



FORUM: Security Council

QUESTION OF: Resolving the Ukrainian Conflict

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POSITION: Vice-President of the Security Council

INTRODUCTION:

Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe, situated on the border between Russia and Europe and has a population of over 45 million. It has a land mass of around 603,000km squared. Currently Ukraine faces large problems due to the cultural divide between eastern and western Ukraine, the West of Ukraine describes itself as a more western country with western values whereas the east believes itself to be culturally more similar to Russia. A language barrier also separates the two parts of Ukraine as the west of Ukraine generally speaks native Ukrainian whereas the East speak Russian. Historically, dating back to Catherine the Great, Russia has attempted on numerous occasions to take over Ukraine.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM:

The Ukrainian militia that is fighting the separatists is underfunded, to an extent where they require and use volunteers as a means of war. Currently there are no solutions in site with the ceasefire having failed phenomenally and both Russia and Ukraine not willing to back down. Russia continues to insist that it has no active troops inside of Ukraine, despite reports of Russian funded weapons and troops taking part in the fighting.



Russia has also been cutting gas and energy supply to Ukraine in some non-separatist owned areas causing wide spread energy shortages and gas shortages. This is making areas that would be habitable inhabitable, and furthermore causing migration.

Although no foreign countries have been directly involved in the Ukrainian crisis other than the ones aforementioned, the European Union has attempted to pit pressure on Russia with economic sanctions unless it fully cooperates with the EU and stops supporting the Ukrainian separatists. The economic sanctions proposed would limit Russia access to European “capital markets, defense, dual use goods, and sensitive technologies including the energy sector. In addition to proposing sanctions against Russia, the EU is also proposing parliamentary changes inside of Ukraine, by reforming the civilian security sector, specifically the police. This is a complicated issue that requires the help of a newly created Brussels-based task-force.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT:

In 2013 Viktor Yanukovich turned down an EU agreement in favor of a 15 billion dollar bail out from Russian president Vladimir Putin. This impacted a large portion of the young population inside of Ukraine, who as a consequence of this had been robbed not only of the opportunity to work or stay in more developed countries in Europe, but also made it seem that Ukraine was once again swaying into Russian hands. This then lead to the so called “Ukrainian Revolution” which were a set of protests throughout Ukraine, even the East which was culturally more in favor of Russia, protested the “corrupt” actions of Viktor Yanukovich. By 2014 the protests had become deadly leading to the deaths of over a hundred protestors.



Using the protests as kindling and an excuse to move into Ukraine, Russia then annexed Crimea, and pro- Russian separatists, backed by the Russian military moved to take the Ukrainian cities of Donetsk and Luhansk, claiming them to be independent. The Ukrainian forces then moved to retake the border and cities. This was when the fighting that persist till today began.

Only in 2015 was the Minsk II Agreement or ceasefire implemented with conditions such as “withdrawal of heavy weaponry”, such as mortars and the “Withdrawal of all foreign armed groups, weapons and mercenaries from Ukrainian territory”. Despite this, the ceasefire is being broken on a daily basis, as fighting persists with over 400,00 ceasefire violations in 2017.

The major victims of this war are those who inhabit the “security zone” where the ceasefire is supposed to take place. As of the 3rd of June, the casualties have reached 10,500 with 800,000 displaced. Furthermore, Ukraine is not a country with a strong economy and the war with the separatists is taking quite a toll on its economy.

KEY TERMS:

-Crimean Peninsula: A peninsula that is located on the northern coast of the Black Sea in Eastern Europe. Located south of the Ukrainian region of Kherson and west of the Russian region of Kuban.

-Annexation: Forcible acquisition of state territory of by another state. Generally considered an illegal act.

-Ukrainian Revolution/Euromaidan: Was a series of violent events involving protesters, riot police, and unknown shooters in the capital, Kiev, which culminated in the ousting of the elected Ukrainian President, Viktor Yanukovich, and the overthrow of the Ukrainian Government.



EXPECTATIONS FOR POSITION PAPER:

You are expected to write a Position Paper that is a minimum of two pages long. The Position Paper should contain general information on the issue in relation to your country and specific policies your country introduced to act upon this issue.

Further questions you could also consider during your research:

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USEFUL LINKS/SOURCES:

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