



**Committee:** *United Nation Security Council*

**Agenda:** *Situation of Russia and Ukraine Conflict - Diplomacy or Continued Crisis?*

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**“The world is calling for peace, but Russia is not listening,”**

The Russian Federation is Ukraine's largest neighbour, a factor in its domestic and foreign policy. Until recently, Ukrainian and Russian societies were tightly integrated. Ukraine's relations with the Russian Federation are complicated by imperial heritage, distorting the perception of the parties to each other. Russia Federation as an aggressor-state is the main source of external threats to national security of Ukraine. It was 24th February, 2022 when we were interrupted by the news that President Putin had abandoned diplomacy and chosen war. These have been devastatingly long weeks for the people of Ukraine. For the 3 million people who have fled – and for those who have stayed. As we heard from the UN, Russian forces are laying siege to populated cities and towns, and indiscriminately shelling residential areas with high impact weaponry, including cluster munitions. Thousands of students, many from nations around this table, have been caught up in the violence. The war is spiking food and energy prices, bringing further pain to countries in the developing world already suffering from the impact of COVID, and famine, and conflict, and climate change. Millions of refugees have been taken in by countries across Europe, This is an unprovoked war of aggression waged by Russia.

In invading Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin has brought war to Europe and horror to capitals across the continent and the democratic world. The UK and our allies condemn the Russian government's unprovoked and premeditated war against Ukraine. UK and its international partners are united in support for Ukraine. The UK government is providing a range of economic, humanitarian and defensive military assistance to Ukraine is imposing additional sanctions on Russia and Belarus. The United Kingdom will not compromise its commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter...most of all the founding principle that we live together as good neighbours. The UK condemns Russia's ongoing militarisation of Crimea, the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. Russia's military exercises in the Black Sea are not only destabilising regional security but also have a significant economic impact.

- I. Russia vainly attempts to hide all these violations by suppressing independent media, persecuting journalists and refusing access to the peninsula for mandated international missions, such as the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission.
- II. It is clear that Crimea must remain high on the international agenda, and that Russia must be continually held to account for its actions on the peninsula. The UK therefore welcomes the new International Crimean Platform. We support Ukraine's initiative to bring together the international community to keep the spotlight on Crimea and support its return to Ukraine.
- III. The UK does not and will not recognise Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. We condemn Russia's ongoing violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We call on Russia in the strongest terms to respect international law and OSCE principles and commitments and to return Crimea to its rightful place.

The UK has largely focused on targeted sanctions of individuals linked to the Kremlin or who have played a role in undermining Ukraine's sovereignty. These have a role, but the most important sanctions will be those that work on a systemic level and target whole sectors of Russia's economy.

- The UK continues to work with the US and the EU to shut Russia more comprehensively out of the global financial system and to shut money from Putin's cronies out of London.
- Trampling over international law and treaties, and ignoring the sovereignty of other countries, does not go without consequences, and to increase the domestic costs of war for Putin.
- The United Kingdom already plays an important role in providing reassurance and support for NATO allies in central and Eastern Europe, including the deployment of UK troops in Estonia and Poland. NATO has already announced it will take additional steps to further strengthen deterrence across the Alliance.
- The UK plans to consider where it can contribute development aid, intelligence and military help to its NATO allies.
- Around 8,000 British soldiers are due to be sent and some have been, to Eastern Europe to take part in military exercises designed to combat Russian aggression. The deployment - which is one of the largest to take place since the Cold War - will see troops placed in countries from Finland to North Macedonia.
- The government of the UK also works to implement and sustain multilateral security efforts through contributing military and financial resources to the NATO and EU. To see one statistic, 30% of UK Official Development Assistance is devoted to conflict and strengthening fragile states

The United Kingdom along with the rest of the world would like to reiterate Leo Tolstoy's words to the Russian Federation **“War is so unjust and ugly that all who wage it must try to stifle the voice of conscience within themselves.”**

**Delegate of United Kingdom**