

The Question of Disarmament in Outer Space

Background:

Efforts in the United Nations to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes began in 1957, months prior to the launch of the first artificial satellite into Earth's orbit Sputnik-I on 4 October 1957. There have been many proposals to limit the use of weapons in outer space and to prevent an arms race.

A growing number of countries are looking to use space to enhance their military capabilities and national security. The use of space for national security has led more countries to look at developing their own counter-space capabilities that can be used to destroy or disrupt other space systems.

Key Points:

- The cornerstone of international law regulating the exploration and militarisation of outer space is the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (also known as the “Outer Space Treaty” 1967).
- There has been no known conflict in outer space and there are UN treaties in place to limit the installation of weapons in outer space including weapons of mass destruction.
- Countries are very dependent on technologies that interact with satellites in outer space for both military and civilian purposes, such as GPS, Meteorological studies, or telecommunications. Thus, they are susceptible to attack from other states.

Previous Action:

The “Outer Space Treaty” entered into force in 1967. It states that the exploration of outer space should be “carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind.”. Since the beginning of the space race, space has been a neutral domain despite being widely used for scientific and military use.

Article IV of the “Outer Space Treaty” sets out a legal framework for the disarmament of outer space: “States Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds

of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner.

The moon and other celestial bodies shall be used by all States Parties to the Treaty exclusively for peaceful purposes. The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on celestial bodies shall be forbidden. The use of military personnel for scientific research or for any other peaceful purposes shall not be prohibited. The use of any equipment or facility necessary for peaceful exploration of the moon and other celestial bodies shall also not be prohibited.”

In 2010 the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/65/68, which created a group of governmental experts to conduct a study on outer space to increase transparency and build confidence to prevent an arms race in outer space.

In 2017, through resolution A/RES/72/250, the General Assembly decided to establish a Group of Governmental Experts to make recommendations on an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. While the Group held in-depth discussions on the matter, it was unable to reach a consensus.

In 2020 the General assembly adopted resolution A/RES/75/36 on Reducing space threats through norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviours. The assembly aimed to gather ideas from member states on how to implement rules to establish responsible behaviour in outer space. The different responses to the resolution can be found here:

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/outerspace-sg-report-outerspace-2021/>

Relevant UN Bodies:

- UNODA - United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
- UNOOSA- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Questions to Consider:

1. How can a resolution be designed to limit the militarisation of space but not hinder scientific progress from these technologies?
2. Many technologies in outer space are both for research and defensive military purposes- how should these be classified?
3. What measures should be taken to increase transparency between states to prevent an arms race whilst not compromising national security?

Useful links:

Link to the “Outer Space Treaty”: https://treaties.unoda.org/t/outer_space

Summary of the “Outer Space Treaty”:

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/outerspace>

Security Council

Summary of previous UN action regarding outer space:

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/outerspace/>

Link to the resolution A/RES/75/36 (Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours):

<https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/354/39/PDF/N2035439.pdf?OpenElement>

Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities:

[https://documents-](https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/516/62/PDF/N1051662.pdf?OpenElement)

[ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/516/62/PDF/N1051662.pdf?OpenElement](https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/516/62/PDF/N1051662.pdf?OpenElement)

The Question of the Takeover of Afghanistan

Introduction:

After coming into power in 1996, the Taliban ruled over Afghanistan with an iron fist for 5 years, and after a 20-year hiatus from Kabul, returned in a bloody coup which resulted in the death of around 1000 civilians in August 2021. While the Taliban stated that they would not return to a totalitarian state, recent actions undertaken in Afghanistan, such as the beheading of United States army translators, or the suspension of higher education for women in December 2022, would suggest otherwise.

Background:

Following the coup-d'état on the Afghan monarchy in 1973, the Republic of Afghanistan was overthrown in the Saur Revolution of 1978, resulting in decades worth of conflict in the country. The newly established Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was soon swamped by fighting with mujahideen forces across the country, eventually resulting in a pro-government intervention by the Soviet Union, sparking the decade-long Soviet-Afghan War. After the death of around 14,000 Soviet troops, 18,000 pro government Afghani troops, 56,000 mujahideen and somewhere between 560,000-2,000,000 civilians being killed, the Soviet Union retreated from Afghanistan in 1989, leaving the Afghan Government vulnerable to mujahideen forces. Under tremendous pressure from the mujahideen, the government collapsed in 1992, leaving a power vacuum which was eventually filled by the Taliban in 1996.

While in power in Afghanistan in the 1990s, the Taliban's human rights record was characterized by systematic violations against women and girls; cruel corporal punishments, including executions; and extreme suppression of freedom of religion, expression, and education. An example of this can be seen with the execution of hundreds of Hazare men, to ensure that they could not mount a resistance.

After the 9/11 attacks, and the subsequent involvement of American forces, the Taliban was removed from power in 2002. However, Taliban strongholds still existed in rural parts of Afghanistan.

Eventually and after several years of back-and-forth negotiations, the U.S. Trump Administration struck a major deal with the Taliban in 2020, called the Doha Agreement. The deal provided for a full but staggered U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan by the 1st of May 2021 in exchange for a Taliban pledge not to allow Al-Qaeda to re-establish itself in the country and commit itself to talks with the Afghan government (which was not a party to the agreement). The deal also

required the Afghan president to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners in exchange for a Taliban release of 1,000 captive Afghan soldiers. Afghan President Ghani, having never agreed to the deal, rejected the prisoner release, stating that it was not a U.S. prerogative and adding that he would reject any other releases as a prerequisite to Taliban-Afghan government talks. The Taliban replied by reiterating that they would not start any talks with the Afghan government until the 5,000 prisoners were released. However, after an influx of Taliban attacks, the President eventually relented. As per the Deal, US military aircraft could not attack Taliban groups from more than 500 meters away, thus giving the Taliban an edge. In the 45 days after the agreement, the Taliban conducted more than 4,500 attacks in Afghanistan, a 70% increase from the previous year number from the same period.

On the 14th of April 2021, President Biden announced his intentions to withdraw troops from Afghanistan by September 11th, 2021. As U.S. forces started to withdraw in May, the Taliban stepped up attacks on the Afghan government. The group began by first capturing the countryside to surround regional capitals, then taking those capitals without facing any major resistance. United States intelligence organisations warned in July that the Afghan government was likely to collapse 6-12 months after the U.S. withdrawal. President Biden stated that he would not cease or delay the withdrawal, regardless of the situation.

By 15 August, almost the entire country was under the control of the Taliban, who had already encircled and were preparing to enter the nation's capital for the first time in 20 years. President Ghani fled the country to Tajikistan, and Kabul was captured that same day, with the entire political and military apparatus of the Republic having collapsed.

Timeline:

2011: US President Obama announces that the US will withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by the end of the 2014. NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) notes that although a significant number of troops had left, around 9,800 personnel remained deployed in Afghanistan.

April 2017: US President Donald Trump announced that the US strategy in Afghanistan is to “ease in special operations forces to train, advise and assist Afghan forces; a more robust plan to go after elements in Pakistan that aid the Taliban; the deployment of more air power and artillery; and a political commitment to the survival of the current government in Kabul.”

21 August 2017: President Trump announces his administration's ultimate strategy for Afghanistan, saying “victory will have a clear definition: attacking our enemies, obliterating the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), crushing Al-Qaeda, preventing the Taliban from taking over the country, and stopping mass terror attacks against Americans before they emerge.”

30 August 2017: The US Department of Defense (DoD) discloses that there were more troops in Afghanistan than previously acknowledged, raising the total from 8,400 to 11,000 troops.

September 2017: The Trump administration begins deploying 3,000 more troops to Afghanistan.

December 2019: The Afghanistan Papers reveal that high-ranking military, government and intelligence officials believe the war in Afghanistan to be unwinnable, a fact kept hidden from the public.

29 February 2021: The US, represented by envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, and the Taliban, represented by Abdul Ghani Baradar sign the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan (more commonly known as the US-Taliban Deal). The Deal states that the US would withdraw “all military forces of the United States, its allies, and Coalition partners, including all non-diplomatic civilian personnel, private security contractors, trainers, advisors, and supporting services personnel” by the 1st of May 2021. In exchange the Taliban would “not to allow al-Qaeda or any other extremist group to operate in the areas they control”.

29 February 2021: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg pledges to reduced NATO’s number from around 16,000 troops to about 12,000.

1 March 2021: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announces that the Afghan government would reject the US-Taliban Deal’s call for a prisoner exchange, stating: “the government of Afghanistan has made no commitment to free 5,000 Taliban prisoners.”

14 April 2021: US President Biden announces his intention to withdraw all us troops by the 11th of September 2021.

1 May 2021: The Taliban launches a major offensive against the undertrained Afghan Armed Forces

2 July 2021: Germany and Italy withdraw all troops from Afghanistan. On the same day, American forces vacate Bagram Airfield for the first time in 20 years. The base was the subsequently ransacked by looters before the Afghan forces could take control of the base.

8 July: President Biden announces that the official conclusion to the War would be on the 31st of August 2021. Al Jazeera reports that the Taliban was “at the door of Kabul”.

12 July 2021: The Taliban has taken control of 139 districts, overwhelming the Afghan National Army.

22 July 2021: The US House of Representatives votes for the ALLIES Act, a bill that would help provide visas for Afghan translators. Around 50,000 people qualify for the program.

30 July 2021: The first planes arrive to help evacuate people through the ALLIES program.

12 August 2021: The Canadian government announces a plan to resettle 20,000 displaced Afghan in Canada.

15 August 2021: Taliban forces take control of Kabul. US and NATO troops retreat to Hamid Karzai International Airport. In the following days countries evacuate their respective embassies to the airport, as it becomes the only secure way in-and-out of the country.

16 August 2021: Airlifts start from Kabul Airport.

26 August 2021: A suicide bombing at Hamid Karzai Airport happens, killing 11 US Marines, 1 US Army Paratrooper, 1 US Navy Corpsman and upwards of 70 Afghan citizens.

28 August 2021: The last British flight from Kabul leaves

30 August: The last US military planes leave Afghanistan. Following the last US flight, the Taliban enter the airport and declare victory.

Key Issues:

Delivering Aid to Afghani citizens:

The Taliban has not been officially recognised by the UN. This fact makes delivering aid to Afghani citizens particularly difficult due to the combative nature of relations between the Taliban and the international community.

Furthermore, while the Taliban has stated that there will be no revenge killings on people who helped foreign armies, many revenge killings have taken place. Therefore, should the UN create an evacuation organisation for the people of Afghanistan?

War Crimes Committed by the Taliban:

On 16 June, in Dawlat Abad, 22 unarmed Afghan Special Forces commandos were executed while attempting to surrender to Taliban forces. A video of the event circulated widely and was broadcast by CNN. Samira Hamidi of Amnesty International described the event as "the cold-blooded murder of surrendering soldiers - a war crime".

On 16 July, Taliban killed a journalist, Danish Siddiqui working for Reuters and a Pulitzer Prize winner, in Kandahar Province. The body of the deceased journalist was later handed over to the Red Cross with health officials from India and Afghanistan saying that the body was badly mutilated by the Taliban fighters.

On 22 July, it was reported that gunmen killed at least 100 people in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover. The Afghan government blamed the Taliban for the killings. Human rights groups have also blamed the Taliban for series of revenge killings targeting people who were close to Afghan military personnel in Kandahar province.

On 6 August, Taliban forces claimed responsibility for the 5 August assassination of the head of the governmental media and information centre, in Kabul. On the same day, during which the Taliban took control of Zaranj, human rights activist Laal Gul Laal stated that the execution of 30 soldiers by the Taliban was a war crime. According to TOLONews, some of the soldiers were tortured and had their eyes removed by the Taliban before they were killed.

On 20 August, Amnesty International noted a massacre of Hazaras by the Taliban in early July in Ghazni Province as a "horrifying indicator" for the future. The Hazara men were variously shot and tortured to death, with one strangled by his own scarf and with his arm muscles sliced off, and another with his body shot to pieces.

Recognition of the Taliban:

While the Taliban may be considered a terrorist organisation, they have full control over Afghanistan. They have implemented a new administrative and military structure, thus may be considered to have an operational government. Therefore should the UN recognise the legitimacy of the Taliban, or does it set a dangerous precedent?

Questions to Consider:

1. How should aid be delivered to Afghan citizens?
2. Should the UN Peacekeepers be deployed in Afghanistan?
3. Should the Taliban be tried for war crimes in the ICJ?
4. Should the Taliban be recognised by the UN and the international community?

The Issue of the Invasion of Ukraine

Introduction:

A protracted eight-year conflict, beginning in 2014 where Crimea and the Donbas region were taken over by Russian and pro-Russian separatist groups, escalated on 24 February 2022, when the Russian Federation launched a 'special military operation' amounting to a full scale invasion of Ukraine. Following several failed attempts to what experts described of a 'Blitzkrieg' of Kyiv, Russian forces have made steady gains in the south of the country, capturing and occupying cities and currently controls almost 27% of Ukraine's territory.

Background:

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine and Russia continued to retain close ties. In 1994, Ukraine agreed to abandon its nuclear arsenal (the third largest in the world) and signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances on the condition that Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States would issue an assurance against threats or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine.

Five years later, Russia was one of the signatories of the Charter for European Security, where it "reaffirmed the inherent right of each and every participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve". Despite being a recognized independent country since 1991, as a former USSR constituent republic, Ukraine had been perceived by the leadership of Russia as being part of its sphere of influence. In 2008, Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke out against Ukraine's membership in NATO.

In 2009, Romanian analyst Iulian Chifu and his co-authors opined that in regard to Ukraine, Russia has pursued an updated version of the Brezhnev Doctrine, which dictates that the sovereignty of Ukraine cannot be larger than that of the Warsaw Pact's member states prior to the collapse of the Soviet sphere of influence during the late-1980s and early-1990s. This view is built upon the premise that Russia's actions to placate the West in the early 1990s should have been met with reciprocity from the West, without NATO expansion along Russia's border.

Following weeks of protests as part of the Euromaidan movement (2013-2014), pro-Russian Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and the leaders of the Ukrainian parliamentary

opposition on 21 February 2014 signed settlement agreement that called for an early election. The following day, Yanukovich fled from Kyiv ahead of an impeachment vote that stripped him of his powers as president. Russia subsequently moved troops into Donetsk and Luhansk regions, establishing the unrecognised Luhansk and Donetsk Peoples' Republics on Ukrainian soil.

In July 2021, Putin published an essay titled *On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians*, in which he re-affirmed his view that Russians and Ukrainians were "one people". American historian Timothy Snyder described Putin's ideas as imperialism. British journalist Edward Lucas described it as historical revisionism, yet these provide further insight to the motivation of the Kremlin in its invasion.

Key issues:

The Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine:

The military offensive in Ukraine has caused destruction of civilian infrastructure and civilian casualties and has forced people to flee their homes seeking safety, protection and assistance. In the first week, more than a million refugees from Ukraine crossed borders into neighbouring countries, and many more are on the move both inside and outside the country. They are in need of protection and support. As the war continued, nearly 1/3 of Ukraine's population has been forced from their home, making it one of the largest displacement crises in the world and over 30,000 civilians have died during the conflict. Many Russian attacks have hit highly populated areas, causing civilians to seek refuge in subway stations and leaving hundreds of thousands without electricity, water, or basic supplies. Experts also worry about Russia's increasing use of artillery, cluster munitions, rockets, and other weapons that can devastate civilian areas, including in the major cities of Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, and Mariupol. They say this escalation will likely lead to greater civilian casualties and infrastructure damage.

National Self-Determination:

The existence of a separate Ukrainian identity has been spoken about by historians much before the nation-and-state building of Russia. However, since the collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine has been a sovereign, independent country. By virtue of this, Kyiv is entitled to decide its own future-including which treaties it joins, and which organisations it chooses to be a member of. Ukraine, for its part, has been working towards a NATO membership for long. Kyiv has had a partnership with NATO since 1992, and in 1997 a Ukraine-NATO Commission was established to provide a forum to discuss security concerns. Becoming a part of NATO has also found expression in Ukraine's policy goals when it adopted a national security strategy in 2021, which aimed to further develop its partnership with NATO.

Russia is obligated to refrain from the use or the threat of the use of force under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, as well as the Budapest Memorandum signed in 1994. In the 1994 Memorandum, Moscow pledged to "refrain from the threat or use of force" against Ukraine in exchange for the surrender of a massive nuclear stockpile that Ukraine inherited during the collapse of the Soviet Union.

By invading Ukraine, Russia has shown no respect for this principle in a violation of international law.

Donetsk, Luhansk, and Crimea:

The territories invaded in 2014 are legally Ukrainian, as stated in many General Assembly resolutions. However, it is important to note the super-majoritarian levels of pro-Russian sentiment in these regions, undisputed by Ukraine and the West - while the legitimacy of the referendums held in each region was disputed, support for integration with Russia remains high.

Pro-Russian activists argue that, in line with the UN charter, the people of Donetsk, Luhansk and Crimea have the same right to self-determination as Ukrainians, and therefore should be able to decide whether they would like to reintegrate within Russia. However, this matter cannot be truly settled in the eyes of the UN until a free, fair and observed referendum is held.

NATO expansion:

In the eyes of Russia, its European sphere of influence, stretching across Eastern Europe and the Balkans has been diminished to the point where NATO, an alliance originally conceived to combat Soviet influence, is a mere few hundred miles from their largest cities. The view of Russian geopolitical strategists is that medium-range missile technology stationed across Poland, as well as large reserves of Nuclear ICBMs across the continent poses a fatal threat to Russian security. Thus, in the eyes of many Russians, NATO is in fact the aggressor - Russia is simply securing its influence due to being militarily threatened by the West.

While much of Russia's rhetoric and argument goes against fundamental principles of self-determination, mutual disarmament may be a bargaining point to extract concessions from Russia if a tactic of appeasement is preferred.

Timeline:

October 2004: Pro-Russian candidate Viktor Yanukovch is declared President of Ukraine but allegations of vote-rigging trigger what becomes known as the Orange Revolution, forcing a re vote. Pro-Western former prime minister, Viktor Yushchenko, is elected president.

January 2005: Yushchenko takes power as the third President of Ukraine. He appoints former energy company boss Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister, but she is sacked due to infighting.

April 2008: NATO promised Ukraine and Georgia they will one day join the alliance.

February 2010: Yanukovch defeats Tymoshenko in a presidential election. Ukraine and Russia agree on a deal about gas pricing in exchange for extending the lease for the Russian Navy in a Ukrainian Black Sea port.

November 2013: The "Euromaidan" protests erupt in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv after Yanukovch shelves a free-trade deal with the EU in favour of closer ties to Russia.

February 2014: Protests continue to spread across Ukraine, with police firing live ammunition at demonstrators. The Ukrainian parliament votes to impeach Yanukovych and the interim government draws up an arrest warrant for the ousted president. However, Yanukovych flees to Russia, decrying his removal as a "coup."

February-March 2014: Russian troops take over Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and seize the regional parliament and government buildings.

March 2014: The regional parliament holds a referendum on the status of Crimea just two weeks after the Russian military occupation begins. Over 95 per cent vote in favour of joining the Russian Federation. Russia then signs a treaty with Crimean leaders to formally annex the peninsula. In response, the leaders of the G8 remove Russia from the bloc, which is now known as the G7. The annexation is also declared illegal in a non-binding resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly.

April 2014: Pro-Russia separatist militants take control of the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. These militants are believed to be supported by the Russian government, although Moscow has denied being directly involved in the conflict.

Security Council

March-December 2014: Throughout the year, then-Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper announces numerous sanctions affecting Russian and Ukrainian companies and individuals involved in the annexation of Crimea and the armed separatist movement in Donbas.

July 2019: Actor and comedian Volodymyr Zelenskyy is elected President of Ukraine, campaigning on an anti-corruption manifesto.

November 2021: Satellite imagery shows a build-up of Russian troops on the border with Ukraine, stoking fears of a potential invasion. Zelenskyy also says that Russia had mobilized 100,000 soldiers in the border area, along with tanks and other heavy equipment.

Dec. 7, 2021: U.S. President Joe Biden speaks with his Russian counterpart over a video call. Putin called for NATO to guarantee an end to eastward expansion while Biden threatened to impose harsh economic sanctions if Russia invades Ukraine.

Jan. 2, 2022. In a call with Zelenskyy, Biden promises that the U.S. and allies will act "decisively" if Russia further invades Ukraine.

Jan. 22, 2022: Canada offers a \$120-million loan to Ukraine aimed at bolstering the country's economy. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says the federal government is also looking into expanding its UNIFER mission, providing "defensive weapon and equipment" and imposing more sanctions on Russia.

Feb. 8, 2022: Ottawa urges all Canadians to leave Ukraine immediately and issues a warning against any travel to the country. The U.S., U.K., Germany and other NATO allies also issue similar warnings for their own citizens.

Feb. 12, 2022: Canada temporarily relocates diplomatic staff to the western Ukrainian city of Lviv. Biden warns Putin in a phone call that invading Ukraine would cause "widespread human suffering."

Feb. 21 2022: In a speech, Putin decried the events in Ukraine, and blames the West and Ukraine for tensions. He then signed a decree recognizing two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine as independent entities, known as the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" (DR) and the "Luhansk People's Republic" (LNR). Shortly afterwards, U.S.

President Biden responded by announcing he will sign an executive order that will impose sanctions prohibiting new investment, trade and financing by U.S. persons to, from, or in the so-called DR and LNR regions.

Security Council

Feb. 22, 2022: The U.S., Canada and other allies impose sanctions on Russian oligarchs and banks as an invasion appears close to imminent. Trudeau also announces that 460

Canadian Armed Forces will be deployed to Latvia as a party of Operation REASSURANCE to "reinforce" Canada's commitment to NATO

Feb. 23, 2022: Ukraine's parliament votes to declare a state of emergency. Cyberattacks also take down websites belonging to the Ukrainian government and affiliated organizations.

Feb. 24, 2022: Putin announces early in the morning that Russia will conduct a "special military operation" in Ukraine. A short time after Putin's announcement, explosions were heard in Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities as Russian forces commenced their full-scale invasion.

March. 2, 2022: the southern city of Kherson becomes the first major urban centre to fall into Russian hands

March. 29, 2022 - Russia says it will 'radically' reduce its military activity in northern Ukraine, including near Kyiv revealing hundreds of civilian bodies in mass graves

May. 16, 2022 - Mariupol falls to Russia and cuts off Ukraine from the Black coast and secures a land corridor from the Russian border to Crimea

May. 18, 2022 - Finland and Sweden submit applications to join NATO

June. 1, 2022 - America says that it will supply advanced rockets (HIMARS) to Kyiv to help it force Moscow to negotiate and end to the war

June. 30, 2022 - Russia withdraws from Snake Island weakening Russia's blockade of Ukraine's ports

Sept. 21, 2022 - Russia mobilises reservists (30,000), its first wartime mobilisation since WWII

Nov. 11, 2022 - Kherson is liberated - Russia abandons the only regional centre it had captured

Security Council

Dec. 5, 2022 - Russian airbases hit by drones - Russia claims they were Ukrainian drones

Dec. 21, 2022 - Zelenskyy goes to Washington to meet with Biden to secure Patriot air defence missile systems and other weapons and to address the US Congress

Jan. 1, 2023, Russia's biggest reported loss killed by a Ukrainian missile strike on the city of Makiivka

Jan. 13, 2023, Soledar, a salt mining town is captured, marking Russia's first significant gain since July 2022

Jan. 25, 2023 - USA and Germany announce that they will supply Ukraine with advanced battle tanks, following the decisions of the UK to send 14 of its Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine

Questions to consider:

1. How can the conflict be resolved peacefully?
2. Should countries provide more military assistance to Ukraine?
3. How can the UNSC prevent further, potentially nuclear, escalation?
4. Do countries have a responsibility to provide more humanitarian aid and help refugees?
5. How should the statuses of Donetsk, Luhansk and Crimea be resolved?