



Committee: United Nations General Assembly. (UNGA)

Country: Tuvalu

Delegate: Waiswa Ali

Topic: Russian -Ukraine Crisis.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine constitutes the biggest threat to peace and security in Europe since the end of the cold war. The conflict goes back at least to 2014 when Russia invaded and annexed Crimea and Russian-backed separatist forces took over parts of south-eastern Ukraine's Donbas region. Though the etiology of this conflict further goes back to the time when Europe's current divisions began. On February 24, 2022, Russia commenced a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine and by the end of the first week of hostilities, over a million people in Ukraine had fled their homes, many seeking refuge outside Ukraine. The full-scale military assault follows eight years of armed conflict in eastern Ukraine that killed thousands, many of them being civilians, and displaced 1.5 million people. and had already taken a high toll on civilians in the region from threatening their physical security to interfering with access to food, medicine, education, and adequate housing (1).

Russia was diplomatically wounded as a punishment for taking over Crimea, it was isolated in the United Nations Security Council, condemned in the General Assembly by 100 votes to 11, excluded from the G8, and some of President Vladimir Putin's best friends were sanctioned by the United States. Following the current crisis, the United Nations General Assembly -2022 further condemned the 24th February 2022 declaration by the Russian Federation of a "special military operation" in Ukraine and re-affirmed that territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force shall be recognized as illegal including expressing grave concern at reports of attacks on civilian facilities such as residences, schools and hospitals and civilian casualties including women, older persons, persons with disabilities and children. (2)

In regards to the above situation, Tuvalu stands with Ukraine and strongly condemns the Russia-Ukraine invasion. On 31st, March, 2014, it scrapped its recognition of the Russian Protectorates of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and established diplomatic relations with Georgia. Its decision spelled the end of a years-long diplomatic strategy that has cost Russia millions (3). Furthermore, Tuvalu still stands together with the people of Ukraine evidenced by its positive vote(yes) on the UN resolution against the Russia-Ukraine invasion during the recently concluded UNGA that demanded Russia to stop its offensive and immediately withdraw all troops from Ukraine. World powers and tiny Island states alike condemning Moscow (4).

In the light of this crisis, Tuvalu calls on all parties to the conflict in Ukraine to:

- Do all within their powers to ensure a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine through peaceful dialogue and end the use of propaganda that is fueling the violence;
- Ensure the release of all writers, journalists, and media workers held for their legitimate work.
- Calls on all parties to allow safe and unfettered passage to destinations outside of Ukraine and to facilitate rapid, safe, and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for those in need in Ukraine, to protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel and persons in vulnerable situations, including women, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, migrants and children, and to respect human rights;
- Calls on the Russian Federation to fully comply with the order of the UN International Court of justice No. 2017/15 from 19th April 2017 that demands to duly respect the rights of Ukrainian and Tartar minorities in the Crimea, stop political repression in the annexed peninsula, and halt the covert financial, military, and political support of the militants in Donbas;
- Investigate unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, and attacks on journalists and other writers and bring the perpetrators to justice;
- Allow students to retain access to education in their mother tongue in addition to instruction in Ukrainian at all levels.

References:

1. Ukraine /Country page/World/Human Rights watch.

(<https://www.hrw.org/europe/central-asia/ukraine>)

2. General Assembly resolution demands an end to the Russian offensive in Ukraine.

(<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/113152>)

3. The tiny pacific Island Nation just gave Russia a big Bruise.

(<https://newrepublic.com/article/117238/tuvalu-bruises-russia-establishing-diplomatic-ties-georgia>)

4. UN resolution against Ukraine invasion.

(<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/3/unga-resolution-against-ukraine-invasion-full-text>).