ORGANISATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES +

Agenda: Discussing the Russia-Ukraine Conflict and its Disruptions in the Energy Sector

Letter from the Executive Board

It is with profound honour and immense pleasure that we welcome you to the most interesting and underrated committees of the United Nations, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries at SJBHSMUN, 2025. As the Executive Board, we are dedicated to ensuring a seamless and enriching committee experience over the three days of the conference.

Your roles as representatives of member nations are critical as you engage in meaningful debates, deliberations, and consensus-building on our agenda. The EB will do everything in our power to ensure that the committee progresses smoothly over the three days and we hope that every delegate emerges from this committee as a more experienced diplomat. The agenda for this committee is one of prime importance - Discussing the Russia-Ukraine Conflict and the Disruptions caused by the conflict in the energy sector

It is of utmost importance to note that this background guide only serves as a head-start to your research and every delegate is expected to do his/her own research and bring strong and valid arguments to the table. We also hope to emphasise that this experience is more than the awards/certificates you get, it is about building awareness regarding current affairs and building transferable skills such as diplomacy and negotiation.

In this Semi Crisis committee you have the chance to reshape the world with action through directives and deliberation through debate, influence the world and show the other members what makes you the best delegate..

We look forward to the conference and hope you find it productive and worthwhile through Debate and Directives. Keep in mind that the background guide is solely to have as reference to the agenda and a small introduction to the committee while research is solely held up to the delegates to perform.

All the Best!

Co Chairperson - Antony Yakob Martin
Co Chairperson - Denzel Joyson
Vice Chairperson - Harshil Jain
Moderator - Mahatma

Introduction to the Committee

The OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization founded at the Baghdad Conference, in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, headquartered in Vienna, Austria. The OPEC currently has 12 members, including Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Venezuela. The OPEC works to coordinate oil policies among member countries to ensure stable prices, steady supply to consumers, and fair returns for investors. OPEC nations produce about 30% of the world’s crude oil, hold 80% of proven reserves, and account for nearly half of global exports, with Saudi Arabia as the largest producer among the OPEC. OPEC+ was formed in 2016 as an alliance between OPEC and 10 other oil producers to address declining oil prices due to US shale oil growth. OPEC+ includes the OPEC members plus Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan, and Sudan. The OPEC and OPEC+ countries combined produce about 60% of global oil production.OPEC member states' exports make up around 60% of global petroleum trade. In 2021, OPEC estimated that its member countries accounted for more than 80% of the world's proven oil reserves.Because of the large market share, the decisions OPEC makes can affect global oil prices. Its members meet regularly to decide how much oil to sell on global markets.As a result, when they lower supply when demand falls, oil prices tend to rise. Prices tend to fall when the group decides to supply more oil to the market.

Introduction to the Agenda

The Russian Federation remains one of the world's topmost oil and gas exporters. Consequent to its invasion of Ukraine in 2022, sanctions and embargoes have been imposed on Russian oil exports by major stakeholders in the global economy, such as the United States, the European Union and the G7.

A price cap of 60 USD per barrel of Russian crude oil has also been imposed as an attempt to reduce dependence on Russian energy in the global economy, creating supply shortages and global oil price hikes. Before this invasion, Russia supplied approximately 10% of global oil and 40% of Europe's natural gas, these numbers being heavily impacted by Western sanctions.

The Russian Federation itself has been working to reduce the impact of such sanctions on it's economy. As of August 2025, the embargoes of the EU and the United Kingdom on Russia's crude oil and petroleum products have cost the Russian Federation roughly $100 billion in export earnings, whittling down its status as one of the largest oil exporters in the world. Yet, the Russian economy seems to have sustained this heavy blow, with exports in 2024 only reducing by 3.7% from pre-sanction 2021.

Russia has been a core part of the OPEC+ since 2016, working closely with the body on energy policy and oil production. Initially, oil prices spiked to an unprecedented amount of above 120 USD per barrel in mid-2022, destabilizing the entire global economy. In response, OPEC+ introduced output adjustments of intricate increases and cuts in the global oil supply to stabilize markets. In the October of 2022, OPEC announced an extravagant production cut of 2 million barrels per day, stating that it was necessary to prevent oversupply and global recession.

Western nations have urged OPEC to increase oil production to offset the reduced Russian supply, yet OPEC has refused. It argues that increasing the output could risk collapsing prices if global demand slowed, stating that OPEC must protect and prioritize the economic stability of its members. As a result of the conflict, the West has also called for the Russian Federation to be expelled from OPEC+, yet OPEC has not done so, arguing that isolating Russia would destabilize the economy further. By virtue of such decisions, OPEC has strained relations between itself and the West.

The sanctions have also caused widespread inflation and a cost of living crisis in the global economy, with not only oil prices, but prices of electricity and heating rising in the European Union. Higher global fuel prices drove up the costs of the shipping, trucking and aviation industries. Even the prices of consumer goods began to rise as a result of the inflation. In 2022, inflation hit upto 11% in European countries such as Germany and the UK, due to the oil price hike.

Before the sanctions, many countries in the European Union were heavily reliant on Russian oil exports, including Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. This is largely attributed to the Druzhba Pipeline running across Europe, one of the largest oil pipeline networks in the world. Italy, Finland and Greece had also been dependent on Russian crude oil.

Due to Europe's heavy dependence on Russian gas, Europe has been hit hard by the price volatility of oil after the imposition of sanctions on Russia. The European Union has responded with measures such as "REPowerEU," put into action in May 2022, aiming to reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels, increase storage and diversify supply sources. EU countries have also agreed on regulations to voluntarily reduce natural gas demand during the winters of 2022/23 and 2023/24 in order to "winterproof" the European oil supply.

As a result of the invasion, Ukraine suffers an energy infrastructure crisis, with Russian forces directly damaging the infrastructure of many power plants, heating systems and substations. The generation capacity of Ukraine has dropped significantly, with winter being a particularly dangerous season due to its heating needs. Measures to address the impact of this energy crisis are yet to be enforced by Kyiv. The rest of the global economy is also experiencing an inflation in fuel and LNG prices, having difficulties securing supply alternatives.

One of the main drivers of Russian oil sanctions has undoubtedly been the United States of America. The US has imposed sanctions on major Russian oil producers such as Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegas, along with many of their subsidiaries. Moreover, it has sanctioned hundreds of vessels that are involved in the transportation of Russian oil, to limit Russia's ability to ship and export oil globally.

The US is presently exercising much of its economic power to curb the Russian oil export. The US has imposed a 25% secondary tariff penalty on India, targeting its imports of Russian oil despite the imposition of sanctions. Washington now pressures the EU to impose such penalties on Hungary, Slovakia and Turkey, the only three NATO members that continue to import Russian oil and petroleum products.

The task at hand for the OPEC+ committee is to efficiently manage the global energy crisis rooting from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and mitigate the adverse effects of the sanctions on the global economy, while most importantly preserving the economic interests of its members. Efficient energy policies must be implemented by the OPEC+ members and other stakeholders in the oil production industry to address the energy sector crisis with efficiency.

Timeline of Events

24th February, 2022

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a Russian “special military operation” in support of the breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk. Russian forces invaded the borders of Ukraine as a part of the said special military operation.

This was followed up by a wave of international sanctions, with some Russian banks being barred from using the SWIFT international payments system, while the Russian Central Bank was also met with asset freezes.

8th March, 2022

United States President Biden promulgated the Executive Order 14066, prohibiting the importation of crude oil, petroleum and products of such distillation into the United States, as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

December 5th, 2022

The European Union members, the G7 nations and Australia adopt a price cap of 60 USD per barrel of Russian crude oil, causing a hike in global oil prices

February 5th, 2023

The sanctions of the EU, the G7 and Australia extend to both premium fuels and discount fuels in 2023, with a cap of 100 USD per barrel and 45 USD per barrel respectively.

October 12th, 2023

The United States sanctions business firms in Turkey and the United Arab Emirates that had been linked to distribution of Russian oil and gas products.

December 1st, 2023

The United States sanctions maritime companies and tankers transporting and distributing Russian oil above the given price cap, further enforcing the oil embargo on Russia.

January 13, 2025

The United States sanctions upwards of 500 vessels, as well as several Russian-linked companies involved in the export of oil and natural gas of Russian origin above the given price limit. This was the last sanctions package issued by President Biden.

August 7th, 2025

The Trump Administration announced an additional 25% increase in tariffs on India for the importation of Russian oil as an act of secondary enforcement of the Russian sanctions.

Stakeholders of the War

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is a big producer of oil and natural gas in the Caspian region and a key source of energy for Europe, helping it reduce reliance on Russian energy. The Southern Gas Corridor connecting the Caspian Sea to Europe has become more important after the Russia-Ukraine war stopped some Russian pipeline supplies. Baku's ability to increase exports and its neutral political position make it a key player in keeping European energy supplies safe while maintaining good relations with both Russia and the West.

Bahrain

Although not a major exporter of crude oil compared to other Gulf countries, Bahrain's role as a financial center and a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council gives it influence in shaping OPEC policies and regional energy projects. High global energy prices caused by conflicts affect Bahrain's economy and its refining industry, so it supports stable oil markets and diverse energy routes.

Brunei

Brunei is a major exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Asia.

Disruptions in Europe's energy supply have shifted some LNG imports to Europe, which has indirectly affected Asian demand and prices, influencing Brunei's export income. Brunei closely watches global gas market changes and helps in efforts to keep prices and supplies steady.

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is one of the world's top oil producers and has strong energy transport links with Russia, like the Caspian Pipeline Consortium that ships oil to the Black Sea. The ongoing conflict threatens these routes and makes it harder for Kazakhstan to export oil, so it is looking to spread its exports through the Caspian and China. Astana's careful balance between Moscow and Western markets makes its role crucial in regional energy flow.

Russia

Russia is a major player due to its involvement in the conflict and its status as a top oil and natural gas exporter. Sanctions, attacks on pipelines, and using energy as a political tool have changed global energy markets, causing higher prices and pushing importers to look for other sources. Russia's actions directly affect the stability of oil, gas, and coal supplies worldwide.

Mexico

Mexico is a major crude oil producer and part of OPEC+, so it has a say in decisions that affect global oil prices. The war in Ukraine has raised energy prices, increasing Mexico's export earnings but also making domestic fuel prices higher. Mexico's role as both a producer and consumer means it works to keep markets stable and supports careful production policies in OPEC+.

Malaysia

Malaysia exports crude oil and LNG mainly to Asia. The global market disturbance and Europe's shift towards LNG have made Asian markets more competitive and volatile, affecting Malaysia's export plans and energy security. Kuala Lumpur focuses on having diverse supply chains and secure sea routes to deal with these issues.

South Sudan

South Sudan gets most of its income from oil, which is sent through pipelines in Sudan to the Red Sea. Price changes due to the conflict greatly affect its budget, offering short-term gains but long-term uncertainty. Juba wants stable markets and better infrastructure to reduce its risks.

Sudan

Sudan acts as a transit country for South Sudan's oil exports and earns money and strategic value from global energy routes. The Russia-Ukraine war has raised oil prices, possibly increasing Sudan's earnings but also making local fuel prices higher. Political instability makes it hard for Sudan to benefit from these changes, so it focuses on market stability in its foreign policy.

Oman

Oman is a mid-sized oil and LNG exporter with long-term contracts with Asia and Europe. The conflict has increased global demand for Omani oil and LNG, boosting its revenue and showing the need for balanced OPEC+ production. Muscat's history of diplomacy makes it a likely mediator in energy discussions.

Iraq

Iraq is one of OPEC's biggest crude oil exporters and heavily depends on oil for its income. Higher global prices from the war have helped Iraq's budget but also exposed weaknesses in its infrastructure and market access. Baghdad plays a key role in OPEC+ decisions that influence global oil supply and price stability.

Iran

Iran has huge oil and gas resources but faces U.S. and EU sanctions. The Russia-Ukraine war has improved Iran's position: Europe's search for alternative energy sources has reopened talks about Iranian exports, and both Tehran and Moscow are trying to sell cheap energy to Asia. Iran's role is central to talks about alternative global energy sources.

Kuwait

As a founding member of OPEC with large spare production capacity, Kuwait has influence over decisions that shape global oil markets. The Russia-Ukraine war has raised Kuwait's importance as consumers look to the Gulf for reliable supply and OPEC+ considers production goals to meet price and demand needs.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest crude oil exporter and the leading member of OPEC. It plays a key role in keeping global energy markets stable. The conflict in Russia and Ukraine has reinforced its position in adjusting oil production to deal with supply issues. Riyadh's alignment with the U.S. and Russia within OPEC+ makes its policies crucial in reducing price swings

Venezuela

Venezuela has some of the largest oil reserves in the world, but it has faced challenges because of sanctions and damaged infrastructure. As Western countries look for oil that isn't from Russia, Venezuela has become more important. The U.S. and other countries are thinking about working with Venezuela a little, which gives it more influence in the changing energy situation.

Algeria

Algeria is a big exporter of natural gas to Europe through pipelines to Spain and Italy. Because of the war, Europe has asked for more gas from Algeria, which has made Algeria more important in energy talks. This has also given Algeria more power to get better trade and investment deals.

Congo

The Republic of the Congo is a member of OPEC and is producing more oil. It's a smaller player in the global oil market, but the war has increased oil prices, which has helped the country's economy. More investors are coming in, but the country needs stable markets and better infrastructure to keep producing oil.

Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea exports both oil and liquefied natural gas, mainly to Europe and Asia. With Europe moving away from Russian energy, there's more demand for gas from Equatorial Guinea. This has given the country more leverage and opportunities to invest in its gas industry. The country supports stable energy prices and long-term agreements to keep its revenues steady.

Gabon

Gabon is an OPEC member that relies heavily on oil exports. The war has raised oil prices, which has helped the government's income. However, it has also shown how important it is to have stable markets and to diversify the economy. Gabon wants OPEC to manage supply and demand carefully and is looking for investments in its older oil fields.

Libya

Libya has large oil reserves and is a big exporter when it's stable. The war has shown that Libya can be a good source of oil for Europe. But because of internal problems and frequent shutdowns, its supply is not reliable, which can make global oil prices less stable.

Nigeria

Nigeria is Africa's biggest oil producer and exports a lot of LNG. The shift away from Russian gas in Europe has made Nigerian LNG more attractive. High oil prices are helping the economy, but they also make the country vulnerable to sabotage and infrastructure issues. Nigeria's policies on OPEC and gas projects like the Trans-Saharan pipeline are important for future energy supply.

UAE

The UAE is a major OPEC producer with a lot of spare oil production capacity and modern infrastructure. The war has made the UAE more important in providing stable oil and expanding LNG. Its good relations with both Western countries and Russia give it power in OPEC+ talks and global energy decisions.

USA

The United States is the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas and is growing as an LNG exporter. Sanctions on Russian energy have boosted American exports to Europe, changing energy relationships between the U.S. and Europe. The U.S. also uses strategic oil releases and diplomacy to keep markets stable, making it a key player in energy supply and policy.

Ukraine

Ukraine is at the center of the war and has historically been a key route for Russian gas to Europe. Damage to infrastructure and reduced Russian supply through Ukrainian pipelines have forced Europe to find other energy sources. The situation in Ukraine highlights the connection between energy security, national sovereignty, and geopolitical strength.

Crisis Tools

MUN Crisis tools are written requests which are sent to, read by and approved, or denied, by the crisis staff (AKA Backroom). Directives are your main tool for affecting the crisis.

Types Of Directives:

Covert/ Overt /Joint/Bloc Wide

Covert ensures no one is aware of how you go about with you actions until the end result while Overt publicly shows how you've gone about with your plans.

A joint directive occurs when 2 or more delegates come together to create a directive.

A Bloc wide can be considered as a bigger Joint directive where teams of delegates come together to submit a directive during the final window of committee.

Directive Format

Operation Name: The title of your planned action.

Status: Indicate whether the directive is covert or overt

From: XYZ(Your Portfolio)

To: EB

Primary Objective: The immediate goal you want to achieve.

Secondary Objective: The broader or long-term aim.(If any)

Plan of Action: A detailed list describing how you will carry out the operation step-by-step in phases.

Personnel/Resources Involved: Which units, individuals, or equipment will participate.

Expected Outcome: The anticipated results or impact of the operation.

Comuniqués:

Communiqués are used to contact entities outside the committee to involve them in a certain way in the crisis. Usually, they are written as a formal correspondence to the external actor, asking them for the action you wish to take.

Communique Format

(Covert/Overt)

From The delegate of XYZ

To - (The portfolio who is not present in committee and you wish to write)

Body (A formal Letter)

Press Releases

These are statements made by the delegate to the general public and the press, usually used as a tool to provide justification or reason behind the delegate's actions in a directive.

Note that the press release is not made only to the committee but to the general public; however, if deemed necessary, it may be read out only to the committee.

PRESS RELEASE Format

Covert/Overt Press Release G

From The Delegate of XYZ

Objective - (One line description of the main aim of the press release)

Body (What has to be communicated through the release verbatim)

Signed by the delegate of XYZ

NOTE - PRE WRITTEN DIRECTIVES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED, WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING PRE WRITTEN DIRECTIVES. IF ANYONE FOUND SENDING PRE WRITTEN DIRECTIVES SHALL BE PENALISED ACCORDINGLY.