist ideologies, the framework thus crafted called for a General Assembly where nations could make broad recommendations. Thus, the Security Council was established to discuss issues related to disarmament, humanitarian crises and peacekeeping missions. The Council initially consisted of 5 permanent members - the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the Soviet Union. They were given special powers in which they could veto any Security Council Resolution. There also existed 6 non-permanent members. In 1965, there was an amendment to the UN charter which increased the number of nonpermanent members to 10. During the Cold War between the US and USSR in 1950, the Council was unable to do much to

stop the ever growing tensions between the 2 nations. Thus, when the Council was boycotted by the USSR. it was able to pass a resolution that authorised the US to send peacekeeping forces to support South Korea in the Korean War. Post-Cold War, the world realised that the UN was an effective instrument at stopping conflicts and thus, the number of peacekeeping missions, the budget and the resolutions subsequently increased. A large number of operations were authorised in the coming years in countries such as Angola, Haiti and Sierra Leone. However, the UN's failures in maintaining peace in Rwanda and Bosnia made many believe that the Council was only a stopgap measure, with little progress made in addressing underlying issues. UNSC has been continuously criticised for being ineffective to stop major conflicts such as the 1995 Sierra Leone Civil War, the 2001 US invasion of Afghanistan, the 2003 genocide of Darfur in Sudan, the list goes on. Now, with the recent Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia vetoed a resolution that would have made Moscow stop its attack on Ukraine. Thus, this particular iteration of the Security Council was created which would allow delegates to debate upon the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Delegates are responsible only for their actions in committee, and they cannot necessarily influence the decisions made by the governments of their respective countries. Delegates also cannot guarantee the actions outside of the committee of the nations they represent. This session of the Security Council will be judged by the world for its overall course of action.

## **Introduction to the Agenda**

The Ukrainian Central Council was created in the spring of 1917, following the February Revolution in the Russian Empire. This was the first time Ukraine gained independence after centuries of being ruled by the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires. The following year, all links with the Russian Empire were severed, and the land was created as a Sovereign Ukraine State. This did not last long, as the Bolsheviks exerted pressure on Ukraine to reclaim the region they had lost. As a result, the state disintegrated on November 10, 1920, and Russia reclaimed sovereignty of the territory, incorporating it into the newly formed Soviet Union. Ukraine was renamed the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic after World War II (S.S.R.)

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1990, the SSR declared its independence. It acquired complete independence in 1991 and changed its name to Ukraine from that point forward. The country inherited a huge nuclear arsenal, which was the world's third-largest nuclear stockpile. However, in 1994, Ukraine decided to abandon these weapons and join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The government requested security assurances in exchange for joining the NPT as a non-nuclear state, which it received in the form of a memorandum. The Budapest Memorandum, signed by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is known as the Budapest Declaration. The document was titled 'Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.' This was an unbreakable agreement that reaffirmed to Ukraine that the United Nations Security Council would take stern measures against any member state that used nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear state, in this case Ukraine. By 1996, all strategic nuclear warheads from the Soviet era had been returned to Russia.

The split of Soviet military troops became a key point of contention in the following years. To a large extent, the division was equitable and no major controversies were sparked among the NIS (Newly Independent States). The Black Sea Fleet, which contained "six cruisers, 34 frigates and destroyers, 18 submarines, 106 small combat boats, and 140 support and miscellaneous ships — as well as substantial operating bases, including Sevastopol on the Crimean

Peninsula," was the only point of contention. Ukraine claimed a portion of the fleet in 1992 and considered the rest a foreign fleet operating on Ukrainian soil. The fleet was declared under Russian command, with Russia claiming that it played a tactical role in the Black Sea and that the presence of tactical nuclear weapons highlighted the fleet's strategic nature. Finally, in 1993, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk agreed to divide the fleet evenly, with the process being up in 1995. As a result, the Partition Treaty was signed to put an end to the conflict. The Partition Treaty on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet was a series of three bilateral agreements made between Russia and Ukraine in 1997 that established two separate fleets and allowed Russia to lease numerous naval sites in Sevastopol to the Russian Navy.

Following their disagreement over the Black Sea, the two countries agreed to sign the 'Russian–Ukrainian Friendship Treaty.' This was an agreement between Russia and Ukraine to recognise current borders and to refrain from invading each other. The treaty was supposed to be renewed every ten years, but Ukraine elected not to renew it in 2018, hence it expired in March of 2019. This occurred as a result of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and support for separatist groups in Ukraine. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko did not renew the treaty as a sign of protest. Ukraine had been looking for a closer relationship with the EU and NATO for a long time. However, in 2014, President Viktor Yanukovich, who was pro-Russian, opposed these revisions. As a result, he was deposed as president and fled to Russia. This led to mass unrest in the east of Ukraine where people supported the former President. This was also the region where people were more inclined to support Russia than Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin took advantage of this confusion and decided to capture Crimea, a peninsula which lies between the 2 countries, citing Pro-Russian sentiment. Putin expressed that he wanted to protect the ethnic Russians in Crimea who had long been a victim of 'Right-Wing extremists' thus, on 27th February 2014, Russian soldiers took over the Crimean City Sevastopol amid demonstrations. A controversial referendum was held on 16th March 2014 in which Russia claimed more than 95% of Crimeans voted to become a part of Russia. Henceforth, the Republic of Crimea and the Federal City of Sevastopol were established. This is formally known as 'The Annexation of Crimea'.



## Timeline of The Conflict and its History

**April 2019:** Volodymyr Zelenskyy is elected President of Ukraine defeating Petro Poroshenko. US President Donald Trump asks Zelenskyy to investigate his political rival Joe Biden and his son, Hunter over possible business dealings in Ukraine. This triggered a call to impeach Trump.

**January 2021:** Zelenskyy appeals to the new US president Joe Biden to let Ukraine join NATO

**May 2021:** Russian forces start gathering around the Ukrainian border citing they are there for training exercises.

**November 2021:** the US shares intelligence with its allies that more than 150,000 Russian troops have amassed at the border and hints at the possibility of invasion. France, Germany, UK threaten Russia with economic sanctions if it ever attacks Ukraine including cancelling the Nord Stream 2 Gas Pipeline

**December 2021:** Russia sends demands to Ukraine and the USA that the former pull back from their attempts to join NATO which the Biden administration promptly denies. Russia is issued a warning of economic sanctions if it ever attacks Ukraine.

**2nd February 2021:** US says they would send 3000 NATO troops to surrounding countries Poland and Romania.

**4th February 2022:** Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping issue a Joint Statement at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games saying that the friendship between their 2 countries knows no limits.

**7th February 2022:** French President Emmanuel Macron attempts diplomacy with Putin and threatens Russia with severe economic sanctions. Putin repeats his original threat of war if Ukraine ever joins NATO

**19th February 2022:** Vice President of the US Kamala Harris issues a statement: “We have prepared, together, economic measures that will be swift, severe, and united. We will impose far-reaching financial sanctions and export controls. We will target Russia’s financial institutions and key industries. And we will target those who are complicit and those who aid and abet this unprovoked invasion”

**21st February 2022:** At the Kremlin ceremony Putin signs a decree which recognises the independence of the Luhansk People’s Republic (LNR) and Donetsk People’s Republic (DNR) regions of Ukraine. These were 2 breakaway regions in Ukraine in which Putin sent peacekeeping forces.

**24th February 2022:** Russia launches a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine. It is the largest military conflict Europe has seen since World War 2. With 3 million Ukrainians internally displaced it is the largest refugee crisis in Europe currently.

**28th February 2022:** First round of peace talks begin near Belarus' border. The Ukrainian president's office said that the main goals were to call for an immediate ceasefire, and for Russian troops to be withdrawn from Ukraine. It reportedly concluded with no immediate agreements.

**3rd March 2022:** The second round of peace talks began. Both sides agreed to open humanitarian corridors for evacuating civilians. Russia's demands were Ukraine's recognition of Russian-occupied Crimea, independence for separatist-controlled Luhansk and Donetsk, and "demilitarisation" and "deNazification" of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Foreign Minister stated that while his country was ready for talks to resume, Russia's demands had not changed.

**7th March 2022:** Third rounds of peace talks began.

**10th March 2022:** Russian and Ukrainian Foreign Ministers met for talks in Turkey with the Turkish Foreign Minister as mediator, in the first high-level contact between the two sides since the beginning of the invasion. Ukraine had attempted to negotiate a 24-hour ceasefire to provide aid and evacuation to civilians, especially in Mariupol. After two hours of talks, no agreement was reached. Airstrikes on the port city continued.

## **Economic Implications of this conflict**

- Many nations and organisations have reacted strongly against Russia by imposing sanctions, in hope to cripple its economy and make it end the war. The full list of all sanctions can be found here:  
<https://graphics.reuters.com/UKRAINE-CRISIS/SANCTIONS/byvrjenzmve/>
- Major companies like Netflix, Microsoft, Apple, Samsung, Nike, McDonald's, Starbucks, Nestle, TikTok, Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes, Toyota and many others have suspended their services in Russia.
- VISA and MasterCard, biggest credit card international giants have suspended Russian operations. 74% of Russian transactions occurred only because of these two cards.
- Seven Russian banks have also been removed from the SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications). SWIFT is an international network providing services related to the execution of financial transactions and payments between banks worldwide. This payment network allows individuals and businesses to take electronic or card payments even if the customer or vendor uses a different bank than the payee. SWIFT works by assigning each member institution a unique ID code that identifies not only the bank name but the country, city, and branch.
- However, what impact this has on the Russian economy still remains to be seen as Russia had started to build an alternative to SWIFT after the Crimean annexation in 2014. This system is known as SPFS (System for Transfer of Financial Messages) (translated) and was developed by the Russian Central Bank. This is not as strong as SWIFT, but could be a way for Russia to counter the SWIFT sanction. Another possible response to a SWIFT ban would be for Russian banks to connect to China's CIPS payment platform. However, China's platform can only be used for settling payments in Yuan.
- Football Diplomacy: FIFA and UEFA have suspended all Russian clubs and national teams.
- The Russian stock market was closed for the longest time in its history because the government feared a crash.

- Many nations have frozen the Russian central bank's assets.
- Moreover, Russian oligarchs, like Igor Sechin, Alisher Usmanov etc. have been targeted. Their properties in foreign countries have been confiscated. Moreover, their assets like yachts, helicopters, cars etc. have been seized. For instance, Igor Sechin's \$120-million superyacht has been seized by France. Britain had also imposed sanctions on Chelsea soccer club owner Roman Abramovich and Igor Sechin, chief executive of Russian oil giant Rosneft, hitting them with asset freezes and travel bans because of their links to Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- Furthermore, many European nations are dependent on Russia for oil and gas. This conflict has increased the oil price globally. Moreover, Europe is now looking for alternatives to boycott Russian oil. Moreover, the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which connects Germany to Russia through the Baltic sea to transport gas has been halted by Germany.
- All these economic measures have been taken in order to pressurise Putin to end the war.

## **Human Rights aspect of the issue**

- Recently, there were mass killings in Bucha, a city in Ukraine. Ukraine has accused Russia of genocide and war crimes. However, the Kremlin retaliated that Western Allegations that Russian forces executed civilians in Bucha are a "monstrous forgery" meant to discredit the Russian army and justify new Western sanctions. These killings have allegedly led to various human rights violations by Russia.
- Russia was removed from the United Nations Human Rights Council by the resolution 'A/ES-11/L.4'. 93 countries voted in favour, 24 against while 58 abstained. This met the two-thirds majority benchmark in which only the voting members, not abstentions, are counted from the 193-member General Assembly. As a result, Russia stands suspended from the 47-member Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council.

## **Important Stakeholders:**

### **Russia:**

Russia demands recognition of Crimea as a part of the Russian Federation by Ukraine. In addition to this, the recognition of the independence of the separatist-run areas in eastern Ukraine which are Luhansk and Donetsk. The antithesis to the joining of EU and NATO by Ukraine, explicitly mentioned in the Ukrainian Constitution. For NATO, Russia has a crystal clear demand - the reversal of its east expansion. Russia justifies their war stating it had a responsibility to prevent the genocide occurring against Russians in eastern Ukraine.

### **Ukraine:**

Ukraine's reasons for trying to join NATO are very clear. An armed attack against any NATO member obligates NATO to exercise self-defence under the article 5 of the NATO charter. Increasing threats of an invasion by Russia made them accelerate the procedure for trying to join NATO. Interestingly, what Russia calls a "special military operation", Ukraine names as an "invasion".

### **The West:**

The West's support towards Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Ukrainian President, made its stance clear to the world. As of now, the US has seen exercising soft power by freezing Russia's foreign assets and shutting down major Russian banks of the international Swift payment network, which allows the smooth and rapid transfer of money across borders. The US has gaslighted the situation to a further extent by banking the Russian imports of oil and gas. By the end of 2022, the US aims at phasing out Russian oil.

### **European Powers:**

Europe has been striving hard to negotiate with Russia in their own manner. The French President Emmanuel Macron has been throwing light on the ceasefire agreement called the Minsk accord that France had brokered between Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists along with its European counterpart Germany back in 2014 and 2015. The Normandy format of this accord facilitates discussion and negotiation by the four nations. Although Macron did speak to Putin and Zelenskyy recently, his interventions have received major criticism.

Germany's Olaf Scholz has visited Kyiv and Moscow. Germany has found it difficult to take a stance because of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline between Germany and the Russian Federation. The European Union on the other hand has targeted cutting down gas imports by two-thirds within a year.

### **NATO:**

Being a defensive alliance, the open-door policy to new members with the initial 30 member states being adamant, NATO stands out to be an important stakeholder in the Ukrainian crisis. "It is Ukraine's choice whether to aspire to membership and for the 30 allies to decide", remarks Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary-General of NATO. Back in 2008, Nato did offer Ukraine membership. With Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, Ukraine made this a priority. Unfortunately, with the Russian Federation's opposition, Ukraine hasn't got much success when it comes to joining NATO. And with Ukraine not being a member of NATO as of now, the alliance has no obligation of sending troops. With NATO not imposing a no-fly zone over Ukraine and a high possibility of firing arms, this might be a reason for Russia to strike war with NATO, with Ukraine being stuck between the two.

### **India:**

India has remained neutral throughout the conflict to maintain healthy ties with Russia, who provides India with a lot of defence equipment and the West. A point to be noted is that even though the Indian foreign minister condemned the Bucha killings, India still abstained on all resolutions condemning Russia. Moreover, India has repeatedly called for diplomacy and discussions.

### **Middle-East:**

With many countries looking to boycott Russian oil and gas, middle-eastern countries can step up and fulfil the world's requirements. It remains to be seen how the middle-east reacts to this.

## **Important Documents/Treaties Regarding the Agenda**

- Memorandum on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum):  
<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%203007/Part/volume-3007-I-52241.pdf>
- Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation (Russia-Ukraine Friendship treaty):  
<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%203007/Part/volume-3007-I-52240.pdf>
- Minsk Agreement:  
[https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/UA\\_150212\\_MiniskAgreement\\_en.pdf](https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/UA_150212_MiniskAgreement_en.pdf)

Note: This list is not exhaustive, however, only the most important ones have been provided.

## **Questions to consider:**

1. Is de-escalation of the conflict still possible? If yes, then how?
2. Was it justifiable for Ukraine to work towards joining NATO?  
Alternately, is the Russian invasion justified or is it too harsh?
3. What issues does this crisis pose to the US-Russian relations and further to all other international relations?
4. How indelibly can the stakeholders influence the Russian oil/gas wealth under the banner of the ongoing crisis?
5. In the opinion of the EU powers, how apt is the Minsk accord a solution to the crisis that is full of motivated and agenda-driven conflict-raising questions?
6. Can the entire Ukraine-Russian issue be taken as an internal issue of both the nations? If yes, is there any scope for mediation and/or resolution to the current conflict?

Note: As members of the Security Council, the resolution reached by the committee must contain directives which ensures the safety and security of all civilians irrespective of their country without compromising the national security and integrity of each country. An ideal resolution should be answering the above mentioned questions. However, these questions are just suggestions



from the Executive Board. We would appreciate it if members can find new realms within the agenda and discuss them in the committee.