**ZAMUN 2019**

**JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE**

**Study Guide**

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Contents

[1. Letter from Chairs 3](#_Toc102728)

[2. Introduction to the topic 4](#_Toc102729)

[3. About the committee 5](#_Toc102730)

[4. History of the Ukraine-Russia relationships 7](#_Toc102731)

[5. History of the crisis 9](#_Toc102732)

[6. Current situation 10](#_Toc102733)

[7. Issues to be solved 12](#_Toc102734)

[8. Conclusion 13](#_Toc102735)

[9. Useful links 14](#_Toc102736)

# Letter from Chairs

Dear delegates,

We are very pleased to welcome you in JCC committee at ZAMUN 2019! We hope that you are looking forward to debates during our sessions and are already cautious, which outcome will these debates bring. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to research our topic well and prepare for the conference duly, as the preparation is the key to the success.

Even though some of you may have never participated in Model United Nations conference, you have nothing to be worried about and you can play significant role in leading our committee towards our goal. If you have any questions regarding both rules of procedure or the topic, do not hesitate to contact us, we will do our utmost to help you deal with all issues, which could arise.

The topic we will be thoroughly discussing, *Future of Ukraine crisis,* is a current issue that polarizes the world. Therefore, we will be extremely pleased to hear your (and your countries‘) opinion on it, as the people not involved in the subject can come up with new, innovative ideas, which can be easily overseen by those who are dealing with this problem every day.

All of us have participated in multiple MUN conferences, both at university and high school level - including our beloved ZAMUN. The best thing about the conference is not only discussing interesting topics with your peers but meeting new people, building friendships with other delegates and enjoying the city of Žilina. We assure you that there is absolutely no need for you to get too stressed – this conference is here for you to enjoy it, not to be afraid of it.

Yours,

Lucia, Michal and Peter

# Introduction to the topic

It has been said that Europe lives in the longest time period of peace in history. Have we forgotten to look at the east? Since 2013, over 10 thousand people, of which over 3 thousand were civilians, lost their lives. Several national and international law-breaches were spotted. Ukraine suffered immensely both economically and politically while having many of its citizens displaced. This war in Ukraine cannot be considered as "Peace"

Despite several agreements and sanctions, the situation is still not solved and got even worse after the incident in Kerch Strait. Ukraine is very close to the heart of Europe, geographically the largest country on the continent, yet the crisis within has gone very much unnoticed by its neighbours.

Therefore, we decided to prepare a special committee for ZAMUN 2019. It is called The Joint Crisis Committee and is not comparable to any other traditional committees – and for the sole reason: it was formed to face only and exclusively this one issue and nothing else.

This results in a unique structure: in this committee, the representatives of Ukraine, Russia and European Union will sit at the table and try to come up with a solution to the crisis, which has the world been struggling with for more than 5 years. Maybe, we are really going to change the world - as the people that are not involved in the crisis on day-to-day basis (YOU!) can help provide a different overview and bring new perspective into the decision-making process.

# About the committee

As mentioned above, having sole purpose to solve one crisis, this committee has a unique structure. Two countries and one international body, which represents another 28 (27) member states will have its representants at one table. To make the discussion possible and effective, at MUN conferences, there is tradition of creating a Joint Crisis committee, where more bodies/organisations/representatives join the table and discuss an up-to-date topic. In our case, it will be diplomatic representatives of Ukraine, diplomatic representatives of Russia and members of European Commission.

Specifics of the debate in our committee are described in detail in the Rules of procedure, which is, among this Studyguide, one of the two vital documents for you to read before the conference. However, next few lines will provide you with very brief explanation, what you should expect and will be good starting point by reading and understanding the Rules of procedure.

From abovementioned reasons, JCC is defaultly in an informal debate. This means, that all the parties are in separated rooms, with limited contact to the other two bodies. Communication (both with counterparties and chairs/organising team) follows, if not stated otherwise by the Chairperson, only through notes, which will be distributed by pages (members of organising team). Informal debate means that it is not moderated by the Chairpersons and delegates may discuss the topic freely. Please note, that informal debate is not a break in a discussion, but a place, where delegates of one entity can discuss among themselves the topic, so they can present their stance together on meetings with other entities.

For discussion among counterparties, the meeting of the parties will serve as a basic instrument. Meeting of the parties is, in terms of this committee, a formal gathering of the representatives similar to the typical UN committees – the debate is chaired and proceeds as described in the Rules of procedure. The meeting of the parties is called either by the Chairperson of the JCC, or by the concerned parties.

There are two types of the meeting – scheduled and ad-hoc. Scheduled meetings are planned by the Chairperson and all the parties must take part in these. List of the scheduled meeting is always distributed to the delegates by the Chairpersons on the beginning of the day, during which the meeting should follow. The second type of the meeting, ad-hoc, can be called by both the Chairperson and one of the parties od the debate. To call an ad-hoc meeting, the Chair will provide explanation, why the situation arisen. There is no possibility to appeal to such chair´s decisions and all the called parties must take part. If one of the concerned parties wants to call an ad-hoc meeting, it has to send note to the representatives, that should take a part (not all the parties must be called to this meeting). If called representatives accept the request for the meeting, there is no permission by the Chairperson needed. Chair must be informed that such meeting will take a place and if parties are willing to have the meeting moderated, chair will start the formal debate (analogical as by scheduled meetings).

Although the described structure will already bring a lot of interesting situations, this is only beginning of the “crisis” in this committee. Alongside your information and knowledge from making research at home, you will receive additional information relevant to the topic during the committee sessions. This information can come from less reliable sources, such as newspapers, but also from absolutely reliable, e.g. your government (in case of EC from Council of EU) or intelligence agencies. Your job will be to assess this information and use it to reach the goal of your delegation. Important notice: “real” world events are relevant for our committee´s work, only if they happened till the start of the conference. Our first session will be time point, when the reality ends and all the new information can be received exclusively from the abovementioned resources – from the crisis team. If you have not fully understood the last paragraph – do not be stressed. We will explain rules of information sources at the first session and you will have enough time to practice.

Despite looking for the discussion which will take place in our committee, we cannot forget about solving the problem and bringing an outcome to this world. Most common outcome of the UN committee is Resolution. Resolution is motion by the committee which is written in specific formatting and adopted as described in the Rules of procedure. The JCC, as being special committee formed specifically to face one concrete issue and formed only by affected parties, is allowed to adopt also other legal documents described in the international law. These are mainly, but not limited to following: agreements, presidential statements and declarations. These documents can be adopted by the committee as the whole, or only by one/two parties.

This chapter was only brief introduction to the structure of our committee and as mentioned above, we highly recommend you to study the Rules of procedure properly. If, after having read both the documents, you are still not fully familiar with the proceedings of the JCC, you can be looking forward to the instruction video/s, we are preparing for you and will be published before the conference.

# History of the Ukraine-Russia relationships

Ukraine became sovereign country in 1991, but its territories were inhabited by different tribes since 9th century AD. (History Extra, 2014) For this thesis and its purposes, we will use Ukraine’s modern history, especially the period after the beginning of World War I.

Ukraine joined World War I on 2 fronts: majority entered army as part of Tsardom of Russia and others joined the army of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was related to the fact that many people had pro-austrian mindset. One of them was Kosťa Levickij, who said that if Russia is defeated, Ukraine as an independent country would benefit from it more, than when Russia would win. Ukraine as a nation was supressed by Tsardom of Russia. Its language, education and culture could not be developed, therefore many joined the army of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Ukrainians remembered the times when a small part of their country belonged to Empire, good old times when Maria Theresa and her son Joseph II. ruled. But due to the attacks of Russian army in Galicia, Russia was on the winning side in the war. (UkrMAP, 2018)

After the end of war and its horrific consequences, on the Ukrainian territory were founded different kinds of autonomous states but none lasted long enough. All of them were taken over by surrounding countries – Poland, Moldavia, Belarus and Russia. In 1924 was most of them merged and the Soviet Union was founded. For Ukrainians it was beneficial because the Soviet Union supported cultural development. On the other hand, after the war the economy was not in a good state and needed investments, which were given from Russia. Around this time we can talk about the „brotherhood“ with Russians because they were behind all of the development. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018)

The biggest problem in the brotherhood was famine in 1932-1933. Even today this horrible event is part of Ukrainian history and associated with Stalin, who was one of the two main causes of the situation. Second one of the causes was crop failure, which was the trigger. Many people go in-depth and say that it all was just Stalin’s strategy for annihilation. This mindset is supported by the fact that after famine, there was no longer Ukrainization and Russian language became more dominant on the Ukrainian territory. This situation continued until World War II. (Holodomor.org, 2018)

Because the situation of 2nd half of interwar period was not good, Ukrainians has nothing to lose in the war. They at least thought so. Due to the great range of the topic of World War II, we are not going to talk about historic events in greater depth, nor talk about events in chronological order, we will only highlight important moments, which influenced the country to this day.

When Poland was divided between Russia and Germany, the Ukrainian part of Soviet Union got back the lost territories from World War I, Galicia, Volhynia. Ukrainian territory was used to transport Soviet army to Poland, there were no other after-effects. In the second phase of war, after the attack on Russia by Nazi Germany, Ukraine became the warzone between west and east.

After the first successful attacks, Hitler understood, that Ukraine is the right place. It was a strategic place – not only from geographic point of view but also as a place with many resources and cheap labour. He considered creating independent Ukrainian Nazi State, but as we can see the result from the war, it never happened. Afterwar period of Stalinism was for Ukraine difficult. People and economy has to cope with aftermath of war and the russification began. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018)

After World War II Soviet union decided to continue with the mindset of russification – union consisted of many states and its unification was not easy. Soviet highest representatives thought that they could achieve this easily if other states would be similar to Russia. After Stalin’s death, the union tried to keep everything the way it was before. At the beginning of 1980’s, the innovation was required and its representative was Michail Sergejevič Gorgbačov. Immediately after his appointment, Gorbačov began with relaxation of regime and started making socialism more democratic – similar to Dubček’s „Socialism with a human face“. Even though this try was generally speaking successful, it was not enough. In society, we could see anti-soviet mindset and it was more than clear that the Soviet Union would soon fall apart. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018)

In 1990 there were protests for independent Ukraine which were later successful and on 24th of August 1991 was Ukraine proclaimed as an independent country. Due to the conflicts with Russia and Russia’s wrongdoings, Ukraine tried to go by the different path and tried to not associate with Russia. But after the economic problems and hyperinflation, in 1994  won the presidential elections, pro-russian orientated, Leonid Kučma. He renewed the cooperation between Ukraine and the east and then successfully helped the economy. He was elected twice, so we can see that people were satisfied with his work. Next period was more-or-less about the crisis in inter-nation politics and about the hassle over power among Yanukovych, Yushchenko and Tymoshenko. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018)

# History of the crisis

The most ground-breaking year in a modern history of Ukraine is 2010, when Viktor Yanukovych was elected for president. (BESEMERES, 2016) One of his main priorities was to create close relations with the West, but it never came to reality. In 2013, Yanukovych did not sign the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement, due to the pressure from the East. (Reuters, 2013) This action caused many protests, which were not without violence and the Police had to step in. Pro-european Movement was requested more and more and this is where the actual problem with Crimea begun. There are many theories why this problem began, but most likely it was combination of several factors. (World Affairs Journal, 2014)

Russia realised that pro-western movement of Ukraine is a threat to one of their army  bases – to Sevastopol. Sevastopol is situated on the Crimean peninsula. It is significant for Russia because it is the gate between Russia and the Black sea. Russia did not want to lose this strategic position and that later caused illegal annexion of Crimea by Russian Federation. This conflict caused that many people had the separatistic mindset and some territories tried to join Russia – that is against the Ukrainian constitution, but also against the International law. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018)This whole situation came up to creating economic crisis in 2014-2015, when Ukraine lost more than half of its GDP. (The World Bank, 2016) Russia is accused of supporting the long-lasting conflict and due to that, there were imposed the sanctions from the states of the European Union. (Snyder, 2015) Even though there is officially signed peace treaty, the conflict still remains and people are dying. (European Union Newsroom, 2016)

From this short summary of Ukrainian history, we can see that Russia and Ukraine have always been close, but in all aspects and relations „big brother“ was always more dominant and as the history shows, it was not always good for Ukraine. Yes, Moscow reinvested enormous amount of money into necessary development of Ukraine, but on the other hand there were many attempts to russificate or even turn Ukrainians into Russian and let Ukraine join Russia. All of these aspects resulted in mixed opinions on which side should Ukraine lean on: the East or the West?

# Current situation

The conflict in eastern Ukraine has transitioned to a stalemate after it first erupted in early 2014, but shelling and skirmishes still occur regularly, including an escalation in violence in the spring of 2018.

In August 23, 2017 Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has proposed a cease-fire in eastern Ukraine. The proposal was made by a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and French President Emmanuel Macron, who all voiced their strong support for a lasting cease-fire to allow children in eastern Ukraine to attend school. Poroshenko's office said the leaders hope the truce "will lead to sustainable improvement of the security situation to benefit schoolchildren and the entire civilian population of Donbas."

Ukraine's parliament has passed a law in the beginning of the year 2018, defining areas seized by pro-Russian separatists in the east of the country as temporarily occupied by Russia calling Russia an "aggressor" state. Ukraine's lawmakers passed the law on Thursday, 18 January after heated discussions in parliament that lasted three days. This document accuses Moscow of sending its armed units to the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and not adhering to a ceasefire regime.

The UN Security Council adopted a statement on June 6 encouraging all parties in Ukraine to recommit to a 2015 peace deal and expressing “grave concern” at deteriorating security in eastern Ukraine.

The German, French, Russian, and Ukrainian foreign ministers were meeting in Berlin late on June 11 for talks on bringing an end to the fighting in eastern Ukraine. The meeting focused on implementing an unfulfilled peace agreement reached in 2015 and the possibility of deploying a UN peacekeeping mission in the conflict zone. Germany and France wanted UN troops to be deployed in all areas controlled by Russia-backed rebels, including on the Ukraine-Russia border, however, Russia opposed this idea.

Since taking office, the Donald J. Trump administration has continued to pressure Russia over its involvement eastern Ukraine. In January 2018, the United States imposed new sanctions on twenty-one individuals and nine companies linked to the conflict. In March 2018, the State Department approved the sale of anti-tank weapons to Ukraine, the first sale of lethal weaponry since the conflict began, and in July 2018 the Department of Defence announced an additional $200 million in defensive aid to Ukraine, bringing the total amount of aid provided since 2014 to $1 billion.

In October 2018, Ukraine joined the United States and seven other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries in a series of large-scale air exercises in western Ukraine. Their aim was to enhance regional capabilities to secure air sovereignty and promote peace and security through cooperation. These exercises came after Russia held its annual military exercises in September 2018, the largest since the fall of the Soviet Union.

In the end of October, the debate on the planned elections in Donetsk and Luhansk on November 11 took place in UN. Before the meeting began, a joint statement from France, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium, and Germany was read outside the council chamber condemning what they called "the illegitimate 'elections' planned for November 11.

The statement said such elections would violate Ukrainian law and "contravene commitments" made by separatists and Russia under the 2015 agreement reached in Minsk, Belarus. The European Union countries urged the international community to unite in opposing the elections, saying the votes "can only serve to undermine efforts to achieve peace in the region." They urged the separatists to abandon plans for the elections and called on Russia "to bring its considerable influence to bear to stop the so-called 'elections' from taking place."

During first day of November 2018, Russia has imposed sweeping financial sanctions on 322 members of the Ukrainian elite and 68 companies owned by prominent Ukrainian businessmen. The Russian sanctions were announced in a decree signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and published on the government's website on November 1. According to the decree “The resolution is aimed at countering unfriendly actions against Russian citizens and legal entities on the part of Ukraine and at normalizing bilateral relations.”

The situation got even worse when Russia captured three naval vessels which belonged to Ukraine. The three ships were sailing off the coast of Crimea, when they were seized. Russia opened fire, before its special forces stormed the vessels. Russia stated that the Ukrainian ships were in its waters illegally because Moscow had temporarily closed an area of water for shipping. Kiev, however, called Russia's actions a flagrant violation of international law, because the Black Sea is free for shipping, and Crimea belongs to Ukraine. Kiev also said that it had informed the Russians in advance of its plan to move its ships to Mariupol - a claim denied by Russia. This clash is the first time Russia and Ukraine have come into open conflict in recent years, although Ukrainian forces have been fighting Russian-backed separatists and Russia volunteers in the east since 2014.

After this conflict political efforts for vote to impose martial law has shown. Russian president Vladimir Putin has expressed “serious concern” over Ukraine’s decision to impose martial law. He also said he hoped “Berlin could influence the Ukrainian authorities to dissuade them from further reckless acts.” In the end of the year Russia informed the it has finished building a high-tech security fence along annexed Crimea's border with mainland Ukraine.

At the beginning of January, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople presented a decree of independence to the head of the nascent Orthodox Church of Ukraine, formally severing it from the Russian Orthodox Church. Until the decree, the Orthodox church in Ukraine that was a branch of the Russian church was considered legitimate and two others in Ukraine were regarded as schismatic. The new church unites the two formerly schismatic bodies.

# Issues to be solved

In order for you not to get lost in the very broad topic, we provide you with a list of questions you should be able to answer during the debates and tasks, you should accomplish during the negotiations with other parties:

1. How to ensure peace in the region in the short-term period?
2. Which tools should be used to bring and preserve peace in the long-term period?
3. How should be the security, peace, social and economical aspects of the crisis faced and solved simultaneously?
4. How should be the law breaches solved, and if, how should they be punished?
5. How to settle disagreements arising from the past events?
6. Which existing agreements should be preserved, which should be changed, and which should be terminated?
7. How to accomplish your country´s/body´s objectives in peaceful way, which could be internationally accepted?

We expect you to address these questions in your Position Papers, which are to be sent to us until 17. March 2019 to the following email address: [jcc.zamun2019@gmail.com](mailto:jcc.zamun2019@gmail.com). Important notice: despite you will be working together in your delegation with other participants, you are expected to deliver one Position Paper per person, not per delegation. More ideas can bring more interesting solutions and you will be provided with enough time to discuss and merge these ideas during the informal parts of the discussion, at the table only with the colleagues from the same delegation.

# Conclusion

Finally! You have made it to the part you were looking forward to, the most. The conclusion. After having finished the Studyguide, we still need you to do lots of research, discover your position as the delegate of your country/organization, understand your relationship both with Russia and Ukraine and create a feasible solution.

Furthermore, we would like you to come up with your own ideas and opinions about the topic. Do not forget to look at the real stances of your countries/bodies and represent them. As mentioned already several times, you will need to come up with a solution to the issue presented. Therefore, look at specific aspects of the crisis on which you disagree with other participants and try to think about how to communicate them, so that you are able to come up with a solution in the committee.

There will be relatively (in comparison with other ZAMUN committees) enough time for the discussion and hopefully passing the resolution, but do not underestimate the topic - let us use given space as effectively as possible and do not waste valuable time.

We cannot wait to see you!

# Useful links

As you may have already noticed, many paragraphs of this Studyguide are accompanied by sources in citations. Please, go through these sources to gain more knowledge and insight to the topic. Furthermore, below this paragraph are other useful links, which could help you with your preparations for our conference.

We wish you a good luck and are already looking forward to our time together!

**Resources:**

BESEMERES, J. (Ed.), 2016. Ukraine:: A sharp turn eastwards?, in: A Difficult Neighbourhood, Essays on Russia and East-Central Europe since World War II. ANU Press, pp. 141–166.

Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018. Ukraine | History, Geography, People, & Language [WWW Document]. Encycl. Br. URL https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine (accessed 3.24.18).

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UkrMAP, 2018. UKRAINE IN WORLD WAR I [WWW Document]. URL http://ukrmap.su/en-uh10/260.html (accessed 3.17.18).

World Affairs Journal, 2014. Euromaidan: Ukraine’s Self-Organizing Revolution [WWW Document]. World Aff. J. URL http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/euromaidan-ukraine%E2%80%99s-self-organizing-revolution (accessed 3.17.18).

**Other useful links:**

<https://www.voanews.com/a/independence-decree-presented-to-ukrainian-orthodox-bishop/4730762.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/26/nato-calls-for-calm-after-boats-seized-in-russia-ukraine-clashes-kerch-strait>

<https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-conflict-tracker?marker=26#!/conflict/conflict-in-ukraine>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-46699807>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-42741778>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-war-russia-not-frozen-but-a-battlefield-conflict/29068021.html>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/us-state-department-approves-javelin-anti-tank-missile-sale-ukraine/29072069.html>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-conflict-normandy-meeting-/29282544.html>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/more-lethal-weaponry-possible-for-ukraine-u-s-envoy-says/29489463.html>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-launches-air-exercises-with-nato-countries/29532389.html>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-western-powers-clash-un-security-council-over-elections-eastern-ukraine-donetsk-luhansk/29574239.html>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-imposes-financial-sanctions-on-322-members-of-ukrainian-elite-68-entities/29576709.html>

<http://government.ru/docs/34529/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-46340283>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-russia/ukraine-says-russia-seized-its-ships-near-annexed-crimea-after-firing-on-them-idUSKCN1NU0DL>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/ukraine-crisis>