

**Committee: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Country: Nigeria**

**Topic: Russia-Ukraine Crises**

The Russo-Ukrainian war began in 2014 and currently is seen to be making a dramatic escalation as Russian Federation Council, on February 21, 2022, unanimously authorised Putin to use military force outside of Russia's border, launching a large-scale invasion of Ukraine, its southwest neighbouring country. Both countries were founding members of the Soviet Union prior to its dissolution in 1991, and by 2013, Ukraine wanted closer ties and relationships with Western Europe which resulted in the overthrow of the Russian friendly Yanukovich in 2014. Late in 2021, there was a major Russian military build-up around Ukraine borders of which NATO accused Russia for planning an invasion, which was denied. Russia has always been against Ukraine's move towards joining the European Union and NATO and during the announcement of Russia's invasion, Vladimir Putin accused NATO of threatening "our historic future as a nation" as he feels Ukraine, his neighbouring country is planning to join forces with his enemies.

Russia is regarded as Nigeria's sixth-largest trade partner in terms of imports. Apart from oil and gas, agricultural products, our country imports potash, a primary ingredient for fertiliser, from Russia as well as mackerel, herring and other fish types. So far, the disruption in global shipment caused by the imposed sanctions against Russia has subsequently led to a surging increase in diesel and supply of petroleum to our nation. Ukraine on the other hand also exports dairy and agricultural products to our nation. Our country imports from Ukraine, iron ore for the production of steel and primary manufacturing hardware. Both countries are the largest exporter of durum wheat, used in the production of bread and noodles, to our country, Nigeria. The war has revealed our country's dependence on the outside world for subsistence as analysts informs that the impact of the war will see a steady rise in the price of staple foods. We would suffer socio-economic hardship if the war escalates longer.

Our government released a statement as we received with surprise, the reports of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Due to our non-alignment policy, we condemned the act of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, in fact, we condemned the two countries being at war because it affects the economy of our nation and the world, our country voted in favour of United Nations General Assembly resolution condemning the Russia aggression against Ukraine which began on February 22 after the war escalated, but abstained during the vote to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council. Our government's position however was contained in a press release from the ministry of foreign affairs, citing its will to evacuate its citizens from Ukraine after the House of Representatives called on the government to do so by working with a private airline; it states that "The ministry of foreign affairs has been reassured by the Nigerian Embassy in Ukraine of the safety of our country citizens in that country and measures being undertaken to keep them safe and facilitate the evacuation of those who wish to leave," stated by the ministry's spokesperson, Francisca Omayuli, since our citizens in Ukraine called on our government to evacuate them due to Ukraine being the weaker part of the war.

In light of the recent events which has subsequently had a negative effect on our Country socio-economic activities, we propose these solutions, which are:

1. The UN should establish a committee that should act as a mediator between the two nations which would help them understand the effect of the war, not only on their citizen but on the world as a whole helping the president of Russia see that the cost of the war outweighs the benefits.

2. The UN should ensure to work closely with Russia and Ukraine to strengthen their ties as the two nations were founding members of the then Soviet Union; and also impose sanctions which would prevent recurrence of the war – this can be achieved by reviving a sort of agreement (similar to the Minsk agreement) as it would set out a path towards a ceasefire and a political settlement based on a more federal constitution.
3. The UN should create and enforce sanctions which would compel countries to respect each other sovereignty, and not interfere with each other – Ukraine should be able to join any association they wish to join without interference from any country except where it would affect world's peace.