

Committee: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Country: Argentina

Topic: Russia-Ukraine Crisis

‘The world cannot bear more suffering, nor should it tolerate more deaths. Peace is urgent. Dialogue must begin now.’ - Santiago Cafiero, Foreign Minister, United Nations General Assembly.

The Russia-Ukraine war will come down as one of the biggest disasters in human history. Since February 24th, more than 3000 people were reported dead (UN Official Statistics), and even more, injured. Russian Federation is perceived as an aggressor and is actively imposing sanctions on a large number of countries, which vary culturally and economically. According to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, “Western sanctions against Russia are sinking deeper into the country's economy every week, and therefore a default is only a matter of time”. In contrast, the response to the tragedy from Latin America’s biggest and most powerful countries, such as Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil leaves much to be desired: they publicly refused to impose sanctions on Russian Federation. In his interview with Telam News Agency, Santiago Cafiero said that "The announcement of sanctions and blockades is not a productive way to achieve peace, dialogue, and diplomatic negotiations."

The actions of government officials of these countries, such as Argentina’s President Alberto Fernandez’s visit to Russia on February 1-2 didn’t help the situation. Such an action was met with extended criticism, from both Local Citizens and International News Commentators. They noted that Fernandez’s trip was taken amid Russia’s build-up on the Ukrainian Border. It was up until March 1 when Argentina’s president started publicly condemning the Russian Invasion, yet without any mention of Vladimir Putin’s name.

Santiago Cafiero appealed to the Russian Government, asking to “immediately cease the use of force” and advocate dialogue to seek peaceful resolution during the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. After that, Cafiero gave a six-minute speech, in which he said that: “Amid the anguish caused by the conflict in the heart of Europe, I wanted to begin by transmitting this message from the Argentine people, a people that, due to their suffering, embrace the most absolute of human rights: the right to live."

Even though Russia is not one of Argentina’s main economic partners, it’s still a very important market to work on with over \$1.33 billion in trade exchange (the trade balance is in favor of Argentina, with \$29 million). Argentina doesn’t want to lose ground in any market (including Russia) during the accumulation of foreign currency by their Central Bank. It also should be noted that Russian Federation is one of the main global suppliers of fertilizer, and the fifth-largest supplier of fertilizers to Argentina, accounting for 7 percent of the total amount.

Argentina acknowledges the severity of the consequences of this war, which results may be catastrophic for the entire human race. However, Argentina also acknowledges the geographical and economical difference between the two countries and is eager to propose 2 solutions they have a reasonable warrant for: 1. Aggravation of sanctions and 2. Expansion of the Direct financial support to the Army and the brave people of Ukraine. We acknowledge the fact that the solutions listed above may seem insufficient to many: yet these two are the only methods Argentina may provide the guarantee that it will be done.

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