



Forum: Special Forum on Ukraine

Issue: Reaffirming Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial and maritime integrity

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Introduction

The Russia-Ukraine conflict dates back to 2014, with the annexation by the Russian Federation of the Crimean Peninsula. This was ignited by the rejection of a deal for greater economic integration of Ukraine with the European Union (EU). The rejection angered the citizens of Crimea leading to protests. Russia realised the vulnerability of Ukraine, specifically in Crimea, and on March 2014 Russian troops took control of the Ukrainian region of Crimea. After the invasion Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed the need to protect the rights of Russian citizens living in Crimea and southeast Ukraine. The Russian Federation, in a disputed local referendum, voted with joining the Russian Federation, and the peninsula was formally annexed.

Following the 2014 Crimea's annexation, military conflict broke out between the Russian and Ukrainian militaries. Russia denied all military involvement in the conflict. However, both Ukraine and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) reported the mobilisation of Russian troops and military equipment near Donetsk and Russia's cross border. Despite the fact that Ukraine is not a member of NATO, NATO adopted a firm position in full support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In 2015 France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine sought to end the conflict through the Minsk II Agreement [11-12 February 2015], through negotiations between all four countries. The negotiations had a goal of finding a diplomatic settlement and an acceptable resolution to the conflict, which included the provision for a ceasefire, withdrawal of heavy weaponry and full Ukrainian government control throughout the conflict zone. However, the negotiations were unsuccessful.

The involvement of the United States (USA) is vital to help reaffirm Ukraine's sovereignty. On January 2018 the USA imposed sanctions on twenty-one individuals including Russian officials and nine companies directly linked to the conflict. This led to Ukraine forming political ties with the USA by approving the transaction of anti-tank weapons to Ukraine, which would be the first exchange of lethal weaponry since the conflict began. The USA in this situation is attempting to support Ukraine reassert its territorial integrity by increasing its military resources, including lethal weaponry designed to help Ukraine defend itself from invasion. This political tie that was formed by Ukraine and the USA paved the way for Ukraine to also join seven other NATO countries including the USA in a series of largescale air exercises in western Ukraine, to strengthen its defences in the conflict.

On February, 2022, Russia unexpectedly launched an invasion part of Ukraine outside of Crimea and the Donbas region after Vladimir Putin authorised a "Special Military Operation". Russian troops moved into an area north of Kyiv, advancing on Chernihiv, landing in the port of Odesa in the south on the Black Sea and crossing the eastern border into Kharkiv. This invasion was justified as a means to end the alleged genocide of Russians on Ukrainian territory, as Russia believed that in this area, there has been a mass genocide of Russian troops. The USA and Ukraine remained certain that the Russian military was gradually increasing around Russia-Ukraine borders. The USA responded to the build-up of Russian military around Ukraine, by imposing more sanctions on Russia. Ukraine reserved their forces for any potential attack on Ukrainian land.

Russia launched an offensive attack in eastern Ukraine on April 18th, capturing an area in Mariupol by May. The effects of the attack resulted in destruction and the breach of humanitarian law. From 2022 until today, the war has been concentrated in Ukraine's eastern and southern regions, which has impacted port cities, affecting trade and causing scarcity of food worldwide through the global supply chain. Russian attacks were also directed at western Ukraine, a missile strike at a concert hall in the city of Vinnytsia killed 25 people and injured 115 on 14 July 2022, as well as a missile strike on a power distribution facility in the Lviv region on November 23, 2023.

Russia signed an agreement to allow the trade of grain however, although they later suspended the agreement, alleging a Ukrainian attack. Russian military activity in the region has

also raised fears of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, seized by the Russian forces, in March 2022. Ukrainian forces have gradually made progress and recaptured some territory in the south and northeast of Ukraine accounting for approximately half of the land Russia had annexed since the beginning of this conflict. While occupying Ukrainian territory, Russia announced a partial mobilisation, then redeployed military to Donetsk, and made threats of nuclear escalation.



Ukraine in 2014 before the annexation
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18018007>





Ukraine in 2022 after the annexation

<https://www.bbc.com/pidgin/60547606>

Definition of Key Terms

Annexation

A formal act whereby a country declares its sovereignty over a territory outside its domain.

Sovereignty

Supreme power or authority over a specific country.

Maritime integrity

Maintenance of the proper functioning of maritime activities within legal authority.

Territorial integrity

The recognised and geographical location of a sovereign state.

Protests

A statement or action that expresses disapproval of or objection to something.

Political ties

The relationship between different nations, organisation, or governments on a political scale.

Lethal weaponry

A type of military weapon that was created to do significant harm.

Cease fire

A temporary pause of armed conflict between two opposing parties/states.

Background Information

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine began from the annexation of Crimea in 2014. Political interventions from the USA and NATO were undertaken to help Ukraine regain its sovereignty, including military funding to enhance their defences and sanctioning major Russian companies including the four biggest banks in Russia and the major oil and gas industry, Gazprom. Prominent members of the Russian government such as Russian President Vladimir Putin; the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov faced individual sanctions as well. The USA and NATO also attempted to monitor all military actions of Russia around Ukrainian borders, including the development of military satellite monitoring of Russian activities on land, at sea, and in the air.

Russia has continued its expansionist push into Ukraine, claiming more territory as its own. Currently, Russia has full control of the Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, collectively known as the Donbass. Russia had political, economic and social motives to justify its expansion into Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin does not accept Ukraine as a real state and disputes the claim that Ukrainians possess a separate national identity. Instead, he argues that Ukraine and its people are an integral part of the Russian nation. His irredentist desire to bring Ukrainian back into the Russian fold is related to the loss of Ukraine after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, on the 26th of December 1991, although this perspective ignores traditional Ukrainian independence prior to the near-century of Soviet Union amalgamation. Redrawing Europe's post-Cold War security architecture is one way for Putin to help Russia rebuild its power as a regional, and eventual global hegemon, reminiscent of its prestige during the Cold War era. Specific actions to accomplish this goal include limiting the expansion of NATO, restoring Russia's strategic depth, and reclaiming historical territory to expand and strengthen its western borders. Invasion and subsequent annexation of Ukraine is to achieve Putin's motives. On January 1st, 2000, when Putin came to power, he had two objectives he wished to achieve. Firstly, following the long-lasting effects of the 1990s, there was an effort to enhance the power of the central government, specifically the Kremlin. Russia now occupies Ukrainian territory including the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, gained through annexation. These annexations infuriated not only the U.S.A and NATO, but also the EU, resulting in additional sanctions being imposed on Russia by the EU. However, these sanctions have not stopped Russian expansion deeper into Ukrainian territory.

Secondly, President Putin's goals for Ukraine's annexation are also economic in nature. The invaded territories are rich in natural resources such as coal, steel and fertile agricultural land. Russia's control over these regions, not only increases its resource base, but also its economic capability. Areas such as Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in southern Ukraine are known to be rich agricultural regions, specifically in wheat. Ukraine has long been described as the 'breadbasket of Europe', with a significant amount of European wheat originating within Ukrainian borders. In addition to benefitting itself, Russian occupation of this territory has the additional economic and political benefit of destabilising the Ukrainian government by decreasing its access to resources and economic benefit from these occupied regions.

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was a strategic place for Russia to invade, as the Ukrainian power plant can be seen as an imminent threat to the Ukrainian civilisation, as a nuclear explosion can occur. As well as, Ukrainian nuclear reactors produce 81TWh (Terawatt Hour) over 55% of Ukrainian total electricity. Any damage to this nuclear power plant will have deadly outcomes for the Ukrainian populations. Russian troops are seeking to limit the resources that Ukraine already possess, as a way to weaken the country as a whole, to be easier to invade.

Putin has specific motives behind invading Crimea as the first piece of land that Russia took over, in the beginning of its invasion in 2014. Crimea is in between two seas, the Black Sea is to the south, and the Sea of Azov to the northeast. Crimea's maritime location serves as the hub for a variety of important trade, military, and geopolitical activities. In addition, the Black Sea is an easy waterway access to the Mediterranean, which is extremely important for trade to expand the Russian economy. The Russian Black Sea fleet, has gained absolute control over Ukraine's territorial waters in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, which neighbours the Black Sea. As well as the Sea of Azov, has a direct link to the Black Sea across the Kerch Strait, which provides explicit entrance to both Russian and Ukrainian ports. This bridge serves as an easy entry way between Russia and Crimea. This entry way, makes it a vital transportation tie for people, goods, and military operation between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula. The fact that Russia was able to build the bridge shows that Russia has explicit control over Crimea, and its internal movement.



Crimean bridge

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/crimean-bridge-russia-ukraine-war/story?id=101333577>



The location of the bridge on the map

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2023/07/18/kerch-bridge-crimea/>

Succeeding the annexation of Crimea, The Black Sea fleet, and its base in Sevastopol came under Russian control. The Black Sea fleet is a naval fleet that is now under Russian control. The Black Sea Fleet is shown to be a school of variety of naval vessels, including submarines, surface ships, and support vessel. The fleet has provisions for an array of maritime activities, which include patrols, coastal defence, and force projection. The Black Sea fleet has facilitated Russia's maintenance and its continuous power in the Mediterranean. The Black Sea fleet has shifted its protection from Ukraine to protect Russia's maritime interests, securing sea lanes, and contributing to the country overall defence mechanisms.

The Black Sea fleet falls under Ukraine's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This zone is defined as under Article 55 of the United Nations Convention on The Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as "The exclusive economic zone is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, subject to the specific legal regime established in this part, under which the rights and jurisdiction of the coastal state and the rights and freedoms of other states are governed by the relevant provisions of this Convention." As well as, further elaborated on in Article 57, where it was stated "The exclusive economic zone shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured." The Black Sea fleet falls inside the EZZ of Ukraine, hence, Ukraine has full legal authority of the land and the ship. The concept of maritime integrity was challenged by Russia taking control of the fleet. As well as the control of the Sea of Avoz, and the Black Sea, are illegal, as they fall under Ukraine's EEZ.



Ukrainian and Russian EEZ

[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-Ukrainian-Exclusive-Economic-Zone-EEZ-and-shelf-waters-to-200-m-depth-in-the-Black fig1_283071297](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-Ukrainian-Exclusive-Economic-Zone-EEZ-and-shelf-waters-to-200-m-depth-in-the-Black-sea fig1_283071297)

Russia's goal of reshaping national territorial sea jurisdiction could have dramatic consequences. This is due to the nature of Crimea's coast lines; it has a very complex shape as well as being adjacent to the Sea of Azov, which complicated the determination of sea border lines. Russian control over this part of the sea will mean that Ukraine's access to the open Black Sea will be fully monitored by Russia. Additionally, building the bridge between the Black Sea and the Azov Sea will also be fully controlled by Moscow, rather than Kyiv. This clearly indicates a breach of UNCLOS, established to ensure both maritime and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Ukraine is set to not only be affected geopolitically, but economically. Russian control of the Black Sea proposes that Ukraine will lose valuable undersea oil and gas fields. The decrease in these resources leads to a higher dependency on Russian resources. Also, ports such as Mariupol, Berdyansk and other small fishing villages will be dependent on Russian officials, who have full discretionary control over fisheries, marine recreation, freedom of navigation, and much more. The 200-mile EEZ of Ukraine will be fully controlled by Russia, all Ukrainian activities will be monitored, including any economic or research activity. The control over the EEZ, and Russian ability to enhance the Black Sea fleet which develops navy weaponry, including the addition of six missile frigates that are currently being built under Russia's project number 1156M will benefit Russia economically and politically, at the expense of Ukraine.

Russian control of the Black Sea fleet raised concern not only to Ukraine, but for all bordering countries. The development of the Russian Black Sea fleet will outpace the Turkish fleet which also has economic and geopolitically interests in the Black Sea, creating a high-risk environment in which military forces with advanced weapons, including nuclear-capable systems, are increasingly active in close proximity to each other. Other neighbouring countries, including

current states which were formerly part of the former USSR find their sovereignty and independence threatened by Putin's desire to bring back the former USSR. Each country is trying to defend itself against the growing superpower, Russia. The Baltic States, Poland, Finland, Sweden, and Georgia, among others, have taken diplomatic and military measures to defend against Russian threats, including increased defence capabilities and collaboration with international alliances such as NATO.

The United Nations strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial autonomy in geography and in politics. Furthermore, the UN emphasises the importance of garnering international respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, urging all parties involved to find solutions for the ongoing conflict. As a mean of finding a solution to the conflict, on February 22nd, 2023 a resolution was voted on by the General Assembly where 141 out of 193 UN members states, condemned Russian invasion, and demand the withdrawal of Russia from Ukraine. Russian invasion slowed, long-range missile strikes caused significance damage to Ukrainian military assets, urban residential area, and communication and transportation infrastructure.

The invasion of Ukraine is classified illegal under article 2(4) of the UN Charter that requires UN members to refrain from "use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state." This article has been breached both by the use of force against territorial integrity, where Russia invaded and took over many regions of Ukraine, and by interfering with Ukraine's political independence.

Russia invaded Crimea on the bases that NATO's future enlargement, would have a direct effect on Russia and its sphere of influence in the eastern part of Europe. The Russian invasion has stopped Ukraine from being a member of NATO and/or the EU. In the early 2000s, Russia had a number of security concerns as a result of Ukraine's attempt to gain NATO and EU membership, which included being completely surrounded on its western side by NATO allies and the legal build-up of weaponry on the Russian-Ukrainian border by Ukraine and the United States. Which led diplomatic tensions as it would pose a threat to Russia's national security. These tensions are still present to this day and have escalated into sovereignty related tensions involving weaponry and boarder disputes.

Members of NATO have the responsibility to help its allies fight during wars/conflicts. Hence, allowing Ukraine's entry into NATO would present a challenging dilemma, either a potential war with Russia for all its members, resulting in severe consequences, or opting to not interfere and undermine the security guarantees of NATO through the entire organisation.

Similarly, the EU cannot accommodate for a country such as Ukraine in a war with a superpower such as Russia. If the process of admitting Ukraine into the EU was considered, then Ukraine will be obliged to implement extensive reform both politically and economically in all parts of Ukraine. Additionally, joining the EU asked for specific requirements to be met, to be admitted to the EU. These requirements are known as the "acquis communautaires." Ukraine has already implemented a series of reforms, to align with these requirements, which include judiciary, minority rights, and anti-corruption legislation, but Ukraine meeting the requirements in the midst of a war with Russia is extremely difficult. On December 14th, 2023. The EU agreed to begin membership talks with Ukraine, a highly effective strategy for Ukraine to enhance its defences against the Russian invasion.

The EU has shown to be an ally to Ukraine, where they attempted to politically hinder Russia through the use of sanctions. The EU has sanctioned an additional 71 individuals and 33 entities, along with the previous 1,800 individuals and entities that were sanctioned before. This was done in an attempt to diminish the actions that are undermining sovereignty or threatening Ukraine's territorial or maritime integrity. This was done through limiting Russian resources, weakening Russian military, all in which are shrinking the effect of the Russian invasion on Ukraine. The list of individuals sanctioned included President of Russia, President of Ukraine, Russian state Duma, members of the National Security Council, and many more members of both Russian and Ukrainian governments.

An attempt to solve the conflict was done through negotiations and different resolutions. The negotiations have occurred between countries all around the world, which included countries from the EU, and indirect parties in the conflict which included the USA in 2013, but the resolutions have failed, and formally closed in 2019. The UN Security Council has also attempted to prevent Russia from attacking Ukraine, but was unsuccessful with passing a resolution to stop the conflict. The USA declared the attack by Russia to be "unprovoked and unjustified", and issued severe sanctions against important Kremlin officials, including Putin and Russia Foreign Minister, four of Russian's biggest banks, Russian oil and gas industry in accordance with their European allies.

The use of sanctions could be seen to the use of hard power as an attempt to destabilise the Russian invasion. Russia through this has breached the sovereignty of Ukraine, and is a clear violation of international law. The Russian response to international efforts to stop the conflict, not only breached Ukraine's sovereignty, but challenges its territorial and maritime integrity.

The conflict has also had an affect on the Ukrainian communities, where various Ukrainian communities face displacement in the occupied regions; this includes lack of food, water, sanitation supplies and other basic human needs. This is not to mention the emotional and physical drain these populations face. This poses various humanitarian crises due to Russia's violation of Ukrainian political and cultural freedoms. These crises include the killing of 70,000 civilians, and 220,000–280,000 wounded injured as of November 2023. Over time, the situation raises more concerns within the international community fearing for the wellbeing of Ukrainian citizens including the displaced women and children. The limiting of resources, as the bridge of Crimea has been invaded, limited number of resources can be provided by Ukraine for its citizens both on land and at sea.

Currently, Russia continues to illegally encompass Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea, spanning 26,081 km². Russia also occupies Sevastopol city covering 864 km², and other territories of amounting to 16,799 km². Collectively, this accounts for 43,744 km² which is 7.2% of Ukraine's territory. The persistent occupation roots from a history of geopolitical tensions. Amidst this war, there are various diplomatic resolutions proposed to de-escalate the crisis and restore territorial, and maritime integrity.

Major Countries and Organisations Involved

The United Nations (UN)

The UN, and its members states, have been involved in diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As well as, maintaining and upholding the UN Charter.

The European Union (EU)

The EU has directly imposed sanctions on Russia for its actions, attempting to support Ukraine's territorial integrity, and trying to overall resolve the conflict.

On December 15th, 2023, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban vetoed a €54-billion EU aid for Ukraine.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

NATO has publicly condemned Russia's actions in the conflict, attempting to militarily support Ukraine, and expressing support to reassert Ukraine's Sovereignty.

The United States of America (U.S.A)

The United states has supported Ukraine in this conflict, but imposing sanctions on Russia for its actions.

On December 6, 2023, the United States Congress and Joe Biden's administration have directed more than \$75 billion in humanitarian, military, and financial assistance.

Timeline of Events

Date (start - end)	Name	Description
23 February 2014	Russian demonstration	Pro-Russian demonstration took place in Crimea
27 February 2014	Control of Crimea	Russian troops through the demonstration took control of the Supreme Council of Crimea, along with sites across the peninsula.
28 February 2014	Establishment of checkpoints	2 army camps were established, the Armyansk and Chongar, which were located at a strategic spot at the road crossing between Ukraine and Crimea.
16 March 2014	Crimean independence	A pro-Russian government was established in Crimea, leading to Crimea declaring independence from Ukraine
June 2017	Russian cyberattack	Russia funded a cyber-attack that affected computer systems that belong to the Ukrainian government and multiple Ukrainian businesses. This cyberattack spread across the world, not only in Ukraine.
14 April 2021	Seize of Crimea, and area around Ukrainian borders.	Russian troops were headed toward Crimea, and many areas that were around the Ukrainian borders. 14,000 soldiers moved into Crimea, which led to a build-up in Russian forces. Land, sea and air invasion took place after Russian President Vladimir Putin formally launched a "special military operation"
28 February 2022	Ukrainian application to the EU	Ukraine applied to join the EU.
2 March 2022	Military forces attack	After increased Russian attack, and Russian forces began to invade the city of Kherson. A million Ukrainian refugees that were in the area were forced to flee the country.
4 March 2022	Military forces attack	Europe's biggest nuclear plant found in Zaporizhzhia was bombed by Russian forces, which increased worldwide fear.

14 March 2022	Russian statement about war progress	Viktor Zolotov, who was in charge of the national guard, publicly admitted that the war in Ukraine was not going as planned, from his perspective.
16 March 2022	Russian bombing of theatre	A theatre was bombed by the Russian forced in Mariupol
23 March 2022	Russian death count	An estimation was made by NATO that almost 7,000-15,000 Russian troops, in one month of war were lost, and around 40,000 dead, wounded, captured or missing.
25 March 2022	Russian focused control	Russia directs its focus on implementing and asserting its control over Luhansk and Donetsk, to try to redefine the invasion of Ukraine.
21 April 2022	Russian victory	Russia reigns supreme in the battle for Mariupol, as Putin's said. Despite that 2,500 Ukrainian marines remain secured in the Azovstal steel plant
28 April 2022	Increased Ukrainian weapon shipment	The U.S.A. attempted to speed up weapon shipment to Ukraine. U.S.A. president Joe Biden, asked the American Congress to approve a \$33bn budget, to spend on Ukraine.
11 May 2022	Limiting Russian gas	Ukraine in an attempt to effect Russia, restricted it transit of gas from its territory to Europe. Which cut by quarter the gas in one of two major pipelines located in Ukraine.
19 May 2022	Aid packages	Biden approved to use \$40bn in aid packaged for Ukraine, which was significantly more than \$33bn, this aid would be split up, where half was intended for military aid and supplies.
6 June 2022	UK's aid	The UK intervenes sent multiple rocket systems to Ukraine to help with the fight against Russia.
15 June 2022	Gas deliveries	Russia cut Ukrainian deliveries to Europe including gas through the Nord stream
22 June 2022	Ukrainian statement	Ukraine announced that it has took back approximately 1,000 settlements back from Russian control
22 July 2022	UN involvement	Both Ukraine and Russia signed a UN agreement, the UNbrokered agreement, which ultimately allowed the export of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea
31 July 2022	Ukrainian black sea involvement	Ukraine attempted to fly it into the old Ukrainian Black Sea fleet, which is now is the headquarters in Sevastopol on Russia's Navy Day, in a way to inflict damage, ultimately wounding 5 members on the ship
7 August 2022	Ukraine destroys Russian rocket launchers.	Ukraine attacked the BSF headquarters in Sevastopol on Russia's Navy Day

25 January 2023	Germany, U.S.A gift tanks to Ukraine	The USA and Germany publicly announced that they will be sending military aid to Ukraine in the form of tanks, in a way to enrich Ukrainian defences against Russian forces.
February 2023	Russia launching an offensive in Ukraine	Russia was suspected of preparing to launch, or had already launched, a massive new offensive in Ukraine in early February.
March 2023	Attacks in Bakhmut	Fighting in Bakhmut continues throughout the month, with each party claiming control of Bankmut at a different time.
June 2023	Kherson dam explosion	It is alleged that Russian terrorists are the cause of the Kherson dam explosion. The incident killed 50 individuals, and costs around €1.2 billion in damage
31 August 2023	Ukrainian progress	Ukrainian forces have penetrated the “first line” of Russian strongholds in the Zaporizhzhia region
23 November 2023	Ukrainian national bank reallocated	Ukraine's national seed bank, which is regarded as one of the world's largest, has successfully relocated from the frontline easter city of Kharkiv to a more secure location.
19 December 2023	U.S.A. aid to Ukraine decreases	It is said that U.S.A aid to Ukraine is decreasing, and will soon expire. This is due to the pre-authorized funding for only one more aid package this year by the White House.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1 (2 March 2022)
- UN Human Rights Council Resolution S-34/1 (4 March 2022)
- International Court of Justice Order (16 March 2022)
- UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/2 (24 March 2022)
- UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/3 (7 April 2022)
- UN General Assembly Resolution A/ES-11/L.4 (12 April 2022)
- UN General Assembly Resolution A/ES-11/L.5 (23 February 2023)
- UN General Assembly Resolution A/ES-11/L.6 (14 November 2023)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1 (2 March 2022)

Condemns Russia for its aggression against Ukraine, and demands an immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Uranian territories.

[UN Human Rights Council Resolution S-34/1 \(4 March 2022\)](#)

The establishment of an independent international commission, primary goal of investigating the human rights violation in Ukraine.

[International Court of Justice Order \(16 March 2022\)](#)

Orders Russia to immediately suspend its military operation on Ukraine.

[UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/2 \(24 March 2022\)](#)

Demands a ceasefire, and the cessation of hostiles and withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territories.

[UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/3 \(7 April 2022\)](#)

The suspension of Russia's membership in the Human Rights Council, due to its actions

[UN General Assembly Resolution A/ES-11/L.4 \(12 April 2022\)](#)

Calls for the humanitarian assistance of Ukrainian citizens.

[UN General Assembly Resolution A/ES-11/L.5 \(23 February 2023\)](#)

Reiterates the immediate withdraw of Russian forces, and calls for lasting peace between both nations

[UN General Assembly Resolution A/ES-11/L.6 \(14 November 2023\)](#)

Condemning Russia for its attacks on civilian objects, and demands the respect and the upholding of international humanitarian law.

Possible Solutions

1- Diplomatic Negotiations

A diplomatic negotiation between the involved parties would be vital for the overall resolution of the ongoing conflict. This negotiation would aim to establish common ground regarding both territorial and maritime boundaries. This negotiation would be aimed to prioritise short-term aims which include the immediate application of a ceasefire and the withdrawal of heavy weaponry. The focus on these short-term objectives, will foster an environment for dialogue and pave the way for broader, long-term solution to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region.

2- Humanitarian Aid

The availability of humanitarian aid by the UN to Ukraine, explicitly targeted at citizens that were directly affected by the Russian invasion, this would not only address the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, but also improves the strain on Ukraine's resources. By guaranteeing that necessary support reaches those directly affected, the UN contributes

to stabilising the situation and allows Ukraine to distribute its financial and material resources, to more prominently regain their sovereignty.

3- Halting Transportation on the Crimean bridge

A halt in resource and trade transportation across the Crimean bridge could have an impact on Russia's economic interest and growth. A halt in resource increases in Russia would increase the incentive for diplomatic negotiations. The disruption in economic and military activity may compel both parties to seek a peaceful resolution, encouraging dialogue and compromise on conflict-specific issues. The negotiation is possible because Russia is not growing economically or militarily, and a disruption in resource income will weaken Russia and force it to adopt a strategy to stabilise its military and economy.

4- UN peacekeeping mission

A United Nations peacekeeping mission based in Ukrainian waters represents a strategic intervention to ensure stability and reclaim lost Ukrainian maritime territory. This initiative aims to deter maritime conflicts between the two countries by deploying neutral and international forces. This fosters an environment centred on diplomatic resolution. The constant presence of United Nations peacekeepers acts as a deterrent, discouraging aggressive behaviour and providing a neutral platform for reaching common ground. The implementation of this mission will not only provide immediate stability in Ukraine, but will also lay the groundwork for future diplomatic efforts. This will aid in addressing Ukraine's complex maritime challenges, as well as maintaining international peace and security.

5- Referendum with oversight

Implementing referendums in affected Ukrainian regions under the supervision of neutral international bodies such as the UN. This could be viewed as a diplomatic tool to help resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict. A referendum will allow local citizens to express their political preferences, this method of conflict resolution promotes inclusivity and respects Ukraine's diverse perspectives. A process guided by international supervision could directly contribute to reaffirming Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial and maritime integrity, and potentially offering regional stability.

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