



## BENIN

“When powers in the 21st century still come to direct their firepower against each other, it is worrying.” It is with these words of the spokesperson of our Beninese government during his speech on March 04, 2022, following the general assembly of March 02, 2022 of the UN, that we come to present the position of our dear homeland Benin on the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Indeed, our government, after its vote for resolution ES-11/1 of March 02, 2022, urged the states of Russia and Ukraine to settle their dispute through dialogue because the resolution of conflicts by force, the war has created unnecessary tragedies for humanity in the past century.

During the UN General Assembly on April 07, 2022 for the suspension of Russia from its seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council, we were one of the 18 countries that did not react during the vote. .

Ukraine and Russia are a real breadbasket for many countries. The current crisis therefore has many impacts on the world level, in particular the soaring prices of certain products such as wheat, oil and gas.

Our country, despite all the many efforts made since 2016 to strengthen its economy, finds itself like many African countries affected by the consequences of the crisis. Indeed, in the agricultural sector, self-sufficiency has been achieved in the production of certain basic products such as cassava, yams, corn, soybeans.

According to INSTaD, Russia and Ukraine are respectively 15th and 34th among our global suppliers and account respectively for 1.7% and 0.4%, while on exports, Ukraine occupies 17th place with a rate of 1.11% and Russia, the 40th place with a rate of 0.08%.

However, agricultural inputs (minerals or nitrogenous chemicals) and some cereals come to us from Russia, and iron and steel products are imported from Ukraine. Fertilizers experienced a drastic price increase, particularly urea, the price of which almost doubled in February 2022 compared to its average price from 2015 to 2019. A price increase was also felt in the cost of petrol and gas. This price increase projects on the horizon a decline in productivity and severe insecurity linked to input imports.

Our country could soon experience difficulties in supplying service stations with petroleum products because a good part comes from Russia. The cost of construction will also experience a considerable increase, which could lead to the slowing down or stopping of state and even private works.

# Position Paper

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Faced with these many consequences, the solution we advocate is to stop the war and invite the two countries to multilateralism for the benefit of the whole world.