North Atlantic Council

Measures to Assist Ukraine in its Defence Against the Invasion of its Sovereign Territory by the Russian Federation

Research Report

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Forum: *North Atlantic Council*

Issue: *Measures to Assist Ukraine in its Defence Against the Invasion of its Sovereign Territory by the Russian Federation*

Position: *Head Chair*

Introduction

In February 2022, after tensions had been mounting for nearly a decade, Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine's sovereign territory that has been going on for nearly seven months. The war has amounted to Russian control of some parts of Eastern Ukraine and much of Russia's actions are violations of international law. Russia has also allegedly committed several war crimes, though they have not been tried for these crimes.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, although not directly having intervened, has had almost all of its members place financial sanctions on the Russian Federation as a response to the war. NATO members have funded the Ukrainian military and provided them with weapons, doing their best to avoid direct conflict while still supporting Ukraine.

Definition of Key Terms

Annexation:
The act of incorporating a country or territory into a state

No-Fly Zone:
An area above a country that aircraft are prohibited from entering without risking a military response

Sanction:
An action taken by a state in an attempt to force another state to obey international laws through disruptions to trade

General Overview

The war in Ukraine

Tensions have always been high between Russia and the former Soviet state Ukraine ever since the breakup of the Soviet Union. With Ukraine cycling between pro-Russian and pro-Western presidents, its relations with NATO and Russia have fluctuated. This took a major turn in 2014 when Russia illegally annexed the Crimean Peninsula, a region in Ukraine located on its southeastern side next to the Black Sea. What followed was violent armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine and independence referendums in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. The conflict turned into a stalemate that ended with France and Germany brokering the Minsk Accords between Russia and Ukraine in 2015. April 2016 saw NATO deploying battle troops throughout Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. These troops were placed to deter Russian

aggression in the Baltics.
In late 2021, United States (US) intelligence observed that Russia was preparing for a large-scale invasion of Ukraine which culminated in what Russia called a "special military operation" in February 2022. This operation was an invasion of Ukraine's sovereign territory by the Russian Federation.

NATO involvement and sanctions

NATO has minimised its involvement in this conflict as much as it can while still putting pressure on Russia. The goal of NATO's actions are to avoid escalation of tensions, particularly so that war does not break out between NATO and Russia. The extent of NATO's involvement in this war until now has been sanctions on Russia and financial, humanitarian, and military support to Ukraine. In this case military support has only entailed donations of military equipment from NATO member states to Ukraine.
The majority of NATO countries along with many other western powers and the European Union have not only condemned Russia's military actions in Ukraine but have sanctioned Russia for their actions. Such sanctions have been placed that are designed to attack Russia's operating budget so that the long term prospects of war become financially unsustainable for Russia. Considering that the EU has all but six of its members in NATO, it is also important to note that the EU has sanctioned Russia in six rounds, with each round a devastating blow to Russia's economy.
No NATO countries have directly defended Ukraines land territory or airspace. Despite calls for a No-Fly Zone at times during the invasion, NATO members refrained from implementing this as it would be a direct attack from a NATO member on Russian aircraft.

Major Parties Involved

Russian Federation
Russia has been intervening in Ukraine since the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014. It is the perpetrator of the ongoing war and has faced numerous sanctions as a result of its actions which have crippled the country's economy.

Ukraine
Ukraine has been on the receiving end of this devastating war, attempting to defend itself from the crusade of attacks from the Russian Federation. It is one of the largest wheat exporters in the world and has managed to prevent Russia from overtaking much of the country thanks to support from NATO and other countries as well as its skilled use of communications and military strategies.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)
NATO has not directly intervened in this war, in order to prevent a large-scale war that could be more devastating than WWII. Its members have continuously sanctioned Russia for its actions and have provided weapons and aid to Ukraine as well as accepting countless refugees into their countries.

European Union (EU)
The European Union has sanctioned Russia in six different rounds, contributing greatly to the poor state of Russia's economy. As the EU is heavily reliant on Russian oil or gas the sanctions hurt gas and energy costs in Europe.

Timeline of Events

1991	Ukraine declares independence from the Soviet Union
2005	Viktor Yushchenko takes office, leading Ukraine towards NATO and the EU
2008	NATO states its intentions of accepting Ukraine into the alliance eventually
2013	Pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovich takes office as President and suspends trade and talks with the EU in an attempt to bolster ties with Moscow
February 2014	Moscow annexes the Crimean Peninsula after the Ukrainian parliament votes to remove Yanukovich
2017	The EU and Ukraine form an association agreement that allows free trade between the two to occur as well as allowing Ukranians to enter the EU without obtaining a visa
January 2021	Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy appeals that Ukraine join NATO to US President Joseph Biden
24 January 2022	NATO's troops are given a *standby* order, reinforcing its eastern borders with more ships and fighter jets
24 February 2022	Russia begins its invasion in Ukraine The US sanctions four Russian banks and bans exports of some US technologies in sectors such as defence and aviation
27 February 2022	The EU bans Russian aircraft from entering its airspace, bans some Russian banks from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial

	Telecommunications (SWIFT), among other sanctions introduced on this day
2 March 2022	Over 1 million Ukrainian refugees have now fled the country
8 March 2022	The US Congress approves $13.8 billion in aid for Ukrainian refugees and the Ukrainian military
25 March 2022	Russia refocuses on its control over Luhansk and Donetsk, two eastern regions in Ukraine
4 April 2022	Calls for Putin to be tried for war crimes are echoed by US President Joseph Biden
5 April 2022	More than 7.1 million Ukrainians have fled the country
8 April 2022	The EU places its fifth round of sanctions on Russia since the invasion, banning imports of Russian coal (costing Russia nearly 8 billion Euros annually) among other import bans
4 May 2022	The EU places its sixth round of sanctions on Russia that completely bans imports of Russian oil by the end of 2022
12 May 2022	Finland announces its intentions to join NATO
15 May 2022	Sweden, a historically neutral country, announces its intentions to join NATO
19 May 2022	The US Congress announces a new $40 billion aid package, half of which for the Ukrainian military
6 June 2022	The UK announces plans to send multiple state of the art rocket systems to Ukraine
24 June 2022	The EU accepts Ukraine and Moldova as official EU candidate countries

27 June 2022	NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg announces that the organisation has increased its Readiness Force (NRF) from 40,000 to 300,000
	Russia defaults on its debt
29 June 2022	NATO formally invites Sweden and Finland to join the organisation
4 July 2022	The International Conference on the Restoration of Ukraine is held in Switzerland
22 July 2022	The UN brokers an agreement between Russia and Ukraine, allowing Ukraine to export its grain through the black sea, both countries sign the agreement
20 August 2022	The daughter of Russian nationalist Alexander Dugin is killed in what could have been an assassination attempt on her father

Possible Solutions

Delegates should consider further aid to Ukraine in the form of financial, humanitarian, and military aid as NATO countries have been providing since the beginning of the war. Supporting Ukrainian families that have fled or stayed in Ukraine is essential to upholding NATO's values. In regards to financial and military aid, delegates can either directly fund Ukraine's government and allow it to choose what it does with the money, or support its military through donations of weapons (see Appendix I for an example of a NATO member donating weapons to Ukraine). Remember that it is **not** in order to specify monetary values when writing your resolutions.

Another possible solution is to continue strengthening the sanctions on Russia to almost entirely cut off the country's economy from the rest of the world so that the funding for Russia's military eventually dries up, making a war impossible for Russia to continue. Despite Russia's cruel course of action in this war, it is important to keep in mind that the Russian people are not responsible for this war, the Russian government is. This means that delegates need to consider the cost of sanctions on the 144 million Russians that have no influence over the war. The sanctions placed as of writing this report have crippled the Russian economy which has destroyed the lives of millions of innocent Russians.

Appendices

I. *UK Announcement of gifting multiple launch rocket systems to Ukraine*
   A. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-gift-multiple-launch-rocket-systems-to-ukraine

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