



## Honduras, Central America

### 1. An introduction

This is the Position Paper on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine by Honduras. As of Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Ukraine has experienced a phased approach military invasion by their neighbour and former fellow Soviet Union member, Russia. The President of Russia, Hon. Vladimir Putin, has never shied away from making his stance known when it came to the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the subsequent expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In 2021, out of fears and concerns not yet proven true or false, and denied by NATO, Ukraine and United States of America, Hon. President Putin began a large military build-up along Russia's border with Ukraine, amassing up to 190,000 troops and their equipment.

Unlike other countries in the Central America region such as Guatemala, Belize and Costa Rica who have unequivocally denounced Russia (*ii*), Honduras has expressed concern over the situation. However, Honduras is calling for dialog, while not taking open sides (although the noises coming from Honduras indicate they're far more with Ukraine than Russia) (*ii*).

Eastern Europe is far distant from Honduras, furthermore the country and its region in general, does not even receive many tourists from either one of the countries in conflict. However, Honduras is still impacted by the general effects of the war. Although pre-pandemic, the tourism industry of Honduras and its region was a growing number, the trans-pandemic was never enough to dent tourist numbers in any Central American country (*ii*).

Honduras never addressed this issue as an individual country before. But our current stance stems from our history and experience of war. In 1918 Honduras declared war on Germany but took no active part in World War I, then declared war on Japan, Germany, and Italy in December 1941. The latter decision brought much economic distress, but the government was able to maintain itself, and it promulgated some beneficial reforms. Also, the Soccer War, which Honduras had lost militarily (*iii*).

Key documents that are important for Honduras (resolutions, agreements, treaties) are International law, Honduras Constitution. USAID/Honduras' Placed-based Geographic Targeting (*iv*). Statement at the end of visit to Honduras by the United Nations (*v*).

## 2. Key issue-areas

Let us consider the possible economic, political and military impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war on Honduras as a component of Central America. Any major conflict in the world, such as the Russian-Ukraine conflict creates instability and uncertainty. It affects oil prices and the stock market. And that has a domino effect on travel, tourism, hospitality, food security. Not only travels to the Eastern Europe are affected, even travel to Central America from places like the United States.

“The Ukraine war and the pandemic have once again shown that crises can cause widespread economic damage and set back years of per capita income and development gains,” said [Asli Demirgüç-Kunt, World Bank Chief Economist for Europe and Central Asia](#) (i).

Honduras finds the following to be the most pressing issues, and their causes, and explanation:

- (a) Unjustified loss of civilian life. No life is worth being lost without justice, whether on line of duty of just running away from a bombed property. All human beings have a right to life.
- (b) Human rights to access to media for Russian citizens. Citizens of Russia must choose what they want to watch, without oppression and prejudice
- (c) Threat to food security as transportation gets more expensive with every increase of oil. Also, commodities like cooking oil are affected.
- (d) Potential world war looming as all parties tr to prove themselves.

## 3. The proposed solution(s),

Honduras would like to see the following being done regarding the issue:

- (a) The West withdraw their military assistance to Ukraine
- (b) US and NATO to offer Russia its demands to ensure its security.
- (c) Russia and Ukraine enter into negotiations.
- (d) A called for a return to diplomacy

## 4. References

- (i) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/10/russian-invasion-to-shrink-ukraine-economy-by-45-percent-this-year> (visited 25/05/2022)
- (ii) <https://www.centralamerica.com/opinion/how-will-the-ukraine-crisis-impact-central-america/> (visited 25/05/2022)
- (iii) <https://www.britannica.com/place/Honduras/The-20th-century> (visited 25/05/2022)
- (iv) <https://www.usaid.gov/honduras/newsroom/key-documents> (visited 25/05/2022)
- (v) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2019/08/statement-end-visit-honduras-united-nations> (visited 25/05/2022)