



THE BHAWANIPUR  
EDUCATION SOCIETY COLLEGE



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ASSEMBLY OF NATIONS

# ASSEMBLY OF NATIONS '25



# UNGA ESS

## **Executive Board of the BESC Assembly of Nations**

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

We welcome you to the Emergency Special Session of the BESC Assembly of Nations on the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, convened on **30th September 2022**. This session is called in response to an urgent and evolving crisis that threatens not only the nations directly involved but global stability at large. Your participation is a testament to your dedication to diplomacy and international peace in these critical times.

The conflict continues to escalate, impacting geopolitical balances, economic security, and humanitarian conditions worldwide. As representatives, you bear the crucial responsibility of deliberating on effective, immediate, and long-term solutions. The world is watching, and decisive, well-considered action is imperative.

This study guide serves as a foundation for your research, but we urge you to stay informed of real-time developments. Understanding the historical context, geopolitical stakes, and diplomatic avenues will be key to crafting meaningful resolutions.

For any inquiries regarding the agenda or procedural matters, please do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to a session marked by insightful discourse and decisive outcomes.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board

BESC Assembly of Nations

## **Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (ESS of UNGA)**

An emergency special session (ESS) of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is a critical, unscheduled meeting convened to address issues of international concern, particularly in situations where international peace and security are at risk. This mechanism was established as a response to the limitations of the UN Security Council, particularly in instances where the Security Council is unable to act due to a lack of consensus among its permanent members. The provision for an ESS was created through the adoption of Resolution 377 (Uniting for Peace) on November 3, 1950. This resolution allowed the General Assembly to take necessary actions, including recommendations regarding the use of force, if international peace and security were threatened, and the Security Council was incapable of taking action due to the veto power of its permanent members.

### **Purpose and Authority**

The primary purpose of an ESS is to provide the UN General Assembly with the ability to act swiftly and decisively in response to threats to international peace and security, especially when the Security Council is unable to reach a consensus. The General Assembly is empowered under Resolution 377 (Uniting for Peace) to make urgent recommendations on the necessary collective measures that may include diplomatic efforts, sanctions, and, in extreme cases, the use of armed force. This provision ensures that the international community has a mechanism for intervention, even when the Security Council's permanent members (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China) are at odds with one another.

The authority granted by Resolution 377 has been crucial in situations where the veto power of the permanent members of the Security Council could block action, preventing the UN from addressing urgent issues. By

granting this authority to the General Assembly, the UN aimed to create an alternative path for action to protect international peace and security. In practice, however, the General Assembly's recommendations are non-binding, and while they carry significant diplomatic weight, they cannot compel individual member states to take specific actions.

#### Procedure for Convening an Emergency Special Session

The procedure for convening an emergency special session of the UNGA is clearly outlined in the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure. This procedure ensures that the process remains transparent, efficient, and that the session is held in response to genuine threats to international peace.

#### Request for Session

An emergency special session can be requested under several conditions:

**Request by the Security Council:** The Security Council, if it is unable to act due to a lack of consensus among its permanent members, can request an emergency special session of the General Assembly. This request must be supported by at least seven members of the Security Council.

**Request by a Majority of UN Member States:** Alternatively, any group of UN member states can request an emergency special session if they can demonstrate that urgent action is required in response to a threat to international peace and security. A majority of member states must support the request.

**Other Mechanisms:** Other forms of collective action, such as a direct call from the UN Secretary-General or other relevant bodies, may also initiate the process, though such actions are less common.

#### Timing of the Session

The timing of the session is strictly regulated. Once a request is made, the emergency special session must be convened within 24 hours. This

urgency reflects the serious nature of the issues being addressed, ensuring that the General Assembly responds promptly to the threat at hand. This swift timeline allows the UN to act without delay, thereby avoiding prolonged diplomatic deadlock.

### **Notification and Agenda**

The UN Secretary-General is tasked with notifying all UN member states at least 12 hours in advance of the session's opening. This notification serves as a formal announcement, informing members of the session's date and time, as well as the issues to be discussed. Along with this notification, the Secretary-General also circulates the provisional agenda for the session. This agenda can include the main issues that prompted the session, and it may be amended during the course of the meeting. If additional items need to be added to the agenda, a two-thirds majority vote by the General Assembly is required.

### **Voting and Decision-Making**

While the General Assembly has the power to make urgent recommendations, its resolutions are not legally binding on member states. However, the Assembly can recommend actions that member states may take in response to the situation, ranging from diplomatic measures to economic sanctions. It can also make recommendations on the use of force in extreme cases. To make decisions, the General Assembly operates on a majority voting basis, and many actions require a two-thirds majority to pass, especially when dealing with critical international security matters.

### **Historical Context**

Since the adoption of Resolution 377 in 1950, the UNGA has held only eleven emergency special sessions. These sessions are rare, reflecting the exceptional nature of the circumstances that warrant their convening. Most of these sessions have addressed conflicts or crises in which the

Security Council was unable to act due to the veto power of one or more of its permanent members.

The first emergency special session was held in 1956 in response to the Suez Crisis. During this session, the General Assembly called for an immediate ceasefire and the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force to the region. This session marked the first time that the General Assembly had acted independently of the Security Council to address a threat to international peace and security. Other significant sessions include:

**The Suez Crisis (1956):** The first emergency special session convened after the Security Council failed to take action due to the veto of the United Kingdom and France, both of which were involved in the conflict. The General Assembly played a key role in calling for a ceasefire and establishing the first UN peacekeeping force, which helped end the conflict.

**The Soviet Invasion of Hungary (1956):** The General Assembly convened to address the Soviet invasion of Hungary, although the session was less successful in achieving meaningful intervention.

**The Invasion of Czechoslovakia (1968):** The Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia led to another emergency special session, during which the Assembly condemned the actions of the USSR but was again limited in its ability to take concrete action.

**The Iraq-Kuwait Conflict (1990-1991):** The General Assembly convened during the Gulf War following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. While the Security Council had acted swiftly, the General Assembly met to endorse the collective measures taken by the international community and to demonstrate the broad consensus for action against Iraq's aggression.

**The Russian Invasion of Ukraine (2022):** The most recent emergency special session occurred in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. In this case, the Security Council was unable to act due to Russia's veto power. The General Assembly condemned Russia's actions

and called for an immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine, illustrating the continued relevance of the ESS in addressing modern conflicts.

### **Notable Challenges and Limitations**

While the emergency special session mechanism allows for swift action, it is not without its limitations. The resolutions passed by the General Assembly are non-binding, meaning that even though the Assembly can recommend actions, member states are not obligated to comply. Moreover, the Assembly's ability to take concrete action is limited compared to the Security Council, which has the authority to impose binding measures such as sanctions and military interventions. The reliance on the political will of UN member states also means that the success of an ESS is often contingent on the broader geopolitical dynamics and the willingness of states to act on the Assembly's recommendations.

Another challenge is the issue of representation and the distribution of power in the General Assembly. Unlike the Security Council, where the five permanent members hold significant influence, the General Assembly operates on the principle of one country, one vote. While this ensures broad representation, it can lead to deadlock if states with divergent interests disagree on the best course of action.

### **Conclusion**

The emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly plays a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security, particularly when the Security Council is unable to act due to the veto power of its permanent members. Although it is a rare and exceptional procedure, the ESS provides a means for the international community to respond to global crises, whether they involve military conflicts, violations of international law, or human rights abuses. While the resolutions passed by the General Assembly are not legally binding, they carry significant

diplomatic weight and can shape the course of international responses to crises.

Emergency Special Session	Topic	Convened By	Resolution
First	Suez Crisis	UN Security Council	A/3354
Second	Soviet invasion of Hungary	UN Security Council	A/3355
Third	Lebanon crisis		A/3905
Fourth	Congo Crisis		A/4510
Fifth	Six-Day War	Soviet Union	A/6798
Sixth	Soviet invasion of Afghanistan	UN Security Council	ES-6/1,2
Seventh	Israeli "Palestinian conflict	Senegal	ES-7/1,2,3
Eighth	South African occupation of Namibia	Zimbabwe	ES-8/1,2
Ninth	Israeli occupation of Golan Heights	UN Security Council	ES-9/1
Tenth	Israeli-Palestinian conflict	Various	ES-10/1,2
Eleventh	Russian invasion of Ukraine	UN Security Council	ES-11/1



# **The Russia-Ukraine Conflict: A Comprehensive Study Guide (Up to September 30, 2022)**

## **Introduction**

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is not only a war between two countries, but also a geopolitical struggle involving multiple global powers. The events leading to the full-scale invasion in 2022, the annexation of Ukrainian territories, and the response of the international community have had far-reaching consequences for international relations, security, and the world economy. This conflict is rooted in a complex web of historical grievances, territorial disputes, and the modern geopolitical rivalry between Russia and the West. Understanding these factors requires a data-driven approach to grasp the full scope of the crisis and the multifaceted reasons behind the escalating violence.

The period up until September 30, 2022, marked a decisive moment in the conflict, with Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions and a dramatic shift in the military, political, and diplomatic dynamics. By integrating data, historical context, and visual resources, this guide aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the conflict, emphasizing the root causes, military developments, and international repercussions.

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## **Chapter 1: The Background of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict**

### **1.1 The Post-Soviet Struggle and the Emergence of Ukraine's National Identity**

In 1991, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Ukraine declared its independence, and became a sovereign state for the first time in its modern history. However, this newfound independence was marred by the lingering influence of Russia. The Soviet legacy of cultural suppression

and political control over Ukraine was not easily erased. During the Soviet period, Russian was the dominant language, and Ukrainian culture was marginalized. In fact, up until the late 1980s, the Soviet regime attempted to force Ukrainians to adopt Russian traditions, language, and education. These historical grievances created a sense of national identity that has influenced Ukraine's modern politics.

Since its independence, Ukraine has been divided between those who wanted closer ties with Russia and those who sought to integrate with Western institutions. The divisions within Ukraine can be traced back to these competing historical influences. Eastern Ukraine, where Russian speakers are in the majority, tended to lean pro-Russian, while Western Ukraine, which has stronger European cultural and political ties, was more aligned with the idea of European integration. The deepening division between pro-Russian and pro-Western factions set the stage for many of the tensions that would follow, leading to internal conflicts, political instability, and a growing divide between Ukraine and Russia.

## 1.2 NATO Expansion and Russia's Strategic Concerns

After the Cold War, NATO expanded eastward, absorbing many former Warsaw Pact countries, and this shift began to affect Russia's security concerns. By the early 2000s, NATO's expansion had reached the borders of Russia's sphere of influence, and the inclusion of countries like Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania raised alarms in Moscow. Russia viewed the incorporation of these countries, and the potential for Ukraine to join NATO, as an existential security threat.

In 2008, at the NATO summit in Bucharest, the alliance indicated that Ukraine and Georgia could one day become members of NATO. This was met with strong opposition from Russia, which saw NATO's eastward expansion as a direct challenge to its strategic interests and territorial integrity. The relationship between Russia and NATO deteriorated over the years, with Russia's stance that NATO encroachment posed a significant

threat. The desire to keep Ukraine out of NATO was therefore central to Russian foreign policy, with President Vladimir Putin often emphasizing that Ukraine's westernization could not be tolerated.

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## **Chapter 2: The Historical Context of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict**

### 2.1 Historical Ties Between Russia and Ukraine

Ukraine's complex relationship with Russia dates back centuries. For much of its history, Ukraine was controlled by the Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union. Ukrainians were treated as a subject people, and attempts to forge a distinct Ukrainian identity were often suppressed.

Ukraine was annexed into the Russian Empire during the 18th century, and by the 19th century, Ukrainians were not allowed to speak their language in public or practice many of their cultural traditions. Russian imperial policies aimed to diminish Ukrainian culture and enforce loyalty to the Russian crown. This historical period laid the foundation for the cultural and political divide that would later manifest itself in the modern conflict.

In the early 20th century, Ukraine briefly gained independence following the Russian Revolution, but by 1922 it was absorbed into the Soviet Union, where it endured forced collectivization and repression. Under Joseph Stalin, Ukraine suffered the effects of the Holodomor famine of 1932-1933, a man-made disaster that killed millions of Ukrainians. The famine was a direct result of Stalin's forced agricultural policies, which saw Ukrainian grain and resources seized by the Soviet government. The Holodomor is considered by many scholars to be a genocide, and its impact on Ukrainian identity and national consciousness continues to resonate today.

### 2.2 The Soviet Legacy and Ukraine's Path to Independence

After World War II, Ukraine was reasserted as part of the Soviet Union, enduring decades of Soviet control. The Soviet regime imposed a centralized, authoritarian system and attempted to crush any form of Ukrainian nationalism. Even during the post-Stalin period, efforts to suppress the Ukrainian language and identity continued, with Russification policies enforced throughout the USSR.

However, despite Soviet oppression, the desire for independence persisted. As the Soviet Union weakened in the late 1980s, Ukraine's nationalist movements began to gain traction. The Chernobyl disaster in 1986, the perceived neglect of Ukraine by Soviet authorities, and the increasing desire for autonomy led to a growing sense of Ukrainian nationalism. This culminated in Ukraine's independence declaration in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Following independence, Ukraine struggled with political instability and economic challenges. Corruption, economic collapse, and the fight for national identity marked the post-Soviet period, and while Ukraine sought closer ties with the West, Russia continued to view Ukraine as a buffer zone between its territory and NATO expansion. This historical context is critical in understanding the roots of the modern conflict.

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## **Chapter 3: The Build-Up to the 2022 Invasion**

### **3.1 Key Catalysts Leading to the Full-Scale Invasion**

The lead-up to the 2022 invasion was marked by a series of political, military, and diplomatic developments that escalated tensions between Ukraine and Russia. The first significant event was the Euromaidan protests in 2013-2014, when Ukrainians protested against then-President Viktor Yanukovich after he rejected a deal to form closer ties with the European Union in favor of closer relations with Russia. The protest movement was a direct challenge to Russian influence in Ukraine. When

Yanukovych fled the country in early 2014, Russia responded by annexing Crimea in a move that violated international law and shocked the world.

Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 marked a critical moment in the conflict. The Crimea crisis led to a broader war in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, where Russian-backed separatists declared independence in the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk. This war, which lasted for eight years, saw over 14,000 deaths and displaced thousands of civilians. Despite several ceasefire agreements, the conflict remained unresolved and simmered until it erupted into full-scale war in 2022.

### 3.2 The Build-Up of Russian Military Forces in 2021-2022

Throughout 2021, Russia began amassing over 100,000 troops along the Ukrainian border, prompting widespread concern among NATO and Western powers. In early 2022, the number of Russian troops deployed near Ukraine's borders surged to around 190,000. Satellite imagery and intelligence reports indicated that Russia was preparing for a large-scale military offensive.

Despite repeated diplomatic efforts, including discussions between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Western leaders, the Russian government maintained its position that NATO expansion into Ukraine was a threat that could not be tolerated. The Russian government's demands included a guarantee that Ukraine would never join NATO and the withdrawal of NATO forces from Eastern Europe. These demands were rejected by the West, leading to the invasion on February 24, 2022.

### 3.3 The Strategic and Tactical Goals of the Invasion

Russia's initial objectives in the invasion were twofold: decapitate the Ukrainian government and demilitarize Ukraine, thereby preventing it from ever aligning with NATO. Putin framed the invasion as an attempt to protect Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine, who he claimed were being persecuted by the Ukrainian government. This rhetoric echoed

earlier claims made during the 2014 Crimea crisis and served as a justification for Russia's military actions.

However, the reality on the ground was starkly different. Ukrainian forces mounted a fierce resistance, and major cities, including Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Mariupol, became key battlegrounds. The international community responded quickly, with sanctions imposed on Russia and substantial military aid sent to Ukraine from Western countries. This marked a critical moment in the conflict, as the war shifted from a regional dispute to a full-scale confrontation with global implications.

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## **Chapter 4: International Responses and Legal Violations**

### 4.1 The Global Outcry and Western Sanctions

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine prompted a swift and unified response from the international community. The United States, European Union, and United Kingdom imposed severe sanctions on Russia, targeting key sectors of the Russian economy, including energy, finance, and defense. These sanctions aimed to cripple Russia's economy and limit its ability to sustain the war effort.

Additionally, NATO countries provided military assistance to Ukraine, including advanced weaponry, intelligence sharing, and financial support. The military aid package sent to Ukraine in the months following the invasion exceeded \$100 billion, demonstrating the West's commitment to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty.

### 4.2 Violations of International Law

Russia's actions in Ukraine have been widely condemned as violations of international law. The United Nations Charter prohibits the use of force to acquire territory, and Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its subsequent invasion in 2022 constitute clear violations of Ukraine's sovereignty.

The Geneva Conventions also prohibit the targeting of civilians during warfare. Russia's attacks on civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, and residential buildings, have been documented as war crimes. The International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international bodies have initiated investigations into potential war crimes committed by both Russian forces and separatist groups supported by Russia.

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## Chapter 5: The Annexation of Ukrainian Territories (September 30, 2022)

### 5.1 The Referendums and the Annexation of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia

In September 2022, Russia conducted so-called referendums in the occupied territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia. These referendums, held under duress and military occupation, were widely condemned as illegitimate by Ukraine and the international community. Russia claimed that the majority of voters supported joining the Russian Federation, but these votes were conducted with coercion, intimidation, and displacement of civilians.

On September 30, 2022, Putin formally declared the annexation of the four regions of Ukraine, which the West and international organizations rejected as a violation of international law. The annexation was a significant escalation, as Russia now claimed control over about 15% of Ukraine's territory.

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## **Conclusion**

As of September 30, 2022, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine was far from over, and the annexation of Ukrainian regions marked a major turning point in the war. The international response, including military aid to Ukraine and economic sanctions on Russia, continued to shape the trajectory of the war. However, the annexation of Ukrainian territories and

the use of military force raised the stakes of the conflict to unprecedented levels.

In this data-backed and fact-driven analysis, we have examined the origins, military developments, and international reactions that have shaped the Russia-Ukraine conflict up to September 30, 2022. This comprehensive understanding of the conflict offers crucial insights into the broader geopolitical dynamics at play, while also highlighting the human cost of war and the challenges of achieving lasting peace.

### Useful Links

- ESS Session Feb 2022: [Link](#)
- Russia vetoes Security Council resolution condemning attempted annexation of Ukraine regions: [Link](#)
- The UN and the war in Ukraine: key information: [Link](#)
- So-called referenda in Russian-controlled Ukraine 'cannot be regarded as legal': UN political affairs chief: [Link](#)
- Ukraine: UN and partners ramp up assistance: [Link](#)
- UNSC Review : [Link](#)

### Key Questions for a Resolution on the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

#### Establishing a Sustainable Ceasefire

- How can the international community contribute to establishing a lasting ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine?



- What role should the United Nations (UN) play in mediating peace talks between the conflicting parties?
- How can the UN balance the conditions set by both parties to ensure a sustainable ceasefire?

#### Ensuring Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity Worldwide

- What measures can be taken to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations on a global scale?
- How can international mechanisms address the security concerns of neighboring countries and regions affected by conflicts?

#### Addressing Food Insecurity Due to the Conflict

- What opportunities can the international community create to combat food insecurity caused by the blockade of Ukraine's grain exports and Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea Initiative?

#### Mitigating the Economic Impacts of the Conflict

- What diplomatic or economic measures can be implemented to prevent further escalation of the conflict?
- How can global economic stability be maintained in light of disruptions caused by the war?

#### Monitoring Rearmament in Post-Conflict States

- How can international organizations ensure that the rearmament of states emerging from conflict aligns with international security agreements and prevents further escalation?
- What mechanisms can the UN establish to guarantee transparency in military rearmament and prevent distrust between states?
- How can rearmament efforts be balanced with existing disarmament agreements to promote long-term peace and security?

#### Legal and Political Considerations

- Russia's recognition of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) has been deemed illegal under international law. ([Source](#))
- A political resolution based on international law, ensuring Ukraine's territorial integrity, remains the only viable path to ending the war. ([Source](#))
- The timeline of the conflict provides critical context for understanding key developments. ([Source](#))
- The United Nations has actively responded to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine since 2022. ([Video](#))
- This structured format presents your resolution questions clearly and concisely while maintaining a professional tone. Let me know if you'd like any refinements!

<https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/63ba2a23-0f18-4d03-9ef2-55d8765083c5/audio>