

**Forum:** GA1 Disarmament and International Security

**Issue #G1-01:** Nuclear Disarmament in Regards to the Russia-Ukraine war

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## Introduction

After the Soviet Union broke down and Ukraine became an independent nation, some Russians debated that Ukraine should still be part of Russian territory. Former president Vladimir Putin, broke the nuclear weapons treaty with the U.K. and the U.S. after invading Ukraine and threatening countries with nuclear weapons if they intervened in the war.

In late 2021, Putin began to bolster his military presence along Ukraine's frontier. Soldiers were first sent to Ukraine on February 24, 2022. They assaulted numerous locations. Both the Ukrainian military and the Ukrainian populace retaliated. Various individuals escaped the violence by migrating to Poland and other neighboring countries. The United States, the United Kingdom, and other nations made an effort to convince Putin to halt the conflict. They sent weapons to aid the Ukrainian troops and subjected Russia to financial penalties, making it difficult for Russia to obtain capital and market, but Putin persisted.

## Issue overview

Addressing the issue of nuclear disarmament in regards to the Russia - Ukraine war

## Historical background

In 1917, the Russian revolution dissolved the Russian empire, of which Ukraine was a party, but she did not gain independence as it became part of the newly formed Soviet

Union. In 1991 as the Soviet Union broke down, Ukraine became an independent country. Thousands of nuclear arms were left by the Soviet Union on Ukrainian ground, but in the following years Ukraine chose to denuclearize, with the reassurance that The United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would protect them. This agreement was signed in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, which stated that the U.K., the U.S. and Russia accepted Ukraine to the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a nonnuclear-weapon State. Nonetheless, some Russians, including Vladimir Putin, believed Ukraine should still remain as a part of Russia. In 2014 Crimea, a peninsula in Ukraine, on the northern coast of the Black Sea, was invaded by Russian troops. Volodymyr Zelensky was elected president of Ukraine in 2019, and is now facing the ongoing war.

On February 5, 2011, the New START treaty was signed. The United States of America and the Russian Federation, had seven years to reach the treaty's limit, and are obligated to stay between those limits until the treaty remains, which is 2026. The aim of the treaty is for the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms. On the 24 February, 2022, Russia first invaded Ukraine, using nuclear threats to intimidate other countries. Putin stated that Russia is suspending their participation in the New START, the last remaining nuclear weapons treaty.

### **Latest events**

The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest order for Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, and US Vice President Joe Biden has hailed this. The ICC charged President Putin with war crimes in Ukraine. The allegations center on the forcible removal of kids from Ukraine to Russia since Moscow's incursion in 2022. Moscow has refuted the accusations. The action has very little chance of succeeding because the ICC lacks the authority to detain suspects without the cooperation of a nation's government and since Russia is not a party to the ICC, the court's jurisdiction over that nation does not extend to The Hague. However, Putin could be arrested in any of the 123 members of it.

## Major Parties Involved

**Russia:** Russia's invasion over Ukraine, is the greatest danger to peace and security in Europe after the end of the cold war. On February 21, 2022 president Vladimir Putin delivered a speech justifying his "special military operation", that was announced on February 22, 2022. Putin debated over the expansion of NATO and Ukraine's identity. Moreover he explained his vision giving emphasis on the Easterns slave's unity; Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, proposing that such countries should share a political fate.

**Ukraine:** the position Ukraine holds is that Russian troops must leave the internationally recognised country in order to restore peace and security

**The United States:** President Biden stated that "We want to see a democratic, independent, sovereign and prosperous Ukraine with the means to deter and defend itself against further aggression.". The U.S gives a clear pro-ukraine message rather than an anti-russia one, with the objective of keeping and reinforcing vital alliances, and strengthening their relationship with Europe.

**NATO:** NATO is now the largest and most potent military coalition in the world. It was established in the years following World War II with the goal of bringing lasting peace. Russia claims that NATO made a commitment to not enlarge eastward into the former Soviet states following the end of the Cold War. Vladimir Putin's main demand was that Ukraine never be permitted to join NATO, this is the basis for the political impasse between Russia and the West. Any European country that wishes to join and can fulfill the criteria and responsibilities is welcome to join the alliance, though. Over the course of the alliance's nearly 73-year existence, more than a dozen nations from the former Eastern Bloc, including three former Soviet states, have joined.

## Timeline of events

February, 2022: Russia initiated an aggressive military operation in Ukraine

March, 2022: Russian forces attacked from the south and occupied the Kherson region, including the regional capital, with the aim of securing the Ukrainian coast. Moscow also intended to create a "land bridge" between Crimea and the republics backed by Russia.

April, 2022: A Russian missile strike on a train station in the eastern city of Kramatorsk killed at least 50 civilians.

May, 2022: The last Ukrainian fighters surrendered to Russian forces in Mariupol, a port city and industrial center on the Sea of Azov, where thousands of civilians were killed in weeks of bombardment.

June, 2022: Russian forces withdrew from Snake Island in the Black Sea as Ukraine recaptured land off Odessa that was occupied in February by Russian troops.

July, 2022: The last city under Ukrainian control in Luhansk, Lysychansk, was in control of Russia

August, 2022: Ukraine launched a counterattack in the Kherson region. Kiev forces attacked Russian military infrastructure and also air bases in Crimea using weapons systems supplied by the West.

September, 2022: Ukraine recaptured much of northeast Kharkov and took the initiative in the war.

October, 2022: The Kerch Strait bridge connecting Crimea and Russia was damaged in an explosion. Two days after it, Russia launched a series of airstrikes against Ukraine.

Despite international condemnation, Russia announced the annexation of four regions of Ukraine.

November, 2022: Russian forces withdrew from the city of Kherson

December, 2022: Ukraine launched a drone strike on military bases hundreds of kilometers inside of Russia.

January, 2023: Ukrainian forces attacked a building in Donetsk, a Russian base

February, 2023: renewed offensive in eastern Ukraine, Russian forces captured the town of Bakhmut

## Past action

Ukraine's Minister for Foreign Affairs, called for the creation of a focalized tribunal with jurisdiction over the crime against Ukraine.

## UN

The UN Secretary-General accepted the agreement to continue the Black Sea Grain Initiative from Ukraine.

Security Council resolution condemning attempted annexation of Ukraine regions.

UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that calls for Russia to pay war reparations to Ukraine.

UN General Assembly made a resolution calling on countries not to recognise the four regions of Ukraine which Russia has power over.

The United Nations General Assembly made a resolution demanding that Russia immediately end its military operations in Ukraine.

The United Nations General Assembly made a resolution regarding the “aggression” committed by Russia against Ukraine.

UN General Assembly called for the ending of war in Ukraine and demanded Russia’s immediate withdrawal from the country.

### **The International Atomic Energy Agency**

IAEA is closely monitoring the situation on military operations.

The IAEA has a presence at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine.

### **International Criminal Court**

ICC opened an investigation for war crimes and crimes against humanity

ICC demanded that Russia must urgently cease its military operation in Ukraine

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