

Westwood MUNC VIII

DRONE WARFARE



Delegates,

Since WestwoodMUNCVIII is being run as an entirely crisis-based conference, it is crucial for newcomers to be familiar with the rules of procedure, as it does diverge from some of the more traditional general assembly procedures. Please see below for a quick rundown of most of the rules we will be following for the duration of the conference:

I. Overview:

Crisis committees are run differently from “normal” Model UN committees. Because they run at a fast pace, each committee is run in a series of moderated caucuses, designed to maintain a rapid flow of debate, helping delegates adjust to crisis updates and such. The rest of the committee follows normal parliamentary procedure with a few notable exceptions.

II. Format:

As previously stated, the format of debate differs slightly from a general assembly in a crisis simulation. There is no speakers list and therefore, the default method of debate is the moderated caucus. Chairs will require the first motion to be a round-robin to ascertain the positions of others in the committee. This will serve as a good starting point to see who delegates can work with and who is most likely to get in the way of achieving their goals. After some moderated debate, delegates can motion for the “traditional” (un)moderated caucuses, round robins, straw polls, voting procedures, etc. To make any of these motions, a delegate must be recognized by the chair after raising their placards. Points and motions may be made between speakers, though note that right of replies are

rarely granted and are only allowed when serious insult to national or personal integrity has occurred.

III. *Public Directives:

Although normal crisis committees pass a series of short public directives, since this committee is a UN Security Council simulation, you will be working towards creating one larger resolution, as is with most General Assembly committees. However, delegates will still be able to pass personal directives.

IV. Personal Directives:

Additionally, individual members of the committee may pass personal directives depending on their particular position, potentially contributing to individual crisis arcs. These directives can range from allocating funds for renewable energy to carrying out assassinations. These actions do not need to be passed by the committee at large and their effectiveness is determined by their feasibility and the crisis staff. It is suggested that delegates refrain from sharing what personal directives they are planning as they should be used to achieve personal objectives that might not always align with the interests of the committee as a whole. These directives are sent to the crisis backroom, which determines whether or not the directive will change the course of the committee.

V. Communication:

Communication is an essential part of any crisis simulation and is especially a vital tool when delegates are required to respond to crisis updates. At the beginning of the conference, delegates will be provided with a pen and a pad of paper. They may use the paper to write notes to each other, write up directives, or organize thoughts. Regarding note passing: delegates may pass notes to each other during committee while other members are speaking, but this privilege may be revoked by the chair should it distract from the debate. Specifics about note passing will be addressed at the beginning of the first committee session by the chair. Technology, like computers and cell phones, are not allowed during debate.

VI. Conference Prep:

In order to prepare for this conference, it is *strongly* recommended that each delegate consolidate their thoughts and strategy by writing a position paper. Delegates who do not submit a paper by the deadline below will not be eligible for awards. Position papers should:

- Be 1-2 pages in length single spaced, in 12-point font
- Describe your role's position and what they contribute to the issue
- Address specific questions from the Background Guide that are relevant to your role
- Outline your role's likely optimal resolution and steps you need to take to achieve it
- MLA or Chicago style citations along with a Works Cited or Bibliography

Please email your position paper to your chairs no later than ***11:59 pm on Friday, April 5th*** so that they have adequate time to read them. To qualify for any awards you must submit a position paper by emailing it to 25iroberts@wpsstudents.org or 25avertikova@wpsstudents.org. Once again, please feel free to email your chairs or crisis director with any questions you may have regarding conference policies or procedures.

Best,

WestwoodMUNCVIII Staff

Hello Delegates,

My name is Immy Roberts, and I am absolutely thrilled to be chairing this committee on the Weaponization of Drones in the Russo-Ukrainian War. I am a senior at Westwood High School, and I have been involved with Model UN since my junior year. Outside of Model UN, I enjoy playing volleyball, spending time with my friends, and walking my dog! I plan to major in political science in college, so this topic combines my passions for modern politics and international relations. This will be my first time chairing a committee, and I hope to make your experience here at the eighth iteration of Westwood MUN engaging, challenging, and fun!

This committee deals with a real-life conflict that has altered the lives of thousands of individuals. As we will be discussing the ethics and legality of the weaponization of drones, it is crucial for you to consider this topic through a level-headed and critical outlook. Our true end goal in this committee is to work towards just and rational resolutions that aim to tackle the complex nature of the evolution of warfare as we know it. Although it is important to speak with the interests of your country in mind, we strongly encourage you to remember to speak about the topic with respect and empathy, as real lives are being impacted by this issue.

My role as your chair is to aid you in the process of fostering effective and complex debate, so if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at: 25i roberts@wpsstudents.org . I have a very flexible schedule and would love to answer any questions, no matter how big or small, relating to this committee! I truly hope you enjoy this committee and its contents and I look forward to meeting all of you in April and wish you the best of luck with your research and planning!

Sincerely,

Immy Roberts

Hello delegates,

My name is Anya Vertikova and I am honored to be the co-chair of the Westwood MUNC VIII Drone Warfare Committee. I am currently a senior at Westwood High School and I have been doing Model UN since my junior year. Outside of Model UN, I enjoy spending time with family, hanging out with friends, and playing with my dog. I have never held an administrative position in a Model UN committee, but I am very excited and honored to do so.

Drone Warfare, specifically on the Ukrainian front, is an extremely important topic, not only because it deals with a crisis that is occurring as we speak, but also because it pertains to the future of modern technology and warfare. I believe that it is very important to stay educated on current events and issues in our world and that us young people, as the future of politics, should stay informed on the global issues surrounding us, and this is exactly what our committee allows us, as chairs, and you, as delegates, to do!

As co-chair, my role is to ensure that effective and smooth debate occurs, and if you have any questions feel free to reach out at 25avertikova@wpsstudents.org and I will be more than happy to help! I look forward to meeting with you all in April and hearing your amazing ideas.

Sincerely,

Anya Vertikova

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Committee on the Weaponization of Commercial Drones

Committee Setting

This committee will meet at the UN Security Council's headquarters in New York City on **January 1st, 2025**. The Council's role is to maintain international peace and security. At one time, the UNSC has fifteen member countries, including five permanent members with veto power and ten rotating non-permanent member nations. Often, concerned parties or nations are invited to share opinions despite not having voting privileges on final resolutions. As either Security Council members or invited guests, your role is to craft a solution that will restore peace while keeping your nation's interests in mind. Please keep in mind that this committee occurs before the inauguration of Donald Trump, so plan to conduct research accordingly.

Topic Overview

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is a longstanding and destructive fight. In 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which started the latest European war since World War II.¹ Currently, both nations are using advanced warfare techniques, including First Person View (FPV) kamikaze drones to support their war efforts. No longer is war defined by bombs and guns, but rather by rapidly evolving technology, posing immense threats to civilian populations, and limiting legal accountability given the ever-changing nature of warfare and the pure anonymity of the advanced technology.

In light of the current war, the technology that is raising the most concern is drones. With depleted artillery, Ukraine has turned to the use of kamikaze FPV drones--commercial drones

¹ Russo-Ukrainian War. Accessed February 27, 2025. <https://war.huri.harvard.edu/background/>.

intended for a one-time lethal attack. These \$200-\$300 commercial drones are a fraction of the price of artillery shells which average around \$3,200.² The utilization of weaponized drones is a primary strategy sustaining Ukraine's defense against Russia. In 2024, Russia allotted 13.2 trillion rubles (129 billion USD) to military spending,³ while Ukraine budgeted around 40 billion⁴ making them reliant on financial support from allies and inexpensive defense strategies. While certainly cost-effective, these drones pose severe humanitarian and legal concerns. Ukraine continues to use live footage of the killings recorded from the drones in combat as propaganda, despite ethical and moral implications. Not only are these killings being used as a form of entertainment intended to garner support for the war, but with the surge of drone usage, there is little to no ability to hold nations accountable for war crimes being committed during digital combat because many are untraceable, and there are few guidelines for drone usage in international law.

Given that the two nations are at such a crucial imbalance in resources, and both view drones as necessary to their military agendas, how can the weaponization of commercial drones be punished or regulated? This is the question the Security Council faces today. As delegates, you must tackle both the ethical and legal considerations involved with the use of weaponized drones in active combat. Countless lives are at stake and your decisions will have a direct impact on the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War.

² Chivers, C. J., and David Guttenfelder. "How Suicide Drones Transformed the Front Lines in Ukraine." *The New York Times*, December 31, 2024. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/31/magazine/drones-weapons-ukraine-war.html>.

³ Luzin, Pavel. "Russia's Year of Truth: The Runaway Military Budget." CEPA, January 22, 2025. <https://cepa.org/article/russias-year-of-truth-the-runaway-military-budget/>.

⁴ Monin, Daniil, Victor Andrusiv, Blair A. Ruble, Andrian Prokip, and Katerina Sergatskova. "Ukraine's Budget for 2024." *Wilson Center*, December 12, 2023. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/ukraines-budget-2024>.

Past Actions

Drone warfare has become a critical characteristic of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, with both sides utilizing FPV Kamikaze Drones. For both surveillance and precision at a cost-effective price, these once-commercial items have transformed the landscape of this ongoing war. Currently, Russia has attacked key civilian infrastructures, such as the attack on Kheron in South Ukraine, resulting in the death of 30 civilians and upwards of 400 individuals wounded.⁵ This is one of many occurrences of Russia using drone technology to target civilian infrastructure. In the past three years of combat, there have been 2,159 fatalities as a result of Russian drone strikes within Ukraine.⁶ This past year alone, Russia has turned towards attacks on civilians, devastating Ukraine's populace. Due to the depletion of resources and lack of funding, cheap commercial drones have become essential to the Ukrainian defense strategy, causing them to resort to abstract sources for both weapons and pilots. Many concerns have been raised about the long-term well-being of soldiers who are engaging in technological combat which mirrors that of gruesome violence within video games.⁷ This disturbing practice has even led to the formation of the Army Bonus Program—a competition in which human lives amount to tallies on a board—offering an immoral incentive for Ukrainian citizens to partake in the war effort. Both Russia's targets on civilian infrastructure and the public broadcasting of the killings committed by Ukraine demonstrate the severity of the issue at hand.

⁵ Limaye, Yogita. "Drone Strikes on Civilians Suggest New Russian Terror Tactic in Ukraine." BBC News, October 31, 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c207gz7key6o>.

⁶Olha Polishchuk, Nichita Gurcov. "Bombing into Submission: Russian Targeting of Civilians and Infrastructure in Ukraine." ACLED, February 21, 2025.

<https://acleddata.com/2025/02/21/bombing-into-submission-russian-targeting-of-civilians-and-infrastructure-in-ukraine/>.

⁷Chivers, C. J., and David Guttenfelder. "How Suicide Drones Transformed the Front Lines in Ukraine." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 31 Dec. 2024, www.nytimes.com/2024/12/31/magazine/drones-weapons-ukraine-war.html.

Questions to Consider

- 1) What role should the Security Council and other UN bodies play in mediating drone warfare-related disputes?
- 2) How can the Security Council work to ensure legal accountability of the anonymous attacks on civilian infrastructure?
- 3) Does the use of drone footage for propaganda within Ukraine challenge the humanitarian principles this body is supposed to uphold?
- 4) What safeguards or innovative solutions (such as AI) could be used to reduce the risks of the weaponization of drones?
- 5) How has the use of drones impacted the balance of power between the two countries?

Positions

*= the delegation has veto power in the UNSC

- Russia*: Vasily Alekseyevich Nebenzya
 - As the aggressor of the two nations in this conflict, Russia has favored the technological development of drones prior to the beginning of the war. In 2015, 7 years before Russia invaded Ukraine, the Russian military declared they would be “focus[ing] on the production of new drones over the next 10 years⁸.” Now ten years have passed, and drone warfare makes up the majority of the current conflict.
 - President of Russia: Vladimir Putin
 - Foreign Minister: Sergey Lavrov
- Ukraine: Sergiy Olehovych Kyslytsya
 - When the Russo-Ukrainian war began in 2022, it was a war solely fought with infantry units, and “today is half a war of drone.” Ukraine sees benefit in the usage of drones because it “is constantly short of artillery shells... but a drone coalition of Ukrainian allies has pledged to supply Ukraine with a million drones this year⁹,” reflecting that drone warfare is more accessible for Ukraine.

⁸ Sputnik International. “Russia to Receive Hundreds of New Drones over next Decade.” Sputnik International, Sputnik International feedback@sputniknews.com+74956456601MIA „Rossiya Segodnya” 25260, 18 May 2015, sputnikglobe.com/20150518/1022267492.html.

⁹Sommerville, Quentin. “Ukraine Thrown into War’s Bleak Future as Drones Open New Front.” BBC News, July 24, 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cne4v19gy2wo>.

- President of Ukraine: Volodymyr Zelensky
- Foreign Minister: Andrii Sybiha

Pro-Ukraine

- Great Britain*: Barbara Woodward
 - The country of Great Britain firmly aligns with Ukraine and its cause since the “unprovoked and premeditated [Russian] invasion”.¹⁰ Currently, Great Britain is a large source of humanitarian and military resources to Ukraine and has proved its determination in the prosecution of Russia through its past sanctions on Russia and Belarus. Great Britain stands not only for the military success of Ukraine but the justice for its affected civilians.
 - Prime Minister of Great Britain: Keir Starmer
 - Foreign Minister: David Lammy
- France*: Nicolas de Rivière
 - From the very start of the ongoing war between the two nations, France has stood firmly alongside Ukraine and its people.¹¹ Similarly to its close neighbor Great Britain, France has worked tirelessly to impose sanctions on Russia and Belarus while simultaneously aiding Ukrainian civilians through avenues of humanitarian aid and efforts to support the reconstruction of Ukraine’s damaged infrastructure. France would be in favor of resolutions that promote the prosperity of Ukraine and efforts to resolve the imbalance of power and militant resources between the two nations.
 - President of France: Emmanuel Macron
 - Foreign Minister: Jean-Noël Barrot

¹⁰“The UK Government’s Response to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.” GOV.UK, September 12, 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/russian-invasion-of-ukraine-uk-government-response/about#:~:text=UK%20government%20response-,The%20UK%20government’s%20response%20to%20the%20Russian%20invasion%20of%20Ukraine,the%20rest%20of%20the%20world.>

¹¹ Ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires étrangères. “War in Ukraine: France’s Diplomatic Action.” France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Accessed March 5, 2025. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/ukraine/situation-in-ukraine-what-is/#:~:text=From%20the%20very%20first%20day,alongside%20Ukraine%20and%20its%20people.>

- United States*: Linda Thomas-Greenfield
 - The United States has strongly supported Ukraine's prosperity since the breakup of the Soviet Union. The U.S. has clearly defined its position in favor of a "fully integrated and fully free Ukraine".¹² During the Biden Administration from 2020 to 2024, America has been a key ally of Ukraine, authorizing a significant amount of aid both militarily and financially. The history of drone strikes within the U.S is long and complex, the United States itself has tackled the legality of drone warfare demonstrated through Obama's drone strikes of 2009.
 - President of United States: Joe Biden
 - Secretary of State: Antony Blinken
- Denmark: Christina Markus Lassen
 - Denmark has been an immense military support for Ukraine throughout this conflict as they have donated over 50 billion Danish Krone as of November 2024. Denmark has not only supported Ukraine financially but through military supplies and training. In air defense specifically, such as jets, missiles, defense systems, etc., Denmark has made notable donations.¹³ Additionally, Denmark has provided drones for surveillance, but also for attack, as well as anti-drone equipment, and grenades for drones.
- Greece: Evangelos Sekeris
 - With Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Greece "ended a long-standing policy of non-military engagement in regional conflicts" and ended a "dominant 'Russia first' approach" in support of Ukraine in the Russo-Ukrainian war¹⁴. Greece aligns strongly with Ukraine as an EU and NATO backing nation.

¹² "U.S.-Ukraine Relations." U.S. Department of State, June 18, 1997.

https://1997-2001.state.gov/regions/nis/fs-us_ukr_970618.html.

¹³ "Danish Military Support for Ukraine." Ministry of Defence. Accessed March 5, 2025.

<https://www.fmn.dk/en/topics/operations/ongoing-operations/danish-military-support-for-ukraine/>.

¹⁴ Manoli, Panagiota. "Greece's Response to Russia's War on Ukraine." SpringerLink, January 1, 1970.

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-44584-2_21.

- Slovenia: Samuel Žbogar
 - Slovenia has actively voiced its support for Ukraine since the beginning of the Russo-Ukrainian war, providing immense military aid. With the delivery of dozens of Slovenian infantry fighting vehicles, along with unarmed reconnaissance and surveillance drones from the Slovenian company C-Astral, Slovenia maintains its strong military support of Ukraine.¹⁵
- Guyana: Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett
 - Guyana has expressed its support for Ukraine and condemned the use of violence as a means of territorial expansion.¹⁶ Concerned about the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, Guyana would most likely support resolutions that limit the civilian impact of drone warfare and protect both Ukrainian and Russian citizens.
- Panama: Eloy Alfaro de Alba
 - In September 2024, Panama and Ukraine agreed to a deal to expand cooperation in agriculture. Regarding its role in the Security Council, the president, Jose Mulino, offered support to Ukraine in “every way possible.”¹⁷ Panama would likely support resolutions that promote peace for Ukraine, despite the humanitarian considerations of FPV drone usage.
- Republic of Korea: Joonkook Hwang
 - In a press release from Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs following Russia’s invasion in 2022, the Republic of Korea voiced support for Ukraine in the conflict and called for peace.¹⁸ While placing economic sanctions on Russia and supplying

¹⁵ Gosselin-Malo, Elisabeth. “Slovenian Firm Quietly Provides Surveillance Drones to Ukraine.” Defense News, October 27, 2023. <https://www.defensenews.com/unmanned/2023/10/26/slovenian-firm-quietly-provided-surveillance-drones-to-ukraine/>.

¹⁶“Guyana Calls for Full Respect of Ukraine’s Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity.” EEAS. Accessed March 5, 2025. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/guyana/guyana-calls-full-respect-ukraines-sovereignty-and-territorial-integrity_en.

¹⁷Creator. “Ukraine and Panama Will Develop Cooperation in Agriculture.” Official website of the President of Ukraine. Accessed March 5, 2025.

<https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/ukrayina-ta-panama-rozvivatimut-spivpracyu-v-silskomu-gospod-93497>.

¹⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea. “Korean Government’s Decision Regarding Situation in Ukraine View: Press Releases: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea.” Korean Government’s Decision Regarding Situation in Ukraine View|Press Releases | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea. Accessed March 5, 2025.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=322003&BsrchFr=&BsrchTo=&BsrchWord=&BsrchTp=&Bmulti_itm_seq=0&Bitm_seq_1=0&Bitm_seq_2=0&Bcompany_cd=&Bcompany_nm=.

humanitarian aid to Ukraine, the Republic of Korea has not provided direct military support or weapons.

Pro- Russia

- People’s Republic of China*: Fu Cong
 - Since the invasion of Ukraine, the People’s Republic of China has stated that it acknowledges Ukraine’s desire for sovereignty, yet shares the same concerns as Russia with the unnecessary enlargement of NATO and the resulting sanctions being placed on Russia and Belarus. China has provided military support to Russia, resulting in sanctions placed on “Chinese entities and individuals who ‘supply drone components and microelectronic components in support of Russia,’”¹⁹ reflecting that China not only supports Russia technologically, but even endures sanctions for its support.
 - President of People’s Republic of China: Xi Jinping
 - Foreign Minister: Wang Yi
- Algeria: Amar Bendjama
 - Russia has been a long-standing arms supplier to Algeria, resulting in a close-knit defense relationship. However, they have kept a more neutral stance on the war itself in the UN General Council and have voted in favor of recognizing the war as an “act of aggression”.²⁰ The drones being utilized, and the ongoing

¹⁹ “China’s Position on Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine.” *U.S.- CHINA | ECONOMIC and SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION*, 31 Dec. 2024, www.uscc.gov/research/chinas-position-russias-invasion-ukraine.

²⁰“Algeria-Russia Relations after the Ukraine Invasion.” The Washington Institute. Accessed March 5, 2025. <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/algeria-russia-relations-after-ukraine-invasion>

Russo-Ukraine war itself, limit Russia's ability to supply Algeria with arms, forcing Algeria into a complex position toward the war and warfare used.

- Somalia: Abukar Dahir Osman
 - Having received aid and offers of military support in the past, Somalia is allied with Russia, who abstained from a Security Council vote in support of an arms embargo on Somalia, demonstrating their allyship.²¹ Although the Somali delegation is partial to the Russian Federation, they have suffered from the conflict as both Russia and Ukraine are exporters of grain to Somalia, where there are now major famines due to a decrease in grain production, and most likely would support a solution that deescalates hostilities in the area.²²
- Sierra Leone: Michael Imran Kanu
 - Russia and Sierra Leone are long-standing allies, and recently the foreign minister expressed his support for Putin.²³ The two nations have discussed potential nuclear energy deals, and would most likely collaborate on a resolution that would support the Russian agenda.

Neutral:

- Pakistan: Munir Akram
 - While maintaining a neutral stance in the Russo-Ukrainian conflict in search of stable military and economic relations,²⁴ Pakistan has taken a strong stance against drone warfare. In 2013, Sartaj Aziz, the Pakistani Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign affairs, condemned drone strikes at the meeting of the UN Security Council, where he highlighted the implications of

²¹Hassan, Mohamed Olad. "Russia Offers Military Support to Somalia." Voice of America, May 26, 2023. <https://www.voanews.com/a/russia-offers-military-support-to-somalia-/7111117.html>.

²²Fadel, Leila. "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Has Pushed Somalia towards Famine." NPR, July 13, 2022. <https://www.npr.org/2022/07/13/1111244753/russias-invasion-of-ukraine-has-pushed-somalia-towards-famine>.

²³AfricaNews. "Russian Foreign Minister Discusses Bilateral Relations with Sierra Leone Counterpart." Africanews, August 13, 2024. <https://www.africanews.com/2024/05/08/russian-foreign-minister-discusses-bilateral-relations-with-sierra-leone-counterpart/>.

²⁴Mirza<https://www.paradigmshift.com.pk/author/qirat-mirza/>, Qirat. "Analyzing the Position of Pakistan in the Russia-Ukraine War." *Paradigm Shift*, 17 Nov. 2024, www.paradigmshift.com.pk/pakistan-russia-ukraine/.

misuse of drones and the steps that Pakistan had taken to regulate the use of such weapons, urging the security council to do the same, resulting in a resolution that sought to reinforce measures to prevent misuse and accumulation of such weapons.²⁵

- President of Pakistan: Asif Ali Zardari

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At the UN Security Council, Pakistan Calls for an End to Drone Strikes,

[mofa.gov.pk:443/at-the-un-security-council-pakistan-calls-for-an-end-to-drone-strikes](https://mofa.gov.pk/443/at-the-un-security-council-pakistan-calls-for-an-end-to-drone-strikes). Accessed 5 Mar. 2025.

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²⁵ “At the UN Security Council, Pakistan Calls for an End to Drone Strikes.” Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Accessed March 5, 2025. <https://mofa.gov.pk/443/at-the-un-security-council-pakistan-calls-for-an-end-to-drone-strikes>.

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