

United Nations General Assembly

The position paper of the Cameroon government on Ukraine and Russian crises

The Republic of Cameroon

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It all started like a joke but the dismay of many people today the current situation is the talk of the day globally. There was no small degree of euphoria among many in Ukraine and beyond as protesters created the “EuroMaidan,” which took over Independence Square in central Kiev during late November of 2013. Protesters were aggrieved and astonished by President Victor Yanukovich’s last minute refusal to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union and to unite instead with Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan in a Eurasian Union. Many imagined that in collaboration with the Europe Union, Ukrainian leaders might better facilitate the country’s economic and political rebirth, through the dismantling of twenty years of corrupt political systems and institutional practices, what many there refer to as a mafia economy.

By January 2014 President Victor Yanukovich was ousted off power. An interim Ukraine government was established. But Yanukovich stated that his ouster was illegal, and he sought assistance from Russia. The Russian government noted that the ouster was an illegal coup, and it did not recognize the interim government.

The E.U. and U.S. supported the government. But there are also Ukrainians who harbor a pro-Russian stance. The removal of Yanukovich was followed by the demonstrations of pro-Russian individuals and groups across the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine. Within this period of time Ukraine had an interim government which succeeded in conducting an election during which **Poroshenko** was sworn in as president on 7 June 2014. On 18 June 2015 Yanukovich was officially deprived of the title of President of Ukraine

Poroshenko will lead the country till 2019 during which there will be presidential elections again in Ukraine. In spite of Poroshenko’s efforts to direct the public conversation in the months leading to the March 2019 presidential election, official corruption and the economy remained voters’ key concerns. but the candidacy of television personality and political novice Volodymyr Zelensky shattered the established order of poroshenko being president again. Zelensky had portrayed the president of Ukraine in a popular situation comedy, and he leveraged his massive online following into a serious campaign against official corruption. At the end of the election Zelensky will finally be made president of Ukrain.

As president of Ukraine Zelensky had to go a long way to better the relationship between Ukraine, the U.S and Europe meanwhile on the other hand the relationship with Russia was being greatly weakened. It got to the extent where Ukraine was to be a NATO member. At this point Putin stated that the West has deceived Russia by the expansion of NATO to its very borders. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are members of NATO, as are Poland, Bulgaria and Romania. If Ukraine were to join the EU, and inevitably NATO, this would put NATO forces within 400 km of Moscow. NATO expansion has resulted in Russia losing huge areas of territory flanking its western approaches, a traditional invasion route. Putin will absolutely not accept Ukrainian membership of NATO. Putin issued demands that included de facto veto power over NATO expansion and the containment of NATO forces to countries that had been members prior to 1997. This would, in effect, remove the NATO security umbrella from eastern and southern Europe as well as the Baltic states. These proposals were flatly rejected. On February 21, 2022, Putin responded by recognizing the independence of the self-proclaimed people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk. And also stepping up its military presence along the Ukrainian border. Russian President Vladimir Putin hopes that Ukraine and the West will make concessions and Ukraine will realign itself back to Moscow, But nothing has alienated Ukraine more than Kremlin policy over the past eight years, particularly Russia's military seizure of Crimea in 2014 and its role in the Donbas conflict that has claimed more than 13,000 lives. Mr Putin wants Kyiv to abandon its Western course and turn back to Moscow. However, nothing has done more to push Ukraine away from Russia and toward the West than Russian policy over the past eight years, in particular, Russia's seizure of Crimea and its role in the conflict in Donbas that has claimed more than 13,000 lives. As a result, more and more Ukrainians see membership in institutions such as the European Union and NATO as necessary for their security. The strong Russian influence in Ukrainian society has also resulted in the creation and maintenance of Pro-Russia adherents. A considerable portion of the Ukrainian population believes that they should be part of Russia. Pro-Russian Ukrainians have advocated for stronger diplomatic and economic ties with Russia to advance further the interest of their country. However, the majority of Ukrainians also believe that their country would be far better under the European Union.

Drawing parallels between Ukraine and Russian situation Cameroon's experience with borders drawn by outside powers in the aftermath of the collapse of colonialism. We the Cameroonian people emphasized that despite understandable desires "for integration with peoples in neighbouring states," integration by force and expansionism are unacceptable. We call on all U.N. member states to rally in support of multilateralism to find a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. For this act of indiscriminate killings and destruction can always be settled amicably. We will like to let you know that this is not only a problem of Ukraine and Russia. The crisis has gone a long way to affect the livelihood of the people of Cameroon as we in turn get shortages in the supply of some of our basic needs. There has been a spike in the prices of fuel, gas, etc all due to this crisis.

We the people of Cameroon we stand with Ukraine and hope that the current situation should be resolved as soon as possible.

