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**UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL**

**STUDY GUIDE  
HCCRI IX**

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HWA CHONG CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION AND INQUIRY IX

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# INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE

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Comprising five permanent and ten temporary members, the UNSC is a UN body which has existed since the start of the organisation. Under Articles VI and VII of the UN Charter, it is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The UNSC does this through recommendations, settlements or the use of force to enforce its decisions. Despite being the only organ of the UN with legally binding resolutions, its effectiveness is often hamstrung by great power politics. The veto power possessed over resolutions by the UK, France, the US, Russia, and China has often prevented it from addressing critical issues, most recently in Syria and Yemen.

From its inception, the ideological intensities of the Cold War stymied its operations, with its failure to act in the Hungarian uprisings. The lack of a standing army has further exasperated its responses. With US-Russia tensions again on the rise, will the Donbass be any different? It is up to delegates to navigate the tumultuous currents of geopolitics and craft a compromise that is acceptable for all countries.

# THE WAR IN DONBASS

## I. INTRODUCTION

*In 2014, Ukraine saw the culmination of its “Revolution of Honour”.<sup>1</sup> Protests that began in November 2013 to pressure the government into closer relations with the European Union finally ousted Ukraine’s Russian-backed president, Viktor Yanukovich. However, this also sparked off a counter revolution in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Eastern Ukraine, collectively known as “Donbass”. The conflict has since seen intervention by Russia, numerous ceasefire violations and an increasingly prolonged conflict.*

## II. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

### ORIGINS OF THE CONFLICT

For a huge part of its history, Ukraine has been subjected to Russian domination.<sup>2</sup> As such, Russia has had a significant influence on Ukraine that still pervades it - one in six Ukrainians are ethnically Russian and a third of Ukrainians even speak Russian as their native language. This historical entanglement contributes to the current day divisions in Ukraine regarding its relationship with Russia. While many see it as an oppressive force, there are also others who view themselves as very much Russian.

The demonstrators that kicked off the conflict in Donbass were ostensibly in the latter group. As pro-Russian protesters took to the streets in Donbass, the

situation eventually morphed into an armed confrontation between the self-declared Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) and Luhansk People’s Republic (LPR) and the Ukrainian government.

The conflict can thus be said to have “started” when protesters established DPR and LPR through force. As the protesters in Donetsk took control of the Donetsk Regional State Administration, demonstrators in Luhansk called for federalisation of incorporation into the Russian Federation, ultimately declaring LPR a sovereign state. The LPR also further issued ultimatums to the Ukrainian government, namely to enshrine Russian as an official language and to hold a referendum on the status of the region. On 11 May, both of these regions held referendums on their independence.<sup>3</sup> Despite the alleged 90% of voters preferring to form an

<sup>1</sup> Kurkov, Andrey. “Ukraine’s Revolution: Making Sense of a Year of Chaos.” BBC News. BBC, November 21, 2014. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30131108>.

<sup>2</sup> Fisher, Max. “Everything You Need to Know about the Ukraine Crisis.” Vox. Vox, September 3, 2014. <https://www.vox.com/2014/9/3/18088560/ukraine-everything-you-need-to-know>.

<sup>3</sup> Vernon, Will. “Ukraine Rebels Hold Referendums in Donetsk and Luhansk.” BBC News. BBC, May 11, 2014. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27360146>.

independent republic, neither of these were internationally recognised as the votes were suspect. Such beginnings and subsequent developments highlight a key aspect of the conflict, it is a direct challenge to the territorial integrity to Ukraine.

The Ukrainian government response was swift. President Turchynov declared a military counter offensive on 15th April 2014, launching an “anti-terrorism

operation” against the separatists. Notwithstanding its initial impotence, the Ukrainian government was eventually able to recapture territories from the separatist militias and until today, the separatist militia control less than half of the Donbass region. Though the territories have since remained, for the most part, stagnant in Donbass, the annual death toll due to conflict-related deaths is still between 500-600 annually.



FIGURE 1: MAP OF THE CONFLICT IN DONBASS

## RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONFLICT

Even in the early stages, Russia supplied weapons to the separatist groups.<sup>4</sup> Recently surfaced evidence further indicates that Russian forces had been directly involved in the conflict. Satellite images show that during the Battle of Ilovaysk in August 2014, T-72B3 tanks were present, tanks which were new models that only the Russian army employed.<sup>5</sup> However, on the world stage, Russia has consistently denied the assertions of the West and the Ukrainian government of their military involvement in the region.

Besides military support, Russia has put further pressure on the Ukrainian government by implementing passportizatsiya, a policy that streamlines the procedures for citizens in Donbass to get a Russian passport.<sup>6</sup> President Putin justified such a measure through claims of upholding civil and human rights. This policy bolstered the assertion that Moscow had jurisdiction over these citizens. This has drawn serious condemnation from President

Zelenskiy, who denounced the measure as one that “showed Russia was waging war in Ukraine.”<sup>7</sup>

On top of their annexation of Crimea, this is yet another front which Russia threatens Ukraine’s boundaries. However, experts believe that Russia’s true motivation in Donbass has never been territorial aggrandisement. In reality, Russia views the situation in Donbass as a means of increasing their influence over Ukraine’s actions. By supporting the rebels, the Kremlin prevented their annihilation by the Ukrainian armed forces, which then allows the separatists and by extension Moscow autonomy over the area.<sup>8</sup> As a result of its influence over this strategic region, Russia is able to prevent the Kiev from resuming harmonious relations with the West. In fact, President Putin spelled this out in previous statements that indicated if Ukraine rejected NATO, it would solve the “Ukrainian problem”.<sup>9</sup> Such remarks agree with the general strategic concerns of Russia which emphatically opposes “military facilities in Ukraine that could threaten [Russia’s]

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<sup>4</sup> Bender, Jeremy. “Here Are All The Russian Weapons Separatists Are Using In Ukraine.” Business Insider. Business Insider, November 21, 2014. <https://www.businessinsider.com/russian-weapons-separatists-using-in-ukraine-2014-11?IR=T>.

<sup>5</sup> Walker, Shaun. “New Evidence Emerges of Russian Role in Ukraine Conflict.” The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, August 18, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/18/new-video-evidence-of-russian-tanks-in-ukraine-european-court-human-rights>.

<sup>6</sup> Korsunskaya, Darya. “Russia Offers Passports to East Ukraine, President-Elect Decries ‘Aggressor State’.” Reuters. Thomson Reuters, April 25, 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-russia-passports/russia-offers-passports-to-east-ukraine-president-elect-decries-aggressor-state-idUSKCN1S01LU>.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 3

<sup>8</sup> Stanovaya, Tatiana. “What the West Gets Wrong About Russia’s Intentions in Ukraine.” Foreign Policy. Foreign Policy, December 6, 2019. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/06/what-the-west-gets-wrong-about-russias-intentions-in-ukraine/>.

<sup>9</sup> Unian. “Putin: Federalization, Rejection of NATO Could Resolve ‘Ukrainian Problem.’” Information Agency. UNIAN, June 5, 2018. <https://www.unian.info/politics/10141661-putin-federalization-rejection-of-nato-could-resolve-ukrainian-problem.html>.

security, such as new missile defence systems aimed at thwarting [Russia's] nuclear potential."<sup>10</sup> A secondary outcome of Russia's actions, though nonetheless important, is Russia's actions have been the boosting of President Putin's domestic popularity.<sup>11</sup>

Critically, Russian policy has been calculated to aggravate the situation, whereby Russia's involvement and interference in Eastern Ukraine incrementally rises.

### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

The event which drew the attention of the international community was when a Malaysian passenger jet was shot down by the separatists with a Russian Buk anti-aircraft missile. It was seen as evidence of Russia's role in the conflict and the United States and EU responded in kind with sanctions.<sup>12</sup> Canada, Australia and Japan also adopted sanctions against Russia.<sup>13</sup> At the same time, to aid Ukraine in the economic difficulties the crisis caused, the EU provided financial support for in the form of €11 billion in financial aid.

#### *The United States*

In addition to sanctions, the United States has supported the Ukrainian government in the form of \$1.6 billion of military aid since 2014.<sup>14</sup> This aid has

been crucial to Ukraine, with some experts claiming that without it, the Ukrainian government would not have been able to hold back the separatists to the extent that it did.

While the simplistic argument that the situation in Ukraine is vital to US' security may not be entirely accurate, this line of reasoning holds certain sway in the US. As Bill Taylor put it, "[Ukraine] kept the peace in Europe for 70 years".<sup>15</sup> It may be even more pertinent to the Trump administration which sees Russia and China as attempting to undermine and eventually overthrow the established rule-based international system. To the current administration, Ukraine may very well be the frontlines of conflict. Yet some analysts advocate for decreasing the US' military support. They rationalise their argument by pointing out that the US' support has not led to a peaceful resolution to the conflict and may even be dragging on the conflict. Ukraine may then be less willing to negotiate with Moscow and while draining the US' resources as they continue protecting Ukraine.

#### *Minsk Protocol and Minsk Agreement*

The first Minsk protocol was manifestation of the international community's attempt to solve the crisis. The Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) that

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 6

<sup>11</sup> The Moscow Times. "Majority of Russians Support Donbass Breaking Away From Ukraine, Survey Says." The Moscow Times. The Moscow Times, February 10, 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/06/11/majority-russians-support-donbass-breaking-away-from-ukraine-survey-says-a65955>.

<sup>12</sup> Borger, Julian, Alec Luhn, and Richard Norton-Taylor. "EU Announces Further Sanctions on Russia after Downing of MH17." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, July 22, 2014. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/22/eu-plans-further-sanctions-russia-putin-mh17>.

<sup>13</sup> "Side-by-Side List of Sanctioned Russian and Ukrainian/Crimean Entities and Individuals," PDF. December 22, 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Friedman, Uri. "America Hasn't Always Supported Ukraine Like This." The Atlantic. Atlantic Media Company, November 22, 2019. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/11/how-vital-us-military-aid-ukraine/602407/>.

<sup>15</sup> Maddaus, Gene. "Impeachment Hearings: Bill Taylor Testifies About 'Alarm' Regarding Ukraine Aid." Variety. Variety, November 13, 2019. <https://variety.com/2019/politics/news/impeachment-hearings-trump-adam-schiff-bill-taylor-george-kent-1203403450/>.

drafted and signed the Minsk Protocol was made up of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Ukraine and Russia. Largely aimed at achieving a ceasefire, it was quickly violated by the pro-Russia separatists that seized the opportunity to gain some territory.<sup>16</sup> The Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine that was sent by the Permanent Council of the OSCE,<sup>17</sup> further found frequent violations of the ceasefire by both sides of the conflict. By January 2015, the Minsk Protocol ceasefire was completely thrown out, in part motivated by the separatists gaining control at Donetsk International Airport.<sup>18</sup> In response, a renewed round of talks for peace in Ukraine was agreed upon.

The TCG signed the new Minsk Agreement which, in its 13-point plan, spelled out the steps to secure a ceasefire and end the conflict, ultimately reaffirming the Ukraine's sovereignty.<sup>19,20</sup> In the talks leading up to finalising the agreement, the Ukraine government demanded the restoration of the territorial lines to that of the Minsk Protocol in exchange for granting special status to the rebel-held

areas.<sup>21</sup> However, Russia insisted on the acknowledgement of the territorial alterations that had taken place.

These competing demands and concerns would contribute to the lacklustre success of the Minsk Agreement. As a means for ceasefire, the Agreement has seen partial success insofar as there has been decreased amounts of violence in the region and more low-intensity conflict.<sup>22</sup> On the other issues, it has seen considerably less success. When Ukraine's parliament accorded the rebel-held areas with "special status", it immediately faced backlash from the Russian government that opposed the elections that came along with that status.<sup>23</sup>

Additionally, the divergent political calculus of the different countries could also explain the failure of the Minsk Agreement. As previously explained, allowing for the return to normalcy in Donbass would remove a bargaining chip and a major form of leverage on Ukraine from Moscow's hands. Others further point out that the Kremlin tends to view international security

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<sup>16</sup> "Minsk peace agreement: still to be consolidated on the ground," February 12, 2015.

<sup>17</sup> "OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine." OSCE. OSCE. Accessed December 23, 2019. <https://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine>.

<sup>18</sup> Walker, Shaun, and Oksana Grytsenko. "Ukraine Forces Admit Loss of Donetsk Airport to Rebels." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, January 21, 2015. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/21/russia-ukraine-war-fighting-east>.

<sup>19</sup> Pifer, Steven. "Minsk II at Two Years." Brookings. Brookings, February 15, 2017. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/02/15/minsk-ii-at-two-years/>.

<sup>20</sup> Refer to Appendix I for the full Minsk Agreement

<sup>21</sup> Borger, Julian. "Ukraine Conflict: Four-Nation Peace Talks in Minsk Aim to End Crisis." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, February 8, 2015. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/08/ukraine-conflict-peace-talks-minsk-russia>.

<sup>22</sup> Nilsson, Carl Hvenmark. "Revisiting the Minsk Agreement: The Art and Statecraft of Russian-Brokered Cease-Fires." Revisiting the Minsk Agreement: The Art and Statecraft of Russian-Brokered Cease-Fires, n.d.

<sup>23</sup> Zinets, Natalia. "Ukraine Parliament Offers Special Status for Rebel East, Russia Criticizes." Reuters. Thomson Reuters, March 17, 2015. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-status/ukraine-parliament-offers-special-status-for-rebel-east-russia-criticizes-idUSKBN0MD1ZK20150317>.

agreements as completely unbinding and that they can be violated and modified to fit its interests along the way.<sup>24</sup>

*The United Nations Security Council*

The UNSC has largely been quiet on the issue. Past resolutions that address the issues of Donbass do little more than reiterate the conclusions arrived at in the Minsk Protocol and Agreement.<sup>25</sup>

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

*Steinmeier Formula*

The Steinmeier Formula was created in part to resolve the contradictions in the Minsk Agreement. Specifically, it called for elections, which would be governed by Ukrainian laws and supervised by the OSCE, in the rebel-held areas.<sup>26</sup> If the conditions for a free and fair election are met, the region will then be given a special self-governing status

and Ukraine will regain the territorial integrity of its Eastern borders. This formula was signed on 1 October 2019 by Ukraine, Russia and the separatist rebels.

Speaking on this topic, President Zelenskiy emphasised that while Ukraine agreed to the elections, the Ukrainian government would only support it after Russian troops had left the region. This hints that there could still be disagreements over the order of implementation. This agreement has also received support from Russia as elections would legitimise Russia's proxies, leaving Russia essentially still in control of the region.<sup>27</sup> However, many Ukrainian critics fear that this would mean conceding to Russia and that it is equivalent to capitulation.

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<sup>24</sup> Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael Carpenter, "Russia's Violations of Borders, Treaties, and Human Rights," testimony before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, June 7, 2016, [http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/060716\\_Carpenter\\_Testimony.pdf](http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/060716_Carpenter_Testimony.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> U.N.S.C. Res. 2202, U.N.S.C., 7384th Sess., S/Res/2202 (2015), at February 17, 2015

<sup>26</sup> Miller, Christopher. "Explainer: What Is The Steinmeier Formula -- And Did Zelenskiy Just Capitulate To Moscow?" RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty. Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty, October 3, 2019. <https://www.rferl.org/a/what-is-the-steinmeier-formula-and-did-zelenskiy-just-capitulate-to-moscow-/30195593.html>.

<sup>27</sup> Beswick, Emma. "Will the 'Steinmeier Formula' Lead to Peace in Eastern Ukraine?" euronews. euronews, September 19, 2019. <https://www.euronews.com/2019/09/19/what-is-the-steinmeier-formula-and-will-it-lead-to-peace-in-eastern-ukraine>.

## III. SCOPE OF DEBATE

*There are fundamentally two levels of debate regarding this issue. On one hand there is the question of dealing with the more fundamental and detailed areas of the situation, such as ensuring adherence to the ceasefire agreements. At the same time, there is a need to discuss the principles behind intervention, which will form a more abstract level of discussion: the meta debate.*

### ISSUE DEBATE

#### *Humanitarian Situation in the Region of Conflict*

The war in Donbass has resulted in constant suffering for the people in the region. Their food security is often threatened, with the percent of the population that do not have access to proper nutrition increasing from 40% in 2016 to 86% in 2017.<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, the trade embargo and nationalisation of many private businesses has resulted in the laying off of many workers. One obvious sign of the long-term impact of such circumstances is the increased poverty in the non-governmental controlled areas (NGCAs). Taken together, these conditions could ultimately further undermine the rehabilitation efforts and the overall development of the region.

With regards to the humanitarian crisis that currently manifests in Donbass, there are a few major areas to take note of:

**Safety.** The civilians that are living in the region constantly face dangers due to the presence of ongoing conflicts which involve frequent shelling. In fact, the security zone remains the most violent place in Ukraine, with 100 000 civilians in danger daily. This has also led to an excessive number of conflict-induced displacements.

**Deteriorating access to humanitarian goods and services.** The Ukrainian government has imposed severe restrictions on the residents of the NGCAs, preventing many of the civilians from accessing aforementioned services. For example, in order to receive social benefits, internally-displaced people (IDPs) must cross the 'contact line', which is the most dangerous part of the region, for verification. This has disproportionately affected the elderly and children, with the percentage of elderly impacted being the highest in any single country.

**Loss of livelihoods.** Recent findings have linked the conflict to the deteriorating socioeconomic conditions in the region. The violence has severely curbed people's ability to access their farmlands and thus their ability to bounce back. Increasing poverty aggravates the lack of food security and reports depict a dire state of the region as an economic exclusion zone. This has led to fears that the numerous unemployed and not eligible for social aid would place even more strains on the humanitarian needs.

<sup>28</sup> "Ukraine Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018." Ukraine, 2018.

However, at the end of the day, the humanitarian situation is merely a symptom of the larger problem which is what the UNSC should be aiming to solve.

#### *Ceasefire Agreements*

As mentioned above, all of the ceasefire agreements signed have been breached and the region still often sees violence. Criticism of the Minsk documents point out that they do not fully acknowledge that Russia is party to the conflict and in fact bolsters their narrative by allowing Russia to appear as simply a mediator to the conflict.<sup>29</sup> In fact this goes one step further by completely excluding Russia from any obligations. More importantly, the vagueness of the documents have impeded their efficacy. For example, when the accords referred to “two parties” Russia construed them to mean Ukraine and LPR and DPR, whereas Ukraine took it to mean Russia and Ukraine.<sup>30</sup> The sequencing of implementing the agreed actions also met with dichotomised views – Ukraine argued that it could not fulfil the political conditions laid out until the ceasefire was permanent while Russia pushed for the simultaneous enactment of measures. Additionally, the configuration of the talks increases the chances that there would be a deadlock. Even though the separatist groups are recognised within the TCG, they are excluded from the Normandy Format which is where discussion of

political issues take place. Hence, as Russia insists that agreements reached in the Normandy Format is ratified by the TCG, there are higher chances of opposition. Furthermore, this forces Ukraine to recognise the separatists as a negotiating partner and equal. Hence, for any effective ceasefire agreement to take place, there needs to be a reconciliation of these problems, or at the very least present a way to address them. Finally, there is the question of the actual implementation of a new ceasefire agreement and the possibility of consequences for breaching such agreements.

#### **META DEBATE**

##### *Right to Intervention by Nations*

Under international law, only the UNSC has the power to enforce international law. Furthermore, the principle of state sovereignty is one of the most basic principles of the United Nations.<sup>31</sup> However, are there situations in which countries have an inherent duty to intervene in other countries? One such scenario could be humanitarian intervention, in which a particular country intervenes in another on the basis of upholding humanitarian standards.

The rationale behind non-intervention is to “protect the state as the legal embodiment of a people or nation”. Hence, the logic of humanitarian

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<sup>29</sup> Peters, Tim B., and Anastasiia Shapkina. “The Grand Stalemate of the Minsk Agreements .” *The Grand Stalemate of the Minsk Agreements .* Ukraine, n.d.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, 20

<sup>31</sup> Greenwood, Christopher. “Is There a Right to Humanitarian Intervention .” *The World Today*, February 1993.

intervention conforms to this logic – the state that has committed gross transgressions against its own people has thus lost its claim to legitimacy and by extension sovereignty. Nevertheless, even in such exceptions of the general conduct of states, the burden of showing that the people could not be protected in any other way than intervention lies with the intervening state.

Furthermore, there is also the question of the right to self-determination of the people in Donbass. The right to self-determination, which is enshrined within the charter of the United Nations and respected as customary international law, can be realised through three ways: establishing an independent state, freely associating with another sovereign state, or joining another state after expressing the desire as a people to do so.<sup>32</sup>

There are thus several considerations that must be made with regards to the conflict in Donbass:

- Is the reason of humanitarian intervention compelling enough to justify intervention in another country? Are there any limits to these humanitarian interventions, and if so, what should they be?
- If humanitarian intervention is justified, given that Russia has claimed that its intervention was in part to protect the Russian ethnic people in Ukraine, has it proven this?

- Is it still justifiable when the intervention leads to a worsened situation?
- Is there an infringement upon the right to self-determination of the people in Donbass that wish to join Russia and does the situation justify that infringement?

The overall absence of an international response is worrying. It glaringly highlights the failure of the UNSC to “maintain international peace and security” and “cooperate in solving international problems”.

*Evaluating Intervention  
by the UNSC*

Yet it must still be asked, not on principle but on efficacy, should the UNSC intervene in the conflict? If so, what is the best way to do so? After all, the true litmus test for any solution by the UNSC is whether or not the solution provides a higher payoff to Russia than the continuation of the conflict with Ukraine. Any solution that falls short of this would result in Russia immediately shooting it down with its veto. At the same time, a solution that ultimately results in the people of Donbass’ unhappiness will lead to recalcitrance and aggravate the situation. Some analysts have pointed out that the solution to the conflict may ultimately be a bilateral political one that does not involve the UNSC at all.

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<sup>32</sup> “International Law and Self-Determination.” Diakonia. Diakonia. Accessed February 10, 2020. <https://www.diakonia.se/en/IHL/The-Law/International-Law/IL--Self-Determination/>.

More importantly, this leads to the question of how the UNSC can ever hope to regulate against the interests of a great power. If the fundamental aim of the UNSC is to be the regulators and maintainers of the rules-based system, then there is an inherent conflict when the aggressors themselves are one of the P5 countries.

## V. POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

### UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE

Ukraine has previously called for a large UN Peacekeeping mission. However, there are numerous reservations about the efficacy of such a measure and the suggestion has seen great opposition from and reluctance by many countries.

The purpose of the UN Peacekeeping force would have to be clear. Should the force be there to maintain the peace while negotiations take place or should they be there to enforce the agreements that were previously negotiated? In other words what is the mandate of the peacekeeping mission? Even then, how can these forces be sent to Donbass without violent objections from Moscow and the West (taking into account that the Capstone Doctrine needs the consent of Moscow and the rebels)?

With regards to the last question, some experts point out that allowing for a UN peacekeeping mission that gradually progresses via successive stages would see a higher chance of acceptance. In order to quell the fears of Kiev and the West, and Moscow, there can be a mechanism to prevent the mission from continuing to the next stage. Additionally, the settlement process can involve both the separatists as well as Moscow, something that

Ukraine repeatedly opposed. Such an arrangement would encourage Russia's acceptance as it provides an opportunity for it to determine the mandate of the peacekeeping mission. Furthermore, getting Russian peacekeepers would be another layer of guarantee that the parties involved will not violate the peacekeeping agreements.

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<sup>31</sup> Kit, Tang See. "At P&G, Promoting Equality at the Workplace Includes Getting Men to Recognise Gender Bias." CNA, November 26, 2019. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/business/p-g-promoting-equality-gender-bias-at-the-workplace-12123926>.

## VI. QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

*What is the role of the UNSC in this conflict?*

- *Essentially, what is the main aim of the UNSC with regards to the situation and the mandate of any solutions imposed by the UNSC? Should a humanitarian response be prioritised and can it be achieved without firstly achieving a political solution to the conflict?*
- *In what form can a response from the UNSC take, be it humanitarian, militarily or otherwise?*
- *How can we create a new ceasefire agreement that is more likely to be successful? Should the UNSC be the one to implement a new Minsk Agreement?*
- *How can the UNSC regulate against the interests of a great power?*

*Are Russia's actions justified under the right to intervention? If so, how can Russia's humanitarian efforts be bolstered; if not, should there be any repercussions and in what form should they come in?*

## VII. CONCLUSION

In order to move towards the resolution of this frozen conflict, in one form or another, there needs to be the reconciliation of the diametric stances and interests of the parties involved. At the same time, the humanitarian costs of the conflict continue to constitute a heavy toll on the affected citizens. Will the UNSC be able to overcome the challenges of this conflict or will the criticisms of its inefficacy ring true?

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