



# UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

**CHAIR- Sragvi Reddy Gopu**

**VICE CHAIR- Sai Swarnatej**

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## Letter From Executive Board:

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council in VIVAMUN first edition. It is an honor to guide and collaborate with each of you in our pursuit of addressing an agenda of immense significance.

Throughout the course of this conference you will explore themes of global significance including war, peace, and diplomacy as you navigate the complexities of the agenda “Deliberating the full extent of the international security risks posed by the conflict in the Donbas region”.

It is an absolute honor to be your executive board as you experience the complexities associated with both the agenda and MUN as a whole. Your Chairperson and Vice-Chair are both fairly experienced in both the agenda and the concept of MUN as a whole.

This agenda enables you to explore the intricacies of past resolutions like UNGA Resolution 3314, UNGA Resolution ES-11/1 and the Minsk agreements. Delegates with extensive research are sure to have a significant advantage as historical and diplomatic context is crucial for this conflict.

We understand that AI is a tool that can aid during times of need but do understand that original content stands far superior as AI generated content usually lacks the substance that is prominent in a well researched speech. AI use in speeches is frowned upon but when writing your final Draft Resolution you are absolutely allowed to use it to format your ideas. Please do keep in mind the fact that your Executive Board has extensive experience with AI and can easily differentiate between original and generated content.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference and hosting you in a UNSC we hope you remember for as long as you chose to do MUN conferences.

Regards,  
Sragvi Reddy Gopu, Chairperson,  
Sai Swarna Tej, Vice-Chairperson.

## RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Although we will be explaining the RoP in detail before the commencement of the committee, please do go through this to understand the basics of the RoP.

### MOTIONS

#### SETTING THE AGENDA

Delegate of \_\_\_\_\_ would like to raise a motion to set the agenda as \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ESTABLISHING A GSL

Delegate of \_\_\_\_\_ would like to raise a motion to establish the general speakers' list with an individual speaker's time of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### MODERATED CAUCUSES

Delegate of \_\_\_\_\_ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into a moderated caucus on the topic \_\_\_\_\_ for a total time period of \_\_\_\_\_ minutes with individual speaker's time being \_\_\_\_\_.

#### UNMODERATED CAUCUSES

Delegate of \_\_\_\_\_ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated caucus for a total time period of \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

#### EXTENSION TO INFORMAL DEBATE

Delegate of \_\_\_\_\_ would like to raise a motion to extend the current moderated / unmoderated caucus by \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTATION

Delegate of \_\_\_\_\_ would like to raise a motion to introduce draft resolution [number].

#### VOTING ON INTRODUCED DOCUMENT(S)

Delegate of \_\_\_\_\_ would like to raise a motion to table formal debate and move into voting on [document name].

## POINTS

### POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Personal inconvenience e.g., inaudibility of some part of the speech of another Delegate CAN interrupt an active speaker

### POINT OF ORDER

Used to point out inaccuracies in procedure and if allowed, even on factual inaccuracies within the speeches of other delegates CANNOT interrupt an active speaker

### POINT OF PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Used to clarify doubts on the rules of procedure CANNOT interrupt a speaker

### POINT OF INFORMATION

Used to ask questions to other delegates on their speeches CANNOT interrupt an active speaker

## YIELDS

### YIELD TO POINTS OF INFORMATION

Yielding the remaining time to other delegates so that they can question you On the speech you made.

### YIELD TO ANOTHER DELEGATE

Yielding remaining time to some specific delegate to let her/him make her/his speech. Prior consent to the yield by the other delegate is necessary.

### YIELD TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Yielding the remaining time to the EB. Such yielded time is deemed elapsed by the EB but not always. Such time usage is up to the discretion of the EB.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The history of Russia and Ukraine Dates back over 10 Centuries, where both nations claim the heritage from the Kievan Rus, a state that united several tribes back in the 10th Century. According to old Russian Chronicles, Kiev; the capital of Ukraine and one of the main battlegrounds in the present conflict, was proclaimed the mother of rus as it was also the capital back in the 10th century. After the Mongol invasion of Kievan Rus in the 13th Century, the histories of the Russian and Ukrainian began to diverge. Russia having successfully united the northern provinces it evolved into the Russian state as the Tsardom of Russia (1547-1721). Meanwhile Ukraine came under the domination of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (1236-1795)

Starting around the mid 17th century, Ukraine was gradually absorbed into the Russian Empire. The Russian Empire considered ukrainians to be ethnically Russian and in 1804 the Ukrainian language was banned as a language. A lot changed over the centuries but for the vast majority of the time Ukraine was under Russian rule. In 1922 the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was formed. It consisted of 15 Soviet Republics with Russia being the most powerful republic followed by Ukraine, after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 Ukraine finally gained its Independence and as a by-product inherited the third largest nuclear stockpile in the world. In 1994, following the signing of the Budapest memorandum Ukraine agreed to destroy the rest of its nuclear weapons and transfer all of its Soviet era warheads to Russia, in exchange for guaranteed and to be recognised for their sovereignty.

Ukraine is the largest European nation excluding Russia, with a population of 44 Million people and a GDP of 155 Billion US Dollars (as in 2022). Today however Ukraine is divided between the East and the West, the west sees itself as more European and the east is closer aligned to Russia particularly the Donbas Region. In the west they mainly speak Ukrainian and in the east one third still speak native Russian. Ukraine also remains at war with rebels in the east, where the rebels control two regions in the east particularly, Luhansk and Donetsk together known as the Donbas Region.

The main intention of Russia is for one NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), an intergovernmental military alliance, to stop expanding eastwards. NATO is an agreement whereby its member states mutually defend each other in response to any attack by an external nation. Ukraine had shown its intentions to join NATO which Russia has classified as a threat to its national security.

## Important Documents

### 1. UNSC Resolution 2202 (2015)

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2202, adopted on February 17, 2015, endorses the "Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements," which were aimed at de-escalating the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The resolution calls for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire in specific areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, starting from February 15, 2015. Key provisions of the resolution include:

- **Ceasefire and Withdrawal:** It calls for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire and the withdrawal of all heavy weapons by both sides to create a security zone.
- **Monitoring and Verification:** The resolution emphasizes the need for monitoring and verification of the ceasefire and withdrawal by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
- **Political Dialogue:** It encourages political dialogue aimed at achieving a sustainable resolution to the conflict, including local elections in accordance with Ukrainian law and constitutional reforms.
- **Release of Hostages and Detainees:** The resolution calls for the release of all hostages and detainees related to the conflict.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** It stresses the need to improve the humanitarian situation in the affected areas, facilitating the safe delivery of aid and protection of civilians.
- **Economic and Social Links:** The resolution supports the restoration of socio-economic ties, including the payment of pensions and other social benefits.
- **Legal Framework:** It calls for the enactment of laws granting special status to certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk as part of the decentralization measures within Ukraine.

## 2. UNSC Resolution 2166 (2014)

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2166 (2014) addresses the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 on July 17, 2014, over eastern Ukraine. Here are the key points of the resolution:

- **Condemnation and Condolences:** The UNSC strongly condemns the downing of Flight MH17 and expresses deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and the affected countries.
- **Call for Investigation:** The resolution calls for a full, thorough, and independent international investigation into the incident, in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines.
- **Ceasefire and Security:** It demands that armed groups in the crash area immediately provide safe, secure, full, and unrestricted access to the crash site and surrounding area for the purposes of the investigation.
- **Respect for Victims:** The resolution stresses the need for dignified, respectful, and professional treatment and recovery of the remains of the victims.
- **Cooperation with Investigators:** All States and actors in the region are called upon to cooperate fully with the investigation and to provide any relevant information they might have about the incident.
- **Accountability:** The resolution emphasizes the need to hold those responsible for the downing of Flight MH17 accountable and bring them to justice.
- **Support for the Investigation:** It welcomes efforts by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other relevant international organizations to assist with the investigation.

## 3. Minsk Agreements

The Minsk Agreements are a series of international accords aimed at de-escalating the conflict in eastern Ukraine, primarily between the Ukrainian government and pro-Russian separatists in the



Donbas region. There are two main agreements: the first, signed in September 2014, and the second, signed in February 2015.

### Minsk I (September 2014)

- Ceasefire: Immediate ceasefire in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- Monitoring and Verification: OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) to monitor the ceasefire.
- Decentralization: Granting greater autonomy to the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- Humanitarian Aid: Facilitation of humanitarian assistance to the affected areas.
- Prisoner Exchange: Exchange of hostages and prisoners.
- Border Control: Restoration of control of the Ukrainian-Russian border by the Ukrainian government.

### Minsk II (February 2015)

- Immediate Ceasefire: Reinforcement of the ceasefire starting from February 15, 2015.
- Withdrawal of Heavy Weapons: Pullback of heavy weaponry by both sides to create a buffer zone.
- OSCE Monitoring: Enhanced monitoring and verification by the OSCE.
- Dialogue on Elections: Commencement of dialogue on local elections in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- Special Status for Donbas: Provision of special status for the Donbas region, including certain self-governance measures.
- Border Control: Full Ukrainian control over the border to be reinstated, contingent on a comprehensive political settlement.
- Constitutional Reform: Ukrainian constitutional reform to decentralize power.
- Amnesty: Amnesty for those involved in the conflict.
- Humanitarian Assistance: Improvement in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

## What to Focus on in Further Research

When preparing for a Model United Nations (MUN) conference, particularly one that involves complex international issues like the conflict in the Donbas region, delegates must conduct thorough and strategic research. The agenda, "Deliberating the full extent of the international security risks posed by the conflict in the Donbas region," requires an in-depth understanding of various facets, including the conflict's timeline, relevant documentation, foreign policy stances, and historical context. This guide aims to provide a comprehensive approach to researching these aspects to ensure delegates are well-prepared to contribute meaningfully to the discussions in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

### Timeline of the Donbas Conflict

#### Key Phases of the Conflict

1. Early Stages and Euromaidan Protests (2013-2014)
  - The Euromaidan protests began in November 2013, triggered by the Ukrainian government's decision to suspend the signing of an association agreement with the European Union (EU). These protests eventually led to the ousting of President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014.
2. Annexation of Crimea and Early Insurgency (2014)
  - Following Yanukovich's removal, Russia annexed Crimea in March 2014. This period also saw the emergence of pro-Russian separatist movements in the Donbas region, comprising Donetsk and Luhansk.
3. Escalation and Minsk Agreements (2014-2015)
  - The conflict escalated into full-scale fighting between Ukrainian forces and separatist militias. In an effort to de-escalate, the Minsk I Agreement was signed in September 2014, followed by the Minsk II Agreement in February 2015. Both aimed to implement ceasefires and outline steps towards a political resolution, though neither succeeded in fully halting the violence.
4. Stalemate and Ongoing Skirmishes (2015-Present)
  - Despite periodic ceasefires, the conflict has persisted in a low-intensity form, characterized by frequent skirmishes and occasional escalations. Efforts at

diplomatic resolutions have continued through various international forums, including the Normandy Format talks.

## Research Methodology for the Timeline

### 1. Primary Sources

- United Nations and OSCE Reports: Official reports from the UN and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) provide detailed accounts of events, humanitarian impacts, and ceasefire violations.
- Government Statements: Official statements from the Ukrainian and Russian governments, as well as from other involved states, can provide insight into the official narratives and positions.

### 2. Secondary Sources

- Academic Journals and Books: Scholarly analyses offer in-depth examinations of the conflict's causes, progression, and impacts.
- News Outlets: Reputable international news organizations, such as BBC, Al Jazeera, and Reuters, provide ongoing coverage and historical context.

## Documentation and Legal Framework

### Key Documents

#### 1. United Nations Resolutions

- Examine relevant UNSC resolutions addressing the conflict, such as resolutions calling for ceasefires, humanitarian access, and peacekeeping missions.

#### 2. OSCE Monitoring Reports

- OSCE reports provide ground-level insights into ceasefire violations, civilian impacts, and the humanitarian situation.

#### 3. International Humanitarian Law

- Understanding the application of international humanitarian law (IHL) in the context of the conflict is essential. Key documents include the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

## Research Methodology for Documentation

1. Accessing Official Documents
  - Utilize official UN, OSCE, and government websites to obtain the primary texts of agreements, resolutions, and reports.
2. Legal Databases
  - Platforms like HeinOnline and JSTOR offer access to academic papers and legal analyses pertinent to the conflict and applicable international laws.

## Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Positions

### Major Players and Their Positions

1. Ukraine
  - Ukraine seeks to restore its territorial integrity and sovereignty over Donbas, while also pursuing integration with Western institutions like the EU and NATO.
2. Russia
  - Russia supports the separatists in Donbas, viewing the conflict as part of a broader struggle against Western encroachment on its sphere of influence.
3. United States and European Union
  - Both have imposed sanctions on Russia and provide political and military support to Ukraine. They advocate for a peaceful resolution based on respect for Ukrainian sovereignty.
4. Other Key Nations
  - Countries such as Germany and France (part of the Normandy Format) play crucial roles in mediation efforts. Understanding their positions and actions is vital.

### Research Methodology for Foreign Policy

1. Foreign Policy Statements
  - Analyze official foreign policy documents, speeches, and press releases from the respective countries' ministries of foreign affairs.
2. Diplomatic Cables and Wikileaks

- Leaked diplomatic cables can sometimes provide unvarnished insights into the true positions and strategies of involved states.
3. Think Tank Reports
    - Institutions like the Council on Foreign Relations, Chatham House, and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace publish detailed analyses of state policies and geopolitical dynamics.

## History of Conflict and Context

### Historical Background

1. Soviet Era and Independence
  - Understanding the historical context, including the region's status during the Soviet Union and the implications of Ukraine's independence in 1991, is essential.
2. Post-Soviet Developments
  - Examine the political and economic transitions in Ukraine and Russia post-1991, including Ukraine's Orange Revolution in 2004 and subsequent political instability.
3. Pre-2014 Context
  - Analyze the lead-up to the 2014 crisis, including the Euromaidan protests, Yanukovich's presidency, and Russia's geopolitical strategies.

### Research Methodology for Historical Context

1. Historical Texts and Monographs
  - Books and academic papers focusing on Eastern European history and post-Soviet transitions provide valuable context.
2. Documentaries and Interviews
  - Documentaries featuring interviews with key figures and on-the-ground footage can offer vivid portrayals of the conflict's origins and developments.

## Possible Points to Focus on

To ensure a productive and coherent discussion in the UNSC, delegates should focus on the following points:

### 1. Ceasefire and Humanitarian Access

- Deliberate on strategies to enforce ceasefires and ensure unhindered access for humanitarian aid. Examine the roles of international organizations and potential peacekeeping missions.

### 2. Political Solutions

- Discuss frameworks for a political resolution, including autonomy arrangements for Donbas, local elections, and integration into Ukraine's legal framework.

### 3. Sanctions and Diplomatic Measures

- Evaluate the effectiveness of current sanctions on Russia and the potential for diplomatic initiatives to de-escalate tensions.

### 4. Human Rights and War Crimes

- Address allegations of human rights abuses and war crimes, considering mechanisms for accountability and justice for victims.

### 5. Geopolitical Implications

- Consider the broader geopolitical ramifications of the conflict, including NATO-Russia relations, EU security policy, and regional stability in Eastern Europe.

Researching for a MUN conference on the Donbas conflict requires a meticulous and multi-faceted approach. By delving into the conflict's timeline, key documentation, foreign policy stances, and historical context, delegates can develop a comprehensive understanding that will enable them to participate effectively in discussions. Focusing on critical points such as ceasefires, political solutions, and humanitarian issues will facilitate a smooth and productive committee session, ultimately contributing to a nuanced and informed debate on one of the most pressing international security challenges of our time.