

POSITION PAPER



MAURITIUS

The Russian- Ukraine crisis initially started in 2014 after protests and escalated conflicts led to the Ukrainian president at the time President Viktor Yanukovich fleeing the country, after he rejected a deal with the European Union (EU) for greater economic integration. In March 2014 Russia's president Vladimir Putin justified the control of Ukraine's Crimea by Russian troops by saying that Russia needed to protect the rights of Russian speakers and Citizens in the region. The action led to military conflict between Ukraine, Russia and NATO, this also led to Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany signing a cease-fire in 2015 according to the Minsk Accords. Currently in 2022 Russia's President Vladimir Putin sanctioned an invasion of Ukraine to prevent Ukraine from drifting closer to the United States and its allies and has demanded security guarantees which also includes an assurance that Ukraine will never join NATO by NATO and that NATO also pulls back troops stationed in allied countries that joined after 1997. In regards to the Russian-Ukraine crisis, the republic of Mauritius has called for a peaceful resolution to the crisis as the conflict has led to plenty of economic challenges around the globe. The conflict has led to increased inflation all throughout the world in a time where inflation was already high. Ukraine is not a major trading partner to the major economies but Russia is a major import partner for countries such as US, Germany, France, Italy and China thus the conflict will have a negative impact on their economies as the trading channels will be interrupted.

Russia is one of the largest oil producers and energy exporters in the world and with this being the case there will be a major surge in energy prices which will affect the globe. As stronger economic sanctions on trade have been placed compared to those in 2014, according to the simulation of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) the price of oil will increase by \$40 per barrel which is a significant jump. Ukraine and Russia are both key suppliers of commodities such as palladium, titanium, corn and wheat and if an interruption to the supply chains of these commodities happens the prices of these commodities will rise affecting industries such as the car, smartphone and aircraft industries. The conflict will also led to a large-scale emigration of the Ukrainian people and the UNHCR says that there could be 4 million refugees from Ukraine and depending on the length of the conflict, different countries border control and how the economy will settle after the war, the National institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) predicts a net outflow of two million in the years 2022 and 2023. The conflict will affect Mauritius because as stated above the prices of commodities will increase as there will be a worldwide increase in petroleum products, Gas and Wheat. Mauritius's prime minister stated that prices will no longer be controlled as a byproduct of the crisis. Although Mauritius has very limited economic exposure to both countries, they will experience notable

Indirect domestic economic effects due to the global fallout that will be experienced.

Mauritius would advocate for a speedy and effective UN led negotiation that would stop the aggression from Russia and the lives that are continuing to be lost in the conflict. The UN should look at the impact the conflict has brought upon the non-aggressor in Ukraine in both a humanitarian and economic standpoint, thus formulating a treaty that would prevent Russia from ever trying to start a conflict like this again, as well as holding them responsible for their actions with stiffer sanctions and in some form reparation to Ukraine so they can be able to rebuild their country. Ukraine is a democratic republic and with the actions of Russia the rights to freedom of the Ukrainian people were taken away and this matter should not be taken lightly. Ukraine had a right to defend itself and Russia's fear of being surrounded by NATO members and United States allies almost and might still bring the world to a global war and the main function of the United Nations is to prevent that. A treaty agreed by both sides would be the best solution to the conflict as a cease-fire would have to occur and Russia and President Vladimir Putin will have to accept the fate of their actions. Ukraine as a nation has a choice on whether they should or should not join NATO or any other global alliance and Russia should not try to intervene, threaten or invade them with that being the agenda. The UN should look at how Germany had to pay reparations in the treaty of Versailles of \$33 Billion for civilian damage in World War I and \$23 Billion in World War II after the Potsdam conference as an example because the actions of Russia could have and still can bring about global destruction. The UN should also look at how Russia's actions have impacted global trade and the economic impact it has brought upon the world when developing the terms of the treaty. Finally the negotiation should be fair and just to both parties and the facts of the matter should be laid out clearly for both parties so that no disputes can be formed.