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# Security Council

## AGENDA

Addressing the situation in  
Crimea

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## Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to one of the most dynamic and challenging committees at WELMUN'21 - the United Nations Security Council.

We promise an enriching experience for all the delegates in the committee and are eagerly waiting to see you all this August at WELMUN!

The conflict in Crimea is becoming increasingly relevant to the overarching existing geopolitical scenario. The United States has a new president who has made a conscious effort to engage in constructive dialogue with President Putin. Russia's position, of course, is still what it always has been with regard to the issue. Delegates will have to work together to craft new, innovative, and ingenious solutions within the defined borders set by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board looks forward to committee sessions full of constructive and engaging debates, and would like to emphasize the fact that a committee such as the UNSC should prioritize concrete arguments and examples over shallow rhetoric.

Position papers must be mailed by the 5th of August to [chair.unsc@welhamboys.org](mailto:chair.unsc@welhamboys.org). Additional guidelines with regard to the position papers are given later in the background guide. Please feel free to write to the same email if you have any queries with regard to the committee.

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(Chairperson)

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( Director )

Parth Tiwari  
( Joint Director)

Pranay Dhaka  
( Rapporteur)

## Introduction

Crimea is located on the Disputed Crimean Peninsula; it has always been a controversial and disputed place. Crimea is internationally recognized as being a part of Ukraine. Various countries of the western and Asian regions are directly involved in this dispute. Crimea is located near the Black Sea and The Sea of Azov. Ukraine was under the control of the Soviet Union for over a century, and things changed after the Crimean War, which took place during the years 1853-56. The Crimean war broke out between Russia and the alliance of the Ottomans, Britain, and France. The coalition of these countries defeated Russia in the Crimean War.

After the 1917 Russian Revolution, Crimea became a part of the USSR. Stalin committed many atrocities against Ukrainians, which are mentioned ahead. In 1954, the leader of the USSR transferred Crimea from Russian SSR to Ukrainian SSR. In 1991, when the USSR collapsed, all the nations, including Ukraine, gained Independence. Later, Crimea declared that it would remain an autonomous region. In 2010, Victor Yanukovich was elected as the President of Ukraine. He had close connections with Russia and was generally biased toward the Russian President. In 2013, Ukraine was in its last stages of joining the EU, but President Victor Yanukovich refused to sign the treaty. This led to massive protests by the Opposition and the people of the country in the famous Euromaidan.

A noticeable event on February 20, 2013, dozens of protesters were killed. On February 21, the Opposition set up an interim government. President Vladimir Putin claimed that it was an 'illegal coup' by the protesters, who threw away an elected head of state. When Yanukovich left, Russian-backed protesters occupied the Crimean Parliament, and the protesters removed the old Prime Minister, and a new Prime Minister was appointed. At this point, Crimea was ethnically Russian, as 75% of the population in Crimea was Russian speaking.

Masked Soldiers took over Crimea. As soon as this happened, The Prime Minister called for a referendum to join Russia. The Prime Minister held the referendum on March 16, 2014. Crimean People were given two options: either they could join Russia or gain complete Independence, most people voted in favour of Russia, and as a result of this, Crimea joined Russia on March 18, 2014.



A Map of Crimea

### Intervention in Crimea by the Russian Federation

The February 2014 revolution that ousted Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich sparked a political crisis in Crimea, which initially manifested itself as demonstrations against the new interim Ukrainian government, but rapidly escalated. In January 2014 the Sevastopol council had already formed "people's militia" units to "ensure firm defence"

Crimean parliament members entailed an unprecedented meeting on 21 February. In response to pro-Russian separatist sentiment, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) said that it'd "use severe measures to forestall any action taken against diminishing the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine". The party with the foremost important number of seats within the Crimean parliament (80 of 100), the Party of Regions of Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich, didn't discuss Crimean secession, and were supportive of an agreement between President Yanukovich and Euromaidan activists to end the unrest that was struck on the identical day in Kyiv.

On 22–23 February 2014, Russian President Putin convened an all-night meeting with international intelligence chiefs to debate the extrication of the deposed Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich. On 27 February, masked Russian troops without insignia took over the

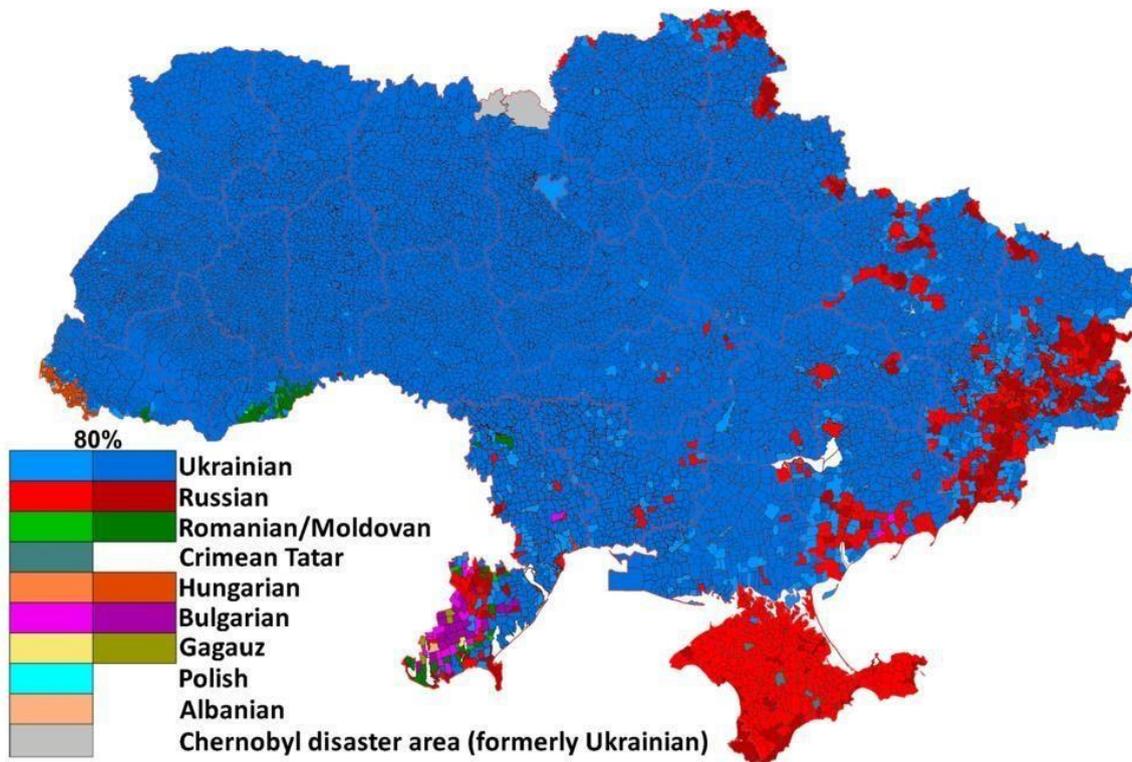


Supreme Council of Crimea and captured strategic sites across Crimea, which led to the installation of the pro-Russian Aksyonov government in Crimea, the conducting of the Crimean status referendum and so the declaration of Crimean independence on 16 March 2014. Russia formally incorporated Crimea as two federal subjects of the state on 18 March 2014.

Ukraine and much of other countries condemned the annexation and consider it to be a violation of law and Russian-signed agreements safeguarding the territorial integrity of Ukraine, including the 1991 Belavezha Accords that established the Commonwealth of Independent States, the 1975 Helsinki Accords, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances and also the 1997 Treaty on friendship, cooperation and partnership between the country and Ukraine. It led to the alternative members of the then G8 suspending Russia from the group then introducing a primary round of sanctions against the country, adopting a resolution affirming the "territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders". The UN resolution also "underscores that the referendum having no validity, cannot form the concept for any alteration of the status of Crimea , the UN General Assembly reaffirmed non-recognition of the annexation and condemned "the temporary occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine—the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and so the town of Sevastopol".

The country opposed the "occupation" label, with Putin defending the referendum as complying with the principle of self-determination of peoples. In July 2015, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said that Crimea had been fully integrated into Russia

The majority language by city, town, and village councils  
Results from the Ukrainian 2001 Census



The Ethnic Composition of Crimea : Source

## The Political Status of Crimea

After the Crimean referendum of 1991, which asked whether Crimea should be elevated to a signatory of the New Union Treaty (that is, become a union republic on its own), the Ukrainian SSR restored Crimea's autonomous status (Crimean Autonomous SSR), but confirmed that autonomy restored as part of the Ukrainian SSR. The Crimean Oblast council became the Supreme Council of Crimea and, on 4 September 1991, passed the Declaration of state sovereignty of Crimea.

A year later, the 1992 Crimean constitution, together with the presidency and regional citizenship, was declared null and void by the Ukrainian Parliament, which by that point, had renamed the territory from "Republic of Crimea" to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Another Constitution was passed by the Crimean parliament in 1995, but many parts of it were rejected by the Ukrainian parliament; among them were the Republic's name. Some legislators proposed abolishing it altogether (downgrading back to oblast status or to autonomy but not an autonomous republic), while other legislators proposed legalising the 1992 Constitution of Crimea provisions within the new Ukrainian Constitution. Ultimately, the new Constitution of Ukraine adopted neither extreme and reiterated the autonomous status of the republic, while downgrading a number of its powers (such because the regional Supreme Council's powers to enact legislation in type of laws). The Republic was declared to be the "Autonomous Republic of Crimea", but also an "inseparable constituent a part of

Ukraine". a brand new Crimean constitution, complying with provisions of the Ukrainian one, was adopted in 1998.

Amidst rising tension within the region as a part of the Crimean crisis, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and also the city of Sevastopol held a standing referendum to affix the country. The referendum passed on 16 March 2014 with 97% of voters choosing to depart Ukraine and join Russia, in line with Crimean government results. For this purpose, the Autonomous Republic and Sevastopol joined together as one united nation under the name of the Republic of Crimea. This peninsula then was annexed by Russia where it had been converted into an administrative district under the name of Crimean territorial division. However, the annexation divided the Autonomous Republic and also the city of Sevastopol yet again into two separate entities: the Autonomous Republic became the Republic of Crimea as a Russian territory, while Sevastopol became a Russian federal city. Regardless, Ukraine and also the overwhelming majority of the international community has not recognized the validity of the referendum and has not recognized the accession of this region into Russia.



President Vladimir Putin signing the results of the referendum in 2014

## Foreign Involvement in The Crisis

International reactions to the annexation of Crimea by Russia have nearly always been condemnatory of Russia's decision to intervene and supportive of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, while also supportive of finding a fast end to the crisis. The U.S. and therefore Europe threatened and later enacted sanctions against Russia for its role within the crisis, and urged Russia to withdraw. Russia has accused the U.S. and therefore the EU of funding and directing the revolution and retaliated to the sanctions by imposing its own. Council of Europe PACE's commission expressed its full support for the "territorial integrity and national unity of Ukraine" on 7 March. The global organization deplored what it called Russia's decision to use action in Ukraine." She called on "all sides to decrease the tensions



immediately through dialogue, full respect of Ukrainian and jurisprudence." She added that "the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine must be respected the least bit times and by all sides. Any violation of those principles is unacceptable. quite ever, restraint and a way of responsibility are needed.'

## Negotiation and Peace

There have been many interactions between Ukraine and Russia; they are not ready to have a mutual understanding and agreement because Crimea geographically is quite beneficial for both countries. Russia is interested in getting Crimea because it would eventually gain them access to the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and the Balkan Sea. Also, The Black Sea Fleet of the Navy has always been present in Crimea, making things easier for them (It is the largest wing of the Russian Navy). Ukraine threatened Russia to remove the fleet from there, which was not acceptable to Russia.

Many leaders have also called for peace between both nations, but President Vladimir Putin has not given any concrete replies. Another reason for this crisis is that a Right-Wing Party has been ruling Ukraine, and there are places where the majority of the people are Russian Speaking. The party doesn't support the Russian Culture and the language, and the Russian-speaking people believe that Ukraine should have some relations with its motherland.

In 2019, in eastern Ukraine, a summit had resulted in some advancement towards the message of peace. Ukrainian forces and Russian-backed separatists pulled back from three frontline towns. After talks between Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin, there was a chance of de-escalation, but it was still a long way to go.

Zelensky has set out a series of objectives and red lines:

- The release of all Ukrainian prisoners
- A complete and genuine ceasefire and withdrawal of all armed groups and weapons before any elections can be held in the east
- Participation by candidates from Ukrainian political parties in elections and not just pro-Russian parties
- The right of all those who have fled the conflict to return to vote
- Restoration of Ukrainian control throughout the border with Russia currently controlled by rebels

More than 13,000 people died in the conflict between Ukraine's military and Russian-backed rebels. Mr. Vladimir Putin and Mr. Zelensky agreed that an existing ceasefire frequently violated by the end of this year should be thoroughly implemented, and all the prisoners would be exchanged. The summit on 9 December, mediated by France and Germany, was the

first between Mr. Zelensky and Mr. Putin, but things didn't go too well, and there was no final handshake. The objectives set out by the Ukrainian Prime Minister were not accepted at all by Russian Federation.

## Recent Developments

Tensions are rising over the conflict in eastern Ukraine, with growing violations of a cease-fire and a massive Russian military build-up near its border with the region. The issue was about to get resolved in 2019, but things started heating up again, with massive protests and military backup.

Ukraine and the West have become worried about the Russian troops' concentration and have requested Moscow to pull them back to maintain peace. Russia has argued that it is free to deploy its forces on its territory and sternly warned the government that there is no harm in staying alerted and safe before any attack occurs.

In April, Ukraine was in the international headlines as the world was waiting to see if a massive Russian military build-up along the Ukrainian border would become a forerunner to a significant escalation in the simmering seven-year conflict between the two nations. Fears of a violent war appeared to ease on April 22 when Russia announced plans to begin withdrawing troops from border zone positions. However, few are taking anything for granted. At present, it remains unclear whether Russia's declared withdrawal will include the vast amounts of military equipment concentrated close to the Ukrainian border. Even if the immediate danger has passed, Vladimir Putin has succeeded in sending Kyiv a clear and unmistakable message that Moscow has not yet ruled out a military solution to its Ukrainian problem.

The Ukrainian authorities have witnessed injustice with the condemned, Russian Government's action. Much of this potential future invasion force remains in position and poised for action. Ukraine representatives insist on incorporating certain measures, to avoid a potentially catastrophic military scenario, Ukraine and the country's international allies must be cautious to avoid repetition of same scenario. By far Russian authorities are a threat to Ukraine and they must remain ever-vigilant. President Putin has made his stand clear on this: he is not here to wait and watch, he is here to destroy what comes in front of him. Russia wants to be a superpower, and it has been eliminating everything which it considers a threat.



Other disputed regions in the Area

## Economic Conflicts

The Ukraine Crisis began in 2013 when the Prime Minister of Ukraine rejected joining the EU at the last minute and signed an agreement with Russia instead. This led to mass protests; the opposition and the people were on roads to protest against the actions of the Prime Minister. The Ukrainian economy was at one of its worst phases, and in this crisis, the Prime Minister added some more complications. He later left the country in misery. Since then, several consequential things have taken place. In February, anti-government protests toppled the government. Russia lost its influence in Ukraine, and invaded and annexed Crimea the next month. In April, pro-Russia protesters rebelled and began seizing territory in eastern Ukraine. The rebels shot down Malaysian Airlines flight 17 on July 17, killing 298 people. Fights between the rebels and the Ukrainian military intensified, the insurgents started losing, and, in August, the Russian army invaded eastern Ukraine to support the rebels. Sanctions are pushing the Russian economy to the brink of recession, and more than 2,500 Ukrainians have been killed. The whole point of this came down to Ukraine's centuries-long history of Russian domination over them. The country has been divided more or less evenly between Ukrainians who see Ukraine as part of Europe and those who see it linked to Russia and consider Russia their motherland. An internal political crisis over that disagreement may have been inevitable. Meanwhile, in Russia, Putin is pushing an imperial-revival and a nationalist worldview that

sees Ukraine as part of greater Russia — and as the victim of ever-encroaching Western hostility.

The whole of this led to Crimea's economy crashing, and they had significantly less amount of resources even to be able to fight Russia. Their workforce was much lower than that of Russia, and fighting Russia at that moment would have been an enormous task. Things got worse when the army came into play. Even the Prime Minister of Crimea was made to step down, and the protesters made a new Russian supporter the Prime Minister.

On one side, people are outraged because their Prime Minister was thrown away, and Putin was also on the same side. On the other hand, people are outraged because one Prime Minister rejected the EU and joined Russian Federation. All this led to mass chaos, and the other day interim government forms and Ukraine joined the EU by requesting that they hold an election in the next six months.

## Conclusion

The conflict is still on, and none of the countries are ready to negotiate and their stands are clear; their history is enough to explain their relations over the years. They have had so many confrontations, but the outcome has been nothing, and the dispute seems to have no end. For example, Ukraine and the West became worried about the Russian troops' concentration and urged Moscow to pull them back. Russia has argued that it's free to deploy its forces on its territory and sternly warned the government in Kyiv against using inappropriate means to reclaim control of the rebel-held territory. In Eastern Ukraine between pro-Russian separatist groups and government military forces has escalated into an international crisis. What started as a dispute over a trade agreement has turned into the bloodiest armed confrontation in Europe since the early 1990s. The conflict has intensified tensions between Russia and the EU and deteriorated U.S.-Russian relations, raising serious concerns among the international community. In addition, the confrontation has brought up historical ethnic divides in the country, with western Ukrainians willing to integrate further into the EU while eastern Ukrainians still look to Russia. In several reports, the UN has warned the international community that Ukraine's current stalemate is triggering isolation and distress among millions of people living on both sides of the contact line. Albeit the efforts of several governments, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society advocates, the ceasefire continues



# Documentation

The committee should take into consideration that this cabinet will experience time jumps and at any point of time in the committee, we will advance the timeline of the committee. Documentation will play a major role in the marking of delegates, as crisis management will primarily be done through communiques and directives. The delegates may send in pre-committee communiques if they wish to wherein they explain their plan of action. Always keep in consideration that to take an action on any matter regarding someone, the consent of the particular portfolio is required so make sure that you lobby accordingly.

**Communiques:** Communiques are of two types: private and public

Private communiques may be jointly or singularly authored by portfolios who wish to take an action. The actions taken through private communiques will not be read out to the committee and the result of the communique may come up as a crisis for the rest of the committee. Private communiques can be orders that one delegate gives to the other in order to carry out the operation.

**Public communiques** are sent by a delegate to the rest of the committee wherein the proposed plan of action is read out to the whole committee.

**Directives :** Directives are plans of action that will be voted upon by the committee. A directive is a powerful piece of documentation that has the power to take actions. In order to solve the crisis, delegates will be expected to pass directives in short notice of time to prevent further crises from taking place. Since directives are actions that are always put into effect, make sure that these directives are detailed and have the ability to make the plan successful.

**Press releases:** Press releases are documents which are released to the media and convey information from the committee to the rest of the world. They influence public opinion on various matters and can console or infuriate the people depending on their content.

# Position Papers

The delegates are expected to submit position papers for the agenda to the chairperson. Position papers help the Executive Board to figure out different stances that delegates have on the agenda and how well are they able to carry out the same during the committee. The Position papers should include the following details:

- Allocation of the delegate
- Your allotted countries' stance regarding this agenda
- Your proposed plan of action
- Any information regarding your portfolio that you think that the Executive Board members should know
- You may also write your expectations as to how this committee should progress

Position Papers must be mailed to the chairperson by the 5th of August to [chair.unsc@welhamboys.org](mailto:chair.unsc@welhamboys.org).

## Links For Further Research

<https://www.realcap.co.za/overview-ukraine/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-49986007>

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/explained-whats-behind-the-conflict-in-eastern-ukraine/articleshow/82101803.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/explained-whats-behind-the-conflict-in-eastern-ukraine/articleshow/82101803.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraine-must-prepare-for-putins-next-escalation-now/>

<https://www.vox.com/2014/9/3/18088560/ukraine-everything-you-need-to-know>

**NOTE: The background guide cannot be used as evidence for any claims made in the committee.**