The logo of the United Nations Security Council is centered in the background. It features a light blue globe with a grid of latitude and longitude lines, surrounded by a laurel wreath. The text is overlaid on this logo.

# **United Nations Security Council**

Background Guide

Freeze Date: 24th February, 2022

Agenda: Ukraine Russia Crisis

# Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council.

Our agenda for this committee is the Ukraine Russia crisis. This is one of the biggest modern wars with the nearest comparison being to the Cuban missile crisis. With the world on the brink of World War 3, the UNSC must come together to establish world peace and security. You, as representatives of various nations, have the chance to change history and save millions of lives worldwide. The crisis is ongoing, pertinent and most of all sensitive. We will expect the utmost consideration from all the delegates present– think before you speak. This might be a simulation for you but these are real problems with real people at stake, give them their due.

This committee will be fast paced and will require you to constantly use your logic and apply your research. As your executive board, we expect you to try to resolve the conflict while at the same time adhering to the foreign policy of your country. You must be diplomatic and at the same time further the interests of your countries.

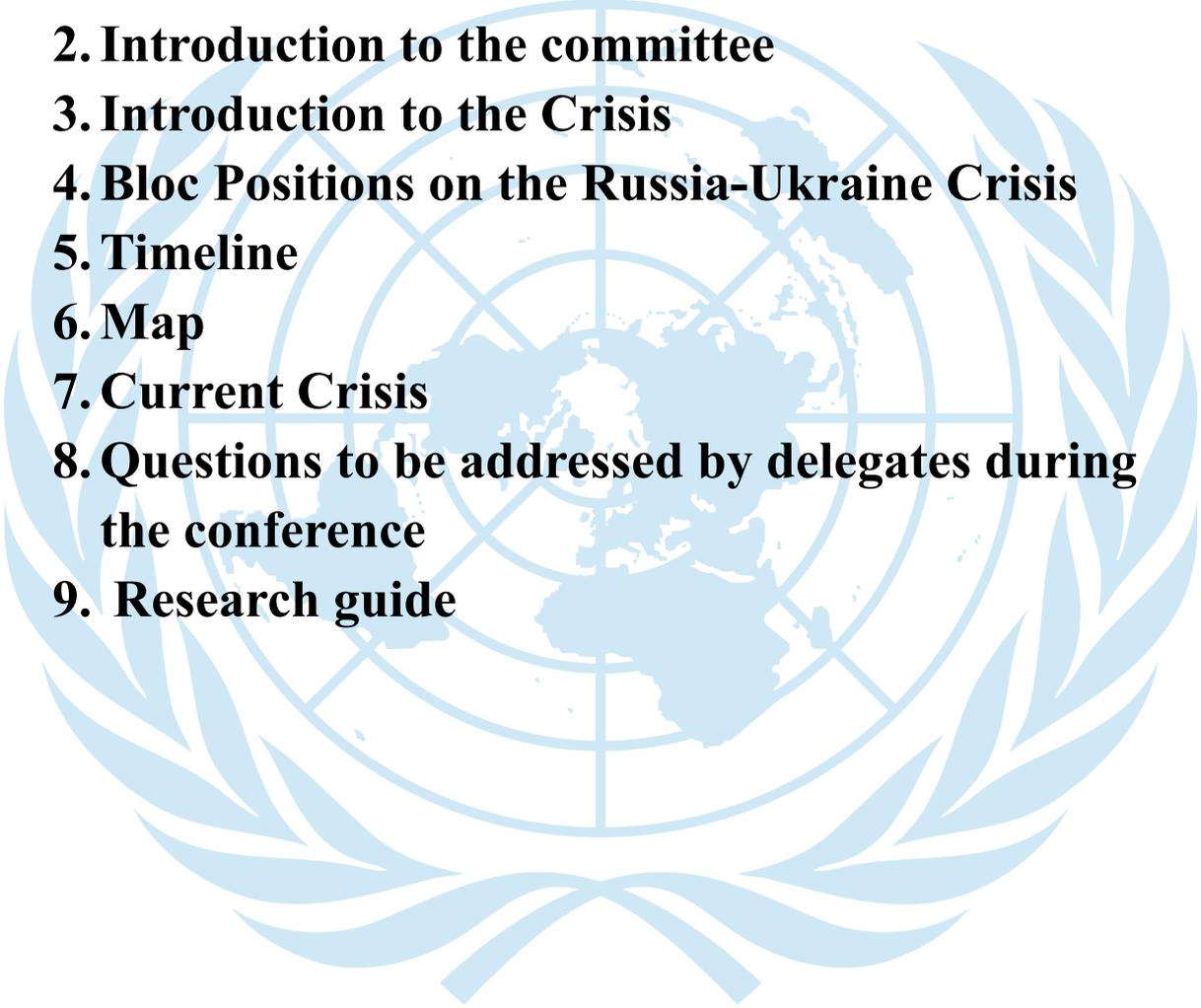
The background guide is only here to act as a tool. Do not substitute this for actual research. The given list of topics is only meant to be guidelines. The list is simply indicative of pressing issues and topics of concern and will give you a gist of the issue. If you have any questions whatsoever, reach out to the EB members, we are here to guide you.

We look forward to seeing you in committee.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board.

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# United Nations

The United Nations is an international body which was formed at the conclusion of the Second World War, with the aim of protecting succeeding generations from the scourge of war. It started with only 51 founding members, but today consists of 193 member states, with a number of Organs and Agencies.

Principally, the United Nations consists of 5 Organs, which form its core, these are the General Assembly, Security Council, Secretariat, Economic and Social Council and Trusteeship Council. The Security Council is regarded as the executive body of the UN, as all 'major' decisions and actions are taken through it

## United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is one of the principal bodies of the UN responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It is the only body of the UN that can take direct action to force or compel a nation to do anything; this can include calling upon member states to apply economic sanctions to a state, authorising the use of military force against an aggressor state, or authorising the use of UN peacekeepers. The Security Council also has other duties, such as recommending the admission of new states to the UN. The Security Council is one of the most visible bodies of the UN, having dealt with issues such as the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Iran, and North Korea, crises in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Timor-Leste (East Timor), and broader issues, such as international terrorism. It is also one of the smallest bodies in the UN, being made up of only fifteen nations, five permanent members (People's Republic of China, Russian Federation, France, United States and the United Kingdom) and ten seats for non-permanent members elected to two-year terms. Any substantive matter must have the concurrence of the five permanent members to pass.

As mentioned earlier, the Security Council is the only UN entity that has the power to adopt resolutions that are binding on the Member States. Following Article 25 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), Member States are obliged to accept and carry out the Council's recommendations and decisions. The Security Council also has a variety of tools to address issues on its agenda. For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the position of the Council. Although these other tools are not legally binding, they nonetheless bring attention to important issues and compel the members of the Security Council to make recommendations and resolve conflicts.

## **Membership**

The Security Council is composed of five permanent members and ten non-permanent members. The five permanent members of the Security Council are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the ten non-permanent members for a two-year term. Elections for non-permanent seats on the Council can be competitive, with countries expressing interest years in advance. Countries elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests in their region; they usually influence the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest in their foreign policy. Security Council elections for non-permanent members are held in June, six months before the term starts, which allows Member States ample time to prepare for their new roles. The ten non-permanent members represent countries from five groups: Africa, the Asia-Pacific Group, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Eastern European Group, Western European and Other.

## **Mandate, Functions, and Powers**

The mandate of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security as specified in the *Charter of the United Nations*. Chapters VI and VII of the Charter specifically concern the Security Council and the range of actions that can be taken when settling disputes. Chapter VI aims to achieve the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, whereas Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken. Any Member State can report a dispute to the Security Council; the role of the Council is to determine the severity of the dispute brought before the body and the impact of the dispute internationally. The Security Council is responsible for making recommendations to broker peace that take into consideration the previously attempted measures by the parties involved. Under Chapter VII, the Security Council has the authority to implement provisional measures aimed to deescalate the situation. If the provisional measures are ignored or are unsuccessful, the Security Council may decide to call upon military forces to act on behalf of the UN. Non-military actions that can be implemented include blockades or economic interruptions. In aggregate, the Charter provides the Security Council with the following set of powers to full its mandate.

## **Sanctions**

According to Article 41 of the Charter, the Council can call on its members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or end violence. These include economic sanctions, financial penalties and restrictions, travel bans, severance of diplomatic relations, and blockades, among others. It may further mandate arms embargoes, enforce disarmament, or initiate proceedings in the international justice system

## **Diplomatic Tools**

The Council has the mandate to investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to aggressions between states or other non-state groups or within states' national territories. To do so, it may “recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement; formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments; determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and recommend what action should be taken.”

## **Military Action**

The Council may take military action against a state or other entity threatening international peace and security and may further decide on the deployment of troops or observers. The Council may decide to initiate peacekeeping operations; it may also modify existing peacekeeping operations through the extension or amendment of their mandates and the additional deployment or withdrawal of troops.

## **Partnerships**

The Council cooperates with numerous international and regional organisations, as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to implement its decisions. The Council works closely with related organisations of the UN, such as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Partnerships with independent intergovernmental organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the African Union, are also of paramount importance for addressing a broad range of issues including terrorism, disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and extreme violence from non-state actors, among others

# **Introduction to the Crisis**

As one of the greatest global tragedies since World War II, the Russo-Ukrainian conflict has had an international impact and could end up spiralling into a third world war. With the Russian military infiltrating Ukrainian borders, it has become near impossible to control the situation peacefully. Hundreds have been killed, millions are seeking refuge, and war now wreaks havoc nationwide. This is your chance to write the future, change the narrative, and restore peace worldwide.

Tensions between Ukraine and Russia can be traced all the way back to 2014, when Russia began its annexation of Crimea, violating Ukraine's sovereignty. At this

time, Ukraine's pro-Russian president lost the election, causing Russia to come to an offensive stance, launching a war resulting in the loss of almost 14,000 lives. Since then, Russo-Ukrainian relations have been strained, with Ukraine living under the fear of war for almost eight years.

On February 24th, 2022, the Russian military invaded Ukraine, escalating the conflict and resulting in almost eight million Ukrainians fleeing the country. On this day, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a "special military operation" with the sole goal to demilitarise and denazify Ukraine. Following the announcement, missiles, airstrikes, and a full-scale ground invasion ensued, directly affecting millions of civilians in Ukraine.

It has now become crucial for the United Nations Security Council to assemble and take collective action to de-escalate the conflict. With constant crisis updates and fast paced debate, time is of the essence while addressing this issue. Member nations must be ready to debate and compromise to address this humanitarian, political, and economic crisis. The fate of the world lies completely in your hands.



## **Bloc Positions on the Russia-Ukraine Crisis**

### Western Bloc (United States, United Kingdom, France, etc)

The Western Bloc which is composed of the NATO members is against the ongoing conflict within Ukraine. Due to the nature of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and the necessity for those that are members to fight a war against any one country that may launch an attack on a member state, the Western Bloc is concerned with Russia pushing further past Ukraine into the NATO member state of Poland. On the global stage Western Countries namely those

that are members of the P5 have taken a staunch adversarial stance toward the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.

### Eastern Bloc (China)

With the Eastern Bloc consisting of both India and China, the overall stance on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is one of neutrality. With both countries being involved in diplomatic talks with members of the Kremlin, both countries have maintained a neutral disposition on the conflict and have utilised the right of abstention when it comes to voting on resolutions within Security Council meetings.

### African Bloc

While some African nations, such as Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya, have expressed their condemnation of Russia's actions in Ukraine, most African countries have largely remained silent and neutral. Over 23 African nations abstained from the vote to remove Russia from the UN Human Rights Council, with other nine nations outright voting against it. This can be traced to African countries' strong relationship with Moscow, as the former USSR, came to the aid of many African nations during the Cold War. Countries in this bloc have to consider their history with Russia, but also their relation to Western nations before taking a stance on the conflict.

### Arab League

Arab regions' stance on the conflict has been inconsistent: Starting by failing to condemn Russia's actions and even signalling a pro-Russia stance in the early days of the invasion, there was a shift from certain Arab nations - Namely, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt - by taking part in the General Assembly's condemnation of Russia. Countries in the Arab League have strong ties to Western countries but heavily rely on food supplies from Russia. In April, the Arab League had offered to mediate a resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with food shortages in the Middle Eastern region being a driving concern. Though nations in the Arab League have mostly remained neutral in hopes of reaching a swift conclusion, countries in this bloc need to be wary of Arab nations' strong ties and partnerships with Western countries.

### Russian Federation

With the Russian Federation being a nation that is granted the right to utilise a veto due to its membership of the Permanent 5, as well as a member state involved in the conflict at hand, the Russian Federation has taken a strong stance against those who seek to interfere in what Russia views as a matter that should not involve the UN. Due to the strong stance being adopted by the Russian Federation diplomatic solutions must be worked towards rather than utilising the veto power.

# Timeline

Date	Event
<b>December 1st, 1991</b>	Ukraine becomes independent: Ukraine declares its independence from Russia just after the collapse of the Soviet Union.
<b>December 5th, 1994</b>	The Budapest Memorandum: Ukraine transfers all nuclear weapons to Russia, in return for the country's promise to 'respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine'.
<b>November to December 2004: The Orange Revolution</b>	<p>A presidential election between pro-West Viktor Yushchenko and pro-Russia Viktor Yanukovich creates a massive controversy.</p> <p>Yushchenko was mysteriously poisoned before the election – but made a full recovery – and so victory was declared in favour of Yanukovich.</p> <p>Ukrainians took to the street wearing orange, which was Yushchenko's campaign colour.</p> <p>By December, protestors triggered a re-vote, resulting in a victory for Yushchenko.</p>
<b>2005: Eyes on EU and NATO membership</b>	<p>Yushchenko takes power with promises to lead Ukraine out of the Kremlin's orbit, toward NATO and the EU.</p> <p>These are the first moves in a bid to protect Ukraine from Russia.</p>
<b>2008</b>	Ukraine applies to initiate ties with NATO
<b>April 3rd, 2008</b>	<p>Russia fights Ukrainian NATO membership: NATO looked at expanding its Membership Action Plan (MAP) to Ukraine.</p> <p>Putin makes his opposition to Ukrainian membership known to NATO leaders, at one point allegedly telling US President George W. Bush that Ukraine is 'not even a real nation-state.'</p> <p>NATO does not offer Ukraine a MAP.</p>

<b>2012</b>	Ukraine & EU initiate 'association agreement' for integration
<b>2013</b>	Ukrainian foreign minister said Russians simply cannot believe Ukraine - EU association
<b>November 2013</b>	<p>Ukraine calls off an association agreement with EU, on account of the worsened ties with CIS nations (a body comprising of eastern European and central Asian countries)</p> <p>Civil unrest ensued after protestors demanded communication and committee involvement with the EU.</p> <p>Russia backed Yanukovich-led gov for turning down the EU integration, while the US and EU supported the protestors.</p>
<b>February 20th, 2014</b>	<p>Crimea Annexed</p> <p>Russia invaded and subsequently annexed the Crimean Peninsula from the state of Ukraine.</p>
<b>February 22nd, 2014</b>	<p>Yanukovich ousted:</p> <p>Ukrainian President Yanukovich suspended all trade and talks with the EU in an attempt to revive their relationship with Moscow.</p> <p>This began months of anti-government protests in Kyiv, which included bloodshed, leading to parliament voting for removal.</p>
<b>March 4th, 2015</b>	The US Pledges 1 Billion \$ aid to Ukraine.
<b>July 2014</b>	30,000-40,000 Russian troops build up along the Ukrainian border
<b>November, 2014</b>	The Ukrainian military reported intensive movement of Russian troops into parts of Eastern Ukraine. The AP reports about 40 unmarked military vehicles in the Ukraine territory
<b>October 2015</b>	Washington Post reports elite units of the Russian army in Ukraine
<b>2016</b>	<p>Conflict Renewed:</p> <p>Ukraine reports increased military activity along the Crimea border.</p>

<b>2018</b>	Russia concludes the construction of a bridge over the Kerch strait, thus obstructing waterways to Ukraine and obstructing the ships' trade
<b>April 29th, 2019</b>	Volodymyr Zelenskyy becomes president  Former comic actor Volodymyr Zelensky, best known for starring in Servant Of The People, is elected president.
<b>January 2021</b>	US Appeal  Zelensky appeals to US President Joe Biden to let Ukraine join NATO.
<b>February 2021</b>	Cut off the Kremlin  Zelensky's government freezes the assets of opposition leader Viktor Medvedchuk, the Kremlin's most prominent ally in Ukraine.
<b>March and April 2021</b>	Russian troop on the border:  Russia begins massing troops near Ukraine's borders in what it says are training exercises.  Putin publishes an article claiming that Russians and Ukrainians are 'one people'  He then issues demands to NATO and the United States. Among these demands is that Ukraine never be admitted to NATO – a request rejected by the Biden administration.
<b>November 2021</b>	Russian forces build up:  Satellite images taken by Maxar Technologies show an ongoing buildup of Russian forces near Ukraine with estimates soon surpassing 100,000 troops deployed.
<b>December 7th, 2021</b>	Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin engage in telephonic conversation for two hours wherein the US president mentioned he would put sanctions on Russia if Kremlin urged its forces to enter Ukraine
<b>December 17th,</b>	Russia demands NATO to deny membership to Ukraine and other

<p><b>2021</b></p>	<p>Ex-Soviet nations. Further, Kremlin demands that NATO cease all military activity in Ukraine as well as Eastern Europe</p> <p>Joe Biden assures Ukrainian president Zelensky that the US will respond decisively if Russia attempts an annexation.</p>
<p><b>January 10th, 2022</b></p>	<p>Us and Russian officials meet at Geneva for diplomatic talks but talks remained unresolved as Moscow continued being adamant on security demands:</p> <p>The US delivers a written reply to Putin while offering a 'principled and pragmatic response' to Russia's demands.</p> <p>China intrudes by saying that the US should pay heed to Moscow's 'legitimate security concerns'.</p> <p>President Zelensky urges the West to avoid creating a 'panic' while Putin stated that he is ready to continue talking as his demands are not addressed yet.</p> <p>US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas addresses the council session saying that the Russian invasion of Ukraine will be a 'threat to global security'.</p>
<p><b>January 24th, 2022</b></p>	<p>NATO on standby:</p> <p>NATO puts forces on standby and reinforces eastern Europe with more ships and fighter jets.</p>
<p><b>February 1st, 2022</b></p>	<p>Putin denies having plans to annex Ukraine</p> <p>Putin said that it was already clear that the fundamental Russian concerns ended up being ignored</p> <p>French President Macron tells reporters that Russia will not flare up the Ukrainian crisis after in-person talks with Putin. However, the Kremlin denies the assurance saying, "in the current situation, Moscow and Paris cannot be reaching any deals."</p>
<p><b>February 11th, 2022</b></p>	<p>US national security advisor Jake Sullivan warns against Russia's ever-increasing military build-up along Ukraine:</p> <p>The US warns of an invasion before the Beijing Olympics ends on February 20.</p>

	<p>The Pentagon ordered 3,000 troops to Poland, pushing the total to 5,000 reinforcements sent to Europe in the past three weeks.</p>
<p><b>February 21st, 2022</b></p>	<p>Russian troops sent to Donetsk and Luhansk:</p> <p>Russian troops are also deployed as ‘peacekeepers’ in Donetsk and Luhansk.</p> <p>The regions broke away from Ukraine in 2014.</p> <p>Putin announced he recognised Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states.</p>
<p><b>February 22nd, 2022</b></p>	<p>First Sanctions:</p> <p>The UK, US, and their allies sanction Russian parliament members, banks and other assets. Germany halts the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project.</p>
<p><b>February 24th, 2022</b></p>	<p>Russian attack on Ukraine begins:</p> <p>Putin orders a “special military operation” in Ukraine, effectively beginning the invasion of Ukraine.</p> <p>The invasion began in the eastern Ukrainian territory of Donbas.</p> <p>Diplomatic ties between Russia and Ukraine are officially broken.</p>

# MAP



## Current Crisis

These last few days have been tense for Ukraine, with Russian forces slowly entering their lands under the premise of “Specialised Military Operations”, including the most recent one on the 24th of February, where over 10,000 soldiers crossed the borders and stormed into the nation to reach the capital, Kyiv. Important locations like Chernobyl have fallen into Russian Control, and the valiant Ukrainian Forces have suffered a heavy setback. Vladimir Putin has successfully started his ‘unification’ campaign, and Russian determination to bring Ukraine back into the fold, despite the enormous economic price it is paying, suggests that the current crisis goes beyond the status of Ukraine’s relationship with NATO. It is highly probable that Russia would be facing sanctions and potential political shake-ups in the foreseeable future.

## Questions to be addressed by delegates during the conference

1. What is your country's stance on the war?
2. How is your country going to contribute to the settlement of the war?
3. Will your country be willing to impose economic sanctions and take military action against the aggressors, so essentially the decision of military action or peaceful settlement?
4. What are the immediate and long-term actions that the UNSC should take regarding the political situation in Russia and Ukraine?
5. How can your country cooperate with other countries to aid the humanitarian crisis taking place?
6. How can the UNSC prevent the crisis from launching into a full fledged World War 3?
7. What are the measures the UNSC can take to prevent the use of nuclear warfare?

## How to Research

For the convenience of all delegates, and to have a productive and fun conference, here's a short guide on how to go about research. This is just our opinion on research and what we have learnt throughout our various conferences. Remember, it isn't the only way one can research for a MUN, but it is the way we recommend. Have fun researching :)

### **Step 1: Acquaint yourself with the agenda**

Read articles, timelines and other material to have a good understanding of the agenda. It will also help you get a brief understanding of what the general stances of the various countries are.

### **Step 2: Read up and be clear on your foreign policy**

Perhaps the most important, yet the most overlooked part of a MUN is foreign policy. Be **VERY CLEAR** about the stance of your country on the agenda overall, different issues

within it, who are its allies, enemies etc. Make sure everything you say is supported by your foreign policy. A violation of the foreign policy will lead to negative marks. In our opinion, the best way to understand a foreign policy is to analyse the actions which have been taken which could affect the country,

### **Step 3: Make a list of subtopics and potential crises**

Based on the background guide, and the current events which have taken place, make a list of potential topics that you think the committee will discuss. Then begin your research one subtopic at a time. In a crisis committee like ours, the topic of most arguments will be related to crisis updates or actions taken by other members. We would recommend preparing the **relevance of facts you state** (addressed in step 4) in your arguments, you should ideally “dig up some dirt” on every country in the committee.

### **Step 4: Sort out your arguments, counter arguments, propositions, and solutions**

There's a big difference between an argument and a fact. An Argument = proposition/statement (Example - Demonetization was not a good idea, and here's why-) + fact + analysis + conclusion. For each sub-topic, prepare a list of arguments that you can talk about in your speeches. Keep in mind that most arguments will be challenged by other delegates, so be prepared with valid counter arguments as well. It's always a good idea to understand both sides of an argument. Remember to include analysis as well. As an EB, we are not looking for facts. We want to know why these facts are relevant. Think of valid solutions or propositions you could make. Make them as detailed as possible, and make sure that they're realistic and feasible.

## **Some things to Remember**

1. While the background guide can provide you with useful insight into the agenda, it's not a source of research. It's a starting point that guides you through research.
2. Quality over Quantity- A small amount of valuable research can go a long way. Don't copy paste large articles to make your research look substantive.
3. Don't be disheartened if you can't find something important. Remember, there are many sides to a single problem, and you are sure to find a valuable piece of information sooner or later.
4. Don't always rely on your research. Sometimes the most important thing is to listen to what the other delegates are saying and think on your feet.

5. You can revise your ROP's from [aravalimun.org](http://aravalimun.org)

## Resources to use while researching

1. A great news resource to use while researching is **Reuters**, any information from Reuters is considered to be factually correct and universally true.
2. United Nations resolutions are formal expressions of the opinion or will of United Nations organs. Using **past resolutions**, you can decipher trends in resolutions to come up with your own. Documents and findings by the United Nations or any related UN body are held as credible proof to support a claim or argument.
3. **Multilateral Organisations:** Documents from international organisations like NATO, NAFTA, SAARC, BRICS, EU, ASEAN, OPEC, the International Criminal Court, etc. may also be presented as credible sources of information.
4. Google as a whole isn't the best source of vetted information, for maps, we would recommend not using random maps from google images and also not using information from unrecognised sites.