

Position Paper

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REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

TOPIC: RUSSIA – UKRAINE CRISIS

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has been condemned by many nations as well as The United Nations (UN); however, the Republic of Mozambique's stance remains neutral. The United Nations (UN) condemned this action and passed a resolution which demanded that Russia immediately completely and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine. Mozambique is one of the 35 countries among the 193 member states of the United Nations that abstained on a motion condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Mozambique abstained from voting on a UN resolution demanding Russia to halt its invasion and withdraw forces. Despite negotiations Ukraine and Russia are yet to reach a cease-fire. The government will not respond to pressure to take a stand on support or condemnation for either party involved in the war in Ukraine, Mozambique's Minister of Foreign Affairs Verónica Macamo has said, arguing that the most important thing is dialogue to achieve peace between the parties.

Areas of Russian military control in Ukraine



The image on the left illustrates the areas where the Russian military have invaded Ukraine

The invasion has caused Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II with many Ukrainians fleeing their home country whilst others displaced. Neither Ukraine nor Russia are members of The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) which is a military alliance between countries in North America and Europe. The purpose of NATO is to preserve peace in Europe and protect democratic nations from potential attacks by the Soviet Union (The Russian Federation). In 2008, NATO expressed its desires to expand Eastward and hopefully register Ukraine as a member, with 69% of Ukrainians expressing their desire to join NATO according to a June poll by the Democratic Initiatives foundation. As for many Russians, NATO's expansion and the thought of Ukraine joining NATO is threatening. The economic impact of war has also been felt by many nations with prices rising. Both Russia and Ukraine account for 30 per cent of the World's wheat supplies and so any disruption is likely to push up the world market price of wheat. Russia is one of the countries from which Mozambique imports its wheat and very little wheat is grown in Mozambique. Russia suffers from a raft of sanctions imposed by various foreign countries including the United States, Canada, Britain, the European Union and down to Australia. While the sanctions take time for snow-balling effects, it has opened huge significant potential opportunities for a number of African countries. In the first place, researchers at Oxford Economics Africa believe that Russia's invasion of Ukraine could increase wheat prices in Angola and Mozambique, but the rise in oil and gas prices benefits the finances of these two African countries. "Both Angola and Mozambique have a very limited level of trade with Russia and Ukraine; Angola imports wheat and yeast from Russia, while Mozambique imports a significant amount of wheat and a small amount of refined oil from Russia," Oxford Economics Africa analyst who follows these two African economies told Mozambique News Agency. "If gas prices remain high due to the conflict, this will be positive for investments in Mozambique's liquefied natural gas [LNG]," his analysis continues, since "the profits from the natural gas in the Rovuma basin could be greater than the risk of armed extremist insurgency in the region."

Mozambique proposes 2 main solutions

1. Dialogue between the two nations (Russia and Ukraine). The authorities in Mozambique have expressed that their major concern stating that both parties

must sit down to find a solution. “We know how complicated war is. We don’t want this war to continue. Even if we condemn (one of the parties involved), it will not solve the problem. It is necessary for the parties to sit down and use responsible dialogue to overcome the problem,” Minister Macamo said.

2. The UN to strengthen its human rights law to prevent the killing of citizens. Though the Mozambican government abstains from condemning either party, they have made it clear that they will never say war is a good thing, no one should kill another person. It is always possible to avoid reaching such extremities and we will continue to encourage dialogue.