SC Chair Report

Topic 1: Developing Peaceful Solutions to End the Russo-Ukrainian War

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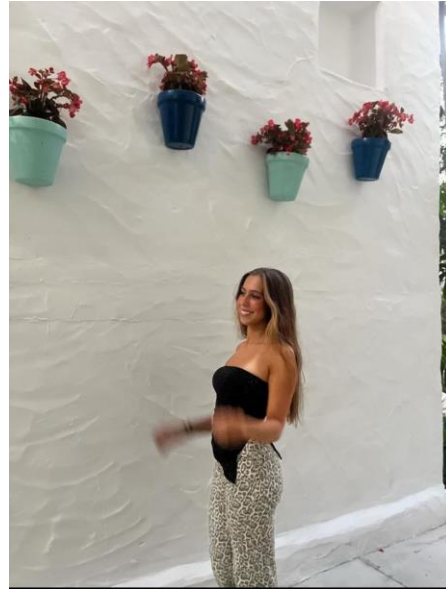
Personal Statements

Chair – Carmen Armentia

I am Carmen Armentia, a student from the American School of Bilbao. I am 16 years old and I have attended around 8 MUN conferences. I am really excited to take this role and guide the debate in a diplomatic but very fun way. I can't wait for MUNISS 2025!

Deputy Chair – Tomas Siegel

My name is Tomas Siegel, and I will be your deputy chair in this year's MUNISS Security Council Committee. I am 17 years old and attend The International School Stuttgart. So far, I have attended 3 MUN conferences. I can't wait to collaborate with all of you to discuss and debate the issues at hand.

Introduction

The Russo-Ukrainian War, which began in 2014 and escalated in 2022, has had devastating consequences for both Ukraine and the global community. Finding a peaceful exit from this war has become one of the urgent priorities for all nations, as the conflict destabilizes the region and threatens global security. This topic explores potential pathways toward peace and the international efforts necessary to end the war.

The Russo-Ukrainian War, primarily involving Russia and Ukraine, escalated when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This military aggression has been marked by heavy fighting, numerous casualties, and widespread destruction across all the region. International bodies, including the United Nations, NATO, and the European Union, have sought to intervene diplomatically, but peace talks have largely faltered. Despite all of the efforts, the war continues to devastate Ukraine, while also impacting global politics, economics, and security for all.

The war's roots lie in longstanding political, cultural, and territorial disputes between Russia and Ukraine, exacerbated by Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its support for separatist movements in eastern Ukraine. Various peace initiatives have been proposed, including ceasefires, negotiations, and international mediation, however, none of them being successful.

Glossary

Annexed: To take control of a territory, usually by force or without permission.

Economic sanctions: Restrictions placed on a country's trade, economy, or financial systems to pressure it into changing its actions.

International isolation: When a country is cut off from global political, economic, or diplomatic relations.

Mediation: The process of helping two or more sides negotiate and reach an agreement.

Military buildup: The increase in a country's armed forces, weapons, and military presence.

Sovereignty: The full right and power of a country to govern itself without outside interference.

Veto: The power to reject a decision or proposal, often used by permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Issue Explanation

The Russo-Ukrainian War continues to be one of the most pressing global conflicts, with devastating consequences for Ukraine, the broader region, and the international community. The war, which began in 2014 and escalated into a full-scale invasion in February 2022, has resulted in immense humanitarian, economic, and social challenges. Despite multiple attempts at peace negotiations, fighting persists, leading to loss of life, destruction, and instability. Developing a peaceful resolution is crucial to ending this crisis and preventing long-term global consequences.

The war has triggered one of the largest humanitarian crises in recent history. The United Nations has reported at least 11,743 civilian deaths and 24,614 injuries since the conflict began, though actual figures are likely higher (Reuters). Millions of Ukrainians have been displaced, either internally or as refugees in neighboring countries such as Poland, Germany, and Romania. Civilians face severe shortages of food, clean water, medical care, and electricity, especially in areas under siege or frequent attack. The destruction of hospitals, homes, and schools has disrupted daily life, leaving many without basic necessities. Additionally, reports of human rights violations, including attacks on civilians, war crimes, and forced deportations, have further worsened the humanitarian situation.

The war has had widespread economic repercussions, both for Ukraine and the global economy. Ukraine's infrastructure, including roads, energy facilities, and industrial centers, has suffered extensive damage, severely impacting its ability to function as an independent economy. Agricultural production, a key part of Ukraine's economy, has also been affected, disrupting global food supply chains, especially in regions that rely on Ukrainian wheat and grain exports. In 2022, Ukraine's GDP contracted by approximately 29.1%, marking the largest recession in the country's history (Wikipedia). Additionally, the sanctions imposed on Russia by Western nations have led to economic strain on global markets, increasing inflation, energy prices, and financial instability worldwide. The sanctions imposed on Russia by Western nations include trade restrictions, asset freezes,

banking limitations, and bans on technology and energy exports, further straining global markets.

The war has deepened political divisions and social unrest within Ukraine and Russia. In Ukraine, there is a growing sense of national unity, but also immense trauma from the war, which will take years to heal. In Russia, the conflict has led to political crackdowns, restrictions on free speech, and economic difficulties due to sanctions. Additionally, the war has strained diplomatic relations between Russia and Western countries, increasing geopolitical tensions reminiscent of the Cold War era. Nations aligned with Russia and Ukraine face difficult choices in balancing diplomatic ties, security concerns, and economic interests.

The primary victims of the war are the Ukrainian people, who continue to endure displacement, violence, and loss of livelihood. Russian citizens are also affected, particularly those who oppose the war and face government repression. Neighboring countries, including Poland, Moldova, and Baltic states, are struggling with an influx of refugees and rising security concerns. Globally, the war affects countries dependent on Ukrainian and Russian exports, and it has significantly disrupted global food markets, with the nation previously supplying 46% of sunflower oil exports, 9% of wheat exports, 17% of barley exports, and 12% of corn exports worldwide. This disruption has led to heightened food insecurity, particularly in countries heavily reliant on these exports. Additionally, nations involved in military alliances, such as NATO members, face increasing security risks and pressure to respond to the conflict.

Perspectives of Parties Involved

Ukraine

Ukraine seeks to reclaim its territories and secure long-term security guarantees. It depends on Western military and financial aid while calling for stricter sanctions against Russia. (Ukraine seeks military support to reclaim its territories and secure long-term security guarantees, relying on Western military and financial aid while advocating for stricter sanctions against Russia)

Russia

Russia claims its actions are necessary for national security and to protect Russian-speaking populations. It opposes NATO expansion and continues military operations despite global condemnation.

United States

The U.S. plays a central role in the Russia-Ukraine war by providing substantial military aid to Ukraine, including advanced weaponry and financial support, to help resist Russian aggression. It has also led international efforts to impose severe sanctions on Russia, aiming to cripple its economy and military capabilities. Additionally, the U.S. has been a key advocate for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity on the global stage, rallying NATO allies to support Ukraine's defense.

United Kingdom

The U.K. supports Ukraine through military assistance and diplomatic pressure on Russia. It actively pushes for Russia's economic and political isolation.

France

France supports Ukraine with significant aid and sanctions against Russia while emphasizing the importance of diplomatic solutions to end the conflict. As a leading European power, France plays a crucial role in peace efforts, mediating discussions within the EU and with Russia, while

balancing its stance to maintain pressure on Moscow for a resolution. France advocates for a negotiated peace, stressing the need for Ukraine's sovereignty to be respected while promoting dialogue to achieve long-term stability in the region.

Japan
Japan aligns with Western allies, imposing sanctions on Russia and providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine. It views the war as a challenge to international stability.

History of the Topic

The roots of the Russo-Ukrainian War date back to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, when Ukraine became an independent state. While Ukraine initially maintained strong ties with Russia, political and economic tensions grew over time. Ukraine sought closer integration with the West, while Russia viewed Ukraine as part of its sphere of influence. In 2013, Ukraine's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovych, abandoned an association agreement with the European Union, sparking mass protests known as the Euromaidan movement. These protests led to Yanukovych's removal in 2014, which Russia condemned as a Western-backed coup.

Following Yanukovych's ousting, Russia annexed Crimea in March 2014, claiming to protect Russian-speaking citizens. This move was widely condemned by the international community as a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. Around the same time, pro-Russian separatist movements emerged in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, leading to an armed conflict between Ukrainian forces and separatist groups backed by Russia. The conflict escalated into full-scale war, with major battles such as the Battle of Ilovaisk in 2014. Efforts to reach peace, including the Minsk Agreements in 2015, temporarily reduced hostilities but failed to bring a lasting resolution.

Over the years, the situation remained tense, with ongoing skirmishes in eastern Ukraine and increasing Western support for Ukraine's military. In 2021, Russia began a large-scale military buildup near Ukraine's borders, raising fears of an invasion. In February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion, marking the most significant escalation of the conflict. The invasion led to widespread destruction, civilian casualties, and millions of Ukrainians fleeing the country. Western nations responded with harsh economic sanctions on Russia and significant military aid to Ukraine.

Since the invasion, the war has shifted into a prolonged conflict, with Ukraine launching counter offensives and Russia reinforcing occupied territories. Ukraine's ability to resist, aided by Western weapons and intelligence, has reshaped global perceptions of the conflict. However, the war has devastated Ukraine's economy and infrastructure, while Russia

faces increasing international isolation. Diplomatic efforts for peace have largely stalled, with both sides maintaining firm positions.

The war has worsened over time, with no clear resolution in sight. While Ukraine has regained some lost territories, Russia continues to hold significant portions of the east and south. The conflict has reshaped global geopolitics, strengthening Western alliances while deepening Russia's ties with China and other non-Western nations. As fighting continues, the humanitarian and economic consequences of the war remain severe, affecting not just Ukraine and Russia, but the entire international community.

Potential Solutions for the Issue

Various attempts have been made to resolve the Russo-Ukrainian War through diplomacy, economic measures, and international pressure. The Minsk Agreements, signed in 2014 and 2015, were some of the earliest efforts to de-escalate the conflict in eastern Ukraine. These agreements, brokered by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), aimed to establish a ceasefire and grant autonomy to the separatist regions. However, both sides accused each other of violating the terms, and the agreements ultimately failed to bring lasting peace.

The United Nations (UN) has repeatedly condemned Russia's actions, with several resolutions demanding an end to hostilities and the withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine. In March 2022, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution with an overwhelming majority, calling on Russia to end its aggression. However, Russia, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has vetoed any binding resolutions against itself. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has also issued arrest warrants for Russian officials over alleged war crimes, but enforcement remains difficult.

Western countries and organizations like NATO, the European Union (EU), and the G7 have imposed severe sanctions on Russia, cutting it off from global financial systems and restricting key exports. These economic measures are intended to pressure Russia into negotiations, though their effectiveness remains debated. In contrast, countries like China, India, and Brazil have called for diplomatic talks but stopped short of condemning Russia or imposing sanctions. There have also been multiple mediation attempts, including discussions led by Turkey and Saudi Arabia, which have helped negotiate prisoner exchanges but failed to achieve a broader peace agreement.

Currently, potential solutions being debated include a negotiated settlement that would involve security guarantees for Ukraine and discussions on territorial disputes. Some countries advocate for a complete Russian withdrawal before negotiations, while others push for a ceasefire and diplomatic talks without preconditions. There is also debate

over Ukraine's potential NATO membership, with some arguing it would deter future aggression and others warning it could escalate tensions further. Despite these discussions, both Ukraine and Russia remain firm in their positions, making a peaceful resolution difficult to achieve in the near future.

Negotiations around a potential settlement in the Russia-Ukraine war remain complicated, with different nations advocating for varying approaches. Some call for Russia's full withdrawal from Ukrainian territory before any peace talks begin, believing it is essential for Ukraine's territorial integrity. Others, however, propose a ceasefire and diplomatic discussions without preconditions, seeing it as a way to halt the violence and pave the way for longer-term peace.

The debate over Ukraine's NATO membership continues to be a major point of contention, with proponents arguing that it could serve as a deterrent against future Russian aggression. Critics, however, warn that it could provoke further escalation, particularly from Russia, which views NATO expansion as a direct threat. As both sides maintain rigid positions, finding common ground for a peaceful resolution remains a significant challenge.

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