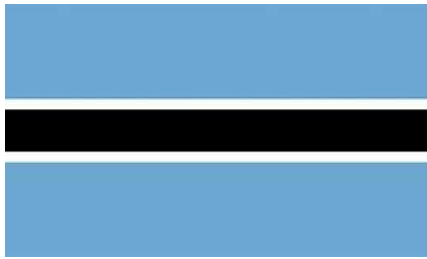


Position Paper



Botswana

Committee: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
Country: Botswana
Delegate name: Nature L. Mogotsi
Topic: Russia- Ukraine crisis

1. Introduction

The world has gradually become a global and interconnected community. While this has enabled access to commodities and improved technology and communication across different countries, including developing countries, it also poses a vulnerability where either country within this economic chain. Any adverse impact within the global community affects the rest of the world. This is not limited to wars, political unrest, and outbreak of diseases such as Covid-19, which was initially localized at China, and ended up becoming a fatal global pandemic. Since the advent of the Covid-19 crisis in 2020 to date, the global economy and welfare of the people has been under strain. This therefore means any further strain may deteriorate the state of affairs and cause a massive depression in the world economy, particularly developing countries like Botswana. The recent uprising and looming war between Russia and Ukraine has since caught the attention of the world at large, and the repercussions are already felt across the globe. A quick and rapid response is therefore needed from the United Nations to resolve the matter and restore global peace. Failure to address this issue may result in a fully-fledged world war, which will cause further strain to the weakened economies going through the Covid-19 surge. The debilitating and dire effects of the ongoing unrest between Russia and Ukraine, which range from loss of lives to severe and total damage of infrastructure, need the world to rise and intervene, with an aim to restore global peace. It remains crucial for all member states to ensure that necessary peaceful interventions, including but not limited to treaties and trade embargos are in place to put pressure to restrain Russia from attacking Ukraine.

2. Key issue

It is widely understood that the Russia and Ukraine crisis ensued when Ukraine wanted to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, hereafter NATO. This resulted in Russia retaliating against this decision as it will then expose them to potential attack by members of NATO who can easily set up military bases in Ukraine. While Russia is in its best interest to defend its territory, it is now undermining the sovereignty of Ukraine as an independent state, by restricting Ukraine to participate in international partnerships as it deems fit. Our view as the Delegation of Botswana is that no independent country should be subjected to this.

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As the world is an integrated community, the tension between the two countries has a major impact across the world. In the past few months, the unrest has resulted in a shortage of oil and gas and the commodity prices of basic foodstuffs such as bread have increased significantly. Transport costs are also one rise and this is putting a strain on particularly lower-income countries of the world. This commodity shortage was largely as a result of the trade embargoes against Russia, which unfortunately is a large exporter of some commodities. We cannot begin to overemphasize the effects of the crisis on developing countries, which are only but recovering from the effects of Covid-19. As is, the rapidly increasing basic food stuffs and transportation costs are adversely affecting developing countries' economies, and many are on the verge of a collapse.

3. Proposed solution(s)

Botswana is of the view that the issue between Russia and Ukraine is of global significance, given the impact thus far across the world, which is adversely felt by lower income countries. The delegation of Botswana maintains that more peaceful means should be enforced to restrain the unrest. Botswana understands that a couple of restrictions are already in place against Russia, however, these do not seem to be bearing fruit as the crisis continues, unresolved.

With this understanding, and drawing context from the *Key issue (refer to part 2 of position paper)*, ***our proposed solution as the delegation of Botswana is that the two countries, Russia and Ukraine should sign up a restrictive treaty that enables Ukraine to join NATO or whatever institution it wishes to affiliate with as a sovereign state. The restriction will be that Ukraine will not be allowed to have any military base set up in its territory, which is funded by NATO or any affiliated institution. This treaty will be sanctioned by the United Nations General Assembly and United Nations Security Council, who will be accountability partners in this regard.*** Our view is that this is a solution that will enable Ukraine to be a sovereign and independent state that can affiliate with institutions as it deems fit, while also protecting the interest of Russia, whose major concern is for Ukraine to be used as a weak link for potential future infiltration which may further expose Russia to vulnerability.