

# Position Paper



ARAB YOUTH INTERNATIONAL  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS  
النموذج للأمم المتحدة الشباب العربي الدولي

## ALBANIA

**Committee: United Nations General Assembly**

**Topic: (Russia Ukraine Crisis)**

- How Albania being impacted because of Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Albania is a small country in Southern, south-eastern Europe. We do maintain a fair relationship with the EU, Balkan Countries, Arab World, Canada, China, Turkey, Israel, India, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, UK and United States. Being a representative Of Albania, I would like to share some of the notes that will help everyone know details how we as Albanians are the worst sufferer. Beforehand, I am disclosing some data about my country and its position about the imposed war on Ukraine.

It is worth mentioning that we are the member of the Multilateral Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA), along with North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Moldova, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Albania also has an ETA with Turkey, which was signed in 2006 and entered into force in 2008. Importantly the country's economy is based on the service (54.1%), agriculture (21.7%) and industrial (24.2%). The leading sectors are energy, mining, metallurgy, agriculture and tourism. The GDP is projected to trend around 18.29 USD Billion in 2022 and 19.50 USD Billion in 2023. It is commonly known as a low income country by Western European Standards with GDP per capita lower than all countries in the EU. There is a good message for you people that we have transformed from one of the poorest countries in Europe to an upper-middle income country. The current population is 2.8 million. According to the HDI report we are now in the rank of 69 out of 189 countries.

Albania is a unitary parliamentary constitutional republic with a unicameral legislature composed of 140 members who elect the President as the head of state, the cabinet which consists of the Prime Minister as the head of the Government, Deputy Prime Minister and all other Ministers. The constitution of Albania was promulgated on November 28, 1998 with a parliamentary democracy. We are NATO member from 2009. Greece today is Albania's most important European Union ally and NATO partner.

Now let me come to the point about the connections with Albania and both the Russia and Ukraine and finally how Albanians are actually in a huge debacle due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine:

The distance between Albania and Russia is 5635 km only. The road distance is 3105.7 km. We have conducted all foreign trades with Soviet European countries in 1949, 1950, and 1951 and over half of our trade with the Soviet Union itself. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Albania and the Soviet Union happened on April 07, 1924. Both countries were also allies in the WARSAW PACT. Albania has embassy in Moscow and Russia has an embassy in Tirana.

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On the other hand we the shortest distance (airline) between Ukraine and Albania is 803.98 mi (1,293.88 km). The diplomatic relations between Albania and Ukraine were established in 1922. In September 2020, Ukraine opened an embassy in Tirana. Albania is accredited to Ukraine from its embassy in Warsaw, Poland and has an honorary consulate in Kharkiv. Nowadays, in the Ukraine there are estimated 5,000 ethnic Albanians.

As Russian military actions in Ukraine commenced, Albanian President Ilir Meta, Prime Minister Edi Rama, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Olta Xhaçka, and Ambassador to the UN Ferit Hoxha made statements condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Albania on March 18 decided to allow Ukrainians fleeing the war to remain in Albania with a one-year residence permit, without a limit to the number.

- The major sectors of Albania are going to be impacted due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine:

Albania's economy will suffer direct and indirect shocks from Russia's attack on Ukraine. Fuel and flours prices are expected to rise, as the country imports from Russia 47% of its annual grain need and 12% of oil. The indirect consequences will come from the overall rise in food and energy prices and the negative impacts on tourism for sure. The wholesalers claim that there are reserves of oil for only three months and wheat for 45 days, but claim that the new supplies will be at higher prices. Three scenarios of the impact or war on the global economy.

According to INSTAT, "Albania provides 47% of the annual wheat needs from the Russian market and 3.3% from the Ukraine". Again, in the worst-case scenario which means a total cut-off of gas from Russia, Europe's economy would shrink by 3% according to an analysis made for this purpose by the US news agency 'Bloomberg'. The will also affect the tourism sector in Albania, as Ukrainians accounted for 22% of charter movements to Albania.

The trade volume is dominated by imports of goods from these two countries. In 2021 Albania imported from Russia and Ukraine all 701 billion of goods which constitutes 99.5% of the total trade volume and the rest 0.5% is represented by Albanian exports to these countries mainly agricultural products. Despite the fact that the trade volume in these countries is low, Albania is highly dependent on the import of vital materials, such as cereals and oil from Russia. From these countries, we do import 50% of the annual quantities of cereals and 12% of oil.

Adi Haxhiymeri, one of the leading importers of wheat said the conflict between the world's leading grain producers, Russia and Ukraine, would put supplies across the word in difficulty. Albania was expected to be an important destination for tourists from Russian and Ukraine in 2022. Apart from these, Albania has already become a shelter home for many fleeing Ukrainians which another burden for the developing country like us. Until today approximately 800 Ukrainians sheltered in Albania since Russian invasion. As days are passing by, especially the further escalation of the situation and the potential extension of the conflict to other countries would give rise to a new economic reality and would require more comprehensive measures to be taken. As an Albanian's delegates I personally demand the war to be put down immediately. Instead of wars, indulge to war we could rather welcome series of diplomatic approaches. Besides I want a complete ban on weapons of mass destruction irrespective of countries that belong to

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Wars only bring innumerable sufferings to warring states in their wake. Conflict resolution between nations should happen only through diplomacy. To wrap up I would rather say stop war, stop violence and stop oppression without any discrimination.