



**POSITION PAPER OF NEPAL**  
**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**AGENDA ITEM: Russia/Ukraine Crisis**



The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is not new; it has been ongoing since Ukraine proclaimed independence from the Soviet Union. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine became an independent country. A series of referendums were held to seek independence, with mixed outcomes. Ukraine has served as a buffer between NATO members and Russia since its independence. Following ongoing tensions between the two nations, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a "special military operation" against Ukraine on February 22, declaring Luhansk and Donesk, two breakaway parts of Ukraine's Donbas region, as republics and offering them recognition. It has had various detrimental consequences for a world that was only beginning to pick up the pieces after the COVID-19 epidemic. In addition to increasing human deaths, the war has flipped the economic and international relations system upside down. Even though Nepal is far distant from Ukraine, it is likely to be affected by the conflict.

Nepal is very worried about the deaths and suffering of people in Ukraine, and begs for an end to hostilities and bloodshed. We urge all parties involved to display greatest prudence in order to de-escalate the situation as soon as possible. We urge all parties involved to uphold the international humanitarian law commitment to safeguard persons and civilian objects. Violent behavior breeds more violent behavior, and it never breeds peace.

The situation in Russia and Ukraine has had a tremendous influence on Nepal's economy and people's lives. Prices are expected to soar as the crisis continues and sanctions tighten, inflicting havoc on economies all across the world, including Nepal's. Another notable effect of the Ukraine situation is currency depreciation. The value of the Nepali rupee against the US dollar has dropped to a new low of Rs123.44. Alternatively, as the dollar's value grows, so does Nepal's debt burden, putting further strain on the government's coffers. Gas prices have raised from Rs 110 to Rs 180, and market prices are also rising. Nepal's economy has been deteriorating in recent weeks, and the government has imposed import restrictions on some high-end items.

Nepal supports the start of direct negotiations between the parties involved. We urge all the parties involved to resume and maintain conversation with the utmost sincerity and dedication to peace in order to find a long-term solution as soon as possible. Nepal believes that the UN charter's principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity are sacred and must be upheld by all member states, regardless of their economic or military might. Under any pretext or circumstance, we oppose the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any sovereign country. The only way to restore and maintain permanent peace is via diplomacy and communication. Nepal's unflinching commitment in the peaceful resolution of international problems via diplomacy and negotiation has never wavered, and it is past time to choose to return to the road of peace. Nepal appeals to all parties involved to give peace a chance. Make no mistake: the path of peace is the only way to go.

