



# REPUBLIC OF GHANA

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**COMMITTEE: UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Two former republics of the Soviet Union; Russia and Ukraine are once again in conflict. Hostilities between these two countries dates back to 1918, when Ukraine first declared independence from Russia, but were subsumed back into the Soviet Union after an overthrow by the Soviet forces. Another was declared in 1991, a move endorsed in a referendum by 92 percent of voters. Russia, Ukraine and Belarus later signed an accord to dissolve the Soviet Union. Ukraine, in beginning a transition into an open market economy, came across a significant stockpile of nuclear weapons that had belonged to the Soviet Union. Eventually in 1994, under the Budapest Memorandum, Ukraine gave up the nuclear weapons, in exchange for a commitment from Moscow to respect her independence, sovereignty and the territorial borders.

Post-colonial Ghana, under the leadership of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, a co-founder of the non-aligned movement, never had any policy in supporting any of the post-world war two super powers. The independent Ghana, as a dependent raw material economy that relies heavily on grants and budgetary support from major powers in post-world war two rather had and still have a neutrality strategy. Ghana's foreign policy towards these two countries is largely enhanced by the following events:

## **RUSSIA**

- A delegation from Ghana visited the council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of Russian Federation in 1997.
- A visit to Ghana by a delegation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, led by Deputy Chairman, A.N. Chilingarov, in the year 2003.
- A visit in 2004 by the Russian parliament, to the Parliament of Ghana, led by Speaker P.A. Adzheteem. Also in the same year, there was a meeting between Deputy Foreign Affairs minister of Russia, Alexander Saltanov and Ghana's Foreign Minister, Nana Akufo Addo, and a subsequent visit to Ghana by the Russian Foreign Affairs minister Yuri Fedotov.
- A June 2007 meeting between Vladimir Putin and Ghana's president, John Agyekum Kufuor, on the sidelines of the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany and a visit of Ghana's Foreign affairs minister to the Russia in July 2007.

## **UKRAINE**

- Ghana have a trade agreement with Ukraine for the export of minerals, foodstuff, plastic and rubbers to Ukraine.
- Ukraine have an agreement for the export of metals, animals, vegetables and chemical products to Ghana.

## **IMPACT OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS ON GHANA**

- Ghana's imports from Russia is valued at \$119.42 million in 2020. These imports mostly includes cereals, fertilizers, crude oil, and distillation products. With the sanctions imposed on Russia, these importations are greatly affected.
- The SWIFT ban on Russia make payments for good and services and other remittances impossible between the two countries.
- Ghana's trade balance with Ukraine, which stood at \$52 million is equally greatly affected, since Ukraine is a major export destination for Ghana's cocoa, iron ore, etc.
- These results in a sharp rise in the cost fuel, cereal, agricultural inputs and other import exposures from the Russia and Ukraine.

## GHANA'S POSITION

Even though Ghana is an independent country with its own foreign policies and strategies towards its neighbors and countries of the world, it is practically impossible for Ghana to take and declare an independent position of solidarity with either of the feuding states. A third world, developing and dependent economy, always looks at the position of major powers in situations like this. Economy of Ghana is largely controlled by the United States, its western European allies and most recently, China. Accepting the western style democracy and having her budgets funded by these super powers requires that Ghana goes by their position, irrespective of her own self-willed strategy.

It is important to note that Ghana's president is yet to make an official declaration of solidarity with either Ukraine or Russia. On the contrary, his only concern was the impact on his economy, with danger of shortage of food and agricultural inputs.

## SOLUTIONS

- The two feuding states must immediately go back to a UN backed negotiation table to iron out their differences to save innocent lives in their respective countries and other economies that depends on them.
- The UN itself must embark on reforms that will include, expansion of the permanent membership of the Security Council from 5 to at least 20 to give other emerging super powers like the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria equal chance of representation.
- The veto power that is a sole reserve of the permanent members should be delimited to the individual states. Rather vetoes should be based on majority decision of the permanent members of the Security Council.

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