Position paper

**Country**: Algeria

**Committee**: Disarmament and International Security Committee

**Agenda item**: The Russia-Ukraine War and Use of Weapons in International Law

Algeria, officially the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, is a country in the [Maghreb](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maghreb) region of [North Africa.](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa) It is bordered to [the northeast](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria%E2%80%93Tunisia_border) by [Tunisia](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia); to [the](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria%E2%80%93Libya_border) [east](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria%E2%80%93Libya_border) by [Libya](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libya); to [the southeast](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria%E2%80%93Niger_border) by [Niger](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger); to [the southwest](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria%E2%80%93Western_Sahara_border) by [Mali,](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mali) [Mauritania](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritania), and [Western](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Sahara) [Sahara](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Sahara); to [the west](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria%E2%80%93Morocco_border) by [Morocco](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morocco); and the north by the [Mediterranean Sea](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea). The capital and [largest city](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Algeria) is [Algiers](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algiers), located in the far north on the Mediterranean coast. Spanning 2,381,741 square kilometers, Algeria is the world's [tenth-largest nation by area](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area), and the [largest](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_African_countries_by_area) [nation in Africa.](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_African_countries_by_area) It has a semi-arid climate, with the [Sahara](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahara) desert dominating most of the territory except for its [fertile](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_fertility) and mountainous north, where most of the population is concentrated. With a population of 44 million, Algeria is the [tenth-most populous country](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_African_countries_by_population) in Africa, and the [33rd-most populous country](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population) in the world. Algeria's official languages are [Arabic](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic) and [Tamazight](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Algerian_Berber)

The Russian-Ukrainian War began in February 2014. Following Ukraine’s Revolution of Dignity, Russia occupied and annexed Crimea from Ukraine and supported pro-Russian separatists fighting the Ukrainian military in the Donbas War. These first eight years of conflict also included naval incidents and cyberwarfare. The invasion has also led to [attacks in](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attacks_in_Russia_during_the_Russian_invasion_of_Ukraine) [Russia](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attacks_in_Russia_during_the_Russian_invasion_of_Ukraine) by Ukrainian and Ukrainian-backed forces, among them a cross-border [offensive into](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_Kursk_offensive) [Russia's Kursk Oblast](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_Kursk_offensive) in August 2024. Russia has repeatedly carried out deliberate and indiscriminate [attacks on civilians](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attacks_on_civilians_in_the_Russian_invasion_of_Ukraine) far from the frontline. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union (USSR) in 1991, Ukraine and Russia maintained close ties. In 1994, Ukraine agreed to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon state. Former Soviet nuclear weapons in Ukraine were removed and dismantled. In return, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States agreed to uphold the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine through the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances. In 1999, Russia was one of the signatories of the Charter for European Security, which “reaffirmed the inherent right of each participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve.”In the years after the dissolution of the USSR, several former Eastern Bloc countries joined NATO, partly in

response to regional security threats involving Russia such as the 1993 Russian constitutional crisis, the War in Abkhazia, and the First Chechen War

Algeria’s stance on the Russia-Ukraine war has been characterized by a policy of neutrality and non-interference. Historically, Algeria has maintained a position of non-alignment in international conflicts, emphasizing dialogue, peaceful resolutions, and respect for sovereignty. This approach has been consistent with Algeria’s broader foreign policy, which prioritizes independence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

1. Neutrality: Algeria has avoided taking sides in the conflict, calling for an immediate ceasefire and a diplomatic solution. The country has repeatedly emphasized the importance of respecting the sovereignty of nations and the need for dialogue to resolve the crisis.
2. Support for Multilateral Diplomacy: Algeria has consistently advocated for multilateral efforts to resolve international conflicts through platforms such as the United Nations. The country supports the role of international organizations in mediating peace and facilitating negotiations between conflicting parties.
3. Energy and Economic Considerations: As a major energy supplier to Europe, Algeria has maintained an interest in the stability of energy markets. The war in Ukraine has disrupted global energy supply chains, and Algeria has played a role in filling some of the energy gaps left by reduced Russian exports to Europe.
4. Historical Relations with Russia and the West: Algeria has historical ties with Russia, dating to the Soviet era, and maintains a strategic partnership in areas such as defense and energy. However, Algeria also seeks to maintain good relations with Western countries, especially within the European Union, with which it has economic and trade links.
5. Calls for Ceasefire and Negotiation: Algeria has consistently called for both Russia and Ukraine to return to the negotiation table and pursue a peaceful settlement. Algeria’s foreign minister, in several statements, has expressed the country’s commitment to supporting diplomatic solutions rather than military escalation.
6. Mediation Efforts: Algeria can leverage its non-aligned status and diplomatic relationships with both Russia and Ukraine to serve as a mediator in peace talks. Given its historical role in conflict resolution, Algeria could offer to host negotiations or facilitate dialogue between the warring parties.
7. Humanitarian Aid and Support: Algeria could increase its engagement by providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine, while also offering support for displaced populations. This would align with Algeria’s reputation as a country that values human rights and solidarity, providing non-military assistance to those affected by the conflict.

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