

Maintenance of Peace and Security in Ukraine

In February 2014, the Security Council met with Ukraine regarding the situation in Crimea as a threat to its “territorial integrity.”¹ Throughout 2014 and 2015, the Security Council issued press statements condemning violence in the area. Specifically, they issued a press statement condemning the killing of 11 civilians as a result of the shelling of a passenger bus in Volnovakha. Meanwhile, Ukraine and much of the international community condemned the Russian annexation of Crimea. Throughout February 2022, the Council met numerous times to discuss the growing tensions between Russia and the Ukraine. On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in what it maintains is a “special military operation” to protect the people of the predominantly Russian-speaking Donbas region, who in Vladimir Putin’s view, for eight years had “been facing humiliation and genocide perpetrated by the Kyiv regime.” A full-scale operation began across the northern, eastern, and southern edges of the country, wildly hampered by surprisingly effective Ukrainian resistance to Russian forces. On February 27, 2022, the Security Council adopted resolution 2623, calling for an emergency special session of the General Assembly to consider and recommend collective action on the situation in Ukraine.

In August 2022, the Security Council addressed the ever growing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The Council noted the over 13,000 civilian casualties, including almost 6,000 deaths and 7000 injuries.² Further, over 17.7 million people, approximately 40 percent of Ukraine’s population, require humanitarian assistance and protection. On October 12, 2022, fifty casualties were reported in the Ukraine controlled areas of eastern Donetsk and south-eastern Zaporizka.³ As a result of the attacks, more than thirty-apartment buildings were damaged. On this same day, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring as “unlawful” the actions of the Russian Federation for holding “referendums” and attempted annexation of four regions of Ukraine. ThOn October 13, 2022, missile attacks were reported in western Lvivska, Rivnenska and Volynska.

¹ <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/ukraine.php>

² <https://www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary/asset/2926/2926048/>

³ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine/>