

Forum: Security Council: military aid to Ukraine, NATO expansion

Issue N.1: Discussing upcoming sets of military aid for Ukraine to give an opportunity to get back the occupied territories and to protect the country from Russian aggression.

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Description of Issue:

After the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the countries of Europe and the United States are constantly helping Ukraine with the supply of weapons for more effective combat and defense. A huge number of countries regularly arrange new military assistance packages for the country to provide the army with advanced technology.

However, Russia has repeatedly threatened arms-supplier countries that arms deliveries that could enable Ukraine to launch strikes on Russian territory would be considered direct involvement of the arms-supplier country in the conflict. These threats were ignored multiple times by countries such as the USA who were warned by Russia about the shipment of four HIMARS machines to Ukraine.

Defense officials who have advised against supplying Ukraine with the longer-range missiles, known as Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMs), have voiced concerns that the missiles could be used against targets inside Russian territory and potentially set off a wider war with Russia. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova warned the United States against providing such a weapon to Ukraine, calling it a red line: *“If Washington decides to supply longer-range missiles to Kyiv, then it will be crossing a red line, and will become a direct party to the conflict,”* - Zakharova.

The main goal of the Security Council will be to discuss new aid packages for Ukraine, but also to prevent potential aggression from Russia towards the supplier countries. The countries will be encouraged to reach a compromise where arms supplement will not lead to conflict involvement.

Background information:

The regions of Ukraine that the Russian government currently controls as a result of the Russo-Ukrainian war are known as the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine. They are known as the "temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine" according to Ukrainian law. Following the invasion and annexation of the Crimean peninsula by Russia, coupled with the mostly unrecognized Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics taking portions of Donetsk and Luhansk during the Donbass War, the occupation began in 2014. Russian soldiers launched a full-scale invasion of the country in 2022 and successfully took over more land all around the nation. However, early April saw the announcement by Russia that it was leaving its occupations of Chernihiv, Kyiv, Sumy, and Zhytomyr due to ongoing severe Ukrainian opposition and logistical difficulties. As of October 2022, Russian forces were still in control of Sevastopol, the entire Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and areas of the Kharkiv, Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, and Zaporizhzhia.

Russia has controlled the peninsula as two federal entities since annexing Crimea in March 2014: the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol. Even though Russia and some other UN member states have expressed support for the 2014 Crimean referendum, implying recognition of Crimea as part of the Russian Federation, Ukraine continues to assert the peninsula as an essential part of its territory, which is supported by most foreign governments through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262. The Ukrainian parliament formally designated February 20, 2014, as the day "the temporary occupation of Crimea and Sevastopol by Russia began."

The Russian military and pro-Russian troops further occupied additional Ukrainian land after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. In order to concentrate on establishing control over Eastern and Southern Ukraine, Russian soldiers withdrew from Northern Ukraine, including the nation's capital Kyiv, in the early days of April. On June 2, 2022, Zelenskyy declared that about 20% of Ukrainian territory was under Russian occupation.

President Joe Biden signed into law the "Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act of 2022." The act authorizes the administration, through fiscal year 2023, to lend or lease military equipment to Ukraine and other Eastern European countries. The act would exempt the administration from certain provisions of law that govern the loan or lease of military equipment to foreign countries, such as the five-year limit on the duration of the loan or the requirement that receiving countries pay all costs incurred by the United States in leasing the defense equipment. All applicable rules governing the return of such equipment would still apply to any loan or lease of military equipment to Ukraine. Current law defines payments made under lease agreements with foreign nations as direct spending and deposits them in the Treasury Department as miscellaneous receipts. If the administration lends or leases equipment that it otherwise would not have offered under current law, this legislation could raise the amount deposited in the Treasury.

Since the beginning of the Biden administration, the US has contributed \$15.8 billion in military aid to Ukraine, making it the greatest supplier. Of that aid, \$15.1 billion has been given since February 2022. Up to this point, the UK has provided Ukraine with military support worth £2.3 billion. A training program being hosted by the UK and funded by a number of partners aims to train 10,000 new and existing Ukrainian personnel in 120 days. NATO has been very clear about its political support for Ukraine and fully endorses the giving of individual allies' bilateral military aid. The distribution of humanitarian supplies and non-lethal assistance is supported by NATO, which also assists in coordinating the Ukrainian government's requests for assistance. However, because Ukraine is not a member of NATO, it is not a party to Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty, which contains NATO's mutual defense clause. As a result, there won't be any NATO forces stationed in Ukraine. A no-fly zone over Ukraine has also been rejected by allies since it would pit NATO forces against Russian aircraft. The NATO allies decided on a new package of assistance for Ukraine at the Heads of State and Government summit in Madrid at the end of June 2022 that will give long-term, sustainable support. Additionally, the European Union is supplying deadly weapons via its European Peace Facility (EPF). This is the first time in the block's history that the transfer of deadly weapons to a third country has been authorized. The EU has already pledged €2.5 billion.

Countries who have supplied Ukraine with weapons and military equipment include: **Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and the US.**

These do not include countries providing non-lethal aid or fuel, such as **Ireland and Japan.**

For knowing what type of military equipment have your country supplied for Ukraine follow this link: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/15/infographic-what-weapons-has-ukraine-received-from-the-us-and-al>

On September 21, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a limited military mobilization in Russia. Putin repeated prior assertions that Western countries were to blame for initiating a proxy war with Russia in a rare scripted televised statement, saying the West "wants to destroy our country" and attempting to "turn Ukraine's people into cannon fodder." Putin announced the start of "mobilization events" without providing any additional information, other than to say he had ordered an increase in funding to increase Russia's production of weapons after committing (and losing) a significant amount of weaponry during the conflict, which started in late February.

Key terms:

Referendum - the principle or practice of referring measures proposed or passed by a legislative body, head of state, etc., to the vote of the electorate for approval or rejection. In case of Ukrainian conflict - elections organized by Russia among the people of several Ukrainian areas in order to occupy them.

Lend-Lease - a program (act) of ally support by the United States during the war. The only two times the US initiated the program were World War II and the war in Ukraine.

Mobilization - the act of organizing or preparing something, such as a group of people, for a purpose, in this case - troops for military actions.

HIMARS - american multiple launch rocket system on a wheeled chassis.

NATO - a political and military alliance of countries in Europe and North America established in Washington, D.C. (1949) for the purpose of collective defense against aggression.

Countries involved:

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and the US.

Key countries:

Russian Federation, USA, Ukraine

Links:

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3025302/biden-signs-lend-lease-act-to-supply-more-security-assistance-to-ukraine/>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/15/infographic-what-weapons-has-ukraine-received-from-the-us-and-al>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/us-military-leaders-are-reluctant-provide-longer-range-missiles-ukrain-rcna48072>

<https://theintercept.com/2022/09/10/ukraine-military-aid-weapons-oversight/>

<https://www.statista.com/chart/27278/military-aid-to-ukraine-by-country/>

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_197737.htm

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60506682>