



Delegation from The Union of Comoros

Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The topic to be discussed at the United Nations General Assembly is **RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS**. The Union of Comoros believes that this topic has importance within the global society, recognizes the need for strong international cooperation in resolving the crisis.

Unarguably, the world today is affected by the results of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia which is evident by the level of damages inflicted on the Ukrainians, having over 6 million people moved as refugees to neighboring countries such as Poland, Romania, Moldova, Hungary and Slovakia and about 7 million people are internally displaced, the refugee issue seems to not be ending soon as peace talks and conflict resolutions effort have not been yielding effective fruits in recent times (Stephenson.J, 2022). The United Nations through its different committees and council have put up efforts to mitigate the issue at hand, working on restoring peace and normalcy. Russia's invasion of Ukraine constitutes the biggest threat to peace and security in Europe since the end of the Cold War. On February 21, 2022, Russian president Vladimir Putin gave a bizarre and at times unhinged speech laying out a long list of grievances as justification for the "special military operation" announced the following day. While these grievances included the long-simmering dispute over the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the shape of the post-Cold War security architecture in Europe, the speech centered on a much more fundamental issue: the legitimacy of Ukrainian identity and statehood themselves.

The United Nations through its different committees and councils has made efforts and attempts to resolve the conflicts, working on restoring peace and normalcy. The U.N. General Assembly vote that followed on March 2 on a resolution to condemn the Russian invasion, however, tells a different story. The vote's results were clear, and the silence of many African leaders deafening: Nearly half (48 percent) of the 54 African states decided not to take a stand against Russia. That is, 17 countries abstained from the vote (Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe), eight did not vote (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Togo), and one voted against the resolution (Eritrea). A more recent General Assembly vote on April 7 that resulted in the suspension of Russia from the U.N. Human Rights Council, garnered even less support from the continent. Only 10 states supported the punishment (Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sierra Leone). Nine countries voted against (Algeria, Burundi, CAR, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mali, Zimbabwe), 24 abstained (Angola, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Egypt, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda), and 11 did not vote (Benin, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Mauritania, Morocco, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, Zambia).

The Russia's own transfer of aggression on UKRAIN brought civil unrest to Europe. This expression, which is undiplomatic, unethical, and unjustifiable against Ukraine grossly violates international law and the principles of the UN Charter and undermines European and global security and stability which explains the RUSSIAN way of trying to protect its borders against NATO encroachment as part of the key issues identified, remaining one of the superpowers of the world and bringing back the lost glory of the Soviet Union.

The Union of Comoros demands that Russia ceases its military action and withdraws all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine considering the 1991 treaty that terminated the Soviet Union giving FULL Independence which led to a transition to market economy. And, to honor the Budapest Memorandum signed in 1994 which is to "respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine". Calling for the safety of Ukraine's nuclear facilities with the assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency. As part of UNGA's right of freedom of association and expression, Ukraine should be allowed to take a decision as a sovereign nation without let or hindrance by any external community.

Protection of lives should be ensured and proper treatment of victims of the war and shelter with basic amenities should be provided to displaced people through humanitarian services and peace talks.