

CIMUN VI Chair Research Report

Committee: Security Council

Issue: The Russo-Ukrainian War: Addressing security threats and ensuring regional stability

Student Officers: Charlotte (Eunseo) Kim, President

Q Lee, Assistant President

Emily Park, Deputy Assistant President

Committee Introduction

As one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, the Security Council was established on October 24th, 1945, with the task of safeguarding international peace and security. Much of the Security Council's work relates to the addressing of conflicts, and is uniquely able to create legally binding resolutions in order to maintain, restore, and promote peace on a global level. The Security Council also has the unique abilities to take action through the issuing of sanctions and the authorization of the use of force. The Security Council consists of 15 member states, with five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) with the unique ability to exercise veto power. The other 10 member states are elected, and require a two-thirds majority vote from the UN General Assembly in order to secure a seat in the council for a two-year term. At the sixth iteration of CIMUN, delegates of the Security Council will likewise address two conflicts and work to restore peace and stability on an international level.

Agenda Introduction

The Russo-Ukrainian War is the most critical threat to 21st-century peace and security. The war has not only opened catastrophic humanitarian consequences in Ukraine since tensions rose in 2022 but also threatened the pillars of the international order and destabilized the broader European neighborhood.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a blatant violation of international norms and law enshrined in the United Nations Charter, including respect for territorial integrity, political independence, and sovereignty. The war resulted in mass military confrontations, loss of civilian life, and mass displacement of millions of citizens, disrupting the world energy market as well as the supply chain.

Beyond the immediate human emergency, the war has far-reaching security implications for European and international security. Heightening could have the consequence of further polarization among great powers, further European militarization, and threat to other countries being emboldened to break international norms through force. The Security Council, the principal organ responsible for preserving international peace and security, should address this security danger and work towards a just and lasting solution.

This agenda calls on the delegates to examine the complex security dynamics of the Russo-Ukrainian War, assess threats to regional stability, and research integrative methods of de-escalation, conflict resolution, and reconstruction of international order. Top priorities will be ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, seeking diplomatic efforts, and ensuring that the lessons of this war are added to, not subtracted from, the global security architecture.

Definition of Key Terms

Russo-Ukrainian War

The ongoing military conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which began in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea and escalated significantly in February 2022 with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The war encompasses conventional battles, hybrid warfare, and cyber operations, resulting in widespread humanitarian and security repercussions.

Security Threats

Any actions or developments—military, political, economic, or cyber—that endanger the peace, stability, or sovereignty of a state or region. In the context of the Russo-Ukrainian War, security threats include military aggression, the use of prohibited weapons, disinformation campaigns, and the risk of escalation to neighboring countries.

Regional Stability

A state of relative peace, order, and predictability within a specific geographic area, allowing for secure borders, effective governance, and the absence of large-scale conflict. Regional stability in Eastern Europe is threatened by the ongoing war, refugee flows, and the potential for conflict spillover.

Sovereignty

The full right and power of a governing body to govern itself without interference from outside sources. In the context of this conflict, Ukraine's sovereignty refers to its internationally recognized authority over its territory and political decisions.

Territorial Integrity

The principle under international law that nation-states should not promote secessionist movements or border changes in other nation-states. Territorial integrity is central to Ukraine's claim to Crimea and the occupied regions in the east.

Humanitarian Crisis

A widespread and severe threat to the health, safety, or well-being of a population, often caused by conflict, natural disasters, or other emergencies. The Russo-Ukrainian War has resulted in a major humanitarian crisis, with millions displaced and in need of assistance.

International Law

A set of rules and principles that govern relations between states and other international actors. Relevant aspects include the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions, and customary international law, all of which are challenged by the current conflict.

Conflict Resolution

The process of resolving a dispute or conflict by providing for the needs and addressing the interests of all parties involved. This can include negotiation, mediation, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Sanctions

Penalties or restrictive measures imposed by countries or international organizations to influence a state's behavior, often in response to violations of international law. Sanctions against Russia have been a key tool used by the international community in response to its actions in Ukraine.

Hybrid Warfare

A strategy that blends conventional warfare, irregular tactics, cyber operations, and information warfare to achieve political or military objectives. Russia has been widely accused of employing hybrid warfare tactics in Ukraine.

Timeline of Key Events

1991 – After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine declared its independence. Tensions between Russia and Ukraine arose when Ukraine gained its independence, particularly in regard to Crimea and the ethnic Russian minority in eastern Ukraine.

1994 – In exchange for security assurances from Russia, the US, and the UK, Ukraine agreed to give up its nuclear weapons when it signed the Budapest Memorandum.

2014 – After months of protests known as the Euromaidan Movement, Ukraine's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovych, fled the country. In response, Russia annexed Crimea through a disputed referendum, marking a major breach of international law. Soon after, conflict erupted in the Donbas region as pro-Russian separatists, backed by Moscow, declared independence in Donetsk and Luhansk.

2014 ~ 2015 – The conflict between Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian forces grew more intense with low-level combat, such as the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over the separatists territory, and the escalating diplomatic tensions increased in spite of truce attempts, including the Minsk I and Minsk II agreements.

2014 ~ 2021 – Although the Ukrainian forces and the Russian-backed separatists arranged and broke ceasefires on a regular basis. The conflict in eastern Ukraine turned into a long-term "frozen conflict," with Russia continuing to have political and military control over separatist areas and Ukraine growing closer to Western organizations like the EU and NATO, and NATO expanding its military presence in Eastern Europe.

February 2022 – Russia attacked Ukraine from the north, east, and south as part of a full-scale invasion. Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Mariupol were among the important cities that Russian forces targeted.

March ~ April 2022 – Russia was forced to refocus its military efforts on eastern Ukraine after Ukrainian forces successfully defended Kyiv. One of the biggest refugee crises in contemporary European history was brought on by the conflict's massive civilian casualties and destruction of infrastructure.

May 2022 – After a protracted siege, Russia finally succeeded in capturing Mariupol, a vital port city that was left in ruins and where thousands of civilians are said to have perished.

2022 ~ 2023 – Ukraine reclaimed major portions of its land by launching retaliation in the Kherson and Kharkiv areas with the assistance of western countries supplying tanks, air defenses, and HIMARS systems. Furthermore, in reaction to Russia's actions, Finland and Sweden broke with their long-standing neutrality and applied to join NATO.

Late 2022 ~ 2023 – Russia began launching drone and missile attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure in an effort to destroy the country's economy and morale over the winter.

2023 – Ukraine's aspirations for EU and NATO membership intensified, while Western powers debated sending advanced systems such as fighter jets, and NATO reinforced its eastern defenses in Poland and the Baltics. Russia's attempts to weaken Moldova and increase its influence in Belarus intensified as a result of this escalation.

2024 ~ 2025 – The African Union, China, and other Global South actors have proposed peace frameworks, but negotiations have stalled, resulting in fragmented global efforts. In the meantime, Ukraine received more financial assistance and long-term military alliances from the US and the EU.

Ongoing – The stability of Europe and the world is still seriously threatened by the war. The Russo-Ukrainian War continues to be a defining challenge for the international security order due to nuclear threats, food and energy insecurity, and the disintegration of multilateral arms control regimes. In order to prevent a wider regional escalation, NATO and the EU are concentrating on bolstering deterrence, fostering unity, and defending Ukraine's sovereignty.

Positions of Key Member Nations and Bodies

China

China officially claims to uphold a neutral stance amid the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict, aligning with larger Chinese interests, including maintaining global economic ties (particularly to the West). At official UN summits and meetings, China has called for nations to both respect Ukraine's national sovereignty and to understand Russia's concerns regarding NATO's expansion on both territorial and ideological levels. China has also attempted to arrange peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, with many of said efforts being largely fruitless. Nevertheless, despite claims of neutrality amid the conflict, China leans closer towards Russia than the West on multiple levels, including yet not limited to material and economic levels. Indeed, China has supplied Russia with dual-use weapons that could assist Russia in its war effort against Ukraine. Moreover, despite China's interests regarding maintaining stable economic ties with the West, China has nevertheless taken action to support Russia in light of the sanctions imposed on the country, such as by means of increasing bilateral trade, strengthening supply chains, and providing banking support. Ultimately, China amid the conflict finds itself in an interesting conflict of interests—one in which it wishes not only to provide support to an ally amid a

conflict, but also to maintain both its global economic interests and its position as a global peacekeeping power.

France

As a member of NATO, France has stood in favor of Ukraine since the dawn of the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict. On a principle level, France has been consistent in its emphasis on Ukraine's national sovereignty, and how, at its core, Russia's invasion of Ukraine poses a breach of international law as a result of such sovereignty. Yet moreover, on a practical level, France has worked with other nations within NATO, such as the UK, in order to supply Ukraine with weapons and humanitarian aid amid the conflict. The provision of such aid also often entailed the convening of international summits in order to discuss the best means of providing aid for the Ukrainian front. France has also been committed to advocating for a conclusion to the conflict, emphasizing the need for Russia to agree to a full and unconditional ceasefire. In conclusion, France's position is quite clear—France has and will continue to stand by Ukraine amid the Russo-Ukraine Conflict.

Russia

As one of the parties amid the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict, Russia is continuing its war effort in Ukrainian borders, having acquired roughly 20 percent of Ukrainian territory since the beginning of the conflict. To justify the war effort in Ukraine, the Kremlin upholds that Ukraine's government is illegitimate, and that NATO should not expand into borders near those of Russia (indeed, the halting of eastward NATO expansion and the permanent exclusion of Ukraine from NATO and NATO-related affairs is one of Russia's requirements for peace). Other conditions include the protection of Russian-speaking communities within Ukrainian borders and the lifting of sanctions imposed by the West. With such conditions in mind, Russia has expressed some interest in participating in peace talks. However, due to factors such as the non-negotiability of Russia's conditions for peace and the involvement of NATO, such peace talks have largely failed to reach agreements amid the conflict.

United Kingdom (UK)

A member of NATO, the UK has been one of the most vocal nations in its support for Ukraine. In tandem with other NATO member states such as France, the UK has been committed to emphasizing the importance of national sovereignty amid the conflict, framing the Russo-Ukrainian War as a breach of Ukraine's innate national sovereignty. Like other NATO countries, the UK has also assisted Ukraine by supplying the nation with military and humanitarian aid, and has notably been one of the largest donors to such efforts. Since 2022, the UK has allocated a total of £13 billion in military assistance to Ukraine, with £5 billion more

being committed to humanitarian aid. The UK has also been involved in the convening of international discussions that pertain to not only assisting Ukraine amid the conflict, but also preparing Ukraine for a transition to peace. Ultimately, as one of the largest donors to and most vocal supporters of the Ukrainian war effort, the UK stands strongly in favor of Ukraine, and will continue to advocate for peace until the cessation of the conflict.

United States (US)

Statistically, the US has been one of the largest supporters of the Ukrainian war effort. With \$66 billion USD having been allocated to financial assistance and over \$50 billion USD being committed to financial aid since the beginning of the Russo-Ukrainian War, the US is certainly the largest donor to the Ukrainian front. Nevertheless, US support for Ukraine has waned with the transition of power to the Trump administration. Under the new administration, aid has occasionally been cut and reduced, with aid having been halted altogether for a brief period in March of 2025. Regardless of such complications, however, the US remains one of the largest donors to the Ukrainian front. Conclusively, whereas the US still stands with Ukraine amid the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict, the future of US aid to the Ukrainian War effort is not entirely certain, and may sway based on decisions made within the White House.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer

1. How can NATO continue to support Ukraine militarily without provoking a broader regional escalation or direct confrontation with Russia?
2. What viable peace-building or ceasefire mechanisms can be proposed by neutral Global South actors that balance territorial integrity while facilitating meaningful de-escalation of the conflict?
3. How can displaced populations in Ukraine and neighboring countries be safely and sustainably reintegrated, especially amid ongoing threats?
4. What strategies can the international community adopt to protect Moldova and Baltic states from destabilization while respecting their sovereignty?
5. In what ways can international aid be structured to ensure long term reconstruction of Ukraine's energy, healthcare, and education systems, despite ongoing conflict?
6. How can sanctions on Russia be designed to maximize strategic impact while minimizing unintended consequences on food, energy, and global markets?

Bibliography

de Almeida, Paulo G. Fagundes. "The Russo-Ukrainian War and Global Security Challenges in the South Atlantic." *Cebri.org*, n.d.,

<https://cebri.org/revista/en/artigo/64/the-russo-ukrainian-war-and-global-security-challenges-in-the-south-atlantic>. Accessed 21 June 2025.

Millen, Raymond A. *Stability Challenges and Opportunities Regarding the Russo-Ukrainian War*. George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Mar. 2022, <https://www.marshallcenter.org/en/publications/perspectives/stability-challenges-and-opportunities-regarding-russo-ukrainian-war-0>. Accessed 21 June 2025.

“NATO Chief Rutte Reaffirms Need to Step Up Support for Ukraine.” *Reuters*, 23 Jan. 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/nato-chief-rutte-reaffirms-need-step-up-support-ukraine-2025-01-23/>. Accessed 6 July 2025.

“NATO Membership ‘Only Credible Security Guarantee’ for Ukraine: Finnish Foreign Minister.” *Reuters*, 8 Jan. 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/nato-membership-only-credible-security-guarante-ukraine-finnish-foreign-2025-01-08/>. Accessed 6 July 2025.

“Putin Wants Pledge to Halt NATO Enlargement, Sources Say.” *Reuters*, 28 May 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-ukraine-peace-wants-pledge-halt-nato-enlargement-sources-say-2025-05-28/>. Accessed 6 July 2025.

“Remarks to the Security Council on Ukraine – Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenča.” *United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs*, 11 Apr. 2024, <https://dppa.un.org/en/mtg-sc-9600-asg-jenca-ukraine-11-apr-2024>. Accessed 21 June 2025.

“Stability Implications of the Russo-Ukrainian War.” *George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies*, Mar. 2022, https://www.marshallcenter.org/sites/default/files/files/2022-03/StabilityImplications_RussoUkrainianWar.pdf. Accessed 21 June 2025.

“Security Council – Ukraine.” *Old Dominion University*, n.d., <https://odu.edu/sites/default/files/2025/documents/SC%20Ukraine.pdf>. Accessed 21 June 2025.

Stability Challenges and Opportunities Regarding the Russo-Ukrainian War. George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Mar. 2022, https://www.marshallcenter.org/sites/default/files/files/2022-03/StabilityImplications_RussoUkrainianWar.pdf. Accessed 21 June 2025.

Sytas, Andrius, et al. “Ukraine’s NATO membership path: Allies wrangle, Kyiv sees progress.” *Reuters*, 10 July 2023,

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-foreign-minister-nato-removes-map-hurdle-ukraine-nato-membership-2023-07-10/>. Accessed 7 July 2025.

“Ukraine Conflict Updates.” *Institute for the Study of War*, n.d.,
<https://understandingwar.org/backgrounder/ukraine-conflict-updates>. Accessed 21 June 2025.

“Ukraine: Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment.” *RAND Corporation*, n.d.,
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RBA3141-1.html. Accessed 21 June 2025.

“Ukraine.” *Security Council Report*, June 2023,
<https://securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2023-06/ukraine-17.php>. Accessed 21 June 2025.

United Nations. “Security Council.” *Main.un.org*, main.un.org/securitycouncil/en.

“Ukraine Urges Strong Decision on NATO at Washington Summit.” *Reuters*, 25 June 2024,
<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-urges-strong-decision-nato-washington-summit-2024-06-25/>. Accessed 6 July 2025.