



Security Council

The Question of the provision of long range cruise missiles in Ukraine





Committee: SECURITY COUNCIL

Topic: The Question of the provision of long range cruise missiles in Ukraine

Chairs: BETH BAILEY / BAYAN MUHSEN

Summary

The provision of long-range cruise missiles is a heavily prevalent issue in today's global security and international diplomacy. In February 2022, Russia launched a full scale invasion of Ukraine leaving Western nations reliable for supplying Ukraine with constant military aid and weaponry as well as some social relief such as food, supplies and medical aid. Because of this input from Western nations, there has been an ongoing debate regarding the need to provide long range cruise missiles to Ukraine whilst being cautious of hitting a nerve within Russia-occupied territory.

This debate in the GMUN security council may consist of arguments suggesting that supplying Ukraine with these arms is simply an effort to strengthen the nation's self defence as they attempt to deter Russian aggression. However, NATO believes that such input by other nations may hinder the war by escalating it and provoking Russia. Therefore, not only is this a matter of European implication but also global security as a whole. The topic has emerged as the problems and debates over Western military aid strategy ever since 2022.

This topic is incredibly important as it includes major global implications and potentially could set a path for a world war and whether or not the focus should be on defensive weaponry only (such as NLAWs and Javelins or air defence systems like NASAMS). However, as Ukraine begins to take a more counteroffensive approach, there have been added requests for more advanced and precise long range missiles. By 2023, Ukraine had already received shorter-range cruise missiles, such as the Storm Shadow/SCALP-EG (from the UK and France), which had a range of 250–560 km. Now, the focus shifts on the next move by the USA and whether or not they will implement the tomahawk missile.

Although there have been some existing bilateral Arms Control Agreements, a previous attempt to solve the issue, the topic still has major global implications such as the military strategy and counteroffensive operations (Ukraine thinks it could be used to target Russian supplies and military bases) as well as the debate over Nato and western unity, a factor that makes this topic as a whole extremely prevalent.

Definition of Key Terms

Cruise Missile - A guided missile designed to deliver a payload with high accuracy over long distances.

Ballistic Missile - A missile that follows a high-arc trajectory and is usually faster but less manoeuvrable than a cruise missile.

Intermediate-Range Missile - A missile with a range between 500 km and 5,500 km.

Precision Guided Munitions (PGMs)- Weapons equipped with advanced targeting systems to enhance accuracy.

Deterrence - The strategy of preventing attacks by maintaining strong defensive or retaliatory capabilities.

Definitions of relevant Treaties and Organisations

INF Treaty (1987) - Banned land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with ranges of 55,500 km (now defunct).

MTCR (1987) - Restricts the proliferation of missiles with significant range and payload capacities.

New START (2010) - U.S.-Russia treaty focused on strategic nuclear weapons but indirectly affecting missile deployment.

UNSCR 1540 (2004) - Mandates that states prevent non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, including delivery systems like cruise missiles.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) - A military alliance with policies on missile defence and arms control.

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) - Monitors nuclear capabilities, including missile delivery systems.

Major Countries / Organisations Involved

Countries:

- Ukraine
- United States

- Russia
- China
- United Kingdom
- France
- Germany
- India
- Pakistan
- Israel
- Iran
- North Korea
- South Korea
- Japan
- Ukraine
- Turkey
- Saudi Arabia

Organizations:

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Arms Control Association (ACA)

Timeline of events

Pre-War Developments

1987 – The INF Treaty bans U.S. and Soviet land-based cruise missiles with ranges 500–5,500 km.

2019 – The U.S. and Russia withdraw from the INF Treaty, allowing the development of new long-range missiles.

2021 – Russia increases its missile strikes in eastern Ukraine amid rising tensions.

Russian Invasion and Initial Responses (2022)

February 24, 2022 – Russia launches a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, using Kalibr cruise missiles to target infrastructure.

March 2022 – NATO supplies short-range defensive weapons, avoiding direct escalation.

June 2022 – The U.S. supplies HIMARS, significantly boosting Ukraine's strike capabilities.

Expansion of Military Aid (2023-2024)

May 2023 – UK provides Ukraine with Storm Shadow cruise missiles (range: 250–560 km), the first Western long-range missile delivery.

August 2023 – France follows with SCALP-EG missiles, increasing Ukraine's deep-strike capacity.

September 2023 – Germany debates providing Taurus cruise missiles but hesitates due to escalation concerns.

October 2023 – The U.S. supplies ATACMS missiles, extending Ukraine's strike range.

February 2024 – Ukraine uses Storm Shadow missiles to destroy key Russian military infrastructure in Crimea.

March 2024 – Germany officially declines to send Taurus missiles, citing risk of escalation.

Current and Future Considerations (2024-Present)

2024 – Ongoing debates in NATO, EU, and UN over further long-range missile transfers.

- 2025+ – Possible introduction of new missile regulations or arms control agreements to manage proliferation risks.

This timeline highlights the rapid evolution of long-range cruise missile provisions to Ukraine, emphasizing the complex diplomatic, military, and geopolitical factors shaping the issue.