

Disarmament and International Security Committee

Situation in Ukraine and Crimea

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Delegates!

Welcome to the United Nations General Assembly for MCGSMUN 2015.

From each one of you, we expect impeccable diplomatic conduct – which includes diplomatic courtesy, effective lobbying and above all compromising on negotiable grounds. Delegates are also expected to be well versed with the MUN rules of procedure and the generic flow of committee proceedings, in order to enhance the level of debate.

The General Assembly is inarguably one of the most demanding committees at any Model UN Conference. With the number of delegates in this council, chances to speak will always be less. However within these limited turns to speak one has to show the world his worth and come out as an outstanding delegate. Being the largest council of the United Nation, we hold a responsibility to take care of the world and solve these issues.

Delegates, it is you who form the committee and you are the ones who raise (or reduce) the quality or the level of debate in a committee. So, a major share of responsibility to ensure the overall success of the Committee rests on your shoulders.

Feel free to revert to the executive board for any queries or for any form of assistance that you might need. Wish you the best of luck for the conference.

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DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

FIRST COMMITTEE

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to DISEC, the Disarmament and International Security 1st Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Disarmament and International Security Committee deals with disarmament and related international security questions.

One of the fundamental aims of the United Nations (UN) is to promote international security and relative peace among nations. To this end, the UN maintains a security framework consisting of the Security Council, the Conference on Disarmament, and the First Committee of the General Assembly: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC). This committee is dedicated to the principles of international peace and security. The powers of DISEC are restricted to those specifically enumerated by the UN Charter in Chapter V, and the committee has the added distinction of including representatives from all 194 member states, in addition to certain observer groups.

The committee is limited by the UN charter in that it is based on the international principles of cooperation and cannot dictate action to be taken by any nation: DISEC lacks the authority to declare war or to forcibly impose its recommendations upon nations or groups. For example, the dispatch of peacekeeping forces is essentially delegated to the domain of the Security Council, while the planning of technical details concerning UN disarmament policies and their feasibility comes under the jurisdiction of the Convention on Disarmament. As a result, the end suggestions of DISEC are communicated in the form of resolutions to the General Assembly and Security Council. While the committee lacks the power to prescribe definite action, the broad representation of nations and equal voting structure leads to resolutions viewed with respect and credibility, as they represent a genuine agreement among states and are more likely to result in the desired action.

In the past, DISEC has often performed the valuable function of providing a broad forum for general debate over issues concerning international security, particularly effective given its wide breadth of world opinion. The committee has dealt rather successfully with a sequence of serious actions on various issues over the course of its existence. The committee proved to be an effective forum for promoting the successful passage, enforcement, and verification of the Nuclear Non proliferation Treaty (NPT).

DISEC continued to tackle issues concerning non proliferation, reducing superpower nuclear stockpiles, and chemical/biological weapons through the end of the Cold War.

The conclusion of the Cold War, however, has not by any means led to a decline in the committee's activity. DISEC has been compelled to involve itself in the prevention and dissolution of regional conflicts around the globe and continues to operate very actively in the sphere of disarmament. In recent years, DISEC has attempted to establish the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), nuclear-free zones in the Middle East and Central Asia, various arms agreements, and broad adherence to the Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

The committee has also committed itself to the peaceful development of outer space; in fact, a special committee has even been established to assist DISEC in this endeavour.

Much work still remains to be done by DISEC in a world plagued by the potential for regional and global conflicts, as well as the overwhelming traffic of armaments around the world. Operating on the principle of cooperation, with its diverse membership DISEC has the capability to both engage issues of global concern and deal with threats to international security.

INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA

For the first time after the events in the Balkans at the end of the last century, Europe is facing a serious crisis in its territories. The situation in Ukraine and especially in Crimea and the eastern regions of the country is a charged powder keg ready to blow, from one moment to another.

The international community and especially the United Nations, needs to find a way to normalize the situation in an area which is crucial for the European Union as well as for several other nations. This geopolitical area is fundamental for ensuring peace and security, economic wellbeing and most of all, energy security.

The issues in the country span a variety and all of them need a feasible short term solution that will lead to a long term new stability. It is necessary to consider the different aspirations of the citizens who to move eastwards or westwards; it is crucial to secure an internationally recognized and a legitimate government; it is fundamental to avoid military fights in the Crimean peninsula in order to not to drive a wider armed conflict.

International laws and treaties have to be considered in order to understand if we are facing a process of auto determination of a population or if we have to suppress an act of international aggression. What is clear is that the United Nations Security Council has to find concrete solutions in order to not let the situation degenerate into a bloody conflict that will affect too many people.

The risk of falling into a new “Cold War” situation is extremely high, we are living in times in which the energy strategies and the political influences in certain areas are the engine of new international relations, but it is the precise duty of this UN body to ensure a strong respect of the international rules in order to not let the world walk in the direction of a “dog eat dog” power system.

OVERVIEW OF THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS AND ITS TWO FACES

The situation that we are facing now could be divided in two different parts, the “National” one, and (Crimea Crisis), the “International” one. Dividing this into two movements will help us better understand where and when the international community should intervene.

The first part “officially” started after the stepping back of Yanukovych. The first mass protests were pacific, similar to the Orange revolution, but as it was easy to predict, violence succeeded the protests. The

months of December, January and February were characterized by explosions of violence between the protesters and the police, which ended in some cases with death casualties, and short “ceasefire” moments.

Russian president Vladimir Putin promised a huge financial help to Yanukovich, leaving the citizens divided between those who were still supporting the government and those who were for a radical change and pushing for more protests in order to remove the government.

The symbolic place of the manifestation was Maidan Square, a place which garnered international fame and with the eyes of the world constantly on what was happening there.

Despite the international attention and pressures, the entire struggle was consumed inside the country, between citizens that belonged to different ideas and between the official forces and the participants of the manifestations, hence making it a “National” phase.

This phase ended with the liberation of Yulia Tymoshenko and the fleeing of president Yanukovich. With a transition government ruling the country, the situation switched from a “National” to an “International” one.

On the 27th of February 2014, armed forces without on their uniforms entered in the Crimean city of Simferopol, got into the building of the Supreme Council of Crimea and exposed a Russian Flag.

From that moment the escalation of the Crisis was very quick, Crimea was an autonomous region of Ukraine, with a majority of Russian speaking citizens and with enormous strategic importance for the Russian government because of the naval bases and access to Black Sea. Citing the need of protecting Russian citizens in Crimea, Russian president authorized his official military forces and in only a few days, supported by a wide portion of the inhabitants and also by some members of the Ukrainian Army, all the “hot spots” of the peninsula like airports, harbours, military bases, TV stations, were brought under control of the Russian forces.

The Crimean parliament decided to hold a referendum that took place on the 16th of March, and thanks to a unanimous consensus of the voters, on the 17th of March, Crimea declared its independence from Ukraine. Pushing the ongoing situation, The U.N Security Council failed while trying to pass a resolution about the “invasion” and the referendum, driven by the veto power used by the Russian Delegation. On the 27th of March the U.N General Assembly voted in favor of GA/11493, a resolution that calls upon states not to recognize political changes in the Crimea Region.

TIMELINE

1991

August: Ukrainian parliament declares independence from USSR following attempted coup in Moscow. In a nationwide referendum in December, 90% vote for independence.

2004

December: Opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko tops poll in election rerun. Rival candidate Viktor Yanukovych challenges result but resigns as prime minister.

November: Orange Revolution begins after reports of widespread vote rigging in presidential election nominally won by pro-Russian candidate Viktor Yanukovych. Opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko leads mass street protests and civil disobedience. Supreme Court annuls result of poll.

2010

February: Viktor Yanukovych is declared the winner in a presidential election judged free and fair by observers. His main rival, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, is arrested for abuse of powers and eventually jailed in October 2011.

November, 2013

Nov 21: Yanukovich announces abandonment of a trade agreement with the EU, seeking closer ties with Moscow.

Nov 30: Public support grows for pro-EU anti-government protesters as images of them bloodied by police crackdown spread online and in the media.

December, 2013

Dec 1: About 300,000 people protest in Kiev's Independence Square. The City Hall is seized by activists.

Dec 17: Russian President Vladimir Putin announces plans to buy \$15bn in Ukrainian government bonds and a cut in cost of Russia's natural gas for Ukraine.

January, 2014

Jan 16: Anti-protest laws are passed and quickly condemned as "draconian".

Jan 22: Two protesters die after being hit with live ammunition. A third dies following a fall during confrontation with police.

Jan 28: Mykola Azarov resigns as Ukraine's prime minister and the parliament repeals anti-protest laws that caused the demonstrations to escalate in the first place.

Jan 29: A bill is passed, promising amnesty for arrested protesters if seized government buildings are relinquished.

Jan 31: Opposition activist Dmytro Bulatov found outside Kiev after being imprisoned and tortured for eight days, apparently at the hands of a pro - Russian group.

February, 2014

February 14: All 234 protesters arrested since December are released. Kiev city hall, occupied since 1 December, is abandoned by demonstrators, along with other public buildings in regions.

February 18: Clashes erupt, with reasons unclear: 18 dead, including seven police officers, and hundreds more wounded. Some 25,000 protesters are encircled in Independence Square.

Feb 20: Kiev sees its worst day of violence for almost 70 years. At least 88 people are killed in 48 hours. Footage shows government snipers shooting at protesters from rooftops.

Feb 21: Protest leaders, the political opposition and Yanukovich agree to form a new government and hold early elections. Yanukovich's powers are slashed. The parliament votes to free Yulia Tymoshenko, the former prime minister, from prison. Yanukovich flees Kiev after protesters take control of the capital.

Feb 22: Ukraine politicians vote to remove Yanukovich. Tymoshenko is freed from prison and speaks to those gathered in Kiev. May 25 is set for fresh presidential elections.

Feb 23: Ukraine's parliament assigns presidential powers to its new speaker, Oleksandr Turchinov, an ally of Tymoshenko. Pro-Russian protesters rally in Crimea against the new Kiev administration.

Feb 24: Ukraine's interim government draws up a warrant for Yanukovich's arrest.

Feb 25: Pro-Russian Aleksey Chaly is appointed Sevastopol's de facto mayor as rallies in Crimea continue.

Feb 26: Crimean Tartars supporting the new Kiev administration clash with pro-Russia protesters in the region.

Feb 27: Pro-Kremlin armed men seize government buildings in Crimea. Ukraine government vows to prevent a country break-up as Crimean parliament set May 25 as the date for referendum on region's status. Yanukovich is granted refuge in Russia.

Feb 28: Armed men in unmarked combat fatigues seize Simferopol international airport and a military airfield in Sevastopol. UN Security Council holds an emergency closed-door session to discuss the situation in Crimea. Moscow says military movements in Crimea are in line with previous agreements to protect its fleet position in the Black Sea. Yanukovich makes his first public appearance, in southern Russia.

March, 2014

March 1: Russia's parliament approves Vladimir Putin's request to use force in Ukraine to protect Russian interests. Pro-Russian rallies are held in several Ukrainian cities outside Crimea, including the second-biggest city Kharkiv. Barack Obama tells Mr Putin to pull forces back to bases.

March 2: Ukraine's interim PM Yatsenyuk says Russia has effectively declared war. US says Russia is in control of Crimea.

March 3: "Black Monday" on Russian stock markets as reports suggest Russia's military had issued a deadline for Ukrainian forces in Crimea to surrender. The reports are later denied. Russia's UN envoy says toppled President Yanukovich had asked the Russian president in writing for use of force.

March 4: Vladimir Putin breaks his silence, saying the armed men besieging Ukrainian forces in Crimea are not Russian troops but are self-defense forces.

March 6: Crimea's parliament votes to join Russia and schedules a referendum for 16 March.

March 11: The EU proposes a package of trade liberalization measures to support Ukraine's economy. Crimean regional parliament adopts a "declaration of independence".

March 12: Obama meets with Yatsenyuk at the White House in a show of support for the new Ukrainian government and declares the US would "completely reject" the Crimea referendum.

March 13: Ukraine's parliament votes to create a 60,000-strong National Guard to defend the country.

March 15: UN Security Council members vote overwhelmingly in support of a draft resolution condemning an upcoming referendum on the future of Crimea as illegal. Russia vetoed the action and China abstained.

March 16: Crimea's referendum goes ahead, with official results stating that at least 95 percent of voters support union with Russia.

March 17: The US and Europe put asset freezes and visa bans on individuals involved in the Crimean breakaway.

March 18: Putin signs treaty absorbing Crimea into Russia, the first time the Kremlin expands the country's borders since World War II. Kiev says the conflict has reached a "military stage" after a Ukrainian soldier was shot and killed by gunmen who stormed a military base in Simferopol, the first such death in the region since pro-Russian forces took over in late February.

March 19: Pro-Russian activists, apparently Crimean self-defense forces, overtake Sevastopol base without using violence.

March 20: EU leaders condemn Russia's annexation of Crimea. EU and US extend the list of individuals targeted for sanctions.

March 21: Russia backs off from tit-for-tat sanctions after US targets Putin's inner circle and EU adds 12 names to sanctions list. Ukraine says it will never accept loss of Crimea while Moscow signs a bill to formally annex the peninsula.

March 22: Soldiers take control of Ukrainian airbase in Belbek, as Novofedorovka naval base is seized by pro-Russian activists. Crimea celebrates joining Russia.

March 24: Leaders of the Group of Seven nations, meeting without Russia, agree to hold their own summit this year instead of attending a planned G8 meeting and to suspend their participation in the G8 until Russia changes course.

March 25: Oleksandr Turchynov, Ukraine's acting president, orders troops to withdraw from Crimea after Russia seized and annexed the peninsula.

March 27: UN General Assembly approves a resolution declaring Russian annexation of Ukraine's Crimea illegal.

March 29: Ukraine's presidential race begins with former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and billionaire confectionery tycoon Petro Poroshenko registering as hopefuls. Former heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko pulls out of the race, giving his backing to Poroshenko and urging Tymoshenko to do the same.

March 31: Russian troops partly withdraw from Ukrainian border in the south region of Rostov in Russia, following talks between Russia's foreign minister and his US counterpart. Meanwhile, Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev visits Crimea, promising funds and pay rises.

April, 2014

April 1: NATO announces it is suspending "all practical civilian and military cooperation" with Russia.

April 2: Ukraine's ousted president admits he was "wrong" in inviting Russian troops into Crimea and vows to try to persuade Moscow to return the peninsula.

April 6: Pro-Russian activists seize control of government buildings in the eastern cities of Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv, calling for a referendum on independence. Ukraine authorities regain control of Kharkiv buildings on April 8 after launching an "anti-terror operation".

April 11: Ukraine's interim prime minister offers to give more powers to the eastern regions, as pro-Russia separatists continue to occupy buildings in Donetsk and Luhansk.

April 12: Pro-Russian gunmen take over the police station and security services building in the town of Slovyansk, 60 kilometres from Donetsk where pro-Russian rebels take over the police headquarters. The separatists also seize a police HQ in Kramatorsk.

April 13: Ukrainian Special Forces fail to dislodge pro-Russian gunmen in Slovyansk. One Ukrainian officer and one pro-Russian activist are killed in the operation. Meanwhile, the separatists seize the city council buildings in Mariupol and in Khartsyzsk.

April 14: Putin and Obama confront each other during telephone talks. EU foreign ministers agree to expand the list of those hit with sanctions for their role in the Ukraine crisis.

April 15: Putin declares that Ukraine is on the brink of civil war. Politicians in Moldova's Transdnestr region call on Moscow and the UN to recognise its independence.

April 16: Ukrainian troops turn back from Slovyansk while a pro-Russian group seizes the town hall in Donetsk.

April 17: Ukrainian troops repel an overnight attack in Mariupol, killing three assailants. Around 200 people then demonstrate in the town against Kiev. Putin acknowledges that Russian forces were deployed in Crimea during the March referendum on joining Russia, but says he hopes not to have to use his "right" to send Russian troops into Ukraine. Lavrov announces in Geneva a deal has been reached with Ukraine, the US and the EU to "de-escalate" tensions in Ukraine.

April 18: Pro-Russian groups say they will not be moved from occupied buildings until the government in Kiev, which they see as illegitimate, is also removed. Russia condemns talks of more sanctions. Ukraine's interim government pledges broad independent governance and says the Russian language will be given a "special status" in the country.

April 20: A deadly gunfight in an eastern Ukrainian town shatters a fragile Easter truce, with Russia declaring it is "outraged" at the return to violence in the crisis-hit former Soviet republic.

April 21: Protesters in Luhansk pledge to hold their own local referendum on autonomy on May 11.

April 22: In Kiev, US Vice President Joe Biden says Russia faces "isolation". Washington orders 600 soldiers to Poland and the ex-Soviet Baltic states. Ukraine orders a military operation against pro-Kremlin separatists to resume.

April 23: Russia says it will respond if its interests are attacked in Ukraine.

April 24: Ukraine's military launches an assault on Slovyansk. Up to five rebels are killed, according to Kiev. Special Forces seize back control of the town hall in the port city of Mariupol. Putin says deployment of military in east Ukraine by the Kiev authorities is a crime that will "have consequences. The Russian army starts new exercises at the border with Ukraine.

April 25: Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk accuses Moscow of seeking to trigger a "third world war". The Ukrainian military launches an offensive for a second day to besiege Slovyansk while rebels vow: "We will not surrender the town." Western powers led by US President Barack Obama warn that Russia faces fresh sanctions. They stress that a presidential poll scheduled for May 25 is "essential" to stabilise the country. Seven OSCE military observers are detained in Slovak.

April 26: Yatsenyuk shortens a Vatican trip, saying Russian warplanes violated Ukraine's airspace. Russia denies the claim.

April 28: The West imposes new sanctions on Moscow. Russia vows "painful" response. NATO says no sign of a Russia troop pullback claimed by Moscow. Russia assures US it will not invade Ukraine.

April 29: Russia warns sanctions could harm Western interests in Russia's lucrative energy sector, and denies it has troops in eastern Ukraine.

April 30: Kiev places its armed forces on "combat alert" against a possible Russian invasion, and admits police are "helpless" to stop rebels overrunning eastern towns. The IMF approves \$17bn aid package for the beleaguered Ukrainian economy.

May, 2014

May 1: Acting President Olexander Turchynov reinstates conscription, warning Ukraine is on "full combat alert". Pro-Russians take over the regional prosecutor's office in eastern Donetsk.

May 2: Acting President Olexander Turchynov says many pro-Russia rebels have been killed, injured and arrested in a government offensive in the eastern city of Sloviansk. Pro-Russians shoot down two Ukrainian military helicopters, killing a pilot and another serviceman. Clashes in the Black Sea city of Odessa leave at least 42 people dead, most of them pro-Russian activists killed when a building they had barricaded themselves inside caught fire.

May 3: Seven international military observers held for a week by pro-Russian gunmen in eastern Sloviansk are released.

May 4: Pro-Russian protesters attack the police headquarters in Odessa, prompting police to release dozens of people arrested over the earlier unrest. Interim PM Arseniy Yatsenyuk says "inefficient" police failed to prevent the fire two days earlier.

May 7: In an apparent shift in Russian policy, President Putin calls for referendums in eastern Ukraine to be postponed to encourage dialogue. He also describes Ukraine's presidential elections scheduled for 25 May as a move "in the right direction".

May 11: Pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk declare independence after referendums which were not recognised by Kiev or the West.

May 19: Russia's President Vladimir Putin says he has ordered troops near Ukraine's border to withdraw, but Nato says there is no sign they have pulled back.

May 22: Rebel attack on checkpoint in Volnovakha, east Ukraine, leaves 14 soldiers dead.

May 25: Ukraine holds presidential election but most polling stations in east remain closed. President-elect Petro Poroshenko vows to bring "peace to a united and free Ukraine".

May 26-27: Russia says it is "open to dialogue" with President-elect Petro Poroshenko but insists military action against separatists must stop. Ukrainian army launches "anti-terrorist operation" to oust separatists occupying Donetsk airport. Combat jets, helicopters and airborne troops deployed and at least 40 separatists killed.

May 29: Pro-Russian rebels shoot down a military helicopter near Sloviansk, killing 14 people including a general.

May 30: Ukrainian forces will continue their offensive against rebels until peace and order are restored in the east, interim Defence Minister Mykhailo Koval says.

June, 2014

June 3: Nato pledges to bolster its defence capabilities in response to Russian actions in Ukraine, but says it will stick to a key agreement with Moscow.

June 4: Separatist rebels take two Ukrainian military bases in the eastern region of Luhansk as fighting continues near the rebel-held town of Sloviansk. US President Barack Obama condemns Russian "aggression" in Ukraine while speaking in Warsaw to mark 25 years since the fall of communism in Poland.

June 5: Leaders of the G7 industrial nations urge Russia to begin talks with the new leadership in Kiev to end the crisis in eastern Ukraine.

June 6: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President-elect Petro Poroshenko call for a quick end to the bloodshed in eastern Ukraine.

June 7: Petro Poroshenko is sworn in as president of Ukraine, amid hopes the move could help put an end to deadly fighting in the east of the country.

June 10: Petro Poroshenko orders the creation of humanitarian corridors so civilians can flee areas of east Ukraine hit by conflict.

June 12: Ukraine says three Russian tanks have entered rebel areas in the east. Russia denies the allegations.

June 13: Government troops win back the port city of Mariupol from pro- Russian separatist rebels after heavy fighting.

June 14: A violent protest outside the Russian embassy in Ukraine leads to windows being smashed and cars being overturned. Meanwhile, pro-Russia separatists shoot down a military plane in the east, killing 49 people.

June 16: Russia cuts off all gas supplies to Ukraine, as Gazprom says Ukraine has failed to settle its debts.

June 17: Russian state TV journalist Igor Kornelyuk is killed in a mortar attack near a village outside the eastern Ukrainian city of Luhansk.

June 20: President Poroshenko announces a 15-point peace plan and declares a week-long truce.

June 21: The US imposes sanctions against seven pro-Russian leaders in Ukraine.

June 23: Rebels agree to observe the ceasefire proposed by the government until 27 June, but say they will not disarm until government troops leave the east.

June 24: A Ukrainian military helicopter is shot down in the east, killing nine people, as the UN estimates more than 420 people were killed in eastern Ukraine between April 15 and June 20.

June 25: Russia's parliament cancels a parliamentary resolution authorizing the use of Russian forces in Ukraine. EU leaders welcome the move but warn of more sanctions if Russia does not do more to de-escalate tensions in Ukraine.

June 27: The EU signs an association agreement with Ukraine, along with Georgia and Moldova, in what President Petro Poroshenko describes as the most important day in the country's history since independence in 1991.

CONCLUSIONS AND QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Last but not the least, it is now important to understand why this situation is important. First of all, under international law, if strictly considered, we are facing a case of Aggression. Military forces of a foreign country (Russia) occupied a part of another country without its consensus. Self-determination of a population is a fundamental right as stated in Chapter 1, Article 1, and Paragraph 2 of the United Nations Charter. Crimea is a region with a huge majority of Russian population and their will to self-determination

has to be protected from an entity strongly against them, which is also the reason cited by the Russian president about their movements inside Crimea.

The ethnic situation is unstable because of two major reasons. The Russians on one hand are a strong majority not only in Crimea but also in other eastern regions and allowing the Crimean secession could cause a “domino effect” in the other regions, leading to dissolution of a huge part of Ukraine.

On the other hand there is a Tartar minority that is afraid about the possibility of ethnic cleansing, if the situation degenerates. Each delegate, considering the position of its country has to first take a position about this issue, and consider the situation from a precise point of view.

The first questions that a resolution should answer are:

- Are we facing a foreign occupation or a self-determination process?

Directly connected to this question is:

- Is the referendum legal and internationally valid?

After the clarification of your country’s position on these questions, it would be required to decide upon the international actions that need to be taken. The United Nations has produced only a non-binding resolution and the Security Council is frozen because of the Russian Veto power. Some sanctions have been activated against Russia, with their efficiencies under question.

Motivating stability in the region should be the first priority and if the armies of Russia and Ukraine will clash, the cost in terms of human life has to be cited in order to avoid any possible confrontations.

Another chance is that the situation will simply stay in this phase, something already seen in this neighborhood, with the other four so called “frozen conflicts”: Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It’s crucial to avoid another case like these in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, keeping in minds the economic interests which run much deeper than in the other “frozen” areas. This will for sure lead to the creation of a “no man’s land” which will become a haven for criminal activities and atrocities.

Another important point is the strategic position of Ukraine in the European energy policy. A stable Ukraine means an energy secured Europe. Ensuring energy security is one of the biggest challenges of our time and a solution for this challenge in the European area has to take into consideration the situation of Ukraine.

Considering all these elements other fundamental questions that a resolution of this council should answer are:

- What concrete action could be taken by the UN considering the SC situation?

- How to avoid a war?

- How to avoid a frozen conflict?

- How to ensure energy security.

- Which action should be taken in order to help Ukraine build a safe and democratic state and to avoid future crisis?

These are only suggestions, the situation has many other issues not mentioned in the background guide or that could be interesting only for certain countries. I hope you will use this guide as a starting point to better understand the situation and from here develop the position of your country.

FURTHER READING AND REFERENCE

Russia Annexes Crimea, <http://www.infoplease.com/news/2014/russia-annexes-crimea.html>

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