



SLRMUN 23



**General
Assembly 4**

STUDY GUIDE

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Introduction



Committee

The United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee (also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee or SPECPOL or C4) is one of six main committees of the [United Nations General Assembly](#). It deals with a diverse set of political issues, including [UN peacekeeping](#) and [peaceful uses of outer space](#). However, the issues of [decolonization](#) and the [Middle East](#) take up most of its time.

Established in 1945 under the [Charter of the United Nations](#), the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprised of all 193 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. It also plays a central role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

Mandate

The Fourth Committee deals with: decolonization-related items, the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, a comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations, review of special political missions, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, the report of the Special Committee on Israeli Practices and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Fourth Committee meets every year from late September to mid-November, but also convenes briefly in the spring to adopt any resolutions and decisions relating to peacekeeping passed by the [Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations](#). All 193 member states of the UN can attend its meetings. Unlike most other United Nations bodies, there is no general debate at the beginning of the committee's work. The committee also allows for petitioners, i.e. civil society representatives and other stakeholders, to address it on decolonization issues. Finally, the committee usually adopts about 30-35 draft resolutions and several draft decisions annually, usually by consensus.

Topic

Assessing the threat to global security with special emphasis on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Background



On February 18th, 2014, President Viktor Yanukovych signed an agreement with Russia and the European trade Union. After the signing the agreements a mass protest erupted in Ukraine called the “The Revolution of Dignity”, which is also known as the Euromaidan. Following the major uprising and demonstrations in Ukraine on March 2014, Russia invaded and subsequently annexed the Crimean Peninsula and the region of Donbas. This led to war breaking out between the two parties of Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists.

Following the buildup on the Russia–Ukraine border from late 2021, the conflict expanded significantly when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022. The invasion began on the morning of February, when Vladimir Putin announced a "special military operation" to "demilitarize and denazify" Ukraine. Minutes later, missiles and airstrikes were launched across Ukraine, including the capital Kyiv. A large ground invasion followed from multiple directions. President Zelenskyy enacted martial law and a general mobilization of all male Ukrainian citizens between 18 and 60, who were banned from leaving the country.

Russia has been accused of intentionally targeting civilians as a result of its siege warfare tactics, previously used in Chechnya and Syria, which included intense shelling campaigns and targeted missile strikes on residential buildings, hospitals and nurseries, most notably, in the regions of Kharkiv and Mariupol. These would constitute grave war crimes. The Office of the UNHCR estimates that over 7.3 million people have fled Ukraine and sought refuge in nearby nations such as Poland, Hungary and Moldova. Furthermore, over 8 million people are internally displaced within Ukraine, culminating in the largest refugee crisis since the Second World War. Thus, the war has disproportionately affected certain nations that have undertaken greater responsibilities with regard to its fallout.

Timeline of UN Actions



24th February – Russia invades Eastern Ukraine.

28th February – The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court opens an investigation for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the war.

4th March – The UNHRC adopts a resolution calling for the withdrawal of Russian troops and Russian-backed armed groups from Ukraine.

16th March – The International Court of Justice orders Russia to immediately suspend their military operations in Ukraine.

24th March – The UN General Assembly demands civilian protection and humanitarian access in Ukraine, and criticizes Russia for creating a dire humanitarian situation with 140 votes for, 5 against and 38 abstentions.

30th March – The UN appoints 3 human rights experts to investigate possible violations of international law that were committed during the invasion of Ukraine.

7th April – The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution which calls for the nation of Russia to be suspended from the Human Rights Council, which passed with a two-thirds majority.

26th April – The UN General Assembly adopts a new resolution which states that any use of a veto during the passing of UNSC Resolution would trigger a General Assembly meeting, where all UN members can express their views on the veto in question.

10th June – The UN OHCHR condemns the death sentence given to three foreign fighters in Ukraine by a court in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, where they stated, such trials against prisoners of war would amount to a war crime.

Talking Points



Treaties and Conventions

1. European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) - A convention made to protect human rights of European people which has 47 states that have signed it. It was adopted in September 1953.
2. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) - An international act that gives recognition to people / countries who haven't got their justice or human rights after they have faced casualties. This act was effective from the march 23rd 1976.
3. Rome declaration - A declaration which holds 27 member states and EU institutions which upholds the security policy in the fields within the member states. The Rome Declaration also upholds its relationships with Russia through the NATO - Russia founding act on mutual relations with regards to cooperation and security.

Talking Points

1. President Putin's motive on the Ukraine Invasion.
2. The feasibility of Western sanctions on the nation of Russia and possible alternatives that can be explored.
3. The ramifications of the war on global food security and economies.
4. The safety of the citizens of within Eastern Europe.
5. Identifying a balance for mitigating the ongoing crisis while working to begin transformational change to end conflict in the region.

Conclusion



Chairs Advice

This isn't the complete list, this is an overview as to what we want delegates to research on as well, we expect delegates to bring in more new points to find a complete solution for the situation. This is a current ongoing problem in the world today which has resulted in many casualties and issues for everyone. We expect all delegates to bring in technical and feasible solutions to solve the problem. We also don't encourage blame games between delegates as it would just be stagnating debate rather than bringing in any content to the resolutions.

We as chairs will try our best to equally give recognition to everyone. If there are any issues, please contact us during breaks or WhatsApp message us, we will respond. We want all delegates to have fun and have a good experience about MUN at SLRMUN 2023! Do depend on the study guide fully for your research, this is made to give hints about what we as chairs expect you to bring during debate. You are more than welcome to bring in all points under the NATO mandate relating to the topic. All the best, we cannot wait to see you at SLRMUN 2023!!

Best Regards,
Chairs of GA4.
Pranesh and Jeewantha

References

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[Russia Ukraine War Highlights: Ukraine lauds 'difficult but essential decisions' by NATO as Russian missile attacks intensify | World News, The Indian Express](#)

[The UN and the war in Ukraine: key information \(unric.org\)](#)

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