

Table 1: China’s International Positioning in the Ukraine Crisis – Overview of Key Events between February 4th and March 8th, 2022

Date	Event	Comment
February 4th, 2022	Begin of Olympic Winter Games in Beijing	
	Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Chinese President Xi Jinping issue the Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China on the International Relations Entering a New Era and the Global Sustainable Development	Both countries agree to respect national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, as laid down in the UN Charter. They take a common stance against the Eastern expansion of NATO. They also stress that there are no “forbidden areas” (禁区) in their cooperation.
	30-year gas deal between Russia and China	
February 16th, 2022	Phone call between Xi and French President Emmanuel Macron	Xi stresses that the “Ukraine situation” (乌克兰局势) should be solved through multilateral dialogue and negotiations (including the Normandie format)
February 19th, 2022	Speech of China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Munich Security Conference	Being explicitly asked for in the Q&A session, Wang includes Ukraine in China’s foreign policy approach. He also brings up the idea of Ukraine as a “Bridge” between East and West, and not a front line. All sides should abide by the Minsk II agreement to solve the issue.
February 20th, 2022	End of Winter Games	
February 21st, 2022	Putin signs decree recognizing the independence of the two separatist Ukrainian regions Russian troops are sent to Luhansk and Donetsk for „ the function of peacekeeping ”	Putin accuses the US and the NATO to try and make Ukraine a “ military outpost ”
February 22nd, 2022	1st Phone call between Wang Yi and US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken	Wang stresses that the legitimate security concerns of any country must be respected. The situation is due to the delay in the implementation of the Minsk II agreement. Wang urges all parties to exercise restraint, appreciate the importance of implementing the principle of indivisible security, and de-escalate the situation and resolve differences through dialogue and negotiation
	Safety note issued by the Chinese Embassy in Ukraine	The note advises Chinese citizen to avoid areas with an unstable situation, follow up on information from the Embassy and stock up on food and drinking water and other necessities at the right time
February 23rd, 2022	Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference	Hua literally names the US “ the culprit of current tensions surrounding Ukraine ”. She makes clear that Taiwan and Ukraine are not comparable and that China opposes “all illegal unilateral sanctions”. Hua also states that “the door to a peaceful settlement of the Ukraine issue is not completely shut.”
	China lifts restrictions on wheat imports from Russia	
February 24th, 2022	Russia invades Ukraine	
	Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference	Hua refuses to call Russia’s “special military operation” an invasion. She points out that Russia stated that “ its armed forces will not conduct any missile or artillery strikes on any Ukrainian city ”
	Phone call between Wang Yi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov	Wang stresses China’s respect for “ the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries ”, while at the same time understanding “Russia’s legitimate security concerns”
	Updated note issued by the Chinese Embassy in Ukraine	Preparation to bring back Chinese nationals due to high security risks
February 25th, 2022	Phone call between Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin	Xi points out that the developments in Ukraine have aroused international concerns; emphasizes his support negotiations between Russia and Ukraine; explains that China’s key foreign policy principle is respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity; states that China is willing to cooperate internationally to find a solution
	Wang Yi has a phone call with UK Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell, and French Diplomatic Advisor to the President Emmanuel Bonne	Wang explains China’s five-point position on the Ukraine conflict including emphasizing that China’s respect for “sovereignty and territorial integrity” equally applies to the Ukraine issue.
February 26th, 2022	Resolution against Russia fails in the UN Security Council	11 (out of 15) members vote in favour, but Russia uses veto as permanent member; China does not join in Russian veto, but abstains (together with India and the United Arab Emirates).
February 27th, 2022	Chinese embassy in Ukraine issues statement assuring safe evacuation of Chinese citizens	
February 28th, 2022	Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin’s Regular Press Conference	Wang points out that no country should “wantonly undermine the sovereignty and security of other countries in pursuit of our own absolute military superiority and absolute security.”
	UN Human Rights Council votes for urgent debate on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine requested by the latter	29 (out of 47) members vote in favour of the debate, 13 abstain, among them India. China vetoes against the debate together with four other countries (Russia, Eritrea, Cuba and Venezuela).
March 1st, 2022	Phone call between Wang Yi and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba	Kuleba stresses that “China has played a constructive role” and that he “looked forward to China’s mediation efforts for the ceasefire”
March 2nd, 2022	UN General Assembly adopts a resolution demanding that Russia immediately end its military operations in Ukraine.	141 (out of 193) countries voted in favor, 5 countries voted against (Belarus, North Korea, Eritrea, Russia and Syria), 35 countries abstained (China and also India among them)
	Western Intelligence Report cited in New York Times assumes China had some knowledge about the invasion	China refutes this as “ fake news ”
March 3rd, 2022	Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin’s Regular Press Conference	Wang Wenbin repeats that “ China is ready to continue its constructive role in this regard ”
	Athletes from Russia and Belarus are barred from the Paralympics	
	UN Human Rights Council starts urgent debate on human rights situation in Ukraine	
March 4th, 2022	UN Human Rights Council adopts resolution to establish an Independent International Commission of Inquiry on China’s aggression against Ukraine	32 countries voted in favour, 13 abstained (China and India among them); only Russia and Eritrea abstained
March 5th, 2022	The National People’s Congress begins its annual meeting in Beijing	No mentioning of the Ukraine crisis in the working report of Premier Li Keqiang
	2nd phone call between Wang Yi and Anthony Blinken	Wang repeats that the situation in Ukraine “is not what China wants to see”, continues to call for negotiations, but also calls on US, EU and NATO to “engage in equal-footed dialogue with Russia”; Blinken emphasizes that the “world is watching to see which nations stand up for the basic principles of freedom, self-determination and sovereignty.”
March 7th, 2022	Annual news conference on China’s foreign policy on the sidelines of the NPC	Wang Yi elaborates “ a six-point initiative on preventing a large-scale humanitarian crisis in Ukraine ”; calls the Sino-Russian friendship “rock-solid” vis-à-vis Russia Today; again emphasizes China’s commitment to the UN charter and the national sovereignty of nations
	Phone call between Wang Yi and Josep Borrell	Joseph Borrell calls on China to act as mediator
March 8th, 2022	Phone call between Xi Jinping, Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz	Xi calls the developments in Ukraine “worrisome”, pledges help to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe, repeats China’s respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity and supports again a diplomatic solution

Note: Due to the dynamic and dense development of events, this table does not claim to be complete or fully free of errors.