



# WrightMUN

## High School Model UN Conference Guide

April 15, 2023

Wright State University

White Hall

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### **Conference Timeline (BRIEF)**

8:00-9:00am	Arrival, Sign-In and Continental Breakfast
9:00am	Opening Ceremony (White Hall Gandhi Auditorium)
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Committee Session 1</b>
12:00-1:00	Lunch
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Committee Session 2</b>
4:00pm	Closing Ceremony (White Hall Gandhi Auditorium)

### **Conference Timeline (DETAILED)**

8:00-9:00am	Arrival, Sign-In and Continental Breakfast
9:00am	Opening Ceremony (White Hall Gandhi Auditorium)
	*Drs. Shannon and Anderson Welcome and Announcements
	*President Edwards remarks
	*SecGen and Deputy SecGen overview of conference
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Committee Session 1</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GA in White Hall Rm 101 (Gandhi Auditorium)</li><li>• SC in White Hall Rm 120 (McGee Auditorium)</li></ul>
12:00-1:00	Lunch
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Committee Session 2</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GA in White Hall Rm 101 (Gandhi Auditorium)</li><li>• SC in White Hall Rm 120 (McGee Auditorium)</li></ul>
4:00pm	Closing Ceremony (Gandhi Auditorium)

## Conference Staff and Roles

### Staff

Secretary General **Angie Loyd**

Deputy Secretary General **Crystal Burns**

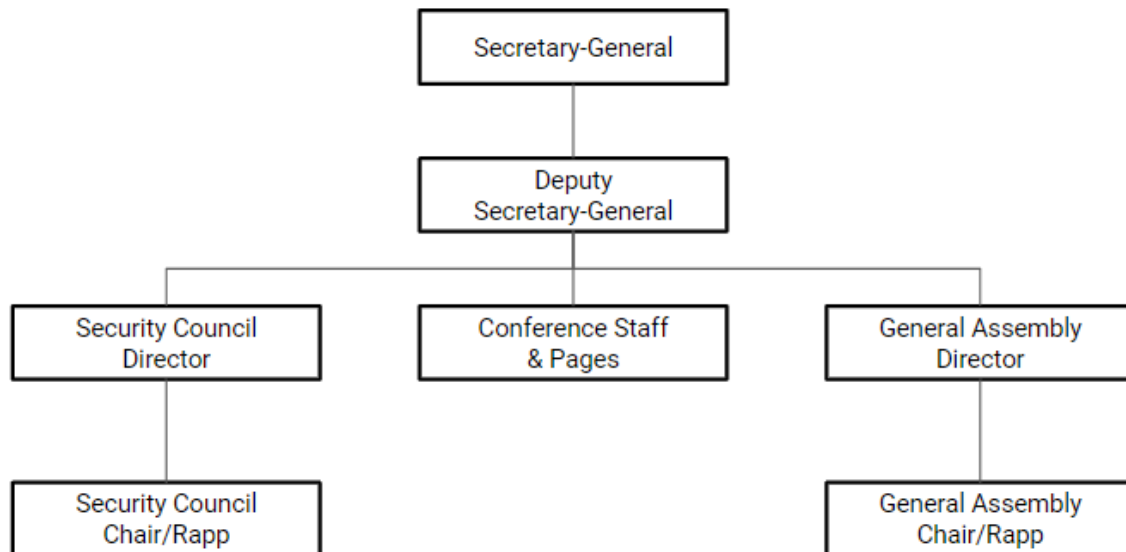
General Assembly Director **Chase Harness**

Chair **Miranda Stidham**

Security Council Director **Rama Shtaieh**

Chair **Lilith Holloway**

Faculty Advisers **Liam Anderson and Vaughn Shannon**



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*Secretary-General* (SG): Head of the conference staff and assists the Faculty Advisors in conference preparation. The SG is available to all students, staff, and faculty advisors for any questions or concerns.

*Deputy Secretary-General* (DSG): Assists the SG in all conference matters.

Committees are composed of a Director and Chair collectively known as the Dais.

*Dais*: Table at the front of the conference room where the Director, Chair, and Rapp are located.

*Director:* Staff member that is responsible for the committee. The Director decided the committee topics and wrote the associated Background Guide.

*Chair:* Staff member in charge of leading the committee in formal session in accordance with rules of procedure.

*Rapporteur (Rapp):* Staff member that supports procedural matters by taking roll call, watching over speaker's time, maintaining the speakers' list, etc. Should there be no dedicated Rapp, then these responsibilities would fall to the Chair.

## How Committee Works



Committee flows between formal and informal sessions. During formal session, decorum must be maintained as a sign of respect for fellow delegates and staff. It is important to note that in order to be recognized in formal session delegates must raise their placard.

The following activities occurring during formal session:

- Rules and procedures are enforced by the Dais
- Decorum must be maintained
- Professional conduct is always required
- Speakers' list is managed
- Policy speeches are conducted
- Delegates may not work on working papers during formal session
- Delegates may pass notes as a form to communicate with other delegates;

While in a formal session, delegates are not allowed to speak; however, they are allowed to pass notes. Notes are subject to inspection by the Dais at any time and all notes passed must be committee relevant and appropriate. Informal session is when the committee has suspended formal session for a granted period of time voted on by the committee.

Informal session is for the creation of working papers and negotiating between delegates. Delegates will negotiate policy and collaborate to generate working papers that outline the solutions to the topic before the committee. Once accepted by the Dais, a working paper becomes a Draft Resolution. During voting session, Draft Resolutions are voted on. If the Draft Resolution obtains the required votes then it becomes a Resolution. Only the SC has the ability to create legally binding resolutions.

## Conference Rules and Procedures

Rules and Procedures are critical to maintain order and the flow of the committee. Delegates are to raise their placard to be recognized by the chair to make a motion, to vote, or during roll call. Understanding rules and procedure is critical for delegates. Please refer to the following for a list of motions that can be made in committee with an explanation as to the purpose and associated voting. For your convenience, a short form summary sheet of motions is included.

### Rules of Procedure (Long Form)

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Debate</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Point of Order*	Correct an error in procedure	None	None	Refers to specific rule
Appeal of the Chair*	Challenge an initial decision of the Chair on a Point of Order	None	Majority	Question the Chair's ruling on a Point of Order
Suspension of the Meeting	Recess meeting for a defined period	None	Majority	Used to go into informal session or break for a given amount of time
Adjournment of the Meeting	End Meeting	None	Majority	Used only on final day; End committee for the year
Adjournment of Debate	End debate without substantive vote	2 in Favor 2 Against	Majority	Ends debate on the topic; Requires a recorded vote
Closure of Debate	Vote on all Draft Resolutions; Moves committee immediately into voting procedure	2 Against	2/3 Majority	Ends all discussion on current topic

Division of the Proposal (Used in voting only)*	Consider clause(s) separately from rest of draft resolution to create an annex  Part I: Procedural vote on if this motion should be considered.  Part II: Substantive vote to accept or reject separate clauses	2 in Favor  2 Against	Majority	Voted on in order of the most to least disruptive change to the document  If passes: Annex passes  If fails: Clause(s) discarded and no longer part of any draft resolution
Request Recorded Vote (Used in Voting only)*	Document the votes of committee members; The default is to adopt by consensus	None	None	Granted upon request without deliberation, electronic voting replaces Roll Call votes; other motions may still be considered
Reconsideration	Reopen debate on an issue (Motion must be made by Member who voted in favor of Adjournment of Debate)	2 Against	2/3 Majority	Reopen debate on a topic that was previously ended by Adjournment of Debate
Set the Speaker's Time	Set or change the time allotted to each speaker	2 in Favor  2 Against	Majority	Prior approval from Dais required or may be ruled out of order; never permitted during the first committee session

Close the Speakers List	No additional speakers may be added to the list	None	Majority	No additional speakers may be added to the list and once it is exhausted, committee will go into voting procedure
Reopen the Speakers List	Open a closed list	None	Majority	Reopens the speakers list allowing more speakers to be added
Adoption of the Agenda	Approval of agenda order	None	Majority	Sets the order in which topics will be discussed



**Rules of Procedure (Short Form)**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Debate</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Point of Order*	None	None
Appeal of the Chair*	None	Majority
Suspension of the Meeting	None	Majority
Adjournment of the Meeting	None	Majority
Adjournment of Debate	2 in Favor, 2 Against	Majority
Closure of Debate	2 Against	2/3 Majority
Division of the Proposal (Used in voting only)*	2 in Favor, 2 Against	Majority
Request Recorded Vote (Used in Voting only)*	None	None
Reconsideration	2 Against	2/3 Majority
Set the Speaker's Time	2 in Favor, 2 Against	Majority
Close the Speakers List	None	Majority
Reopen the Speakers List	None	Majority
Adoption of the Agenda	None	Majority

## **General Assembly Background Guide**

Staff:

Director	Chase Harness
Chair	Miranda Stidham

### **Topic: Human Rights and Climate Change**

#### **Message from the Director of the General Assembly Third Committee**

Delegates,

Welcome to the WrightMUN! My name is Chase Harness and I am the Director of United Nations General Assembly Third Committee (GA3).

GA3, also known as the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), is one of the six primary organs of the United Nations (UN), responsible for addressing matters related to social, humanitarian affairs, and human rights.<sup>1</sup> Delegates will represent one of the 193 Member States part of the assembly. Each Member State has one vote that requires either simple majority or two-thirds majority support.<sup>2</sup> The committee seeks to achieve its goals through the adoption of resolutions following a series of committee and caucusing sessions.<sup>3</sup>

This background guide is intended to offer delegates a starting point for research on Human Rights and Climate Change; however, it is not intended to limit research to the content provided within it. Delegates are advised to ensure they can address all of the questions posed by the Director at the end of this topic.

Please remember, this is a learning conference and all delegates are encouraged to please participate! That means raising your placard, making policy speeches, and creating working papers. Should you have any questions, please approach the Dais and we would be happy to assist.

Sincerely,

Chase Harness

Director, General Assembly Third Committee

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>

## Topic: Human Rights and Climate Change

### *Introduction*

Building upon the work on the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals acknowledge the relationship between climate change and human rights. The UN defines climate change as, “long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in the solar cycle”.<sup>3</sup> This relationship between climate change and human rights is complicated. Humans are both impacted negatively by climate change and also contribute by burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas. The continued rising global temperatures, CO2 emissions, and large-scale disasters increase levels of risk of human rights abuses, impacting livelihoods, displacement of persons, and threatening the lives of persons.<sup>4</sup>

### *Background*

In 1972, at the UN Conference in Stockholm, Member States acknowledged that environmental issues must be addressed for the well-being of all people.<sup>5</sup> This sentiment commitment is outlined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976). Even with these commitments, it is not enough. Since the 1980s, each decade’s temperature has increased, affecting the water supply and increasing sea levels.<sup>6</sup>

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Human Rights Council (HRC) acknowledge the relationship between climate change and human rights and advocate for a rights-based approach to direct climate change policies.<sup>7</sup> The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change decision 1/CP.16 (2010) referenced HRC resolution 10/4, recognizes the the effects of climate change on human rights and encourages states to uphold human rights in their climate initiatives.<sup>8</sup> HRC Resolution 10/4, notes the climate change related impacts harming human rights such as the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to adequate housing, the right to self-determination, the right to access safe drinking water and sanitation, and that persons may not be deprived of such rights.<sup>9</sup>

As part of the rights-based approach, it does negate the role that humans also hold in contributing to climate change. Humans contribute through the manner in which power sources

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/COP21.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/stockholm1972>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/causes-effects-climate-change>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change/integrating-human-rights-unfccc>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change/integrating-human-rights-unfccc>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change/integrating-human-rights-unfccc>

are generated (e.g. burning fossil fuels), manufacturing goods, manner in which food is produced, fossil fuel-based transportation, and deforestation.<sup>10</sup>

Climate change has a severe impact on the water supply available, making it a scarcer commodity. Resulting in agricultural impacts such as crop failures and dwelling ecosystems and the loss of species on both land and sea. Areas already vulnerable to water scarcity are even more heavily impacted.<sup>11</sup> In addition to water being a scarce commodity, the increase in extreme weather has contributed to the rise in global hunger and poor nutrition. Food sources are destroyed or become less productive and viable as a result of the environmental conditions.

The impacts of climate change are party to no treaties or international conventions and respect territorial boundaries. The need for the international community to act is dire as it is estimated that drought will displace more than 700 million people in the next 7 years according to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Existing Frameworks and Initiatives***

The Paris Agreement (2015) is a foundational legally binding treaty on climate change. The Paris Agreement is a multilateral Agreement legally binding Member States to combat climate change and its associated effects.<sup>13</sup> This Agreement was adopted by 196 States at the UN Climate Change Conference in December 2015 and almost a year later entered into force.<sup>14</sup> The Paris Agreement focuses on the mitigation of climate change damage, climate-oriented monetary aid, and harm avoidance through the reduction of greenhouse gasses.<sup>15</sup> The goal of the agreement is focused on keeping the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.<sup>16</sup>

In order to achieve this, the agreement utilizes economic and social strategies. States party to the agreement are to implement strategies to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. Each State party to the agreement is required to create strategies to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts, these strategies are nationally determined contributions (NDCs). NDCs are to be updated every five years and assessed at that mark.<sup>17</sup> The Paris Agreement also provides a framework for technical, financial, and capacity building for States in need of assistance.<sup>18</sup>

The 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development is also a foundational framework for a response to climate change. Adopted in 2015 by all UN Member States, it builds upon the Millennium Development Goals by creating 17 Sustainment Development Goals (SDGs), calling for action

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/causes-effects-climate-change>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/causes-effects-climate-change>

<sup>12</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13>

<sup>13</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

<sup>14</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

<sup>15</sup> [https://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol](https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol)

<sup>16</sup> <https://unfccc.int/most-requested/key-aspects-of-the-paris-agreement>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/all-about-ndcs>

<sup>18</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

from developed and developing states. The SDGs are interconnected and have overlap between the goals; however, dedicated to the impact of climate change and human rights are Goals 7 and 13.

Goal 7, Affordable and Clean Energy. Goal 7 ensures access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Though progress has been made to provide electricity, in 2020, less than 70% of the world's population had access to clean cooking fuels and technologies.<sup>19</sup> Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) it outlined the right to food as a human right, and committed to it in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1996). This is one example of how climate change and human rights are interconnected. Furthermore, access to energy is critical for the development of a variety of sectors such as agriculture, business, communications, education, healthcare and transportation, all impacting the economic and social development of a person's life.<sup>20</sup> It is also important to note the disparity between developed and developing nations, as well as areas impacted by conflict.

Goal 13, Climate Action, focuses on combating climate change and its impacts. The world is experiencing an increase in heatwaves, droughts, and floods caused by climate change.<sup>21</sup> Unfortunately, even with the commitments made by States to reduce CO2 emissions in 2020, energy-related CO2 emissions rose as COVID-related restrictions were removed.<sup>22</sup> It is estimated that by 2023, 700 million people are at risk of being displaced by drought and ecosystems will suffer from the rising temperatures.<sup>23</sup> The lack of adequate shelter leaves populations vulnerable and increases the chance of fighting over resources. The need to act and act fast has been recognized. At the 2019 Climate Action Summit, the UN established multiple international programs, Cool Coalition, the Energy Efficiency Alliance, the Getting to Zero Coalition, Business Ambition for 1.5°C, the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, to halt rising temperatures and reduce carbon emissions. Programs and partnerships akin to these continue to prove as effective mechanisms for combating climate change.<sup>24</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Climate change cannot be combated nor mitigated by a single Member State as the consequences are transnational. Member States are faced with challenges that are interconnected. Environmental sustainability is linked with economic capability, disaster risk reduction, and air quality, which are all core elements of human rights.<sup>25</sup> The international

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<sup>19</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainable>

<sup>21</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13>

<sup>22</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/2019-climate-action-summit>

<sup>25</sup> <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/unga-third-committee-highlights-impacts-of-climate-change-on-social-development/>

community must collaborate together for a cohesive response as the impact of climate change threatens access to clean water, food, shelter, and other human rights.<sup>26</sup>

### ***Questions to Consider***

Below are suggestions for research and cooperation in committee. Consider what effective action GA3 can accomplish to protect human rights while developing effective sustainable energy solutions.

1. What climate change issues most considerably impact your Member State and/or its geographical region?
2. What initiatives does your Member State have to combat climate change and contribute to SDG 13?
3. What are the social, cultural, and humanitarian impacts climate change has on your Member State and the international community?
4. What sources and actions for sustainable energy development does your Member State utilize, and what does your Member State consider to be the most effective means of achieving SDG 7?

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<sup>26</sup><https://wedocs.unep.org>

## **Security Council Background Guide**

Staff:

Director	Rama Shtaieh
Chair	Lilith Holloway

**Topic: Crisis in Ukraine**

### **Message from the Director of the Security Council**

Delegates,

Welcome to the WrightMUN! My name is Rama Shtaieh and I look forward to seeing the work you all will put forth as a part of the Security Council (SC). The SC is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. Each delegate will represent the 15 Member States that make up the SC and each hold one vote. Five of those Member States (the Permanent Five or P5)-- the US, UK, France, Russia and China – have the additional benefit of the veto: a single negative vote on a draft resolution ensures the defeat of its passage.

Under the Charter of the United Nations (UN), all Member States are obligated to comply with the Council's decisions. The Council will call on the parties involved to settle the existence of a threat to international stability through peaceful means and recommend methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. This may be achieved through the imposition of sanctions or even authorizing the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

This background guide is intended to offer delegates a starting point for research on the Russia-Ukraine Crisis, but not to limit research to the content provided within it. The background guide will offer the necessary information to begin delving deeper into the committee topic and provide delegates with the necessary tools to cooperate with the committee.

Remember to have fun and that the staff are here to support you and to provide you with guidance. Therefore, I invite you to take advantage of us in terms of asking for help and to make the most of your time serving among the rest of your fellow delegates.

Sincerely,

Rama Shtaieh

Director, Security Council

## Topic: The Crisis in Ukraine

### ***Introduction***

By the Spring of 2023, the world had already experienced over a year of war dating to Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. In the ensuing 14-plus months, the world has witnessed and wrestled with various security, economic, and humanitarian concerns. From refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), alleged war crimes, and the economic disruption of grain exports and energy sanctions, to the continued violence and chances for wider and escalating war, the crisis in Ukraine represents the kind of "threat to international peace and security" on which the UN was founded in 1945. The Security Council was specifically designated to identify and respond to such threats. While one may expect Russia's veto to paralyze effective cooperation and problem solving in the Security Council, there are possible areas for negotiation and diplomacy that will test the skills and will of the participating members.

### ***Background***

The status of Ukraine as an independent country has been fraught since the breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR, or Soviet Union) at the end of 1991. The 15 successor states to the USSR, including Russia and Ukraine, underwent diplomatic negotiations about the future of the countries. Most, including Ukraine, joined a loose confederation called the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), maintaining economic ties to Russia while becoming politically independent sovereign states in the United Nations. Some joined a Collective Security Treaty Organization with Russia, and Belarus went so far as to join Russia in a "Union State."

Ukraine's relations with Russia ebbed and flowed based on which leader has been in power, but from the start Ukraine's intent was an independent statehood. This position became increasingly supported by Western powers, who worked with Russia and Ukraine to ensure smooth political and security transitions. The *Lisbon Protocol* (1992) reflected a process by which Ukraine renounced its possession of Soviet-era nuclear weapons, while the subsequent *Budapest Memorandum* (1994) between Russia, US, and UK reaffirmed "their commitment... to respect the Independence and Sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine" as well as to "seek immediate UNSC action to provide assistance to Ukraine ...if Ukraine should become a victim of an act of aggression or an object of a threat of aggression in which nuclear weapons are used." Both Russia and Ukraine were invited into NATO's Partnership for Peace program, with Russia ascending to membership in a new NATO-Russia Council while Ukraine at various times signaled interest in NATO membership through "Action Plans for Accession."

Russia's 2007 public opposition to NATO expansion to Ukraine and (former Soviet state of) Georgia, led to tensions with the US who had kept the door open for both countries to potentially become future members. Russian intervention in Georgia in 2008 included support for and defense of separatist states of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which remain unrecognized by the international community. The US provided military support for the Georgian government in that crisis.



In 2013-2014, pro-Russian Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich faced mass protests over the so-called “Dictator Laws” and his reversal of plans to join an “EU Association Agreement.” French, German and Polish diplomats negotiated a February 2014 deal for Ukraine to rescind the “Dictator Laws,” form a unity government, and call for early elections, but continued protests led Yanukovich to flee the capitol. The so-called “Maidan Revolution” replaced the President with an interim and new elections, which Russia considered a Western inspired coup.

In response, Russia militarily intervened into Ukraine in 2014 with “peacekeepers” approved to stay in Ukraine until “normalization of the socio-political situation.” In March 2014 Russia seized the Ukrainian territory of Crimea after a quick Russia-orchestrated referendum claimed that Crimean citizens wished to join Russia. That same year, rebellions in Ukrainian republics of Donetsk and Luhansk began in the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine, with evidence of Russian support to the rebellion.

Out of the war of 2014-2015 came negotiations leading to the Minsk I and Minsk II agreements negotiated by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and signed by Russia, Ukraine and representatives of the Luhansk and Donetsk separatists. The UN Security Council endorsed these peace proposals in S/Res/2202 (2015).<sup>27</sup> Both involved ceasefires and calls for the withdrawal of “foreign militias” and the “disarmament of illegal groups”, while advocating both the restoration of Ukrainian sovereignty as well as “decentralization” for the breakaway regions. From 2015-2022, the Russia-Ukraine crisis remained a “Frozen conflict” of low-grade skirmishes and warfare, while the Minsk calls for “regular meetings to fulfill the agreements” continued without success. In 2018 Ukraine formally withdrew from the CIS, and under new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and US President Biden, talks of NATO membership resurfaced.

Russian troop movements and repositioning around Ukraine began in late 2021 into January 2022, and on February 22 Russia recognized the independence of the Republics of Luhansk and Donetsk. On February 24, Russia commenced what it called a “special military operation” into Ukraine. Over one year later, the war persists and numerous security, economic and humanitarian issues have arisen, in addition to the overarching question of a negotiated peace, as demonstrated by the Security Council’s February 17, 2023 meeting calling for “an implementable peace.”<sup>28</sup>

### ***Existing frameworks***

In response to the military offensive launched in Ukraine by Russia February 23-24, the United Nations (UN) acknowledged the attack as a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and to go against Article 2(4) of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1948).<sup>29</sup> With the Security Council facing a Russian veto, the General Assembly took up the issue and the vote in

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<sup>27</sup>[https://press.un.org/en/2015/sc11785.doc.htm?\\_gl=1\\*fkcldc\\*\\_ga\\*MTc5MzE5NzcxNy4xNjc1OTU5OTkw\\*\\_ga\\_TK9BQL5X7Z\\*MTY3Njg0NDIzMy41LjEuMTY3Njg0NDc0My4wLjAuMA..](https://press.un.org/en/2015/sc11785.doc.htm?_gl=1*fkcldc*_ga*MTc5MzE5NzcxNy4xNjc1OTU5OTkw*_ga_TK9BQL5X7Z*MTY3Njg0NDIzMy41LjEuMTY3Njg0NDc0My4wLjAuMA..)

<sup>28</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/02/1133647>

<sup>29</sup> <https://unric.org/en/the-un-and-the-war-in-ukraine-key-information/>

favor of condemning Russia in General Assembly resolution ES-11/1. The action of the General Assembly originally arose when the Security Council was hampered in crisis by the veto through the Uniting for Peace mandate established in the 1950s, and this process has been reaffirmed in *Resolution 377A(V)* for handling the emergency created by the crisis in Ukraine.

In addition to the legality of the war, issues have arisen concerning the annexation of territory, the human rights and charges of war crimes, the security of nuclear facilities, and the matter of economic effects of the war on grain and energy exports. Following the passage of A/Res/ES-11/1, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR) adopted a resolution on March 4 calling for the “swift and verifiable” withdrawal of Russian troops and Russian-backed armed groups from Ukrainian territory.<sup>30</sup> The UNHCR established an Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine. This Commission of Inquiry was mandated to build upon the work of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) and in close coordination with the HRMMU and the Office of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights.<sup>31</sup> The HRMMU, deployed in March 2014, monitors and publicly reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine with the aim of strengthening human rights protection, fostering access to justice, and ensuring that perpetrators of human rights violations are held to account. Through their work, the HRMMU has been able to provide training to more than 1,000 state officials throughout the country and aided over 800 individuals affected by grave conflict-related human rights violations to receive legal assistance.<sup>32</sup> In addition to these efforts, multiple other UN bodies have come together to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict and increased efforts to curb the violence within Ukraine. The UN, along with other humanitarian NGOs and regional IOs, have launched coordinated emergency appeals totaling nearly \$1.7 billion to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to people in Ukraine, and facing a worsening crisis, increased the emergency appeal to \$2.24 billion.<sup>33</sup>

Russia’s conduct in the war has come under scrutiny, with the International Criminal Court opening an investigation on allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity.<sup>34</sup> At the February 2023 Munich Security Conference, US Vice President Kamala Harris accused Russia of committing crimes against humanity, citing several incidents as evidence of a systematic pattern against civilians.<sup>35</sup>

Russia’s annexation of Ukrainian territory, begun with Crimea in 2014, included claims on the provinces of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in September 2022. After the veto of

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<sup>30</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113292>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/iic/hr-ukraine/index>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/ukraine/our-presence#:~:text=The%20UN%20Human%20Rights%20Monitoring,occupied%20by%20the%20Russian%20Federation.>

<sup>33</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1116882>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.iiss.org/publications/strategic-comments/2022/the-international-criminal-courts-investigation-in-ukraine>

<sup>35</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/us-russia-ukraine-crimes-against-humanity-harris-cee87f06cbf3fcdf37e0bb398360c8ee>

a Security Council draft resolution condemning and nullifying these annexation claims, the General Assembly adopted the equivalent in General Assembly res. ES-11/4.

Nuclear plant security is another issue of concern for the international community and Security Council. UN brokered agreements brought IAEA inspections to Chernobyl in June 2022, and similar inspections were agreed for Zaporizhzhia in September 2022.

The war in Ukraine has affected the world through disrupted energy and grain markets. UN mediated cooperation in July 2022 yielded the *Black Sea Grain Initiative*, creating a humanitarian corridor for exports to world markets. A Joint Coordination Centre was created to monitor the implementation and to respond to matters arising from the initiative, as were two Task Forces to monitor Ukrainian and Russian exports respectively.<sup>36</sup> The renewal of these programs may be considered in the Security Council.

### **Conclusion**

With the situation in Ukraine becoming increasingly desperate and the crimes against humanity going largely unchecked, it is the responsibility of the SC to ensure that proper measures are taken in order to provide Ukraine and its citizens with the humanitarian assistance they need. In order to guarantee the sovereignty of Ukraine and that the parties involved are held accountable, cooperation between Member States is imperative.

### **Questions to consider**

Below are suggestions for research and cooperation in committee. Consider what effective action the Security Council can accomplish given Russia's veto and role in the war. Are there areas of cooperation and compromise?

1. How can the conflict be resolved? What can be done to prevent future threats to territorial integrity in this conflict and the surrounding Member States while promoting an accord between them? Should arms embargoes and sanctions be considered, and in what conditions? Can reparations or compensation be made to Ukraine and its annexed regions as part of a viable solution?
2. How can the Security Council address the needs of refugees and IDPs within the conflict zone?
3. How can the nuclear safety of power plants in the conflict zone be managed?
4. What, if any, war crimes or crimes against humanity, are found to be taken place by combatant parties, and what can be done to address them?
5. What threats to international peace and security surround the shipping and exports out of the Black Sea to world markets?

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<sup>36</sup>[https://www.un.org/en/black-sea-grain-initiative?gclid=Cj0KCQiArsefBhCbARIsAP98hXR88z7C6qL8hf\\_cKH3FwiLOdBYviPtUueF9d5w0Igm\\_2nf4a8rEtAYaAtDeALw\\_wcB](https://www.un.org/en/black-sea-grain-initiative?gclid=Cj0KCQiArsefBhCbARIsAP98hXR88z7C6qL8hf_cKH3FwiLOdBYviPtUueF9d5w0Igm_2nf4a8rEtAYaAtDeALw_wcB)