

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INDORE  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2022**



**UNGA**

**“Threat to International Peace and Security Posed by  
The Ukraine-Russia Conflict”**

**5th-6th November 2022**

## Letter from the Chairs

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Indian Institute of Technology Indore Model United Nations 2022 and the United Nations General Assembly !

We are more than happy to be able to simulate one of the most important committees existing today in order to be able to discuss one of the most important global issues occurring globally.

As your chairs, we promise to do our best to bring you a fruitful and efficient committee simulation despite the unforeseen circumstances happening as a result of the current pandemic.

We believe that you are resilient delegates that will be able to make the most out of their own experience and, most importantly, have fun while doing just that!

Please keep in mind that we are discussing a very crucial issue in our world today and it requires your utmost care and dedication. Remember that you are the leaders of tomorrow!

Research as much as you can in order to be able to write the best possible resolution you can throughout the conference.

We believe in you, and we cannot wait to meet you soon, even though this will happen virtually!

All the best,

*The UNGA, Board of Directors*

*Aryan & Shreyash*

## **Introduction to the Committee**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNG) , also known as the ‘Town Hall of the World’ , is the largest and most representative organ of the UN system. All UN Member States are represented in the General Assembly. Each Member State has one vote. Decisions on such key issues as international peace and security, admitting new members and the UN budget are decided by a two-thirds majority. Other matters are decided by simple majority. Many decisions are reached by consensus without a formal vote.

Under the UN Charter, the functions and powers of the General Assembly (GA) include:

- To discuss any question relating to international peace and security (except when a dispute or situation is being discussed by the Security Council);
- To make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation which might harm the friendly relations among nations;
- To discuss and make recommendations on the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- To request studies and make recommendations to promote international cooperation, the development of international law, the protection of human rights, and international collaboration on economic, social, cultural, educational and health issues;
- To receive and discuss reports from the Security Council and other UN organs;
- To discuss and approve the UN budget;
- To elect non-permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and additional members of the Trusteeship Council (when necessary); to elect the judges of the International Court of Justice (jointly with the Security Council); and on the recommendation of the Security Council, to appoint the Secretary-General.
- Although the General Assembly’s recommendations on global issues are an important expression of world opinion, the Assembly cannot force a Member State to follow its recommendations on a particular issue.

The Assembly holds its annual regular session from September to December. When necessary, a special session on subjects of particular concern may be called at the request of the Security Council, of a majority of the Member States, or of one member if the majority of the Member States agree. In addition, an emergency session can be called within 24 hours in the same manner. An example of this was the Eleventh emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly, which addressed the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

At the beginning of each regular session the General Assembly holds a General Debate when many Heads of State come to express their views on the most pressing international issues. Following the General Debate, most issues are discussed in one of the Assembly's six main committees:

First Committee (Disarmament and International Security);

Second Committee (Economic and Financial);

Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural);

Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization);

Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary);

Sixth Committee (Legal).

Establishing and adopting the agenda is the first order of business in each GA session. Most of the more than 160 items on the agenda are considered on a regular basis, and only a few new items are added or deleted each year.

Resolutions and decisions, including those recommended by the six main committees, are adopted in plenary meetings, usually before the end of the regular session in December. The Assembly adopts its resolutions and decisions by a majority of members present and voting. Important matters, including recommendations on international peace and security, the election of members to other UN organs and budgets are decided by a two-thirds majority.

The day-to-day work of the United Nations during the year is determined by the resolutions and decisions made during the Assembly's regular session. This work is carried out by

various committees and other bodies established by the Assembly to study and report on specific issues, such as disarmament, peacekeeping, development and human rights.

## **Introduction to the Topic:**

Ukraine has been living in terror of war with Russia for nearly eight years, since since the invasion of Crimea in 2014. For a long time, Russia and Ukraine have been at odds, with Russia claiming Ukraine as part of its country and opposing Ukraine's growing links to the West. Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, wants to reclaim the old Soviet Union Republic.

## The Crux of the Conflict:

- The tensions between Russia and Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, had been simmering for some time, but finally began to boil over in early 2021. In January of last year, Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, urged US President Joe Biden to enable Ukraine to join NATO military.
- Russia, which began sending forces to the Ukrainian border for "training exercises" in the the spring of last year and the number in the fall, is furious. The United States began to dramatize the presence of Russian forces on the ground, and President Joe Biden threatens Russia with harsh punishment if it attacks Ukraine.
- Russia is seeking a legally binding assurance from the United States that NATO forces will not pursue military operations in eastern Europe, particularly Ukraine. Ukraine, according to Russian President Vladimir Putin, is only a US puppet and was never a really a sovereign state in the first place.
- This isn't the first time that a crisis has arisen between Russia and Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014, when pro-Putin separatists seized large swathes of eastern

As the invasion drew to a close and the fighting dragged on, US intelligence agencies say Mr. Putin is becoming increasingly frustrated by the slow pace of military progress, and Russian commanders are increasingly intensifying indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets and infrastructure, reverting to tactics used in previous wars in Chechnya and Syria. Mariupol. Kharkiv. Chernihiv, Sumy, and Okhtyrka are all cities in Ukraine. Irpin. Hostomel. The list of Ukrainian cities that have been reduced to ruins continues to increase.

Thousands of people have died as a result of the war, which has had a terrible humanitarian impact. It has also pushed more than three million people to escape Ukraine, resulting in the world's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II, according to the United Nations.

On March 16, a Russian strike in the besieged southern port city of Mariupol, which has become a striking symbol of the human toll of war, demolished a theatre where hundreds of people, including children, were sheltering. People have dug trenches to handle the growing number of bodies because there is neither electricity or water in the city.

Several rounds of diplomacy between Russia and Ukraine have failed to bring the war to an end. The United States and the European Union have banded together to slap Mr. Putin's government with some of the strongest economic penalties in history. Hundreds of Western corporations, including manufacturing, oil companies, merchants, and fast-food chains such as McDonald's, have halted operations in Russia, effectively reversing the country's opening to the west.

## **History**

The modern day nations of Russia and Ukraine (and Belarus) trace back their roots to the 9th century state by the name of Kievan Rus, it was home to the Slavic people with Kyiv as the capital city. It also allegedly provided the origin of the word 'Rus', from which the names of 'Russia' and 'Belarus' are derived. Grand Prince Volodimir led the state of Kievan Rus to its zenith and ushered in its golden age during the 11th century. Another important feature of his rule was the adoption of Christian Orthodoxy. It was not until the 13th century, when barbaric hordes of Mongolian tribes finally conquered this great power that it was put to rest. Many have noted the parallel in the name of Grand Prince Volodimir, which translates to 'Vladimir' in Russia and 'Volodymyr' in Ukrainian, ironically the names of the leaders of Russia and Ukraine. The leftover territories of Kievan Rus were rallied together under the Grand Duchy of Moscow, which was later absorbed by the Polish - Lithuania Commonwealth. This was followed by the rise of the Zaporozhian Cossacks who revolted against the Polish Commonwealth. In 1783, Ukraine was annexed by Imperial Russia in a largely bloodless event. The Ukrainian Cossacks, who had been semi-independent since the early seventeenth century, were eager to join the Russian Empire, and the tsar was happy to have them. There was some resistance from the Ukrainians, but it was quickly put down. The annexation of Ukraine was one of the first steps in the expansion of the Russian Empire into the Balkans and the Black Sea region. Since then, much of eastern Ukraine was controlled by the Tsar and the remaining territories were captured by Catherine the Great.

We move a few centuries ahead in history, in the aftermath of WW1 and the downfall of the Russian Tsar, On January 22, 1917, the Ukrainian Central Rada (council) issued the "Universal of the Ukrainian People" which declared Ukraine's autonomy within a federal Russian state. On November 2, 1917, the council issued the "Declaration of Independence of Ukraine" and proclaimed the nation's sovereignty. A few months later, it proclaimed the establishment of the Ukrainian People's Republic on January 6, 1918. This was followed by the Soviet - Ukrainian War (1917-1921), where the Ukrainian Bolsheviks defeated the national government in Kyiv and established the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR). Ukraine SSR then joined hands with Russia to become the founding member of the Soviet Union in 1922.



Ukraine under the Soviet era was marked by two major developments ; The first was its image as the 'Bread-Basket' of the USSR and second was the rapid industrialisation. Ukraine SSR became the bread basket of Soviet Russia because it had rich soil that was perfect for farming. The country's climate was also conducive to agriculture, which meant that farmers could produce a lot of food. Additionally, the Soviet Union had a large population, so there was a big demand for food. Ukraine SSR was able to meet this demand and became a major supplier of food to the Soviet Union.

In return, Ukraine SSR became industrialised under Soviet Russia. Factories were built, and the country's agricultural sector was modernised. Ukraine SSR also became a major producer of coal, iron, and steel. In the 1930s, Ukraine SSR's industrial sector grew rapidly as part of the move towards an industrial economy. The republic's large agricultural sector continued to provide the country with large quantities of produce. Despite harsh conditions in Soviet Ukraine during the 1930s, the republic experienced relative prosperity and rapid industrialisation.

Ukraine under Stalin saw one of the most egregious and ghastly genocide of the Ukrainian people and a crack down on the Ukrainian identity. Holodomor, was the man-made famine that convulsed the Soviet republic of Ukraine from 1932 to 1933, peaking in the late spring of 1933. It was part of a broader Soviet famine (1931–34) that was caused by the myopic and knee jerk soviet policy making, which also caused mass starvation in the grain-growing regions of Soviet Russia and Kazakhstan. The Ukrainian famine, however, was made deadlier by a series of political decrees and decisions that were aimed mostly or only at Ukraine. In acknowledgement of its scale, the famine of 1932–33 is often called the Holodomor, a term derived from the Ukrainian words for hunger (holod) and extermination (mor).The famine was accompanied by a broader assault on Ukrainian identity. While peasants were dying by the millions, agents of the Soviet secret police were targeting the Ukrainian political establishment and intelligentsia. The famine provided cover for a campaign of repression and persecution that was carried out against Ukrainian culture and Ukrainian religious leaders. The official policy of Ukrainization, which had encouraged the use of the Ukrainian language, was effectively halted. Moreover, anyone connected to the short-lived Ukrainian People's Republic was subjected to vicious reprisals. All those targeted by this campaign were liable to be publicly vilified, jailed, sent to the Gulag.

Stalin's reign of terror was followed by the rule of Nikita Khrushchev, one of the most important and relevant decisions under his regime was the 1954 transfer of Crimea to the Ukraine. Khrushchev championed de-stalinization and was against the policies that aimed at the russification of Ukraine. In the beginning of the 1990s, there was massive support within Ukraine to defect from the Soviet Union. Massive demonstrations took place in support of Ukrainian independence, such as the 300,000-people strong human chain. The chain stretched for over 600 kilometres from Lviv to Kiev, and it is believed to have united over 1.5 million people in support of Ukrainian independence. Later that year, a referendum was held and over 90 per cent of the people supported independence.

Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk was sworn in as the first president of independent Ukraine in 1991. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Ukraine inherited a large stockpile of nuclear weapons. The stockpile was third-largest in the world along with technology to design and produce more weapons. In 1994, Ukraine agreed to destroy the weapons and agreed to join the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). On December 5, 1994, Ukraine, Russia, Britain and the US signed the Budapest Memorandum. Under the terms of the memorandum, Ukraine was promised security assurances in connection with its accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Ever since its independence, Ukraine has been torn between its Russian ties, Western influence while struggling with its own distinct national identity. It also serves as a buffer state between Russia and Nato. These tensions kept boiling within the nation till they erupted in what we know as the 'The Revolution of Dignity' also known as the Maidan Revolution, took place in Ukraine in February 2014 at the end of the Euromaidan protests, in deadly clashes between protesters and the security forces in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv culminated in the ousting of elected President Viktor Yanukovich and the overthrow of the Ukrainian government. Yanukovich said that this illegal and possibly coerced, and asked Russia for help. Russia considered the overthrow of Yanukovich to be an illegal coup, and did not recognize the interim government. Widespread protests, both for and against the revolution, occurred in eastern and southern Ukraine, where Yanukovich previously received strong support in the 2010 presidential election. These protests escalated, resulting in a Russian military intervention, the annexation of Crimea by Russia, and

the creation of the self-proclaimed breakaway states of Donetsk and Luhansk. This sparked the Donbas War.

### **Current Situation:**

In early February 2022, President Joe Biden of the United States ordered roughly 3,000 US troops to deploy to Poland and Romania, both NATO countries bordering Ukraine, to counter Russian troops stationed near the Ukrainian border and reassure NATO allies. Since the end of the Cold War, satellite photos have revealed Russia's largest troop deployment along its border with Belarus. The US, Russia, and European countries, particularly France and Germany, were unable to achieve a consensus. While Russia claimed to have reduced the number of troops on its border with Ukraine in a statement, claims of an expanded Russian army presence emerged.

In late February 2022, The US warned that Russia was planning an invasion of Ukraine, citing Russia's expanding military posture on the Ukrainian border. Russian President Vladimir Putin then dispatched soldiers to the rebel regions of Luhansk and Donetsk, which are partly held by Russian-backed separatists in Eastern Ukraine, stating that the forces were needed for "peacekeeping." A few days later, the US imposed sanctions on the Luhansk and Donetsk areas, as well as the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.

On February 24, Putin announced the start of a full-scale land, sea, and air assault of Ukraine, targeting Ukrainian military assets and cities across the country, during a United Nations Security Council meeting to dissuade Russia from striking Ukraine. Biden called the strike "unprovoked and unjustifiable," and in collaboration with European partners, imposed harsh sanctions on four of Russia's top banks, , the country's oil and gas industry, and U.S. technology exports to the country.

In late March 2022, Russia announced that it would “reduce military activity” near Kyiv and Chernihiv. By April 6, Russia had withdrawn all troops from Ukraine’s capital region. In the aftermath of the Russian withdrawal from Kyiv’s surrounding areas, Ukrainian civilians described apparent war crimes committed by Russian forces, including accounts of summary executions, torture, and rape.

On April 18, Russia launched a new major offensive in eastern Ukraine following its failed attempt to seize the capital. By May, Russian forces took control of Mariupol, a major and highly strategic southeastern port city that had been under siege since late February. Drone footage

published by Ukraine's far-right Azov Battalion revealed the brutality of the Russian offensive, which had reduced the city to rubble and caused a massive humanitarian crisis. Indiscriminate and targeted attacks against civilians in the city, including an air strike on a theater and the bombing of a maternity hospital, also amplified allegations against Russian forces for international humanitarian law violations.

Since the summer of 2022, most fighting has largely been confined to Ukraine's east and south, with Russian cruise missiles, bombs, cluster munitions, and thermobaric weapons devastating port cities along the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The Russian seizure of several Ukrainian ports and subsequent blockade of Ukrainian food exports compounded an already acute global food crisis further exacerbated by climate change, inflation, and supply chain havoc. Prior to the conflict, Ukraine had been the largest supplier of commodities to the World Food Program (WFP), which provides food assistance to vulnerable populations. In July, Russia and Ukraine signed an agreement to free more than twenty million tons of grain from Russian-controlled Ukrainian ports. The first grain shipments to leave Ukraine since the Russian invasion departed from Odesa on August 1; they arrived in Russian-allied Syria on August 15, although their originally presumed destination had been Lebanon.

In mid-August, the southern shift of the war's frontline sparked international fears of a nuclear disaster at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant along the Dnieper River. The largest nuclear plant in Europe, the Zaporizhzhia facility was seized by Russian forces in the earliest stages of the war. Escalating tensions between the plant's Ukrainian staff and its Russian occupiers have also raised uncertainty regarding its continued safe operation. Fighting in the territory surrounding the facility also raises concerns that the plant could be critically damaged in the crossfire: shelling of the plant's switchyard has already led to a city-wide black-out in Enerhodar, where the plant is located. Representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, visited the plant in early September to assess the threat of a nuclear accident. In a report [PDF] on the findings of its inspection, the IAEA called for "a nuclear safety and security protection zone" around the plant and for "all military activity" in the adjacent territory to cease immediately.

As of early September, Ukrainian forces have been able to make strong advances in the northeast and mounted a revitalized southern counteroffensive. Although Russia continues to hold onto much of Ukraine's southeastern territory, Ukraine claims to have retaken significant territory in the Kharkiv region, surprising Russian forces and cutting off important supply lines. Russia has indicated that it plans to send reinforcements—about ten to twenty thousand soldiers—to the eastern front to combat the new Ukrainian offensive.

As of July 2022, the UN Human Rights Office has recorded over five thousand civilian deaths and over six thousand civilian injuries since Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The violence has internally displaced nearly seven million people and forced over six million to flee to neighboring countries, including Moldova and Poland, a NATO country where the United States and other allies are helping to accommodate the influx of refugees.

The U.S. continues to commit military assistance to Ukraine; following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's address to the U.S. Congress on March 16, 2022, Biden announced an additional \$800 million in military assistance to Ukraine. Since Russia's invasion, the United States has committed about \$4.6 billion in security assistance, including heavy weapons and artillery, to the country. The United States has also dramatically increased U.S. troop presence in Europe, bringing the total to more than one hundred thousand. On September 8, 2022, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken pledged continued support for Ukraine during a trip to Kyiv. While the United Nations, Group of Seven member states, EU, and others continue to condemn Russia's actions and support Ukrainian forces, Russia has turned to countries like North Korea and Iran for intelligence and military equipment.

## **1. Past Actions and Existing International Legislations :**

**Budapest Agreement ;** The Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurance, which was signed on December 5, 1994, confirmed Ukraine's participation in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its position as a non-nuclear state in exchange for security guarantees. "Respect the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine, as well as the existing borders of Ukraine," according to the Budapest document, which also stated that the powers had a "obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine." Also included in the agreement was a promise that they would not use their weapons against Ukraine "unless necessary for self-defense or in conformity with the United Nations Charter".

The countries also stated that if Ukraine were threatened or attacked with nuclear weapons, they would "demand prompt UNSC action to give support to Ukraine," and that they would discuss if such a case happened. It has been pointed out, however, that this was an assurance rather than a security guarantee in this case. After signing the Budapest Memorandum in 1992, Ukraine gave over all of the nuclear weapons it possessed to Russia in 1996, less than two years after the agreement. A number of severe deals were struck by Ukraine as well - Russia repaid its neighbour with a payout of one billion dollars, while the United States paid a substantial sum to purchase Ukraine's stockpile of enriched uranium.

The annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 was a blatant violation of the Budapest Agreement, and it served as the first major test of Russia's ability to provide security guarantee to Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin did not engage in the negotiations despite being a signatory to the agreement and vetoed a resolution against the annexation at the United Nations Security Council. Russia was subjected to certain penalties by the United States, but Europe continued to conduct business with him.

Minsk Accords ; Minsk I

Ukraine and the Russia-backed separatists agreed on a 12-point ceasefire deal in September 2014. Its provisions included prisoner exchanges, deliveries of humanitarian aid and the

withdrawal of heavy weapons. However, the agreement quickly broke down, with violations by both sides.

## Minsk II

Representatives of Russia, Ukraine, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the leaders of separatist-held regions Donetsk and Luhansk signed a 13-point agreement in February 2015. The leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine gathered in Minsk to mark the occasion and issued a declaration of support.

The deal's 13 points were:

1. Immediate, comprehensive ceasefire
2. .Withdrawal of heavy weapons by both sides,
3. OSCE monitoring,
4. Dialogue on interim self-government for Donetsk and Luhansk, in accordance with Ukrainian law, and acknowledgement of special status by parliament.
5. Pardon, amnesty for fighters.
6. Exchange of hostages, prisoners.
7. Humanitarian assistance.
8. Resumption of socioeconomic ties, including pensions.
9. Ukraine to restore control of the state border.
10. Withdrawal of foreign armed formations, military equipment, mercenaries.
11. Constitutional reform in Ukraine including decentralisation, with specific mention of Donetsk and Luhansk.
12. Elections in Donetsk and Luhansk.
13. Intensify Trilateral Contact Group's work including representatives of Russia, Ukraine and OSCE.

The Minsk II deal set out military and political steps that remain unimplemented. A major blockage has been Russia's insistence that it is not a party to the conflict and therefore is not



bound by its terms. In general, Moscow and Kyiv interpret the pact very differently, leading to what has been dubbed by some observers as the “Minsk conundrum”.

Bloc Positions :

USA – The Ukrainian Crisis presents the USA with many threats and opportunities. Thanks to Russia's invasion, the US once again has an opportunity to rally the entire world and especially the west to its cause. This is evident by the fact that even countries like Switzerland that remained neutral during the world wars have now broken their stance in opposing Russia. Weapon sales have boomed in Europe and nations like Sweden and others are considering joining NATO. However, The extent to which the American leadership has been able to capitalise on the same is much debated. With its recent hasty and embarrassing pull out from Afghanistan, the US has clearly not shown enough resolve to tackle Russia and support Ukraine.

China – China finds itself in a precarious situation, on one end it would not like to harm its relations with Europe but it also finds a pragmatic friend in Russia. With nations like Singapore and others pleading with China to intervene, China definitely has the influence and the (economic and military) strength to do so. Helping negotiate a resolution between the parties may help China improve its reputation while also helping establish it as a global power. If and how this conflict spills into Taiwan remains to be seen.

Europe – While Europe is yet to recover from the trauma caused by the two world wars and the cold war, etched into the popular memory. It finds itself in the middle of yet another war. Despite the overlap and close relations between US and European foreign policy. The European perspective differs much from the American one considering that the war is on European soil, threatening the lives of European citizens. Avoiding war is a huge priority.

The EU strongly condemns Putin's decision to recognise the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk and to invade Ukraine. It also condemns Belarus' involvement in Russia's military aggression.

It is not only Ukraine that is under attack. International law, rules-based international order, democracy and human dignity are also under attack. This is geopolitical terrorism, pure and simple.

- Charles Michel, President of the European Council, 1 March 2022

EU's Demands ;

1. immediately cease its military actions
2. unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from Ukraine
3. fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence
4. respect international law
5. stop its disinformation campaign and cyberattacks

Russia bears full responsibility for this act of aggression and all the destruction and loss of life it will cause. It will be held accountable for its actions. - EU leaders' statement, 24 February 2022

**Questions to consider:**

- What can be done to minimise the miseries faced by the victims of the war, especially the women and children ?
- What can be done to support and help the Ukrainian refugees ?
- What should be done to address the alleged war crimes and gross human right violations committed during the conflict ?
- What can be done to prevent a nuclear disaster at zaporizhzhya?
- What can be done to bring this conflict to an end?

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