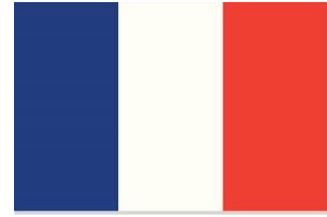




FRENCH REPUBLIC

"THE EXCLUSIVE CONCERN OF FRANCE IS TO MAKE IMPOSSIBLE ANY INVASION OF HER OWN TERRITORY OR THE TERRITORY OF PEACE-LOVING NATIONS."



Committee: *United Nations Security Council*

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

On February 24, 2022 Russian President launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine have been hostile to each other since Ukraine's independence in 1991. The President of Ukraine in January 2021 appealed to US President Joe Biden to let Ukraine join NATO which was a promise made to Ukraine in 2008, aware about Russia's disdain with the decision. The Russian Federation invaded Ukraine, 8 years after the conflict broke out in **Crimea and Donbas** in Ukraine in 2014. Russia had started sending troops near its Ukraine border shutting down accusations and claiming it to be for a military training exercise.

France has had a **policy of firmness, dialogue and solidarity with Ukraine** to move towards a political settlement of the conflict and to help de-escalation since the increase in tensions with Russia on the Ukrainian border at the end of 2021. The Russian military invasion of Ukraine has led to a serious humanitarian crisis. Millions of Ukrainians have left their homes to flee fighting and bombing since the beginning of the Russian offensive. Some have sought refuge elsewhere in the country and outside of Ukraine's borders. France has released **€100 million to finance** the most urgent humanitarian supplies, such as medication, respirators, tent and blankets. A humanitarian air bridge has been set up through Poland to deliver these supplies to authorities in Ukraine or directly to the neighbouring countries taking in refugees. France stands united with Ukraine in this humanitarian emergency. Leaders of the European Commission along with France announced further restrictive economic measures against Russia. The Republic of France has called on European countries to maintain dialogue with Russian President to **avoid risking world war**. France warns against choosing a military path against Russia to end the crisis in Ukraine. A military solution "means that we decide to escalate the conflict" which would therefore start a new world war. France firmly believes that it is the non-Europeans who will build peace in Europe, as it continues to urge the power blocks of Turkey and China. So, even if it is very hard, even if it is sometimes ineffective, France insists on the use of **diplomatic talks** till the last resort. With the election of the honourable President, Mr. Macron, he aspires to have more freedom to engage with Mr. Putin diplomatically while making French policy towards Russia tougher.

France has emerged as the **European Union's number-one crisis manager**, French-German response worked well to tackle the crisis in Ukraine in 2014, a rapid bilateral initiative was not possible this time due to the absence of a clear German position towards Russia and different messages sent from the foreign ministry and the chancellery in Berlin. The French diplomatic activism projects the idea that the country still holds its rank on the international scene and that only he can protect the country's best interests. France is firmly convinced that the **Minsk agreements** are the right framework for continuing the dialogue and that they leave the necessary space for defining mutually acceptable concrete solutions, particularly within the Trilateral Contact Group. We call on the parties to refrain from any statement or action that would undermine the implementation of these agreements. We also welcome the role of the **OSCE Special Monitoring Mission** in Ukraine, which plays an essential role in the de-escalation efforts: it is the eyes and ears of the international community. France, like Germany, will keep its nationals deployed on the ground to ensure that the mission remains operational at this critical time. We have taken note of the OSCE's accounts of possible ceasefire violations in the last few hours. We want that, in a systematic way, the Special Mission be able to establish the facts in an impartial manner.

DELEGATE OF FRENCH REPUBLIC