Forum:
United Nations Security Council
Issue:
Alleviating regional cross-fire between Russia and Ukraine
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Overview

In February 2022, Russia launched an invasion of its southwest neighbor Ukraine. The invasion is by land, air and sea and according to many, is the largest conventional military invasion since the Second World War. This is a very important development in international affairs and has ramifications for the entire world.

Russia has stated that its troop deployment is in response to NATO's steady eastward expansion. Russia argues that its moves are aimed at protecting its own security considerations. Ukraine was a member of the Soviet Union until 1991 when it disintegrated, and Russia has tried to maintain the country in its orbit since then. Armed conflict in eastern Ukraine erupted in early 2014 following Russia's annexation of Crimea.

In 2014, a separatist insurgency started in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland. Russia further gained a maritime advantage in the region due to its invasion and annexation of Crimea. The tensions on Ukraine's border with Russia are at their highest in years. Fearing a potential invasion by Russia, the US and NATO are stepping up support for Ukraine.

Beginning in **Key terms** 2021, Russia built up a large military presence near its border with Ukraine, including from within neighboring Belarus. On Feb 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-fledged invasion of Ukraine. The invasion was internationally condemned, leading to many countries to impose sanctions against Russia and ramping up existing sanctions. Russia's invasion of Ukraine constitutes the biggest threat to peace and security in Europe since the end of the Cold War.

The ongoing full-scale war has resulted in a major refugee crisis and tens of thousands of deaths. Russia abandoned an attempt to take Kyiv in early April 2022 amid fierce resistance. In late September, Russia announced its annexation of several parts of southern and eastern Ukraine, drawing widespread condemnation.

European Union

European Union（EU）, international organization comprising 27 European countries and governing common economic, social, and security policies. Originally confined to western Europe, the EU undertook a strong expansion into central and eastern Europe in the early 21st century. The EU was created by the Maastricht Treaty, which entered into force on November 1,1993. The treaty was designed to enhance European political and economic integration by creating a single currency (the euro), a unified foreign and security policy, and common citizenship rights and by advancing cooperation in the areas of immigration, asylum, and judicial affairs.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty, NATO is a security alliance of 30 countries from North America and Europe. NATO's fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security by political and military means. NATO remains the principal security instrument of the transatlantic community and expression of its common democratic values. It is the practical means through which the security of North America and Europe are permanently tied together. NATO enlargement has furthered the U.S. goal of a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

International Atomic Energy Agency

International Atomic Energy Agency: The Vienna-based IAEA (part of the United Nations) is the global focal point for nuclear co-operation and promotes the peaceful use of atomic energy. It gives guidance on nuclear safety and verifies that members comply with their safeguard obligations and use nuclear material only for peaceful purposes.

Timeline

April 3, 2008

    Russia Fights Ukrainian NATO Membership

    In early April of 2008, a NATO summit began with intense debate about extending a Membership Action Plan (MAP) to Ukraine. In order to gain membership to NATO, a military

alliance between 28 European countries and two North American countries dedicated to preserving peace and security in the North Atlantic area, countries must first have a MAP.

December 2021

Putin Demands Security Guarantees

Early in 2021, Zelenskyy cracked down on pro-Russian Ukrainian oligarchs, including Viktor Medvedchuk, a close friend of Putin. Subsequently, Putin deploys increasing numbers of troops near the Ukrainian border and publishes an article claiming that Russians and Ukrainians are "one people." By December, tens of thousands of Russian troops are deployed to the borders and Putin issues demands to NATO and the United States. Among these demands is that Ukraine never be admitted to NATO – a request rejected by the Biden administration.

Feb. 21, 2022

Russia Recognizes Breakaway Ukrainian Regions as Sovereign

In 2014, the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk broke away from Ukraine, under the leadership of what the Ukrainian government considered to be Russian-backed terrorists. Following the breakdown of relations with NATO and the West in late February, Putin recognized these territories as independent states and sent troops in to "keep the peace."

Feb. 24, 2022

Russia Launches Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine

Days after recognizing the breakaway territories, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The invasion began in the eastern Ukrainian territory of Donbas. Zelenskyy declared

martial law in Ukraine and officially broke diplomatic ties with Russia. Putin's actions were condemned across the world and within Russia.

Sept.11, 2022

Ukraine Forces Russian Retreat

After months of Russian encroachment, Ukrainian forces pushed the Russian military back, reclaiming over a thousand square miles. Russia lost nearly all of the northeastern region of Kharkiv.

Oct. 5, 2022

Russia Annexes Four Ukrainian Regions

Putin signed final papers to annex four regions of Ukraine – Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia – following Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" in Ukraine that the West dismissed as shams.

Past UN Resolutions and Supporting Documents

Resolution 2623 (2022) , t.ly/C8Qp

Resolution on Russian reparations for Ukraine ,

https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130587（2022）

·Nearly 50 nations co-sponsored the resolution on establishing an international mechanism for compensation for damage, loss and injury, as well as a register to document evidence and claims.

Resolution demands end to Russian offensive in Ukraine, https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113152 (2022)

The resolution demands that Russia "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders."

Possible solutions

1.Russia still has the means to do a lot of damage and could keep on destroying Ukraine and threatening the West. The most pressing short-term goal is to stop the war without showing weakness. This also means that Russia must not be put through unnecessary humiliation.

 • Urge European countries to strengthen their defense efforts.

• Increase the number of diplomatic talks between countries involve in this affair.

• Find an answer that both the Ukrainian and Russian governments consent to;

• Find a procedure by which regular folks of neither one of the nationalities are undermined.

2.Ukraine align with countries that have diplomatic relationship.

3.Set and enforce new treaties.

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