

POSITION PAPER



MADAGASCAR

Topic: Ukraine Russia conflict

The Ukraine war has stressed the world's economic balance in diverse ways, as there are damning, alarming, and ridiculous numbers of humanitarian crises and many war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine. Following the former's illogical, oppressive and infuriating invasion of the latter, the United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU) have since laudably matched the saddening situation with several sanctions aimed at persuading Russia to end the ongoing war. This has further developed into drastic needs for unity against the Ukraine war, as several nations but Madagascar and few others in Africa have taken positional reactions.

Madagascar abstains from voting at the United Nations Human Rights Council and is yet to pick a stance regarding the ongoing war as it has more than enough internal pressing issues to equally react to. Madagascar is faced with adverse effects of drought, cyclonic disruptions, increased poverty rate, starvation, and many more unsettling catastrophes, coupled with the shocks suffered from the ongoing Ukraine war. Hence the infinitesimal silence of Madagascar on the ongoing Ukraine war. Silence on this issue from the inception is also worthy of note but for a country whose very motto is Love, fatherland, and progress, it could be easily second-guessed that while the country is yet to pick a stance, it may condemn the war in the strongest possible terms, support Ukraine's stern resistance and hope the world moves on quickly from the shocks caused by the war.

have spurred so many key interests in Madagascar as leaders are pressed with the need to find solutions to key issues of a global shortage in the food supply which translates to the rapid rise of food prices, inflation of oil prices coupled with the unbearable increase in gas and fertilizer prices and the pressure of maintaining internal relations. In all these, it would be unfair to also mention that compared to many other parts of the world, Madagascar still suffers immensely from the shocks caused by COVID 19 which has been worsened by the

disasters birthed from climate changes.

Ukraine and Russia combined provide around 30% of the world's wheat and barely one-fifth of its maize, Russia is the world's top natural gas exporter. On the 8th of April 2022, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) via one of its insightful publications, told the world that food prices have surged by 34% compared to the prices of food by this time last year. In all this economical holocausts, crude oil prices have toppled by 60%. Let's bear in mind that Madagascar without these problems were not known to be rich in terms of its citizen's quality standards of living. Currently a lot has come a cropper in Madagascar.

In terms of international relations, Madagascar hopes to maintain relationships, especially with business partners like the United States of America, China, France, UAE, India, Germany, and many other countries which they export or import from. So, Madagascar's silence/abstention on the whole hullabaloo of the Ukraine war could be seen as strategic and harmless as they would not want to pass any message that may mean they picked sides. This is obviously because Germany, France and United states of America happened to be in support of Ukraine while China, in support of Russia.

Madagascar is one of the many nations that advocates peace and would love the countries at war to settle for resolutions. Madagascar would love the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine to be solve diplomatically without having to go into more further crises. The two countries should send aides/delegations to sit and have a discussion on the interest of both countries and come to a full win-win resolution.