July 2025
President of the NAC
Leiden Model United Nations 2025

Situation of Ukraine

North Atlantic Council (NAC)

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Introduction

In 2014, the people of Russia launched an attack against Ukraine by invading Crimea and the world community has responded to this aggression with a stern denouncement against this act of violence (Sasse, 2022). Early 2022, the situation escalated to all out war. In 2025, half of the Ukrainian territory was conquered by Russia and the war continues.

The effects have been severe with the displacement of millions of people, destruction of infrastructure and interference with food and energy supply of the world (World Bank, 2023). The war has also exercised the power of the global coalitions and international law has been hit. It is difficult and needs an immediate international reaction and cooperation.

The research report will help the delegates to have a feeling of the background and the sensitive nature of the issue. It will put them in line to continue the productive debate and devise realistic solutions towards the impending conference.

Definition of key terms

Annexation

When one nation forcefully takes control over the rights, titles and/or land of another nation.

Sovereignty

A country's right to govern itself without the influence of other foreign nations or parties.

Hybrid warfare

A strategy in warfare contains elements from conventional warfare with irregular tactics, and cyber operations. This tactic is very unpredictable yet is still coordinated and modern.

POWs

POW stands for prisoner of war. This means people who were caught because of a conflict such as but not limited to soldiers, guerilla members, civilians who openly take part in the conflict.

Sanctions

Sanctions are economic or political penalties/punishments placed on a country by a nation who opposes their actions

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

A military alliance consisting of the United States of America and the majority of European nations. Ukraine wanted to join NATO which Russia heavily opposes.

General Overview

The Ukrainian situation is a geopolitical crisis, which has already exceeded the border of 10 years. It gives attention to historical, political, ethnical and economic perceptions of being a part of the regional and global parties. The consequences have been disastrous with a loss of around 1000 civilian lives, displacement of more than 14 million people and a humanitarian crisis emerging (UNHCR, 2025).

The major reason behind all this conflict is that Ukraine is gradually moving towards the west. Since the nation gained independence with the USSR in 1991, Ukraine has been struggling to balance its relationship with Russia and the western world. This dilemma received much attention in the world due to the Euromaidan protests of 2013 and 2014 which happened after the Ukrainian government declined a deal with the EU in favor of relations with Russia. The protests led to the overthrow of the president Viktor Yanukovych and scared Russia because they feared losing their power in Ukraine (Sasse, 2022).

This prompted Russia to capture and annex Crimea in March 2014. This was largely criticized as a contravention of the international law. Russia also claimed the annexation as a contentious referendum conducted in the military occupation state. Subsequently, pro-Russian separatists in the eastern states of Donetsk and Luhansk announced their independence with Russian support both financially and militarily, and thus the armed conflict, in which we still find ourselves, was launched (BBC News, 2022).

The situation became very tense in February 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine in full scale. This was reported to be a special military action that was aimed at safeguarding the Russian speaking people and to prevent the expansion of NATO. The invasion was considered by the international community as an act of invading the sovereignty and self-government of Ukraine.

The humanitarian cost has been awful. The UN stated that over 9000 civilians were killed and over 14 million people displaced (UNHCR, 2025). Such cities as Mariupol and Bakhmut have been severely hit, and such essential infrastructures as hospitals, schools, and water facilities have been destroyed and targeted.

The war has also destabilized the world's food and energy prices. Ukraine is called the breadbasket of Europe, because it is one of the major exporters of wheat, barley and sunflower oil in the world. Disrupted supply has caused food insecurity in such areas as Africa and the Middle East, where a large number of countries rely on Ukrainian agricultural exports (World Bank, 2023). In the meantime, the sanctions imposed on Russia have led to global inflation and increasing cost of energy/fuel, especially in Europe.

Nations have responded diversely to war across the world. NATO members have offered a lot of military aids, training and intelligence provision to Ukraine. Russia has also been sanctioned by the EU and the USA and has been promising to invest in billions of dollars of humanitarian and economical funding of Ukraine (Council on Foreign Relations, 2024). The other world players such as China and India have taken the advantage of adopting the role of neutrality by invoking restraint and dialogue but not active engagement in them.

They have attempted to resolve the conflict, and discussions took place in Belarus and Turkey during 2022 and 2023. However, neither has resulted in a lasting ceasefire. Important issues such as the fate of Crimea, the recognition of the territories controlled by the separatist and the chance that

Ukraine could join NATO are in the phase of grave dispute and remain unresolved for now (Reuters, 2023).

This war is not just about land. It also checks the robustness of international law, the validity of world institutions, and the prospects of world peace and order. There are many points of view that need to be considered by the delegates who are trying to find the answers that would help to achieve peace in the long term as well as regional stability and respect for national sovereignty.

Major parties involved

Ukraine

Being the issue of this committee, Ukraine plays a major rule. Ukraine is the center of conflict and is the nation being invaded. As it tried to strengthen ties with NATO and the EU, Russia did not want more nations to join the west hence started an invasion. Ukraine has suffered the most losses economically, politically and environmentally from this conflict. They continue to receive aid from the west so they can defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is Russia's main opponent in this conflict. Ukraine seeks to strengthen ties with NATO which is one of the main reasons Russia took offensive action against Ukraine. NATO members have been providing Ukraine with financial, military and humanitarian assistance to help them in this conflict and have taken a firm stance against Russia by imposing sanctions.

Republic of India

India has taken a very neutral and strategic stance in this conflict. They have used the conflict to strengthen economic and diplomatic relations with the West and also military and resource ties with Russia. India has continuously called for de-escalation and peaceful negotiations and have not been part of any UN resolutions against both sides. Overall, India has maintained a mediating role and has focused on providing humanitarian support and maintaining a stable global market.

Timeline of events

2013 November 21st	Ukraine president Viktor Yanukovych reject EU's agreement of association. This is the cause of the Euromaidan protests
2014 February 22nd	Ukrainian parliament removes Viktor Yanukovych from office
2014 February 27th	Armed peoples (later confirmed to be Russian armed forces) take control of key buildings in Crimea
2014 March 18th	Russia officially annexes Crimea which is a move that is heavily condemned by the international community
2014 April 6th	Pro-Russian separatists take over government buildings in Dontek and Luhansk and declare independence
2022 February 24th	Russia conducts a full scale military operation attempting to invade Ukraine. Attacks were directed from Belarus, Crimea and the Russo-Ukrainian border
2024	Russian forces occupy southern and eastern parts of Ukraine while the west continues to provide constant aid to Ukraine to help repel attacks
July 2025	20% of Ukraine remains under Russian control, 14 million people displaced, and 9,000 civilian deaths reported (UNHCR, 2025)

Possible solutions

This is a very complex issue that does not have a perfect solution. Peaceful negotiations have already been attempted and have not reaped any significant results. Another solution was a ceasefire. This took place multiple times yet again is only a temporary fix to a long-lasting issue and will not work. There is no solution that is equal in this case yet delegates could approach a more creative solution in this scenario. An example could be General Pervez Musharraf's proposal in the Kashmir dispute to be settled by a cricket match. Though this solution might be incredibly controversial, unfair and could even worsen the situation, it is creative ideas like these that delegates should think of to find a solution for the issue at hand.

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