

BALMUN'24

H: UNSC

**Under Secretary General:
Tibet ALPAY**

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STUDY GUIDE

Table of Contents

Contents	Page
1. Letter from Secretary General	2
2. Letter from Under-Secretary General	3
3. Letter from Academic Assistant	4
4. Brief Summary of UNSC	5-6
5. Brief Summary of Crimean Conflict and Timeline of the Key Events	9-12
6. Positions of the Countries	13-19
7. The Procedure of the Committee	20
8. Contacts List	21
9. Citations	21

Letter From Secretary General

Most Esteemed Participants,

As the Secretary-General of the conference, it is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the very first edition of BALMUN'24.

The World is changing in various and major impacts. Every single day, another crisis occurs in a different location on Earth. Policies are changing, economies are changing, and even the human culture is changing. However, the only thing that does not change is the humanity's desire to achieve their own interests. This desire has been the main factor in the establishment of the global system in the past, present, and future.

At this conference, we aimed to show you the real politics, the truth behind the curtains, and provide a full United Nations simulation experience for you. We created eight wonderful committees that contain all the political aspects of the past, present, and future. We are expecting a lot from you to find initiative solutions for crises, successfully cooperate with other ideologies, have lasting reconciliation for the problems which occurred in the World more than a century...

While academically improving yourselves also, I, as Ceylin Umay Köylü, sincerely hope you have fun during the conference. MUN events brought me amazing friends that I would not have even dreamed of. I wholeheartedly wish you to gain friendships and enjoy every single second of the conference.

We were the past, we are the present and we will be the future. I wish you to all find your importance and purpose in the World.

Yours Faithfully,
Secretary General
Ceylin Umay Köylü

Letter From Under-Secretary-General

Dear Delegates of The United Nations Security Council,

As the Under-Secretary-General of this distinguished committee, I welcome you all to BALMUN'24. The UNSC has a reputation for being the most acclaimed and sought-after committee and I assure all of you that H-UNSC: Crimean Crisis Committee will not disappoint and will fulfill all of your expectations.

In the 4 days ahead I hope you will all find the utmost dedication and motivation necessary to defend the delegations you will be representing. The complex diplomatic issues and possibilities that will be touching upon will not only be interesting and alluring but gratifying and entertaining as well. Every one of the parties present will stress the importance of different aspects of issues in accordance with their own political stance and ensure that a comprehensive resolution paper is signed for the betterment of all parties involved and world peace.

I would like to end this letter by once more emphasizing the importance of your preparation and diplomatical skills throughout this conference. I expect that you will all be very well prepared for the next 4 days and ready to put all of your verbal, diplomatic and political skills to very good use.

Although considered by many to be excessively cliché, I find that this phrase shall be a suitable way to end this proclaimed letter, I wish for a fruitful and stellar debate,

Sincerely,
Under-Secretary General
Tibet Alpaly

Letter From Academic Assistant

Dear Delegates,

I hope this message finds you well in anticipation of the upcoming UNSC: Crimean Crisis committee. As the Academic Assistant for our committee, I am thrilled to welcome each of you to what promises to be an intellectually stimulating and diplomatically engaging experience.

In the days ahead, I am confident that your dedication and passion for international affairs will contribute to meaningful discussions and innovative solutions. Feel free to leverage the resources available, engage in pre-conference research, and familiarize yourselves with the agenda.

Should you have any questions, require guidance, or need assistance in preparing for the committee, don't hesitate to reach out. I am here to support your academic journey throughout the conference.

Looking forward to collaborative and fruitful deliberations.

Best regards,
Academic Assistant
Deren Budak

What is the UNSC?

UNSC, the United Nations Security Council, is one of the 6 principle organs of the United Nations and is charged with ensuring international peace and security, approving new members to the United Nations and ratifying changes made to the UN Charter. Deemed by many to be the most important factor of the United Nations, UNSC has a vital and pivotal role in securing the peace and prosperity of the globe.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

According to the UN Charter, [Article 23](#), "The Security Council shall consist of fifteen Members of the United Nations".

The Security Council has 15 members:

- 5 permanent members with veto power:
 - China
 - France
 - Russian Federation
 - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
 - United States of America
- 10 non-permanent members, five of which are elected each year by the General Assembly for a two-year term

In the historical UNSC at Balmun'23 the delegations present will be as follows:

Turkiye	WEOG
United States of America	Permanent Member
France	Permanent Member
Russian Federation	Permanent Member
United Kingdom	Permanent Member
China	Permanent Member
Kosovo (Observer)	
Brazil	LatAm+Car
Argentina	LatAm+Car
Greece	WEOG
Ukraine	WEOG
Azerbaijan	Eastern European Group
Spain	WEOG
Japan	Asia
Rwanda	Africa
Malaysia	Asia
DPRK (Observer)	-

What Is The Crimean Conflict?

The Crimean Conflict or Crimean Crisis refers to the events that unfolded in 2014 in the Crimean Peninsula, a region in Ukraine. The crisis involved the annexation of Crimea by Russia, which led to heightened tensions between Russia and Ukraine, as well as strained relations between Russia and the West.

Timeline of The Events:

Background

- Ukraine was undergoing political turmoil in 2013-2014, with widespread protests against then-President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to abandon an agreement with the European Union in favor of closer ties with Russia.
- Yanukovich fled Ukraine in February 2014, and a new pro-Western government took power.

Russian Intervention

- Amidst the political changes in Ukraine, armed men, later identified as Russian soldiers without official insignia, seized control of key locations in Crimea in late February 2014.
- A controversial referendum was held in Crimea in March 2014, in which the majority of voters supported joining Russia. However, the legitimacy of the referendum has been widely disputed.

Annexation Of Crimea

- Following the referendum, Russia officially annexed Crimea in March 2014, incorporating it into the Russian Federation.

- The international community, including the United States and the European Union, condemned the annexation, considering it a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty.

International Response

- Sanctions were imposed on Russia by several Western countries in response to the annexation. These sanctions targeted key sectors of the Russian economy and individuals associated with the annexation.

Ongoing Tensions

- The annexation of Crimea exacerbated tensions between Russia and Ukraine, leading to ongoing conflicts in eastern Ukraine, particularly in the Donbas region

How Did The Annexation Occur?

While Russia did not officially acknowledge a direct invasion of Crimea, there is significant evidence to suggest that Russian military forces were involved in the events leading to the annexation of Crimea in 2014. In late February 2014, armed men, often referred to as "little green men" because of their unmarked uniforms and lack of insignia, appeared in Crimea. These armed individuals, widely believed to be Russian soldiers, began taking control of key locations on the Crimean Peninsula.

The Russian government initially denied that these were Russian military forces and claimed that the armed men were local self-defense forces. However, later admissions by Russian officials and the identification of Russian military equipment and tactics suggested direct Russian involvement.

Key points indicating Russian military involvement include:

Unmarked Troops: The armed individuals who seized control of Crimea initially had no official insignia on their uniforms, but later reports and investigations revealed that they were Russian military personnel.

Admission by Putin: In April 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin acknowledged that Russian military forces were involved in securing Crimea during the period leading up to the annexation. He stated that these forces were necessary to protect ethnic Russians and Russian speakers in Crimea.

Swift Annexation: Following the occupation by the unmarked troops, a controversial referendum was held in Crimea in March 2014, and within a short period, Russia officially annexed Crimea. The speed and coordination of these events suggested a level of planning and control beyond what could be attributed solely to local forces.

While the term "invasion" might not be used by Russia to describe its actions in Crimea, the presence and actions of Russian military forces in the

region are widely considered by the international community as a de facto invasion and a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. The annexation of Crimea by Russia has led to ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine, with repercussions on the international stage.

Historical Background of The Issue:

Historical Context

- 18th Century: Crimea was annexed by the Russian Empire under Catherine the Great in the late 18th century.
- 1954: Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred Crimea from the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. This administrative move was seen as symbolic within the Soviet Union, as both Russia and Ukraine were part of the larger USSR.

Post-Soviet Era

- 1991: With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine became an independent country. Crimea became part of an internationally recognized Ukrainian state.
- Black Sea Fleet Agreement: Russia retained its naval base in Sevastopol under an agreement with Ukraine. This arrangement continued after Ukraine's independence.

Ethnic Composition

- Crimea has a diverse population with a significant Russian-speaking majority, especially in the eastern and southern parts of the region.
- There are also Crimean Tatars, a Muslim ethnic group, who were deported en masse by Joseph Stalin during World War II but began returning to Crimea after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Political Upheaval In Ukraine

- In 2014, Ukraine faced a political crisis when President Viktor Yanukovich, under pressure from pro-European protests in Kyiv, fled the country. This resulted in a change in government.

- The new government in Kyiv was perceived by Russia as being anti-Russian, leading to increased tensions between Ukraine and Russia.

Annexation Of Ukraine

- In the aftermath of the political changes in Kyiv, Russia intervened in Crimea. Russian military forces, without insignia, occupied key sites in the region.
- A controversial and hastily organized referendum was held in Crimea in March 2014, where the majority voted to join Russia. The international community largely rejected the legitimacy of this vote.
- In April 2014, Russia formally annexed Crimea, leading to condemnation and sanctions from the international community.

Ongoing Tensions

- The annexation of Crimea and Russia's support for separatist movements in eastern Ukraine (Donbas region) led to an ongoing conflict between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian rebels.
- The international community, including the European Union and the United States, imposed sanctions on Russia in response to its actions in Crimea.

Positions of Countries:

Türkiye

In 2014, during the Crimean Crisis, Turkey officially condemned Russia's annexation of Crimea. Turkey expressed support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, emphasizing the importance of respecting international law. While condemning the annexation, Turkey also maintained its historical ties with the Crimean Tatars, an ethnic minority in Crimea, and expressed concern for their welfare.

USA

In 2014, the United States strongly condemned Russia's annexation of Crimea. The U.S. government asserted that the annexation was a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and it emphasized support for Ukraine. The United States, along with its allies, imposed sanctions on Russia in response to the annexation. The U.S. took a firm stance against Russia's actions and worked diplomatically to address the situation through international forums.

France

In 2014, France, like many other Western countries, strongly condemned Russia's annexation of Crimea. France, along with the European Union and the broader international community, considered the annexation a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and international law.

France actively supported diplomatic efforts to address the crisis, engaging in dialogues within international forums to find a peaceful resolution. As part of the European Union, France also endorsed and participated in the imposition of sanctions against Russia in response to the annexation.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation's position during the Crimean Crisis in 2014 was characterized by its support for the annexation of Crimea. Russia maintained that the annexation was a response to what it perceived as the protection of the rights of the ethnic Russian population in Crimea and the defense of its strategic interests in the region.

Russia argued that the Crimean referendum, in which the majority voted to join Russia, was a legitimate expression of the will of the people in Crimea. However, this viewpoint was widely disputed by the international community, which viewed the referendum as illegitimate and conducted under the presence of Russian military forces. Russia asserted that it intervened to protect the rights and well-being of the Russian-speaking population in Crimea, citing concerns about their safety and rights following political changes in Ukraine. Russia emphasized its historical and strategic interests in Crimea, particularly its Black Sea Fleet base in Sevastopol. The annexation was seen by Russia as a safeguarding of its military and geopolitical interests in the region.

China

During the Crimean Crisis in 2014, China adopted a relatively cautious and non-confrontational stance, abstaining from condemning or supporting Russia's annexation of Crimea. China, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, refrained from taking a clear position on the issue, and it did not endorse the Western sanctions against Russia. China's position was rooted in its general foreign policy principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. China emphasized the need for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the crisis through dialogue and negotiation. While recognizing Ukraine's territorial integrity, China did not explicitly criticize Russia for its actions in Crimea.

Kosovo

Kosovo, having declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, generally expressed support for Ukraine's territorial integrity during the Crimean Crisis in 2014. Kosovo, as a newly independent state, was sensitive to issues related to sovereignty and territorial integrity. Given Kosovo's own history of seeking

international recognition and facing territorial disputes, it aligned itself with the principles of international law and the importance of respecting borders. In the context of the Crimean Crisis, Kosovo tended to sympathize with Ukraine's position and the broader international consensus condemning Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Brazil

During the Crimean Crisis in 2014, countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LatAm+Car) did not present a unified position as a bloc, given the diversity of political stances and diplomatic priorities across the region.

Brazil, like many other countries, took a cautious and diplomatic stance. Brazil did not explicitly condemn Russia's actions in Crimea. Instead, it called for a peaceful resolution through diplomatic means, emphasizing dialogue and negotiations. Brazil historically adheres to principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and respect for international law. Brazil often emphasizes a multipolar world order and advocates for a diplomatic approach to conflicts.

Argentina

During the Crimean Crisis in 2014, Argentina, like many other countries, took a cautious and diplomatic approach. Argentina did not explicitly condemn Russia's actions in Crimea. Instead, it called for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the crisis through dialogue and negotiations.

Argentina historically adheres to principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and respect for international law. The country, while expressing concern about the situation in Crimea, did not take a strong and confrontational stance. Argentina aimed to maintain diplomatic relations with all parties involved and emphasized the importance of diplomatic solutions over punitive measures.

Greece

During the Crimean Crisis in 2014, Greece expressed concern about the situation in Crimea and the broader geopolitical implications. Greece, being a member of

the European Union and NATO, aligned itself with the positions and actions taken by these organizations in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Greece, along with other EU member states, condemned Russia's actions in Crimea, considering it a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and international law.

The European Union, including Greece, imposed sanctions on Russia as a response to the annexation. These sanctions targeted individuals and entities involved in the annexation and aimed to exert economic pressure on Russia.

It's important to note that Greece, like other EU member states, worked within the framework of collective European policies during the Crimean Crisis.

Ukraine

During the Crimean Crisis in 2014, Ukraine's position was marked by its vehement opposition to Russia's annexation of Crimea. The Ukrainian government, led by President Viktor Yanukovich at the time, vehemently asserted that the annexation of Crimea by Russia was a blatant violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Ukrainian government stressed the importance of upholding international norms and respecting established borders. Ukraine, supported by the majority of the international community, argued that Russia's actions in Crimea were illegal. The government maintained that the annexation undermined the principles of international law and challenged the post-Cold War European security order. Ukraine actively appealed to the international community, seeking support and solidarity in condemning Russia's actions. The Ukrainian government urged the global community to take decisive measures to address the crisis, highlighting the broader implications for regional stability and international law. Ukraine refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Crimean referendum, which resulted in a majority vote in favor of joining Russia. The government contended that the referendum was conducted under the presence of Russian military forces, and therefore, its results were neither free nor fair. Throughout the crisis, Ukraine engaged in intensive diplomatic efforts. It sought assistance from its allies and partners, including European countries and the United States, to garner support against Russia's actions. The Ukrainian government emphasized the need for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the crisis through international cooperation.

Overall, Ukraine's position during the Crimean Crisis was characterized by a firm commitment to defending its sovereignty, seeking international condemnation of Russia's actions, and pursuing diplomatic avenues to address the situation.

Azerbaijan

During the Crimean Crisis in 2014, Azerbaijan did not explicitly condemn Russia's annexation of Crimea. Azerbaijan, like some other countries, maintained a cautious and balanced stance. Azerbaijan, being a former Soviet republic and having close ties with Russia, chose not to take a confrontational position on the issue.

Azerbaijan historically emphasizes principles of non-interference and territorial integrity. The country often navigates geopolitical situations with care, considering its regional context and diplomatic relations. During the Crimean Crisis, Azerbaijan did not align itself strongly with either side but instead called for a diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the conflict, emphasizing dialogue and negotiation.

Spain

Spain, during the Crimean Crisis in 2014, aligned itself with the European Union's position, condemning Russia's annexation of Crimea and supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Spain, as an EU member state, endorsed the EU's imposition of sanctions on Russia in response to the annexation.

Spain, like other EU nations, expressed concern about the violation of international law and the principles of territorial integrity. The Spanish government underscored the importance of a diplomatic and negotiated solution to the crisis, calling for dialogue and respect for international norms.

Japan

During the Crimean Crisis in 2014, Japan joined the international community in expressing deep concern over Russia's annexation of Crimea. Japan, aligned with the United States and European allies, condemned Russia's actions, considering them a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. Japan did not recognize the legitimacy of the Crimean referendum or Russia's annexation, joining the broader international

consensus in considering these actions as contrary to international law. Japan expressed support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and called for the peaceful resolution of the crisis through diplomatic means. The Japanese government urged Russia to engage in dialogue and adhere to international norms. In line with its Western allies, Japan imposed sanctions on Russia as a response to the annexation. These sanctions targeted individuals and entities involved in the annexation and aimed to exert economic pressure on Russia. Japan's position reflected its commitment to international law, peaceful conflict resolution, and respect for the sovereignty of nations. It also underlined Japan's alignment with Western nations in addressing the global implications of the Crimean Crisis.

Rwanda

During the Crimean Crisis in 2014, Rwanda, as a country in East Africa, did not publicly express a specific position on Russia's annexation of Crimea. Generally, African nations, including those in East Africa, often focus on regional and continental issues, and their public stances on international crises may vary. Rwanda, as part of the African Union (AU), tends to prioritize regional matters and might not be directly involved or vocal in global geopolitical disputes like the Crimean Crisis. Countries in Africa often emphasize principles of non-interference, sovereignty, and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Malaysia

During the Crimean Crisis in 2014, Malaysia adopted a cautious and non-confrontational stance, refraining from explicitly condemning Russia's annexation of Crimea. Emphasizing principles of non-interference and diplomacy, the Malaysian government called for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the crisis through dialogue and negotiation. In alignment with its historical approach, Malaysia did not join Western nations in imposing sanctions on Russia, seeking to maintain diplomatic relations with all involved parties and avoiding a confrontational position. The country's foreign policy during this period was characterized by a commitment to non-interference and diplomatic engagement.

DPRK

North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), did not extensively comment on the Crimean Crisis in 2014, and its official position was not explicitly articulated. The DPRK generally maintains a cautious and reserved stance on global geopolitical issues, often refraining from expressing explicit opinions on international conflicts.

Given the historical context and North Korea's diplomatic priorities, the country tends to focus on its own geopolitical concerns, particularly issues related to its security and sovereignty on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea's foreign policy is often characterized by a focus on its own national interests, and it typically avoids taking sides in disputes involving other nations.

The Procedure of The Committee

The sessions will commence on the first of January, 2014. At the BALMUN'24 Historical UNSC committee, delegates will travel back to 2014, a time when the Crimean crisis first broke out and shifted the world's agenda. They will prepare to take action in accordance with their countries perspective and policy and seek to find stable and comprehensive solutions that will ensure peace around the region. The delegates will need to take into account all perspectives of the conflict and manufacture a resolution paper that will be satisfactory for all sides of the Crimean Crisis. The procedure of the committee will be further explained throughout the conference and shall be made explicitly clear, should you have any questions feel free to contact us. We will follow the UNSC rules of procedure and ensure that all of delegates present in our committee will be able to comprehend all that is ensuing within the committee at any given time.

Contacts list:

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Citations